



The Bridge
Newsletter of the Welland Historical Museum
No. 32, Fall 2011
Past, Present, Future - Live, Learn Explore!



Museum Closure

Thanks to the community and its support we have received numerous donations for our collection during the past year. In order to give these artifacts the proper care the museum must close its doors so that staff can accession them as well as prepare upcoming exhibits and organize archive space. During this time no donations will be accepted.

Please be advised that the museum will be closed to the public from
December 16, 2011 until May 14, 2012.



Educational programs and group tours will continue during the closure. Teachers and group leaders are encouraged to book programs by calling the museum to set up an appointment. Birthday parties can also be booked during the closure by contacting the museum.

The museum will re-open to the public on May 15, 2012 at which time the hours of operation will be 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Saturday.



Executive Director's Corner



Fall at the Museum started with a fun and exciting evening on September 10th. Not only was there great entertainment, food and drink at our "Famous Sons and Daughters" fundraiser but the highlight was surely hearing our homegrown achievers talk about their early years in Welland/Pelham and their national and international successes.

Famous Sons & Daughters was quickly followed by two other important events: the opening of the George E. Chipman and Family Collection/ Canal, Industry and Business galleries and the opening of "Infinite History: The Métis in Niagara" - a permanent exhibit of Métis culture, which we believe to be the only one of its kind in an Ontario museum.

The Museum's lower level is now completely revamped, a massive undertaking for our Curator, Penny Morningstar. The Chipman room showcases some of the 17,000 pieces of Welland memorabilia collected over many decades and our Canal/Industry/Business galleries display thousands of items from over 100 years of business and industry in Welland and Pelham. The Métis exhibit features Métis costumes and artifacts generously provided by the Niagara Region Métis Council along with an interactive room with a touch screen computer, furs and a representation of a Hudson's Bay Trading Post. An almost life size Métis camp complete with canoe, tent and Red River cart complete the exhibit.

Once again this year, we express our gratitude to our community partners, especially the Niagara Handweavers and Spinners Guild, the Niagara Region Métis Council, the construction teachers and students from Eastdale and Jean Vanier Secondary Schools and all the other businesses, educational institutions and individuals who have supported us over the year. We will be closing during the winter for some much needed "housekeeping" both administrative and physical, but will continue to be available for educational and group tours and of course our popular birthday parties.

With best wishes for a happy Holiday Season,

Nora Reid, Executive Director



Curator's Report



Well everyone it has certainly been a very busy year for the museum. There have been many changes both for the galleries and behind the scenes. The remainder of the re-organization will be completed during the winter closure.

I would like to extend my thanks to the many volunteers, donors and community partners who have all played a role in the Welland Historical Museum's success.

As with any year, we have lost some friends, made new ones along the way, and we now celebrate the culmination of all we have been a part of. My wish is that you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Penny Morningstar, Curator

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Directors of the Welland Museum we would like to wish you and yours all the best for the holiday season and a very Happy New Year!



BOARD of DIRECTORS of the WELLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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The Museum is governed by a board of volunteer directors.

MUSEUM STAFF

Nora Reid (*Executive Director*)
Penny Morningstar (*Curator*)
Lori Burns (*Office Manager*)
Jodi Dickinson (*Communications Officer*)

The Welland Historical Museum gratefully acknowledges the financial support of The Government of Canada, The Province of Ontario, The City of Welland, Niagara Community Foundation and Foundation for Rural Living.

The Bridge is published by the Welland Historical Museum to share with our members and the community at large, the stories, programs and exhibits that illustrate the rich history of Welland/Pelham and its people.

The museum is located in the historic Carnegie Building at 140 King Street.
Operating hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
We are closed Sunday and Monday.

Admission is \$2 for seniors & students, \$3 for adults, \$10 for families.
Free admission for children under 12 and museum members.
Please note that children under 12 **must** be accompanied by an adult.

For details and more information about all our programs and exhibits:
view our website at www.wellandmuseum.ca
phone us at 905-732-2215
email us at wellandhistoricalmuseum@cogeco.net
like us on Facebook
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