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## Recent Acquisitions

Many fascinating artifacts and archival items have come through the doors over the past year. From a locally made wool hat to an undertaker's bag and an early hand-drawn map of Upper Canada, we have been entrusted with some real treasures. In an effort to showcase a sample of these interesting objects and their stories, the Museum has a new display in the permanent gallery.

One highlight that is sure to catch the visitor's eye is the large, brightly painted drum of Dundas' own Regimental Band.



Originally established in 1873 as a military band, this drum

would have been used during some of the drilling that used to take place at the Driving Park so many years ago. In the post war years, the band later developed into what is known as the Dundas Concert Band.

## Ministry of Infrastructure announces Funding Support

Ontario is helping two members of Dundas' heritage and arts community. On behalf of Provincial Minister of Infrastructure, the Hon. Robert Chiarelli, MPP Ted McMeekin (Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Westdale) has announced funding of \$1.225 million to the Dundas Museum & Archives and \$1.225 million to the Carnegie Gallery.

In a collaborative effort headed by the DACF (Dundas Arts Community Foundation), the DACF Cabinet, and greatly supported by the Board Members of the Dundas Museum & Archives, Carnegie Gallery and the Dundas Valley School of Art, this is the final government piece in our heritage and arts vision for Dundas and Greater Hamilton.

This announcement is the culmination of a three-year odyssey undertaken by the Dundas Museum & Archives, Carnegie Gallery and the Dundas Valley School of Art in an effort to secure infrastructure stimulus funding support from the McGuinty government. The funding will go toward expansion and renovations at the

Dundas Museum & Archives and Carnegie Gallery. As your Board of Directors, ably assisted by Museum staff, develop our final architectural plans, we ask our Friends of the Museum to watch for further news.

This is an exciting day for the Dundas Museum & Archives. Provincial funding support will enable the Museum to move forward with its long-held vision of expanding and renovating the museum's facilities to address our spatial needs for exhibitions, educational programming, historical archives, special collections and in making the building accessible to all. Mr. McMeekin's announcement follows an earlier announcement of a \$75,000 Trillium Foundation grant used to purchase high-density compact shelving. As the museum strives to meet the future needs of our citizens and visitors alike, we thank the Government of Ontario, Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli and MPP Ted McMeekin in helping us reach our ambitious goals.

☞ Clare Crozier, President and Board Chair



## Dear Friends of the Museum:

These are exciting and  
challenging times for the  
Dundas Museum & Archives.

In a recent *Hamilton Spectator* story, Annalise Pederson, executive director of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, tells us "...built cultural infrastructure is integral to any community that aspires to a vibrant quality of life". A recent study, *The Arts and the Quality of Life*, prepared by Environics Research, tell us "9 out of 10 Ontarians agree that if their community lost its arts activities people would lose something of value". While Ms. Pederson is referring to the arts, her words deserve merit to include heritage and culture.

The mission of the Dundas Museum & Archives is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret objects which demonstrate the founding settlement, diversity, and development of Dundas and its environs for the education and enjoyment of current generations and those of the future.

In developing a long-term strategic planning initiative, your Board of Directors has been challenged in finding adequate space for our exhibits, archives and the collections. In July, we were asked to vacate our rental facilities at Central Park School, one of two off-site storage sites we were leasing. As a not-for-profit organization, leasing these facilities has come at a considerable add-on cost to our financial bottom line. Thanks to a Trillium grant, support from Ted

McMeekin, the Dundas Lionesses and other interested parties, we recently installed a mobile high-density compact storage unit which is expected to accommodate some of the off-site collection and increase our in-house storage capacity by 45%. While this helps, it does not resolve our ongoing spatial issues in other areas.

In 1974, preparing for the museum's long term future, the former Pirie home immediately to the east of the Museum was purchased. During the intervening years, the century-old cottage has been used to generate income to defray some of the Museum's operating expenses. With our acute spatial needs, desire to vacate our off-site storage locations, and current tenants vacating the home, our vision is to incorporate the cottage as an integral part of the day-to-day operation of the museum. Once carpentry and painting has been completed, we will relocate the museum offices and archival research centre to its 'new' home.

The basement will be used for storage purposes. To change the home's designation, from residential to museum use, we applied to the City of Hamilton for a re-zoning permit, a process that's expected to take up to 4 months, perhaps longer. Assisting us in moving the process along is Russ Powers, Dundas' representative on City Council.

Thanks to the encouragement and support of David Sweet, our federal Member of Parliament, we successfully applied to the Offices of Disabilities Issues, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, for a \$75,000 EAF (Enabling Accessibility Fund) grant, the monies to be used to install an elevator to our present facility. Recognizing the federal grant will cover only a portion of the elevator, Friends of the Museum who wish to remain anonymous, have generously offered to cover the additional expense. We are extremely grateful for their support.

These are exciting and challenging times for the Dundas Museum & Archives. To meet the needs of future generations, expanding our educational programming, embracing the latest technological advancements, and in developing our exhibits and archive research centre, we need your support. The Board of Directors will soon announce a fundraising initiative, one we hope you, our 'Friends of the Museum', will consider and support. We will be in touch. Thank you for your interest.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Clare'.

Clare Crozier  
President & Board Chair

# Curious Cures

## Doctors, Druggists & Home Remedies



People have been getting sick since the dawn of humanity, and for nearly as long, they have been looking to science and nature for ways to alleviate their symptoms and maintain good health. In fact, Ötzi the Iceman, the 5,300 year-old mummy, discovered in the Swiss Alps in 1991 was found to have had a first-aid kit of sorts including birch polypore fungus, used for its antibiotic and stytic effects right up until the 20th Century!

In the Museum's upcoming exhibition "Curious Cures: Doctors, Druggists and Home Remedies", we will explore the options Dundasians might have had for their illnesses prior to the broad acceptance of today's modern medicine. Home remedies such as "hot toddies", horehound, rosemary, various vinegars, and of course, whiskey, might cure what ailed you and were easier and cheaper than other medicinal options. These family

recipes had often been in the family for years. Many people to this day trust them more than their doctor's advice.

For the courageous, or overly trusting, there were the various concoctions and patent medicines available at the nearby Druggist. Often based on the same kind of traditional knowledge as family remedies, potions and elixirs from the drug store might be accompanied by wild claims that they "purified the blood", "cleansed the kidneys", or "renovated the stomach".

For the less adventurous or more seriously ill, the doctor played an important role. As medicine developed during the Victorian period, doctors brought a more scientific approach to diagnosing symptoms in their patients. Early medical pioneers in Dundas such as Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Rolph, applied their formal training to Dundas' sick.

The Museum invites you from September 27th and onward to come and enjoy what promises to be an interesting look at the curious cures of Dundas past.

☞ Kevin Puddister  
Collections Manager

### Opening Night of Curious Cures

Sept. 27, 2011, 7 pm

Dr. J. David Richardson will be speaking on *Early Area Doctors & the 1848 Doctor's Office at the Dundas Museum & Archives* in the Museum's Assembly Room.



## WHAT'S IT!?



Over the past few months as we've been settling the collection in our fabulous new mobile shelving, we have come across a number of oddities and curiosities. Things we pick up and say...."what's it!?" With the help of you, our valued Friends of the Museum, we hope to figure out what some of these objects are.

The above object was accepted into the Museum's collection in 1956 by H. Graham Bertram from St. Paul's United Church. The object record states the following: "One small metal instrument. Looks like some kind of punch. Found at bottom of tower in old Methodist Church 1933."

If you have any ideas as to the original purpose of this object, or would like to see it up close and in person, please don't hesitate to come see us at the Museum. If you would like to submit your best guess, contact me at [kevin@dundasmuseum.ca](mailto:kevin@dundasmuseum.ca). Thanks in advance for your help with our first "Whatsit!?"

# Voices from the Past

Most of the journals and diaries that we have in the Archives were written by men. It is an unfortunate fact that, for a variety of reasons, the writings of women, if they existed at all, did not survive as readily as those of their husbands, sons, fathers or brothers.

One of the exceptions that we have is the Cora Tunis fonds. Cora May Tunis was born on October 15, 1891 in Greenville, the daughter of Jacob N. Tunis and Theresa Grace Carey. Her great-grandfather was Rees Tunis, who was born around 1788 in Delaware County and settled in the Greenville area. Among her large extended family were brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, and uncles, many of who remained in the area.

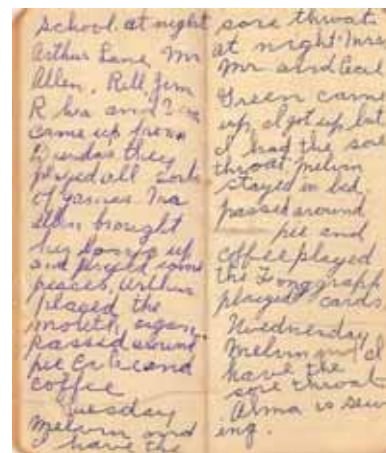
Cora eventually moved to Dundas, was a seamstress, and did volunteer work for the Red Cross as well as for the Museum. She was even known

to go antique hunting with Olive Newcombe, the curator at the time.

Cora's voice is an interesting one. During her lifetime, she went from being the farmer's daughter to a single woman living in town who travelled, volunteered, tended to her house, and was solicitous of her many relatives and friends. Some of you may even have known her.

She was fairly consistent in keeping a diary, and we see the beginnings of this lifelong commitment blossom in 1904. In this delightful snippet of her childhood, she dutifully records the illnesses of herself and her siblings, the comings and go-when she served pie and coffee to visitors in the Tunis home.

Cora's voice also reflects the pain and loss that accompany life. She writes of her sister Lottie, succumbing to a stroke,



An excerpt from the 1904 diary of Cora Tunis.

and of her own experiences as a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital in the 1960s. She even used paper towels from the hospital washroom when she ran out of writing paper.

Cora passed away in 1987 in her 97th year. Her voice can be heard through her papers and to her I give the last word:

### Peanut Butter Chews

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 1 cup sugar

### Directions:

Melt on stove then beat slightly.

Add, crushed up, 4 cups corn flakes, 1 cup rice crispies, 1 cup puffed rice (or 2 cups rice crispies).

Stir into liquid mixture and pack into greased pan. Dat's all. No cooking.

✍ Sandra Kiemele  
Archivist



## Memory Connections

'I haven't thought about that for a long time...' Through a Museum outreach program, residents at Dundas retirement and nursing homes enjoy gatherings together, simply reminiscing.

It doesn't take long for the stories to flow as the objects brought in a huge, quilt lined wicker basket are shared around the table. Maybe fancy needlework. A flat iron. A WWII Allied knapsack. A glass baby

bottle. Marbles. A teacup. A hammer. A shawl. A doll. A Mountain View milk bottle drew strong memories for one woman of her father. He had worked at the dairy. There is laughter as hats are tried on and the uses for kitchen contraptions discerned.

Sometimes based on a theme, or simply a potpourri of items, the objects in the reminiscence kit (taken from the Museum's education collection) invite

Memory connections within each person participating, as well as between the residents. The animated conversation and broad smiles continue even as folks leave the room. Carolyn Westoby, who facilitates the gatherings, says, 'It is a privilege to be part of these gatherings. Reminiscing is a powerful tool for us all.' Contact the Museum office at 905.627.7412 if you are interested in learning more.



## From the Editor lisa narduzzi

Welcome to the new look and feel of the newsletter. I certainly hope you like it.

I have taken the reins from Carolyn's very capable (and busy!) hands as the editor of the newsletter. Please feel free to send any of your comments or suggestions to [lnarduzzi@dundasmuseum.ca](mailto:lnarduzzi@dundasmuseum.ca). Enjoy!

## Volunteer Moves Volunteer Liaison



Our sincere thanks to Linda Sanderson for her hard work teaming with Dale Heneberry

in the Volunteer Liaison role over the past year.

We now welcome Fran Donnelly to the role. She is splitting the duties with Dale,



who will be continuing on in the role. Fran will be adding yet another duty to her volunteer capabilities at the Museum. We are sincerely grateful for all that she does!

# Christmas Memories Dinner Nov. 26, 2011

## A Christmas Carol

### Dec. 3, 2011



John Huston

Starring...  
John Huston as Charles Dickens in this acclaimed one man show.

## Volunteer Moves

### Board Changes



From left to right: Linda Dymont, Ron Simpson and Joyce MacRae

Please welcome Ron Simpson and Peter Curtis as members of the Museum's Board of Directors. Ron and Peter bring



a lifetime of experience in finance and governance to the Board.

While we welcome these new members, we say goodbye to former Board President/Chair and Chief Financial Officer, Joyce MacRae and Linda Dymont who served in the roles of Vice President, as a valued member of the HR Committee and volunteer extraordinaire. Both women served the Board with grace and distinction; they will be missed.

The next edition of the newsletter will be sent electronically for those who have provided us with an email address. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by mail, please let us know at [mail@dundasmuseum.ca](mailto:mail@dundasmuseum.ca).

## Volunteer Profile

### Dr. J. David Richardson



Dorothy & Dr. J. David Richardson

"Do you remember me?" This is a phrase that Dr. David Richardson heard recently at the Museum's annual Made In Dundas event. He was manning the Doctor's office along with his wife and current Board member, Dorothy Richardson. As a medical re-enactor and interpreter here at the Doctor's Office, he will meet visitors who were patients that he hasn't seen in many years. The person behind the phrase? A baby that he delivered many years ago, now all grown up. He remembered her because she looked exactly like her mother.

When you talk to David, you can feel the passion that he has for Dundas, medicine, history and horses. David has worn many hats as a volunteer at the Dundas Museum — serving on the Board as the Museum's Treasurer, chairing the Doctor's Office Committee, and playing an instrumental role in the re-opening of the

Doctor's Office in 2004. At Doors Open that same year is when he gave one of his best and most memorable tours — to Jeff Goodes of CBC. He was interviewed for 35 minutes for Jeff's show at the time, Fresh Air.

David got involved with the Museum through a former Board member, Dr. Don Whittier. Don was aware of David's involvement in the history of medicine through his work as Chair of the Ambrose McGhie Medical Museum. David was passionate about getting the Museum's Doctor's Office up and running, originating from his experience being in Dr. Bates' office while it was still functioning. Dr. Bates was the last serving doctor and eventual donor of the Doctor's Office to the Museum. David was part of the "call system" with him when he first started practicing.

David retired from his practice

in 2000, when a pact that he made with his nurse of 32 years came to a head. She was moving back to her hometown in Cape Breton and they decided to retire together. Now, David and Dorothy keep themselves extremely busy at Christievew Farm, with "horse therapy", beekeeping and much more.

Drawing on his rich background, Dr. J. David Richardson will be speaking at the Exhibit Opening for Curious Cures: Doctors, Druggists and Home Remedies on September 27, 2011 at 7 pm. Don't miss it!

#### Would you like to be a Community Curator?

Do you have a personal collection you would like to exhibit for a three month period? Or perhaps a particular story of Dundas you would like to research and present? Items from the Museum's collection might help flesh out your story. The Museum's library is a rich resource. Staff would love to work with you. Give us a call!



## Home Remedies I Have Known

My grandmother, Agnes (Fisher) Manning was born in Westover in 1879. In 1918, at the age of 39, she took my mother to raise. I was born in 1952 when my mother was almost 35, therefore, I consider myself to have been raised “behind the times”. Since my grandmother lived with us, I have experienced firsthand some of the home remedies of my grandmother’s era.

If a common cold was coming on, a hot toddy was in order. This was concocted with sugar, whiskey and hot water, a mixture that is guaranteed to put anyone off drinking for life. A chest cold was treated with the obligatory mustard plaster applied to the chest. After

coating the chest with a layer of goose grease, the mustard plaster was applied. Yes, it had to be goose grease, but I have no idea why. I wonder if lard or shortening would have worked just as well.

Once being caught by the teacher with a candy in my mouth, I explained it was horehound and was for my sore throat. She let me get away with it, but clearly she wasn’t buying it! This was one remedy I acquired a taste for and was delighted that I could buy long twisted sticks of it at Glessings for 10¢ each. Today, the only place it can be found is at the pioneer village.

Earaches were treated with

warm glycerin, dropped carefully into the affected ear. Amazingly, it worked! When Grandma decided I had a cold in my kidneys, I was given a dose of sweet nitre. This foul stuff was mixed with water and it tasted exactly like nail polish remover smells. I don’t know if it worked, but it certainly made me heed Grandma’s warning not to sit on cold, damp cement!

A bee sting was soothed with the application of mud. Recently I heard of this remedy being used in our modern age. Fortunately, the other remedies have passed into history.

✍ Roberta Bailey  
Collections Assistant



## MADISON WATSON ...our Curatorial Assistant

The first time I’d ever been to Dundas was for my job interview at the Museum.



It looked like a nice, quaint place driving through, reminding me of my own little hometown of Stoney Creek, where last year I worked as an interpreter at Battlefield House Museum.

Working with collections and archives is completely new to me, but Kevin and Sandra did a great job of teaching me the ropes. My favourite thing so far has been opening storage boxes — it is like Christmas every day, opening the boxes and unwrapping the tissue!

The first thing that struck me about the people of Dundas is that everyone is so kind and friendly! It tickled me pink when volunteers remembered my name and asked how I was doing; I felt part of the community.

I have been having a great time exploring Dundas, visiting little shops and restaurants and taking a walk to admire some of the gorgeous old houses and churches around town.

In September, however, I’m back to the books, starting my 3rd year at McMaster University. My major is — you guessed it — history!

## Autumn Trip

October 4, 2011  
8:45 am — 5:00 pm

Visit the Laura Secord homestead, home of Canada’s heroine of the War of 1812 and The Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum, restored home of rebel publisher William Lyon MacKenzie. Lunch is booked at the Queenston Heights Restaurant. After lunch, enjoy the beauty of the Niagara Butterfly Conservatory.

Cost \$95, \$90 for Friends of the Museum; Travel by Coach Bus  
Call the Museum Office at 905.627.7412 to reserve your seat.





## Upcoming Events

Curious Cures (see pg. 3)

◆ September 27, 2011

Autumn Day Trip

(see pg. 7)

◆ October 4, 2011

Christmas Memories Dinner

(see pg.5)

◆ November 26, 2011

A Christmas Carol

(see pg. 5)

◆ December 3, 2011

## Dundas Museum & Archives

139 Park Street West, Dundas, ON  
L9H 1X8  
905.627.7412  
mail@dundasmuseum.ca

### September to June Gallery Hours

Monday to Friday: 10 am. to 5 pm.  
Saturday & Sunday: 1 to 4 pm.

### Archives Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:  
10 am to 4 pm.

Reference Collection only on  
Saturday & Sunday: 1 to 4 pm.

### July & August Gallery Hours

Monday to Friday: 10 am. to 4 pm.  
Sunday: 1 to 4 p m.

### Archives Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:  
10 am to 4 pm.

Reference Collection only on  
Sunday: 1 to 4 pm.

# The Last Page

## The Story of a House



133 Park Street West

In 1873, Robert McKechnie (of McKechnie & Bertram's *Canada Tool Works*) was Dundas mayor. The town was flourishing with industry at its heart, everything from machine shops to cotton and woollen mills. The population was 3,660.

Expecting their first child, Alexander Witherspoon, a machinist, and his wife, Mary Jane, built a new home that year. They had already purchased the two adjoining Park street lots for \$225. The house went up on the corner property.

The Dundas Inventory of Buildings of Historical and Architectural Significance (1994) describes the home as we see it today, at 133 Park Street West: *This very attractive cottage has an open porch with columns mounted on stone blocks at the corners. The door is topped by a multiple light transom and side-lights. Oversized front win-*

*dows rest on stone lug sills and are framed by shutters. There is a central hip-shaped dormer. An extensive addition has been built at rear which is compatible with the original house.*

Charles Draeseke, also a machinist, purchased the house in 1885 for \$1,600, selling it to Dr. Harry Pirie thirty years later. Harry's widow, Della, donated the property's orchard (that second lot purchased by Alex Witherspoon) to be the building site for the Dundas Museum in 1956, in memory of her husband. And in 1974, Della sold the *house* to the Museum, allowing the newly donated 1848 Doctor's Office to be placed in its backyard. In the years since, the house has been rented, with tenants often expressing deep fondness for the building.

As you have come to know, provincial funding, along with federal and Trillium grants, are

supporting capital projects which will significantly expand the Museum's outreach. What exciting opportunities these will bring to our community. The Museum's active use of the home which Alex and Mary Jane Witherspoon built will be a part of that.

It is a gracious building, one filled with light and fireplaces and beautiful trim. It is also filled with memories of those for whom it has been home. We are honoured that preserving and sharing the stories of Dundas will happen within its walls. The legacy of the house at 133 Park Street West continues. Together we will be its stewards.

Take care.

Carolyn Westoby  
Museum Administrator