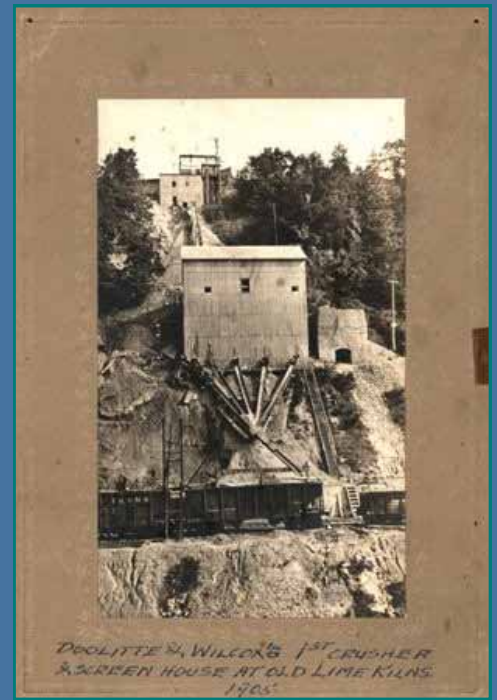
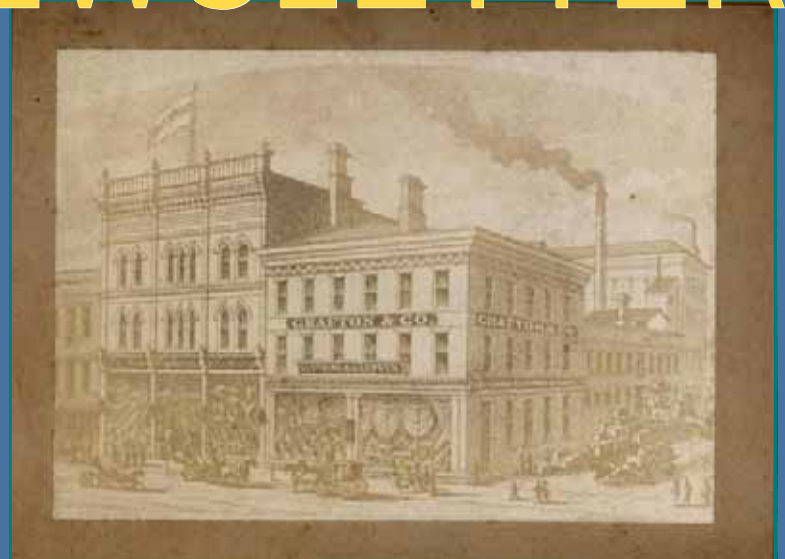
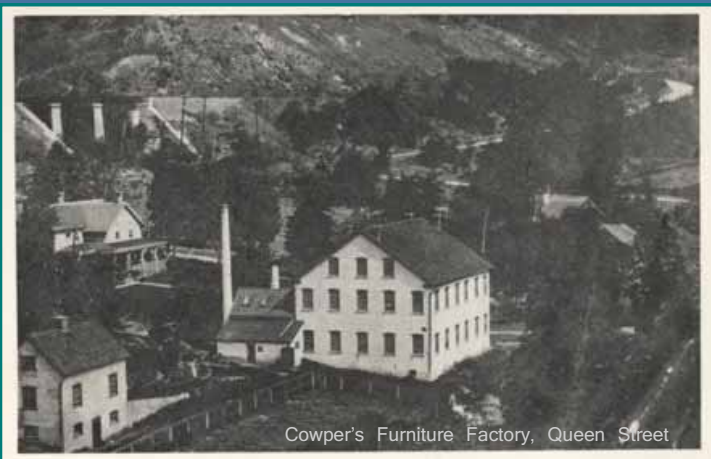


Dundas Museum & Archives



2010

SPRING NEWSLETTER



DUNDAS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

We may have never been to Paris in the Springtime, but we have been to DUNDAS!



This Napier Street crabapple was a gift more than sixty years ago by the home owner (and its builder) to his wife, on their anniversary.

And how glorious it's been. From the willows' pale green glow, punctuating the winter grey, to the blazing forsythia and the amazing magnolias which followed. Then the crabapples, though you had to really be on the mark this year not to miss their quick, though glorious, blooming! Redbuds, lilacs, wisteria and now the joyful bridal wreath spirea.

Many of these have been in the Valley for generations. Do you know any of their stories? Maybe of a magnolia on Sydenham, the redbuds high above York Road or the lilacs which return each year over Osler Drive? Maybe of a tree or vine in your own yard? Who planted it? When? Maybe for a special occasion? Let us know! They, too, are a special part of our community's history.



The rear of the Doctor's Office is framed by yellowwood, a native species with delicate cascading, white spring blossoms, donated in memory of Gladys Brend, by her family and a lovely old lilac, likely planted by the Pirie family.



Tip of My Hat to Two Great Curators: **THE HAT LADY** and **THE HATTER**

Shortly after my arrival at the Dundas Museum & Archives, our team began to discuss possibilities for a colourful spring exhibition. Our brainstorming session produced a number of ideas, among which, was the suggestion that we reach out to our eventual guest curators, Norma Shephard and John McMicking.

Norma Shephard, the Hat Lady, is the founder and director of the *Mobile Millinery Museum*, a unique travelling museum with a collection of well over 1,000 hats! She has authored four books on vintage fashion, including *1,000 Hats* and *Accessorizing the Bride; Vintage Wedding Fashion Through the Decades*.

From the day Norma first walked in to the back gallery to envision the space and we began brainstorming, I knew we were well on our way to a colourful and informative exhibit.

On March 21st the Museum welcomed Spring with

Finishing Touch The Milliners' Art & The Hatters' Trade

Thanks to David Richardson for his great photographs of the opening.

Having toured her unique collection across the country for a number of years, Norma has had very few chances to display such a large portion all at once. With the help of her daughter Corinne, Norma brought the colour and exu-



Norma Shephard & daughter, Corinne



John McMicking

berance one thinks of when one recalls the splendour of the hats of the past.

John McMicking, the Hatter, is the proprietor of L & H Hats and one of only a handful who still practice the trade. Fate may have played a role

in the choosing of John's calling, as the Roy Woodhouse records seem to point to a John McMicking Bastedo who opened the valley town's very first hat

shop in 1828. Through one of the many quirks of history, a McMicking might very well be the first and last hatter to operate in Dundas!

In each of John's hand-made hats, his attention to detail and un-paralleled knowledge of the history of the trade are immediately apparent. Recognized for his quality craftsmanship, theatre groups and historical re-enactors far and wide call upon him for work. From the felt-ing process, to the blocking and finishing of a hat and the etiquette associated with its wearing, John brought depth to the exhibition.

Running only until June 13th, I hope you get a chance to come and explore the milliners' art and the hatters' trade here at the Museum.

Kevin Puddister
Collections Manager

*“Running only
until July 4th”*

Dear Friends of the Museum:

On Friday, February 19th the Honourable David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, presented me with an Ontario Heritage Trust Lifetime Achievement Award for preserving, protecting and promoting the history of our community and province. The ceremonies took place in front of the grand staircase at the Legislative Assembly Building at Queen's Park, Toronto. Invited guests sat in chairs in the stately hallway leading to the staircase, the awards recipients directly in front of the staircase. The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David Onley, and the Honourable Lincoln Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, a former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (1985-1991), sat on their mobilized scooters (both men have mobility issues) on the dais.

When Ontario's Heritage Trust Executive Director Richard Moorhouse called out the names of each recipient, they were escorted by a uniformed military officer to the dais where they shook hands with both men. While this was happening, Mr. Moorhouse read a statement outlining the reasons each person was receiving the award. After Lieutenant Governor Onley presented the Heritage Award, a photograph was taken with the recipient standing between the Honourable Gentlemen. As the military officer escorted the award winner back to his/her seat an Ontario Heritage Trust official presented the person with a beautiful lapel pin. The pin shows a stylized



white trillium, Ontario's provincial flower and emblem, topped by a Royal Crown.



At the conclusion of the ceremonies the award winners were escorted to the Lieutenant Governor's private chambers where additional photographs were taken.

Following the photographs, we were escorted to a lovely reception. It was in this room where our spouses and friends joined us. During the reception we had the opportunity to speak to the Lieutenant Governor and the other award winners. In all it was a lovely, stately affair.

During our Queen's Park visit, Shirley and I enjoyed looking at the portraits of the former Lieutenant Governors of Ontario, that lined the walls and corridors of the Legislative Assembly Building. Included in this group was a portrait of John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor (1791-1796). It was Simcoe who named our community Dundas, after Henry Dundas, Home Secretary of Colonial Affairs in the British government of William Pitt, the Younger.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Art French and Frances Neufeld of the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee and Russ Powers, Dundas' representa-

tive on Hamilton City Council, for nominating me for this prestigious award. As I said at the time, it's remarkable to be recognized for doing something you truly enjoy. Dundas has a long and rich history; by telling its stories we gain a better insight into our heritage, the gift of one generation to another, something we all need to celebrate. Thank you to all, I'm truly honoured and humbled.

Clare Crozier
President & Board Chair

Our last newsletter was only able to hint as to the identity of the Dundas resident about to become a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

*"Presentation Ceremony
at Queens Park
on February 19th"*

We are delighted that Clare Crozier, Museum Board Chair, was presented the award at Queen's Park on February 19th, 2010. Clare's many volunteer activities focus on our

community, including his commitment to researching Dundas history and sharing it through speaking engagements; his leadership within the Cross-Melville Heritage District; his stewardship, with his wife Shirley, of 'The Homestead' their 1867 home, and yes, his very active role at the Dundas Museum & Archives. Clare is a most worthy award recipient.

Congratulations!



Fran Donnelly, at her desk.

Warm. Friendly. Gracious. Caring. Welcoming.

Fran Donnelly, as the Museum's Administrative Assistant, is often the first to greet us, to answer a question or respond to a need. She loves people and is attentive to all, young and old.

Fran had retired from her position as Curatorial Assistant at the Hamilton Military Museum, and was volunteering at the Dundas Museum, when she accepted our invitation to fill the position, covering a maternity leave. She also hosts rental groups and acted as the Saturday staff person for a period of time. Throughout Fran has continued to volunteer as convenor of the Museum's Book Club and coordinator (and co-founder!) of *The Little Shop at the Dundas Museum*.

Fran's deep seated enthusiasm for museums is apparent. 'I love stories. Everybody does. I love listening to stories and having stories read to me. The objects preserved in museums tell stories. When treasured objects in our home become broken, neglected or discarded, the stories that they help to tell are lost. Museums gather up these treasures, and see that they are kept in conditions that will ensure their safety. Sometimes they are chosen to be put on public display, so that the stories can be shared with everyone.'

'The objects given to the Museum (Grandma's rocking chair, or Great-grandfather's letters written home from the trenches in World War I), not only tell us about the families in our town, but in turn paint a picture of the Town of Dundas itself at different periods of its history. We can tell these stories, but often they are forgotten and lost. Museum objects remind us of these stories. Each can be told over and over again throughout the generations. I love stories. I love museums!'

On May 31, Fran retires from the position of Administrative Assistant. She will be much missed. But Fran is keen to continue to volunteer, in a number of ways, and we look forward to continuing to work with her.

Thank you, Fran, for EVERYTHING!

It's easy to stay updated with
Dundas Museum & Archives events and news.

Join today and follow!

facebook



Our Cover Story ~ MADE IN DUNDAS!

PHOTOGRAPHERS

When we think of the many products that were actually made in Dundas over the years, our thoughts likely jump to the better known: iron from the Gartshore Foundry, tools from Canada Tool Works, grain from the various mills. But since the beginning of the earliest days of photography, Dundas has had photographers (or photographic artists as they were sometimes referred) resident in the community, capturing the features of the citizens of Dundas. Here are three:

R.S. Brooke (1828-1896)



Dundas in 1856: R.S. Brooke

Richard S. Brooke was born in Yorkshire, England. He arrived in Dundas in 1855 after serving in South Africa. A "photographic artist", Brooke had a studio on King Street, just east of Sydenham Street. Clients could choose from a variety of backgrounds before which they would pose: 'Library', 'Conservatory', 'Piano Forte'. Brooke's work survives mainly in the many *carte de visite* photographs he produced of Dundas citizens, although he is credited also with the earliest known photograph of King Street. He died in Dundas in 1896.

Duncan McMillan (1832-1906)

Born in Scotland, Duncan McMillan arrived in Dundas in 1846 with his family. His varied occupations included brass molder, grocer, and confectionery shop owner. He was also considered a good artist, which no doubt aided in his work as a photographer. He was a photographer in Dundas from 1868 to 1887.

Portrait, Will Clarke:
Duncan McMillan

W.W. Forsythe (1862-1943)

William Walter Forsythe arrived in Dundas in



The Creighton Road Bridge: W.W. Forsythe

1892 and became a well known photographer. In addition to portraits, Forsythe was also known for his images of school classes and local landscapes, but he is probably best known as the photographer for the book, *Picturesque Dundas*.

Sandra Kiemele
Archivist

Made In DUNDAS

VICTORIAN FAMILY FUN

Saturday, May 29

11 am - 3 pm

On the Museum's Lawn
139 Park Street West, Dundas

Visit Crafts People and Village Folk of Dundas Past!



• Old Fashioned Games and Toys •

• Horse and Wagon Rides •
with stories of Dundas along the way

• Farm Animals •

• 1812 Re-enactors •

• Music with The Playford Players
and Pearls of Time •

• Puppets with Studio Babette Puppet Theatre •

• Tea and Scones •



**It's
All Free!**

I love baking cakes.

All manner of cakes - Wedding cakes, Christmas cakes, Shower cakes, celebration cakes for many events. But I especially like making birthday cakes. My long-suffering friends and family must have eaten mountains of cake over the years.

When I say I love baking cakes, it isn't so much the cake *baking* that I love, it's the *decorating*. As the family grew, they requested a specific cake reflecting their current interests. There were cakes in the shape of toys (teddy bears, dolls), animal cakes of all kinds (especially horses, cats and dogs), ballet cakes, music cakes, flowers, butterflies, houses and gardens. I even made a cake in the shape of Michael Jackson who was the heart-throb of one of my daughters at the age of 12.

This got me thinking about bakeries in Dundas. There were so many! William Henry Chamberlain came to Dundas from the States and included a bakery in his grocery store from 1868 - 1871. His brother-in-law William Watt Lumsden was the head baker and owned his own business on the south side of King Street from 1871 - 1911.

Joseph Moss came to Dundas in 1857 from Liphook, England. He worked for Mrs. Ann Bate-man in her bakery from 1860 - 1862 and then ran his own business until his death in 1882. His son,

William Henry Moss, took over his mother's bakery in 1901. This bakery again was situated on the south side of King Street.



The sign above the wagon reads
'J. Moss. Bread. Biscuit. Baker.'

In the 1928 Dundas Directory we learn of Connor's Bakery ("Phone us, we will Deliver") and in the 1938 Directory, Bertram's Bakery advertises "High Class Bread - Cake - Pastry. WEDDING and BIRTHDAY CAKES - A Specialty". Frank Fowlie came to Dundas in 1921 and established his bakery on the corner of Church and King Streets. He was in business for a decade.

And then there is our current Village Bakery, sadly suffering a fire this year, but soon to be once again offering delicious pies, cakes and pastries for Dundasians to enjoy.

Real estate agents suggest that when showing your home to prospective buyers, bake a fresh loaf of bread. Mmmmmm!

Fran Donnelly
Administrative Assistant

You are invited to the ANNUAL MEETING

of the
Dundas Historical Society Museum

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

2:30 pm.

in the Museum's Assembly Room

Volunteer Profile

~ Pam Leishman ~

Pam's first volunteer shift at the Museum was busy-as a docent at our Cactus Festival booth! "I had so much fun with the kids. I remember Willy. He was so shy, but he kept trying and trying to get the ball into the cup. I kept cheering him on: 'Willy, you're the champion!' And he mastered it."

Pam credits her father with her interest in history. "Dad was always taking us to museums and forts and antique stores when I was a kid." She remembers seeing

a Victorian hair wreath at a museum near their Selkirk cottage. It was a "gruesome and fascinating" childhood discovery.

Pam recently retired from a career as a cytotechnologist at St. Joseph's Healthcare. "I like to help others and I love being with people. In the back of my mind I always knew that I would volunteer at the Dundas Museum. I've lived in west Hamilton for thirty years, but Dundas is my community. My grandparents lived here. I love stories of people and where they live. Visitors who come to our museum already have an interest. I like to share my excitement about history with them."



In addition to her role as docent Pam enjoys working in our tea rooms. She is also a member of the Marketing Committee, strategizing and sharing ideas with the other committee members around getting the word out about and getting people involved. Her former co-workers are high on her radar. "Chatting up the Museum is one of my goals in life. I do the best I can." Thank you, Pam!

FACES OF DUNDAS

Come and Meet Your Neighbours

A New Exhibit

Celebrating Dundas Citizens

Some you may know, others not; each has *wonderful* stories to tell.

Include YOUR family in the exhibit!

When you come to visit bring YOUR Dundas family photographs to be scanned and included as Faces of Dundas.

Have your picture taken that day, and included as well!

They will all be valuable additions to our collection of *Community Images*.

Join us for the opening of FACES OF DUNDAS

on July 22, 2010

7 pm



Meet the Directors!

In each newsletter we will have the opportunity to meet one of the
Directors of the Dundas Museum & Archives.
The series begins with the reflections of Joan Hall.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS AT THE DUNDAS MUSEUM

by Joan Hall

In 1967 the Hall family - Ken, Joan, Cheryl, Cameron, and our dog Tiberius moved to Dundas, and I discovered the little-known Dundas Museum. My first visit was Sunday afternoon at the movies, as advertised in the local paper. I became fascinated by this strange little "gem". I actually tripped over the curling rock at the door on my first visit.



That same year I began teaching at two West Hamilton schools, Princess Elizabeth and Binkley. Until those schools closed, our annual school trip for my classes included a visit to the Dundas Museum.

My pupils were fascinated by the dolls, the funeral wreath made out of human hair, the 'funny' clothes on the strange-looking mannequins, and the water wheel (turned on by Roberta). Each child had a list of items to discover and check off for discussion when we got back to class.

I think my first effort as a volunteer was assisting decorating the Christmas tree. Things just continued somehow. Since then I have:

- made and served tea, coffee and cookies, etc.
- sorted and set up displays of antique Valentines and Christmas cards
- represented the Museum at the wreath-laying ceremonies on Remembrance Day
- read and reread copies of archival newspapers to find suitable quotes or humorous stories for use in the displays
- cut and stitched what seemed to be *miles* of fabric to improve the appearance of various displays
- assisted in proof reading the latest book printed by the Museum
- made costumes, and appeared in costume, at Museum events
- served as a Director of the Dundas Museum.

I have enjoyed these times and will continue to do so.
Join us. Volunteer! The Museum needs you!

RICH HISTORIES, INTRIGUING MYSTERIES

In my time working at the Museum and Archives digitizing the photograph collection and making them accessible online at OurOntario.ca, I have encountered a number of images that have stood out and captivated my attention. I would like to share a few of them here and explain why they have moved me. There are many iconic photographs of Dundas in the collection, including R.S. Brooke's first photograph of King Street, but these images are not as well known and I feel that they should be brought to light to illuminate the rich heritage of Dundas.

This first image is for me the most captivating of the collection or at least the part of collection that I have worked with thus far. This image is significant for two different reasons, its content and the nature of the photograph. The photograph is representative of a very early photographic process, invented in 1850, known as Albumen prints. These photographs used egg whites, also known as albumen, and salts to create the image. The second reason for the photograph's moving nature is that it is a post-mortem photograph created here in Dundas by McMillan Photographers. Post-mortem photographs were taken of deceased relatives to preserve the memory of them. This practice had a long history before falling out of favour. It is shocking to viewers now because of its intimate nature and starkly different view of death. This photograph serves as a reminder of the past and of our selves.



This image was one that I found stood out because it brought back memories of when I was a child and had to have my picture taken. I can only imagine these children having to remain still while the photograph was developing, a process that at the time was fairly long, usually several minutes. The hand colouring in the image is also provocative of the time and effort that went into producing early photographs. I found this image moving not because of its somber nature, but because of the light hearted nature of the photograph. This tintype, a type of photograph that is placed on a sheet of metal, is of a well dressed woman and her cat (lower left). This image is fascinating because of the interest and care that must have been taken to get the cat and woman to stand still long enough for the photograph to be taken. It is warming to see the affection the woman must have had for her cat to have it brought into her photograph.



These images are but a small sample of the ones that I have encountered working with the collection. There are many more with rich histories and intriguing mysteries that are open to viewing in our collection and at our site at OurOntario.ca.

IT WAS MADE IN DUNDAS

There are many items in the Museum that were made in Dundas. We have bricks that are clearly marked "Dundas". Jewelry boxes made by Wade Manufacturing and a stove made by the Dundas Stove Co. Both companies occupied the same building on Cross Street, but at different times. There are bottles of cologne made at Jones Bros., also pottery made at McMaster Pottery and Dundas Clay Products, its predecessor. Clocks assembled by Horace Burr, an early Dundas jeweler, as well as a very large coffee grinder made at the Dundas Novelty Works.

All of these things were commercially manufactured right here in our own home town. However, the Museum's collection contains many items that were "made in Dundas" by ordinary citizens. The archives contain diaries & letters written by citizens of Dundas, photos snapped at family gatherings and certificates awarded to children from school or Sunday School classes. Doilies and clothing, paintings and carvings, a jar of tomatoes preserved at the Maw home on Governor's Road - all "made in Dundas" by "citizens of Dundas".

What do you have at home, "made in Dundas" by you, a "citizen of Dundas" that might one day be preserved at the Dundas Museum & Archives?

Roberta Bailey
Collections Assistant

Gallery Hours

September to June

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

Archives Hours, September to June

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 am to 4 pm.
Reference Collection only on
Saturday & Sunday: 1 to 4 pm.

Gallery Hours

July & August

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.

Dundas Museum & Archives

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

Mark Your Calendars!

The Dundas Museum and Archives is proud to present

AN EVENING WITH THE LESSLIES... AND MELANIE KING



Wednesday October 6, 2010

7:00 pm. Dundas Town Hall Auditorium

Melanie King, of Woodstock, England, is the author of *Prophets, Seers, and Visionaries* and *The Dying Game: A Curious History of Death*.

Last fall Ms. King researched the Lesslie family at the Dundas Museum & Archives in preparation for her forthcoming book.

She visits again, this time to share what she learned about one of Dundas's most fascinating families: The Lesslies.

**Come learn more about the folks that unleashed
William Lyon Mackenzie on the country!**

The Last of the Last Page

He is one of Canada's foremost actors and directors. He is also deeply passionate about history.

Among his many stage and film credits, R.H. Thomson wrote, performed and won a Gemini for *The Lost Boys*, based on letters written home by his five great-uncles who fought in WWI. He co-created the project, *Vigil 1914-1916*, lighting the names, each night over a week leading to November 11th, of the 68,000 Canadian soldiers who fell during WWI: each for eight seconds, first in London then crossing Canada, east to west, in six cities.

I recently had the opportunity to hear R.H. Thomson speak. He challenged the audience to discover the many layers of history which surround us. To look up; to look down. To look around carefully, in our neighbourhoods and within our families. 'The stories you will discover are stunning. Then create a connection between the stories and your daily reality. Stories of history give purpose to who we are, in powerful ways. History is no longer separate from my life, it is ME.'

Passion is contagious. Let's accept his challenge! We'll be richer for it.

Take care.


Carolyn Westoby
Museum Administrator

