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These families are each part of the Dundas story. We are proud that they each now name an area in the Museum's newly installed compact mobile storage.

The compact storage will maximize space and assure the preservation for the objects of the collection when they are not on exhibit, or being used for research.

The Move to Compact Mobile Storage

Museum friends and visitors have heard much about our compact mobile shelving installation project. Staff have been planning and preparing for a very long time and finally the project nears completion.

So how did we begin this process?

Well, we started by counting and measuring –

all our artifacts and archival



documents. To make sure that we planned for the best use of the space we possibly could, we wanted to make sure that every item in our collection was accounted for.

This exercise was much easier for myself, as Archivist, since archival documents are stored in pretty standard size boxes. It was much more challenging for the Collections Manager, though, since it is much more difficult to plan for non-standard size items which

don't necessarily fit in standard shelves or boxes. Still, staff were up to the challenge and, just before Christmas, the final order for shelving was placed.

The New Year brought the closure of the Assembly Room to the public since this area became the temporary home to all the artifacts and archival records while the shelving was installed. January and February were busy months as staff and volunteers worked in the gradually-emptying-Storage Room and the-gradually-filling-Assembly Room: cataloguing rare books, removing frames from pictures, removing and disassembling shelving units. Whew!

Eventually the installation of the shelving system began: first with the laying of the rails and floor and then with the construction of the carriages and finally the shelves themselves. It was a long, often noisy, process, but we were fortunate to have an excellent crew from Spacesaver. With installation complete, the next phase began:



replacing all the artifacts and archival materials on their designated shelves. As this is written, this process continues. We plan on having the move complete by the end of April. Stay tuned for our next update!

Sandra Kiemele
Archivist



The Collection Team checks out a carriage.
Sandra Kiemele, Roberta Bailey, Kevin Puddister

Dear Friends of the Museum:

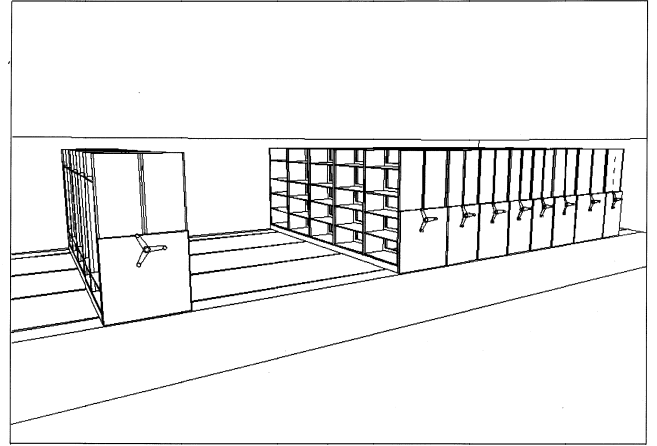


The mission of the Dundas Museum & Archives is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret objects which demonstrate the founding, settlement, diversity and development of Dundas and

environs, for the education and enjoyment of our and future generations. Since the Museum's founding, in 1956, we have been committed to our role as caretaker of the material culture of the community and its related materials. The collection, in excess of 12,000 artifacts, as well as extensive archives, is a key source of material relating to the social, political, architectural and economic history of the area.

As many of you are aware, the Museum faces significant challenges in the years ahead. Among those challenges is the immediate need for additional, climate controlled storage space for our valued artifacts and comprehensive collection of archival materials. Simply put, our collection has outgrown our present on-site storage facility. One of the implications of this is that we may soon have to stop accepting future donations from Dundas residents and organizations. If the Museum is not in a position to accept these donations they could be lost forever.

To immediately address these concerns, your Board rented two off-site storage facilities. As a not-for-profit organization, this came at a significant add-on cost to our annual operating budget. To compound the situation we were recently advised we must vacate one of the off-site locations by the end of the summer. Recognizing the urgent need to increase our storage capabilities, your Board has been exploring ways of finding the financial resources to purchase a mobile high-density compact



The carriages glide rolls smoothly and easily along the floor tracks.

storage unit which would increase our on-site storage capacity by 45%. Our challenge has been in finding monies to make this possible.

Last summer the Board dipped into its Reserve Fund to cover the cost of replacing our leaking roof (\$57,000) and antiquated HVAC (heating/cooling) system (\$63,000). Striving to find monies to purchase the mobile storage unit, an application was submitted to the Trillium Foundation for financial support. In November we were delighted to learn that our \$75,000 grant application had been approved. Thanks to an additional \$5,000 gift from the Dundas Lioness Club, and monies raised at John Sewell's historical presentation on William Lyon Mackenzie, we are on our way of realizing our ambitious goal.



Thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their generous support.
Carolyn Westoby and Clare Crozier with Mike Kirk, OTF, and Ted McMeekin, MPP



Thanks also to the Dundas Lioness Club! Sue Rodgers and Ruth Cliff with Carolyn Westoby and Clare Crozier



A packed house appreciated John Sewell's talk on William Lyon Mackenzie

Over the past few weeks the storage unit has been installed and staff has begun the arduous process of re-shelving and indexing our priceless collection of artifacts and archival materials. This is expected to take several months. When completed you, our Friends of the Museum, will be invited to a special viewing.

While deeply appreciative of the support of the Trillium Foundation and Dundas Lionesses, we are not in a financial position to purchase the complete storage unit. The final four carriages will be installed when additional funding becomes available. If you are interested in supporting this important initiative, in leaving a lasting legacy to our community, we invite you to contact our Museum Administrator, Carolyn Westoby, for additional details. An income tax receipt is available for all financial gifts. Your consideration is appreciated.

Thank you,



*President & Board Chair
Clare Crozier*



Looking from above at the design layout of the newly installed compact storage.



The design, from above, as it will appear with the addition of the four carriages, completing the layout and fully maximize the space within the Storage Room.

You are invited to the
ANNUAL MEETING
of the
Dundas Historical Society Museum
Wednesday, June 1, 2011 2:30 pm.
in the Museum's Assembly Room

Thank you, Sylvia and Joan!



Sylvia Hillyard's attention to detail is exquisite, highly suited to her long tenure working in the Museum's archives. Pictured here on the left, she researched, and also proofread, the Museum's latest publication, *Healers and Healing in the Dundas Valley*. Her thoughtful, ongoing work with the Volunteer Committee has ensured comprehensive volunteer recruitment and support procedures. At Cactus Festival, and in the Doctor's Office, Sylvia warmly welcomes all who visit.

Joan Hall's friendly manner engages all ages at Museum events. She has hunted down the perfect quotes from the archives to complement exhibits; sewn miles of fabric into curtains and period costumes; proofread the Museum's latest publication, *Healers and Healing in the Dundas Valley* and has served as a member of the Board of Directors. Joan is always an enthused Museum ambassador.

These citations were read as Sylvia Hillyard and Joan Hall were honoured with Heritage Volunteer Awards by the Hamilton Wentworth Heritage Association in a ceremony at Hamilton City Hall. The awards salute those who have made outstanding contributions to the understanding and preservation of our history and heritage. Congratulations!

We are very grateful for the time and skills which Sylvia and Joan bring to their many roles at the Museum, and sincerely thank them for their dedication.

News from the Dundas Community Images Database

Description: Hockeyville digital photographic images

Donor: Paul Robb

Extent: 700+ images

The Archives is pleased to announce that some 700+ digital images of the Dundas Hockeyville celebrations taken by Paul Robb have been made available to the Dundas Community Images Database. The images cover the Hockeyville festivities in September, 2010, beginning with the weekend celebrations in the Driving Park and carrying through to the NHL game at the J.L. Grightmire Market St.

Arena on September 28. Paul captured the excitement of the people of Dundas enjoying this once in a life time experience, celebrating their community and a sport that they all love. It was truly a unique, unforgettable experience. We thank Paul and his wife Bettye for their work in photographing and editing these images.



Thank you Paul for documenting this exciting chapter in the life of our town!

Just a reminder if you haven't already brought in your family photographs for our Dundas Community Images Database you are welcome to do so any time. This is a continuing project and new additions are always welcome!

Cradled in the Valley: Stories of Dundas

The First Gallery is a rich tapestry of Dundas history. Watch for an ongoing display of **Recent Acquisitions** as the Museum collects the community's treasures, today!

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!

A Punch and Judy Revelation

Over the last few weeks we've been working hard to move all of our artifacts back into their new homes in the recently



installed compact mobile storage shelving. From an artifact standpoint, this process involves a detailed storage plan where like objects are stored together. In our old storage system, space was at such a premium that similar collections might be scattered throughout the room. By using our additional capacity, we are able to properly store artifacts in a way that will make research and retrieval much easier!

installed compact mobile storage shelving. From an artifact standpoint, this process involves a detailed storage plan where like objects are stored together. In our old storage system, space was at

As part of this ongoing organization, the collection management team has been taking the opportunity to address any conservation or storage concerns we come across.

Just the other day, I came across a lovely little mechanical bank (one of many in the collection) with jingling inside...

Mechanical banks have been popular since the mid-19th Century and were originally designed as a fun way to promote saving with children. Cleverly designed, each bank performs an action where a coin is safely stored away when a lever is pulled. One of the most popular things for children to play with when they visit us at the Museum is one of the two replica banks at our front desk!

After carefully opening the bottom of the bank, fifteen coins tumbled out. Amongst the pile of copper pennies and one nickel, I discovered some interesting pieces. To my amazement I found an 1861 Halifax penny with Queen Victoria on it, a 1905 with Edward VII, a 1944 American well as a 1967 Canadian Centennial penny. Although we know our collection very well, the fun part about this Museum is that it will always continue to surprise and delight us.

Kevin Puddister
Collections Manager



Lisa DeCicco, Stephanie Smyth & Fran Donnelly

The Way We Were And How We Did It!

Getting "a perm".

Getting "the strap".

Bread delivered right to your door,
by horse and wagon.



Stone pigs. Silk stockings. Mangles. Typewriters. Spinning. Spittoons. Remember the wooden stereo cabinets that were in everyone's living rooms?

The Way We Were... And How We Did It, currently on exhibit, takes us on a rollicking journey through the years. Guest Curators, Lisa DeCicco, Stephanie Smyth and Fran Donnelly have created a fun, family-friendly exhibit of the ways we USED to do things at home, work, school and at play. A 1929 video teaches 'How to Dial a Telephone'. A wash set reminds us of the days before showers. A slide show of photos sets it all in Dundas past. As you can see, the children's area is a huge hit: Kids can beat a rug. Hang clothes to dry. Practise typing. Try hairdressing skills. And more.

Come for a walk down memory lane. You are in for a treat.



DUNDAS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

The willows are brightening, finally!
And with that, gardens, and their
gardeners, are coming to life, follow-
ing on all of the generations before.

"The gardens of our forefathers were models of neatness and order as well as pictures of beauty. The garden plot stood close by the house and was surrounded by a picket or board fence to keep out the poultry, pigs and other animals that would soon make havoc of the flower and vegetable beds, if accidentally allowed to enter. A path ran round the sides of the garden and one or two paths through the centre. One could not help wondering how our busy grandmothers found time to devote to such work, but their gardens were apparently their pride, and they spent a good deal of time working in them. It was the custom always to take visitors out and show them through the garden before leaving..."

In the spring our grandmothers would bring out the boxes in which were stored the seeds collected the previous fall, each kind of seed being wrapped up in a separate parcel, some in folds of newspaper, some in pieces of brown bags, all carefully marked and pinned up or tied with a piece of string or tape."

At Home in Upper Canada, Jeanne Minhinnick

Larry Sagar is a Museum volunteer. He is also a keen gardener, so keen that he is pursuing certification as a Master Gardener. You may have seen Larry carefully tending the Museum lawn and gardens last season. A Trillium award effort!

Thanks to Larry, who having consulted with Jean (Martin) Freeman, wrote the following; a celebration of the life of a Dundas garden!

~ A Garden's Tale ~

"Eastridge"

31 Cross Street, Dundas



Eastridge, as it appears today.

Sometime in the early 1840's the property in Dundas now known as 31 Cross Street became home to a one storey stone cottage. In 1928, Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Fraser Pirie purchased the property.

Their eldest daughter, Jean, developed a love of flowers that was shared with her maternal grandfather, Henry Bertram, who was well known across Canada for his roses. Jean had a vision and desire to take over the landscape design and to help, Mrs. Pirie hired an accomplished gardener, named William Mansfield, after Henry died.

The landscape soon became manicured into a picturesque setting of extensive park-like gardens. It was so well known for its horticulture during the 1940's and 50's that tourists would stop with their cameras and stand on the boulevard to take pictures, from spring to fall.

The English garden on the south side was botanically carved and stretched from the front sidewalk to

the back of the house. It was dominated with two massive elm trees and filled with various colours from the many perennial plants that included daffodils, irises, tulips (Darwin & Parrot), foxglove, primrose, peonies, (Paul Scarlet) rose, phlox, and delphiniums. The garden was brilliantly bordered each year with Sweet William annuals that Mr. Mansfield would grow from

seeds gathered each fall. Petunias purchased from Connon's in Waterdown were also planted each year to fill the empty spaces during the changing plant cycles. The perennials came from the E.D. Smith & Sons Ltd in Winona which had a nursery at the time including, in 1939, the 55 cedars, two maples (Schwedler & Silver) and two elms. There were two separate rose gardens that included the Peace and Charlotte Armstrong varieties. Other focal points throughout the property were embraced by the many flowering shrubs that included:

weigela, honeysuckle, forsythia, lilac, mock orange, bridal wreath, japonica, privet, hawthorn, rose of Sharon and spirea, and Chinese elm.

In 1940 Jean married Al Martin who joined right in, cutting the grass (including the steep back terraces!) and planting a large vegetable garden south of the terraces.

Larry Sagar

Did you know that there is a 'House File' in the Archives?

The homes of Dundas offer great charm. The stories of the houses, and their families, are a fascinating part of our history.



A Royal Celebration: George IV to Prince William

While relocating the collection to our new compact storage units, we were reminded of just how much we have in the way of royal commemorative artifacts and archives. It was decided that with the upcoming marriage of Prince



William to Catherine Middleton on April 29th it was the perfect time to put some of these items on display. According to an article in the October

2000 issue of Home & Garden Magazine, Royal & Regal Memorabilia in Norfolk, England has a stock of royal collectibles worth \$2 million and the most passionate collectors of British royal commemoratives are in the former colonies. Thanks to the passion of Mrs. Jessie Cornett for all things royal, the Museum has a fine collection of Royal Commemoratives. We have an extensive collection of royal commemoratives from Queen Caroline, the despised wife of George IV through to Prince William. Thanks to Mrs. Cornett, we have some very early pieces dating from the 1820's. Some of the royals commemorated are William VI, Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI,



Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Anne and Princess Margaret.



The display will be on until after the visit to Canada by Prince William & Catherine Middleton in July.

Roberta Bailey
Collections Assistant

Made In Dundas
Victorian
Family
Festival



Tea Room
Games
Music
Animals

May 28
11-3
Free!

Dundas
Museum
139 Park St. W

Our Website

The Internet and Social Media has changed the way that we connect and interact with each other. Our website and social media pages are no exception. Here is a highlight of the interactive features on our (relatively!) new website that we hope you will take advantage of:

- ◆ Did you know that you don't need your own Facebook and Twitter account in order to access our pages and get up-to-date information on museum news? All you need to do is go to www.dundasmuseum.ca and click on the  (Facebook) and  (Twitter) icons located at the top right-hand corner of the page.
- ◆ Do you want to know what others are saying about Dundas or have your own Dundas story to share? Head over to our website, click on 'Connect Online'

and then on 'Your Dundas Stories' and read and reminisce or better yet, add your own story!

- ◆ Are you looking to do research? Start on our website. Again, under the Connect Online section, click on 'Our Ontario' in the red navigational bar. The Our Ontario website launches. From here, use their Search bar to type anything in. It will search hundreds of digital collections from museums, archives, libraries etc, including ours. Try typing 'Desjardins Canal' in the search bar and see what comes up!

There is so much more to explore on our website. I hope that the above tips help and be sure to visit our site and 'click around' for more information. Once again, the url is www.dundasmuseum.ca.

Lisa Narduzzi
Administrative Assistant

A Mystery from the Archives



Quite often people and places depicted in our Photograph Collection cannot be identified. If you have any idea who these people are, or where they are, call us at 905.627.7412 or email

Sandra, skiemele@dundasmuseum.ca. Responses will be published in the next issue of the newsletter!

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.

The Last of the Last Page

Did you see this recent editorial in the Spec?

"Our history is our stories.

History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.

Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

Every moment of our lives is a little piece of history. It's when we put those moments together that we get a more comprehensive understanding of our heritage and its impact on us as individuals and as communities.

That's why it's important to celebrate and share what is passed down to us by our ancestors." The Hamilton Spectator, April 8, 2011

The writer was reflecting on the preservation, and sharing, of one family's personal stories and items from their life together. "It is stories such as these that improve our understanding of ourselves and each other."

Collecting stories, Dundas stories. Sharing them with others. That's what the Museum is all about. With your support, we are helping connections to happen as Dundas history is discovered. It's exciting. Engaging. Inspiring. And often, just plain fun.

Take care.

Carolyn Westoby
Museum Administrator

