

The Carleton Place & Beckwith Heritage Museum Heritage Happenings

Society and Museum News, Views and Previews



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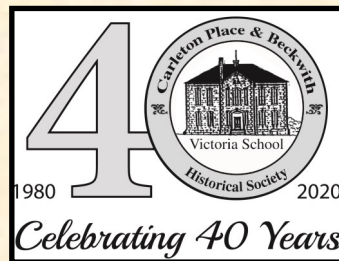
**Tim Campbell
Beckwith Township**

**Museum Manager
Jennifer Irwin**

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Message from the President



Did you know that May is Museum Month?

In this month dedicated to celebrating museums and their work it is ironic that museums around the world remain closed.

While the Carleton Place and Beckwith Museum remains closed to the public, our Curator is continuing to work. Behind the scenes jobs in research, artifact cataloguing, and exhibit planning continue. We have taken advantage of government assistance programs to keep our operations on track.

As for everyone, this has been a difficult time and hard decisions have been made.

We continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation, and at this point have no opening date set. When it is safe to do so, our doors will open to a somewhat new world, and we will welcome visitors (and our volunteers!) with open arms and safety measures in place.

Rob Probert
President

Museum Exhibits

Kitchen

The Museum is thrilled to partner with Sivarulrasa Gallery to bring you KITCHEN, a show that elegantly combines works by four contemporary Canadian painters with artifacts of kitchens past from our collection. **On display through July 10.**



Sivarulrasa Gallery
34 Mill Street, Almonte, ON
Wednesday - Sunday 11 - 5 or
by appointment 613- 256-8033

The kitchen is often called “the heart of the home”. The act of cooking, and of sharing a meal, has always been a powerful symbol of our culture, our history, and our identity. More than simply a place for cooking and eating, the kitchen is often the busiest room in the house. The kitchen table is the spot people gather to play games and create crafts, do homework and talk. Children’s artwork is displayed on the fridge, lunch boxes are lined up on the counter, and the dog’s bed is in the corner. Covid-19 and the stay-at-home order has forced upon us a togetherness in our homes. The pandemic has led us back to the kitchen, the traditional gathering spot. Here, we look for the familiar; big family breakfasts, game nights, and lots of baking and breadmaking! The constant of the kitchen, and the joys and comforts we experience there, are helping us adapt to isolation. Those joys and comforts will be there still, when we open our doors once again to welcome friends and family.

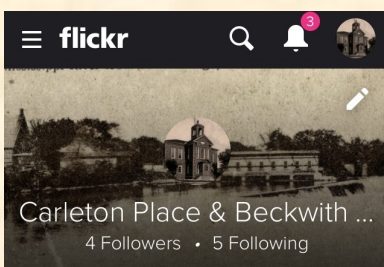
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**We are still open
online!**



Our front doors may be locked, but our virtual doors are always open! Check us out:

- **Facebook:**
Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum
- **Instagram:**
Carleton Place Museum
- **Website:**
cpbheritagemuseum.com
- **Flickr:**
Carleton Place and Beckwith Museum



Curator's Message:

May 18th was **International Museum Day**. Normally we would be hosting an opening reception this week for our latest exhibition, and promoting all our summer activities, and generally celebrating ourselves! Not this year.

Because of **Covid-19**, our doors were closed to visitors, volunteers, and researchers on March 13, 2020. It has been strangely quiet, but surprisingly productive! While I miss the company, it has been a great opportunity to get things done.

The main exhibit room and the Foss Room downstairs have been thoroughly cleaned, and the walls, trim and showcases have been given fresh coats of paint, all ready for visitors when we do open.

Not so visible, but equally important at the museum, are the upstairs offices and storage rooms. The curator's office includes a nice sized reference library and I'm pleased to say it is now organized by subject, the duplicate volumes removed, and all those loose papers and files are correctly stored, labelled and find-able!

Our collection includes 9,334 objects, 4,392 photographs, and 4,243 archival documents. All these items need to be recorded in our database, photographed or scanned, and storage locations confirmed. This closure time has allowed me to work on a backlog of "lost" or "unidentified" objects, and things are getting more organized by the day!

While our members, our visitors and the general public can't come in and look around; we CAN meet where they are, so I've been posting lots of photos and information on our social media channels. We're sharing lots of our collection on Facebook, Instagram, Flickr and on our (soon to be updated) website. Have a look!

Most enjoyable for me, during this time, was the opportunity to co-curate an exhibition with Sivarulrasa Gallery in Almonte. Sanjeev Sivarulrasa and I worked together (...yet 6' apart...) to create "Kitchen", an exhibition of art and artifacts all relating to that room in the house where we all tend to congregate. Check their website for the latest on when and how you can visit: sivarulrasa.com.

Stay safe, and see you soon. Jennifer Irwin

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New Artifacts!

The boys from “**Carleton Place Underground**” explored the Museum basement last summer. This dark, damp and dugout basement is full of nooks and crannies and, it turns out, treasures!

Some of the items they found included this eggcup, pack of cigarettes, a baseball bat, and a cotton



bag that would have held a part for a Findlay stove or furnace.

Another neat item was a school custodian's journal, dating from 1940 to 1946 when Orton Hobbs took care of the building.

If you have a dug-out Carleton Place basement, contact Ryan or Adin and set up a time for an exploratory dig!

goode934@gmail.com



The Museum wants to document and preserve the stories, experiences, anecdotes and the images of local people living through the COVID-19 pandemic, so future generations can learn the impact on individuals and our community.

We'd like to ask for your help in preserving history as it happens. How can you help? Here's what we're looking for:

- Diary entries
- Written submissions (thoughts/memories/stories of heroes)
- photos and videos of how you spend your days
- school worksheets and homework assignments
- locally made masks
- painted rocks!
- signs (CLOSED, etc.)
- inspirational artwork and posters
- locally made COVID themed merchandise or souvenirs

Email us at cpbmuseum@outlook.com to arrange for donations. Thank you!

