



MEMBERS ONLY



*Greetings From
Carleton Place,
Ont.*



HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS

Summer is coming and so are our Historical Walking Tours!

Check next month's newsletter for a list of walks available in July and August...

Tickets are only \$10 for Museum Members!



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Museums make communities vibrant and vital places to live, work, visit and invest!

#MayisMuseumMonth

QUIZ TIME!

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW OUR BUILDING?
TRUE OR FALSE??

1. The building now housing the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum served as the first Town Hall of Carleton Place from 1872 to 1890.
2. The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority was headquartered in our building during the 1970s.
3. Students attending Victoria School in the building ate packed lunches in their classrooms followed by the noon-hour recess.
4. The front doors of Victoria School were used only by staff and visitors to the school.
5. Former students from across Canada attended the Victoria School Reunion in the summer of 1989.
6. Victoria School served children from Grades One to Four for 90 years.
7. The second floor of the original Town Hall building consisted of two rooms – a ballroom and a storage room.
8. Victoria School was one of three 4-room stone public schools in Carleton Place.
9. All students at Victoria School lived on the north side of the Mississippi River.
10. The Union Jack on display in the main exhibit room was discovered under the eaves of the building during 2005 renovations.
11. Victoria School housed the town jail for a time, causing some parents to keep their children home rather than exposing them to criminals.
12. Mr. Willoughby constructed the Town Hall/Victoria School building.
13. The first Kindergarten class held in Carleton Place was held in Victoria School in the 1960s.
14. The boys' washroom was located on the second floor of Victoria School.



Victoria School, c. 1922

15. The original windows in the Victoria School building were round top wood windows with stone arches and sills.
16. A wooden belfry, located on the roof of the Town Hall's central gabled projection was removed at an unknown date, and the bell replaced with a simple brass handbell with a wooden handle.
17. The schoolyard was covered with sharp cinders that were a by-product from Findlay's Foundry.
18. During the 1950s, corporal punishment in the form of strapping the palms of a student's hands was meted out by the school principal as a disciplinary measure.
19. The building's original tin ceilings are still intact throughout the building except where they were damaged during roof leaks in the late 1990s.
20. A large elm tree located in the schoolyard was torn from the ground during Hurricane Hazel in 1954.
21. A large wooden storage barn was located behind the school until it was removed in the mid-1950s.

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE!



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. **False.** The building served as the Town Hall from 1872 to 1879. Until the current Town Hall opened in 1897, Council met in various halls and taverns.
2. **True.** It was during the tenure of the Conservation Authority that the building was divided into small offices that did not meet fire code. The offices remained in the upper floor after the building was taken over by the Carleton Place and Beckwith Historical Society and the code violations caused the Museum to be closed to the public for a number of years.
3. **False.** All students returned home for the noon hour meal.
4. **True.** Students entered by the rear door only.
5. **True.** Over 125 former students from as far away as Newfoundland and Victoria took part in the weekend-long celebration of the school's 110th anniversary.
6. **False.** At various times in its history Victoria School housed classes from Kindergarten to Grade Eight.
7. **True.** Large decorative plaster circles (formerly surrounding hanging lanterns) are still visible on the ceiling above the current tin ceilings. The ballroom was accessed by a stairwell that extended from the front door area to the second floor.
8. **False.** Victoria and Prince of Wales Schools were four-room buildings and Central School held eight rooms.
9. **False.** Most students of Victoria School lived on the north side of the Mississippi River but at various times students from the south side attended depending on class sizes and where the various grade levels were located.
10. **True.** Penciled along one white edge of the flag are the words TOWN HALL. The flag was conserved by a Montreal textile conservator in 2007.
11. **True.**
12. **True.** Other notable Willoughby sites in Carleton Place include the former St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Bridge Street and the CPR underpass on Mill Street.
13. **True.** The teacher was Mrs. Geraldine Barr. The classroom was the north one on the lower floor.
14. **False.** The girls' washroom was located at the top of the first flight of stairs and the boys' in the mezzanine area at the top of the school. The current washroom on the lower floor which is backed by a kitchenette was added during renovations in 2005; until that time the hallway was open from the front to back doors.
15. **True.** The actual date of the renovations changing the small windows to the large ones on the side walls of each classroom is unknown but believed to be during the 1920s.
16. **True.** Sadly, the current locations of both bells are unknown.
17. **True.** Former students tell of falling on the cinders during recess times. The sharp points easily pierced tender skin and many tears were shed.
18. **False.** All teachers had straps in their desks. For some teachers the strap or the threat of a strapping was their main form of discipline. Others preferred to mete out punishment by having a student stand in the corner or in the hallway.
19. **False.** The tin ceilings are not original to the building and are thought to have been installed in the 1920s. They were restored by Carleton Place Arena Staff employees during the 2005 renovations.
20. **True.** Even after the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society created the lovely gardens around the building beginning in 1988, a large depression in the ground easily identified the location of the tree, close to the current location of the garden shed.
21. **True.** A single photo in the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum shows a portion of this building.

Victoria School class, 1951
Storage shed to left.



LOCAL AUTHOR MARY COOK!

You can probably count on one hand the number of museums in Eastern Ontario I have not visited at one time or another. Each time I walk in the door of a museum out in the Valley, I am overtaken by a sense of wonder. I am coming face to face with my own history. Some of the displays may not be something I remember as a child, but could my ancestors return, they would be face to face with their own memories of another place and another time. And in a sense, that connects me with those who have gone before me. This the role of a museum.

A museum is that precious link to our past. It can conjure up memories. It can connect us with what we have only heard or read about, but have never seen. A museum can transport us beyond our own memories, lift us up, and then place us down in our country's history, and in the history of those whose blood runs through our veins.

The Carleton Place and Beckwith Museum is such a place. Having used its services many times, I never cease to be amazed at how one simple artifact can take me back to another place and another time. If you have a hunger for a sense of what has gone before you as I have, you will feed that hunger in our own local museum. Meticulous care has been given to create a very real and true picture of what this country, and its people, were really like in times past.

Our Ottawa Valley is an unique place. Many people have left their special mark to make it what it is today. Their history can only live on if it preserved. This is the role of any museum. The Carleton Place and Beckwith Museum has gone beyond its mandate, and every time I go through its doors, I feel my yearly membership is a very small price to pay for keeping our history alive.



Mary Cook and Museum Curator Jennifer Irwin at the I.O.D.E's 100th Anniversary Tea in 2017. Mary is an admired story teller and author.

In a 48-year career at CBC, Mary earned seven ACTRA awards for excellence in broadcast journalism. She has received numerous citations throughout the years, including certificates from former Ontario premiers Bill Davis and Bob Rae, as well as former prime minister of Canada Jean Chrétien.

The towns of Renfrew and Carleton Place have recognized her, and she is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.