



CARLETON PLACE AND BECKWITH HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



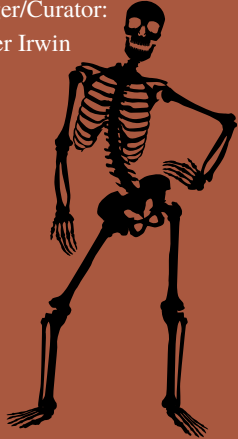
October 2023

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BODY-SNATCHING.
Midnight Expeditions to Country Churchyards.
Practical Jokes That Were Played Upon Inquisitive Visitors—A Student Whom Fear Sent Home.

Body Snatching Case. (1883, January 18). Ottawa Daily Citizen



George Dummert was born and raised in London, England. He and his wife Jane and their children emigrated to Carleton Place in 1871. George was a baker; he'd learned the trade from his stepfather. George was a bit famous locally for his candy too, especially his toffee.

Dummert built a home and shop down on the river's edge. He delivered bread to stores in Ashton and Franktown one day a week. He was an elder at St. James Anglican Church and actually designed the layout of their cemetery on the 8th Line.

George retired in the late 1880's, moved to Ottawa to live with his son, and died of tuberculosis on October 20, 1902. He was buried at St. James, in the plot he'd chosen and been given in return for his work.



There were two funerals taking place the day George was buried. The morning after, a family member went to the cemetery to check on George's grave and say a final farewell. What he found drove him to fright! Pieces of clothing were strewn all around the grave. George's fresh grave, as well as the one nearby, had been opened and the graves were empty. The bodies were gone.

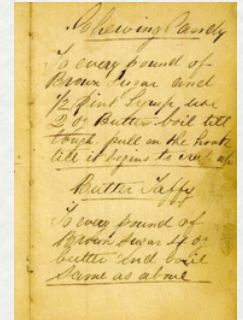
That same morning, James Dolan, one of George's closest friends, was driving his carriage along Highway 15 on his way to Smiths Falls. In the village of Numogate, he passed a wagon traveling in the same direction. The wagon had two trunks on it. Almost coffin sized! Upon seeing Dolan, the wagon drivers got off the wagon and walked their horses along the side of the road until Dolan was out of sight. Dolan didn't think anything of this strange behaviour until he returned to Carleton Place and heard about his friend's missing body.

It was presumed by all that the wagon was carrying two freshly dug up corpses to Queen's University in Kingston. One was very likely the body of George Dummert.

The practice of human dissection was used by universities to further medical knowledge. Medical schools were given the bodies of executed felons, but those were not sufficient to supply Queens University medical students.,

Students began "body snatching"; digging up freshly buried corpses in the dead of night and sneaking them back to the school. They would dig a hole at the top of the grave and pull the body out using a hook then strip the body of its clothes and valuables, discarding them beside the now empty grave. It was important to leave the valuables behind as it was illegal to rob a corpse of its possessions but not to steal the body itself.

Legitimate sources for acquiring a fresh cadaver were so limited that soon body snatching became a lucrative trade for those outside the medical profession. Criminal gangs were formed, devoting their time stealing fresh corpses and selling them to desperate medical schools. Demand was so high they were able to demand exorbitant prices which the schools had no choice but to pay. There are infamous stories of gangs selling a corpse to one school, only to steal it back and sell it to another!





CARLETON PLACE AND BECKWITH HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



October 2023

October Hours:

Saturday 10 am - 4 pm



Contact Us:

613 - 253 7013

cpbmuseum@outlook.com

267 Edmund Street
Carleton Place ON
K7C 3E8

Explore:

www.cpbheritagemuseum.com

@carletonplacemuseum

https://www.youtube.com/@carltonplaceandbeckwithmu5678



WOOD WINDOW RESTORATION WORKSHOP

The Carleton Place Municipal Heritage Committee welcomes
Jim Stinson of Somerset Woodworks

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14, 1- 4 PM | **THE CARLETON PLACE MUSEUM 267 EDMUND STREET**

ONLY \$10 REGISTER NOW!

For more information: 613-253-7013
To register: etransfer to cpbmuseum@outlook.com

JIM GRADUATED FROM THE HERITAGE CARPENTRY AND JOINERY PROGRAM AT THE ALGONQUIN COLLEGE HERITAGE INSTITUTE IN PERTH, ONTARIO.

- LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING HERITAGE WINDOWS
- TIPS ON DECIDING TO REPAIR OR REPLACE WOODEN WINDOWS
- REPAINTING AND IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- DEMONSTRATION ON INSTALLING NEW GLASS AND GLAZING PUTTY.

Hosted by the Carleton Place Municipal Heritage Committee, this workshop will be led by Jim Stinson of Somerset Woodworks. Jim is a graduate of and teacher at The Heritage Carpentry and Joinery Program at the Algonquin College Heritage Institute in Perth, Ontario.

Jim will help us learn about the importance of protecting heritage windows. He'll give tips on deciding to repair or replace your old wooden windows as well as discuss repainting and improving energy efficiency.

Demonstrations on installing new glass and glazing putty will give an opportunity for participation. Please register by etransfer of \$10 per person to cpbmuseum@outlook.com. Space is limited.

Questions? Call us at 613-253-7013.

Refreshments will be served.



The Museum building has been getting some love lately! Restoration of the north facade windows continues, and portions of our foundation and walls are being repointed.

Thanks to @heritagebrickandstonecraft and @browne'smillworkandjoinery and the Town of Carleton Place.

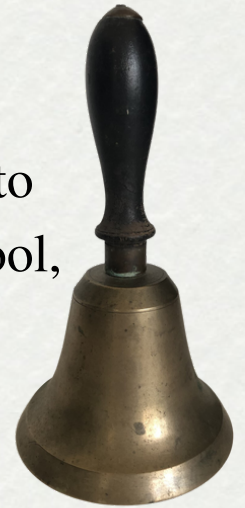


NEWSLETTER

October 2023



On a beautiful September evening, our Curator Jennifer gave a walking tour for staff and clients of Cosgrove Real Estate Group. This custom tour was “commissioned” as a thank you for their clients and included several recently sold historic properties. What a great way to share our town’s history with newcomers to Carleton Place!



This brass hand bell was recently donated to the museum. It was used at the Leech School, and donated to Ernie Moore upon it’s closing. The Leech School was built on Landsdowne Avenue in 1871 by Isaac Willoughby as a private home. The building was first used as a school in 1893.



3,633 followers



1,459 followers



1,867 followers

Sale

We are now accepting donations for our November "Junk and Disorderly" fundraising sale.

We're looking for good quality household items and collectibles.

No books please!

Please email to arrange for drop off or pick up.
cpbmuseum@outlook.com

"Junk and Disorderly Sale"
A fundraiser for the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum!
267 EDMUND ST
613-253-7013
cpbheritagemuseum.com

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 25
10 - 4**

COLLECTIBLES
VINTAGE AND NEW ITEMS