Windsor’s Community Museum News

Fall 2013
Francois Baby House and Interpretation Centre

Fall Events and Exhibits
Mark your calendars

- Tall Ships — Labour Day weekend
- Culture Days — 27 — 29 Sept.
- Windsor’s Catholic Heritage to 29 Sept.
- Living in 1812 to 5 Oct.
- Moooove Over opens 26 Oct.
- Rebellion of 1838 talk — 6 Nov.
- Auld Lang Syne opens 30 Nov.

Special thanks go to our Volunteer of the Year and Museum gardener Nevi Rusich who has transformed the front of the museum. Nevi spends 4 to 5 hours a week planting, weeding, watering and pruning the museum’s garden. She, along with the many volunteers who staff the museum’s main desk, welcomes visitors and residents to Windsor’s rich history.

Culture Days 27 — 29 September

Friday 27  Be a part of the historic re-enactment of the retreat of 1813
Amherstburg (Fort Malden) to Chatham Walk, Free School Program and Evening Talks on the grounds of the Duff-Baby House, 221 Mill St. For further information and times contact the museum at 519-253-1812.

  - Friday 27  Walking Tour of the Monuments in Dieppe Park  6:00 pm
  the walking tour leaves from Windsor’s Community Museum, 254 Pitt Street West. This is part of the Downtown Windsor Culture Crawl.

  - Saturday 28  David Morris as Tecumseh on the lawn of the Duff-Baby House  2:00 pm
historical re-enactor David Morris will portray Tecumseh in a riveting presentation of events of the War of 1812-1813. This presentation is free and open to the public.

  - Saturday 28  Dinner at the Duff-Baby House with David Morris as Tecumseh  6:00 pm
On or about the 28 of September, 1813, influential military leaders gathered around the dining table in Jacques Baby’s frontier mansion to discuss the war. Proctor, Baby, and Tecumseh were partaking in the last meal before news of advancing American forces abruptly ended the dinner and prompted a retreat towards Chatham. Now, 200 years later, Les Amis Duff-Baby, along with Windsor Historic Sites and The Friends of the Court invite you to share in the commemoration of this very special dinner at the historic Duff-Baby Mansion 221 Mill Street, Sandwich.

  Tickets: $75.00 each, Advance purchase only  Catered by Georgina Burns
For more information, contact Les Amis Duff-Baby at lesamisduffbaby@yahoo.ca
Auld Lang Syne: Remembering Windsor/Essex Scottish Heritage

Immigrants from Scotland have had a great impact on the history of Windsor and Essex County. They participated in politics, established newspapers and businesses and farmed, populating the county.

One such story is that of Donald Cameron who was born in Scotland in 1826 and spent his youth working in the dry goods business there and in England. He came to Canada in 1854 settling in Blytheswood, near Leamington, to establish a dry goods business. He was the first postmaster and is credited with naming that community after a town in Scotland.

In 1860 he started “D. Cameron Dry goods” on Sandwich Street in Windsor. He entered into several partnerships with local merchants such as John Thornburn and George Bartlet and expanded his store to sell everything from groceries to general merchandise.

Retiring in 1887, he sold his share of Cameron and Bartlet to Colin Macdonald which led to the eventual creation of Windsor’s Bartlet, Macdonald and Gow department store.

Donald Cameron also served on Windsor Town Council and was the Mayor of Windsor from 1870 to 1875. This is just one example of the Scottish settler stories that will be a part of this exhibit officially opening 30 November.

Right: Cameron and Thornburn Store, Sandwich Street C. 1871, Collection of WCM P5207

Coming soon in Fall 2013

For the past year, Windsor’s Community Museum has been inputting information to a database to provide a digital inventory of items within the museum’s collection. The database currently includes a selection of museum artefacts and photographs as well as pieces that are part of the Windsor Sculpture Park. The records include information such as description, history, maker, and frequently include a photograph. The database is constantly being added to and updated.

This fall the Museum is excited to be launching the new web version of this collection database. The web access will give researchers the ability to search the museum’s collection from the comforts of their own homes, and to utilize the museum’s resources in a whole new way. The online database will be a new method for the museum to increase interest in local history stories and to continue to preserve the resources for the future.

John Campbell Grade 7 students researching their exhibit themes for the Junior Curator Program at Windsor’s Community Museum. This year’s themes are Fashion Comes and Goes but Style never Changes, Too Chicken to Farm and Ashnywabee First Nations.
George June was a farmer from the Cottam area. In 1929 he was diagnosed with sciatica and made only a partial recovery. Since he could no longer do physical labour he started whittling to pass the time. He started carving canes, wooden chains, horse and wagon vignettes, tables, chairs and figures. The collection of his folk art consists of over 100 pieces. George June died in 1941 and his carvings were left to his grandson George Coote. In August of 1956 the entire collection was donated to the Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol in Goderich. A log cabin and totem pole built by Mr. June still stand in the Cottam Rotary Park in Cottam. We are happy to exhibit a part of this amazing collection on loan from Goderich at the museum. The exhibit will open on Saturday 26 October at 2:00 pm.

The 175th anniversary of the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion; Consequences and Aftermath

7:00 pm Wednesday 6 November at Windsor’s Community Museum

2013 marks the 175th anniversary of the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion. Between December 1837 and December 1838 at least 13 armed incursions from United States into Canada took place. The Western District experienced 7 of these invasions made by the Patriot Army. Dr. John Carter will investigate these events, their consequences and aftermath. He will comment on the 105 English speaking rebels who were transported to Van Diemen’s Land for their involvement and participation. In addition, he will describe their lives in this far away penal colony, the prisoners period of probation, and time of freedom before their return to Canada and the United States.

This illustrated presentation is based upon Dr. Carter’s 35 years of research in Canada, the United Kingdom, United States and Australia. He is currently a Research Associate in the History and Classics Programme, University of Tasmania. This is a story that you will want to hear as part of the celebrations for the 175th anniversary of the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion.

Free Admission Call 519-253-1812

The Windsor Rose Questers, Chapter #1153 have generously offered to pay for the restoration of this early 19th century dining room side chair reportedly owned by the Baby family. Herzog Refinishing are restoring the chair.
Museum Volunteer Group Events

Upcoming Meetings and Speakers
5 September — Don Wilson on the Duff-Baby House
4 October — Janet Cobban on the 125th Anniversary of the Ontario Historical Society
1 November — Julius Langpeter on Re-enacting
6 December — Member’s Christmas Party

Can you Volunteer?
We are looking for volunteers to staff the main desk at the museum. Volunteers are crucial in providing a presence on the main floor of the museum for visitors and researchers coming to the museum. Not only will you greet visitors but also sell items in the Museum Volunteer Group Gift Shop. Commitment required: Three hours twice a month, enjoy meeting the public & learning about history!
Call the museum at (519) 253-1812 for details.

Visit or Contact us
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Facsimile 519-253-0919
Website www.windsormuseum.ca
Email: wmuseum@city.windsor.on.ca

Museum Hours
10:00 — 5:00 Tuesday — Saturday
Closed Sunday and Monday

Above: Basket Weaving course, l. to r. Nancy Hagar, Marnie Critchlow, Ruth Sylvestre, Kris Ives and Norma Bacarro, Right top: Leisha Nazarewich and Nevi Rusich on the Tour of the Thames, Below: Tour guide Jim Gilbert as Mr. McGregor with Kris Ives at the Moravian Museum.

In memory of long time volunteer Pat Walker who died earlier this year, the MVG planted a Pee Gee Hydrangea in the garden at the museum and it came into bloom this past summer.