

# Frontenac County Schools Museum



Volume 81 - Fall Newsletter

September - November 2017

*The Fall has been very busy here at the Museum. With school back in our class visits have been increasing steadily. The museum was very lucky to participate in Beyond Classrooms . A grade three class from Perth Road School spent the week at the museum learning about early settlers, how to be a museum curator, indigenous lessons, and dry stonewall building. In December the museum will be hosting two weeks of school visits where children will participate in Christmas plays.*

*We were very lucky to be featured as a stop on the Ontario Museum Association's bus tour "Road to Renewal" in October. Carol Rogers and Jim Reynolds gave a very informative talk to other museum professionals from across Ontario about how the museum has thrived in difficult times.*

*Our first speaker series "Teacher, Please Excuse..." was a huge success and another is planned for the spring.*

*The Scribe*

## **Exhibits on Now**

The Museum has finished its displays on rural school fairs and back to school. During November we had a Remembrance Day exhibit featuring local students who served in the armed forces. We are now in the full holiday spirit with festive Christmas displays, photographs of winter school scenes, and a decorated Christmas tree. Stop in to see them!

## **Fall Hours**

Monday - Wednesday  
10am - 3pm  
or By Appointment  
CLOSED January

414 Regent Street, Kingston, Ontario | P.O. Box 2146 | K7K 5R1

613.544.9113 | fcschoolsmuseum@gmail.com | www.fcsmuseum.com

Like us on Facebook @SchoolsMuseum

## Call for Volunteers!



The Museum is always looking for new volunteers to help us out. We are looking for anyone who would be interested in: being a school teacher for a few hours during class bookings, learning how to catalogue our artefact collection, and anyone who would like to lend a hand during special events at the museum.

Volunteering is a great opportunity to get to know the artefacts and the Museum a little better.

The Museum Board is always looking for more members to join and become involved in various Museum committees. Please contact the Museum for more information about volunteering.

### Wish List

- Postage Stamps
- Paper towels
- Flat file cabinet - drawers  
42"x30"

During the month of January the museum will be closed for cleaning and minor renovations.

The museum is looking for any interested volunteers to assist the curator with packing and labelling artefacts. Packing will take place from January 3rd - 12th.

### Memberships

The Schools Museum provides an authentic account of education in early schools in the Frontenac County region. We are in the unique because of the rich collection of artefacts in our collection and the tireless work of our volunteers and members to support us in our growth. It is only through the continued support of our members that we continue to operate.

The 2018 Membership Renewal forms are being mailed with this newsletter and we would like to take this time to remind all of our members of the benefits of being a member of the museum.

Museum members are entitled to up to two hours of free research assistance from our curator, photocopying fees are waived, and members hear about the museums programs and events before the general public.

Please send in your membership renewal forms in a timely manner. The museum relies on your support to continue operating for the publics benefit.

## **Program Report**

The autumn months have been busy at the Schools Museum with classes visiting and outreach programs completed. Bayridge P.S. paid a visit to the museum in October as did the Gr. 7s & 8s from Quintilian School, a private school in Portsmouth village. November 13-17 Perth Road P. S. participated in Beyond Classrooms. Students interacted with guest speakers, enjoyed journal writing and carefully handled artefacts and props. A colourful flier for our Christmas Program was sent to local schools and seven classes have signed up! We will be busy in December with a Dickens Christmas.

In our outreach program, Linda Silver, School Marm and Jim Reynolds visited St. Lawrence Place (Rivera) and Rosewood and residents from Rideaucrest paid a visit to the museum. A Seniors Centre tour ended their bus trip at the Schools Museum. Carol Rogers and Jim Reynolds presented artefacts to the Retired Women Teachers Group in Parham.

The busy autumn described will point out our need for more volunteers to help prepare for school visits and actually carry them out. Can you help?

## **Beyond Classrooms**

Between November 13 to November 17, Ms. Christine Aylesworth's grade 3/4 class from Perth Road Public School participated in the 'Beyond Classrooms' program at the Schools Museum. The program invites classes and their teachers to leave their regular classrooms for a week to experience a hands-on educational experience. In keeping with curriculum guidelines the students experience going to one-room country school in the 1890s.

The students from Perth Road sat in old desks and had the opportunity to write on slates and learn a lesson or two led by schoolmaster Jim Reynolds.

Guest speakers also visited the class were Doug Farquhar, John Shaw-Rimington, a dry stonewall builder, and Ashley Mendes, Curator at RMC. Another activity took the students in small groups on a tour of the Barriefield Village looking for and describing heritage houses circa 1812.

After each activity, students wrote and sketched in their journals and then gathered on the floor in the gallery for a 'sharing' session about what they learned.

It was an enjoyable week for the students, parent aides and museum volunteers. The class from Perth Road was first rate.

## ***Bring Your Thing: A Pop-Up Museum***

Volunteers from the Schools Museum attended five Bring Your Thing events this year.

This program organized by Darragh DeGroot, exhibition coordinator for the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites (KAM). The project is sponsored by KAM and the City of Kingston commemorating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The 'Bring Your Thing' program is a series of 'pop-up' or 'portable' museums that set up in various locations around Kingston each month. Representatives of participating museums bring an artifact or two that relate to a specific theme. They share a short story and answer questions about the items they brought. During these events volunteers from the Schools Museum displayed the Chautauqua Industrial table, the Planetarium, antique music books, and antique games to name a few.

The 'Pop Up Museum' offers great opportunities to meet the public in different parts of the city, and as well, to meet personnel of other participating cultural organizations.

### **OMA Conference**

This year, the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) met in Kingston in October at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. What a privilege to be able to attend this annual conference in our city! Over 300 delegates from across Ontario attended a wide variety of workshops.

Our curator, Jayne Henry and two of our volunteers, Jim Reynolds and Carol Rogers attended the three day event. It was a new experience for our volunteers who came away with ideas and new practical knowledge which will enhance our work at the museum. We realized, as well, that this umbrella organization (OMA) has much to offer both the well-established large museums in our province, as well as the smaller museums such as ours.

We thank the Board and members of the FCSM for sponsoring our attendance.

### **Teacher, Please Excuse . . .**

The Speaker program on Nov 12, 2017 evoked sentiments on the home front during war-time in Ontario. Following Gord Sly's welcome, guests heard recordings of two songs Canadians sang during the First World War – *We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall* and *Keep the Home Fires Burning*. Carol Rogers and Jim Reynolds shared artifacts from the museum archives. One was the findings of a truancy officer who visited Kingston homes to find out why children were absent from school. The second was a Kingston teacher's war-time scrapbook of notes from parents asking that their children be excused from school. The hand-written excuses and the truancy records illustrate the strange, funny, and sometimes tragic everyday struggles of Kingston families during war-time.

Millie Morton shared her mother Grace's keepsake – hand-written lyrics of songs she learned in a one-room school in 1916. These songs and *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* closed the program. Thanks to all the volunteers who contributed, especially Charlotte Clark (piano), John Foster (sound and video), Doug Reid, who baked delicious war-time cookies for the reception, and all those who welcomed guests, made tea, and cleaned up.