



# Staff Report to Council - for Information

**Title:** Museum Information Report - December 2023

**From:** Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

**Date:** December 7, 2023

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## Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

## Report Summary:

Report includes detailed information about specific areas within the Museum portfolio.

## Background:

### Collections

#### Collections Management Project

In the ongoing efforts to optimize use of space and following collections management best practices, the continued efforts of rehousing were completed for two specific areas of the collection. Purchasing new shelving allows staff to re-organize parts of the collections within new shelving schemes with the outcomes of alleviating collections overcrowding, maximizing the use of vertical space within shelving sections and possibly make room for potential collections growth. Beginning in August, Collections staff began re-organizing and rehousing the toy and audio-visual equipment (cameras, projectors, and photo processing equipment) sections within Artifact Storage. Shelving for this project was purchased with the partial support of the Museum Assistance Program - Collections Management grant.

With the use of the shelving, 24 square feet of additional storage space was created within the audio-visual equipment sections. This reduced crowding of artefacts on the shelves, as well as allowed objects originally stored elsewhere of the same subject matter to be brought into the shelving scheme. In all a total of 225 objects were rehoused, reorganized, and re-inventoried.

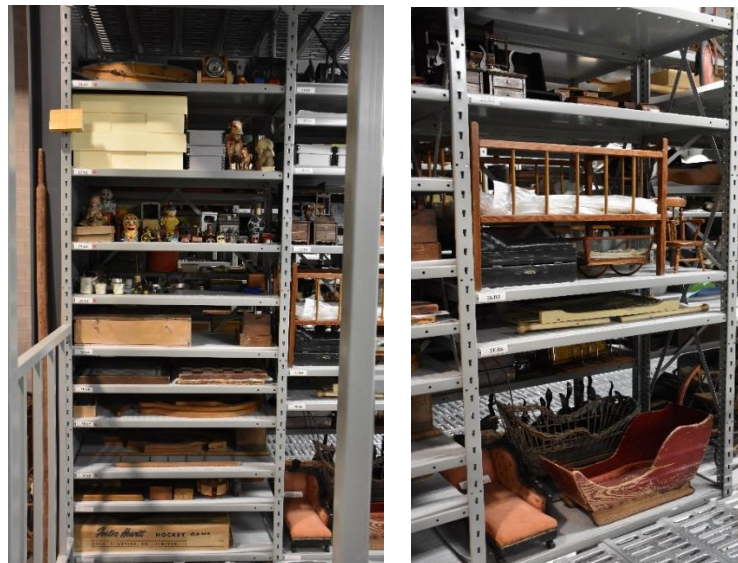
Within the toy section, 13.5 square feet was added to the shelving scheme. Many of the smaller artefacts were re-housed within Hollinger boxes reducing the risk of object loss as well as giving the benefit of stacking boxes. With the insertion of the new shelves crowding of objects was reduced and has given room for a small amount of collections growth. In total 233 items were re-housed and re-inventoried within the new storage scheme.

At the completion of the project 37.5 square feet of storage was added to the capacity of Artifact Storage. As some audio-visual equipment was placed within the new scheme from elsewhere in storage, this project not only created new square footage within the shelving

sections but also freed up approximately 13.5 square feet of storage space elsewhere within Artifact Storage. In total of 458 objects were re-organized as part of this project.



View of new shelving containing cameras and AV equipment



View of new two new shelving sections for toy collection

## **Education and Outreach**

### **Education Programs**

The Museum delivered 9 educational programs in November, hosting 191 students. Popular programs included Remembering Our Own, LEGO™ Building Challenges, and Anishnaabwe Endaat. The students were able to investigate Bruce County artifacts and soldiers from the First World War, local Indigenous history, and culture, as well as the Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math (STEAM) based design process.



Grade 4 students showing off their LEGO™ creations after successfully completing the Simple Machine Design Challenge.

### **November 18 - Night at the Museum: Junior Theatre Workshop**

This engaging junior workshop was led by theatre professionals Julia Scaringi and Leo Dragonieri who guided kids aged 8-12 through acting activities, improv clinics, and theatre training. At the end of the night the kids were able to use their new skills to perform entertaining and often hilarious skits. We had 17 participants this year.



Young participants running through an acting exercise during the Night at the Museum program.

### **November 24 PA Day Maker Day - Make it Merry**

Children ages 5-10 enjoyed a full day of holiday crafts and fun with this last Maker Day of the season. The kids explored the exhibits, played outdoor games, watched a holiday movie, and created magical snow globes and pinecone critters. 19 participants were in attendance for this program.



## November 24 - School's Out Movies

On the Friday November PA Day, we screened the modern Disney classic Frozen (2013, G) in the Bruce Power Theatre. We had 25 visitors in attendance.

## Upcoming Programs

December 8, 2023 - Merry Munchkins: Make wonderful memories with your preschooler while teaching them about community giving this holiday season. Watch as your munchkins shop in "Bevan's General Store" for ingredients to create a meal kit they can donate to an area food bank. We'll supply the shopping lists, non-perishable food items, and recipes. Then you and your little one will create and decorate the meal kits while learning all about giving.

[Merry Munchkins - Bruce Museum CA](#)

## Exhibitions

### Permanent Galleries

At the end of October and the beginning of November changes took place to the Anishnaabwe Endaat and Bruce Remembers permanent galleries. In Anishnaabwe Endaat, fossil specimens came to the end of their loan term and were returned to the lender. These were replaced by specimens from the BCM&CC's collection and locally sources specimens on loan from Polycor Ontario. Items representing the Paleoindian/early archaic period also reached the end of their loan term and were returned. This section was refreshed with chert debris and a projectile point on loan from Saugeen Ojibway Nation - Environment Office. The projectile point, dating between 10,000 and 7,000 years old was recovered from Cobble Beach and is thought to be one of the oldest artefacts recovered in SON territory.

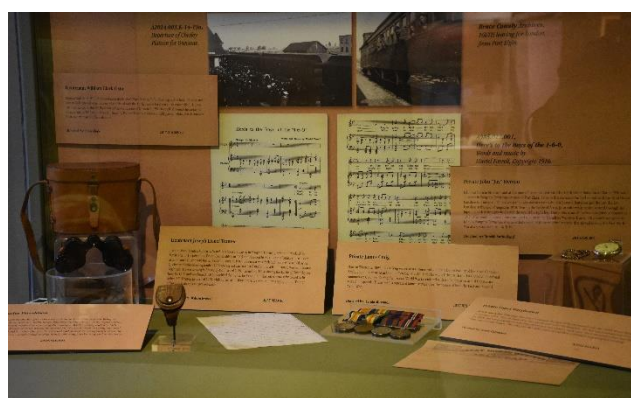
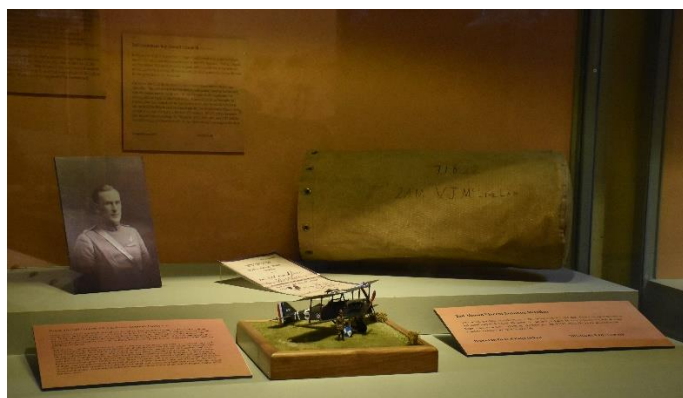


Case displaying fossils from museum collections and on loan from Polycor Ontario



Pod 1 of Anishnaabwe Endaat with artefacts on loan from SON - Environmental Office

The display cases in Bruce Remembers representing air corps and local heroes were refreshed with new artefacts. The changeout allows for other soldiers/airmen to be represented and have their stories told, as well as for the preservation of the artefacts removed from display.



New Air Corps and Local Heroes Cases in Bruce Remembers

## Temporary Exhibitions

Located in the museum's lobby for the month of November, a display case celebrating Indigenous Veteran's Day (November 8<sup>th</sup>) was created. This display highlighted the efforts and sacrifices of nine individuals from Saugeen First Nation from both the First and Second World Wars.



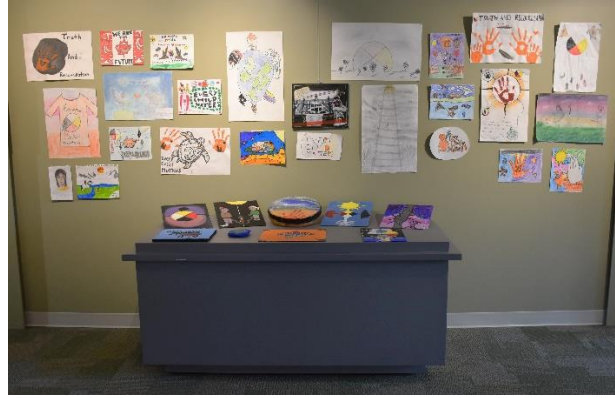
Display case celebrating Indigenous Veteran's Day and soldiers from Saugeen First Nation

### **Legacy of Hope Foundation, Youth on Reconciliation**

Youth on Reconciliation is the first of a three-year plan to host exhibitions from the Legacy of Hope Foundation, with localized and relevant content through the work of committee members representing Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON), Saugeen Advocacy for Healing Program, Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic, Bright Shores Health System, Bluewater District School Board, and the Grey Bruce Catholic District School Board.

Over a period of 9 weeks community members from Saugeen First Nations and Chippewas of Nawash hosted informal weekly coffee chats within the gallery space to further connect and engage with visitors, staff, and school groups to discuss and reflect on Indigenous teachings, perspectives as well as historical, local, and current issues. Local youth provided their voice on reconciliation in a growing art wall with 88 pieces of artwork. St. Mary's High School's Reconnecting Identity through Spirit and the Environment (R.I.S.E.) program utilized the exhibition space with support from SON community members as an extension of the program. Participants from Unifor's Turtle Island program had the additional experience of exploring the exhibition and discussions with SON community members as part of overall program at the museum. The dedication, collaboration and commitment of the committee members, community members and museum staff, have created a strong foundation for ongoing exhibitions and programs by acknowledging and owning the truth to work towards reconciliation.





Youth artworks in Youth on Reconciliation



Youth artworks in Youth on Reconciliation

## **Marketing**

### **Young Canuckstorian Project Private Screening**

On November 10, 340 Griffin Squadron Air Cadets and their families came together at the BCM&CC for a private screening of the six completed Young Canuckstorian project videos produced by participating Cadets with support from Young Canuckstorian founder Mickey Maple and BCM&CC Archives staff. These commemorative video vignettes highlight the experiences of First World War Bruce County soldiers as reflected in their diaries and letters housed in the BCM&CC Archives. Opening remarks in support of the project were received by MP Alex Ruff, MP Ben Lobb, MPP Lisa Thompson, Bruce County Warden Chris Peabody, and Saugeen Shores Mayor Luke Charbonneau. The videos serve as a permanent educational resource and can now be viewed online at [brucemuseum.ca](http://brucemuseum.ca).



Elected Officials pose with members of the 340 Griffin Squadron Air Cadets, including Cadets who worked directly on the Young Canuckstorian project

### Launch of December events

The Museum began its final quarterly event launch of the year with registration opening for holiday events happening through December. The launch included an eblast, a media release, a promotional poster of events for Facebook and a promotional reel for Instagram. A highlight of this end of year launch is the Museum's third annual Light Up the Holidays event happening December 15, sponsored by Tina Blair Law Firm, with media partner 97.9 the Bruce.



Promotional poster of events for social media



## **Programming**

### **Dynamic Dioramas**

The Dynamic Diorama program guided by model maker Randy Schnarr, started in late October. Several participants join in weekly workshops creating their own mini worlds, which are scheduled for completion December 6th. This workshop offers participants an opportunity to express their creativity through a unique medium.



An example of one current Diorama from the program, featuring a local farm scene.

### **Upcoming Programs**

#### **Santa Visits - December**

Families are invited to the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre for Santa Visits on December 2, 9, and 16, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. This is a chance for children to meet Santa Claus in person and take a Christmas photo with him. It's an opportunity to enjoy the holiday season, create special memories, and share in the spirit of the season.

[Santa Visits - Bruce Museum CA](#)

#### **Light-Up the Holidays**

The BCM&CC is hosting the third annual Light Up the Holidays event. Families are invited to enjoy an evening with various activities, including a visit from Santa, live music, and a Grinch-themed scavenger hunt. Engage in cookie decorating, savor popcorn from Southampton Rotary's Popcorn Queen (by donation) and sip hot drinks from Rabbit Dash. Experience live cannon demonstrations on the HMS General Hunter and holiday story time with the Bruce County Public Library. Additionally, a Victorian-themed magic show by Baker Magic and hands-on craft activities like making Victorian Pomanders and holiday ornaments will be featured. Museum members can look forward to an exclusive holiday swag bag at the entrance, offered to the first 100 attendees.

[Light-Up the Holidays - Bruce Museum CA](#)

## Winter Break Craft

Over the holiday break the Winter Crafts event offers drop-in family-friendly crafting activities. Families can create and display their clothing items on the Winter Clothesline. The Arctic Penguin Craft involves cutting, coloring, and assembling a penguin companion. Families can also join the Grinch Scavenger Hunt, searching for themed objects throughout the museum.

[Drop-in Winter Crafts - Bruce Museum CA](#)



An example of the Winter Craft being offered for 2023

## Not-on-Netflix Movies

The Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre offers a selection of non-Netflix movies for a unique holiday cinematic experience. The lineup includes diverse options, from animated tales like "The Little Mermaid" to classics like "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" and thrilling releases such as "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" and "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny." Other featured films include "Raya and the Last Dragon," "Asteroid City," "Abominable," "E.T.," and "The Last Voyage of the Demeter." Each movie ticket provides access to the entire museum, blending entertainment with cultural exploration for a distinctive holiday experience.

[Not on Netflix Movies - Bruce Museum CA](#)

## Revenue Development

### Confirmed Funding Requests



**Ontario Power Generation** - Confirmed \$13,000 in funding in support of our 2024 summer exhibition True or False, PA Maker Days and Family Day programming.



**The Leflar Foundation** - Confirmed \$4,000 in funding in support of our 2024 Museum Munchkins Program & Treaties Recognition Week.



**Have1.com** - Confirmed \$1,000 in gift in kind funding in support of our Thread of a Story exhibition booklet.

### **Pending Funding Requests**

**Wright Family Foundation** - Submitted a request for funding in support of the upcoming Taylor Cameron exhibit.

### **Membership**

The Museum's Holiday Membership drive has kick off encouraging patrons to give the gift of time travel by purchasing a membership for a loved one this holiday season. All memberships purchased between November 13<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup> will be entered to win a \$200 Blue Mountain gift card. The Museum currently has 554 active membership households.

### **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations.

### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

Interdepartmental consultation has occurred with Bruce County Public Library for the Light-Up the Holidays program.

### **Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:**

#### **Strategic Goals**

Community Partnerships, Enhance and grow partnerships to support Indigenous engagement and Reconciliation Actions. Prioritize repatriation and collections management efforts to support Indigenous cultural sovereignty.



**Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:**

Expanding Role as a Community Hub, Build Affinity Across the County

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