



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Museum Information Report - February 2024

From: Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

Date: February 1, 2024

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

Highlights of programs and services and throughout the report.

Background:

Education and Outreach

Education Programs

The Museum delivered four education programs in January (one in-Museum and one in-school), reaching 94 students. Popular programs included Anishnaabwe Endaat and Tours. As part of their tour, schools explored our newest temporary exhibit, The Thread of the Story featuring fibre art inspired by artefacts from our collection.



Grade 6 students from Walkerton District Community School posing in our Anishnaabwe Endaat Gallery

Outreach Programs

The Museum delivered two community outreach programs in January. The first was to Gateway Haven's Day Away Program where participants explored our Historic Dolls Travel Trunk. The second program was an outreach to the Port Elgin EarlyON centre where families learned about the programs and services that the Museum offers.

January 24 - Museum Munchkins

The first Museum Munchkins of the season kicked off with special guest Robyn McKenzie from M'Wikwedong Friendship Centre. Robyn led a drum circle program where children aged 18 months to 4 years learned about smudging, drums, the Ojibway language, and participated in songs, as well as variety of hands-on and sensory activities related to the seven grandfather teachings.



Robyn McKenzie teaching the Museum Munchkins a call and response song.

Upcoming Programs

February 2 - PA Day Maker Day - Wonder Weavers: Weave some wonder into this PA Day with a fantastic full-day Maker camp. Featuring art in our temporary exhibit, The Thread of the Story, kids ages 5-10 will get inspired and create their own fibre art pieces. Participants will be introduced to a variety of fiber art techniques, work with their hands, and unleash their creativity during this fun day at the Museum!

[PA Day Maker Day: Wonder Weavers](#)

February 2 - School's Out Movies: When school is out, join us for a movie day! Sit back in the Bruce Power Theatre and get ready to watch Vivo on the big screen at 1:00 pm.

[School's Out Movies](#)

February 7 & 21 - Museum Munchkins: Bring your preschoolers for a fun program designed especially for them! Play, bond, and learn through play-based programming. Meet other families and munchkins and develop lifelong friendships!

[Museum Munchkins](#)



Climate Change in a Box

On February 2 we delivered over 60 “Climate Change in a Box” resource kits to schools throughout Bluewater and Catholic District School Boards. The “Climate Change in a Box” is an educational tool that supports hands on learning around the current Grade 8 curriculum science unit on water systems. This project was made possible through funding received by the NWMO Regional Early Investments in Education and Skills Program and in partnership with Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environmental Office, Coastal Waters Monitoring Program.

Exhibitions

The Thread of the Story: When Artefacts Inspire Art

Every artefact has a story, or in this case three! Through the inspiration of the BCM&CC’s collection, this exhibition uncovers the stories of a selected number of artefacts, staff’s personal connections to the objects and the ultimate reimaging of the artefact through fibre art. The BCM&CC was privileged to collaborate with 39 artists from across Ontario who participated highlighting the talents re-envisioning the artefacts through their own interpretation and ultimately into unique pieces of art.

Although we had to postpone the opening of the exhibition by a week due to inclement weather, we still had a great turn out with over 80 people in attendance on January 20. This exhibition will be on display until April 30, 2024. [The Thread of the Story: When Artefacts Inspire Art - Bruce Museum CA](#)



The Thread of the Story: When Artefacts Inspire Art artefacts and their artworks



Policy

The ever-changing environment in which museums function means we must continue to evolve to meet the needs of the communities we serve. This includes reviewing our standards and policies on a regular and ongoing basis. The BCM&CC policies are currently on a three-year review cycle or as required.

As part of the ongoing work the Preservation Reformatting Policy was scheduled for review in February. The policy has been reviewed and no changes have been made. The next scheduled review for this policy will be in 2027 or if there are significant changes/new technologies to be considered in this area.

Programming

Crazy Quilting Workshops (January 29 & February 5 | 1:00pm - 4:00pm)

Conducted over two dynamic days, our quilting workshop drew inspiration from the upcoming exhibit, *The Thread of a Story: When Artefacts Inspire Art*. Guided by exhibit artists Theresa Stafford, Bev White, and Sue Benjamin, participants, ranging from novices to experienced quilters, crafted intricate needle cases, celebrating Victorian Crazy Quilting. The workshop not only facilitated creative expression but also fostered a sense of community. Attendees left with unique creations and a deeper appreciation for the rich tradition of quilting. This event also boasted sold out attendance.

Programming Image 1: Example of the crazy quilting method.



Upcoming Programming

Black History Month Presentation (February 3)

In recognition of Black History Month, our engaging afternoon featured presentations and discussions on Black history and culture in Bruce County. Speakers included William Felepchuk, members of the Grey-Bruce Afro-Caribbean Community, and Dr. Maureen Oyaide-Ofenor. Attendees delved into the untold stories of early Black settlements, thanks to William Felepchuk's historical insights. The event also highlighted the modern Black experience, featuring talks from the local Afro-Caribbean Community Group and Dr. Maureen Oyaide-Ofenor. This fostered understanding, inclusivity, and an enhanced appreciation for the diverse heritage of Bruce County.

The poster features a portrait of Dr. Maureen Oyaide-Ofenor, a Black woman with long dreadlocks, wearing a green top. The background is a collage of historical images. The text on the poster includes the event title, a description of the event, the date and time, and the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre logo and website.

Dr. Maureen Oyaide-Ofenor

**Black History Month
Presentation: Past and Present**

In recognition of Black History Month this February, the BCM&CC presents an afternoon of presentations and discussion on Black history and culture in Bruce County, with guest speakers William Felepchuk, members of the Grey-Bruce Afro-Caribbean Community, and Dr. Maureen Oyaide-Ofenor. Talks include:

Uncovering Bruce County's Black Roots: Early Settlements and Local History, with William Felepchuk

Community Voices: Modern Black Experience in Bruce County, with guest speakers from the local Afro-Caribbean Community Group and Dr. Maureen Oyaide-Ofenor

February 3
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Members FREE; General Admission Applies.

BRUCE COUNTY
museum & cultural centre

brucemuseum.ca

Programming Image 2: Post for the Black History Month Presentation 2024.

Family Day Event Preview (February 19 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM)

Unveil the immersive "In Time" experience, a thrilling blend of escape room, quest, and live theatre narrating Bruce County's past in real-time. Navigate five checkpoints with historical characters, shaping the narrative with unique tasks—your choices matter in this one-hour adventure. Enjoy the "In Time" show every 15 minutes for a 30-45-minute immersive

experience. Drop by Bruce Power Theatre for improv classes by acting coaches Leo Dragonieri and Julia Scaringi. A day filled with suspense and excitement suitable for school-age children to adults, with members enjoying free admission and general admission applying. Preregistration is encouraged to secure your spot.

About Live History: Proudly presented by Live History, a Governor General's Award-nominated theatre company renowned for bringing local history to life, with international tours spanning Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Bermuda, England, Wales, and Ireland. Presented by Ontario Power Generation.

[Family Day: IN TIME show with LIVE HISTORY - Bruce Museum CA](#)



Programming Image 3: Live History's Past war of 1812 Performance.



Programming Image 4: Live History's Logo

Revenue Development

Pending Funding Requests

Public Sector

Canadian Heritage - Submitted funding request of \$9,933 in support of our Kairos Blanket Exercise in commemoration of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Canada Summer Jobs - Submitted funding request for the subsidization of four summer student positions including: KidZone Senior Leader, KidZone Junior Leader, Marketing Outreach Assistant and Programming Student.

Young Canada Works - Submitted funding request for the subsidization of five summer student positions including: KidZone Senior Leader, KidZone Junior Leader, Marketing Outreach Assistant, Programming Student and Visitor Services Assistant. Application under the YCW-BCH (Building Careers in Heritage) stream for an Archives Intern has also been submitted.

Private Sector

Applications have been submitted to three local organizations requesting support for our upcoming Tasting Series which includes our Patio Rose and Harvest Moon Beer Tasting.

Memberships

We continue to see growth in our membership portfolio with 592 active members. The Museum will be hosting a membership drive from February 1st - 29th with an opportunity to win a private theatre experience in the Bruce Power Theatre located at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Interdepartmental consultation with Human Services and Long-Term Care regarding the outreach programs has occurred.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

Goal 2. “Enhance and grow partnerships”: This was achieved through outreach initiatives with community partners in support of our programs and initiatives.

Museum Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives:

Pillar 1. Expanding BCM&CC’s role as a community hub for the entire county.

Pillar 2. Building affinity across the county, Objective 2.1 Engage underserved audiences

Action a: Develop pop-up experiences that bring the museum to the community across the county.

Action d: Explore additional opportunities for new and diverse storytelling through exhibition and programming.

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