



# Staff Report to Council - for Information

**Title:** Museum Information Report - September 2024

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

**Date:** September 5, 2024

**Report Number:** MUS-2024-020

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## Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

## Report Summary:

Museum program and service highlights throughout the report.

## Background/Analysis:

### Exhibitions

#### The Spirit of Living in Saugeen Shores

As part of Saugeen Shores 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations “Better Together” the Museum was pleased to host an exhibition created by Ms. Angie Wilke’s grade 5/6 students from St. Joseph’s Catholic School, Port Elgin. The call for submissions went out earlier this year, with the Town of Saugeen Shores inviting local (Port Elgin and Southampton) students to participate by submitting artwork that celebrated the spirit of living in Saugeen Shores.

Submissions ranged from drawings, paintings and sculptures with written submissions accompanying each piece. The submissions were photographed and digitized by Museum collections staff for the Town’s time capsule as well as on the Town’s website. This display opened with students in attendance on July 22 and ran until September 2, 2024.



## Upcoming Exhibitions

The Museum is in the process of preparing for the opening of 2 new fall exhibitions. Indian Day School is the second in the series of the three-year reconciliation exhibitions, while the Play Hard Fight Hard and Sports = Survival focus on military history and stories.

### Legacy of Hope, Indian Day School, September 16-November 30

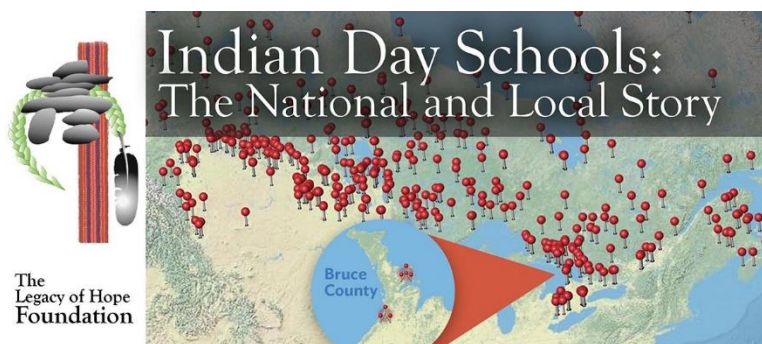
More than 699 Indian Day Schools were established and operated by the Canadian Government since the 1920s, with an estimation of over 200,000 Indigenous children attending these federally operated institutions. 7 of these schools were in Bruce County; 4 in Cape Croker (Sydney Bay, Little Port Elgin, St. Mary's Junior, and St. Mary's Senior) and 3 in Saugeen (French Bay, Saugeen Village and Scotch Settlement).

Indian Day Schools is a lesser-known subject among everyday Canadians who may be familiar with the Residential Schools System. What is certain and can be attested to by many Survivors of Indian Day Schools is that the trauma experienced was just as severe as what has been reported in Residential Schools, with the only difference being that Day School Students went home at night. Many of the Day School Administrators, Priests, and Nuns, continued to run the Day Schools as soon as they transferred from Residential Schools so it was extremely painful and triggering to find out that they would continue to experience abuse even if the parent saw the children at night.

There will be a private opening for members of Saugeen First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and following the opening the exhibition will be open to the public. Sharing circles are also scheduled throughout the duration of the exhibition, with limited seating.

This exhibition and programming are proudly supported by Enbridge.

[Indian Day Schools: The National and Local Story - Bruce Museum CA](#)

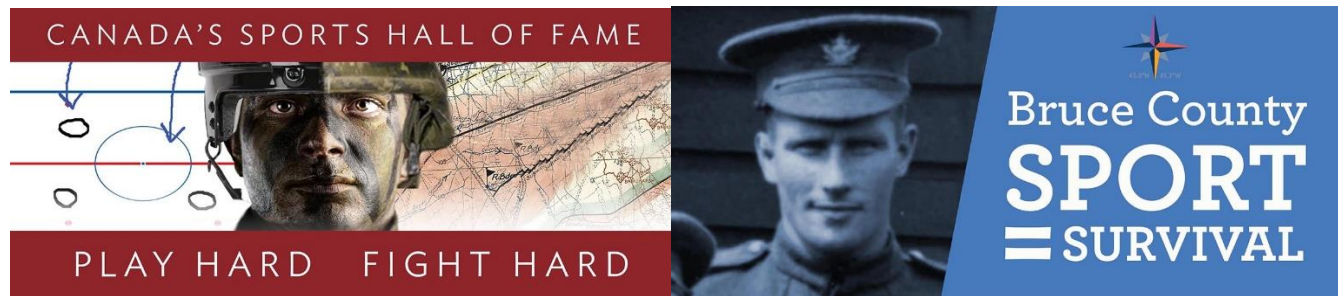


### Play Hard Fight Hard & Sports = Survival, September 14- November 30

The Play Hard Fight Hard exhibition on loan from the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, Calgary, Alberta, showcases brave Canadian veterans who have made outstanding contributions to our country and sports. The exhibition explores the relationship between sport and military service dating back to the first World War, featuring 14 sports played within the military, including personal stories from athletes who served in the military. In addition, the Museum

has created an in-house exhibition focused on the theme of Sports = Survival on the Battlefield which highlights the role of sport played by Bruce County soldiers while overseas. This exhibition is proudly supported by Veterans Affairs Canada.

[Play Hard Fight Hard: Sport in the Canadian Military - Bruce Museum CA](#)



### Orange Skirt Truth & Reconciliation Display, September 1-30

In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation or Orange Shirt Day on September 30, the Museum will have an Orange Skirt display in the entrance which was generously donated by Saugeen First Nation Library Manager and community member Melissa Root.

In addition to the skirt display we are honoured to display the Saugeen First Nation Residential School Survivor Banner “Minjimendaamin” (We Remember). This memorial banner recognizes Saugeen First Nation Residential School Survivors. The banner was created as part of the memorial to the survivors and was part of the unveiling ceremony in July hosted by the Saugeen First Nation Memorial Ad hoc Committee.

Taking time to reflect, commit to truth, show support, and take action starts with honouring the thousands of First Nations, Metis and Inuit children across Canada who were forced to attend Residential Schools. To learn more [Phyllis' Story - Orange Shirt Society \(orangeshirtday.org\)](#) and [NCTR - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)



## Education and Outreach Programs

### Summer Explorers Camp

The final 2 weeks of the new Summer Explorers camp were sold out and another great success. A total of 30 campers ages 5-10 participated in Super Sleuths and Art Lab weeks. They experienced exclusive time in exhibits, did thematic activities, crafts, and games all designed by the Museum Camp Leader Summer Student. The Super Sleuths went on a field trip to the Outdoor Education Centre, and during Art Lab the Museum hosted virtual special guests from Scientists in Schools to do a workshop entitled “Do it Like Da Vinci.” Each week the Museum also visited the Southampton branch of the library and made use of Jubilee Park & Splash Pad and Fairy Lake.



*Summer Explorers Campers exploring Pioneer Park with Camp Leader Savannah*

### LEGO® Fridays

Over the course of 4 weeks the Museum hosted a successful LEGO® Fridays program series. Each week there were approximately 15 contest entries and many more patrons who came just to play with the LEGO® collection. The Museum also ran WeDo® robotics workshops each week where children learned how to build a different robotic system and then used block coding to animate their machine.



*A LEGO® contest entry from Ocean Week, “Kraken & Friends” by Gage, Age 10*

## **In-Museum Education Programs**

The Museum delivered 3 educational programs in August, hosting 105 campers and students from visiting summer camps. The students were able to explore local history and culture, use their critical thinking skills while learning about science and nature facts in the True or False exhibit, with the opportunity to make a craft to take home as a souvenir of their time at the Museum.

## **Outreach Programming**

The BCM&CC delivered a double senior's outreach program at the Warton Day Away Centre in collaboration with Gateway Haven and led a hands-on discussion on World War One artefacts for 30 residents. They also participated in some fun educational demonstrations from the True and False Exhibit.

## **Upcoming Children's Programs**

### Museum Munchkins, September 18

Come Bake focaccia with Great Canadian Baking Show contestant, Niv Menon. This exciting program is designed for preschoolers ages 18 months to 4 years and their caregivers.

[Museum Munchkins](#)

### School's Out PA Day Movie, September 27

When school is out, join us for a movie day! Sit back in the Bruce Power Theatre and get ready to watch The Bad Guys on the big screen.

[School's Out PA Day Movies: The Bad Guys \(2022, PG\)](#)

### PA Maker Day, September 27

Early Engineers: kids ages 5-10 will embark on a hands-on journey in the world of early innovations and inventions connected to historical local communities. From artefact exploration to using tools, technologies, and skills that shaped the lives of Indigenous and early Settler populations, kids will celebrate the creative spirit of early engineers through fun STEAM-based activities.

[PA Maker Day: Early Engineers](#)

## Marketing

### Saugeen First Nation #29 Pow Wow, August 10

Museum staff attended the Saugeen First Nation #29 Pow Wow with an information booth to provide details on upcoming exhibits and events and engage visitors with its [True or False](#) tabletop activity promoting the current exhibit which closes September 2.



### Saugeen Shores 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, August 10 & 11

The Museum attended Family Fun Day on August 11 at Southampton's Jubilee Park, hosted by the Southampton Rotary in celebration of the Town of Saugeen Shores 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. BCM&CC summer students provided information on upcoming events and exhibits and offered a craft for kids. Lots of families were in attendance and the event saw a good turnout of about 500 + people. On August 11, the Museum participated in the Parade of Champions in Port Elgin, accompanied by Warden Chris Peabody representing Bruce County.



### 29<sup>th</sup> Heritage Farm and Steam Show, August 17

The BCM&CC attended this year's Heritage Farm and Steam Show in Paisley, hosted by the Bruce County Heritage Association (BCHA), to provide information and resources on the Museum's Collections and Archives. The Museum's booth was located in the Munroe Barn alongside the BCHA and the Bruce County Genealogical Society (BCGS). The Museum also had a laptop at the booth to show visitors in real-time how to search and navigate its online resources.



### Neyaashiinigmiing Pow Wow, August 18

Museum staff visited Wiarton for the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Pow Wow with an information booth to provide details on upcoming fall exhibits and events at the BCM&CC.



Additional outreach that the Museum attended in August included the SFN Night Market, Kincardine Market in the Park, Southampton Market, and Lion's Head Farmer's Market.

### 2024 Canadian Museum Crossword

The Museum participated in the [fifth anniversary edition of the Canadian Museum Crossword](#), created by the Canadian Museum of History. The BCM&CC provided a question for #44 DOWN about the connectedness of historic rural communities, a topic covered in the Museum's digitized [Farm Fresh exhibit](#).

## Programming

### Summer Symphony, August 10

Music on the Bruce Festival returned to the Museum for another afternoon of classical music in the Bruce Power Theatre. Music on the Bruce brought the music of Mozart and Brahms in the form of a quartet performance that captivated the audience. Attendees also had a special opportunity to meet with performers following the performance.

The graphic is a 2x2 grid of musician profiles on a blue background with musical notes. Each profile includes a circular portrait, a name, and a short biography. The top-left profile is for Sarah, a violinist from Listowel, ON, who performs with the New York City Ballet and the New York Philharmonic. The top-right profile is for Remi, a Québec native violinist who is the principal violist of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and a member of Trio Arkel. The bottom-left profile is for Allene, a Westrn Canada native violinist who has performed with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and the Stratford Symphony Orchestra. The bottom-right profile is for Rachel, a cellist who has studied at the Juillard School and Oberlin College, and has performed with the Cecilia String Quartet and Symphony Nova Scotia.

Meet Sarah	Meet Remi
Originally from Listowel, ON, and currently based in New York, NY, Sarah performs violin with the New York City Ballet and as a substitute with the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera. Sarah founded Music on the Buce in 2021 to bring live classical music performances to the communities across the county.	Québec native Remi is the principal violist of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and a member of the Trio Arkel. Previously, he had been a member of the New York Philharmonic and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal. Remi has also performed with the International Orchestra of Italy and Japan's Pacific Music Festival.
Meet Allene	Meet Rachel
Westrn Canada native Allene was a violinist with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony from 2007-2023, featured multiple times as a concert master and soloist. Currently, she is a member of the Kestrel Quartet and a Concertmaster of both the Spiritus Ensemble and the Stratford Symphony Orchestra.	Rachel has studied at the Juillard School, Oberlin College, McGill, and the Banff Centre. From 2010 to 2018 she toured around the world as the cellist of the award-winning Cecilia String Quartet performing in venues such as Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), and Konzert Haus Berlin. She currently is the principal cellist of Symphony Nova Scotia.

### Wonderful Wildlife Shows, August 7, 21, & 28

Wonderful Wildlife continued throughout the month of August, inviting 4 more wildlife conservation, and education organizations to the Museum to offer both hands-on learning. This month the Museum welcomed representatives from Wild Ontario (University of Guelph), Zoo to You and Scienccational Ssnakes. The shows welcomed approximately 300 people to the Museum in August.

This program was proudly presented by Bruce Power.





### Sewing Workshop with Indigenous Textile Artist Carrie-Ann Benson, August 18

Indigenous textile artist Carrie-Anne Benson, a member of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and a passionate promoter of sustainable living, guided participants in constructing an “Ohio Star” tote bag. Participants shared positive feedback specifically that they would like more programs like this one.

This program was proudly presented by Bruce Power.



### End of Summer Demonstration Day, August 28

The End of Summer Cultural Demonstration Day saw the Museum buzzing with cultural activity that connected community members and highlighted indigenous talent and knowledge. Chef Zach Keeshig provided demonstrations on how he processes locally harvested duck from forest to plate and offered samples of his creations.

Parks Canada was present in the Bruce Gallery, and taught all about turtles through hands-on activities, fun facts about their biology, their conservation, and the cultural significance they hold for the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) peoples.

Local Indigenous Elder, Shirley John set up in the Anishnaabwe Endaat gallery to share Elder teachings and do a craft with children.

Author Dorothy Ladd offered a special reading from her book Memengwaa, the Monarch Butterfly and the Southport Horticultural Society with Patti Byers of the Monarch Teacher Network provided a butterfly tagging demonstration outside on the patio.

The program was proudly presented by Bruce Power.



## Upcoming Programs

### Welcoming Week Museum Tours, September 13

Tours at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Welcoming Week in Bruce County is September 13-22. This is an annual campaign led by organizations and communities to bring neighbors of all backgrounds together, building strong connections and affirming the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity.

The Museum invites newcomers to participate in free 45-minute guided tours that explore the rich history and diverse cultural heritage of Bruce County.

Refreshments will be provided after the tour in a relaxed space where guests are encouraged to meet and connect with one another.

Free, Pre-registration is encouraged.

[Welcoming Week Museum Tours - Bruce Museum CA](#)



### TIFF Screening : Les Filles Du Roi, September 19

7:00 PM- 9:30 PM

As part of the TIFF Screening Series, the Museum will be screening *Les Filles du Roi*, a Canadian musical drama directed by Corey Payette. This 2023 film offers a unique feminist and Indigenous perspective on the colonization of Canada.

Runtime: 1 hour 42 minutes

Members are Free, General Admission applies.

[TIFF Film Screening: Les Filles Du Roi - Bruce Museum CA](#)



## Special Events

### Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Tour, August 10

As part of the Town of Saugeen Shores 25<sup>th</sup> Celebrations “Better Together”, the museum was honoured to host Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Honourable Edith Dumont on a tour of the Museum. Following the opening ceremonies for this historic weekend celebration, the Lieutenant Governor had a full day of scheduled stops within the community starting with the Saugeen First Nation Powwow, the Marine Heritage Society tour base and range light, followed by a final stop at the Museum. Saugeen First Nation community member Doran Ritchie, joined in the Anishnaabwe Endaat gallery for further discussions about the First Nations history and culture. The tour of the permanent and temporary gallery spaces ended with a behind the scenes tour of the archives.



*Photos courtesy of Sandy Lindsay, Saugeen Times*

### Walking Together: Cape Croker Park Kicks Off a Series of Walks for Wenjack

In 1966, 12-year-old Chanie Wenjack fled from the Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School in Kenora, Ontario. After walking for 36 hours along the train tracks, he tragically died of exposure on October 22. His death led to the first inquest into the treatment of Indigenous children in the residential school system.

To honour Chanie's memory, the Downie Wenjack Fund (DWF) launched the "Walk for Wenjack" in 2016. This grassroots event began by retracing Chanie's final journey, starting at the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School and continuing to Redditt, Ontario, near

Farlane, where a ceremony was held at his final resting place. Since then, Walk for Wenjack has provided Indigenous and non-Indigenous people across Canada with the opportunity to participate meaningfully in Secret Path Week. Though Chanie is no longer with us, his story lives on through Gord Downie's album Secret Path.

Secret Path Week has since grown into a national movement commemorating the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack, with October 17 and 22 marking the days they joined the spirit world, respectively.

#### Walk for Wenjack, Cape Croker Interpretative Park, August 15

The first of three Walk for Wenjack events took place at Cape Croker, under beautiful sunny skies and a great turn out from Nawash community members and the general public. The group gathered for refreshments, conversation, and a smudge before the walk.

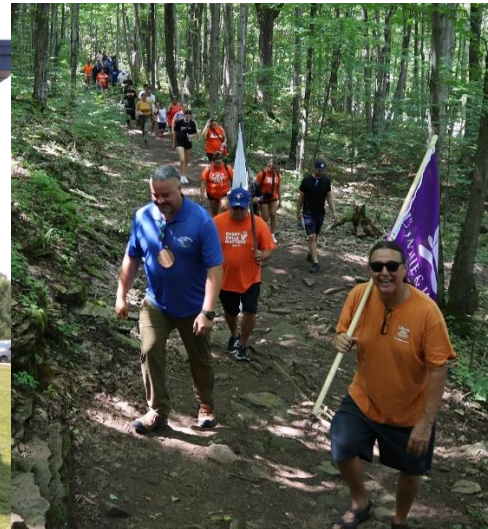
Bryon Millette from Ktaamgwedaagwad Gindaaswin (Adult Learning Centre - Nawash) welcomed everyone and started the event by retelling the story of Chanie Wenjack and Gord Downie. Following a blessing from Elder Justin Johnson, Caley Patrick Nadjiwon Doran lead the group on the walk which to Sydney Bay, where the significance of tobacco as a medicine and the importance of the water and it's healing properties was discussed in what is considered a very special place in the park. Everyone was offered the opportunity to offer tobacco to the water. The walk back concluded with more refreshments and conversation. Food and cash donations to the Nawash Food Bank were also received. 2 more events are planned in October during Secret Path Week.

These events are proudly supported by Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Bruce Power, and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).

Two additional events are planned for October during Secret Path Week:

- Friday, October 18 - Wiarton  
1:00 PM: Refreshments provided. Gather at Bluewater Park.
- Monday, October 21 - Southampton  
1:00 PM: Refreshments provided. Gather at Fairy Lake Pavilion.

[Walk for Wenjack Events - Bruce Museum CA](#)



## Revenue Development

### Confirmed Funding Requests

OPG - Confirmed funding request of \$13,000 in support of the 2025 Summer feature exhibition, Dishelveling, PA Maker Days and Family Day Programming.



### Pending Funding Requests

A sponsorship request has been submitted at a \$5,100 value in support of 2025 Black History Month Celebration programming.

### Memberships

Membership numbers continue to stay elevated this month thanks to the busy summer event schedule as well as the membership drive. The Museum is currently sitting at 628 active membership households. The membership drive is actively running from July to end of

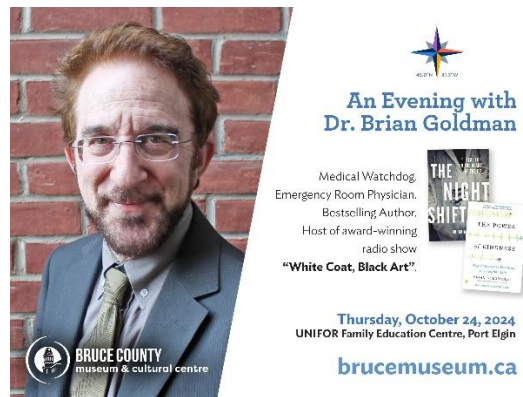
August for an opportunity to win a “Taste of Southampton” package featuring gift certificates to local restaurants valued at \$250.

### Speakers Event - October 24

Early bird tickets are available for the third annual Speakers event taking place on Thursday, October 24, 2024, featuring Dr. Brian Goldman. Tickets are available for an early bird rate of \$65 until August 31. Dr. Goldman is a medical watchdog, bestselling author, and host of the award-winning radio show “White Coat, Black Art” where he provides a filter free look inside the medical world and makes complex issues digestible for audiences. To date, 132 tickets have been sold to the event.

Tickets can be purchased at the link below.

[An Evening with Dr. Brian Goldman - Bruce Museum CA](#)



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

There are no Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT considerations with this report.

### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

Interdepartmental consultation with the Office of the CAO (Government Relations) regarding the Walk for Wenjack event has occurred. Interdepartmental consultation has also occurred with Library Services for children summer camp visits where Museum programming was enhanced, enabling children to borrow books with their own library cards.

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

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

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

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

Objective 1.2: Establish BCM&CC as a centre of cultural activity.  
Pillar 2. Building affinity across the county  
Objective 2.2 Deepen relationships with communities across the County.

**Report Author:**

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**Departmental Approval:**

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**Attachments:** None