



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Museum Information Report - November 2024

From: Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

Date: November 7, 2024

Report Number: MUS-2024-025

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

Museum program and service highlights throughout the report.

Background/Analysis:

Exhibitions

For the Birds: Upcycled Bird Palaces, December 14, 2024 - April 20, 2025

Birdhouses: quirky, colourful, and far from ordinary, by 81-year-old maker who has always loved and found joy in folk art and in making things. Graeme Chalmers hunts in thrift stores for wooden “treasures” and appreciates gifts of incomplete chess, checkers, and Scrabble sets, salt and pepper shakers, trivets, small sculptures, cotton reels, curtain rod finials and wooden rings, toy wheels, old clocks, a spoon rack, etc., that he upcycles into brightly coloured one-of-a-kind abodes for very privileged birds.

This is folk art to enjoy and make you smile. And yes, there is evidence that birds do use Graeme’s creations. Graeme is grateful to the unknown wood turners and sculptors whose work finds new life in this exhibition.



Education and Outreach Programs

Education Programs

The Museum hosted 229 students during 3 days of education programming in October. Four classes attended the free screening of *The Secret Path* and two of those classes then visited to the Indian Day Schools exhibit, where they participated in discussion with a local Indigenous community member. Two classes attended the Walk for Wenjack after the screening. Other programs included the Great Outdoors, Anishnaabwe Endaat, and tours.

Treaties Recognition Week Teacher Professional Development Program

On October 16 educators from the BWDSB and BGCSB were invited to a half-day teacher education program on treaties to gain knowledge and tools to take back to their classes during Treaties Recognition Week (November 4-8). Guest speaker Trish Meekins gave a broad overview of treaties and spent time discussing treaty relationship within the local context. Educators also had the chance to explore learning resources offered by the Museum as well as relevant exhibits.



Trish Meekins discussing the history of local treaties.

Children's Programs

Museum Munchkins

On October 2, children ages 18 months to 4 years and their caregivers enjoyed a morning of music and movement with local musician, poet, podcaster, and performer, Lauren Best.

On October 16, Robyn McKenzie from M'Wikwedong Friendship Centre led program attendees through activities related to Powwow.

On October 30, children and caregivers came in costume to celebrate spooky season with Halloween fun!



Lauren Best of Brest Practice Arts leading a morning of music for the Munchkins

PA Day Programs

PA Maker Day: Make it Spooky

On October 25, kids ages 5-10 joined in for a sold-out spooktacular PA Day of frighteningly fun STEAM-based games and activities. Participants explored exhibits, cooked up creepy-crawly concoctions and made some boo-tifully brilliant creations to take home including decorated pumpkins and slime.

School's Out PA Day Movie

On October 25, families enjoyed an afternoon in our theatre watching Despicable Me 4 on the big screen.

Upcoming Programs

Treaties Recognition Week, November 4 - 8

Students grades 6-8 will be participating in in-person Treaties Recognition Week program on select dates through November and December.

Night at the Museum, November 15

Join for a Night at the Museum filled with professionally led acting workshops, improv clinics and other theatre-related activities. Kids will expand their acting skills and by the end of the night they will be creating drama on stage.

[Night at the Museum: Junior Theatre Workshop](#)

PA Day Programs:

School's Out PA Day Movie, November 22

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

[School's Out PA Day Movies: The Garfield Movie \(2024, G\)](#)

PA Maker Day: Make it Merry, November 22

Kids will join special guest Great Canadian Baking Show contestant Niv Menon to explore the science of chocolate as they learn how to make holiday treats. They will also get to embrace their inner artist by making beautiful winter-inspired crafts and finish the day off with a holiday movie on the big screen.

Museum Munchkins:

Music and Movement, November 13

Come with your little ones (18 months - 4 years) for a fun morning of dance and movement led by Miss Jess - a highlight of the Munchkins year.

[Museum Munchkins](#)

Art Adventures, November 27

Spend the morning at the Museum playing and learning through process-based art.

[Museum Munchkins](#)

Marketing

Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30

Museum staff attended the Bridge Ceremony led by G.C. Huston Public School on the morning of Truth and Reconciliation Day and spent the rest of the day participating in outreach. The Museum had a booth at Saugeen First Nation's James Mason Centre where staff shared a Friendship Bracelet craft with attendees. The Museum also attended the Nawash TRC Day event with an outreach booth focused on providing information about the Anishinaabe Endaat Gallery, upcoming Walk for Wenjack events, and the Museum's current exhibit, Indian Day Schools: The National and Local Story. In coordination with Government Relations, the Museum also helped to provide interested attendees with information on the Bruce County Saugeen Anishnaabek Reconciliation Pathway and Action Plan, with copies available for handout.



Sconefest, September 28

BCM&CC staff were invited to participate in the second annual Sconefest hosted in Wiarnton at the SON Environmental Office. The event took place from 3 PM - 9 PM and featured live music, a scone cook-off, and many local vendors. The Museum attended with an information booth to share details on upcoming events and exhibits and brought a selection of artefacts from the collection for viewing and engagement.



Sharecrow Food Drive, October 20 - 31

The Museum participated in the fifth annual scarecrow fall food drive hosted by the Chantry Island Cham-bettes to support the restocking of local food banks. As a participant, the Museum was listed in a local Sharecrow tour map for residents to explore and select a location to make their donations.



Programming

Culture Days: Reflections on Indian Day Schools, October 5

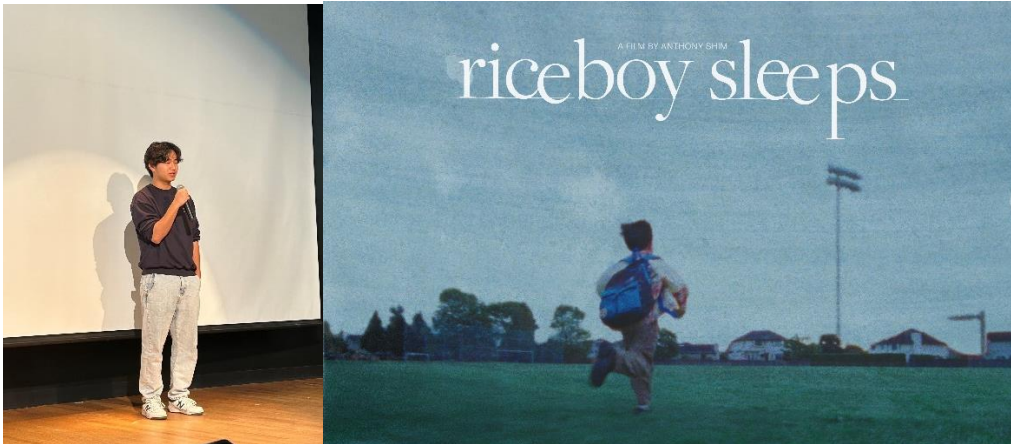
During the national celebration of arts and culture known as Culture Days, the Museum hosted a special event dedicated to the current exhibit, Indian Day Schools: The National and Local Story.

Sixteen participants were guided through the exhibit by local Saugeen Ojibway Nation community members who provided deeper insights into the broader history of Indian Day Schools in Canada and the legacy of their local impact, with seven schools located in Bruce County.



TIFF Screening: Riceboy Sleeps, October 18

Our TIFF Film series continued with a special screening of Riceboy Sleeps; a 2022 Canadian drama directed by Anthony Shim. Fifty guests enjoyed this poignant film which offered a heartfelt exploration of the Korean immigrant experience and the bond between a mother and her son. We were joined by starring actor Ethan Hwang for a Q&A session after the screening, providing a unique opportunity to delve deeper into the film's themes and production.



Walk for Wenjack & Secret Path Screenings, October 18 & 21

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund is part of Gord Downie's legacy and embodies his commitment, and that of his family, to improving lives of First Peoples in Canada.

On October 18 and 21 the County of Bruce hosted its two more Walk for Wenjack events. Over the course of the two dates, over 170 people came together as a community to walk, learn, and reflect on the more than 600 kilometers Chanie Wenjack needed to get home.

The Museum also hosted 3 screenings of The Secret Path. The Secret Path is an animated film adaptation of Gord Downie's album and Jeff Lemire's graphic novel. Working with Downie's poetry and music, Lemire has created a powerful visual representation of the life of Chanie Wenjack. Over 150 visitors took part in the screenings.



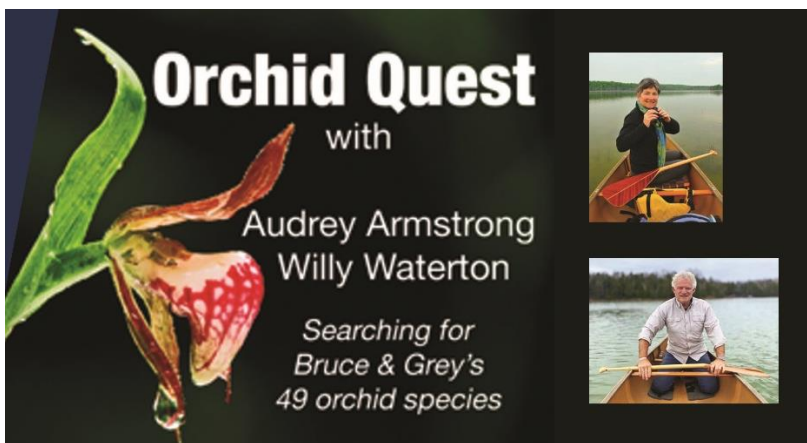
Walk for Wenjack in Wiarton on October 18



Walk for Wenjack in Southampton on October 21

Muse-Talk: Orchid Quest, October 26

The Museum hosted its final Muse-Talk of the year with a presentation from guests Willy Waterton and Audrey Armstrong. Visitors watched Willy and Audrey share their two-year orchid quest adventure to assist the Owen Sound Field Naturalists with updating this bestselling Canadian book. Together they presented insights into their botanical journey with a condensed exploration of the 49 orchid species from Bruce and Grey counties.



Upcoming Programs

Honouring D-Day: Uniforms, Weapons, and Equipment Show, November 2

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the 1944 D-Day invasion. Join in at the Museum in honour the bravery and sacrifices of those who served during World War II.

Local historian and collector Alexander Peroff will highlight a fascinating collection of WWII artefacts related to the Canadian and Axis armed forces. The first show is designed for families and children, while the second show provides a deeper historical insight for an adult audience.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Kids, 8-12- Artefact Show and Tell)

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (Teens & Adults- Presentation in Bruce Power Theatre, followed by Artefact Show and Tell)

This event offers a unique opportunity to explore WWII history through authentic artefacts and expert commentary.

[Honouring D-Day: Uniforms, Weapons, and Equipment Show - Bruce Museum CA](#)



TIFF Screening: Perfect Days, November 21

7:00 PM- 9:30 PM

Join in for the final screening of the 2024 TIFF Film series, Perfect Days, a 2023 drama film directed by Wim Wenders. This acclaimed film offers a poignant look into the routine life of a public toilet cleaner in Tokyo.

Experience this evocative and beautifully crafted film that celebrates the quiet moments of life and the depth of human experience.

Runtime: 2 hours 4 minutes

[TIFF Film Screening: Perfect Days \(2023, PG\) - Bruce Museum CA](#)



Revenue Development

Pending Funding Requests

Sponsorship request has been submitted at a value of \$2,000 in support of the 2025 Treaties Recognition week program.

Memberships

Membership numbers remain steady with 628 active membership households. Our holiday membership drive will kick off on November 1 and will run until December 15 for a chance to win a \$200 gift card to Little Cubs Family Fun Centre in Port Elgin.

Speakers Event, October 24

Tickets are selling fast for the third annual Speakers event taking place on Thursday, October 24, 2024, featuring Dr. Brian Goldman. 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, 245 tickets have been sold to the event.

Tickets can be purchased at the link below.

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

**An Evening with
Dr. Brian Goldman**

Medical Watchdog.
Emergency Room Physician.
Bestselling Author.
Host of award-winning
radio show
“White Coat, Black Art”.

Thursday, October 24, 2024
UNIFOR Family Education Centre, Port Elgin

brucemuseum.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 events has occurred.

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

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.

Objective 1.3 Build profile as a core tourism destination.

Pillar 2. Building affinity across the county

Objective 2.1 Engage underserved audiences

Objective 2.2 Deepen relationships with communities across the County.

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