



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Museum Information Report - February 2025

From: Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

Date: February 6, 2025

Report Number: MUS-2025-003

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

Museum program and service highlights for the month of January throughout the report.

Background/Analysis:

Education and Outreach Programming

Education Programs

In January, the Museum delivered 2 days of Mobile Museum education programs to 96 students. Programs included LEGO® Design Challenges for Kindergarten classes, and a day of Ancient Civilizations Programming for grades 3-5. Two additional programs were postponed to the spring due to bus cancellations.



Kindergarten students work together to build a LEGO® tower.

Children's Programming

PA Maker Day: Make it for the Birds, January 31

During the first PA Maker Day of the year, participants ages 5-10 looked for details in Graeme Chalmer's vibrant birdhouse exhibit during a scavenger hunt, then created their own birdhouses inspired by the exhibit. Afterward they made birdfeeders out of pinecones and did two different STEM challenges: building bird nests and testing different bird "beaks" to pick up a variety of foods to learn about bird beak adaptations.

School's Out Movies, January 31

Families enjoyed two screenings of films in the theatre this PA Day: Inside out 2 in the morning and Spiderman Across the Spider verse in the afternoon.

Upcoming Programs

March 10 - 14, March Break Explorers Camp: Camp is back with a March Break packed with adventure and fun! Explore the Museum's exhibits, and experience daily themed hands-on fun with crafts, games, experiments, outdoor play.

March 22, Museum Munchkins: Pete Moss in Concert

Explore the wonders of nature with acclaimed children's performer Pete Moss! Discover the magic of local plants, birds, wildlife, and weather through sing-alongs, bird calls, stories, plants, animal tracks, and playful animal movements. Featuring tracks from Pete's albums [Birds Rock](#) and [Plants Rock](#), this show will dive into stories inspired by the world just outside our doors. Stick around afterward for a variety of hands-on nature activity stations, and to explore the Museum!

Programming and Events

Winter Break Movies, January 2

On January 2, the Museum played the Disney classic, *Ratatouille* (2007, PG), in the Bruce Power Theatre.



Winter Break Crafting: Make Your Own Birdhouse, January 3 & 4

Inspired by the new winter exhibit 'For the Birds' by folk artist Graeme Chalmers, children and adults alike created, painted, and decorated their own birdhouses. Younger participants were able to decorate mini pre-made birdhouses, while older children and adults selected

from a variety of larger designs and had to assemble the avian abodes first. The colours and creativity were on full display for the 40 participants each day.



Upcoming Programs

CBC Documentary Screening: *Secret Agents of the Underground Railroad*

February 8 | 1:00 PM

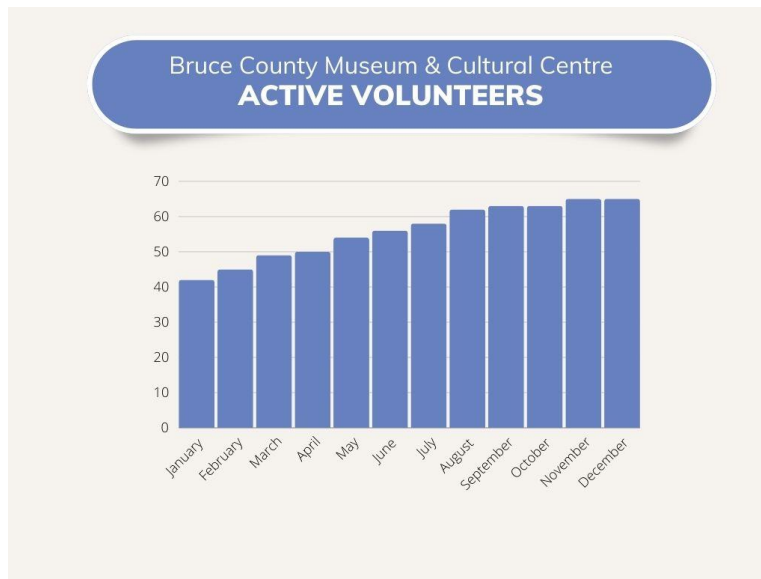
In recognition of Black History Month this February, the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre is hosting a special screening of the CBC documentary *Secret Agents of the Underground Railroad* in the Museum's theatre. This documentary explores how staff at a luxury hotel in Niagara Falls, NY helped ferry enslaved people to freedom in Canada.

[CBC Documentary Screening: Secret Agents of the Underground Railroad - Bruce Museum CA](#)

Members FREE; General Admission Applies.

Volunteer Program- Q4 2024

The volunteer program continued to develop in 2024. The overall number of volunteers increased toward the end of the year and many of new volunteers brought unique experience to the program including volunteers that have knowledge with theatre production, children's education, and historical research.



Volunteer Base

The volunteers at the Museum consist of a wide variety of Bruce County community members. Museum volunteers reside in Port Elgin, Southampton, Kincardine, Ripley, Allenford, Paisley, Sauble Beach, Walkerton and Chesley.

The overall number of active volunteers increased in 2024. Newly recruited volunteers dedicated their time in a variety of ways, including event programming, school programs, collections, and archives.

Recent Volunteer Activities

In Q4 of 2024, volunteers assisted with an assortment of events and programs including:

- An Evening with Dr. Brian Goldman
- Museum Munchkins
- Honouring D-Day: Uniforms, Weapons, and Equipment Show
- TIFF Film Screenings
- Night at the Museum: Junior Theatre Workshop
- PA Day Maker Days
- Light Up the Holidays
- A Very Grinchmas Morning
- Winter Break Crafting

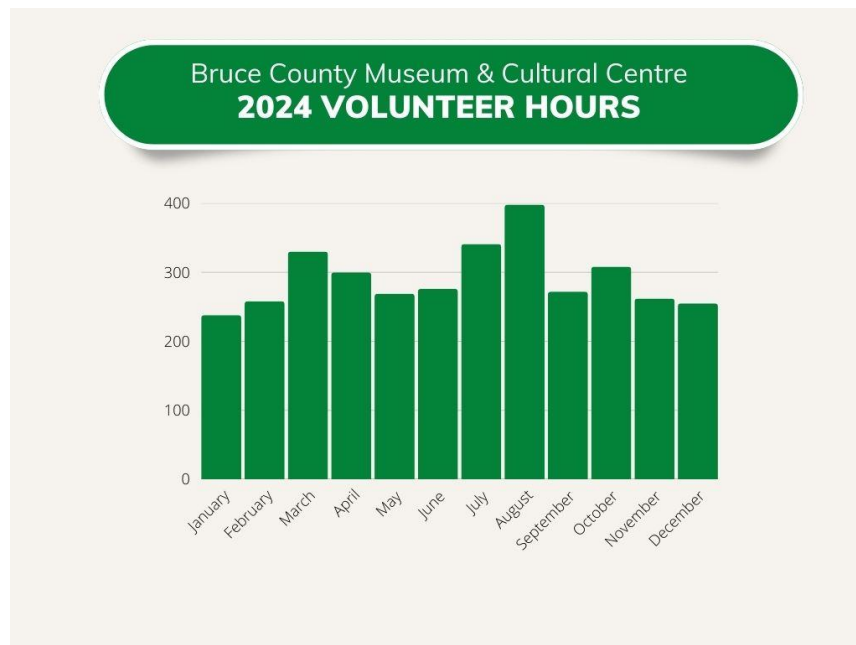
Other recent volunteer activities include supporting group tours for school groups and the Grey Bruce Alzheimer's Society, collections data input, and exhibit maintenance including updates to the Ride the Rails train exhibit. Archive volunteers were also busy with digitizing, online data input and creating inventories of hardcopy newspaper issues. These events, along with many others throughout the year would not be possible without dedicated volunteers.



Volunteer Robert Pawley provides exhibit animation during Light Up the Holidays

Volunteer Hours Worked

The total hours worked from the volunteers for 2024 was 3,507 hours, which is equivalent to 1.89 Full-Time Employees. The largest portion of the volunteer hours were spent in the archives and exhibit maintenance. These roles are scheduled into regular formal shifts. August was the busiest month last year due to summer programming and the children's summer camp. Many of the youth volunteers have increased availability in the summer.



Volunteer Retention

Volunteers gathered in December for holiday gathering to celebrate everything the volunteer program accomplished in 2024. Staff and volunteers came together and enjoyed food and beverages and conversation. Everyone was happy to celebrate the success of the year and talk about some of the exciting volunteer opportunities that will be available in 2025.

Volunteer Training

Volunteers are invited to take part in regular formal training sessions to develop their skills or see if they would like to volunteer with different departments throughout the Museum. Some recent training sessions have included:

- Safe handling of artefacts
- Adult tour guiding
- School aged tour guiding
- Ancient Civilizations program training.



Volunteers attend Safe Handling of Artefacts training session, led by Shauna Taylor

Looking Ahead

The top priority for the Museum's volunteer program will be to continue retain volunteers, build the volunteer base, and expand opportunities.

Some upcoming volunteer activities and training sessions include:

- Ancient Civilizations Program Training
- Visitor Services Training
- Family Day: Earth Explorers - Volunteers will be hosting crafts and animating exhibits.
- March Break Fun - Volunteers will be helping with camps and daily events.

Revenue Development

Memberships

In January we saw steady growth in our membership portfolio with 661 active membership households. The Museum will be doing a membership drive from February 1-28 with an opportunity to win a \$100 gift card to ReMind Wellness.

Confirmed Funding Requests



Georgian College - Confirmed their support of the Muse Talks series for 2025 with a \$1,000 sponsorship.

Pending Funding Requests



Canadian Heritage - Submitted funding request of \$8,125 in support of the Commemorative Art & Local Survivor Storytelling Installation in commemoration of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

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

Interdepartmental Consultation:

N/A

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

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.

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Departmental Approval:

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Attachments: None