



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Museum Information Report - May 2025

From: Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

Date: May 1, 2025

Report Number: MUS-2025-012

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

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

Background/Analysis:

Archives Project - Krug Trust

In March a request was made to BMO Trust for utilization of funding from the Krug Trust. Approximately 850 glass plate negatives created by and/or for Krug Bros. Co. Ltd. furniture company and the Krug family of Chesley, Ontario, between the 1890s and 1920s were donated to the Archives at BCM&CC. They are currently inaccessible by the public because they are in need of remedial conservation work. As per BCM&CC's Conservation Policy conservation treatment requires the specialized services of a qualified conservation technician.

The request to have Art Conservation Services Inc. (ACS Inc.) complete the necessary conservation work as quoted in the amount of \$23,330 was approved by BMO on April 3, 2025. The conservation work will be completed by ACS Inc. before the end of 2025. The follow-up collections management and Online Collection work related to these glass plate negatives would be completed by the end of March 2026, making the collection accessible to the public.

This is the first time the County has made a request through the Krug Trust Fund for conservation works associated with the archives. Working with the executor of the trust staff have created the following annual process to ensure transparency and accountability around the use of this fund.

- Through the annual budget process staff will outline what, if any, projects will be submitted for funding from the trust fund.

- Once staff have been notified of the executor's decision this will be included in a quarterly update report (like this one).
- Annually staff receive a trust fund balance update which will be included as correspondence on the appropriate Council agenda.

Collections

From January to April, Collections conducted a comprehensive inventory of firearms within the Museum's possession. This included detailed documentation of all firearms and ammunitions, rehousing as required, as well as review and reorganization of related records and licensing documents. The completion of this project resulted in improved storage for preservation and security, plus increased efficiency for staff when accessing information related to firearms in the collection.

County Art Collection - Penetangore Hub

As a follow-up to the January report on the Penetangore Hub project we are pleased to announce that this project has been completed. For this piece, a request was sent to Kincardine Pride for local visual artists to showcase their talents and celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Artists were asked to capture belonging, inclusion, and a welcoming space for all, as is reflected in the Human Services narrative.

There was a great response, and many beautiful proposals were submitted. The piece selected was submitted by Abigail Bos. This two-piece mural titled "Nature Knows no Binary", brings colour and inclusion to the space, showcasing its diverse and inclusive safe space for all in visual bliss. The mural is directed at the queer community, packed with colour, and close to home symbolism for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The fluid rainbow in the background is a tell sign for members of the community, while moths disguised as certain flags, nod to the metamorphosis of becoming one's true self. Throughout the mural there are symbols like the pink triangle from the 1930's used to shame gay men, and jacket patches and carabiner keychains that are used today as subtle signifiers while out in the community. This mural has a little something for everyone whether they are out, in, old or young.

Artist Abigail Bos, designer and painter, is a new generation emerging artist. Abigail recognizes that art has always been an outlet of self-expression for her, and she continues to find new ways to share this experience with others through many of her works. She is currently working full-time in her tattoo apprenticeship and towards her Fine Art Foundations course through George Brown College. Painting has always been Abigail's passion for connecting with others, through recent freelance work she found a new aspiration for teaching youth art.

Helping on this project was Britney Coates, lifelong artist and veteran of the children's entertainment industry, specializing in bespoke 3D video game environments. She continues to bolster her digital work with traditional mediums and enjoys a preoccupation with figure drawing and alla prima portraiture.



Exhibitions

Buffalo Woman - Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe "Ashlee Shingoose": Honoring the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People"

On April 30, the Museum installed a new temporary art exhibition in the Museum Lobby called "Buffalo Woman" centred around honouring Canada's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirited Peoples. This collaborative art installation created by Destiny Roote, Melissa Comyn and Jes Daneluk, gives a voice to the those who no longer have a voice, serves to honour them and continues to highlight the historical and ongoing injustices Indigenous peoples endure.

Melissa Comyn states that "Ignoring tragedy does not lead to healing; turning away from historical injustices makes us complicit and disregarding the impacts of oppression of Indigenous communities reflects ignorance. Canadians as a collective need to acknowledge the mistreatment of Indigenous peoples and the resulting crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit individuals. Reconciliation requires collective effort on multiple levels, in governments, businesses and in our own hearts. Differences are beautiful and do not diminish the freedom, justice, and safety everyone deserves."

In Indigenous traditions, the Buffalo Woman represents strength, resilience, and sacred protection. Buffalo Woman is an art installation that calls upon the spirit of the buffalo—provider, protector, and symbol of survival—to honor those lost and demand justice. Through powerful visual storytelling, traditional materials, and community voices, this installation serves as a site of remembrance, reflection, and resistance.

Buffalo Woman will be accompanied by a photograph and traditional indigenous dress. The installation is both a tribute and a call to action, urging visitors to acknowledge the ongoing crisis, listen to the stories of those left behind, and stand in solidarity for change.

The art installation will be on display from May 1st - 31, 2025



Destiny Roote (Left) and Melissa Comyn (Right) finishing their art piece “Buffalo Woman”

MMIWG Red Skirt Display

Starting May 1, the Museum will be hosting a display honouring the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Girls (MMIWG) that have experienced violence towards them. The display will consist of 3 ribbon skirts and a red chair serving as a powerful representation of the need to raise awareness and visibility surrounding MMIWG. The skirts were made and donated by Saugeen First Nation community members Melissa Root and her daughters Eden Root and Courage Root. The display will be available to the public in the front foyer of the Museum from May 1 to 31, 2025.

May 5 is MMIWG Red Dress Day, an important day for Indigenous communities and all Canadians. It is a day to remember and honouring the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and to raise awareness about this ongoing issue. People can remember by participating in events, wearing red, or taking a moment of silence to reflect on the lives lost. It is also important to act by advocating for change, supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, and educating oneself about MMIWG.

To learn more please visit [Home Page - Final Report | MMIWG \(mmiwg-ffada.ca\)](https://mmiwg-ffada.ca)



Red Skirts made by Melissa Root

Education and Outreach Programming

In April the Museum delivered 11 days of Museum education programs to 367 students. Programs included LEGO® Design Challenges, LEGO Printmaking, and for the first time since 2019, the In-Museum Ancient Civilizations program. Students enjoyed a full day of immersive, hands-on learning at 6 activity stations featuring Medieval Europe, Ancient Greece, Ancient Maya, and the Silk Road.



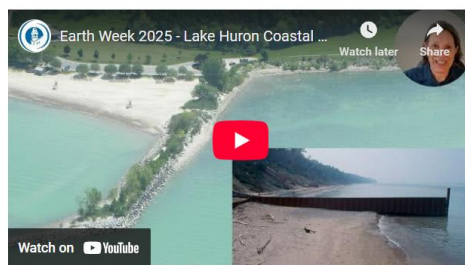
Students work on brass rubbings during Ancient Civilizations



Students learning about the role of the blacksmith in Medieval Europe

On April 22, the [2025 Earth Week Digital Program “Our Power, Our Planet”](#), presented in partnership with Bruce Power, launched on the Museum’s Digital Education Centre. This program teaches about energy, renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, their effects on the climate, and sustainable practices through presentations prepared by guest experts. Each video is accompanied by a challenge/activity that students and families can try in the classroom or at home. Contributors include The Lake Huron Coastal Centre, The NII, and Grey Sauble Conservation. This year a Jeopardy-style digital game is also available to test your energy knowledge. Earth Week 2025 connects to the Conservation of Energy and Resources strand of Ontario’s Grade 5 Science and Technology curriculum.

VIDEOS AND CHALLENGES



Explore the energy transfer of wave action on natural and human altered shorelines of Lake Huron, considering the law of conservation of energy, the impacts of a changing climate and the potential of wave energy as a renewable power source. Build a “Beach in a Bottle” to investigate how the elements found on shorelines respond to energy transfer. Better yet, get out to the shore to experience the dynamic zone between water and land!

[DOWNLOAD THE COASTAL CENTRE'S CHALLENGE](#) 

A screenshot of the Earth Week 2025 webpage

Children's Programming

April 5 - Youth Pysanky Workshop

10 participants ages 9-14 came to learn the technique of Ukrainian Egg (pysanka) decorating. The group spent a quick hour and a half carefully using wax, dye and heat to create beautiful, intricate patterns on blown-out eggshells.



Angela Ewtushik teaches the technique of creating pysanky, photo: Sandy Lindsay

April 5 - Easter Eggs

15 children ages 5-10 spent the afternoon in the Museum galleries on an egg hunt. The hunt was followed by egg dyeing and decorating as well as Easter bunny mask making.

April 11 - PA Maker Day: Make it Painted

Children ages 5-10 explore the magic of painting through activities inspired by the current exhibit, Yükselle Hassan: Realism in Fantasy. Participants made their own egg tempera paint, created pieces of art using a variety of resist watercolour techniques, and tried painting on and with different mediums. These budding artists had a beautiful collection of masterpieces to take home at the end of the day. This program is proudly presented by Ontario Power Generation.



Children trying out watercolour techniques during Make it Painted

April 11 - School's Out Movies

On this PA Day, families were welcomed into the Bruce Power Theatre to watch *The Mitchells vs. The Machines* in the morning, and *The Marvels* in the afternoon complete with free popcorn.

Upcoming Programs

June 6 - PA Maker Day: Wearable Wonders

Discover the art and innovation of wearable creations this Maker Day! Inspired by our temporary exhibit *HOMAGE*, explore how design, story and technology come together to create unique, wearable masterpieces. Proudly presented by Ontario Power Generation.

Policy Review

As part of ongoing and best practice for collections management policies are reviewed on an ongoing and as required basis. The following policies: Preservation Management, Integrated Pest & Mould were reviewed in Q1, and minimal housekeeping edits were made. No significant changes were made to either of these policies.

Programming and Events

April 5 - Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop

Ten participants attended this sold-out workshop where they learned the history and technique of decorating traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs (Pysanky) with a wax resist (batik) and dyes. Artist and instructor Angela Ewtushik guided participants through two different eggs, each beautifully designed by the attendees. All materials were provided, so all that the participants had to bring was their creativity!



Instructor Angela Ewtushik leads workshop participants in creating pysanky Easter Eggs

April 16 - National Canadian Film Day: The Grand Seduction (2014)

Once again, the Museum celebrated National Canadian Film Day, the massive, one-day, coast-to-coast-to-coast celebration of Canadian cinema. This year's chosen film was *The Grand Seduction* (2014), a funny and fresh tale of a small fishing village in Newfoundland that must secure a new doctor to keep the community alive. 94 visitors were able to check out this uniquely Canadian flick in the Bruce Power Theatre.



Visitors pack the Bruce Power Theatre to watch “The Grand Seduction” for National Canadian Film Day

April 26 - Realism in Fantasy: Conversations with Yükselle Hassan

Visitors were able to drop in one last time for a self-guided visit exploring the exhibit “Realism in Fantasy”, before it closed on April 30. Through casual conversations with artist Yükselle Hassan, visitors learned more about the making of the exhibit, her artistic style, and even some insight into previous works.



Artist Yükselle Hassan standing in the doorway of here Southamptton art studio.

Upcoming Programs

Pride Book Nook: May - August

Calling all book lovers! Check out the seasonal Book Nook (located on the Museum’s 3rd floor) filled with Pride-friendly reads for 2SLGBTQQIAP+ members and allies alike, all for loan with your local library card.

Visit the Museum to browse this selection of books that highlight authors and stories for all ages that both celebrate and offer a pathway to learning more about the 2SLGBTQQIAP+ community.

The PRIDE Book Nook is presented in partnership with the Bruce County Public Library.

Break Out of the Bruce: Bus Trip to Stratford

May 3, 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM

All aboard! The popular Bus Trip is back for another exciting excursion to Stratford! Prepare for a day filled with friends, shopping, and word-class theatre as we Break Out of the Bruce to see Shakespeare's beloved comedy, "As You Like It".

About the Show

The Forest of Arden, reimagined in this production, sees its pastoral calm upended by the arrival of a motley cast of courtiers, fools, dukes and ladies exiled from the pitiless world of court politics and dynastic succession. The latest arrivals: Orlando, banished by his cruel older brother after their father's death, and Rosalind who, in her attempt to flee an equally cruel uncle, arrives on the scene disguised as a boy.

When Orlando and Rosalind fall for one another, the question then becomes, can Orlando recognize the object of his affection through her cunning disguise and Arden's shaded vales? Beloved for its wit and banter, "As You Like It" promises classic Shakespearean comedy befitting of modern audiences.

Reserve your seat now!

\$85 per person. Preregistration is required.

[Break Out of the Bruce: Bus Trip to Stratford - Bruce Museum CA](#)



Artist Discussion and Documentary Screening: Honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

May 9, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

In honour of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Museum welcomes artists Destiny Roote and Melissa Comyn for a discussion on the opening of the art installation Buffalo Woman. The installation, which will be on display from May 1-31, is both a tribute and a call to action, urging visitors to acknowledge the ongoing crisis, listen to the stories of those left behind, and stand in solidarity for change.

Following the talk, there will be a special screening of CBC's The Fifth Estate documentary, A Sister's Promise, in the Museum's theatre. This documentary investigates Sonya Cywink's death, which has gone unsolved for three decades. Her sister Meggie has taken the search for the truth into her own hands - finding leads that police overlooked and trying to solve the mystery of Sonya's death.

Coffee, tea, and treats will be provided.

This event is free to attend. Space is limited; preregistration is recommended.

[Artist Discussion and Documentary Screening: Honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls - Bruce Museum CA](#)



Volunteer Program Update- Q1

The volunteer program at the Museum had a great start to 2025 with several new recruits to the program and a good turnout to volunteer training sessions in February and March.

Volunteers at the Museum consist of a variety of Bruce County residents. Museum volunteers reside in Saugeen Shores, Kincardine, Ripley, Allenford, Paisley, Sauble Beach, Walkerton and Chesley.

Recent Volunteer Activities

In Q1 of 2025, Museum volunteers assisted with an assortment of events and programs including:

- Realism in Fantasy exhibit opening
- Family Day - Earth Explorers
- CBC documentary screening
- March Break Kid's Camp
- PA Day Maker Days
- Muse-Talk: Elora Film Festival Highlights
- Museum Munchkins: Pete Moss in Concert
- March Break Movies

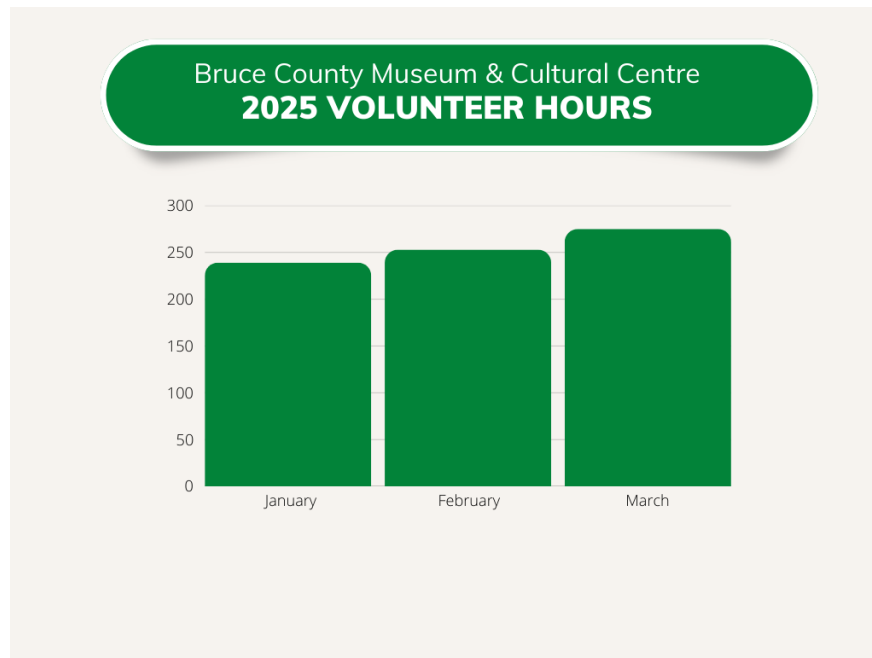
Other recent volunteer activities include volunteer-led school group exhibit tours, collections data input, an exhibit hall tour for Parks Canada staff and exhibit maintenance including updates to the Ride the Rails exhibit. Archive volunteers were also very busy with digitizing, online data input and creating inventories of hardcopy newspaper issues.



Volunteers Muriel Shular and Pam Kraft helping with crafts on Family Day

Volunteer Hours Worked

The total hours worked in the first quarter of 2025 was 767 hours. The largest portion of these hours were spent in Archives and in exhibit maintenance. These roles are regularly scheduled, formal shifts. March was the busiest month this quarter due to March Break programming and the March Break kids camp.



Volunteer Training

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

- Adult Tour Guiding
- School-aged Tour Guiding
- Ancient Civilizations Program Training

The Ancient Civilizations program training took place in late March. Volunteers who took part in the training learned how to teach each of the 6 stations. Schoolchildren will go from station to station to learn about ancient civilizations and watch demonstrations led by the volunteers. The 6 stations include:

- Illumination Station
- Brass Rubbings Station
- Blacksmith Station
- Greek Myths Station
- Mayan Numbers Station
- Barter/Silk Road Station



Volunteers attend Ancient Civilization program training session, led by Lauren Beer

Looking Ahead

The top priority for the volunteer program will be to continue retain volunteers, build the volunteer base to support service, and expand opportunities to meet the needs of the Museum.

Some upcoming volunteer activities and training sessions include:

- Ancient Civilizations Program
- Summer Exhibition Openings
- PA Day Maker Days
- Museums are a DRAG: An evening of Drag

Revenue Development

Memberships

As of April, the Museum sits at 626 active membership households. Planning is underway for a summer membership draw to take place during the months of July and August.

Confirmed Funding Requests

Enbridge - Confirmed their support of the Legacy of Hope: The Residential School System in Canada exhibit with a \$7,500 sponsorship.



West Wawanosh Mutual Insurance Company - Confirmed their support of summer wildlife and science shows with a \$1,000 sponsorship.



Pending Funding Requests

Request submitted for \$2,500 in support of our upcoming Speakers Event featuring Anna Maria Tremonti this October.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no staffing/legal/IT considerations with this report. The Archives project is included in the 2025 budget, while there is no direct financial impact to the museum budget for the archival project, there will be a decrease to the Krug Trust administered by BMO Trust in the amount of \$23,330. The Krug Trust Fund had a market value of \$1,365,420 as of December 31, 2024.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Interdepartmental consultation with Corporate Services (Finance) and the Office of the CAO (Clerk) regarding the Archival project has occurred. Interdepartmental consultation with Library Services regarding the Pride Book Nook has occurred.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Strategic Goals

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 2.1 Engage underserved audiences

Objective 2.2 Deepen relationships with communities across the County.

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Attachments:

No attachments.