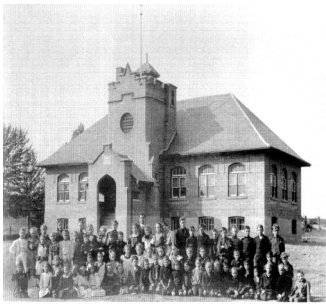


News from the Museum School



Well, what we feared most has come to pass. The Thames Valley District Board of Education, after over two years of dragging its feet, has told us that they will not renew our lease.

I am of two minds about the results of our agonizing wait: I am not surprised, as Graham Hart, the incumbent candidate for Oxford, alluded to the decision at two all candidates' meetings that I had attended, but I cannot believe that the TVDSB would be willing to disassociate itself with us.

We are a unique and well run organization possessing an enviable collection and with programs and opportunities for everyone who visits. Ah, maybe that is the problem - our landlord spokespersons have never visited us! It is definitely their loss. They have not only dealt with us in a most unprofessional manner but have also made decisions without all the factors in the equation. Let's face it! The decision was based on money - the TVDSB has no interest in spending money on this building and would prefer that it be destroyed by neglect.

Our board of directors need to sit down to plan our next steps. We have already started looking for other partners who value our programs and our place in the history books of rural Ontario. We may be down but we aren't out!

Marilynn Smith, Co-Chair

The View from the Basement

"Every view of the world that becomes extinct, every culture that disappears, diminishes a possibility of life." - Octavio Paz, Mexican writer, poet, diplomat, and winner of the 1990 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Is the Thames Valley District School Board trying to deny that rural education existed? By refusing to renew our lease and eliminating our grant money, it appears they are hoping that we will pack up and go away, taking with us our wonderful collection of schoolhouse artefacts, one of the most extensive in Canada.

They are hoping that our programs, designed to introduce children to the history of rural education and the professions of historical research, library sciences, and museology, will fade from memory.

They are hoping that the dream of a group of visionary retired teachers to have an architecturally unique two room schoolhouse provide all this to children will be extinguished.

After seeing the response to our exhibit at the International Plowing Match, I cannot believe that the Museum School is not relevant for school children today. This is not over.

Jennifer Beauchamp

**What the Heck is it?
See page 4 for a description!**





The International Plowing Match



The IPM is probably one of the biggest publicity opportunities we have had in recent years. Judging by the number of attendees and the brochures handed out, we were seen by thousands of people during that week in September.

Our display was extremely well received and was one of the best in the Antiques and Historical tent. It provided interactive opportunities for both young and old. The penmanship



exercise was very popular, with line-ups at times to get a chance to use a straight pen and ink.

Adults found the desks and other artefacts stimulated past memories. The favourite artefact - the strap! Also popular was the costumed school marm! I was included in many pictures, posing with my pointer!

We also have a wonderful banner on education, printed up courtesy of the Trillium Grant.



On the last day we were part of a live radio interview held in our display area, with Marilynn Smith, our board co-chair speaking to the reporter.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped, both before, during, and after. Mary-Margaret Braund, Elaine Bowen, and Mary Yeoman helped me load and transport all the desks to and from the match. Those dang things are heavy! Mary-Margaret Braund spent a day helping me with the crowds, as did Marilynn and Gary Smith. Brenda Seaton came in costume for three days and deserves a prize for enduring that brutal schedule! All in all, a fabulous experience and a thrill to be part of!

Jennifer Beauchamp



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Museum School is looking for volunteers of all ages to help with different projects. Some of the opportunities include:

- Board Member
- Program Helper—education outreach and school groups
- Fundraising Projects
- Grant Search and Applications
- Artefact Data Entry
- **And our newest activities, artefact packing and box moving!**

Come and join our team as we prepare for our big adventure! We need strong arms for box moving, but we can teach you to handle and pack artefacts. You can learn a new skill at any age! If you are interested, please call

519.424.9964 for details.

It's Calendar time again!

This year our calendar theme is toys! The Thames Valley Museum School has a small but remarkable toy collection that reflects the educational importance toys play in the life of a child.

The calendars make great Christmas gifts, so be sure to place your order with a Board member or the Curator. There is a limited number of these beautifully photographed calendars so act now. The price is still only \$10 and helps support the Museum School so that we may continue to offer our services to the community.

In spite of what you are reading in the local newspapers about the demise of the Museum School, the "Friends" ask that you keep us in mind when planning family activities, or doing family tree research. Also, please request at your child's or grandchild's school that their teacher book a trip to the Museum School.

In the meantime, we continue to actively fundraise by selling calendars, collecting Zehrs tapes, printer cartridges, crushed cans, and gratefully accepting donations!

Please keep us in mind if you can get involved in any way—donating, collecting, attending, or mentioning us to others.

And enjoy a sneak preview of what's in next year's calendar!

Vicki Millard



News from the Donor Card Chair



We applaud thirty three of you who stretched and contributed over one hundred dollars each! We were able to exceed our target for 2009/10 by some four percent! Your donation helps us with defraying our costs such as: topping up our curator's salary (prior to the loss of the TVDSB grant); topping up the salaries of our summer student employees beyond the grants given to us by Government Summer Employment programs; defraying our costs associated with running the Canadiana Challenge; newsletter mailings; office costs; insurance (which is close to 1600.00); and the Financial Review (2,600) that allows us to file properly with Revenue Canada on a yearly basis to maintain our Charitable Foundation status.

With this edition you will notice the inclusion of a card that represents your opportunity to once again contribute to the Friends of the Oxford County Museum School. You'll note in the top right corner of the card that it is for the donor cycle of 2010/11. We hope to catch a few of you snowbirds before you head south for the winter! A donation received prior to December 19th, will be credited toward income tax claims for 2010. By using that closing date, it allows me time to finish off the books for the year; prepare for the financial review for the year; and to enjoy some family time over the Christmas period. Thanks for making an effort to get your donation to us before the year end.

We appreciate your continued support. Don't hesitate to look at CanadaHelps.org as a method of contributing for those of you who are computer savvy and would like to support us on a monthly basis. For those of you reviewing this newsletter by email, please click on the appropriate link on our website for a copy of the donor card.

Ken Shrubshell

Thames Valley Museum School

Preserving Ontario's Educational Heritage

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Advent Season of Workshops

The Museum School is hosting a series of Christmas workshops.

Make a Gingerbread House!

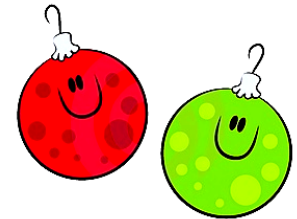
Come alone or bring your friends and family to make this classic and beautiful decoration. Pre-register, choose a date and pay, then drop in anytime between 10 am and 3 pm. All supplies provided. The cost is \$30. Children must have a parent in attendance. Seasonal refreshments and music will be provided. Choose from the following dates: December 11th, or 18th.

Children's Christmas Crafts

Join us for these half day programs for kids where special Christmas decorations will be made.

Register for desired time—9:30 - noon, and 1:30 - 3:30 on
Dec. 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

For more information or to register in either the Gingerbread House Workshop or the Children's Christmas Crafts, contact 519-424-9964 or info@museumschool.ca



WHAT THE HECK IS IT?

Pictured on page 1, it is a Chautauqua Industrial Art Desk, and is currently on display at the Museum School. This fold up 'desk' could be used on a table or mounted on a wall. It features an art slate for writing or drawing on, and a rolling scroll with various educational art illustrations, including the human figure, handwriting, technical drawing, geographical, biological, and botanical illustrations. It was designed to teach children how to draw a variety of subjects, giving them a 'head start' with their artwork at school.

The desk was stamped with the logo of the Lewis E. Meyers Co. Myers was associated with the manufacturers of the desk and in 1920, after several years of developing his own selling company, he purchased the Chautauqua Manufacturing Company. This establishes the date of the desk as being built after 1920.

Mr. Myers was also president and founder of the Children's Foundation of Valparaiso, Indiana. This not for profit corporation was founded in 1921 by Mr. Myers and is devoted to the scientific and analytical study of the natural and cultural needs of children.

GO GREEN

GET THE MUSEUM SCHOOL'S E-NEWSLETTER

Send an email to info@museumschool.ca to receive your newsletter by email.

Not only will you save paper, but you will receive the photographs in colour!