

# OXFORD COUNTY MUSEUM SCHOOL



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, Issue 2

### News from the Museum School

This edition of our newsletter will be the first one printed from our new office beneath the Town Hall in Ingersoll. I cannot believe the mammoth job of moving to our new location has actually been completed. All we need to do now is move the cairn to its new home outside the new Oxford County Museum School.

We moved during one of the hottest weeks in July. We hired a local moving company, "Helping Hands", who moved all the large items. Board members, predominantly the two Kens, with help from Denis Beauchamp and two students, moved the rest - hundreds and hundreds of books, artifacts, pictures, small furniture, office material - the list goes on. You can imagine what thirty-six years of accumulated stuff looks like!

Now we are unpacking, organizing, and setting up in two locations. In the new museum school in the Ingersoll Historical Park, the rebuilding of the log school has begun, thanks to John, Doug, and their relatives. A new heritage garden is underway, compliments of Ken Riehl and Henry, with Brenda and Evanne planning the floral display. In the office, Jennifer has already set up shop and is hard at work. The storage area is organized and is gradually being unpacked. Congratulations to all who have helped in this transition of the Oxford County Museum School!

We are sad to receive resignations from Board members Mary Margaret Braund and Ken Fallowfield. Both have donated a multitude of hours to the Museum School. Mary Margaret has organized the Morris Carter Award choice and Ken has been our garden expert and both have been invaluable board members. Thank you very much to both of you for helping keep the Oxford County Museum School alive and well!

We have been invited to participate in upcoming activities with the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum, so do drop by and participate - behind the scenes or as a visitor. We would be happy to give you a tour of our new facilities.

*By Marilyn Smith, Co-chair*

### The View from the Basement

I am now working from our new location in Ingersoll, at the Town Hall. My head line for this column can remain the same because . . . I'm still in the basement! And what a basement it is! I have a roomy office that is close to the storage room that houses our collection, and I am enjoying the Town of Ingersoll.

We have a fantastic storage area! It is climate controlled and well-lit. The shelves are all up, thanks to several hard working Board members, and the furniture is now accessible. The boxes packed during the preceding months are gradually getting organized and unpacked.

Our new Museum School is in the process of being set up. At the end of October, our exhibit at the Woodstock Museum will be coming to its new home and then we will be setting up our classroom at the Museum School.

With Christmas around the corner at that point, we will be joining the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum as they participate in the Town's annual Christmas Celebration of Lights. The Museum School will be showing off its extensive collection of Christmas decorations. Be sure to come and visit us, or if you would like to participate, call to see what you can do to help us illustrate the history of rural education in Oxford County.

*By Jennifer Beauchamp,  
Curator*

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



# *A Picture's worth a thousand words!*



Empty shelves waiting to be taken apart.



Shelf uprights and a stack of shelves on the right.



The new archives is up and running.



The command centre signs off.

## **Open House - May 28, 2011**

Our very successful Open House was both an enjoyable social time and a wonderful farewell to our home in Burgessville where our roots run deep.



Many of The Oxford County Museum School's friends gathered to celebrate, commemorate, and connect. Students and their families, former and current staff and volunteers, members of the press and politicians, some local and not-so-local folks came together on a beautiful sunny afternoon to say hello and goodbye. Happy memories, interesting stories, bittersweet moments, and a positive look into the future combined to make it a unique and memorable event.

We are very grateful for our beginnings and growth in the rich soil of Norwich Township and know that these will stand us in good stead as we continue our transplanting and grafting at the Oxford County Museum School's new home in Ingersoll. Thanks for the memories.

*"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." Dr. Seuss*

*By Evanne Ketchabaw, Special Events Coordinator*

# News from the Donor Card Chair



## Congratulations!

Many of you dug deeper over the course of the past six months to help the *Friends* **exceed** the target that we set for donations from our regular donors for the 2010/11 cycle. This is two years in a row that we have **exceeded our target**. Many of you responded to a special appeal that was sent to donors on our rolls that we had not heard from on the past eighteen months. The expense for moving from Burgessville to Ingersoll was covered by those respondents to the appeal and also by a few regular donors who donated over and above. Thank you for doing that.



We applaud thirty-four of you who stretched to the contributor level and donated over one hundred dollars each. There were also eight of you who jumped to the two hundred level. Two donors really excelled to the Patron level with donations of one thousand dollars or more.

Two more donors have linked to CanadaHelps.org as a method of contributing on a monthly basis. We are closely monitoring this program to make sure that their fees do not rise to a point where it is not donation dollars well spent for the sake of convenience.

Your donation helps us with defraying costs such as our curator's salary, which is now one hundred percent our responsibility, and assists in running the Canadiana Challenge beyond the grant we receive from the Retired Teachers of Ontario District 37. It also helps with the newsletter mailings, office costs, insurance (which rose to \$1,600) 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 with a newly designed logo that represents your opportunity to once again contribute to the *Friends of the Oxford County Museum School*. The card is for the donor cycle of 2011/12. We hope to catch a few of you snowbirds before you head south for the winter! A donation received prior to Wed. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> will be credited toward income tax claims for 2011. By using that closing date, it allows me time to finish off the books for the year, prepare the financial review for the year, and to enjoy some family time over the Christmas period. Thanks for making the effort to get your donation to us before the year end.

For those of you reviewing this newsletter by e-mail, please click on the appropriate link on our website under the category **Friends of the Museum** then the subcategory **Donor Information** and then the **donor card** link or the **Donate Now** link. You'll have to print your copy of the donor card, pop it and your cheque in the mail addressed to our new address.

On behalf of all the *Friends* and the curator, **thank you** for your valued and continual support. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

*By Ken Shrubsall, Treasurer*

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## Fundraising News

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### Pumpkin Fest at the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Friends of the Oxford County Museum School would like to invite you to visit us in our NEW location at the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum for Pumpkin Fest on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> between 12 and 4 pm. We will have an array of fall baked goods, focusing on that seasonal gourd – the pumpkin! You will find pumpkin loaf, pumpkin muffins, pumpkin cakes, cookies . . . you may be surprised at what pumpkin can do!



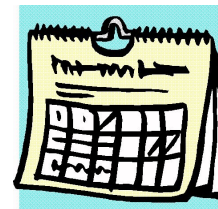
We won't be school-room ready but at Pumpkin Fest, you can purchase baked goods and support our work to bring the history of rural education to Ingersoll. We'll throw in a large serving of enthusiasm for free! See you there!

### Museum School Calendars

They're back! Our new calendar for 2012 will feature "Doors of Oxford County Schools". It will be available for sale at the usual price of \$10 each at the bake sale. You may also call or e-mail to go pick up your copies. They make great Christmas gifts!

*By Vicki Millard, Fundraising Coordinator*

Remember—we collect Zehrs tapes and pop cans!



# Oxford County Museum School

*Preserving Ontario's Educational Heritage*

130 Oxford Street, Box 232 Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 3K5  
519.926.0206 [info@museumschool.ca](mailto:info@museumschool.ca) [www.museumschool.ca](http://www.museumschool.ca)



## Pumpkin Fest

**October 22 noon to 4pm**

**Come to the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum**

Family activities include Face Painting, Pumpkin carving, cookie decorating, blacksmithing demonstrations, and much more!

The Museum School will be open as is, and will have a bake table of pumpkin inspired home baking. Please come and support us in our new location.



## Festival of Lights and Santa's Festival Village

**November 18th to December 17th, Friday evenings 6-9 pm & Saturday 4-9 pm**



The Museum School will be open as we join the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum in celebrating the Christmas season with family activities amidst the Festival of Lights displays.

Our classroom will be decorated with historic decorations from our collection and our exhibit cases will also focus on Christmas ~ cards, toys and lights.

The Museum School is located on the site of the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum, at 290 Harris St. Ingersoll.

### WHAT THE HECK IS IT?

This is a vacuum pump, a device that removes gas molecules from a sealed volume in order to leave behind a partial vacuum. The vacuum pump was invented in 1650 by Otto von Guericke, whose major scientific achievement was the establishment of the physics of vacuums. Guericke's experiments with air pressure led him to apply the barometer to weather prediction and thus prepared the way for meteorology.

This vacuum pump in our collection is brand named "Geryk", an anglicized version of his German name. Like many of our scientific artifacts, it is missing some pieces and its classroom use is not well understood. We welcome information from anyone who knows how some of our obscure artifacts were used.

## GO GREEN

**GET THE MUSEUM SCHOOL'S E-NEWSLETTER**

Send an email to [info@museumschool.ca](mailto:info@museumschool.ca) to receive your newsletter by email.

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

