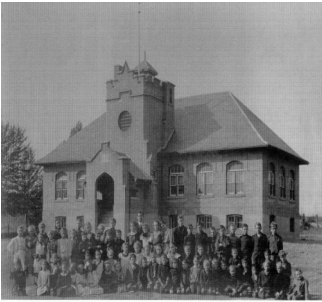


News from the Museum School

Volume 19, Issue 2

Summer 2010



Last summer will be remembered for the rainfall. This one will be in our minds for the heat and humidity. Regardless of the weather conditions our doors are open. We have been fortunate to hire two talented young women who have planned exciting and educational week-long camps for kids. They also hosted the first Teacher Appreciation Tea last month. It was good to see many of you there for our silent auctions and excellent refreshments. Even our custodian got into the act. She has donated so many hours getting involved with programs and presentations during her own time. Thanks so much to Michelle, Virginia, and Elaine!

Recently, our curator was a presenter at the annual Country School Association of America, held this year in Oklahoma. Who says experts only come from outside? We need to be proud of the people who work with us to keep our environment fresh, exciting, and available to everyone.

Your Board of Directors is making numerous efforts to maintain our museum in its present form. We will keep you posted as to our progress, regardless of the direction it takes us. Thank you for your continued support, both monetary and verbal.

If you take the opportunity to visit the International Plowing Match near St. Thomas during the week of September 21, be sure to look up our Museum School display.

Marilynn St. Denis, Co-Chair

Save Our Museum School!

We have two pressing issues at hand. The first is our lease. We are waiting for the Thames Valley District School Board terms so that we may sign it and continue to maintain our collection and our programs to schools in the Museum School. The second is our financial crisis. Many years ago the Oxford County Board of Education granted the Museum School \$30,000 annually to help run it. In the past ten years, the Thames Valley District School Board grant was reduced to \$15,000 annually. Now the grant has been discontinued.

What are we doing about these issues? We have been asking the Board for several years to sign the lease, but have been brushed aside. We have solicited grants from Service Clubs and municipal bodies but, to this point, success has been minimal. With our regular financial activities, we receive federal grant money that partially pays for two summer employees (university students). Through our newsletters we receive \$8,000 plus from donors. These donations help pay our part-time curator.

What do we need? We need to raise \$15,000. If we had 150 people donate \$100.00, we would meet our goal. Eighteen concerned people have done so. Your Board, the Friends of Oxford County Museum School, will be pushing to reach this goal. Please join us in this most important endeavour, as the alternatives are operating the Museum School as a storage unit for our extensive collection, or closing the Museum School doors permanently.

Ken Riehl, Co-Chair

The View from the Basement

Summer is here again, and my basement office has been uncharacteristically hot so I've been spending time in the climate controlled storage rooms, preparing for upcoming events that require artefacts from our collection. In addition to the regular visits to school reunions and community events, our collection will be making a very prominent impact at the upcoming International Plowing Match being held in Elgin County this September.

The IPM is renowned for its displays of heritage farm machinery and always has a large 'Antiques and Historical' tent which showcases the host county's agricultural heritage. This year, the museum group EON, formed by museums from the counties Elgin, Oxford, and Norfolk, are filling that tent with the best of three counties to illustrate our historical journey from pioneer to present day. Our little Museum School will be the sole representative of education in southern Ontario – a job we are proud to fulfill!

Jennifer Beauchamp

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





Teacher Appreciation Tea

I've been told that hot tea on a hot day can actually cool you down. At the Museum School's first Teacher Appreciation Tea I was able to test the old adage. Two cups of piping-hot tea and a few silent auction bids later, I still prefer tea of the iced variety. Apart from the humidity, the Teacher Appreciation Tea was a lovely mid-summer affair bringing out teachers and appreciators alike.

A silent auction was held in the 1905 classroom, featuring fabulous gift baskets donated by Picard's Peanuts, Oxford Honey & Supplies, Rebecca Kitchen RMT, Kelsey's Restaurant, Home Hardware Building Centre, Old Theatre Flowers, Norwich Deli & Bakery, Tim Hortons, Innerkip-Eastwood United Church, M&M Meat Shop, Merrifield Book Shop, The Hallmark Shoppe, The Walters Family Dinner Theatre, and Peter's Bakeshop. With a few rings of the schoolteacher's bell we were able to draw the last few bidders away from the auction panel into the refurbished classroom to fill their minds with information and photos from schoolhouses of the past. As curator Jennifer Beauchamp's talk on the "History of Education in Rural Ontario" came to an end, numbers were pulled from the 50/50 draw and winners of the silent auction were announced.



Summer students Virginia Start and Michelle Goodridge show off their list of sponsors!

The event would not have been the success that it was without the help of our volunteers, goodies from the Burgessville Village Market, silent auction donors, and of course the attendance of all those who journeyed out to the museum on a muggy Sunday afternoon. On behalf of the museum school I would like to thank you for helping us begin a wonderful summer tradition-- see you next year!

Virginia Start



Summer Camp Activities 2010



Jaden Horinga puts the finishing touches on his rabbit

Greetings! My name is Michelle and I have the great privilege of writing to all of you about the summer camps that Virginia and I have been working on all summer. We have had a very successful summer thus far so here is a recap of past events and an overview of things still to come.

The first week of camp, entitled 'History Mysteries', had the children travelling back through time to explore ancient relics. Each of the five days represented a historical period; Dinosaurs, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Knights of the Realm, and Pirate Day. The kids got to make a slew of interesting and wacky crafts including dinosaur egg soap, toilet paper mummies, Zeus' lightning bolt, a catapult, and even a milk carton pirate ship!

The second week of camp turned out to be even more entertaining as we delved into the animal world! 'Creature Feature' had five key themes for each day of the week; in your backyard, in the air, on land, in the sea, and bugs. The kids went on a nature hike (an incredibly muddy and buggy experience), learnt about the food web, created pom-pom birds and bird feeders, made whale mobiles, tiger picture frames, and pipe cleaner caterpillars, just to name a few.

The next two camp weeks, 'Books Alive' and 'Around the World in 5 Days', will undoubtedly prove to be equally exciting! 'Books Alive' will look at books that have been made into movies and we'll help children learn how such a process works. The themes include Dr. Seuss Day, The Berenstain Bears, The Chronicles of Narnia, Charlotte's Web, and Where the Wild Things Are. 'Around the World in 5 Days' will examine countries from around the world and expose children to different cultures, habitats, animals, weather — even food!

Michelle Goodridge

MORRIS CARTER ROTARY MEMORIAL AWARD



This annual award is the product of a partnership involving: the Woodstock Rotary Club, The Friends Of The Oxford County Museum School and the Thames Valley District School Board. The process takes place in the Spring. Grade 8 students from Innerkip, Hickson, D.M. Sutherland, Central and Eastdale are eligible to be nominated, two per school maximum. These are the five schools where Morris taught or was Principal.

The students are nominated on the basis of four key factors:

- academic achievement
- citizenship & leadership qualities
- school & community achievement
- community involvement

These are all characteristics that Morris encouraged and supported wholeheartedly! He measured his life's achievements using the same standards and he expected those around him to do the same!

Of the possible 10 candidates, we received 6 nominations this year. Interviews were held at Innerkip Central School. We enjoyed this experience so much that we decided to ask a different school to host every year.

The interview team was comprised of Mary-Margaret Braund, Marilyn St. Denis Smith and Ruth Carter.

The winners were as follows:

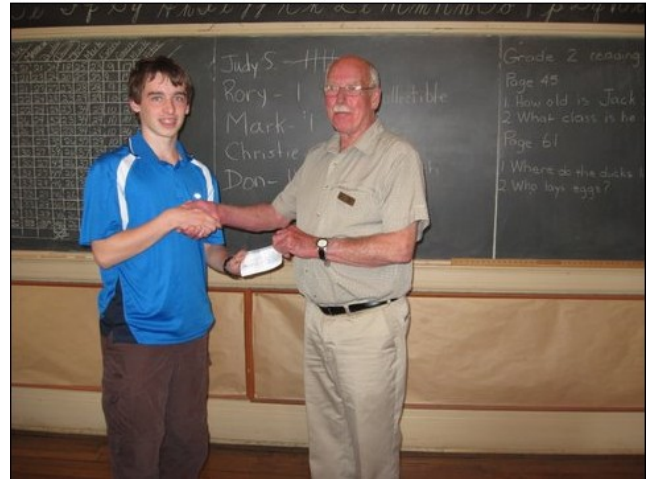
WINNER - Bradley Buckley, *Innerkip Central School*

RUNNER-UP - Isaac Bender, *D.M. Sutherland*

The awards were presented at the June 14th Rotary Lunch at the Quality Inn. Ruth Carter brought greetings from the Carter family, Mary-Margaret spoke about the history of the award, and Jennifer Couse (Public Affairs & Community Relations Assistant) brought greetings from the TVDSB. Brad & Isaac were introduced by their Principals, Jim Bartley & Susan Davis respectively. Both students addressed the group very eloquently. Proud parents were in attendance and a wonderful lunch was enjoyed by all.

We all feel that this whole process is one of the most uplifting experiences of our year! The calibre of these students is excellent. Morris would have been suitably impressed and proud of every one of them.

Mary-Margaret Braund



News from the Donor Card Chair



We certainly appreciate those of you who have donated already in this cycle and to those of you who topped up your donation after co-President Marilyn's request to do so in our last newsletter. Many thanks!

With this newsletter, I've included in some envelopes a yellow donor card which is our last request for donations for the current donor cycle for 2009-10.

Some of you receive the newsletter by email and I've prepared a separate attachment for you folks.

A couple of us, and I do speak personally, are now donating by an automatic pledge method using the following link on our Museum School website that connects us to CanadaHelps.org.

Visit <http://www.museumschool.ca/donor.htm>. to make a donation!

With this link you can make any option applicable to your donation. The deposit for the donation goes into our bank account at month end and we are given a statement of account by CanadaHelps.org. Your receipt will be available instantly for printing and filing into your tax files folder for 2010. If you do an automatic monthly pledge, CanadaHelps.org will send a compiled receipt at year end.

With this method of donation, my workload as treasurer is slightly reduced—but don't think I am shirking my duties! I will gladly continue to accept donations the old fashioned way, and I will receipt accordingly.

Ken Shrubsall, Treasurer

Thames Valley Museum School

Preserving Ontario's Educational Heritage

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'LET'S REMEMBER'



The Museum School is hosting its first P.D. Day on Nov. 12th and it will be a day of role-playing and activities that will give us a look at Canadian soldiers at war.

*This unique experience starts at 9:30 and goes to 3:30
Rations (snacks) and costumes provided
Call or e-mail for more information
Cost: \$18 per child, \$15 for siblings*

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Museum School is looking for youth volunteers (at least 14 years old) to help with our children's summer programs. Those interested should be enthusiastic, enjoy working with others (especially children!), be creative, able to take direction, and have a willingness to learn. If you are interested, please call 519.424.9964 for more details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

- Board Member
- Special Events
- March Break and Summer Camp Programs
- Program Helper—education outreach and school groups
- Fundraising Projects
- Grant Search and Applications
- Artefact Data Entry

If you are interested, please call 519.424.9964 for more details.



Dates to Remember: Friday, Nov. 12
P.A. Day— "Let's Remember"

WHAT THE HECK IS IT?

Pictured on page 1, it is the centre panel of a signature quilt! More specifically, it is for the MacKay Mission Band 1928-1954, from S.S. No. 2 E 2 1895.

This newly acquired signature quilt contains over 200 signatures, carefully embroidered around the centre panel containing the image of the school, S.S. No. 2. It is around 1.75 m long and just over 2m, or for those metrically challenged (and who isn't!) it is 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ft by 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ft.

Signature, or memory quilts were very popular with Victorian quilters in the mid-1800s. They are often given as gifts by families and groups of friends for a special occasion. Most 19th century signatures were written with indelible ink while in the 20th century they were often embroidered. Occasionally one person would inscribe all the signatures, as has been the case for this quilt.

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!

