



Ghost Story Winners Announced!

We are pleased to announce the winning stories of our annual ghost story competition. Over 50 stories were submitted by Collingwood's elementary students. The stories were so wonderful this year that the judges decided to award two 2nd place standings. This year's competition theme was the Great Storm of 1913. Again, thank you to our anonymous donor for your monetary support. All of the story submissions are available to read at the Station, so come on over and experience Collingwood's young talent.



Main Line Winner

Hello, my name is John Mactavish but people call me "Soap". I am 35 years of age. I live in Collingwood, Ontario. I am one of the 25 crew members on board the S.S. James Carruthers, I now live in the Collingwood terminals. Here is my story.

I had been sailing the great lakes for 10 years but nothing could prepare me for the storm of 1913. The morning started off just like any other. My crewmates and I ate, worked, and laughed. I noticed the ship seemed to be a little rocky but nothing too serious. Besides we were all thinking about how cold it was outside and just trying to stay warm. I remember thinking how much I missed the warm sun and the smell of fresh cut grass.

It was around 8 pm when I heard the first crew member yelling. I remember thinking there must be something wrong. I went up to the deck. The wind was blowing so hard it was causing 35 foot waves. Crew members started yelling and falling over board. I could not believe what was happening. The crew members were yelling and running but no one could escape the cold wind that was around them.

I turned to run but a huge wave hit me and I was down. The water was so cold that I couldn't even move. All I could do was listen to the screams as I sank to my death in a watery grave.

The year is 2010 from what I can tell by listening to the voices outside. I came back to the one place I had loved so much, the Collingwood terminals. A lot of my crew mates are also here. We retell stories of our journey. The next time you come down to the terminals listen for our footsteps, we are all around you.

Hope to see you soon,

John

John "Soap" Mactavish

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Supervisor's Message

From May to November 2010, Tiffany Taylor was employed at the Collingwood Museum thanks to a successful grant from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture's Museums and Technology Fund. The Collingwood Museum received \$14,500 to assist in funding *Say Smile: The Digitization of the Collingwood Museum Collection*. During the 6 month project, Tiffany scanned and entered 1040 photographs and postcards into Past Perfect. Twenty-nine images have been uploaded to Artefacts Canada, a government operated website that enables museums and like institutions across Canada to share information and increase community visitorship. To view these images, simply go to <http://www.pro.rcip-chin.gc.ca/artefact/index-eng.jsp>, click on *Search Artefacts*, then *Image Contributors*, then *Collingwood Museum*. Beautiful images of Hurontario Street's businesses and buildings await you. The Museum is already experiencing the benefits of Tiffany's outstanding work, as an increased number of images are available for reproduction and promotional purposes. A selection of Tiffany's scans will be featured in the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's special event, Whiskey and Wickedness. Additional information enclosed.

Grant applications have been submitted to Young Canada Works for two summer student collections assistants and one collections intern. We hope to learn of our applications' success in April 2011. Research and planning continues for our upcoming rail exhibit, scheduled to open in May 2011. As well, the Museum has arranged for a travelling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario to be featured at the Collingwood Museum in April 2011. The exhibit is entitled A Lifetime—Day by Day, Five Women and their Diaries. Look for additional information in the next issue of On Track.

I hope everyone is enjoying a safe and happy winter.

Susan Warner

Local Trivia Challenge.

Hotels of Collingwood

- The recently renovated Tremont House was built in _____ for business man John McCormick.
- The site of the present day Gayety Theatre was originally occupied by the _____ House.
- The building that houses apartments and ground floor businesses at 176 Hurontario Street was originally the _____ Hotel and in later years was renamed the Dorchester Hotel.
- Built in 1861, the Queen's Hotel was the first _____ building in Collingwood.
- The Grand Central Hotel was built in _____ and was located where the Bank of Montreal stands today.
- The _____ Hotel was X969.42 The Globe Hotel, c1913 four stories high and was the first building in Collingwood to have an elevator.
- On August 20, 1987 the historic _____ Hotel was destroyed by fire.
- The Globe Hotel, was later known as the _____ Hotel.
- The location of the Arlington Hotel previously housed the _____ Hotel.
- In the 1850's, the Northern Railway erected a three storey hotel on Huron Street that was originally named Week's Hotel, then the Armstrong House and lastly _____ House.



- Answers
1. 1889
 2. True Blue House
 3. Dominion
 4. Brick
 5. 1876
 6. Dorchester
 7. Arlington
 8. Mountain View
 9. Anglo-American
 10. Ryley

From the Collection



The Collingwood Museum has a wonderful selection of vintage postcards in the collection that celebrate different occasions. One album of postcards collected by a young man in the early 20th Century includes those featured on this page. The Brownlee album includes postcards that mark significant events and holidays from 1907 to 1918. Most of the cards are addressed to Master Wilbur Brownlee from his cousins, aunts and uncles. There are cards that celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's, but there are also more unusual cards that celebrate New Years, St. Patrick's day and postcards from the small towns of Feversham, Stayner and New Lowell. The cards are displayed in a period album.

Be My Valentine
987.19

The album is an excellent example of how everyday objects can become an historic reference for future generations. You can create your own family history by documenting and saving beautiful or interesting cards. Be sure you select an album with acid free paper and carefully mount the cards in a non permanent manner. Photo corners can be purchased to allow you to display your cards without using an adhesive that will mark them. Another method is to make diagonal incisions in the paper and insert the corners of the card into the slits. By making incisions for the four corners you



can mount your cards without any adhesives.

Select cards that are meaningful to you and write a note explaining the significance to you or your family. By compiling the cards over several years you will have an historic masterpiece to pass on to your descendants. Never overlook the obvious when documenting your family history. The cards and letters you receive today can be an insight into your life for future generations.

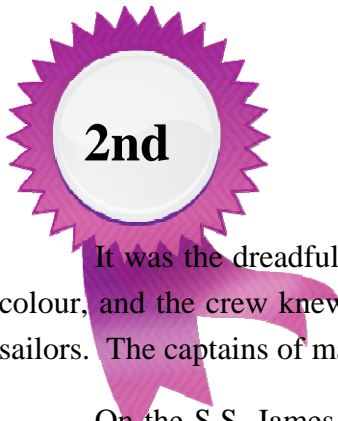
To My Valentine
987.19



New Years
Postcard
987.19



Saint Patrick's Day Postcard
987.19

**2nd**

Branch Line Winner

Time Warp: A Heartstopping Thriller

It was the dreadful morning of November 13, 1913. The clouds were a terrifying black and purple colour, and the crew knew there was a major storm brewing, but that didn't stop these fearless and hardy sailors. The captains of many ships set out onto the dark forbidding waters of the upper Great Lakes.

On the S.S. James Carruthers all was going well until, all of a sudden, a chilling wind swirled by. The icy waves began to slam against the side of the proud ship and it started to pour rain. The barometer was dropping rapidly; first mate Archie Deacon had never seen it fall so fast. He knew they were in for a blow. The crew members of the S.S. James Carruthers saw it coming. There was thunder and lightning and ... what was that up ahead? A hurricane. A white hurricane....They screamed in terror. When the storm hit, the vessel seemed to take on a life of its own. Wheelsman James Scott fought desperately to keep the ship on course. The Carruthers pushed forward relentlessly into the eye of the white hurricane.

The terrorized crew were being viciously bashed around, their bodies trying to hold on for dear life. Several horrified men were screaming in high pitched, blood-curdling voices, barely heard above the howling wind. Instantly they were hurled by the unforgiving storm over the side of the ship. The frigid waters of the lake claimed five of them quickly.

The icy waves were pounding and tormenting the doomed vessel. Suddenly the remaining crew members, wounded and dazed, heard a moaning and groaning, an eerie sound in the white haze that surrounded the ship. A ghostly, apprehensive charge took hold of the ship and pulled the Carruthers and her crew into a swirling vortex that transported them to another time.

All was quiet in the bone-chilling stillness. Time seemed to stand still. As they pulled themselves up off the deck and looked around, the crew realized something was very, very wrong. The ship had partially disintegrated and the crew had become partly decomposed. What was left of their hair and skin was hanging limply in the gloom. All that was left of these once vibrant beings was their oozing inner organs and festering old bloody wounds and a mysterious, slimy, white spirit surrounding each of their boney bodies. The rotting mouldy ship was just floating in a stark, lifeless body of water. The remaining dazed ghostly spirits realized that they were not alive...but not dead either.

The Goderich Gazette reports five bodies were washed ashore. Although they were found dead, some might consider them the lucky ones. They escaped the fate of their fellow crew members who are stuck in a wicked, horrid nightmare of half existence. The interesting question remains...Are they sailing the Great Lakes of yesteryear or does the S.S. James Carruthers still haunt the waters of the Great Lakes today?

Conservation Corner...Paintings

continued from

November & December 2010

How to Hang Paintings

Sturdy hardware should be used when hanging any painting. Wall hooks should be driven into the wall studs for maximum strength. Large or heavy paintings should also have the proper wall anchor. Plastic or metal hangers can be purchased at hardware stores. Consider mounting a bracket under the painting to help bear its weight if it is especially heavy.

Paintings may be suspended on a metal hook secured to either side of the back of the frame or from the appropriate weight painting (or picture) wire. Painting (or picture) wire should be looped through eye screws, secured in the right and left sides of the frame, so that the painting hangs from a double strand of wire. The end of the wire should be secured so that it does not poke into the back of the canvas or the panel. All parts of the picture hanging apparatus, picture hooks, screw-eyes, cords and wires, should be periodically checked. Hooks come out of plaster, screws come out of wood, wire wears out and cord rots. Replace any worn parts immediately to prevent an accident with your valuable family treasure.

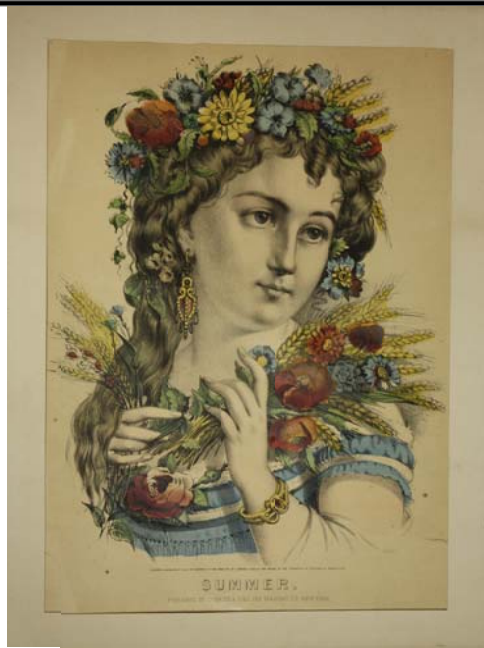
Displaying Paintings

The best place to hang a painting is on a wall which has a wall stud. Here you can use a wall anchor to attach the picture hanging hooks designed for the size and weight of your painting. Always hang away from any direct light source.

Never hang a painting near a heat source such as a fireplace, wood stove or radiator. Hot air rises and can carry dirt or particulate from the heat source. Heat can also soften or discolour the paints used in the artwork.

As with many treasures, relative humidity can be a mortal enemy of paintings. Very low or very high humidity or rapid changes in relative humidity are not good for paintings. Low relative humidity can make the painted surface and the structural supports brittle while high relative humidity can promote the growth of mold, especially on acrylic paintings. Rapid fluctuations in humidity can cause wooden panel paintings to warp.

“Summer” Published by Currier and Ives
X976.562.1



If you are ever in doubt about how to handle your painting, or if you want to know more about care, painting conservators are your best source of information. Painting conservators have years of education and experience working with all kinds of paintings in various conditions. They will be able to guide you in the preservation and care of your painting so it will last for the enjoyment of future generations.

See On Track, September & October 2010 for information on finding a conservator.

Source: www.si.edu (Smithsonian Institution)

2nd

Branch Line Winner The Killer Ghosts of Lake Huron

In November, 1951, John Rockwell and his crew of twenty, aboard the S.S. Hennessey, were sailing on Lake Huron when they spotted a ship struggling to stay afloat in an unknown storm. John ordered his men to prepare to rescue the crew, and sailed toward the ship. Because of the rain, John didn't realize the crew of the ship were ghosts. By then, it was too late. John and his crew were never seen again.

What John saw was the ghost of the ship S.S. Wexford. This ship, along with 18 others, were destroyed in a storm on Lake Huron in November 1913. Nineteen ships and 260 sailors were lost that day. The ships and crew might have died, but their spirit lives on....

Most people believe that the ship John saw was indeed the Wexford. There have also been other sightings of the ship, but John and his crew have been the only reported deaths due to the ghosts. The ghosts do, however, like to terrorize their rescuers. There is another ghost ship and crew out there on Lake Huron. The crew of the S.S. James Carruthers is back. Whenever there is a storm on Lake Huron, the crew of the James Carruthers is sure to be there. Thing is, they don't want to help you in a storm. They are here to make sure that whenever a ship is caught in a storm, it will suffer the same fate the crew of the James Carruthers did.

The sightings of the Wexford have stopped. The weird thing is HOW they stopped. After the storm in 1913, the only time the Wexford was seen was when it appeared as a ghost ship. Almost a hundred years later, in August 2000, the real Wexford was found, fully intact, floating underwater on Lake Huron. Since then, there have been no reported sightings. Was the ship a signal from the ghosts telling us they have finally found a resting place? Many people believe so. They say the ghosts have finally "died". Or have they?

Announcing Our Newest Exhibit....

Look What's Shaking Here: Collectible Salt and Pepper Shakers

The Collingwood Museum is pleased to announce that a new temporary exhibit will be featured in the Museum gallery until the end of March 2011. Irene Pradyszczuk (Museum member, volunteer, and advisory committee member) graciously donated her time and shaker expertise to assist with the planning and installation of *Look What's Shaking*. Many of the shakers on display are from Irene's private collection. Other featured shakers are from the collections of Bygone Days Heritage Village, Barbara Burgess and the Collingwood Museum. An adult program is being planned for March 2011. Information to be included in the next issue of On Track, as well as on the Town page of the Enterprise Bulletin.



January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day Station Closed
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Whiskey & Wickedness 7pm at the Bay School of Art	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Family Day Station hours 10:00am – 3:00 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

On Family Day, the Collingwood Museum will be open to the public free of charge. Come on in and challenge yourself by participating in our scavenger hunt. Please feel free to contact the Museum if you have any questions or concerns.

The Collingwood Museum

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Written & Created By:

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Edited By:

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Membership News



Interested in receiving a green newsletter?

Send your email address to museum@collingwood.ca and we will add you to our e-newsletter database.

A special thank you from the staff at the Collingwood Museum to our new and returning members. We are pleased to welcome:

Sharon O'Brien, Joy Archibald, Tiffany Taylor, Black Ash Enterprises, Diane Stewart, Delia & Christopher Dobson, Mary Beth Bourne, Barbara Hillis, Debra Rowe, Judy Rosen, Harold Zukerman, Bruce Yama, Phyllis Smith, Brian Maki, Kathryn Scott, George Christie, Jim Gear, Christian Madigan, Richard Lex, Fred & Susan Holmes, Nick Hodson, Donald C. Brown and Bruce Mackison.

Hours of Operation

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.: Sunday
Closed—Wednesday and Thursday (from Thanksgiving to Victoria Day)

The Collingwood Museum

P.O. Box 556
45 St. Paul Street
Collingwood, Ontario
L9Y 4B2

Take a Look Inside

