

## Volunteers Create Needed Space

On Thursday, February 24, 2011, Museum staff members and six volunteers rolled up their sleeves for a day of space recovery at the Collingwood Museum.

The Museum's large storage facility was the primary focus of the day's activities, as bulky filing cabinets were taking up necessary storage space. In total, three large cabinets were removed and relocated.

The removal of the cabinets has made considerable differences, especially to the Museum's textile collection. Textile boxes can now be stored at accessible levels for all staff and volunteers. Hanging textiles are also reaping the benefits of the day's activities as there is now sufficient space for staff to walk by without disturbing them. Moreover, metal items that were temporarily stored on the textile unit's bottom shelf were relocated to more appropriate locations.

A large portion of the Museum's ship photograph collection was relocated from a large filing cabinet and is now stored in archival boxes in the archives storage facility. The removal of this cabinet has resulted in increased lighting levels for staff in large storage.

The reorganization of the Museum's large storage facility is among the first steps in the Collingwood Museum's cataloguing project. The Collingwood Museum has set a three year goal to catalogue every item in the Museum's collection. In achieving this goal, the Museum will meet the requirements set forth by the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG).

Although three years may seem like more than enough time to complete this task, one must remember that the Museum (through the Huron Institute) has been actively collecting since 1903.



Large Storage: Before



Large Storage: After

If you are interested in assisting Museum staff as a volunteer, please contact (705) 445-4811 or email [museum@collingwood.ca](mailto:museum@collingwood.ca).

*Additional photographs on page 4.*

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## Supervisor's Message

On Thursday, March 24, 2011, Irene Pradyszczuk will be facilitating a discussion on the history of salt and pepper shakers. Irene is an avid collector and serves on the Collingwood Museum Advisory Committee. Participants are invited to bring a shaker set from their own collections for a show and tell discussion. Please see the Upcoming Events section for registration details.

A travelling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario will be making a stop in Collingwood for the month of April. *A Lifetime: Day by Day* focuses on the diaries of five women. Join Museum staff on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7:00pm for the exhibit's official opening. Artifacts from the Collingwood Museum's collection will also be on display to enhance the exhibit's presentation of Ontario women. Personal invitations will be sent to all members by mail or email.

On behalf of the Museum staff, I would like to thank Museum volunteers Judith Pipher, Penny Orser, Janice Veiga, Barb Pepper, Ken Browne, and Jim Trott for all of their hard work. If you are interested in working with the collection, developing educational programs for children and adults, or assisting with special events, please call (705) 445-4811.

Planning is currently underway for Easter weekend at the Station. Stay tuned for additional information.

*Susan Warner*, Museum Supervisor

## Local Trivia Challenge...

1. Potts Brothers Dairy started in Collingwood in \_\_\_\_\_ by Roy and Reg Potts.
2. Ontario passed legislation in \_\_\_\_\_ that made it mandatory to pasteurize all commercially sold milk.
3. Potts Brothers Dairy delivered milk by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ until 1966.
4. Keith's Dairy started in 1917 on a farm in the west end of Collingwood on property that is now part of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Potts Brothers Dairy had a Dairybar on the east side of \_\_\_\_\_ Street between Ontario Street and Fourth Street East.
6. Stayner had its own local dairy, \_\_\_\_\_ Dairy.
7. Another well known dairy business was \_\_\_\_\_ Dairy.
8. The Station has many fine examples of local dairy bottles, containers and caps, located in the popular \_\_\_\_\_ display.
9. Advertising material from local dairies included rulers and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Do you remember getting milk delivered to your house in a glass bottle? If so you may also remember the phrase that is used to describe why the best often finish on top.

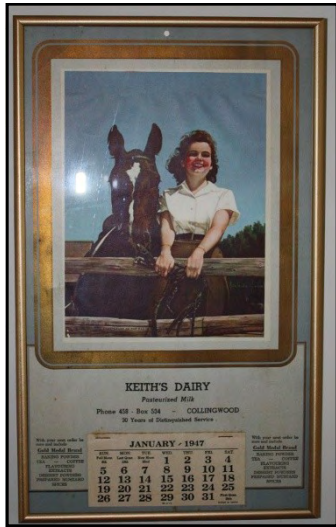


Keith's Dairy Milk Bottle  
990.9.9a

- Answers
1. 1932
  2. 1938
  3. Horse and wagon
  4. Cranberry Resort
  5. Hurontario Street
  6. Besse's
  7. Phair's
  8. Store Front
  9. Calendars
  10. "The cream always rises to the top"

# A Collingwood Business History:

## Keith's Dairy



1947 Keith's Dairy Calendar. From the Private Collection of Helen Taylor, née Keith

Collingwood has had many fine dairy businesses over the years with the last local dairy business, Potts Bothers Dairy, closing its doors in the 1960's. Keith's Dairy was established in 1917 when 54 year old John Keith and his wife Nancy Keith, nee Lang, purchased a 175 acre farm in the west end of Collingwood on the property that is now Cranberry Resort. The purchase price was the princely sum of \$5,000.

The dairy was first known as John Keith and Sons Dairy. The Keiths started small, using family members for workers and their own cows for milk. However, as the business grew and prospered they began to process milk that was supplied by local dairy farmers. Local farmers, including the Curries, Kells, McArthurs and Skeltons, brought their fresh milk to the Keith farm for processing each morning.

Keith's did not have a storefront in the downtown. Instead, the milk was sold door to door to families and businesses, including Clyde Aircraft which was located directly across from the Keith homestead. Other customers included commercial ships and Jozo Weider's Barn and Lodge at the base of Blue Mountain. Individuals paid for milk using tickets that were put into the empty milk bottles that were left on the step for the morning delivery. Companies were billed monthly.

The business was operated by John and Nancy, along with their sons Alex and Andrew until John's death on August 3, 1927. Nancy and her sons continued the business following John's death. Two years later Andrew married Helen Currie. Helen played an integral role in the operation and success of the business. In 1937 the name of the business was changed to Keith's Dairy. The milk plant ran 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday. The dairy was never open on Sunday.

In 1938 the Ontario Health Act mandated that all milk sold in Ontario must be pasteurized. Keith's Dairy purchased the required equipment, including pasteurization and refrigeration units to meet these requirements. In addition to the pasteurization of the milk, the cows were required to be tested for disease.

The family was devastated in 1948 by the sudden death of Andrew and again in 1949 with Nancy's passing. The business was kept on until the mid 1950's by Helen, her children, cousin Charles and her brother-in-law Alex. Keith's Dairy was then purchased by the Caldwell brothers from Barrie and moved from the west end farmstead to the north side of First Street, between Beech and Birch Streets. The name was then changed to Caldwell's Dairy and later Ken's Dairy.

If any of our readers have any information on Caldwell's Dairy we would like to hear from you. Any details about the years of operation or exact location would be helpful.



Andrew Keith, circa 1929. From the Private Collection of Helen Taylor, née Keith



## Bowl for Kids Sake

On Tuesday, February 15, 2011, Susan Warner, Melissa Shaw, Tiffany Taylor, Jackie Plater and Janice Veiga strapped on their bowling shoes to participate in Bowl for Kids Sake. Other Parks, Recreation and Culture representatives included: Michelle Kusiar, Tanya Mazza and Amber Martin.

While there were no “300’s” bowled, everyone involved did a fine job of representing the Department of Park, Recreation, and Culture. The funds raised by the team members went directly to Big Brothers Big Sisters to support its work with children. The Station staff raised \$495, nearly doubling their goal of \$250.



Back row: Susan Warner, Jackie Plater, Janice Veiga, Melissa Shaw; Front row: Tiffany Taylor.

## Staff and Volunteers Hard at Work



Susan Warner



Barb Pepper and Janice Veiga



Jim Trott



Ken Brown, Melissa Shaw, and Judith Pipher

## The Station Gift Shop

The long winter nights can be made shorter when engaging in activities with your family. The Museum's Gift Shop has a wonderful selection of games and puzzles that can be enjoyed by the whole family. “The Hunt For Stolen Treasures...” is an exciting strategy board game that sends players around the world to recover missing treasures. From America to New Zealand, search the world for lost and stolen artifacts as the leader of Interpol's world-class Artifact Recovery Team. Artefacts is designed for 2 to 6 players, ages 12 and up. As with all Gift Shop purchases, Museum members receive a 20% discount.

## ***Conservation Corner....***

### ***Christening and Wedding Gowns***

Clothing from special occasions can become family treasures. Wedding gowns or christening gowns, if properly handled, may be worn by subsequent generations. While special treatments or storage procedures are not foolproof they will help prevent deterioration and damage.

After wearing, the garment should be cleaned within several days or weeks at the most. The longer soil and stains remain, the more difficult they are to remove. Over time, colourless soil and stains can age and discolour, as well as damage fabric. Soil and grit cause abrasion and deteriorate textiles. Food stains can discolour fabrics and attract insects. Perspiration stains and body oils in fabric can oxidize, turn yellow, and cause permanent damage and deterioration.

Most wedding gowns and some christening gowns require dry cleaning. Dry cleaning removes oil-based stains including greasy foods, body oils, make-up, and general soil that may collect at the hem. Be sure to tell the dry cleaners about any stains, both type and location, so they can be pre-treated with appropriate solvents.

Specifically ask the drycleaner for fresh or filtered solvent. Soil from dirty solvent can redeposit on garments, especially light-colored fabrics. The best dry cleaning advice is to work with a reputable drycleaner and discuss the possible options.

Some fabrics can be hand or machine washed satisfactorily at home. Christening gowns made from cotton, linen or synthetic blend fabrics can often be laundered. Check the care label on garments and ask the salesperson at time of purchase. If you are having a christening gown made, ask that the fabric be washed before it is cut and sewn. Laundering can remove water soluble stains. Some pre-treatment may be necessary for specific types of stains. Be certain to rinse fabrics thoroughly and do not starch if the item will be stored. Chlorine bleach should be avoided as it can cause deterioration in fabric overtime.

When handling older garments, do so with special care. Take them to a reputable drycleaner who has experience with antique fabrics. In some cases, antique cotton or linen fabrics used in christening gowns and some wedding gowns can be hand-laundered at home. Use a detergent made for delicate fabrics and warm



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water. Hand wash the garment flat in a bath tub. Delicate garments should be supported by a fiberglass screen underneath. Use it to lift the wet fabric from the tub. Fiberglass screens can be purchased at local hardware stores. Before using, wash the screen first in soap and water to remove oils, and then bind edges with muslin fabric. Excessive heat and pressure can damage older textiles. Avoid ironing these items, if possible.

Reference: Ohio State University, [www.osu.edu](http://www.osu.edu)

The May & June issue of On Track will have information on packing and storing your treasured gowns.

# Look What's Shaking Here!



Join Irene Pradyszczuk and Museum staff at the Collingwood Museum to learn about salt and pepper shaking and collecting. Have a unique shaker set of your own? Bring it along for a show and tell discussion.

Also get a sneak peek at the Museum's newest exhibit featuring salt and pepper shakers from Collingwood's public and private collections.

Thursday, March 24, 2011  
1:30pm – 2:30pm  
The Station  
45 St. Paul Street

To register please call (705) 445-4811  
or email [museum@collingwood.ca](mailto:museum@collingwood.ca)

Pre-registration is required  
Donations will be accepted for collections conservation

## March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 March Break Programming	15	16 March Break Programming	17	18 March Break Programming	19
20 First Day of Spring 	21	22	23	24 Look What's Shaking Here! 1:30pm-2:30p	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 A Lifetime Exhibit Opening 7:00pm-8:00pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Good Friday	23
24 Easter Sunday Station Closed	25 Easter Monday	26	27	28	29	30



## ***The Collingwood Museum***

Phone: (705) 445-4811  
Fax: (705) 445-9004  
Email: [museum@collingwood.ca](mailto:museum@collingwood.ca)



### ***Written & Created By:***

Museum Staff

### ***Edited By:***

Susan Warner & Melissa Shaw



## ***Membership News***

**Interested in receiving a green newsletter?**  
Send your email address to [museum@collingwood.ca](mailto: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:

Marnie Reynolds, Sharon Allan, Christine Cowley,  
Jayna Piercey, Martha Lawrence, & Marian Russell

## ***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**

