

# Collingwood Museum

## RE-ORG Edition

Newsletter: Volume 9 Issue 2



## Adventures in Storage RE-ORGanization

Collingwood Museum staff are working to complete a storage reorganization project that has taken over much of our waking hours. Local media outlets have been gracious in their coverage of the project and many community members have stopped by to view rediscovered artifacts on temporary display.

Our journey began in October, 2014, at the Ontario Museum Association Conference. Museum Supervisor Susan Warner and Museum Assistant Melissa Shaw met with staff members from the five other Ontario museums selected to form Canada's first RE-ORG initiative. Between October and March, staff worked to complete a condition report on the Collingwood Museum's largest storage room, identifying underlying issues that have led to the room's overcrowded state. A grant application for \$10,000 in federal funding through Canadian Heritage's Museum Assistance Program (MAP) was also submitted and approved.

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## Supervisor's Message

The Museum has been a hub of activity over the summer months with staff working on the reorganization project and offering children's summer programs. We are thankful to the Canadian Museums Association for its continued financial support in offering jobs to students in the museum field. Again, the Collingwood Museum was successful in attaining assistive funding for the Museum's summer team. This summer's highlights included the development and delivery of 38 unique programs offered twice daily over the course of 8 weeks; 451 program participants between the ages of 6 and 12; reuniting 72 mystery artifacts with their original accession numbers; the creation of 168 condition reports and 157 catalogue records in our collections database; and the relocation of 1,576 objects and 450 textiles as part of our RE-ORGanization project.

Staff members continue to relocate artifacts between temporary storage and permanent storage to ensure the main gallery is re-opened to the public. In November, Melissa Shaw and I will be attending the Ontario Museums Association conference to participate in a panel presentation on the Collingwood Museum's participation in Ontario's RE-ORG network. Melissa will also be delivering a separate presentation on the success of the Collingwood Museum's partnership with Gaslight Theatre Productions' Gaslight Tour. Please stay tuned for additional updates.

Please drop in and see our progress with the RE-ORG project. We would love to show you around.

*Susan Warner*, Museum Supervisor

## RE-ORG Cont'd

In March, Susan and Melissa travelled to Branford to participate in a hands-on workshop at the Brant County Museum and Archives. Over the course of three days, more than three storage rooms were reorganized, complete with new storage furniture and archival containers. Upon returning to Collingwood, staff prepared a plan detailing the necessary steps in the Collingwood Museum's storage retrofit.

To optimize existing space in storage, staff applied the \$10,000 in funding to the acquisition of eight high density mobile storage system units. Temporary shelving units were erected in the south gallery and the physical task of relocating the room's contents began. Staff have estimated the total number of artifacts in this room to exceed 4,000. Upon extraction, each of the artifacts was inventoried and weighed as staff worked to inventory the room's contents. Slowly, the room was emptied and the new storage units were installed in July.

Collections Management Summer Student Kassy Hanslep and Melissa Shaw (both pictured on page 1) offered complimentary behind-the-scenes tours to 71 community members during Collingwood's inaugural Sidelaunch Days Festival. Tour participants gained access to temporary storage shelving and ventured into storage to see the Museum's newly installed shelving units. To participate in a behind-the-scenes tour from the comfort of your home, connect with the Museum through Facebook to view weekly posts, complete with exciting finds and photographs. [www.facebook.com/collingwoodmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/collingwoodmuseum).

The task of returning the artifacts to storage is ongoing as staff await the installation of four remaining trays for the oversized document drawers. The south gallery will reopen to visitors as soon as possible.

## Summer Staff

Over the summer months, the Collingwood Museum welcomed four amazing students to our team. Three of the students worked to develop and deliver children's programming to over 400 children, while the remaining student worked closely with staff on the reorganization of large storage. Please find short introductions for each of the students below. Staff regrets these introductions did not make it to print during the summer months.

Left to right: Jacob Gardhouse, Kassandra Hanslep, Claire Currie, and Sabrina Morabito



Hello! My name is **Claire Currie** and I am looking forward to working at the Collingwood Museum as a Programmer Education Student. I grew up in Singhampton and stay with my grandma in the summer in Collingwood. I have always had a passion for learning about Collingwood's heritage and am excited to learn new things about the town over the next few months. I will be going into my third year at Queen's University in the fall where I study Health. After I graduate, I am interested in working as a healthcare administrator in a pediatrics hospital.

My name is **Kassandra Hanslep** and I am excited to be the Collections Management Summer Student this year. I have one year left in my undergraduate History degree at Western University. I acquired my love of local history last summer while volunteering at the Dufferin County Museum and Archives, and am eager to learn and work with the rich history of Collingwood. I have always been entranced by the power of museums as a tool to look back in time and preserve the past for future generations. Being here during the RE-ORG project is a privilege, as I am getting the rare opportunity to see the contents of the large artifact storage room in their entirety. This is my first job in what I hope will be a long career in the museum field.

Hello! My name is **Sabrina Morabito**. I am so excited to be a part of the Children's Programming team this summer. I've lived in Collingwood my entire life and I am glad I am able to give something back to my hometown. I am currently a student at Lakehead University in Orillia, halfway through my Honours Bachelor of Social Work program. After I've completed my schooling, I plan to live in the United Kingdom as a social worker. My dream is to continue working with youth and leave a positive impact for generations after my own.

My name is **Jacob Gardhouse** and I am excited to be working as a Programmer for this summer's Children's Programming! I have lived in the same home in Collingwood for my entire life, and I think that this town is amazing. I am going into my third year at Queen's University in the Concurrent Education program. I plan on becoming a history teacher after I graduate from my 5-year program in 2018. I have worked at summer day camps since 2012 and I am looking forward to learning even more from the programs and the kids this year at the Collingwood Museum!



# Membership News

Are you interested in receiving a green newsletter?  
Please share your email address with us at [museum@collingwood.ca](mailto:museum@collingwood.ca)

## A special thank to our new and returning members:

Natalie Davidson, Helen Geissinger, Alan Shiels, Laurie Stevenson, Fred & Susan Holmes, Raymond Williams, Global Hospitality Inc., Ken Maher Family, Marty Bruce, Del Weale, Veronica Miller, Jean Young, Agatha Tawaststjerna, Ruben & Judy Rosen, Barbara Hillis, Bertha Connolly, Tory White, Chris Yonghusband, Lindsay Lyall, Michael Moir, Don & Joyce Brown, Marion Fenwick, Martine Culham, Kirk Jones, Mandy Greenfield, John Shortt, Mary Thompson, Fritz Schuller, Glenn Copeland, Millie Mirrlees, Andrew Murie, Ruth Daniels, & Pamela & John Alston



Left: Judith Pipher, member and volunteer, demonstrates textile labeling techniques for summer student Kassy Hantsle.

Right: Ken Maher, member and museum advisory committee member, helps to inventory the Museum's map collection.

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Hours of Operation:  
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9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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