



Explorer piques interest of children



Left to right: Norwegian Explorer Roald Amundsen, a metal branding iron from Amundsen's vessel *Fram*, Amundsen's initials ("R" and "A") on a tin cup, and participants in the Museum's Eccentric Explorers P.A. Day program on January 31st.

Relating to the life of an individual who lived 100 years ago is often difficult; attempting to understand the life and exploits of an early 20th century explorer is a different challenge altogether.

On Friday, January 31st, Museum staff shared the fascinating story of celebrated Norwegian Explorer Roald Amundsen with fourteen eager participants in the Eccentric Explorers P.A. Day Program.

Photographs of Amundsen and his crew outfitted in reindeer skins and equipped with skis and sledges were enough to catch the children's attention. Learning that Amundsen took 97 dogs to Ant-

arctica aboard his ship *Fram* sealed the deal. They were hooked!

Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) claimed many firsts in his career as an explorer. After becoming the first to successfully navigate the Northwest Passage (1903-1906), Amundsen turned his sights south and became the first to reach the South Pole (1910-1912). He is also recorded as being the first man to visit both the North and South Poles.

These early expeditions were the focus of the Eccentric Explorers program.

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Supervisor's Message

It's been a chilly winter to say the least. Inside Collingwood's "Station", Museum staff have been staying warm, planning upcoming P.A. Day, March Break and summer programs for children ages 6-12. Please see the enclosed flyer for our March Break offerings, and make sure to read about January's successful Eccentric Explorers P.A. Day Program. Information on this year's summer offerings is available in the Collingwood Community Activity Guide: Spring and Summer 2014 edition. Physical copies can be picked up at Town Hall, and a PDF version may be accessed online at www.collingwood.ca/parks-rec-culture.

The Museum has applied to receive federal funding for four summer students through the Young Canada Works Grant. We have been fortunate to have received funding from this grant for the last several years. Obtaining federal and provincial grants (including the Community Museum Operating Grant [CMOG], Rural Summer Jobs, and Summer Experience Program) are imperative to the Museum's successful operation.

Staff are planning a spring excursion to neighbouring heritage sites for Collingwood Museum members and the general public. Information on this exciting opportunity will be available on the Museum's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/collingwoodmuseum), and website (www.collingwood.ca/museum). Members will be eligible for early-bird registration and a reduced fee. Please check your mail box or inbox for additional information. Curious about our destinations? Here's a hint: One of the "sites" we are hoping to visit was featured on CBC's popular television show *Murdoch Mysteries*.

Wishing you a warm spring!

Susan Warner, *Museum Supervisor*

Gaslight Tour, 2014: Update



"C" Company and Bugle Band, 177th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., Collingwood, Ontario, March 27, 1917
Collingwood Museum Collection, X971.673.1

Once again the Collingwood Museum will be partnering with Gaslight Tour to bring Collingwood's history to life over four days in November. Last year's theme, *Launching a Legacy*, was very well received and the local talent demonstrated in each performance was truly astounding.

This year's working title is "Remembering the Great War" in honour of the centenary of World War I (1914-1918). If you have any information or stories to share about the lives of Collingwood residents during this tumultuous time in history, please contact Collingwood Museum staff. Also, if you are interested in assisting with research for this year's Tour, we would love to hear from you. Please stay tuned for additional information in upcoming editions of *On Track*.



Lindsay Cook, Casual Station Attendant

The Collingwood Museum welcomes Casual Station Attendant Lindsay Cook to the Station team. Lindsay has a degree in Museum Studies and has previously worked in collections management, exhibit planning, and educational programming for museums and historic sites throughout Canada and the United States. Lindsay has called Collingwood home for over 10 years. You may have met her in her previous role as chair of the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee. Currently, Lindsay is working on educational program development for the Museum. She also can be found at the Craighleith Depot and assisting in special events hosted by the Town's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

Explorer Cont'd

In 1931 a former Collingwood resident, then in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), donated to Collingwood's early museum (The Huron Institute) a unique collection of artifacts used by Amundsen on his polar expeditions.

The items were acquired by HBC when Amundsen's vessel *Maud* was purchased to service the Company's outposts along the Northwest Passage in 1925. The donation is now in the care of the

Collingwood Museum and consists of Amundsen's monogrammed cup, two large hooks, a fork used aboard *Fram*, a branding iron, a photograph of *Maud*, and a masthead lantern. The entire collection, with the exception of the photograph, is currently on display in the Museum's gallery.

Make sure to check out the name of the Canadian ice breaker featured on the back of the new Canadian \$50 bill. Any guesses?

Fork with "Fram" inscription, X972.688.1
Large hook, X972.692.1

Station Sidelaunchers



Collingwood Museum staff and volunteers laced up their bowling shoes on Friday, February 28th, for an evening of fun in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids Sake. Participating in this event has become an annual tradition for the Museum team which has been fondly named the Station Sidelaunchers. This year the Station Sidelaunchers raised \$483.00. Thank you to our generous donors for your contribution to this annual event.

Left to right: Irene Pradyszczuk, Jackie Plater, Melissa Shaw, and Judith Pipher

**The Collingwood
Museum**



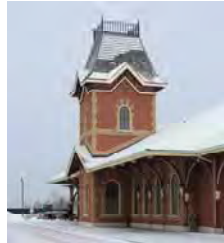
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Membership News



Interested in receiving a green newsletter?
Send your email address to
museum@collingwood.ca

**A special thank you from the staff at the Collingwood Museum
to our new and returning members:**

Harold Zukerman, Kathryn Scott, Marty Bruce, Marilyn Eger,
Joan Campbell, Judy Rosen, James Mirrlees,
Agatha Tawaststjerna, Nancy Pilkington, George Foster,
Jean Ferguson, Jim Worts, Peter Coates, Raymond Williams,
Fred & Susan Holmes

Hours of Operation

Monday - Sunday, 9am-5pm
Please call for holiday hours.

The Collingwood Museum

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Take a Look Inside

