



## Cataloguing Collingwood's Past

The scrapbooks of the Huron Institute's first curator, David Williams, provide important chronicles of Collingwood's early twentieth century history and have yielded significant discoveries in documents, photographs, and a variety of other archival materials. One of this summer's projects included the cataloguing of a David Williams Scrapbook that covers the period between May 15, 1933 and December 31, 1938. This project has provided the Collingwood Museum with a new and exciting research tool while expanding our understanding of David Williams' Scrapbooks as both historical artifacts and personal history.

### The Project

The two month cataloging project was undertaken from June 28<sup>th</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup> and included the stabilization and cataloguing of 172 items, plus the scrapbook's remaining contents. Documents such as programmes, receipts, booklets, posters, leaflets, and contacts, as well as photographic prints were stabilized, while newspaper items remain attached. When stabilization was not possible, full transcriptions have been included in the catalogue.

### David Williams: The Scrapbook as a Personal History

David Williams is possibly one of Collingwood's most notable historical figures. His numerous roles in municipal and regional public life included founding and supporting the Huron Institute between 1904 and 1944, election as Mayor of Collingwood in 1933 and 1934, owning and operating the Enterprise-Bulletin Newspaper, and serving as president of the Collingwood Board of Trade and the Ontario Historical Society. The combination of these roles in public life with his passion for local and regional history influenced the choice in documents and articles collected between the pages of his scrapbooks.

Many programmes from local events and invitations to memorials and dedication services are addressed to Williams personally. Events such as the Reopening of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Centennial Celebration in the Village of Duntroon, the graduation exercises of the Nurses School at the General and Marine Hospital and the historical exhibits at the Great Northern Exhibition were attended by, and often highlighted, the dedicated and much celebrated historian that David Williams became.



Noah Morritt, Collections Management Assistant, with a David Williams Scrapbook.

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# Supervisor's Message

The colours are a changin'!

Since the summer students' return to school, the summer season has officially come to an end. This seasonal change will affect the museum's open hours. Beginning October 12, 2010, the museum gallery will be open Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-3:00pm. On holidays, the museum will be open from 10:00am-3:00pm. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, museum staff will be planning and installing new exhibits in the gallery. We are currently working alongside a member of the Museum Advisory Committee to develop an exhibit to be installed before Christmas. Stay tuned for updates in the next edition of On Track.

The museum was buzzing again this summer with four students. Please see pages 3 and 5 for the students' farewell summaries of their time here at the museum. We had such a productive summer and were sad to say goodbye.

During the months of October and November the museum will be hosting two guest speakers. Please refer to page 6 for information on these exciting events. Both presentations promise to be enjoyable learning experiences.

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of a longtime supporter of the Collingwood Museum, Mr. Joseph (Chic) Simonato. Mr. Simonato has left behind a rich legacy on the Station grounds in the Honour Walls, the refurbished cenotaph, and a two volume history of Collingwood's military involvement. Mr. Simonato also served on the Museum Advisory Committee for several years. We will miss his contagious smile and undying passion for Collingwood's history. We extend our sincerest sympathy to the Simonato family.

*Susan Warner, Museum Supervisor*

## Local Trivia Challenge...The Library then and now

1. A committee was formed in \_\_\_\_\_ and was named the Mechanics Institute and Library Association.
2. The books were first housed in the second floor rooms of the \_\_\_\_\_ building on Hurontario Street.
3. In 1896 the library collection was turned over to the town of Collingwood and a Board of Management was formed with \_\_\_\_\_ as chairman.
4. The land for a library at the corner of Second and Maple Streets was donated by brothers Thomas and John J. \_\_\_\_\_.
5. American Philanthropist \_\_\_\_\_ funded the new library which opened in 1904.
6. The Carnegie Library and Huron Institute were destroyed by fire in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A new library was built in \_\_\_\_\_ on the site of the original Carnegie Library.
8. The newest library was officially opened on \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The first two floors are devoted to the Collingwood Library while the third floor is the home of the Town's \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ square foot building is located at 55 St. Marie Street.



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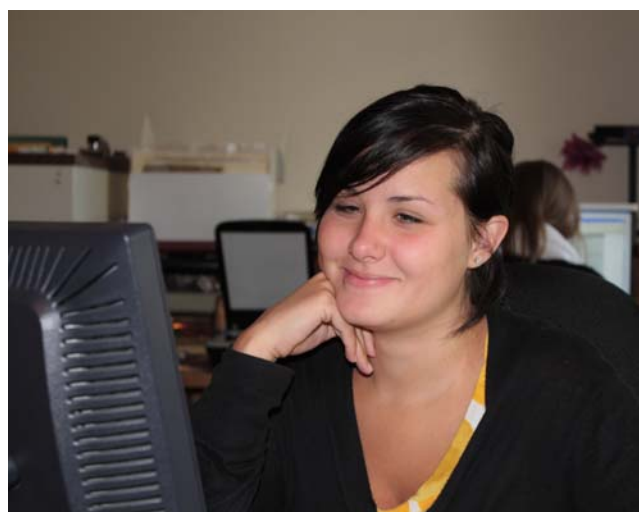
10. 30,000
  - Department
  9. Building and Planning
  8. Thursday, May 27th, 2010
  7. 1964
  6. 1963
  5. Andrew Carnegie
  4. Long
  3. William Williams
  2. Mason's
  1. 1856
- Answers



**Deanne Rowbotham**

It is hard to believe that summer has quickly coming to a close! I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Collingwood Museum and the staff for giving me the chance to participate in Children's Summer Programmes. The positive response we have received from participants has been overwhelming. It has been an honour to work with so many wonderful children, parents and grandparents over the course of the summer. It has been a joy to be part of such a great summer of educational programming. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of participating in Museum Programmes and I hope all those who took part this summer can say the same. I wish all the best to the children, parents and grandparents in the future and hope that they continue to create memories here at the Collingwood Museum.

I have had a fantastic three months working at the Collingwood Museum as one of two Collections Summer students. I've spent my summer researching and cataloguing artifacts that had no apparent museum records attributed to them. I undertook two bigger projects among the various photos, documents and objects in the collection. I grouped bibles, as well as registers, ledgers and cashbooks of all the original hotels and stores in Collingwood and entered their respective information into the Museum's centralized database. The hotel registers and ledgers were of particular interest to me as I was able to trace the origins and history of some of Collingwood's early visitors. Over the summer I extensively searched for information on 226, 186 of which were numbered and documented. I really enjoyed working with the collection and have developed valuable skills that will definitely help me with my career choices in the future and for this I would like to thank the museum and its incredible staff for this amazing opportunity.



**Jessica Crawford**



**Venetia Boehmer**

Is it really that time of year again? This summer has flown by so quickly here at the Collingwood Museum! I will be returning to Brock University in the next couple of weeks to start my Master's Degree in Aboriginal History. It is going to be hard work, but my employment here at the Museum has left me refreshed and stimulated for more learning. Our Summer Children's Fun Programmes have been an absolute pleasure to facilitate! I am grateful to have worked with so many wonderful children, parents, grandparents and coworkers. We have received very positive and informative feedback from our participants and their families. I feel quite proud to have been a part of such a delightful summer of programming. I really enjoyed getting more connected to our community this summer, and hope our young visitors can say the same.

## Conservation Corner... Finding a Conservator

Have you ever wondered how to find a professional conservator on your own? Managing your own collection may require resources beyond those available in your personal research. An accredited expert in the field may be required.

Conservators are professionals who deal with the long term health and wellbeing of our historical heritage. They understand the technology needed to preserve an historically significant object. They conduct remedial treatments to correct potentially catastrophic situations, as well as provide information on correct storage and display environments.

The Canadian Association of Professional Conservators (CAPC) issues accreditation to professionals with high levels of knowledge and skills in specific areas of conservation. To belong to CAPC, members must have received training in conservation through an accredited programme or apprenticeship, and have a minimum of six years experience in conservation training and practice, or three years of conservation practice

after graduation from a conservation programme. The member must be actively involved in the conservation field during the last four years and must be currently active in the field of conservation.

By selecting a conservator who is a member in good standing of CAPC, a private collector can be assured they are dealing with an individual who has demonstrated professional competence in his or her accredited field. Visit the CAPC site online at <http://capc-acrp.ca> for further information.

Additional information on Heritage Conservation in Canada can be found online at the Canadian Association for Conservation: <http://www.cac-accr.ca>.

Some of the courses available to qualify as a conservator include: Algonquin College's Applied Museum Studies Program, Queens's University's Art Conservation and Sir Sandford Fleming College's Collections Conservation and Management Program.

For a first-hand look at the magnificent work of a qualified conservator, one need not look further than Father Time. The conservation of the museum's statue known as Father Time was completed in January 2010 by Alex Gabov, a professional sculpture conservator from Kingston, Ontario. His work took five days of tender loving care and enormous expertise. Father Time again watches over the Collingwood Museum, looking as handsome as he did when he first graced the storefront of Godfrey McLean's jewellery store on Hurontario Street in c1878.

## The Station Gift Shop

The gift shop has a beautiful selection of journals and small items designed by *Phasha Inc.* The journals are imported from India and are made from hand cut leather and contain 100% recycled cotton paper. *Phasha* hires many people in a small town in India and is helping to boost the local economy. Items range in price from **\$3.75** for a hand cut leather book mark to **\$5.95** for a small journal and **\$34.95** for a large journal adorned with a semi-precious stone. *Phasha* products make great holiday gifts and have become one of the most popular items in the gift shop. We frequently receive new items so please come in and have a look. Remember, museum members always receive a **20% discount** on all non-sale items.

# Cataloguing Cont'd

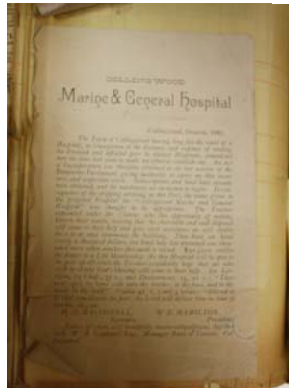
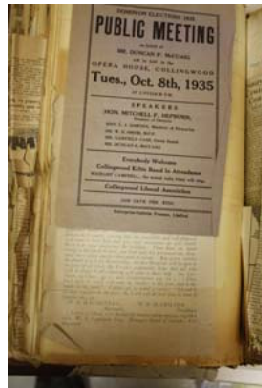
The 1933-1938 volume is therefore not only a chronology of Collingwood's depression era history, but also a testament to Williams' success as a curator, historian, newspaper editor and public figure.

## Preserving the Scrapbook as a Historical Artifact

While conservation and preservation have remained key objectives throughout the project, the recording of each item's original location and content have ensured that the historical and documentary contexts of the book have been preserved. Using this, the Collingwood Museum's Collections Management Team can now begin to understand the significance of the scrapbook and its contents within both the museum's collection and Collingwood's public history.

Public history, in this instance, is the best label to describe the nature of the scrapbook's contents. Topics such as municipal politics, local events, deaths, anniversaries, memorials, dedications, speeches, and local news dominate the contents of almost every page. The social and political life of the town is documented almost seamlessly within the daily lives of Collingwood's depression era residents, owing entirely to David Williams' relentless commitment to professional and meticulous documentation.

Upon reflection, it is important to remember the general historical events to which this scrapbook bears witness. The great depression and those social and economic difficulties that were experienced by so many Collingwood residents are recalled through numerous election campaign advertisements, political posters, and newspaper articles. However, the accounts of extreme social misery and economic devastation that one may expect to find are noticeably absent as the documents from local churches, programmes from local organizations, and newspaper articles about the general lives of townspeople, provide a collective account of continuity and optimism in Collingwood public life.



Just 3 of the 222 pages that Noah meticulously entered into the museum's searchable database.

Hello everyone. It has been a pleasure to work here at the museum and with its incredible collection. I have been researching and cataloguing mystery artifacts in the museum's collection this summer. In addition to mystery artifact research, I was also given the incredible opportunity to catalogue and research a David Williams Scrapbook that covered the period from 1933 to 1938. Over a period of two months I catalogued 222 pages and stabilized 172 documents, which are now stored in the Collingwood Museum's Archives. I would like to thank the museum for this incredible opportunity and all that I have learned over the course of the summer.

Noah Morrill  
(Photograph on page 1)

## Upcoming Events



Author Paul Carroll will be joining us in Collingwood to discuss his newest book entitled *The Wexford: Elusive Shipwreck of the Great Storm*. Come learn about Collingwood's relationship to this ill-fated ship. Here's a hint: The *Wexford* wasn't built here, but in England in 1883.

Thursday, October 28, 2010  
7:00pm-8:30pm  
Council Chambers, Town Hall  
97 Hurontario Street  
**Admission by Donation**  
**Pre-registration required at 445-4811**

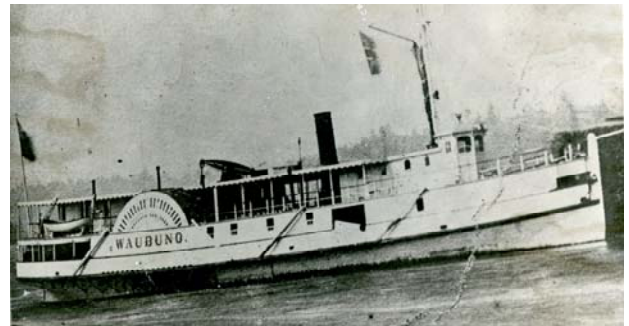
Signed copies of *The Wexford* will be available for purchase following Paul Carroll's presentation.

Come join Kevin Moyses, local songwriter, as he shares the shipping triumphs and disasters of Georgian Bay's legendary ships through song. The "Songs of Georgian Bay" tells the dramatic stories of such ships as the *Mary Ward* and *Waubuno*, as well as the valiant captains who guided them.

Come see (and hear) Kevin's creativity at work while learning about Georgian Bay's treacherous waters.

Tuesday, November 16, 2010  
7:00pm-8:30pm  
Council Chambers, Town Hall  
97 Hurontario Street  
**Admission by Donation**  
**Pre-registration required at 445-4811**

Copies of "The Songs of Georgian Bay" will be available for purchase following the presentation.



Waubuno

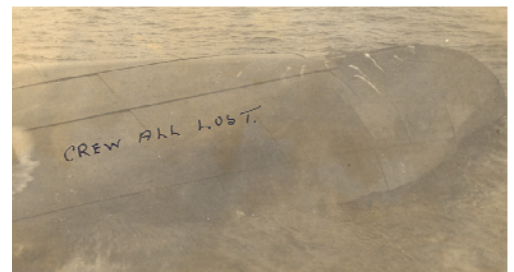


Mary Ward

## Ghosts of Georgian Bay Story Competition

Collingwood's student population has been invited to participate in the Collingwood Museum's annual ghost story competition. This year's theme is The Great Storm of 1913, otherwise known as "White Hurricane". Approximately 248 lives were lost in the devastating November gale with 90 ships destroyed and 90 more damaged.

If you know a local child, 16 years of age or younger, who would like to participate, please contact museum staff for more information. Submissions will be accepted at the museum between September 27 and October 25, 2010. Submissions must be received by 4:00pm on the closing date.



The *Charles S. Prince* bottom-side up following the Great Storm. All crew members were lost.

## September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <b>Labour Day</b>	7 Back to School	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 First Day of Autumn	24	25
26	27 Story Competition Opens	28	29	30		

## October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	12	13 Gallery Closed	14 Gallery Closed	15	16
17	18	19	20 Gallery Closed	21 Gallery Closed	22	23
24	25 Story Competition Closes 4pm	26	27 Gallery Closed	28 Wexford Book Talk 7:00-8:30 pm	29	30
31 <b>Hallowe'en</b>						

## ***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:

**Tony & Janice Veiga, Patricia Miscampbell,  
Maureen Whittaker, Margaret Agar, Emo Family,  
Scott Cameron & Robert McMullen**

## ***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**

