

The Centennial Herald

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Promoting the rich history of Penetanguishene



Ghostly Encounters at the Museum



Rescue Mediums come to the Museum

For years I have heard stories about ghosts and strange occurrences at the museum and I have always tried to ignore them. Every time there was a strange noise upstairs or a loud crash, I would tell myself that it was just an old building that creaked a little bit. Every time that the front door would open by itself, I would tell myself that it was just a big gust of wind that probably came out of nowhere. Whenever a new employee would begin here, they would always ask about ghosts because they felt a strange feeling of being watched. I would always assure the person that there was no ghost here. Of course the employee would always ask around and other employees and volunteers would tell them about their ghostly encounters, but I would never listen. I always maintained that there were no ghosts here even though I had plenty of experiences that I just couldn't explain. The most recent strange experience happened over month ago when my co-worker Jan was looking at some photos that were taken at our Breakfast with Santa event. In the back of one photo was a ghostly but unmistakable face staring out from the back of a wooden hutch. Perhaps we were just seeing something that our imaginations wanted, but

whenever we showed the photo to someone they would also see the image of the man. This was my final straw into finally admitting that we might perhaps have some ghosts here at the museum. Jan is a fan of the television show Rescue Mediums, where two ladies with psychic ability visit haunted homes. She suggested that I contact the show to see if they could visit the museum. I sent off an email to the producers of the show and was surprised when they contacted me the same day! Perhaps they don't get a lot of requests, or perhaps my email was just interesting enough to peak their interest. Two of the producers came out to the museum the next week and instantly decided that they wanted to have a show here. It worried me that the two host ladies were coming all the way from England, what if they didn't find anything? But if I feared that they wouldn't find anything, then I would have to admit that there is a possibility that they might actually find something!

On Sunday, April 3rd the crew arrived at the museum to start filming the museum staff, asking us about our experiences and what we hoped to find. The ladies arrived through the week and we got to sit down and go through their premonitions. The premonitions part was quite eerie as they had experiences and names that connected not only to the museum but also to our personal lives.

The Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives

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Most of the personal information will be edited out of the final show, but because of those premonitions I am now officially a believer! After they gave us the premonitions, the staff was asked to leave so that the two ladies could go through the museum and record their encounters. Before they visited, I made sure to put away all text within the museum so names and dates would not affect their findings.

Three days later, we met with the ladies and the crew and they told us what they had experienced over two days at the museum. They also showed us the research they had done on the third day to identify who they had encountered. I do not want to ruin the surprise, but the findings were very interesting. Apparently there was quite a bit of activity at the museum, and now we work in peace. Everyone that was part of the production was very nice and it was a great experience to be part of a television show especially when the museum and its inhabitants are the star of the show.

When will the show premiere? I do not know but the producers believe that it will take up to 4 month to edit the program and then they will send us a copy of the show. Keep looking for the show on your television and once I know the exact date I will include it in our next newsletter, send it out in an email, post it on the museum's facebook page, and probably tell everyone that I know or bump into on the streets.

Written by Nicole Jackson—Curator



L-R Rescue Medium Alison, staff members, Ashley, Jan, Nicole and Rescue Medium Jackie.



FROM THE CURATORIAL ASSISTANT



Breakfast with Santa

The third annual Breakfast with Santa was again very successful. This year breakfast was served to 154 of Santa's friends, many of whom were annual supporters, and many were first time diners. No one was disappointed as the museum was decorated top to bottom, and in addition to breakfast there were many other activities for the children to participate in. They were able to visit with Santa and whisper those last minute requests, make a jingle bell necklace to take home, play a game of Pin the Nose on Rudolph and find many hidden Christmas objects in the museum in order to receive a prize. The winner of the door prize this year was Tyler Lorette of Penetanguishene. Tyler was able to take home the board game Candy Land. All of the above was offered at a great value price of \$5.00 per person.

As always our volunteers proved to be invaluable and sincere gratitude goes out to the following individuals: the entire Baboolal Family, Jill Hipkin, Ashley Beck, Dale Gadsdon, Pam Tessier, Anna Howard, Eden Garrett, Brittany MacPhail, Erica Bramwell, Jonathon Wiedrich and the Katimavik participants. I would also like to recognize a very special couple, Doug and Carol Rawson of Rawson Meat and Deli in Penetanguishene. Several times throughout the year I approach them with requests for assistance, and am never turned down. I am very grateful for all that they do and donate towards Children's Programs at the museum.

March Break Camp

March Break Camp has shown significant growth in the past few years. However, this year was unprecedented with camp filling to capacity within the first five days of advertizing. It was disappointing to have to turn families away, but limited staff at this time of year does not allow us

to take the large numbers that we do in the summer. We hope to be able to welcome those families to our summer day camp.

We welcomed back Ashley Beck as a counselor and Anna Howard volunteered her time with us. Thank you Anna for giving up your precious time off school to spend it with us tying skates. Of the 101 children who attended, a great number were new to us and many were old friends. Within a short time they were all best buddies and shared a number of fun filled experiences. Tuesday and Thursday saw us skating at the Penetanguishene Arena, Wednesday we bowled in the dark at Knights of Columbus Bowling Alley and Friday we viewed a movie in the Bayfield House theater room. In between excursions we made crafts, played games and danced a fair bit! Thank you to Bayfield House for accommodating us so readily. Also thank you to Pam Tessier and Glen Johansen for your assistance at the arena.

Campbell Soup Label Redemption Program

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to save and drop off labels. We have collected double the amount from last year, and still have a few weeks before we need to submit for the current year. KEEP SAVING PLEASE! I am hopeful this year to be able to obtain a portable hopscotch mat , but are still 500 pts short of this goal. However, whatever we are able to get we appreciate your efforts and look forward to receiving your continued donations.

As a reminder, the following are eligible products:

Campbell's Soup/Chunky/Healthy Request
Pepperidge Farms
Swanson
Prego Italian Sauces
V8 Beverages
V8 Soup
V8 Splash
Spaghettios
Pace Salsa
Habitant
Ramen Noodles



Summer Day Camp

In view of the very quick response to March Break Camp, I have completed the brochure for summer camp earlier this year than in the past. It is now available for pick up at the museum, emailing or faxing to you. Plans look very exciting with a number of new trips and activities including a visit to Horseshoe Valley Resort for summer tubing and four tiered mini putt. Also new this year will see us visit Little Lake Park Monday mornings and YMCA swimming each Monday afternoon. We are very excited to welcome back counselors Ashley Beck and Zach Quesnelle. Both are highly energetic, caring and respectful of all the children. Part of the pride of our camp is the relationships we work at forming with each individual child. At this point in time we are still in the interview stage for our third counselor. If you require further camp information or wish to register you may call 705-5492150, email jgadsdon@pencenmuseum.com or fax 705-549-7542.

Summer Camp Wish List

If you have the following items kicking around your house, please consider donating them to summer camp

Bathing suits suitable for ages 4 – 12
Beach towels
Tricycles in good working condition
Scooters in good working condition
Plastic cups
Plastic bowls
Large serving trays
Dinky cars
Large outdoor toys in sound condition i.e. wagon
Umbrella stroller in good condition
Wading pools in good condition (no leaks or sharp edges please)
If you have something you feel we may be able to use, please give us a call

Written by Jan Gadsdon, Program's Coordinator

From the Genealogy & History Research Center

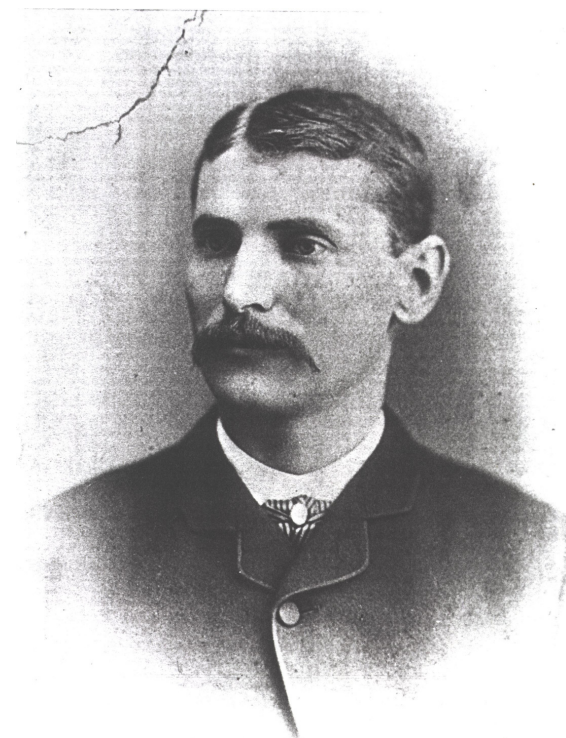
From "The Town Shelf" – The Hewson Collection. Regular visitors, readers of this newsletter, and researchers to the Research Centre will be familiar with the name of W.H. Hewson. Recently, the shelves of the research room have been re-arranged and an entire section has been devoted to "The Hewson Collection". So – you may well be justified in asking "Who was W.H. Hewson?" Well – there were two W.H. Hewsons whose works we refer to these days, We'll start with W.H. Hewson the elder. William Hutchinson Hewson was not only the town's clerk from 1892 to 1928; he was also the local magistrate, justice of the peace, notary, town attorney, and "go to" guy for a majority of the citizens of not only Penetanguishene, but of surrounding communities. At one point he was even the town mayor. His services as an attorney were sought by local citizens and businessmen of the day for matters from drawing up wills to negotiating separation agreements, to assisting with set up (and break down) of businesses – well, just about any function you can imagine for which an attorney was required. In addition, during his duties as presiding judge, he was called upon to dispense justice for offenses range from those of youngsters breaking windows of local businesses, raiding gardens and fighting with each other; to more adult crimes such as neighbors swearing and cussing at each other, break and enter and thefts, many many cases of "drunk, disorderly and helpless", bootlegging, moonshining, cockfighting – and to negotiating (quite often with the help of the local priest) marriage breakdown / separation agreements. You think Penetanguishene and community were sleepy little towns in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries? Well – you'd be surprised. Fortunately for us, in his capacity as clerk Mr. Hewson kept journals / ledgers of his transactions. Detailed, thorough and full of valuable information to historians and family researchers. Land transactions are written with very precise land descriptions – some in metes and bounds, some in links and chains, some in

feet and miles. His works provide a unique glimpse into the past of our community. Who bought land from whom, who moved out of town and where did they move to; who was fighting with their wife/husband; what families had to have their children looked after by the child welfare officials; who was a chronic "bad boy or bad girl"and so on. We've extremely lucky to have these journals in our archival holdings, and even more fortunate in that I, a volunteer, has been granted the privilege of accessing these treasures for the purpose of transcribing them and placing them on the shelves for researchers to dig into. By reading through these ledgers, the researcher can not only meet up with ancestors and their neighbours, but also find out what businesses were operating in town. Who owned and operated the Chinese restaurant. Who were the barbers, the grocers, the teachers? Who worked on the railway? Many of the transcriptions have also had data extracted from them to provide extra information – out of town addresses, common occupations etc. In addition, most of them are indexed for easy access to the folks you're interested in learning more about.

For biographical or further information on Mr. Hewson, and to view the transcriptions on the shelves, pop in to the Research Centre. Next issue, we'll talk about the next generation Hewson to follow in the footsteps of his father.

See you
soon!

Deb
Crawford





Easter Eggstravaganza

Listen carefully and you will hear a faint thumping. Do you hear it? That would be the sound of the good old Easter Bunny's big floppy feet hopping their way toward the museum. He will arrive on Saturday April 23rd and will be here from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Don't miss out on a chance of getting a big furry hug!

In addition to hugs (which everyone likes) there will be our annual Egg Hunt, where the children will search for colour coded eggs to receive a treat from the bunny, non competitive games and crafts for the children to take home. All of the above will be offered at \$2.00 per child. Adults are free of charge.

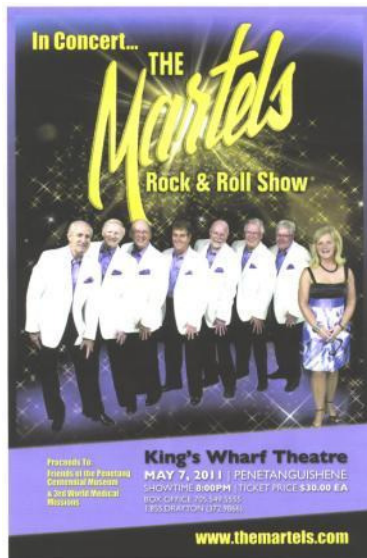


The Martel's Concert is back!

Don't forget to purchase your tickets to the Martel's Concert on Saturday, May 7th at the King's Wharf Theatre. Tickets are only \$30 each and show-time is 8:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets please call the box office at 705-549-5555 or 1-855-Drayton (372-9866).

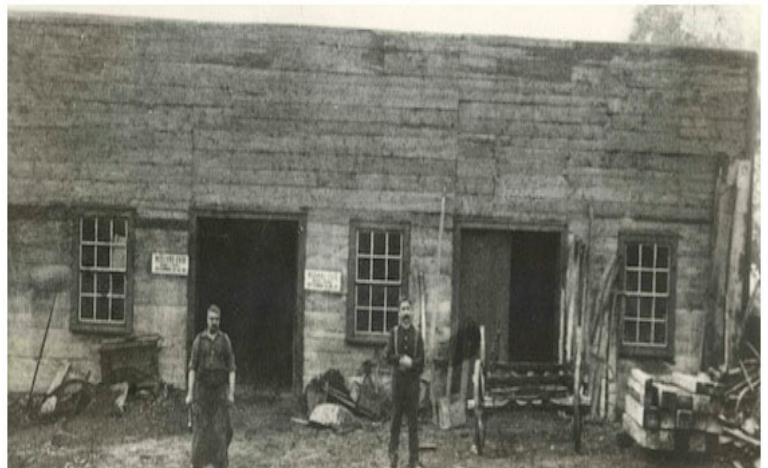
Proceeds from the concerts go to the Friends of the Penetanguishene Museum & 3rd World Medical Missions.



Settlers' Day Dinner Honouring the St. Amant Family September 24th

Every year the museum chooses a person or family that has contributed to the social, political or economical development of the Town of Penetanguishene. Last year, we saw great success when we honoured Father Laboureau who was instrumental in the building of the St. Ann's Church. This year we have chosen the St. Amant family and in particular for their business St. Amant & Sons Inc. which is the oldest family owned and operated business in Penetanguishene. St. Amant & Sons Inc. started with Etienne St. Amant a local blacksmith, plumber and all around fixit man in the 1800's. The business still sits at its original location on Robert Street and what was once a livestock stable is now 13, 00 square foot showroom with of-fice space.

The dinner is a night to celebrate the history of Penetanguishene and perhaps learn a little bit about some of our founding families. Usually the dinner is held at the Inn at Bay Moorings, but this year we will be holding it a Park Place on Saturday, September 24th. Tickets are only \$50 (with a partial tax receipt) and the evening will include dinner, silent auction, dancing and a video that will show the history of the St. Amant family, as well as a plaque presentation. Don't hesitate to purchase your tickets, it's going to be a great evening.



Picture of H.S. St. Amant's taken in the 1800's.
Picture is from H.S. St. Amant & Sons Inc. website.



CALL FOR ENTERTAINERS



The Museum offers free concerts to the community on Sunday evenings throughout the summer months. Are you in a band? Can you sing, play an instrument or entertain a crowd in any other (relatively polite) way? The Museum needs artists that are willing to donate an hour or two of their talents. In return we are giving the artists a free membership to the museum as well as a wonderful venue to entertain the public. To book a spot or for more info, please call the PCMA.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thank you to the following who have renewed their memberships or become new members since the last Centennial Herald.

Fred & Susan Holmes
 Cathy Beaudet
 Stacy McMillan
 Prima McIntosh
 Tom Lackey & family
 Lorraine Dault & family
 Art Foster
 Mary Moreau
 Herbert Lortie & family
 George Lemere
 Don Charlebois
 Carol McConnell
 Moreland Lynn
 J.B. Jennings
 Keith O'Hara
 Aldo Melleo
 Suzanne Rose



**Tim Mohan
 Art Exhibit & Sale
 May 1 to June 18**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Easter Eggstravaganza

April 4th
 11am to 2pm
 \$2.00 per child

The Martels Rock & Roll Show

Fundraising Concert
 May 7
 \$30.00 per ticket
 Call 705-549-5555

Doors Open Huronia

June 4 & 5
 FREE ADMISSION
 9am to 4:30pm

Museum Day Camp

June 30 to September 2
 9am to 4:30 pm
 \$90/wk or \$20/day for non-members
 \$80/wk or \$18/day for members

Canada Day at the Museum

July 1st
 11am to 6 pm
 FREE ADMISSION



Sunday Evening Concert Series

July 10 to September 2
 7 pm to 9pm
 FREE ADMISSION

