

The Centennial Herald

February 2010

ISSN 1205-8874

Issue 60



Promoting the rich history of Penetanguishene

**Long and cold winter?
Come visit the Museum!**



Happy New Year to all, 2009 was another great year at the museum as we welcomed over 5000 people to the museum through visitations, special events, education programs and our March Break and summer day camps. 2010 looks to be another exciting year and we are starting it off with a list of exciting events to get you through the long winter including Family Day, Winterama weekend, Heritage Month and March Break Day Camp.

Winterama Weekend at the Museum

Once again the Museum will be participating in the Town of Penetanguishene's annual Winterama weekend with a host of activities and exhibits. By the Bay Rug Hookers will be exhibiting a Rug Hooking display in the Great Hall of the museum from Friday, February 19th to Sunday, February 21st. The rug hookers exhibited a wonderful exhibit in 2008 and we are pleased that they will be returning this year. We will also have a collection of photographs from winterama celebrations in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as a video presentation on the history of the scoot racing boats. Admission to the museum will be \$2, quite a bargain for all that is offered.

In addition to our events inside the museum, the Friends of the Museum will be back inside the replica fire hall cooking up their pea soup and chili on Saturday, February 20th from 11am to 3 pm. Price for a bowl of chili, bun and drink will be \$5.00 and \$4.00 for a pea soup combo. For information on all of the other Winterama activities in Penetanguishene please visit <http://www.penetanguishene.ca/siteengine/ActivePage.asp?PageID=43>

Artifacts & Archives

Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who donated their treasured items to the museum. In 2009 we accessioned over 250 pieces or collections of artifacts/archival materials pertaining to the history of Penetanguishene and North Simcoe. One of our largest and most impressive item was a Stodart 1847 square piano which now stands near our music section of the museum. This rosewood antique piano was painstakingly preserved by its owner and then generously donated to the museum. It still plays a nice tune so please come down and take a look and see how we've changed some of our exhibits.

The Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives

13 Burke Street, Penetanguishene, Ontario L9M 1C1

Tel (705) 549-2150 Fax (705) 549-7542 www.pencenmuseum.com info@pencenmuseum.com

From the Genealogy & History Research Center

As we begin the year 2010, it is fitting to thank all our volunteers who gave so much in time and effort during the past year. It is because of you and your keen interest in things historical that we are able to preserve and protect the history of our town and its people.

Now that the 2009 holidays are just another memory, it is time to try to figure out how we are going to keep ourselves occupied for the remainder of the winter. February gives us some great opportunities. Not only is it Black History month but it is Heritage Month as well. Family Day is also celebrated in February and you will find much to do at the museum. See elsewhere in this newsletter.

Family Day – a day to celebrate not just the family with which we live, but our extended families as well. What a great time to begin your genealogical journey! Come up to the Research Centre and we will introduce you to your historical and genealogical collection. It is yours – it belongs to every citizen of this town. By the way, your ancestors need not have settled in this area. With computer access to many databases, you can now do research anywhere in the world from a chair in the Research Centre. Drop in anytime on Wednesdays or Saturday mornings and let us help you start down another interesting path in your life. Winter will fly by!

Deb Crawford is arranging a display in the museum for the month of February entitled "Changing Landscapes"- the theme of this year's Heritage Month. Using the years 1910 and 2010, you will be able to compare the town of then to the town of today. Make sure you drop in and see how the town of Penetanguishene has evolved.

The Nipissing branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society extends an invitation to attend their conference on May 29 at Nipissing University. The guest speaker is Gary Schroder,

president of the Quebec Family History Society. His credentials are impressive and make him an excellent authority to speak on Quebec Research. Cost is \$35 inclusive for the day long event. Contact us at genealogy@pencenmuseum.com for more details. We plan on being there!

This year we will again have a presence at Festival du Loup in Lafontaine in July. If your surname is Courtemanche, Moreau, Marchildon or Tessier, get in touch with us and we will tell you what the plans are to honour the early settlers of these families.

September 25th will be the occasion of our 6th annual Settlers' Day and this year we are breaking from the tradition of honouring the early settlers of a family and instead will be honouring one man – Rev. Fr. Theophilus Laboureau. For those who do not know who he was, it will be our pleasure to introduce you to a remarkable man who did more than any other one person to unite and build our community in the crucial years from 1873 to 1906. We plan some different events and displays so mark it on your calendar – Saturday, September 25.

We have been asked if we plan on holding a spring genealogy course. We are considering changing the format from our usual one-day all-day course to something more casual and computer oriented but would like some input from you. Please let us know at genealogy@pencenmuseum.com if you are interested and what format you would enjoy most.



FROM THE CURATORIAL ASSISTANT



Breakfast with Santa

Ho Ho Ho! Santa and his elf (he magically hid the reindeer) were in town on the weekend of December 19 & 20th for a last minute update on his naughty and nice list. We were lucky enough that he decided this was the best place in town to have breakfast and visit with the children. So we fired

up the waffle irons, cooked up some sausage, made some orange juice, coffee, hot chocolate and tea. The most difficult decision anyone had to make was to decide whether they wanted cherries, blueberries, whipped cream or syrup on their waffles. We were joined by 165 people (doubling last year's attendance) who in addition to breakfast were treated to crafts to take home, games and a visit with Santa. Santa was so ecstatic that so many children came to see him that his stomach did shake when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly! Each child received a treat for visiting with the jolly old fellow and another for finding hidden objects throughout the museum. During such a hectic time of the year, it was a wonderful opportunity for families to relax and enjoy a meal they didn't have to cook themselves. We received many compliments and look forward to doing it all again this year. Of course I would be remiss without extending sincere gratitude to our many volunteers. So, many thanks to the Baboolal Family (Nancy, Kris, Courtney, Aaron and Jillian), Pam Tessier, Ashley Beck, Dale & Thomas Gadsdon, Anne Murphy, Amanda and Tiffany Mattice, Erika and Lily Bramwell and lastly Emelie and Sarah Tessier. Thank you Nancy for the beautiful bib aprons you donated the time and materials to make. They were a great added touch. Thanks as well to staff Nicole and Bryan. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Friends of the Museum, who graciously offered to purchase all the small appliances needed for this growing event. To date we have needed to rely on the loan of these much needed items, from the event's volunteers.

If you were not fortunate to be able to join us, please visit our Facebook page to view photos of this event and many others. To access our Facebook page visit www.pencenmuseum.com, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the link. Please be aware that you do not need to have a personal Facebook account to be able to access the museum page.

Family Day

Here at the museum, we strongly believe in the solidity of families to get through tough economical times. Therefore we attempt to focus our events on family unity and try to offer

them at affordable rates. So we will be open on Family Day, Monday February 15th for families to come and spend some affordable quality time. We will be offering an opportunity to win one of three great prizes by participating in a Snow sculpture Competition which is free of charge. First prize is a Free Week at the Museum's March Break Camp valued at \$100.00, 2nd prize is a One Year Family Membership including Special Events admissions valued at \$84.00 based on four people, and the third prize is a One Year Family Membership. In addition, admission will be free for members with a chance to explore the museum looking for hidden objects, crafts for the kids and most importantly a relaxed environment in which to enjoy each other's company. Non-members will receive a reduced entrance fee of 50% off the regular admission rate. While here be sure to drop into our Genealogy and Research Room and meet one of our "House Detectives" Pam Tessier. She is looking forward to meeting your family and digging away at your roots.



March Break Camp

Mother Nature has been so kind and gentle to us this winter, as opposed to the nightmare of last year, that time has slipped by somewhat unnoticed. But March will quickly approach, signaling the coming of spring. Yea! But before that can happen, here at the museum, big plans have taken shape for March Break Camp. As always I plan to keep the kids very busy and entertained, but this year we are "Taking the Show on the Road". Yes indeed, Elvis will be leaving the building and heading to the Penetanguishene Arena, where we will spend the entire week. While there we will skate Monday through Thursday, have the use of the Brian Orser Hall and the attached full kitchen. This will allow us much more space to be active and for the first time, creative in the kitchen. Fees will stay at the same reduced rate (**including skating**) of \$18.00 per day / \$80.00 per week for museum members, \$20.00 per day/ \$90.00 per week for non-members. As always you may choose to register for single days or the week. Some of the highlights include making edible muddy snowballs, "frost" your morning snack, baby birds in their nest craft, make

your own personal pizzas and on Friday, popcorn and a movie. I will be joined by Ashley Beck, our summer counselor and volunteer, who the children adore and will without doubt be delighted to have back. I know we are. So have a look at the back page of the newsletter to view details and information. We look forward to meeting new friends and seeing old friends again.

Eggstravaganza

Very close on the heels of March Break, is a sure sign of spring; Easter Eggstravaganza here at the Museum on Saturday April 3rd from 11a.m. – 2 p.m. This is an annual event that brings out the youngest to the oldest. Begin your visit inside the museum with big hugs from the Easter Bunny himself, crafts for the kids to make and take home and games to play. Head outside for our traditional Easter Egg Hunt; find all the allocated colours and receive a treat. All of the above for only \$2.00 per child, parents and guardians free of charge!

Wish List

With our ever expanding programming, comes an ever expanding need for specific items. We have appreciated each and every item donated in the past, and look forward to your continued support.

New or Gently Used:

Ice skates for current use

Plastic sleighs or toboggan

Canoe paddle

Scrapbooking supplies

Wine corks

Empty cereal boxes (flattened but not bent please)

Fabric remnant in size for costuming for children

Magazines or catalogues

Anything that you deem craft worthy.

Campbell Soup Labels

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time and effort to contribute to this redemption program. Every label helps us to reach our goal of sports equipment and craft supplies for our day camps. So please keep saving Campbell's, Habitant, Goldfish, Pace and V8 labels.

You are Never too Young or Old to Volunteer

Throughout the course of the year, the museum hosts approximately eight special events and two day camps. With a staff of two, we rely heavily on our volunteers to make these events successful. We are very fortunate to have a very solid and committed group of people on whom we can rely. All of these events take a great deal of planning and work, but are a lot of fun and a great way to socialize and meet the community. Even if you can't commit to the planning stage, we are forever in need the actual day of the event. We are always ready to welcome new volunteers who may or may not have a special area of interest. In short there is a niche for everyone whose commitment may be big or small. Your schedule is our schedule. If you are interested in any way shape or form, we would love to hear from you. Call, email or drop by the museum.



Hard at work are sisters Emilie (8) and Sarah (5) Tessier. These youngest members of our volunteer team often drop in after school, to assist with putting together children's craft kits for special events. They have made it a family effort, as their grandma, Pam Tessier volunteers in our Genealogy and Research Room.



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?

Will you donate an hour or two of your talents to the PCMA? Contact the museum for more info or to book a spot.

The museum strives to promote local talent.



CALL FOR ARTISTS



PCMA Gallery is accepting applications for artists (all media).

PCMA Gallery is a public gallery located in the Great Hall of the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives.

Serious emerging, professional and/or new artists who have a connection to Penetanguishene and area are welcome to apply for an Exhibit & Sale of their works.

Contact Nicole Jackson for an appointment or further information at the PCMA

ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?

Make Your Special Day a Part of History!

The museum grounds has always been a great venue for weddings in the Penetanguishene area, and in 2009, the Friends of the Museum purchased a new 20x40 tent cover that is perfect for your special day. Our gazebo, well manicured lawns, lovely swan water fountain and our new gardens add a wonderful ambience to your special day. Please call the museum or visit our website www.pencenmuseum.com for information on the different packages that are available to you.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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

Fred & Susan Holmes	May Seldon
Elaine French	Anne Desroches
Moreland Lynn & family	J.B. Jennings
John & Bernice Paradis	
Lawrence Gregoire & family	
Suzanne Copeland & family	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Day at the Museum
February 15
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
1/2 price admission
(5 years old and younger are FREE)

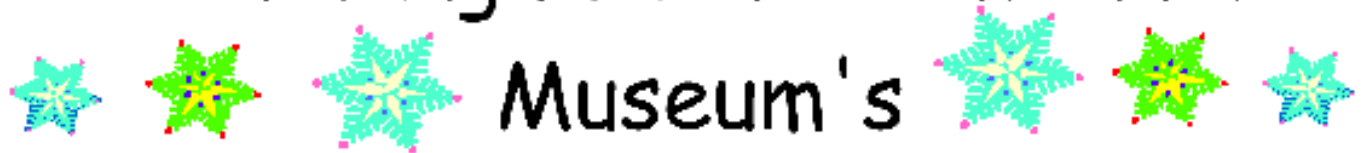
By the Bay Rughookers
Winterama Exhibit
February 19th & 20th
9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
February 21st
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
\$2 Admission

Pea Soup & Chili in the Replica Fire Hall
February 20th
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

March Break Day Camp
At the Penetanguishene Arena
March 15th to 19th
9 am to 4:30 pm
(extended hours available)

Easter Eggstravaganza
April 3rd
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$2.00 per child

Penetanguishene Centennial



Museum's

MARCH BREAK CAMP



at the Penetanguishene Arena



March 15th - 19th

9:00 - 4:30 (extended hours available)

SKATING INCLUDED!

(Monday thru Thursday)



Monday

Don't Eat Yellow Snow!

-edible muddy snowballs



Tuesday

It's a "Frosty" Morning

-frost your morning snack



Friday

No Ice? No Problem!

-skating games w/out ice
& popcorn and a movie



Thursday

We're In the Kitchen

-make your own personal pizza



Wednesday

The First Signs of Spring

-baby birds in their nest
craft



Ages 5 - 12

Members \$18.00 per day \$80.00 per week

Non Members \$20.00 per day \$90.00 per week

for information or to register call 549-2150

email jgadsdon@pencenmuseum.com

