

**Date of Meeting:** September 26, 2024

**Report Number:** A42-24

**Report Subject:** September 2024 Curator & Heritage Services Manager Report

---

**Recommendation:**

1. THAT the Clarington Public Library Board receive Administrative Report No. A42-24: September 2024 Curator & Heritage Services Manager Report; and
2. THAT the Clarington Public Library Board approve the items listed in the Deaccession List 2024-06 (Appendix A) be approved for removal from the Museums & Archives collections.

**Report Overview:**

To provide the Board with information about operational highlights from the museums and archives and key activities in July to September 2024.

**Highlights**

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, we welcomed the Bowmanville Rotary Club to the Waverley Place Museum for an Edwardian Style Tea and tour of the Museum. Close to thirty (30) people were in attendance and special guests included members from the Courtice Rotary Club.



On September 12<sup>th</sup>, members from the Intact Insurance Team were welcomed at the Waverley Place to do a volunteer garden day. Twenty (20) volunteers graciously donated three (3) hours of their workday to help clean up the gardens and prepare them for winter. Intact Insurance annually selects a charitable organization to donate to and this year it was CLMA.



**At left:**  
Intact Insurance  
Volunteers



**At right:**  
CEO M. Machacek  
and  
Intact Insurance  
staff A. Hobbs

## Programs

### *Saturdays at the Sarah Jane William Heritage Centre*

Beginning June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday hours were re-introduced at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre. To promote the extended hours, a drop-in program for families was created called Saturdays at the Sarah Jane. Families were encouraged to drop in for interactive activities linked to the reproduction historic buildings and spaces in ClaringTown. Programs included: Farming with Friends, Busy at the Bank, Music at the Museum, Play at the Post office and Busy at the Bank. We hope to see more families visit the Museum sites now that weekend hours are available.

### *Picnic and Play*

On Thursday evenings for the summer months, staff offered programming using a family-friendly drop-in program model. For the 'Picnic and Play' program, families were encouraged to bring their own picnic to enjoy on the grounds of the museum and then invited to explore Claringtown and exhibits at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre.

A rotating interactive craft or activity was provided each Thursday and stationed outside, (weather-permitting) including: Find it in Nature, Garden Art, Music in the Garden, Leaf Rubbing, and Rock Art.

## Special Events

### *Games on the Green, July 27*

Participants were invited to the grounds of Waverley Place to participate in old-fashioned games, including croquet, bocce ball, ring toss and more. Guided tours of Waverley Place heritage home were also available during the event. 9 Attended, with one couple attending specifically for the house tour component.

### *Family Tea, August 24*



Families were invited to register for a fun, family-style tea on the grounds of Waverley Place with boxed tea snacks and old-fashioned games, including croquet, bocce ball and more. Guided tours of Waverley Place heritage home were also available as an added experience during the event. Kids of all ages had fun with the lawn games, and families commented how the guided tour brought extra fun to the event. The catering was provided by the Pound and Pestle.

### *Edwardian Tea, July 31, August 14 and August 21*

This year's participants enjoyed tea on the Waverley Place veranda catered by a new local partner, Chanterelle Bistro.

Following the tea service, visitors explored the heritage home in a guided tour of Waverley Place. A total of sixty (60) people attended the Edwardian Teas over the three (3) dates offered this summer.

## **Community Engagement and Outreach**

### *Clarington Camps*

In August, campers and counsellors from the Clarington Camps were welcomed to the museum sites and staff led a discussion about the importance and function of a community museum. Staff provided a brief overview of the local history display cases and the campers participated in a scavenger hunt activity for the SJW exhibit gallery that accommodated different learning styles, with both a visual and textual version for campers to engage with.

## **Exhibits**

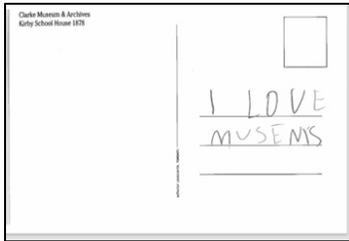
### *Posts to Home, opening in September*

"Posts to Home: The Art and Appeal of Postcards" explores the function, form, and fun of the postcard! This exhibit examines the history, imagery, and appeal of the postcard while highlighting postcards that feature the sites and spaces of Clarington. Come and explore this fascinating piece of history at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre during regular operating hours.



## **ClaringTown Highlights**

The ClaringTown interactive children's exhibit space continues to be a popular destination for families with young children. Children and caregivers are encouraged to explore the space using their hands and experience the interactive exhibition through dramatic play.



ClaringTown had 185 visitors during the month of June, 484 in the month of July, and 361 in August. Attendees include repeat visitors and children who love the interactive exhibit. CLMA staff receive many compliments from kids and their caregivers throughout their visit, and on the notes they leave behind (see image at left).

## Deaccessioning

Deaccessioning refers to the removal of an artifact or artifacts from the permanent collection. To maintain a growing and relevant collection that is aligned with community needs and current professional standards, it is necessary to deaccession artifacts. Deaccessioning must be undertaken in accordance with the Collections Management Policy. Appendix A outlines the items that are recommended for deaccessioning. Staff have conducted an evaluation and based on these factors; the artifacts are considered to no longer be relevant to the Museum's collection.

Approval to deaccession is required by the governing body of the museum, the Clarington Public Library Board. With this approval, the items will be formally deaccessioned from the collection and disposed following The Methods of Disposition, outlined in sections 19, 20 and 20 of the Collections Management Policy.

Staff have submitted the Deaccession List 2024-06 (Appendix A) to the Board seeking approval for the artifacts listed to be removed from the Museums & Archives collections.

## Research

Requests for family history information, property research and special research topics continue to be received on a regular basis. There were 7 research requests in June, 11 in July and 4 in August. The physical archival collections are currently unavailable to researchers; however, research requests are being answered by Museum staff with information and resources that are available in a digital format.

## Staff Comments:

A family of grandparents and their young granddaughter visit the museum once or twice a month. After they placed and interacted with the child in ClaringTown, they commented when they ask her what activity she wants to do "she always chooses to come here".

Report Submitted by:  
Heather Ridge, Curator and Manager of Heritage Services  
Monika Machacek, Chief Executive Officer  
September 26, 2024