

Date of Meeting: April 25, 2024

Report Number: A21-24

Report Subject: April 2024 Curator & Heritage Services Manager Report

Recommendation:

1. THAT the Clarington Public Library Board receive Administrative Report No. A21-24: April 2024 Curator & Heritage Services Manager Report; and
2. THAT the Clarington Public Library Board approve the items listed in the Deaccession List 2024-03 (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 March to April 2024.

Highlights

Select staff from the Library and Museum have receiving training as part of the Harmonization Plan to align public services across the organization. Group A consisted of 5 staff members who completed their computer-based and on-the-job training in the month of March. In April, Group B has begun their on-the-job training and will be completed by the second week of May. Library staff are learning about Museum and Archives related public service as well as knowledge-based learning on more industry-specific museum work of exhibitions and collections.

Programs

“Thursdays at the Museum” evening program series launched in mid-January continued through March at the SJWHC. This new adult program welcomes visitors for discussions and informal chats regarding local history topics.

The following topics were presented in March as part of this program:

- March 14: Retro Recipe Rewind: Recipe Sharing
- March 21: Women’s History Presentation
- March 28: History of Dairy

Murder Mystery Night



This historical experience was geared to adults and invited participants to an evening program on March 7th at Waverley Place that was based on Prohibition era history and intended to be a social, fun way to engage with the museum site.

At left: participants at the Murder Mystery with the photo props. In addition, a suspect board was displayed in the parlour as part of the clues.

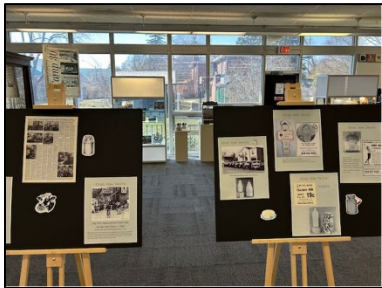
Discover Archaeology

To highlight the current exhibition at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre, this March Break program was designed to engage children and families with an imaginary, indoor archaeology ‘dig.’ Participants and their families were provided with a brief overview on “what is archaeology?” and were encouraged to think about objects in terms of age, composition/material, location, and use.

The successful program was run on two separate dates during the March Break. There were 65 attendees at the March 8th program and 43 attendees at the March 12th program.

Exhibits

Pop-up Exhibit: Thursdays at the Museum

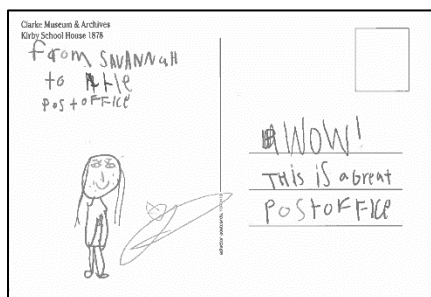


Many of the “Thursdays at the Museum” programs also have an exhibition component to support the topic and discussion. On March 28th, the Thursdays at the Museum theme was “History of Dairy.” Small exhibit panels were featured as part of the visuals and group discussion inspiration. These panels featured local dairy businesses and creameries, including Orono creamery, Glen Rae Dairy, and Bowmanville Dairy. This display also featured select artifacts and reference material to get participants reminiscing and chatting.

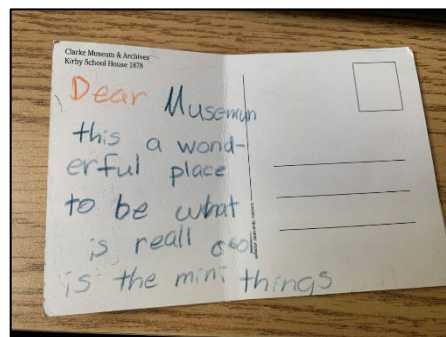
At left: History of Dairy pop-up exhibit components of the Thursdays at the Museum program

ClaringTown Highlights

ClaringTown continues to be a popular destination for families with young children. Families are encouraged to explore the space using their hands and approaching the interactive exhibition through dramatic play.



ClaringTown had 404 visitors during the month of March. The PA Day and March Break programs were the busiest with 78 guests on the Friday and 92 guests on the Tuesday program



days. 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 above images).

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 2024-03 (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 10 research requests in March. 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.

Special Projects: Rotary 100th Anniversary

CLMA staff gathered historical research and archival images to compile a history of the Bowmanville Rotary club for their upcoming 100 Year Anniversary Gala. The presentation includes information and images relating to the club, members of Rotary, community projects led by the club, as well as generally history of Bowmanville in the 1920s.

Report Submitted by:
Heather Ridge, Curator and Manager of Heritage Services
Monika Machacek, Chief Executive Officer
April 25, 2024