

Fenelon Falls Museum Board 2020 Report

February 9, 2021

FFMB-17

Due to the pandemic the Museum Board only had five meetings in 2020. The last being November. At that meeting the draft budget for 2021 was discussed and a motion made to accept the draft budget.

In a typical year the museum is open from Victoria Day weekend to Thanksgiving with off site educational programs and occasional special events in the off season. In 2020 because of the interactive nature of the exhibits it was not possible to open amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020 the museum was planning to offer its most ambitious family programming. Volunteers worked to prepare everything that was needed. However as the year progressed it became clear that the type of programs planned would not be possible. Hopefully in 2021 families will again be able to visit the museum and enjoy all the wonderful activities and events.

In a typical year the Museum co-ordinates four major events. Victoria Day, Canada Day, Thanksgiving and KidsFest. They also partner with other organizations on approximately twenty other events. As well as KidsFest this year Family Fun Days taking place on Saturdays throughout the summer were planned. The fun day would consist of a concert in the park, local food and family friendly activities. These programs will be ready for whenever families can gather together again in the Oak Grove. In addition a new school program was designed to include school yard games, quilt making, telegraphs, raising butterflies and a fairy world.

Wednesday Afternoon Tea will again be offered with some improvements. New heirloom recipes will be offered each week.

The good news is that all the above programs and events will be ready to go once we can open again to the public.

An overhaul of the onsite exhibitions began at the beginning of 2020. Display cases that had been in use for decades were removed and purpose built cabinets were installed. The cabinets were in keeping with the historic site but will allow more interactive activities.

To improve the accessibility of the collection, the museum is launching a virtual museum that will include the entire photographic collection consisting of thousands of photographs from all over the Kawartha Lakes. Also images of artifacts that will be of particular interest to the public. Having a virtual museum will allow Maryboro Lodge to expand its reach across the globe for people to access the collection from the comfort of their homes.

The Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society was able to complete some projects. A vegetable garden, fruit trees and heritage flower gardens. Several oak trees were planted. The museum also donated and planted trees throughout the community's waterfront from Garnet Graham Park to the Falls. The rain garden was expanded.

Whilst closed staff continued to improve training for staff. Two staff members enrolled in the OMA Museum Studies Program.

Despite being closed, lot's of behind the scenes work was completed. Hopefully in summer of 2021 the museum will be able to open safely and patrons will get to see all the hard work that has been done to improve visibility of exhibits. Interactive children's activities and the many more great programs that are planned.

Debbie Spivey

Secretary/City Liaison