

## Maryboro Lodge

### Fenelon Falls Museum Board 2022 Report

#### FFMB-21

The board held nine meetings in 2021. Unfortunately due to the pandemic this was the second year we were not able to open to the public for in person visits, but the lockdowns gave us the time to launch the Virtual Museum of the Kawarthas.

We unfortunately lost one of our members. Bob Allen resigned due to ill health. The Board presented him with a copy of the Fenelon Falls Then and Now book.

Some meetings were held to discuss renovations that are to be done at the museum. What exactly is going to be done and when is still not decided.

Early in 2021 volunteers and staff were hard at work digitizing the collection and preparing to launch the Virtual Museum. The Virtual Museum consists of daily stories on a variety of subjects relating to culture and history of Kawartha Lakes. Also exhibits, archives and local tours. New components are still being added for 2022. In the first part of operating there were 293,661 online engagements for the Virtual Museum. Weekly engagement is approximately 16,000. Our online content is now being republished by TorStar, Kawartha 411 and the Lindsay Advocate.

It was clear by the end of the year that people find it easier to engage with local arts, heritage and culture online than by travelling to a museum and standing at an exhibit to read the story. Moving forward the museum plans to continue historical stories online and also offer interactive experiences to in person visitors.

Whilst closed for a second year staff and volunteers worked to overhaul the whole building. When we do reopen visitors will see new interactive exhibits as well as historical exhibits in new cases through out the building. All our photographs are now digitized and available for viewing online. Our online archives will also host content from other organizations. The Museum also contributed programming to SIRCH.

In 2021 EarlyON ran their Fenelon Falls program outside of Maryboro using educational kits put together by museum staff.

We hope to be able to open again in June of 2022. Planning has begun for programs such as the Weekly Teas, Kidsfest, Family Fun Days which would take place on Saturday's throughout the summer. The Fun Days would consist of a concert in the

park, local food and family friendly activities, The One Room School will offer many activities that would also include outdoor school yard games, quilt making, telegraphs, raising butterflies and a fairy world.

In a typical year the museum co-ordinates four major events; Victoria Day, Canada Day, Thanksgiving and Santa Day. We hope to do that again this year, while hosting many events organized by other organizations. Over the past few years Maryboro Lodge has become a focal point of community cultural activity, both in-person and online.