

## Website About Us Video Script

The Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre has a long history dating back to 1955, the idea of a museum was suggested by Mrs. W.G. McKenzie of Lucknow. From her suggestion the Bruce County Museum was born. A museum committee, strongly supported by the various branches of the Women's Institute, and headed by Dr. J.F. Morton, consisted of people from all parts of Bruce County. The Committee worked hard to secure the old public school in Southampton. The original 1878 Southampton school became the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre opening July 1, 1955. With overwhelming support from all over Bruce County, the new museum was flooded with donated articles.

There have been several additions to the museum over the years;

In 1958, the settlers' cabin from Kinloss Township was added to the Museum's collection. The MacKenzie Log Home was built around 1850, the Donald MacKenzie family-with nine children-built this log home in Kinloss Township, southern Bruce County. More than a century later the Women's Institutes of Bruce County purchased the house. In 1958, they had it moved to the grounds of the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, where it still fascinates visitors providing a look into the past.

In 1967, the old log school from Amabel Township found its home on the grounds beside the MacKenzie Log Home. SS 10 Amabel was built in 1875 and used as a school until 1892, then used for many purposes until being donated by Evelyn Seaman to the Museum. Reconstruction of SS 10 took place at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre. Today you can step back in time and imagine what it was like to go to school in a one room schoolhouse. Each year many Bruce County students get to experience the old-time ways of learning when their class visits.

In 1972, the museum began the addition of a new wing that included an exhibition hall, archives and offices. This expansion opened in 1976 and became known as the Krug Wing. With support from individuals like the Krug Brothers of Chesley and many others, the museum was able to continue the preservation of Bruce County.

In 1979, the museum evolved from seasonal to year-round operation, and opened the public archives, which held an impressive collection of Bruce County genealogical and historical records, county newspapers, photographs, and municipal documents.

In 2005 another expansion created three levels of permanent and temporary gallery spaces, as well as, much needed larger collection storages area for a growing collection of artefacts. This has enabled Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre to tell Bruce County's historical story through the use of objects.

Now 65 years after the idea for a museum was initiated and the 1878 school stands as one of the largest and most iconic artifacts. It is home to the 104 seat Bruce Power Theatre, meeting rooms, gift shop and of course the impressive archives and research room. Whether you are researching property, your ancestors, or history of the area your first stop should be with the archives.

The permanent gallery spaces have been transformed with continued updates to include interactive and family friendly exhibitions that tell Bruce County's history.

The Mezzanine level is devoted to the creation stories, pre-Bruce County times and the Anishnaabwe Endaat gallery. The Anishnaabwe Gallery was developed with strong community support and collaboration with Saugeen First Nation, this space showcases Anishnaabwe culture in a broader environmental and cultural context, specifically the impacts that changing climate and landscape have had on a range of cultural expressions, including subsistence pursuits, material culture, settlement and the evolution into today's culture.

In the lower galleries you will find what life was like for the early settlers of Bruce County, how they ventured to the new land and settled with their families. The expansive coastline of Bruce County lends to a history rich in Marine heritage. Whether its stories of the fishing industry, Captain Spence, or the replica of HMS General Hunter a British battleship that was discovered on the shores of Southampton.

The Last Frontier pays homage to the County's Pioneers telling the stories that occurred from the first Shanty through to the cultural development of the General Store with interactive screens and two maker spaces for community demonstrators to utilize.

Stop by Bevin's General Store to discover the important role general stores played in Bruce County's communities, meet the storekeeper, and browse the store's inventory using interactive screens.

Be transported to the 1950's in "Riding the Rails" when the railway stretched through Bruce County to the Huron shoreline. Take the historic journey that traces the cultural transition of traffic from marine, to rail and ultimately to the roads that formed the County. Both children and adults alike will enjoy the trip on this fully functional track system, be the conductor and learn about Hurricane Hazel.

Rise of Community reveals the stories of community and technological growth within Bruce County that follow the emergence of specialists and home conveniences that lead to our Technology Lab. Here you will experience what the future brings through the eyes of inventors. Continue the expansive journey from professionals and community groups to communications and power providers during the Twentieth Century.

Experience the life of a soldier during the First World War when you explore "Bruce Remembers". Discover the stories of the 160th Bruce Battalion, Nursing Sisters, those serving in the Royal Air Force and on the home front. Enlist, and experience life in the trenches first-hand; try on a soldier's uniform and gas mask that was worn in the Great World War.

The OPG and Bruce Galleries are temporary exhibit spaces which are always changing, be sure to visit often to see what's being hosted. After you've completed your tour inside make sure you spend time outdoors on the beautiful grounds which overlook Fairy Lake. There's more to explore outside including the Mackenzie log home, SS #10 Anabel School house, the stokes bay range light and several beautiful gardens.

Throughout the school year students visit to participate in a variety of education programs. These programs provide a memorable experience while teaching about the history of Bruce County.

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre is open year-round offering education programs, special events, concerts, as well as children, adult and family programming.

Where Imagination is Timeless.