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BRUCE
county

Be an explorer.

SCREAM CHAMBER

2022 The Year in Review Annual Highlights



HOW LOUD CAN YOU SCREAM?

- 1 Step inside and cover your ears. This is going to get loud.
- 2 How loud can you scream? As loud as a lion? As quiet as a bird chirping?
- 3 Who in your family or group of friends can scream the loudest?

How does your scream compare?



BRUCE COUNTY
museum & cultural centre

brucemuseum.ca

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



(L to R) Ribbon Skirt Project; Streetscapes exhibit; Farm Fresh exhibit; Sonic Sensation exhibit

While 2022 started off with another closure due to the pandemic, we emerged through the spring and started our recovery with a strong return to in person programs and events. By the summer, we were full speed ahead with a full slate of new exhibitions and program offerings. The continuation of virtual options for programming allowed us to engage with local audiences as well as those beyond our Bruce County borders. For the first time since the pandemic started in 2020, we welcomed students back for in person programs. It was amazing to see the yellow school buses outside and to have the museum filled with the sound of children after such a period of quiet. We are grateful that things are starting to return to a more normal way of life and appreciate all the support we have received from our members, volunteers, partners, and the public during this time.

The year was filled with several opportunities to present new exhibitions and displays – Hope & Healing, Re: Collections, Sonic Sensations, Spirit Seeds, WWII Dioramas, Saugeen First Nation Ribbon Skirt Project, Victoria Jubilee Hall 125th Anniversary, Farm Fresh Bruce County

and Streetscapes Small Town Ontario. We were also fortunate to partner with our community partners to bring the BCM&CC to the community through outreach programs like the Marine Heritage Festival, NII SWERVE and Saugeen First Nation Every Child Matters to name a few. It was amazing to get back into the community and we look forward to more of these outreach opportunities in the coming months.

We remained focused on key initiatives from our 2022 business plan and successfully launched the Newspaper Digitization Project in October, providing researchers and the public with another source of historical access from the comfort of their homes. Embracing our role in advancing reconciliation and the recommendations from the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action we have also committed to ongoing professional development for all staff in the areas of cultural awareness, protocols, and museum practices. Over the past year all museum staff have engaged in a variety of programs and training to proactively work towards reconciliation in an action-oriented manner.

As we look towards the new year, we have yet another full year planned with wonderful new exhibitions and programs. Our exhibition calendar has a mixture of planned in-house and traveling exhibitions for a total of five new exhibitions including: Made in Bruce, Teens: Creative Minds, Bruce Peninsula Society of Artists Juried Art Show, Legacy of Hope: Youth on Reconciliation and Heather Lynn Travis Art Show.

In 2023 we will also turn our focus on reassessing our Volunteer and Education programs to ensure we are not only meeting community needs but offering the best possible programs to the public.

I hope to see you all soon and thank you for your ongoing support! All the best for 2023!

Warm regards,

Cathy McGirr
Director, Museum & Cultural Services

HIGHLIGHTS/EXHIBITS

Re: Collections

Early in the new year, we presented the exhibit Re: Collections, an exploration of fibre as an art form, and one that embraces cloth, thread, paper, and mixed media. A collaboration between the group Connections Fibre Artists and the Wellington County Museum and Archives (WCMA), artists selected artefacts from within the vast WCMA collection to serve as their inspiration for pieces in the show. This show was also available as a virtual exhibit.

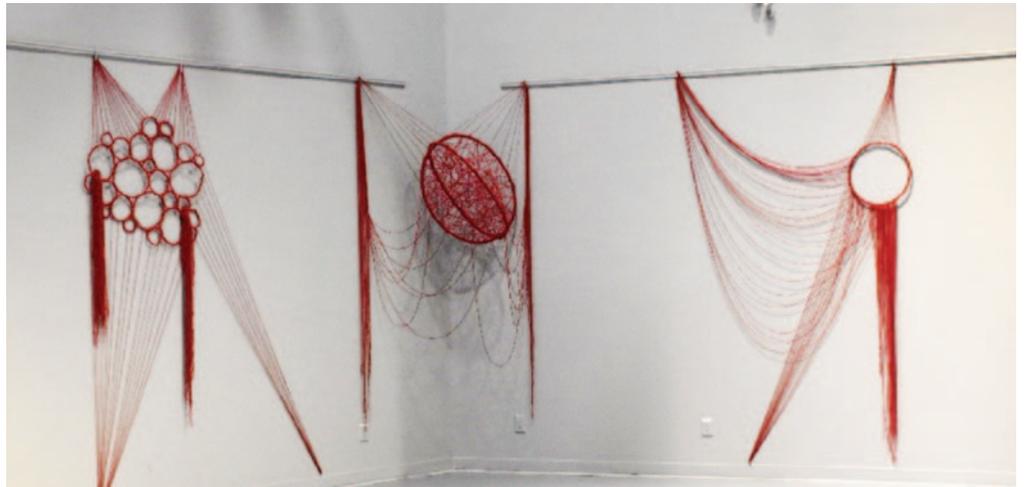


Fibre Art Show Re:Collections Mixed Media Artwork "Gibson - Field Notes 2"

Hope & Healing

Artist Tracey-Mae Chambers created a temporary, public art installation using a single, continuous piece of red string. Her work, Hope & Healing, represented love and courage, but also passion, anger, Indigenous slurs, danger and power. Chambers worked continuously throughout the day while using a time-lapse video to capture the installation. Once the exhibition closed, the red string was returned to her for her next installation.

On the same day, Tracey-Mae also gave a talk that was both in-person and lives-treamed about the work and her process.



Hope & Healing by artist Tracey-Mae Chambers on display in the OPG Gallery

Sonic Sensations

In May, we held our first exhibit opening event in two years, celebrating the launch of Sonic Sensation—a travelling exhibit from Ithaca, New York, exploring the science of sound and hearing. Kids of all ages enjoyed the interactive elements, experimenting with pitch, making movie soundtracks, and letting loose in the popular scream chamber—a sound-proof cubicle with a decibel monitor that encouraged visitors to test just how loud they could scream! This exhibit was proudly presented by Ontario Power Generation.



Visitors explored the power of sound in the Sonic Sensation exhibit

Spirit Seeds

Summer saw the opening of our second feature exhibit Spirit Seeds: A Celebration of Indigenous Beadwork, curated by renowned Indigenous artist Naomi Smith.

Naomi also led two, full-day virtual beading workshops, guiding participants through the process of beading a Follow Your Heart Keychain and a Strawberry Emery.



A selection of curated works from this summers Spirit Seeds exhibit

WWII Diorama

In August, we unveiled a new, finely detailed diorama in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of WWII. The diorama depicts the major ways Canada contributed to the War effort from the land, air, and sea, from both civilian and military perspectives while highlighting the significance of Canada becoming the “aerodrome of democracy.”



Historian Mat Johnson unveils a new diorama in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of WWII

Streetscapes

In September, we proudly showcased a new collection of oil paintings by Niagara artist Mary Burke, focused on bringing the unique character of “Main Streets” to life. Like a snapshot in time, the exhibit captured the beautiful locations of previous generations and showcased their importance in the modern era.



Artist Mary Burke with Museum Director Cathy McGirr at the opening of Streetscapes

Farm Fresh

In the fall, we opened our Farm Fresh exhibit, focused on the history of agriculture in Bruce County, and the vital role of farming in establishing early and modern economies. The exhibit also featured a companion piece from Archives Ontario’s Fresh from the Farm, exploring how farming in Ontario has transformed the land, created strong communities, and how food reaches our tables.



Farm Fresh Bruce County

COLLECTIONS IN REVIEW

More than 350 objects were added to the Museum's online collection, including new donations, items featured in exhibitions such as Farm Fresh, and 70 paintings from the Alan Weinstein Collection. The Artefacts & Stories section of the Museum's website had 20 new stories added, including articles on the Southampton Tennis Club, the Eberth Farmer's Hotel, the Committee for Women's Concerns, and Victoria Jubilee Hall. This section of the website now includes 78 different stories and over 290 objects and archival materials.

Through the year, collections received roughly 25 donations comprised of 55 items.

Some highlights include:



Dumblane Postal Office (2022.017.001a/b)

This mail sorter was used at the Dumblane postal office, located on the Fraser farm in Dunblane. The Post Office opened in 1856. It was first operated by postmaster William Wallace. The Fraser family owned the lot the Post Office was on and when they became Postmasters, they operated it out of their home. John Fraser was appointed Postmaster on April 1, 1858 and resigned on June 30, 1872. His son Donald then took over, later resigning on October 18, 1880. The Post Office closed May 31, 1921.



Watch of Captain John Spence (2022.018.001 a-c)

This watch was awarded to Captain John Spence of Southampton by the President of the United States for his efforts in the rescue of the American propeller New York. The New York got into trouble during a storm in October of 1876. Captain Spence, along with his crew on the Nemesis, rescued all the sailors but one. Captain Spence was also awarded a silver tea set from the town of Southampton.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

The Museum continued to deliver exciting programs both in-person and virtually, including academic lectures, bus trips to nearby museums and the Stratford Festival, Indigenous cultural demonstrations, as well as after-hours and seasonal events.

We started the year with a jam-packed Family Day Event, the Zoology Edition, featuring three, one-hour wildlife shows, two pet care clinics, and four kittens for adoption from the Southampton Pet Hospital.

March Break Family Fun was equally as busy with a full week of family-based activities, including wildlife, magic, astronomy and science. Each day also included a Deep Dive presentation showcasing an artefact from the Museum's collection.

For adults we offered a four-part Muse-Talks Lecture Series featuring new topics in the disciplines of science, literature, arts, and history. This was sponsored by Georgian College. In the spring months we held our always popular wine tasting, Patio Rosé, where we welcomed more than 60 guests for an evening dedicated to wine, food, and olive oil pairings. Attendees also enjoyed music by local musician Will Henry on fiddle. The wine tasting was followed by a Beer & Cheese Tasting featuring samples from Kincardine's Grey Matter Beer Company and Mildmay Cheese Haus.

In June, we launched our Pride Month celebrations with an Equality Presentation. The presentation panel included five local LGBTQ+ activists, including a member of the United Church and a union representative. Throughout the month, Pride-friendly films were screened and an LGBTQ+ selection of books was made available through the Museum's Book Nook initiative, in partnership with the Bruce County Public Libraries.

Much to our delight, the summer months proved to be very busy for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. We had sold out Wildlife Wednesdays presentations featuring various creatures and critters of Ontario. Museum volunteers gave daily wood turning and cannon firing demonstrations in the exhibit hall. We took 50 people on a bus trip to the Stratford



Staff get close up with wildlife during our Family Day Zoology event



Program Coordinator Evan Vatri takes us on a Deep Dive into the Museum's collection



Guests enjoy a sampling of Rosés alongside custom food pairings

Festival, and in August we hosted Sunday at the Symphony featuring musicians from New York and Cleveland. To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Dieppe raids, we had a lecture and tour of our Bruce Remembers exhibit.

Anishinaabwe Cultural Demonstrations were delivered by members of Saugeen First Nation. Elder Shirley John led Elder Stories & Teachings, Trish Meekins led Medicine Wheel Teaching Circles, and Nataalka Pucan guided visitors through traditional Indigenous Creation Stories. The culminating event was a cooking demonstration by Chef Zach Keeshig of Naagan Restaurant, who prepared a locally-sourced tasting menu of progressive Indigenous food and demonstrated how to properly dress a rabbit for cooking purposes.

In the fall, we flexed our acting chops with a professionally led class for adults called Making a Monologue, and chartered a bus trip to Grey Roots Museum & Archives and Simcoe County Museum.

Once the snow started to fly, our holiday programs started to fill up: Santa stopped by three Saturdays in December and our second-annual Light up the Holidays sold out within days of registration opening. More than 200 people attended the evening event that included a vendor's market, a visit from Santa, holiday crafts, caroling, and more.



Hands-on fun with Virtual Reality headsets during Muse Talks



Kincardine Pride organizer Fort Papalia speaks during Pride Month panel discussion



Trish Meekins led Cultural Demonstrations on traditional sacred herb teachings



Speaking of Wildlife present during sold out talks through August

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Online programming was the focus at the beginning of 2022, including a fun fibre art challenge to complement our winter exhibit, Re: Collections. Participants were asked to choose a photo and recreate it out of fabric and other household items, with the winner receiving a Museum prize.

Our travelling artifact trunk, Bruce Remembers: A Soldier's Journey, was sent out to schools across Ontario beginning in January. This free educational resource reached over 400 students in schools throughout the province from Sault Ste. Marie to Windsor to Belleville.

Our popular PA Maker Days resumed with STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) programming and exhibit-based themes from Re: Collections and Make it Loud!, as well as Creative Play, Eerie Inventions, and Make it Merry.

For Earth Week, Bruce Power partnered with the Museum to offer a free digital program for Grade 6 students throughout Bruce and Grey Counties. This was the second year in a row that Earth Week programming was offered virtually, featuring two presentations from experts on local invasive species and the impact on biodiversity.

Spring brought the return of in-person Education Programs after a two-year pause. This year we reached close to 1400 students with both our in-Museum field trips and our Mobile Museum Education Outreach programs. Popular education programs included: A Day in the Life of a Pioneer Child, Ancient Civilizations, Anishinaabwe Endaat, The Great Outdoors, and LEGO™ Design Challenges. In honour of Treaties Recognition Week, we hosted almost 200 students from G.C. Huston Public School to listen to presenter Trish Meekins present on the importance of treaties in Ontario. Video recordings of the presentations and educational resources related to treaties were made available on our website.



Fibre Art Challenge Winner Amelia Sutter-Martin, Grade 4



Bruce Remembers A Soldier's Journey Travelling Education Trunk



Participants of PA Maker Day ReCollections weaving on cardboard looms



Maker Day participants enjoying art class with famous artist Susan Seitz



Exploring animal pelts and bones during March Break with presenter from MacGregor Point Provincial Park

The KidZone Summer Camp ran for nine weeks in July and August, providing an action-packed summer for children ages 5-12 throughout the community. Led by two summer students and assisted by our junior volunteers, the campers explored the exhibits, played outdoor games, took nature hikes, made crafts, and went on field trips to the Southampton Fire Hall, Library, and beach. The campers also attended the Museum's Cultural Demonstrations and Wildlife Wednesday presentations.

In October we brought back our new Night at the Museum program. This entertaining program was led by theatre professionals Julia Scaringi and Leo Dragonieri who guided kids ages 8-12 through clowning workshops, improv clinics, and theatre activities. The newly minted performers capped off the night with a magical performance for their peers.

Our Museum Munchkins program also resumed this year, aimed at children ages 18 months to four years, exploring a variety of hands-on learning activities. The final program of the year, Merry Munchkins, was a festive session of holiday carols, winter games, and a stocking craft. Santa also stopped by to wish the Munchkins a Merry Christmas!



Dr. H from The Bluewater Astronomical Society doing space and physics presentation



Grade 4 students participating in Mobile Ancient Civilization program



Students participating in Mobile Education Program



KidZone Campers at Marine Heritage Festival boat making workshop



Munchkins planting seeds with Maryanne McMillan from the Bruce County Library



KidZone Campers listening to Creation Stories from Nataalka Pucan in the Anishnaabwe Endaat gallery

ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH ROOM

During 2022, the Archives continued to connect people with information in-person and online.

- **90,000+ newspaper pages digitized and uploaded**
- **1,100 items added to Online Collections**
- **350 soldiers added to Bruce Remembers**
- **90 people donated to the Archives**

Digitized Historic Newspapers Online

The newspaper digitization project was a significant undertaking for the Archives team this year. The Bruce County Historic Newspapers website was launched in October with over 12,700 digitized newspapers (90,000+ pages) from almost 30 different Bruce County newspaper titles, dated generally between 1861-1930. The ability to read and search this content online will enable many more researchers, and those curious about Bruce County history, to explore our past and learn more about this area's fascinating history! This initiative was funded through grants provided in part by the Province of Ontario through the Municipal Modernization Program (Intake 2), and with additional funding provided by the Federal Museum Assistance Program. Additional newspapers will be added in 2023.

Visit newspapers.brucemuseum.ca to read the newspapers and link to FAQs about the project.

Bruce Remembers and Online Collections

We continue to recognize over 7,700 individuals who served in a military capacity with a connection to Bruce County and local First Nation communities on our Bruce Remembers website (bruceremembers.org). Over 700 soldier records were edited and added this year, with the help of a volunteer and Saugeen District Secondary School co-op student. Over 900 images were also

added to the Archives and Photos sections of Online Collections (collections.brucemuseum.ca), including the work of volunteers who described images contributed by the Glamis Historical Researchers over the years, Lindsay Thornburn's Port Elgin images, Bruce County postcards, and Warton "Corran" images. Over 25,000 images may now be viewed online.

Genealogical Records

The BCM&CC became a Family Search Affiliate in 2022, thanks to a suggestion made by the Bruce County Genealogical Society. Researchers may now explore many additional genealogical records that are not accessible from home, such as early German and Scottish parish records and early church minute books through the FamilySearch portal on computers in the BCM&CC Research Room. Archives staff also perform paid research/copy services for those unable to attend in person and completed over 40 requests this year.

Archives Collection Highlights

The Archives continues to accept donations of items related to Bruce County, items reflecting experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as items relevant to Ontario underwater archaeology as part of our Marine History and Underwater Archaeology Research Centre. One of the donations received this year were the Late Mickle Diaries.

The diaries of Chesley's Kate Mickle (1871-1941)

Kate was a natural wordsmith, playwright, and historian, and documented much of her life in countless letters and diaries, which give us a glimpse of her daily activities. Kate was born in Chesley in 1871 to Jane Graham and D. M. Halliday and married lawyer C.J. Mickle. Her earliest diary begins in 1893 with a description of her wedding day and continues to document her day-to-day activities throughout the rest of the year, as well as her experiences navigating her new life as a married woman. The Archives holds 13 more Mickle diaries which detail her experiences throughout the 1920s and 1930s living in Chesley.

Committee for Women's Concerns

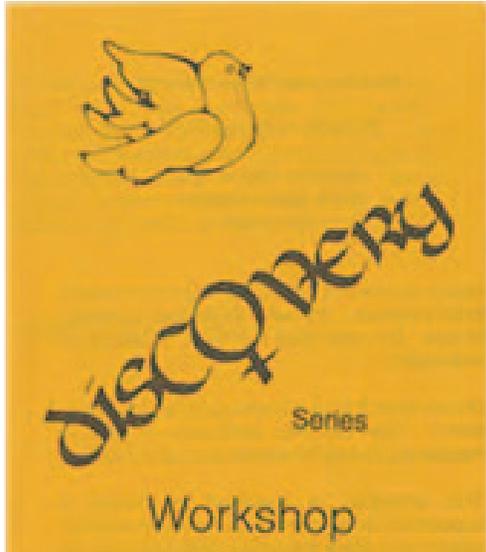
The Women's Liberation Movement, or second wave feminism, of the late 1960s and 1970s involved the unstructured organization of groups who challenged the traditional idea of women as merely happy housewives and mothers. Formed in 1977, Bruce County's Committee for Women's Concerns ("CWC") originally consisted of five members with the shared goal of organizing educational programming about matters of concern to women. This included their popular "Discovery Series" comprised of workshops, education days, film screenings, discussions, and guest speakers, such as female lawyers. The series began in 1978 with programs covering the themes of women and law, health, money, personal relationships, and work. To learn more about the CWC and its legacy, visit the Stories & Artefacts page on the BCM&CC website.



Archivist Deb Sturdevant with historical newspaper in the stacks



Some papers required a search for accompanying master negative microfilm reels in order to be digitized



Women's Concern's Workshop flyer

LOOKING AHEAD

WOMEN IN THE PRIME OF LIFE

a one day health conference

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1988

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
 SAUGEEN DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL PORT ELGIN, ONTARIO

* Workshops - stress prevention & management - menopause
 - financial planning - nutrition
 - assertiveness - living singly
 - mental health - legal matters

* Films & Videos * Information Displays

Conference registration: \$20. includes two workshops, lunch, snacks

presented by the Committee for Women's Concerns
 with the support of Health and Welfare Canada

join us the night before for our annual

SPRING TONIC DINNER

LAKESHORE RACQUET AND RECREATION CENTRE PORT ELGIN, ONTARIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1988 - 7:30 P.M.

SPEAKER **DORIS ANDERSON**
 former editor 'Chatelaine'; Toronto Star columnist

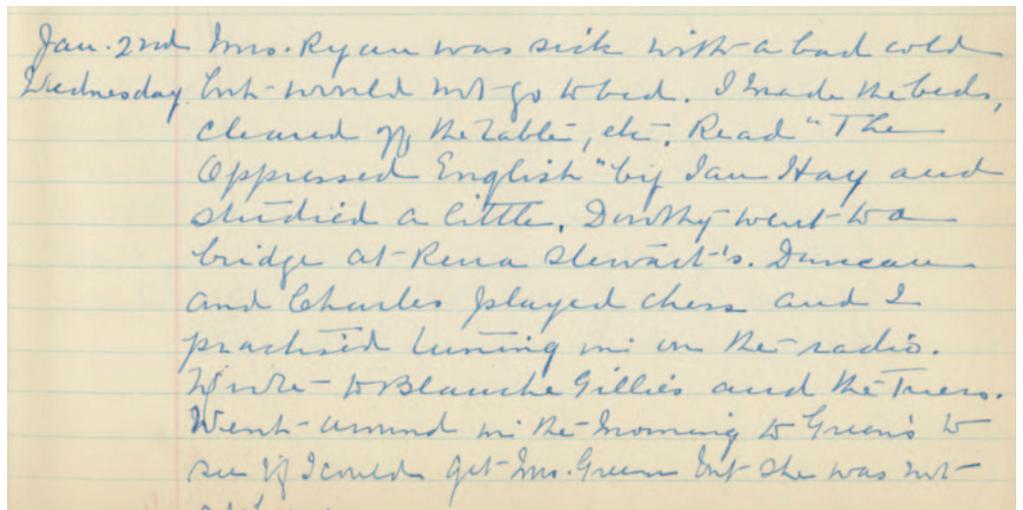
tickets \$15.00 proceeds to Women's House of Bruce County

for dinner tickets or conference registration brochures, write;
 LOOKING AHEAD

Women's Concerns publications



Kate Mickle (1871-1941)



The diaries of Chesley's Kate Mickle

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



At the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, (L to R) MPP Lisa Thompson, Walt Heathers, Lou Vanderploeg, Brenda Vanderploeg, Dwight Clarke, Muriel Shular, Director Cathy McGirr, Saugeen Shores Mayor Luke Charbonneau and Program Coordinator Evan Vatri

On September 29, we hosted an Appreciation Brunch for volunteers in recognition of the dedicated work they give to all areas of the Museum. Special certificates were presented to four of the highest earning volunteers (100+ hours) during the COVID-19 pandemic, including Muriel Shular, Dwight Clarke, Brenda Vanderploeg, and Tania Gilchrist. MPP Lisa Thompson was in attendance, along with Saugeen Shores Mayor Luke Charbonneau, both emphasizing that volunteers are the bedrock of a strong and prosperous community.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who might be, please visit the volunteer section of our website brucemuseum.ca to learn more.



MPP Lisa Thompson congratulates Museum Volunteers at the Appreciation Brunch

REVENUE DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO



Development Officer Renata Bell (right) receiving sponsorship contribution from Ontario Power Generation

44 Community Partners in 2022

Over **500** Membership Holders

Sponsorships & Community Partners

In 2022, we were grateful to welcome a few new sponsors to our list of supporters including:

- Georgian College
- NWMO (Nuclear Waste Management Organization)
- Tina Blair Law Firm

Sponsors and community partners are critical to our success and we are grateful to have such a supportive group behind us. These partnerships enable us to create dynamic programs and bring experiences to life for our community to enjoy here at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre! Thank you!

Membership

In 2022 we were able to bring back our in-person membership experiences including our members-only Sonic Sensations exhibit that opened in May. It was a fun and interactive evening out with members who enjoyed live science demonstrations, and opera performances to showcase the power of sound, as well as catering provided by Little Black Dog and cake pops by Rabbit Dash for the kids. We are looking forward to expanding our membership perks for 2023 to provide a best-in-class experience for our members who continue to support us in so many ways. Thank you!

Donors

Thank you to our donors who give so generously every year. It is through the generosity of our donors that we are able to continue to inspire, educate and remain the destination of choice for exploring Bruce County's collective history.

If you're interested in learning more about how you can support the Museum, visit us at www.brucemuseum.ca. Donations can be made in a variety of ways which include general donations, commemorative gifts, memorial gifts in addition to supporting our Endowment Fund.



Guests enjoy a sneak peak of the Sonic Sensations Exhibit on opening night

NEW STAFF AT BCM&CC



(front row, l to r) Nicole Mulder, Dwayne Carriere, Leyla Dagenais
(back row, l to r) Renata Bell, Mihovil Sucic, Paige Cutting, Dan Genis

In 2022 the Museum welcomed several new staff members in the following areas:

Renata Bell, Development Officer

Thing you like best about the BCM&CC?

The incredible assortment of programs and exhibits that keep my family and I busy throughout the year—not to mention the extensive archive collection that I like to peruse to learn about the incredible history of Bruce County!

Where are you from?

Toronto

Where were you before you started with us?

St. Joe's Toronto Hospital Foundation as their Manager of Events & Volunteers

Dan Genis, Education & Outreach Coordinator

Thing you like best about the BCM&CC?

The excitement and joy of our younger visitors when experiencing the museum for the very first time.

Where are you from?

Uxbridge, ON

Where were you before you started with us?

Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol as their Education and Programming Coordinator.

Dwayne Carriere, Maintenance Supervisor

Thing you like the best about BCM&CC?

A calm workplace and the working hours are probably my favorite thing about being here. The artifacts and displays are also neat.

Where are you from?

I grew up in Woodford, moved to London, and then to Sauble Beach.

Where were you before you started with us?

I worked for Bruce County Housing, and Hutten & Co before that.

Nicole Mulder, Archival Assistant

Thing you like the best about BCM&CC?

I like the environment of the BCM&CC — getting to work with people who love history like I do, whether it is researchers working on their family history or staff working to preserve records.

Where are you from?

I am from Odessa, Ontario (near Kingston).

Where were you before you started with us?

I previously worked for the Belkin Art Gallery at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, as a Collections Data Cleaning Analyst and Collections Assistant.

Leyla Dagenais, Marketing Coordinator

Thing you like the best about BCM&CC?

Through Museum outreach I enjoy meeting lots of new people! I also love that I'm able to flex my creative muscles in new ways every day to bring our programming to the community.

Where are you from?

I grew up in Southampton but just recently moved back to the area after working in Toronto for 10 years. It's so nice to be back home.

Where were you before you started with us?

I previously worked for a national nonprofit called the Literary Press Group, providing support to over 60+ independent Canadian literary publishers. What can I say...I'm a book lover!

Paige Cutting, Visitor Services Reception

Thing you like the best about BCM&CC?

I like the positive environment the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre brings. I enjoy meeting and speaking with local visitors as well as many that visit from far away. Lastly, I like to bring my family here to take time to go through the exhibits and participate in the various programs and events.

Where are you from?

I grew up in Southampton, but recently relocated back and I am enjoying being closer to my family, the small-town community and the proximity to the beach again!

Where were you before you started with us?

Property Services Clerk with County of Wellington Housing Services

Mihovil Sucic, Casual Custodian & Events Assistant

Thing you like the best about BCM&CC?

What I enjoy the most is my coworkers, everyone is super nice and helpful.

Where are you from?

I was born in Split, Croatia, an absolutely beautiful city on the Mediterranean Sea.

Where were you before you started with us?

I worked at Ford Canada in Oakville for 30 years and moved to Chesley Lake for retirement.



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Thank You!

Members, Donors, Community Partners,
Sponsors and Volunteers

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Thank You to our 2022 Partners!

