



The Stage Line

Volume 1, Issue 2

Summer 2011

The Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum is dedicated to the preservation and retelling of the most famous historical events of the area...events such as the founding of Wilberforce by a Black community from the United States, the arrival and settlement of the area by Irish immigrants and the infamous Donnelly murders, recounted in song, story and plays throughout Canada.

We Love Our Volunteers!

Each year the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards honour the thousands of people who generously contribute their time as volunteers across Ontario. These awards are an important way to recognize volunteers who have provided service over many years.

Six of our own long-term volunteers were honoured with this special recognition at an awards ceremony held Friday, April 8, 2011 at the Marconi Club in London. We couldn't be prouder! Jack Atkinson and Don Froats were both honoured for 10 years volunteer service, while Muriel Culbert, Marguerite McRoberts, Harry Hardy and Lloyd Hall were all honoured for an amazing 15 years of dedication.

Over 140 volunteers were presented with a beautiful trillium lapel pin and a certificate in recognition of their commitment and dedication as a volunteer in Ontario. Local politicians and dignitaries were on hand to congratulate the honourees as they made their way through the receiving line to accept their awards. The ceremony was followed with a delicious buffet reception and time to savour the moment with family, friends, and fellow volunteers.

There are many exciting volunteer opportunities available at the museum year-round! Contact Laura Garner at lgarner@donnellymuseum.com or (519) 227-0756 for more information.

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Harry Hardy is congratulated by MPP and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews for his 15 years of volunteer service.



Lucan Area Heritage Society members, Marguerite McRoberts, Lloyd Hall, Harry Hardy, Muriel Culbert and Don Froats are all smiles after receiving their 2011 Volunteer Service Awards.

Thank-you to our generous sponsors!





Bonnie Roy demonstrates the age old craft of rug-hooking. Bonnie was one of three artisans showcasing their talents at the Museum on International Museum Day held May 18th.

Celebrating International Museum Day

Every year since 1977, International Museum Day is held worldwide sometime around May 18th. The goal of this special day is to increase public awareness about the important role museums play in our society.

The theme for this year's International Museum Day was *Museum and Memory*. The Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum preserves the memories and tells the stories of its community through its collection. Some of the objects are fragile, others are one of a kind, but all represent the natural and cultural heritage of Lucan Biddulph.

We were thrilled to have three wonderful artisans on hand to share their collections with us on May 18th. Rug-maker Jean Bennett of Bayfield uses an old treadle sewing machine and hours of hand-stitching in creating her beautiful braided rugs. Elsie Evans of Clandeboye quietly rocks in a chair as she expertly uses a crochet hook to create intricately patterned blankets, doilies, tablecloths and sweaters. Donning her eyeglasses, Bonnie Roy of Bayfield works with fine strips of wool fabric and a small hook pulling loops through a canvas backing to create her unique hooked rugs. These talented women keep history alive using traditional methods to create items we use every day!

Museum Hosts Black History Roundtable

On April 8, 2011 the museum was honoured to be the host site for the annual African Canadian Heritage Network Roundtable. Over twenty representatives from various Black heritage sites across Ontario gathered to exchange ideas, participate in an education programming workshop, and discuss plans for promotion and recognition.

Guest speaker Hilary Dawson of the Harriet Tubman Institute at York University told the group about the Institute's project, *Sites of African Canadian Memory*. The goal of this initiative to identify sites of significance to slavery, resistance and the Underground Railway in Canada and have them recognized under the UNESCO *Itineraries of Memory* Project. We are very excited to learn that the museum and our Wilberforce Settlement is to be included in this UNESCO designation process!

Teacher and author, Natasha Henry, led the group through a workshop on creating innovative and engaging educational programming for their sites. She also provided a demonstration of an amazing new "augmented reality" technology, due out later this year. Students simply hold a QR code printed on a piece of paper in front of a webcam and they are launched on a virtual journey through history with interactive characters, video, audio, stories and more.

**Lucan Area
Heritage &
Donnelly
Museum to be
recognized
under the
UNESCO
"Itineraries of
Memory
Project"**



Natasha Henry shares ideas with the group for creating or enhancing their educational programming.



Representatives attending the Black History Roundtable gather around the replica Donnelly tombstone for a group picture.

Ride Back In Time!

Follow the route the Vigilance Committee took back in February 1880...the night of the infamous Donnelly Tragedy. If you provide the bus, a knowledgeable guide will direct your tour through the village streets and country roads of Lucan-Biddulph, narrating the history of the area as you go. You will follow the route and events that led to the massacre of 5 members of the Donnelly family on that tragic night.

Your tour includes admission to:

The Museum—highlighting the Ray Fazakas Collection of Donnelly artifacts, rotating exhibits on local history, a research/library area, and gift shop/book store.

Log Cabin—furnished to replicate the Donnelly homestead. Step back in time...go through each room to recapture and visualize that moment in history when a fateful tragedy occurred in the early morning hours of February 4, 1880.

Hearn's Barn—offers a variety of historic artifacts including agricultural tools, an egg grading machine, a harness making horse model and an original ice-flooding machine.

Book Your Tour Today! Call or Email for More Information!

Roll On In!

Each visitor to a museum is unique. It may be their age, their interests, how they got there or who they came with. But for some museum visitors, getting through the front door may be the first in a long line of challenges.

Providing access to people with disabilities is a responsibility we take very seriously at the museum. From automated doors, an accessible washroom, close-captioned videos, and even exhibit design, we take the needs and concerns of all our visitors into account.

With that in mind we are thrilled to announce that the Donnelly Cabin and Hearn's Barn are even more accessible with the addition of a paved roadway and newly constructed boardwalk ramps. Thanks to the Township of Lucan Biddulph for completing the paving project, and also to Dave Goddard, Orville Evans and Don Froats for the design and construction of the ramps. Roll on in to the museum today!

New Acquisitions

Gracious donors have continued to enhance the museum's collection with their generous donations of locally significant artifacts.

Pictured to the right is a spittoon originally from the Central Hotel in Lucan, now the site of the new museum building. The spittoon went on to become an interesting item of conversation in Clarence Lewis's barbershop for many years.

The museum has also acquired some interesting artifacts excavated from the Donnelly homestead, including an iron stake used to hold logs in place in the cabin, a horse bit that hung in the Donnelly barn and a clay ink well from the Donnelly schoolhouse.

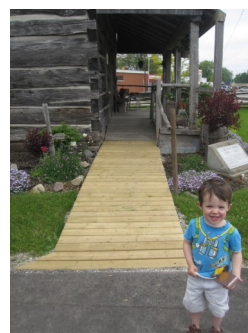
Another unique donation is a policeman's "billy-club", circa 1880-1900, that originally hung in the Lucan jail. The club, made from an old hollowed-out chair leg filled with lead, must have made a formidable weapon!



Vigilante Bus Tour

**If you've got the bus,
we've got the tour!**

**Adults \$10.00
Students \$5.00**



Ryder Schnare admires the new ramp to the Donnelly cabin.



Spittoon originally from the Central Hotel and Clarence Lewis's barbershop in Lucan.

Donated by Bernie Crane



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We welcome your
comments or suggestions on
"The Stage Line"

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HOURS

May—October
Open Tuesday—Sunday
& Holiday Mondays
(Closed Regular Mondays)
11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

The Museum & Gift Shop
are open by appointment
only from Thanksgiving
through to April.

ADMISSION

General Admission \$5.00
Preschool Free
Family \$15.00
Season Pass:
Family \$25.00
Individual \$15.00

Fully accessible site includes
the main Museum building,
"The Donnelly" cabin
& Hearn's barn!

"Remembering Our Past to Establish Our Future"

Coming Events

Father's Day—Sunday, June 19, 2011

Celebrate with Dad at the museum — first 20 Dads will receive a neat gift!

Canada Day—Friday, July 1, 2011

Join us as we celebrate Canada's 144th birthday with a BBQ hosted by the Lucan Area Heritage Society at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre! Stop by the museum for a visit after lunch!

Emancipation Day—Monday, August 1, 2011

Honour our Wilberforce beginnings and enjoy traditional food, activities and music as we commemorate the 177th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.

Teddy Bear's Picnic—Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Bring your favourite teddy bear for day full of fun games, activities and snacks at the museum!

Doors Open Middlesex—September 18 & 19, 2011

Make a day of it and visit over 15 different sites throughout Middlesex County not normally open to the public. Brochures and guides available at the museum. **Free Admission to all sites!**

What the heck is that thing?!

This interesting object is found in Johannah and Bridget's bedroom in the Donnelly Cabin. Do you know what it is? What was it used for?

Send us your best guess and you could win a great prize! Just send an email at lucanheritage@donnellymuseum.com or mail your guess to Lucan Area Heritage Museum, 171 Main Street, P.O. Box 427, Lucan, Ontario, N0M 2J0. Be sure to include your name and contact phone numbers. From all the correct answers received we will draw one name to receive a prize from our Donnelly Museum Gift Shop.

Deadline: August 31, 2011 Good luck!

P.S. Don't forget to send us your guess about the object found in our last newsletter — the deadline for responses is June 30, 2011.

