Report 2022-114 Appendix A

PRESERVE More Than a Museum

PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL AND MARINE MUSEUM 2021 ANNUAL REPORT





"OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE PORT COLBORNE'S RESIDENTS AND VISITORS BY PRESERVING, EXHIBITING, AND INTERPRETING THE ARTIFACTS AND ARCHIVES OF PORT COLBORNE AND HUMBERSTONE."

PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL AND MARINE MUSEUM MISSION STATEMENT



Our 1870 carriage house, original to the site, received new cedar shingles as part of our capital improvements.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The 2021 season offered both challenges and opportunities, as we navigated through restrictions because of the global pandemic while also expanding, as the Museum Board of Management grew to include the Roselawn Centre under its administration. We welcome the opportunity to grow our role in the community into one that supports the arts and culture in Port Colborne through our mandate to preserve the heritage of our city and serve our community.

Our successes this year have been possible due to the tremendous support of community partnerships. For the first time ever, business and corporate sponsors made free museum membership possible for all citizens in Port Colborne. Service organizations and volunteers supported the reinvention of our annual events, as well as adding a new outdoor Diversity Garden event. Our volunteers, following all precautions required, have stepped up with significant contributions throughout our organization. These volunteers, working alongside dedicated staff, continue to deliver our message through innovative new programming. A movement towards online programming, exhibitions, and our speaker's series, as well as takeout kits and our Book A Safe Service (BASS) allowed for engagement from January to December this season.

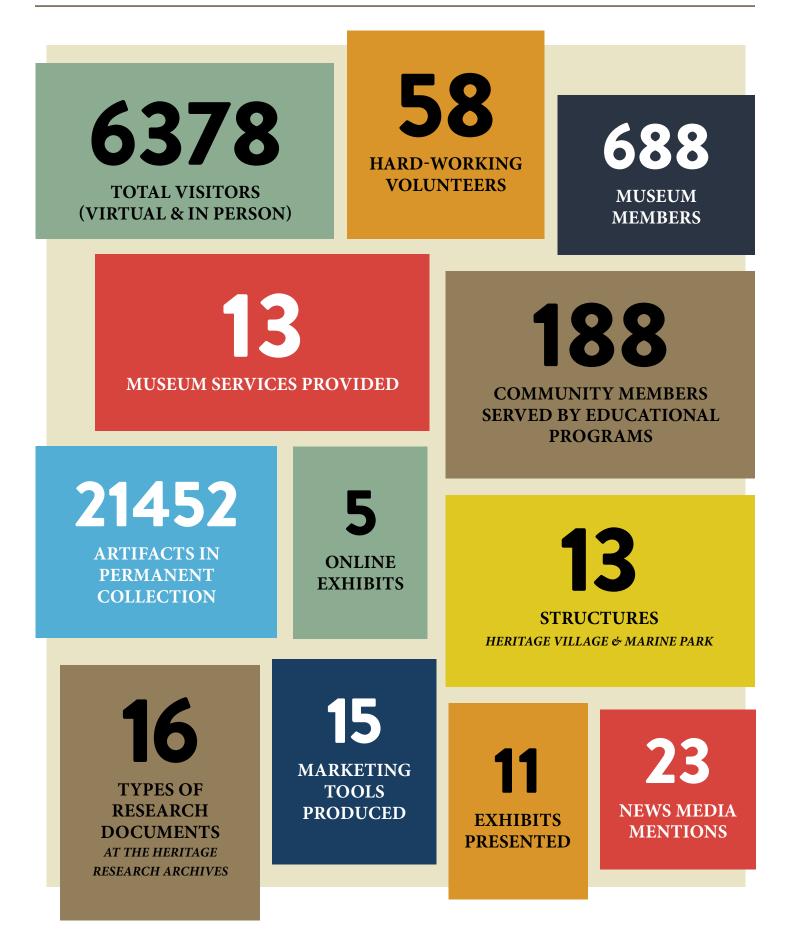
With the Friends of Roselawn Centre, our most exciting initiative in 2021 was the creation of the position of Director of Museum and Culture, which offers the museum opportunities never before considered. These new opportunities will involve all of us. The contributions and input of our members, volunteers, and community partners in the implementation of our future goals are critical and we look forward to working together in 2022 to formulate a 5-year strategic plan.

Sincerely,

Brian Heaslip

Chair of the Board of Management Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



18

DEDICATED STAFF

3 FULL TIME 6 PART TIME 9 SUMMER STUDENT STAFF



1914 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

4165 PARTICIPANTS IN SPECIAL EVENTS **646** TWITTER FOLLOWERS

17 1532 88 **MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS** ARTIFACTS **ARTIFACTS** FOR DONATED **ON DISPLAY** RESEARCH BY AND 15 SALE **GENEROUS** DONORS **EXHIBITS IN MAIN MUSEUM GALLERY** 4164 13 FACEBOOK **FOLLOWERS TELEVISION & ONLINE VIDEO ΡΗΟΤΟ SHOOTS APPEARANCES**

2021 FINANCIALS

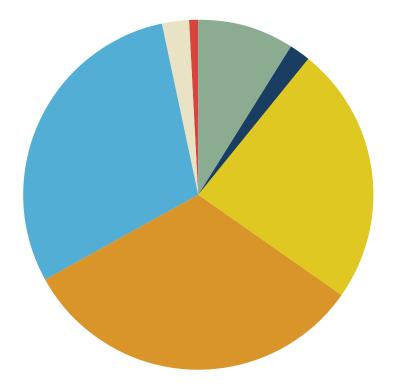
MUSEUM-RAISED REVENUE

ADMISSIONS

Museum/Heritage Village Tours sponsored by Lower Lakes Towing	5000
TOTAL Admissions	5000
Memberships sponsored by Bell Marine	1000
Fundraising*	13135
*Art Auction (700), Archives Advocate (5600), Corporate Donor Drive (6835)	

SPECIAL EVENTS

Pie Social (Tapestry Project) Grant	1200
Canal Days (Diversity Garden: Niagara Investment in Culture Grant)	6500
Sea Shanty Sponsor	500
Christmas Festival Takeout Kits and SWANS	1636
Museums Assistance Program (MAP) Digital Grant (to assist with online events)	7810
Total Special Events	17646
Donations (Individual)	16323
Gift Shop Sales	1830
Photocopies/Photos/Research (Archives)	438



GRANTS

TOTAL Grant Revenue	64382
Seniors' Grant	5760
Young Canada Works (Archives)	11568
Summer Experience Grant	3723
Canada Summer Jobs	7056
Young Canada Works (Museum)	12182
Community Operating Grant (Pay Equity Included)	24093

2021 FAMILY

MUSEUM VISITORS

Daily Museum (via BASS) 1872

Tea Room 0

Heritage Research Archives 52

School Tours (3) 33

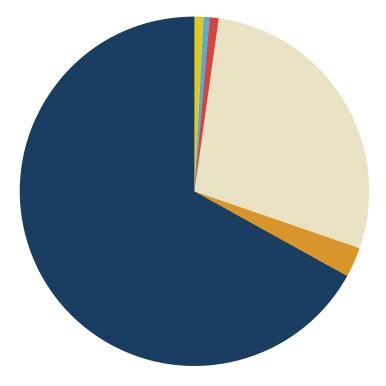
Virtual Group/Bus Tours 188

Education and Outreach* 4435

Weddings/Photography Bookings 68

TOTAL Visitors (2609 in-person, 3769 virtual) 6378

*Christmas Festival (313), Canal Days Weekend: Digging for Roots (177), and YouTube Sea Shanties (3581), Library Story Walk (94)



MUSEUM MEMBERS

Year 2021 Members	327
Life Members	302
Corporate Sustaining	19
Archive Advocates	40

TOTAL Members 688

VOLUNTEERS

Board Member Volunteers	
Grounds and Gardens Volunteers	5
Research and Collections Volunteers	6
Special Events/Tapestry Project Volunteers	37

TOTAL Volunteers 58



Membership Chair Claudia Brema was on hand to welcome new members on Canal Days weekend.

STAFF

FULL TIME:

Director of Museum and Culture: Stephanie Powell Baswick

Curator: Michelle Mason

Archivist: Michelle Vosburgh

PART TIME:

Archives Assistant: Kyla Harrietha/ Abbey Stansfield/ Meghan Chamberlain Custodian/Maintenance: Frank Habjan

Education Programmer: Abbey Stansfield

Receptionist/ Gift Shop Coordinator: Sherry Spark/Meghan Chamberlain

Registrar: Amanda Emery

Administrative Assistant: Amanda Emery



Museum staff tour the 1860 mansion known as Roselawn, in preparation for the future interpretation of the site.

BOARD MEMBERS

SUMMER STAFF:

Heritage Conservation Officer: Hannah Braitwaite (Young Canada Works in Heritage Institution-Canadian Museum Association)

Ecotourism Officer: Meghan Chamberlain (Canada Summer Jobs)

Programming Assistant: Isabella Favero (Summer Experience Program)

Database Administrator: Hanna Skala (*Canada Summer Jobs*)

Digitization Assistant: Sloane McDowell (Young Canada Works Canadian Council of Archives)

Collections Management Assistant: Rylee Clow (Port Colborne High School Co-op Student)

PROJECT STAFF:

Outreach Coordinator: Dario Smygata-Bryan (Niagara Investment in Culture Grant)

Outreach Coordinator: Susan Nicholson (Senior Community Grant)

INTERN:

Collection Assistant Intern: Sloane McDowell (from Sir Sandford Fleming College, May-August)



Program Assistant Isabella Favero and Ecotourism Officer Meghan Chamberlain collaborated to enhance the outdoor museum centred on the 1844 Sherk log house.

2021 CITIZEN APPOINTEES:

Bonnie Johnston (1981) Marcia Turner, Finance Chair (1995) Cheryl MacMillan (2001) Brian Heaslip, Chair (2009) Terry Huffman, Vice-Chair (2009) Pamela Koudijs (2013) Margaret Tanaszi (2015) Claudia Brema (2018) Bert Murphy (2018) Jeff Piniak (2019)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

John Maloney (2020) Bina Patel (2020)



Canada Summer Jobs student Hanna Skala, encourages residents to "Explore Port Colborne" via the City's photo contest.

EXHIBITS

ON-SITE EXHIBITS:

Graf Family Weavers:

The Graf family produced a wide variety of woven textiles for everyday use, though they are best remembered for their production of jacquard coverlets. The Graf exhibit in the museum's Timber Cabin explores the history of their weaving business, and showcases one of the original Graf looms in a recreated weaving workshop.

A Village by the Canal:

Take a look back to 150 years ago when Port Colborne was incorporated as a village. This exhibit explores the remarkable history of daily life in the village, and the skills and trades which were characteristic of Port Colborne's inhabitants in the era of 1870-1917.

Judging:

Helen Kinnear was called to the bar 100 years ago, beginning a legal career during which she accomplished a number of firsts for women, including becoming the first federally-appointed female judge in Canada. Raised in Port Colborne, it was here she first practised law. This exhibit takes a journey through her remarkable legal career and accomplishments.

Marine Exhibit Lighthouse Tugging Along: Tugboats on the Welland Canal

Narrow channels, small canal locks, and lots of ship traffic on the third Welland Canal meant plenty of business for the tugs and their crews. Peer into the Marine Exhibit Lighthouse to catch a glimpse of this vital part of the canal scene.

Permanent The Welland Canal:

Using an interactive touchscreen display and dozens of archives and photographs, this permanent exhibit looks at the people who built the canal, the economic impact of the canal, and its role in shaping the community.

Nigh Agora Museum:

Originally housed in a barn on Pinecrest Road, the Nigh Agora Museum now has a new home in the museum's Carriage House. Started by the late Mildred Nigh, who discovered a collection of handcrafted tools, utensils, and baskets—some almost 200 years old—when she and her husband bought their farm from Olive Knisley in 1972, the collection was generously donated to the museum in 2020.

TRAVELLING EXHIBITS FROM MUSEUM:

CITY HALL EXHIBITS

Misener Family's Shipping Businesses:

More than a century ago, Captain Scott Misener started investing in ships. This exhibit sails into the company's many transformations: Misener and McKellar, Sarnia Steamships Ltd., Colonial Steamships Ltd., and Misener Transportation Ltd.

Port Colborne: The Welland Canal:

The canal is a defining landmark that continues to be an integral part of the community's economy and tourism. This retrospective exhibit looks at the changes from the first to the fourth Welland Canal.

ON-LINE EXHIBITS:

Graf Family Weavers:

This new online exhibit on the Our Ontario website highlights the Grafs' weavings from the museum's collection. Included in this collection are the Graf jacquard coverlets, wool blankets, rag carpets, and several photographs of the Graf family. The detailed account of this collection is accessible to researchers and anyone looking to explore the interesting history of settler's textiles produced locally.

The War of 1812 and the Sugarloaf Settlement:

From 1812 to 1815, the inhabitants of what was to become Canada fought side by side with the British forces and their First Nations allies to defend their lands against the Americans. This website is dedicated to making the surviving records and artifacts from this time period available to everyone.

Port Colborne and the Welland Canal:

The city of Port Colborne's website now features an exhibit on the Welland Canal where you can learn about the transformation of the canals through the years, focussing on the Welland Canal in Port Colborne: the construction, the commerce and industry it influenced, the people, and pleasures of living close to the canal.



"HAVING THE OPTION TO BOOK A PRIVATE TOUR FOR US WITH THE GRANDCHILDREN WAS A PERFECT WAY TO VISIT THE MUSEUM AND WE WILL DEFINITELY BE BACK AGAIN. WE SPENT THE WHOLE AFTERNOON HERE..."

TONI HAYES

The museum's newest permanent exhibit Nigh Agora explores the heritage of a century farm.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

MUSEUM SEASON EXTENDED | JANUARY TO APRIL

The museum season was extended to welcome guests throughout the winter months.

ONTARIO HERITAGE WEEK 2021 | FEBRUARY 15-21, 2021

During Ontario Heritage Week the L.R. Wilson Archives virtually shared stories about Black Heritage connected to the Port Colborne area.

ARABELLA'S VOLUNTEER VALENTINE APPRECIATION | FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Embroidered heart-shaped lavender sachets made by museum staff were delivered to Arabella's Tea Room volunteers in an effort to stay connected and to show our appreciation.

ARCHIVES SPEAKER SERIES | MARCH 17, 2021

To mark the opening of the 2021 shipping season of the Welland Canal, the Education Programmer presented a virtual talk on Eventbrite about the new online exhibit, *Port Colborne and the Welland Canal*.

VIRTUAL TOP HAT PRESENTATION | MARCH 19, 2021

The 2021 Top Hat Ceremony—marking the opening of the southern terminus of the Welland Canal—was cancelled for the second time in a row, so museum staff created a YouTube Top Hat ceremony video to celebrate the event. The first downbound ship of the 2021 shipping season was the CSL Tadoussac.

ARCHIVES AWARENESS WEEK | APRIL 5-9, 2021

In honour of Archives Awareness Week, the L.R. Wilson Archives' Archivist presented a virtual talk on Eventbrite on the topic of past epidemics and pandemics called *Resilient Community: Epidemics in Port Colborne*.

APRIL BREAK: CURE YOUR CABIN FEVER | APRIL 12-16, 2021

A 45-minute tour of the Port Colborne Museum's Heritage Village and the exhibits in the Williams House were offered during the school spring break. The tour cost \$5 per person and followed all provincial guidelines.

MAY IS MUSEUM MONTH | MAY 2021

Museum Month is an annual program created by the Ontario Museum Association and celebrated by Ontario's 700+ museums, galleries, and heritage facilities. The Port Colborne Museum celebrated Museum Month by launching a new virtual initiative called *I Spy* that encouraged patrons to discover the mysteries that lie within the walls of the Captain Sharpe Heritage Resource Centre. Each week in May had a different theme.

Opposite, from top: Guests picnic or stroll in the grounds throughout the year; working with a local business partner, the museum showed the Museum Auxiliary volunteers our gratitude with hand embroidered lavender heart sachets.



"WE REALLY MUST CONGRATULATE ALL THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE MUSEUM FOR THE CREATIVE WAYS YOU HAVE FOUND TO KEEP US INVOLVED. WE'RE PROUD TO BE LIFE MEMBERS AND THINK THE MUSEUM BOARD LEADERSHIP IS STRONG. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK."

DOUG & VICKY REEB



2021 ACTIVITIES

HISTORY FROM HOME | APRIL 2021

For the second year *History from Home* called on the community to send handwritten letters of their personal experiences, thoughts, feelings that have touched them during the pandemic.

PORT COLBORNE TAPESTRY PROJECT | MAY 30, 2021

The *Port Colborne Tapestry Project* launched on May 30, which would have been the 37th Annual Arabella's Pie Social and History Fair. This art project provided 31 embroidery kits to members of the Museum Auxiliary, volunteers, and members of the community. The kits contained all materials needed to complete a panel with a heritage image representing our community. The completed embroideries will be part of an installation to be displayed and kept for future generations.

GROW WITH US | JULY 2021

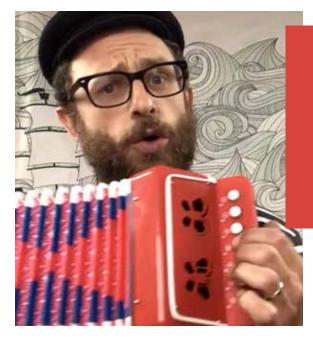
The launch of a heritage garden video series on the Port Colborne Museum's YouTube channel. This series gave the opportunity to see the recreation of a Port Colborne settlers' kitchen garden. Each week it premiered a new video focusing on different elements of heritage gardening. The Port Colborne Library provided the heirloom seeds for this summer kitchen garden project.

DIGGING FOR ROOTS-DIVERSITY GARDEN | JULY 31 - AUG. 1, 2021

Thanks to Niagara Region through Niagara Investment in Culture Grant, the museum executed a public outdoors exhibition celebrating diversity. Local artists and community members painted flowerpots showcasing what diversity meant to them. The completed pots were planted with flowers and exhibited on the museum's grounds. The Niagara Symphony performed two concerts during the launch on July 31.

SEA SHANTIES IN CELEBRATION OF OUR MARINE HERITAGE | JULY 31, 2021

In celebration of the Port Colborne's marine heritage, the museum, partnered with past Canal Days musicians to share original songs to showcase the community's connection to the water. These six shanties' videos were shared on the Port Colborne Museum YouTube channel. This project was sponsored by Jungbunzlauer.



"ALL THE (SEA SHANTY) PERFORMANCES WERE GREAT! LOVED THIS PROJECT. THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY GROUP."

CHERYL MACMILLAN

Right: In celebration of Port Colborne's marine heritage, the museum collaborated with musicians, including Christopher Eckart, to create sea shanties. Opposite page, from left: Meghan Chamberlain watering a plant in the Digging for Roots Diversity Garden; The Grand Old Christmas Festival featured takeout "Make Your Own Swag" kits.

VIRTUAL VILLAGE TOURS | AUGUST 2021

Weekly virtual tours of the heritage buildings and grounds on Eventbrite and prebooked in-person tours were offered during the month of August.

HISTORY CHASERS CLUB | LAUNCHED OCTOBER 2021

The History Chasers Club was designed for kids in grades 3 to 5. Members can earn badges after completing different museum program-related tasks. Passports are available at the museum and the library.

EXPLORE HALLOWEEN AT THE MUSEUM | OCTOBER 31, 2021

Port Colborne Museum extended their hours on October 31. The grounds were decorated with carved pumpkins and a fall-themed installation was provided for photos.

REMEMBRANCE DAY | NOVEMBER 4-12, 2021

In honour of the 100th anniversary of the remembrance poppy in Canada, the museum worked in partnership with the Niagara Falls Museum's Poppy Project to bring their handknit poppies to Port Colborne, displaying 2021 poppies on the fence around the museum. A display of poppies was also created in the Council Chamber at City Hall for the City's council meeting.

VIRTUAL SPEAKERS SERIES | NOVEMBER 11, 2021

Presentation by the Archivist and the Digitization Assistant on the HMCS Port Colborne and the HMCS Humberstone.

GRAND OLD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SWAG-MAKING KITS | DECEMBER 5, 2021

As an alternative to our traditional festival, the museum put together affordable door swag-making kits and biscuits mix with teacup kits. Mrs. Claus and Santa came for a visit and children were allowed to visit at a safe distance. The launch of the Nigh Agora Museum exhibit in Arabella's Carriage was launched on the same day.

NEWSLETTER ENGAGEMENT

In our newsletter and through the City Hall News we worked to engage the community via activities that could be done outside. One of the popular activities was a scavenger hunt created by Education Programmer Abbey Stansfield.





SERVICES & FACILITIES

MUSEUM SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Free admission to museum, exhibits, heritage village and marine park
- Guided group tours
- Public programming/speaking engagements
- Research room
- Museum gift shop
- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables, benches, gardens and pathways
- 7 washrooms (4 accessible)
- Free parking

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED FOR:

- Heritage consultants
- Environmental and industrial researchers
- Genealogical researchers, students and general researchers
- City staff
- Archaeologists
- Journalists and reporters
- Authors

RESEARCH FACILITIES PROVIDED:

Fully accessible Heritage Research Archives providing documentary history of Port Colborne, Humberstone and the Welland Canal:

- Historic maps
- Historic photographs
- Indexed deeds and property records
- Directories (business and telephone)
- Microfilm
- Census records
- Cemetery records
- Welland Canal files and marine documents
- Ship files
- Family history files
- Local history books
- Microfilmed historic business ledgers
- Assessment and collector rolls
- Land registry records
- Historic newspapers
- Florence Neff Young collection





PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

BUILDING & PROPERTY PROJECTS:

- New security alarms in heritage buildings, Arabella's Tea Room, and garage
- Restoration on Arabella's carriage
- Heritage vegetable and flower garden
- Basement conservation station built
- Cedar shingles replaced on Blacksmith Shop, Schoolhouse and Carriage House
- Offices repainted
- Installation of Algoma Propeller
- New Furnace/Air Conditioner at Archives
- Roselawn ramp dismantled

PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED:

- 3 museum newsletters: Spring, Summer & Fall
- Posters inviting artists to participate in the *Digging for Roots* project
- Passports for *History Chasers*
- Tags for thank you seed packages for *Digging for Roots* participants
- Museum brochure
- COVID-19 policy binder and volunteer binder
- Christmas cards for volunteers

MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH & SALE

- Golden Age of Humberstone Village
- A-Z Documentary History of Humberstone Village
- Port Colborne: Tales from the Age of Sail
- Coming Home—The 1901 Neff Steam Buggy
- Humberstone Township—The First Fifty Years
- Memoirs of Pat MacDonald
- Scruples of Conscience—The War of 1812 in the Sugarloaf Settlement
- David Sherk and Descendants
- Caspar Sherk and Descendants
- Sherk-Troup House
- Kendricks: Port Colborne Lighthouse Keepers
- The Locktender's House
- Port People—Builders and Shapers of our Culture and Community
- Port Colborne and The Fenian Invasion of Canada June 1866
- Port People—Along the Lakeshore-Builders and Shapers of our Community in Port Colborne and Wainfleet



From far left: Outdoor programming featured the grounds and gardens; this propeller was moved from Algoma Central Corporation's Port Colborne office on International Museum Day to be on permanent exhibit in the museum's marine park; Heritage conservation volunteer Jim Martin works to improve workspaces to clean and repair artifacts.

JOIN US IN 2022!

2022 EVENTS

January 18	Annual General Meeting
February 21-27	Heritage Week
February 28	Bell Marine sponsored memberships for all Port Colborne and Wainfleet residents
May 1	Museum open daily 12pm-5pm
May 29	38th Annual Arabelle's Pie Social and History Fair 12pm-5pm
June 1	Arabella's Tea Room open daily 2pm-4pm until Sept. 30
July 30-31	44th Annual Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival 11pm-5pm
September-November	Archives Speakers' Series
December	Arabella's Tea Room Christmas Pudding & Sauce 2pm-4pm
December 4	Grand Old Christmas Festival



Above and right: Hand-knit poppies were installed on the museum's fencing to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the poppy as symbol of remembrance.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from Bell Marine, all residents of Port Colborne and Wainfleet who wish to become museum members can do so for free in 2022. Bell Marine, the oldest chandler on the Great Lakes, has contributed the cost of membership fees so citizens can join the museum at no personal cost.

Memberships can be obtained by filling out a membership card and dropping it into the mailbox or by visiting the City website and purchasing <u>online</u>. Life Patron membership is available for \$100. Members who donate to the museum with their membership are eligible for an income tax receipt (for donations over \$20).

TOURS

The museum and archives offer a number of different tours, including various Urban History Walking Tours in the city of Port Colborne, Cemetery Tours, a step-on bus tour, and tours of the museum's own heritage village. These tours offer residents and visitors an entertaining and informative glimpse into our community's past, sharing the stories of the people and places which give Port Colborne such a rich cultural heritage.

Please call for rates and schedules, or follow us on Facebook.

L.R. WILSON HERITAGE RESEARCH ARCHIVES

The archives is open by appointment using BASS (Book a Safe Service) for heritage research specializing in genealogy, heritage home research, local history and marine heritage.

The McDonald Conference Hall at the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives is available for rent, and large enough to accommodate groups with diverse purposes. Hall rental includes 8 tables, 52 stacking chairs and access to a kitchenette which includes a small fridge, microwave, coffee maker and kettle.

Rental Fees:

8 Hour rental: \$120.00

Note: A \$60.00 deposit is required when booking the Conference Hall. Prices do not include HST.

Rentals will resume when Ontario COVID-19 response framework declares Niagara in the yellow "protect" zone.

"YOU ALL ARE TO BE COMMENDED ON THE OUTSTANDING DISPLAY OF POPPIES AT THE MUSEUM... IT WAS STUNNING! IT MADE ME PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE MUSEUM."



CLAUDIA



PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM

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Roselawn Centre lit up for the holidays. Photo courtesy of local photographer Chris de Laat.