

The Paris Museum and Historical Society Newsletter: Summer 2023



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This newsletter is published by the Paris Museum and Historical Society (PMHS), an organization dedicated to preserving Paris' history

The Town of Paris

Our town is growing and our history remains an integral part of our identity.

At the fork of the Grand and Nith Rivers, Paris holds many stories of its people, industries and events. Our Historical Society provides Walking Tours, requested research, exhibits, and a space to preserve the town's rich and varied culture.

Address:

Paris Museum & Historical Society,
located at Syl Apps Community Centre,
51 William St. Street, Paris, Ontario
Enter from Elm Street

Mailing address:

66 Grand River St,
Paris Ontario N3L 2M2

Phone:

519-442-9295

Website:

<https://www.theparismuseum.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheParisMuseum>

Instagram:

theparismuseum

Museums can increase our sense of wellbeing, help us feel proud of where we have come from, can inspire, challenge and stimulate us, and make us feel healthier.

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/museums-change-lives/>

Reaching Out into the Community

Our theme this year is the job of building relationships with the Paris community.

We have opportunities to restart things that museum members enjoyed doing in the past, as well as beginning new outreach activities to put people in touch with the museum and the history of the area.

Restarts of Favourite Activities

Our speakers' series in the winter was an example of an activity that needed restarting after the time of lockdown. We were pleased to have three knowledgeable speakers on diverse topics sharing with audiences composed of both members and people who were "not yet" members (A friend is just a person who you have not yet met, right?).

We are planning to have another set of speakers for the winter months in 2024.

The museum yard sale was a popular event in past years. We have a yard sale scheduled for September 23rd, 2023, in the Syl Apps lobby. Anyone can donate items in advance of the sale. It will include a silent auction, a \$10 fill-a-bag, and a raffle for a cobblestone quilt!

Another restart is our seniors outreach, involving a small team visiting local seniors residences, with a kit of objects for examination and discussion; the sorts of objects that inspire conversations that begin with *"I remember having one of these...."* Or, *"When I was a child...."* Or, *"I haven't see one of these for ages!"* Our seniors outreach is scheduled to start up again in the fall.

The museum used to have dances. Social events, like dances, are a way to enhance quality of life and improve mental and physical health. A community social event is planned for November. It is an exciting evening that involves the Legion, 40s music, local actors, the opportunity for vintage dress-up and refreshments.

We have had a website for a while. There is a new one, and it includes all the information, stories and slideshows that were on the old site. The new website, however, is much friendlier on mobile devices. We had both museum members and visitors mention that they were unable to access information about the museum using their phones. This new website should fix that problem. As well, because we can update it more easily, we can share news and information in a timely fashion.

Beginnings

Freshly sprouted activities that reach out into the community are things like our plans to be at **Woolstock** this year. **Woolstock** is a one-day event at the Paris Fairgrounds,

celebrating all things fiber. For a museum with all sorts of artifacts related to knitting, this was an easy fit. This year we are going to share vintage Mary Maxim items and patterns with the many people who visit **Woolstock**. If all goes well, we plan to attend again next year, showcasing Penmans artifacts.

As a part of Culture Days this year we have a plan to combine a downtown walking tour with a stop-in at a few Paris businesses, making it a both a social and historical afternoon. This new event will take place on Sun. Oct 15. As well, we are offering back-stage tours of the museum, into places that normally only the volunteers get to go.

New Faces

We have so many more visitors to Paris than we ever used to. Each of those visitors is an opportunity for us to be ambassadors for Paris as a town and as a community of people. Visitors to the museum remark upon the beauty of the rivers and the trails, but they also remark upon the friendly people who say "good morning" or help them find their way. The museum is one of the places that visitors



can use to understand the history of the place, the sorts of architecture they see on the streets and how this pretty little place came to grow on the banks of the Nith and the Grand.



In response to sharing our stories with more visitors, there is a plan afoot to refresh the look of the museum, with a focus on the people, patents, and industries that had their beginnings in Paris, but grew to influence on a wider scale.

As we reach out into the community, telling our stories and showing our artifacts, we are also developing relationships where people can share their stories with us and give us new perspectives on what/how/where to

share history. Like gardens, relationships take time to grow. It is a gradual process. We have other ideas for the future, like more school outreach, a visit from the New York cobblestone museum, and collaborations with other museums, but it all takes time. We know what we want for the future. One step at a time and we will achieve it, together.

Judy Moore, chair

New Website!

A new website was launched this summer. Not only is it a fresh new look, but more importantly, it is much more friendly with mobile devices (a.k.a phones). As well, it is much easier to edit so that we can keep it up-to-date more easily. If you haven't looked at it yet, please do so! It is at the same address, theparismuseum.com.

Please, let us know what you think by emailing info@theparismuseum.com



See you at the Fair!

We will be at the fair, under the grandstand, all day on Monday, September 4th. We will be sharing information about cobblestone buildings and cobblestone construction. As well, we will be selling raffle tickets for a beautiful 4.5 x 5.5 foot Cobblestone Quilt.



Culture Days

We are a part of Culture Days in County of Brant, running from Sept. 22 to Oct. 15. This province-wide festival is an annual celebration of arts, culture and heritage taking place each fall across the province. Each year, organizers host programs throughout Ontario and invite the public to participate for free.

For culture days this year, we will be offering backstage tours of the museum on Saturdays, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, and 14. Show up at the museum and ask for a free tour with Tina!

As well, we will be having a social/historical mash-up in the form of a tour through down town, with stop-ins at some Paris businesses. Equal parts of fun and information on Sun. Oct 15. Watch for more detailed information on time and how to sign up for this free event.

For more information on what is happening in Brant County for Culture Days, visit: <https://www.brant.ca/en/arts-culture-events/brant-celebrates-culture-days.aspx>

For more information province-wide, visit: <https://onculturedays.ca/>



Yard Sale

There will be a Yard Sale on September 23rd, in the Syl Apps Lobby. We will be having Silent Auction items, a raffle for the Cobblestone Quilt, as well as an opportunity to buy and fill a bag with items for \$10. The draw for the Cobblestone Quilt will take place at the end of the Yard Sale.

This is not only an opportunity to take home some treasures, but also an opportunity for you to *donate* treasures that you are finished with. Donate at the museum during open hours until September 10th.

The flyer is yellow with black and red text. At the top left is the Paris Museum & Historical Society logo. The main text reads: 'IT'S BACK! Paris Museum & Historical Society INDOOR YARD SALE'. Below this, it says 'Saturday September 23 8am-1pm Syl Apps Community Centre Lobby 51 William St, Paris Ontario'. It then states 'Buy a bag for \$10.00 and fill it!' and lists 'Featuring Silent Auction' and 'Draw for Cobblestone Quilt Raffle'. It also mentions 'All major Credit Cards, Interac and Cash accepted' and 'Support our Sale!'. The bottom section says 'Bring your new, gently used, and heritage items. They will be gratefully accepted during Museum hours (Wed-Sat 1-4pm) until September 10th.' and provides the email 'info@theparismuseum.com'. The bottom of the flyer features an illustration of people at a yard sale table and a 'DONATION' bin, along with a Visa logo and a small disclaimer: 'The Paris Museum and Historical Society (PMHS) is a registered charity and operates as a non-profit organization. All Proceeds from this sale help secure our communities heritage for future generations.'

Celebrate Mary Maxim at *Woolstock*

Have you ever been to Woolstock? It is sometimes known as Fleecefest! This one-day event is dedicated to celebrating everything fiber-related and if you knit or crochet, do anything related to fiber, or even wear scarves, you need to visit. This 14th Annual event will take place at the Paris Fairgrounds from 9am – 4pm. And.... Paris Museum and Historical Society will be there, with a display featuring vintage Mary Maxim sweaters and patterns. See you there! <https://woolstockon.com/>



The Paris Museum & Historical Society Celebrates Mary Maxim



The Bare Naked Ladies, Bob Hope and everyone's grandparents can't all be wrong! Mary Maxim sweaters are vintage styling at its best! Even in Paris, all the great people wore them including the mayor and firefighters. A display of original sweaters, vintage patterns and pattern books, camera-ready art and the history of Mary Maxim in Paris has been put together from the many objects in the collection of the Paris Museum and Historical Society. Come and have a look!

There is a November event in the works!

Stay tuned for details on an event that we plan to have in November. We are working out the details, but it involves 40s music, local stories from both world wars, music to sing along with, short dramas and You!

We are excited about this event!



Speakers Series

Our third and final speaker this year was James Christison, of the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum, speaking on Pottery Make-Dos: The Art of Repairs, on May 28th. He showed us some fascinating repairs on pottery, allowing people to continue using pieces that were important to them.

We plan to present more speakers this coming winter/spring.





Membership Renewal

This is a reminder to renew your membership. If you are not sure when you last renewed, please ask the receptionist; they can check for you. Or, check the back of your membership card for the renewal date.

Not able to come in? Phone 519-442-9295 Wed – Sat, 1 – 4 pm. and speak to the receptionist.

Walking Tours

We have had a pretty great season so far for walking tours this year; we have only had one tour rained out.

The final two that are scheduled this season are in August.

On Saturday, August 19th, join Wayne Wilkinson for a tour of Lower Town, beginning at the museum.

On Saturday, August 26, join Marie Williamson for a tour of the Upper Town, beginning at the Anglican Church. These tours begin at 10 am, but be there by 9:45. The tours are free for members and \$10 for guests. Call the museum or email info@theparismuseum.com to book ahead, or arrive on the day to join the tour!



THE PARIS MUSEUM
Saturday
Walking Tours in Paris
Walking tours led by guides experienced in the history, architecture and neighbourhoods of Paris.
\$10 per person (no cost to museum members)
1.5 - 2 hours each
for more information or a group tour by request, contact
info@theparismuseum.com

Walking Tour Schedule

Lower Town Walk
guide: Wayne Wilkinson
Leaving at 10AM
from Museum, 12 William St,
off the parking lot
June 24, July 22, Aug 19

Upper Town Walk
guide: Marie Williamson
Leaving at 10AM
from St. James Anglican
Church, 8 Burwell Street
June 17, Jul 29, Aug 26

Help Wanted!

You can see the number and variety of events that we have planned for the fall. If you would like to get involved in **any of them**, either by helping to organize, setting up, or talking to people about Paris history, please contact the museum.

We have students who volunteer, working toward their “40 hours” for high school. Volunteer as much or as little as you like. Many hands make light work!

Email: info@theparismuseum.com and your interest will be passed on to the event organizers!



MEMBERSHIP FORM
Paris Museum & Historical Society



Located:
Syl Apps Community Centre,
51 William Street, Paris, ON

Mailing Address:
66 Grand River Street N.
Paris, ON N3L 2M2

MEMBERSHIP (one-year from date*)

- Adult Membership \$25.00
- Family Membership \$40.00
- Senior Membership \$20.00
- Student Membership \$20.00
- Corporate Membership \$150.00
- Donation \$_____

Method of Payment

- Cheque Credit Card
- Cash Debit Card
- Online Payment

Benefits of Membership:

- Supporting the cultural heritage of Paris, Brant County
- Research access with PMHS staff
- Library access
- Volunteer opportunities
- Invitation to special events
- Newsletter & Updates (mailing list)
- Voting Rights at the Annual General Meeting

Name _____

Address _____

Town & Postal Code _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail** _____

Date* _____

Received By _____

**In providing us with your email address, you are granting PMHS permission to send you electronic notices/newsletters and very occasional updates. You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing us at info@theparismuseum.com with the subject "unsubscribe".

Office Use Only:

Contact ID: _____

Date Added to Database: _____

Added by: _____

Mail in your membership form, or bring it into the museum Wed – Sat, 1 – 4 pm.
Questions? Email: info@theparismuseum.com