

**Annual General Meeting:
February 19, 2006**

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2005 ANNUAL REPORT NORFOLK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President's Report



*N.H.S. President,
Virginia Birnie*

2005 was a good year with many exhibits, activities and programs chaired and helped by the many dedicated volunteers of the Norfolk Historical Society.

In my third year as President I welcomed Philip Ross to his first year on the Board of Directors. Although Phil was a new face at the museum, he is a long time Norfolk County resident and curator of the recent popular Finding Folk Art exhibit.

Thank you to Elaine Fraser for her work as secretary for the Board of Directors and for being Personnel chair. Thank you to Karen Culver and Sheila Hastie as past presidents who were available for the many meetings over the course of the year and who gave guidance when asked. Thank you to Directors Mike Bonaccorso, Gord Maskell, John Cardiff, Phillip Ross and Mike McMillan who were always available for meetings and to help with events and exhibitions. Thank you to Scott Morris for continuing in the demanding position of Treasurer. Thank you to Richard Campbell and Don McPherson for their commitment to our activities until they both have had to leave the Board of Directors because of ill health and work commitments.

On a Sunday in January, Ross Gowan acted as facilitator for our Board members with our review of our Strategic Plan. It is important that we keep our Strategic Plan in focus and keep on task with the goals which we set to make the Norfolk Historical Society continue to move forward. We must keep current with initiatives of today. Time was set aside at the monthly Board of Director's meetings to review these goals which are now being used as the basis in our application to the Community Transition Program to make an application for the position of General Manager for the Norfolk Heritage Centre.

Our staff also made applications for a variety of grants to allow for summer students to be hired for summer placements. We were successful in receiving the grants and were able to hire four students.

Exhibits through the year included Women of Our Past, Field and Stream, Norfolk Roars, Norfolk Names in the News, Norfolk in War and Peace and Finding Folk Art.

The Calendar Girls was the topic of the May Luncheon with Rose Marie Smith as speaker.

Member Glenda Cavan chaired the Heritage Garden Tour in June, introducing Speakers and Demonstrations to the extended two day tour.

In September Gordon Slater, Dominion Carillonneur, Ottawa Peace Tower, lectured on carillons and their music following a recital at the Carillon Tower.

Norfolk Genealogy Fair in September with David Moore, history instructor at Appleby College, Oakville as guest speaker was again successful.

Eric Hoskins, Bruce Steinhoff, Deborah Ellis, Vic Gibbons and Chico Maki were some of the people welcomed at a partnership reception with Simcoe Times-Reformer for Norfolk Names in the News in October.

Thanks to Vic Gibbons for donating prints of his Bull Moose which are being sold with the proceeds going to the Norfolk Historical Society.

Sheila Hastie again chaired the successful Antiques Identification Clinic in October. Millard Rouse and Rosebrugh L.L.P. were the sponsors of this event and Zehrs provided the lunch for the experts.

Lynne Hagen chaired the Annual Christmas Party in conjunction with the opening reception of Finding Folk Art. G. Douglas Vallee Limited Consulting Engineers and Architect generously sponsored Finding Folk Art.

Lanny Horne Fine Art Gallery and Custom Framing gave four prints which raised funds in a draw at the Christmas Party.

In keeping with our practice started last year of forming partnerships, we were once again part of the Simcoe Rotary House Tour in November. We continued to work with Comfort Inn, Welcome Wagon, Norfolk County and Simcoe B.I.A. A new partnership will be with Fanshawe College as we offer a genealogy course beginning in April. The course will be taught by experts from our own genealogy group. Look for information on our own website as well as in the Fanshawe College brochure which will be delivered to households in March.

All of the above initiatives have a two-fold purpose: to raise money for the operation of Norfolk Heritage Centre at Eva Brook Donly Museum and to adhere to our mission statement:

"Our Mission is to promote awareness and understanding of all aspects of the County of Norfolk's Heritage and History, and to develop commitment to the preservation of artifacts and archives."

As a non-profit and privately funded museum we rely on your valued membership, your volunteer hours and your enthusiastic support in the coming year. Some of the activities which we have planned for the upcoming year are: Basket-making workshops, Edifice House Restoration Workshop, Fanshawe College / Eva Brook Donly Museum Genealogy Course, "Through the Eyes of Vic Gibbons" Exhibit, ROM Iroquois Beadwork Exhibit.

We look forward to seeing you at the Norfolk Heritage Centre incorporating the Eva Brook Donly Museum.

Virginia Birnie



Unveiling new logo -
Norfolk Heritage Centre



"Norfolk Names in the News" ↑
L-R: Dr. Jim Cruise, Mrs. Marjorie
Schneider, Mr. Vic Gibbons

Folk Art
Artisan Sale ↓



←
2005 Volunteer
Appreciation
Luncheon ↓



2005 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President:	Virginia Birnie
Vice President:	vacant
Past President:	Karen Culver
Secretary:	Elaine Fraser
Treasurer:	Scott Morris

DIRECTORS

Mike Bonaccorso, Richard Campbell, John Cardiff, Sheila Hastie, Gord Maskell, Mike McMillan, Don McPherson, Phillip Ross.

COMMITTEES of the Norfolk Historical Society

Acquisitions	Archives
Finance	Genealogy
Nominating	Personnel
Special Events	

The President is ex-officio member of all committees

The Nominating Committee's Proposed Board of Directors For 2006

OFFICERS

President:	
1st Vice President:	Phillip Ross
Past President:	Virginia Birnie
Secretary:	
Treasurer (Interim):	Scott Morris

DIRECTORS

Larry Bauslaugh, Mike Bonaccorso, John Cardiff, Karen Culver, Elaine Fraser, Marilyn Haslinger, Sheila Hastie, Gord Maskell.

At the first Board Meeting following the A.G.M., executive will be filled by election.

Treasurer's Report

The attached audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2005 show that, unlike 2004, we now face an overall deficit for the year. Although our membership retention was down \$2,287, or about 13%, donations remained almost the same as a year before; a slight increase of \$101.



Cash Register ca. 1900

For the year, overall revenues were \$119,234 [\$154,905 budget] and expenditures were \$133,425 [\$154,905 budget] resulting in a deficit of (\$14,191) before taking budgeted fund usage into consideration. After considering budgeted fund usage of \$11,143, the deficit is (\$3,048). While not as satisfying as the surplus last year of \$5,841, it is certainly better than the 2003 overall deficit of (\$70,920). Through our capital fund, we achieved a net income of \$20,842 [\$21,342 in 2004] which includes capital gains, dividends and interest income, exchange loss, less management fees. As of December 31st, our book value in the capital fund has increased slightly from \$301,763 to \$302,605.

BUDGET 2006

The budget for the current year has not been finalized at this date but I expect that it will continue the implementation and evolution of our strategic plan by focusing on effective use and programming of our facilities, enhanced marketing of the Norfolk Heritage Centre, fund raising efforts and capital replacement. The expectation is that the new board will deal with it at its first meeting in March.

Respectfully submitted
Scott Morris

Curator's Report

Our historical society and museum are part of our community's living heritage, and today and tomorrow play as big a role at the museum as yesterday.

We are always looking for opportunities to share our passion for Norfolk's history with our visitors, volunteers, membership and local community. Partnerships and relationships bring in our community or take us out into that community.

Norfolk County Heritage & Culture and our local museums / art centre



Roaring Twenties Exhibit

In 2005 the museums and arts centre in Norfolk all joined together for our first Norfolk County-wide joint exhibit and activities for "Roaring Norfolk: The 1920's". With Margaret Dryden and Norfolk County's Heritage & Culture Division as leader, the Delhi Tobacco Museum & Heritage Centre, Norfolk Arts Centre, Norfolk Heritage Centre, Port Dover Harbour Museum, Spruce Row Museum, Teeterville Pioneer Museum, Alligator Tug, Carillon Tower and Port Rowan-South Walsingham Heritage Association all organized county-wide displays, events and entertainment. Our museum joins the others at the regular Heritage and Culture Division's meetings, and this year we are all working together again for a "Winds of Change" programme across Norfolk.

(Continued on Page 4)



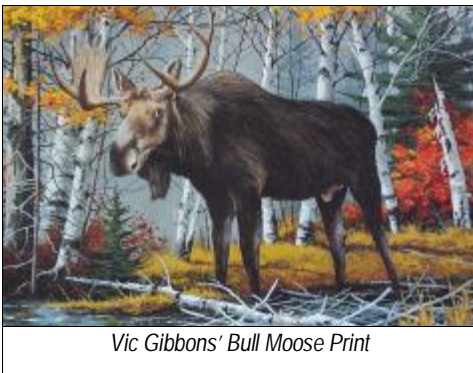
Roaring Twenties Exhibit

Exhibit Partnerships

"Field & Stream" celebrated our outdoors heritage of fishing and hunting in Norfolk was sponsored by Canadian Tire, Simcoe. "Kicking Up our Heels" highlighted 1920s entertainment and fashion for our part in "Roaring Norfolk, The 1920s". Our local Norfolk ArtsCo artists and photographers mounted their new show, "The Way We Were", as part of our displays.

"Norfolk in War, Norfolk in Peace" celebrated Norfolk's proud military past as well as the 80th anniversary of the Carillon Tower.

"Finding Folk Art" delighted local audiences with exciting carvings, paintings and hooked rugs from as far away as Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada. G. Douglas Vallee Ltd. was our corporate sponsor. Karen Culver organized the exhibit-event theme from start to finish. Phillip Ross took days away from his business (Shadfly Antiques) to borrow and set up dozens of Folk Art carvings and paintings. Virginia Birnie and a half-dozen other volunteers decorated the museum with Christmas greenery both indoors and outside.



Vic Gibbons' Bull Moose Print



*"Norfolk Names in the News" Reception
L-R: Kim Novak, Heather King, Bill Yeager,
Sue Downs*



*Local Artisans displayed and sold their work
During the opening of "Finding Folkart" Exhibit.*

Special Events Partnerships

Special events and activities at the museum brought us together with Norfolk visitors, volunteers, community organizations, students, local businesses, artists and entertainers.

The NHS Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation lunch celebrated the central role of our own Norfolk Historical Society volunteers and members.

Our "Field & Stream" Identification Day brought in the expertise of collectors Bruce Malcolm and Mark Van Hee and a demonstration of tying fishing lures by Chris Hagen.

The menu at the Spring Luncheon included a look at the Norfolk Women's Institutes' successful "Calendar Girls" fund raising with Rose Marie Smith.

2005's Heritage Garden Tour brought speakers, garden demonstrations, Norfolk ArtsCo artists and Simcoe Composite School jazz band into the gardens, organized by volunteer Glenda Cavan. A half dozen local garden centres provided advertising sponsorships.

Special Roaring Twenties events featured entertainers and writers, organized with Bob Missen and the Norfolk Arts Centre: a 1920s Broadway Musical concert by Bob Missen & friends, Silent Movies night at the Strand Theatre, a 1920s Memories night with local historians Harry B. Barrett, Cheryl Macdonald & Bill Yeager, and a Downtown Deco walking tour by Bill Yeager with the Carillon Tower, Norfolk Lodge No. 10 and Councillor Peter Black.

Almost a hundred music lovers packed the museum for a post-concert Carillon talk by Dominion Carillonneur Gordon Slater sponsored by Norfolk County's Heritage & Culture Division and a one-day only "military museum" display by collector Judy Cattel. Bill Yeager worked with our local Cable Television station on an 80th anniversary DVD for the Carillon.

Almost 30 years old, our 29th annual Norfolklife genealogy fair made Norfolk the centre for family history in Ontario for the day. Two dozen exhibitors included Ontario Genealogical Society Branches, United Empire Loyalists Association Branches, archives and family history businesses.

There are always surprises for the Antiques Identification Day, so even the dozen long-time antiques experts (collectors

(Continued on page 5)

and dealers) often find unusual items they have never seen before. Our generous sponsor was Millard, Rouse Rosebrugh Chartered Accountants, and chairperson was Board volunteer Sheila Hastie.

Our "Norfolk Names in the News" exhibit was highlighted by a very special VIP day when our sponsor, The Simcoe Reformer, helped us welcome Norfolk personalities from sports, the arts, business and politics. Jutta Upshall, Phillip Ross and Bill Yeager worked closely with the Reformer's Editor Kim Novak, Advertising Editor Sue Downs and writers Janet Gibson & Keri Schram on the Reformer's glossy "Notables of Norfolk" magazine.

Simcoe Rotary Club's Holiday Homes Tour in November partnered us also with a display and sale by dozen local crafts-people and antiques dealers organized by Virginia Birnie. At the Museum Christmas Party and Folk Art opening local folk art and antiques dealer Phillip Ross (Shadfly Antiques) was guest curator for an exciting show of dozens of pieces borrowed from local and out of town collectors. Volunteer extraordinary Lynne Hagen (and her whole family!) created a delicious feast of seasonal refreshments. Port Dover singer-songwriter Bruce Milner entertained.

In December, King's Flower & Garden Centre presented a Christmas Centrepiece workshop.

Many other local businesses generously contributed seasonal decorations, door prizes and refreshments to several of these events.

Education Partnerships & Programmes for our Community



2005 Heritage Adventures

"Heritage Adventures", our summer hands-on history for children. Youngsters aged five to eleven spent July and August mornings in hands-on history of all sorts, giving experience to a half-dozen enthusiastic young adolescent volunteers

Christmas education programme, organized by Glenda Cavan, gave classes the opportunity to learn about Canadian folk art, an old-time Christmas and try their hand at painting quilt squares.

Other school tours included tours and workshops, such as several for a local enrichment class.

Learning is for all ages, such as the enjoyable speakers programmes at monthly NHS Genealogy Committee meetings and our summer Roaring 1920s concerts-lectures-&-walking tour series.

Ruth Van Gorp was our Co-Op Student from Holy Trinity High School from February through June.

Many local businesses made donations for children's education programmes in both the summer and Christmas seasons.



Thanks! -- Our Norfolk Historical Society / Museum volunteers

Our own special "museum community", who are our most enthusiastic and loyal partners, are the many dozens of dedicated Norfolk Historical Society volunteers, who so selflessly give us their energy, time, talent and experience

President Virginia Birnie and the Norfolk Historical Society Board members devote enormous amounts of enthusiasm, time and talent to the work of the Norfolk Heritage Centre and the Society. Our volunteer "staff" of dozens of Norfolk Historical Society members and volunteers is essential to keeping us open and serving our public: staffing our Front Desk, helping researchers in the Library, indexing Archives papers, creating displays, working on special events, acting as Docents, organizing Genealogy Committee meetings and the Genealogy Fair, leading Education tours, and the maintaining the Web Site.



Special events and activities at the museum brought us together with Norfolk visitors, volunteers, community organizations, students, local businesses, artists and entertainers.

← 2005 Volunteer Awards Night
David Avery, Mary Collver, Elinor
Gilbertson, Betty Mason, Betty Lees
Absent: Mary Gilbertson

Bill Yeager, Curator

Acquisitions Committee Report

In 2005, a variety of exciting, historic and rare treasures from Norfolk County's heritage came into the Historical Society's collections at the museum. We are dependent upon donations by our members and friends among the public, and gifts in 2005 were some of the most interesting and valuable ever given to us.

Among the year's highlights:

- A marvelous collection of 100 souvenir glass wares was the first of a promised much larger collection of Canadian glass very generously donated by Tim & Elaine Godfrey, all the way from Calgary.
- A rare War of 1812 Veteran's medal awarded to Aaron Slaght, from the estate of his descendant Eric Silk.
- Another rare and memorable donation was the set of horned settee & chair made by Simcoe butcher William Wilcox 100 years or more ago, donated by Rhea Wilcox and family.
- Three Cantelon paintings of Big Creek and St. Williams Reforestry Station scenes from the family of the late Robert Brenner.
- Large collection of several hundred aboriginal artifacts (arrowheads & pottery sherds) from the family of the late Roger Bellamy.
- An incredible, huge wooden Canadian flag crafted 75 or more years ago from wood inlays by Simcoe cabinet maker Ernest Edgington was donated by the local Odd Fellows Hall in Simcoe.
- Collection of World War I postal history from Private Harold Hillis, killed overseas in 1916: letters home, letters of condolence and postcards, donated by Ross Irwin.
- Wedding dress of 1926 worn by Ora M. Mitchell at her marriage to James Colman in Port Dover, donated by Paul Coleman.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Jim Cruise, Acquisitions Chairman, and Bill Yeager, Curator



← Horned Settee made by William Wilcox



Rose Souvenir Glassware →



Archives Report

Donations continue to arrive in the Archives—books, papers, family and historical photos, boxes of family histories, and historical papers from businesses and organizations. These all have to be sorted, itemized, and either placed in conservation storage, or prepared as research material available to the public.

This work is very time-consuming. Our group is smaller, and each member has a project underway. Storage space is limited—it's a challenge to find more room for more boxes.

We will continue to add and keep order to what is already in place in the Vault, the Library and the Reading/Research room. This work is for the benefit of the Society, and the many researcher into Norfolk places and people.

Winnie Walker, Chair

Genealogy Group Report

In 2005 the Genealogy Group continued to meet the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of July and August.

The meetings followed different formats. One was strictly a research night in the archives. Three meetings had speakers relating to history and genealogy. Another meeting had members sharing stories of an interesting female ancestor.. September's meeting took the form of a workshop on English and German research with members bringing in questions and problems they have encountered. Two meetings were outings – in June to Port Dover for a picnic and tour of the Harbour Museum and in October to the local Masonic Lodge for a tour and history presentation. The December meeting was our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner.

Norfolkore, our Genealogy Fair, held on Sept 24, featured an outstanding U.E.L. speaker, David Moore. Those who heard him were thoroughly entertained and informed. Attendance at the fair was slightly lower than in 2004. The fair showed a profit of about \$950.00 which was also lower than in previous years.

2006 Executive is as follows:

Past Chair – Mike McMillan
Chair– Marilyn Haslinger
Vice-Chair – open
Secretary – Karen Matzig

Publicity – Dawn Simpson
Lunch Convenor – Edna Smith
Grocery Tape Coordinator – Judith Buchanan
Curator – Bill Yeager

Mike McMillan, Chair

AROUND THE MUSEUM ...



Personnel Committee Report

2005 has been a good year with respect to the staffing of the Norfolk Historical Society/Norfolk Heritage Centre. Our summer Heritage Adventure program was developed and carried out by the return of Krista King and newcomer Mary Anne McDowell. A lot of work and planning was put into developing an excellent program however the decrease in attendance was beyond our control and certainly no fault of our programmers. Our two summer Archive assistants Virginia Shay and Brad Rawlings were a great asset during the summer in the Archives and as they both agreed to remain with us for the year as our Saturday Museum Assistants, it is certainly a greater asset for us to benefit from their summer training and knowledge. Our custodian Sheryl Irwin continues to keep our facility in a very clean condition and is very flexible in her hours to meet our needs. Curator Bill Yeager and Office Manager Audrey Hoskin's dedication is the backbone of our operation and their good work and efforts are most appreciated by your Board.

Elaine Fraser, Chair.

Membership Committee Report

Membership Categories

Personal:	2004	2005
Student/Children's	3	0
Individual	238	215
Family	79	54
Sustaining	77	74
Benefactor	16	20
Patron	3	0
Cantelon Circle	1	1
Life	7	5
Honorary Life	16	17
Small Business	5	4
Corporate Membership:		
Corporate Non-Profit	5	7
Corporate Bronze	1	1
Corporate Platinum	1	1

Special Category membership (complimentary):
37 39

Total Active Membership: 489 438

Karen Culver, Chair

Community Partners & Sponsors

A & P Food Stores
The Barrel Pizza
Canadian Tire, Simcoe
CD 98.9
Comfort Inn
Dolmor Salon
G. Douglas Vallee Ltd.
Grand River Branch, United Empire Loyalists
Good Humor/Breyers
Halmo Jewellers Ltd.
Landon's Flora
Lighthouse Festival Theatre
McDonald's Simcoe
Millard, Rouse Rosebrugh Chartered Accountants
NCS Technologies/Kwic Internet
Norfolk Agricultural Society (Norfolk County Fair)
Norfolk County
Roulston's Discount Drugs
The Apple Place
The Simcoe Reformer
Tuesday Times-Reformer
Zellers Inc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Norfolk Historical Society would like to thank the following for their support through 2005:

Federal Government Support:

- * Department of Canadian Heritage Youth Employment Strategy/Canadian Museum Association—Young Canada Works (Summer Student)
- * Human Resources Development Canada - Summer Career Placement (Summer Student)

Provincial Government Support:

- * Government of Ontario Ministry of Culture - Community Museums Operating Grant
- * Ontario Ministry of Training - Summer Job Service (Summer Student)
- * Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food & Rural Affairs- Rural Summer Jobs Service (Summer Student)

Municipal Government Support:
Norfolk County

FINDING FOLK ART EXHIBIT

