

PEEL HERITAGE COMPLEX IN THIS ISSUE:

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WINTER 2010

PEEL HERITAGE COMPLEX IS EXPANDING.

IMAGINE

NEW EXHIBITS NEWSPACE NEW CONNECTIONS

MUSEUM | ARCHIVES | ART GALLERY | REOPENS FALL 2011

One thing we can count on in life is change – and big changes are happening right here at the Peel Heritage Complex (PHC).

In the last issue of Strata we told you about the Infrastructure Stimulus funding and our exciting plans for expansion and redevelopment. Since then the plans have coalesced into a vision that is truly inspiring. We believe that the arts, heritage and culture are unifying elements in the community, and the new PHC will offer visitors wonderful opportunities to make personal connections with the rich history and culture of Peel.

As your mother likely taught you, anything good is worth waiting for. In our case, the wait will be about 16 months, starting in March 2010 and ending with a series of special events in fall 2011. During that time, there will be no public access to the PHC. Staff will be moved to another Region of Peel facility, and we will offer only outreach services during this time period.

In a membership mailing in February you will receive information about member benefits and information

about the expansion and how we will maintain a public presence during our temporary closure. I encourage you to share this information with your friends and co-workers. What better time to introduce family and friends to the PHC than during this exciting expansion project.

You will continue to receive Strata during the closure, and our website, (www.peelheritagecomplex.org) will be updated regularly. Check your mail in February for your personal invitation to play a role in the PHC's expansion and redevelopment.

The doors will close to the old PHC at the end of February 2010. As we pack our boxes, we promise to take with us all the best qualities of our work here – professionalism, friendly service, inspiring exhibitions, top-notch research and reference service. We will also cherish the legacy of the hundreds of people who have worked since the 1960s to create a home for Peel's culture. Volunteers, members, supporters, former staff and Board members – your gifts of time, talent and resources will not be forgotten as we move forward.

Happy New Year! Happy New PHC!

Diane Allengame
Acting Manager, Peel Heritage Complex

NEWS

Welcome new staff

Gerrie Loveys has recently joined our staff as Assistant Curator. Gerrie brings 25 years of experience in public museums and galleries, and was recently responsible for the extensive collection of the McMaster Museum of Art as well as being Operations Manager. Her years of experience will be a tremendous asset to the PHC, especially as we prepare to relocate our Permanent Collection of art during the upcoming expansion.

Alicia Mitchell has returned to her role as Education Co-ordinator after a one-year maternity leave. At present she will be working on a part-time basis and sharing responsibilities with Angie Sideroff, who filled Alicia's role over the past year. We're very pleased to welcome Alicia back, and have Angie continue on as a valued staff member.

Denise Gouveia joined the PHC as Development Co-ordinator in December. Denise will be handling memberships and assisting with events, grant and fundraising initiatives. Denise brings with her five years of experience as an Educator here at the PHC, plus valuable museum administration skills honed at the Museums of Toronto.

OPENING EVENTS

Highlight on History

Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Bramalea City Centre

The PHC will be there, along with some of our other Brampton and Peel heritage associates, displaying our wares and answering questions about the PHC and its resources.

Family and Heritage Days at the PHC

Free Admission

Feb. 14 – 15, 2010

Noon – 4:30 p.m.

Drop by to see the history of sports and recreation in our region. In the Archives,

view examples of family, business and school panoramic photos. If you do not know what a panoramic photo is – come and find out! Attend a mini-session in the Archives about how to start tracing your family tree (1:30 and 3 p.m. – lasts about 20 minutes).

Best of all, there is no admission charge!

ART-I-FACT

It's the time of year when we look back and reflect on the wonderful donors and generous contributions made to the PHC. In-kind donations allow us to add to our collection of art, artifacts and documents – and 2009 was a banner year once again, thanks to the generosity and support of our donors.

A full list of donors and donations will appear in our 2009 Annual Report. The following is a sneak preview of some of the 2009 donations.

Donations to the Museum

Museum donations in 2009 included clothing, sports memorabilia, social custom artifacts, tools, campaign memorabilia and much more. Many donated items deal with life events including christening gowns, wedding dresses and coffin plates.



At Victorian and early 20th century funerals, coffin plates – usually made of silver or silver plate – with the name and dates of the deceased were displayed with the coffin until burial. After burial, they were kept by the family as a memento of the person who passed away. John Madill was born in Ireland in 1794 and emigrated to Canada with his wife Jane McKee Madill. They owned a farm in west Caledon.



ARCHIVES



ART GALLERY



MUSEUM

WINTER '10

ART GALLERY

The Art Gallery of Peel features two main exhibition areas. The PGVG Gallery is named in honour of the Peel Gallery Volunteer Group and features individual and group exhibitions. The Permanent Collection Gallery is named in honour of longstanding member Harry Gustafsson, who was a dedicated volunteer for over 20 years.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the opening and closing dates of exhibitions may change after publication – please call us at 905-791-7800, ext. 6211 to confirm if you are planning a visit.

Michael Smith: Wresting Vision, Conjuring Place

Jan. 17 - Feb. 28, 2010

Curated by James D. Campbell

Opening Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010

PGVG Gallery

Although first acclaimed for his works in abstraction, in recent years Michael Smith has increasingly straddled the border between representational and non-representational painting. Based on landscape, his paintings defy conventional interpretation and focus rather on natural forces. They are enquiries into the nature of memory and observation, and the transition of landscape through light and atmospheric changes.

Based in Montreal, Smith, has exhibited across Canada as well as internationally for over

35 years, and is included in many significant national public and corporate collections. This exhibition presents his first major solo showing in an Ontario public gallery in close to a decade. As the final exhibition in our current space, Smith's powerful paintings will make a dynamic conclusion to our many years in this building.

A Passion for Paper

On now until Feb. 21, 2010

Harry Gustafsson Permanent Collection Gallery

This selection of works on paper from the Gallery's extensive holdings features some personal favourites of long-time curator David Somers. It includes prints by Robert Motherwell, paintings by Ric Evans and Ulysse Comtois, and photo-based work by Philip Coman and Carl Beam.

THE WHITNEY COMMUNITY GALLERY

Claudio Ghirardo: Neo-Humanism

Jan. 14 to Feb. 21, 2010

Opening reception Jan. 17, 2010

Claudio is a Mississauga artist who attended Sheridan College, trained in Italy and New York, and exhibited in New York and across southern Ontario.

The Whitney Community Gallery

The Whitney Community Gallery is devoted to showcasing Peel artists, craftspeople and collectors. This premier exhibition area is an introduction into the many facets of Peel's cultural life and is made possible thanks to The Whitney Group.

The *Made by Hand* exhibition and sale was another great success! Our thanks to over 25 local artists who provided unique, hand-crafted items for sale and the many shoppers who found the perfect holiday gift.

Claudio believes “the whole point of being an artist is to push your own personal boundaries in terms of imagination and ability.” The series focuses on the body’s expression in relation to the action of an activity. “The figurative exaggerations are the expression of how one changes and grows as time goes on, and how the body adapts to the environment one is surrounded by.”

MUSEUM

Laboratories and Longhouses

Closes Feb. 28, 2010

The science of archaeology meets First Nations culture in this interactive exhibition. Visitors can explore the various steps and techniques used by archaeologists to uncover the mysteries of the past. Step inside a recreation of a longhouse and discover how archaeologists find and interpret longhouses in the archaeological record.

Our Daily Bread: Trades and Professions in Peel

Closes Feb. 28, 2010

The story of European settlement has recently been renewed. These galleries provide details on the lives and work of the many early settlers of Peel including shoemakers, teachers, dressmakers and blacksmiths.

A Dream Remembered: The Peel Community and the AVRO Arrow

Closes Feb. 28, 2010

Through archival material and first hand accounts of former employees of the A.V. Roe Company in Malton, this exhibition looks at Peel’s aircraft industry.

All Dressed Up With Somewhere To Go

On now until – Feb. 21, 2010

The Peel Heritage Complex weaves a textile tale of Peel’s history with its newest exhibition, *All Dressed Up With Somewhere To Go*. This exhibition uses rarely-seen clothing from the museum’s collection to look at aspects of life in Peel, both past and present. *All Dressed Up With Somewhere To Go* showcases some of the amazing items given to the PHC by its

donors. Also included are museum artifacts and archival items such as photographs and posters to provide background and colour. As well as revealing items from the museum’s collection such as work wear, uniforms and dresses, the exhibition features several pieces on loan such as intricate First Nations beadwork and an East Asian ceremonial gown.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

FAMILY AND HERITAGE DAYS

Feb. 14 to 15, 2010 - Free admission (Drop-in only, no registration is required. Parents must accompany children).

Spend this Family Day and Heritage Day weekend at the PHC! Along with tours of the PHC and exhibitions, parents and children can “Meet the Jailer” in our jail gallery to learn what life was like in the Brampton Jail. Children can try their hand at the following workshops:

All Dressed Up Dolls

Calling all “Project Runway” enthusiasts! Drawn from our *All Dressed Up With Somewhere To Go* exhibition, children can embellish miniature versions of the clothing they see on display. From soldiers’ uniforms to wedding dresses from past and present, there’s something for everyone.

Palette Knife Painting

Using a paintbrush is easy - try a palette knife instead! Inspired by the art of Michael Smith, children will create unique works of art using palette knives and other creative instruments – no brushes allowed.

Effective Jan. 4, 2010, the Archives Reading Room will be closed on Mondays. This closure will allow us to work on the collection and prepare for the upcoming construction. The Reading Room will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Limited reference service is available on Saturdays from noon to 4:30 p.m.

One very interesting recent acquisition is a drafting table from AVRO. The donor's late husband worked as a drafting engineer on the Arrow project. This table ended up in a tunnel which connected AVRO and Orenda Engines Ltd. in Malton and was removed after the Arrow project was terminated in 1959. When the Federal government cancelled the Avro Arrow project, the donor's late husband, who worked as a drafting engineer that helped design some of the parts of the Avro Arrow, ended up with the table.

Donations to the Art Gallery

Collectors and donors once again stepped forward to help build the Gallery collection with the addition of work by Canadian and international artists.

During the latter half of 2009, numerous gifts in memory of David Somers have been donated; an expression of the great affection felt for David on the part of both artists and donors. From contemporary works in a variety of media to historic prints and drawings, these numerous gifts are important additions to the Permanent Collection and reflect the diversity of David's artistic interests.

Donations to the Archives

In 2009 the Archives received 165 donations containing a vast array of documents. While all donations are unique, several gifts stand out as having outstanding local history value.



Images taken inside the home, office or building can give a researcher unique insight to the person, family or business being captured for posterity. In this instance, two men are enjoying a quiet afternoon relaxing by playing checkers (some of us might remember days before computers and television). This picture was taken by the late Carter McLeod of Chinguacousy Township – seemingly in one of their farm homes, circa 1900–1910.

One such item is a broadside advertising a Brampton Excelsior's Lacrosse game in 1887. This item was purchased for us by the donor when it was advertised for sale online.

The original purpose of the broadsheet, or broadside, was for the purpose of posting royal proclamations, acts, and official notices. Eventually the people began using the broadsheet as a source for political activism by re-printing speeches, ballads or narrative songs originally performed by Bards. With the production of printed broadsides for advertising purposes. With the increased production of newspapers and literacy, the demand for visual reporting and journalists led to the blending of broadsides and newspapers, creating the modern broadsheet newspaper.

We also received two collections of glass plate negatives, one being family and farm scenes taken by the late Carter McLeod of Chinguacousy, and the other being scenes of Streetsville—some of which were used to make postcards of that village. Both collections date back to the early 1900s.

We have accepted one collection which is quite mysterious: a series of original United States Land Patents. Found next door in the old Peel County Courthouse when it was closed back in the 1970s, all of these Patents refer to military service from people in a number of states—all of whom were granted land in Michigan for services rendered during various engagements from the War of 1812 onwards. Most of them contain the rubber stamp signature of President Ulysses S. Grant. In checking with the Michigan State Archives, they advised that a) they only hold copies of these items, and b) they have no explanation as to why the originals would end up in Brampton. Indeed a mystery ...

DEAR MEMBERS

We will be in touch with members, donors and volunteers through regular publications of Strata and construction updates.

Membership benefits will be extended throughout the construction period and we hope you will be able to visit some of the wonderful art galleries and museums throughout Ontario that offer our members reciprocal admission. A letter to members will arrive in mid-February with a description of benefits and our plans for staying in touch during the construction period. Please feel free to contact Josie Premzell at 905-791-7800, ext. 3625 if you have any questions about your membership during the renovation of the Art Gallery, Museum and Archives.

SPONSORS

Colony Ford-Lincoln

The support of Colony Ford-Lincoln of Brampton allows the Peel Heritage Complex to offer and promote a number of programs throughout the year. In 2009 and 2010, sponsorship funds will go towards open-house events, free admission promotions during the holidays, and interactive activities for visitors.

Colony's support of arts and heritage in the community is very much appreciated. The staff at Colony are happy to discuss special pricing for members, volunteers and donors of the PHC who are considering the purchase or lease of a new Ford or Lincoln vehicle. Contact Colony President, David Kerr at 905-451-4094 for more information.

Inzola Construction

Patrons and volunteers such as John Cutruzzola make it possible for the PHC to support and honour local and regional artists. His establishment of the John Cutruzzola Art Gallery of Peel Juried Show Endowment assists emerging Canadian talent and provides them with an opportunity to advance their careers.

The Whitney Group

The Whitney Community Gallery is devoted to showcasing Peel artists, craftspeople and collectors. This premier exhibition area, an ideal introduction to the many facets of Peel's cultural life, is made possible thanks to The Whitney Group. *The Whitney Community Gallery* sponsorship allows the Peel Heritage Complex to explore new partnerships and keeps arts and culture alive in our community. Our thanks to The Whitney Group for their ongoing support!

Remembering the PHC

If and when the time is right to leave a gift in your Will ~ sometimes called a bequest ~ please consider remembering the Peel Heritage Complex. A bequest of any size would help preserve the heritage and culture of the community and create a link to the past for generations to come.

For information about the variety of funds donors can contribute to the Peel Heritage Complex, please call Josie Premzell at 905-791-7800, ext. 3625.



Peel Heritage Complex

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Brampton, ON L6W 1Y1

905-791-4055

The Peel Heritage Complex is generously funded by the Region of Peel with additional support from the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Ministry of Culture. Volunteers, members, donors, local businesses and corporations contribute to the Peel Heritage Complex financially and through continued community support.

 **Region of Peel**
Working for you

Visit us:

Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: Noon – 4:30 p.m.

effective Jan. 4, 2010, the Archives Reading Room will be closed on Mondays.

Holiday hours:

Open Family Day weekend

Feb. 13 – 15, Free admission

Archives closed Mondays starting in January.

Note: The Archives is not open Thursday evening or Sunday. There is limited on-site parking; wheelchair accessible entrance from the parking lot. Parking also located at Brampton City Hall.

E-mail: hcresearch@peelregion.ca

or for programs and tours PeelHeritagePrograms@peelregion.ca

Visit www.peelheritagecomplex.org or phone 905-791-7800 ext. 6211 for more information.