

The Centennial Herald

Spring 2021

ISSN 1205-8874

Issue 95

Promoting the rich history of Penetanguishene



We're Back!



Welcome

Hello to our dear members, we are finally back with our quarterly newsletter! We are so sorry that it took us so long, but 2020 was quite the year of closures and pivots. It took us a bit to get acquainted with our new environment and we are happy that we can bring back the newsletter to keep you updated for the season ahead. If you are not following us on our social media sites, we do encourage you to join as we are consistently uploading content on our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube channel. We hope to see you all in the near future, but until then, we hope you enjoy this newsletter outlining some of our upcoming programs and historical information.

Happy Easter Victorian Style

It is believed that Easter originated from the Pagan fertility goddess "Eostre" whose fertility was celebrated at the time of the Spring Equinox. It was the time of rebirth, fertility, and life, which is why eggs and rabbits were the symbols chosen to represent Eostre. The early Christian celebration of Christ's resurrection coincided with Eostre's celebration to assist in converting the Pagans.

The Victorians loved celebrations and did them all to the fullest. At Easter, many flowers were brought into the home and just as today foods were one of the main focuses. This included of course eggs. Children in the Victorian era loved Easter. They would dye eggs using cranberries, beets, oranges, and lemon peels. Onion skins may also be used but of course do not provide the vibrant colour of the other fruits and vegetables. Like the Christmas tree, Easter egg hunts and the egg roll were introduced by Germans to England during the 1800's.

Many people feel that British chocolate is one of the best. In 1842 John Cadbury began distributing solid chocolate eggs in 1842. The Cadbury Company began producing the infamous crème eggs in 1875. It wasn't until the 1950's that they began producing the sugary marshmallow Peeps.

Whichever way we can celebrate Easter in this COVID-19 confusing time we are living in, we hope that yours is peaceful, safe, and joyous.



Easter Greeting

The Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives

13 Burke Street, Penetanguishene, Ontario L9M 1C1

Tel (705) 549-2150 Fax (705) 549-7542 www.pencenmuseum.com museum@penetanguishene.ca

LAW AND ORDER 1921

One hundred years ago, those charged with upholding the laws of the land were faced with different challenges than those of the men and women in the same position in 2021. What was a day in the life of our local constables like one hundred years ago? Well, fortunately we have a time machine of sorts housed in the archives – officially titled “Police Constable Docket – June 1916 to October 3 1928”. ACC#97103-16. This treasure was transcribed in March of 2010. From within those pages, we can present a snapshot of the year 1921 and see what kept the police department busy. What follows is a summary of that year.

The Chief of Police was John WATSON, Sr. Born in England in 1871, he immigrated to Canada c 1893 and ended up in Penetanguishene. He and his wife Margaret lived at 15 Poyntz Street in a single wood house with six rooms; his annual income was \$960 (at the time of this writing, a dollar in 1921 would be equivalent to \$14.61 today). Assisting Chief Watson was 69 year old Constable Charles GARRANT, he too lived on Poyntz Street with his wife Agnes, #23 a six room brick/wood house. His income was recorded as \$1046. This information is extracted from the 1921 census, which had been done on June 1, 1921. The fact that the constable made a higher income than the chief is unusual – was it an error on behalf of the enumerator, was the Chief a part time job, did the constable put in a lot of overtime? We’ll probably never know, but those were the values recorded on the census.

Also popping into town to assist the local law-makers periodically were folks like John R. REID, a liquor inspector who was based in Orillia, Ray PAYNE, a special agent of Grand Trunk Railway out of Barrie, James McGREGOR and David IRWIN, both overseer for the Department of Fisheries. Crown Attorney COTTER and defense lawyer A.B. THOMPSON were also mentioned in the journal.

So – what kept these folks busy in 1921? In a coincidental nod to the current COVID situation in 2021, concerns about a communicable disease resulted in four men / households being charged with failure to report the possibility of smallpox in their household within 12 hours to the Ministry of Health. All were allowed to go “with a warning”.

By far the most charges laid were to do with “drunk and disorderly”. In total, there were 28 such charges laid with fines ranging from \$10 to \$25, plus orders to pay costs and restitution, usually \$1.00 to \$2.00. The Chinese Restaurant was most often the scene where such charges were laid. The same restaurant was also the site of some illegal gambling.

Having liquor in “unlawful places” (having, selling and purchasing) netted substantial fines for at least eight folks - \$200.

An armed robbery at the Chinese restaurant resulted in two men being sent to Burwash for up to two years less a day. These two men had been on a crime spree that night as they’d also broken into another local business.

Assault cases, of which there were six, saw penalties ranging from fines of \$1.00 to two years less a day in gaol.

Theft charges against several for stealing such items as a buffalo robe (restitution ordered to be paid), two geese (ordered to pay \$10, the value of the geese), fowl and clothing. One theft of two bicycles, opera glasses, a car, clothing, wire and cash resulted in a sentence of 18 months at Burwash.

Cattle running loose saw one fellow in trouble with his neighbours and the law. A dispute between two ladies saw one woman take the other’s rowboat and cast it adrift in the bay. Keeping a dog without a license was a no-no. Four cases of fraud and cheque forgery were laid by two different bank managers.

A reckless driver was issued a \$10.00 fine, and driving a car without a proper permit resulted in a \$5.00 fine.

A few indecent and improper proposals, and some abusive and insulting language charges. Also, a charge by a dependent parent against four of his children – failure to provide maintenance to the parent. Orders included payment of \$1.00 to \$2.00 per week, provision of a house rent free, and payment of the water bill.

Fishing without a proper license and selling fish without proper licensing were charges issued by the overseers for the Department of Fishers. We hope you’ve enjoyed this glimpse into Law and Order 1921.

Written and researched by Deb Crawford



FROM THE CURATORIAL ASSISTANT



Eggstravaganza

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be able to hold our regular annual egg hunt on the museum grounds. However, we did not want the kids to miss out completely, so we have two separate plans for you to take part in.

First, we will be offering, **FREE** of charge, goody bags and crafts for curbside pickup. This will be by appointment only on Wednesday March 31st & Thursday April 1st between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. You must call prior to those dates to reserve your pick- up 705-549-2150.

Secondly, we will be offering an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt done on the app ActionBound. Please watch our facebook page for further information.

"Spring Break" Activities April 12 to 16

Despite not being able to hold craft sessions at the museum for this year's spring break in April, we will be offering curbside pickup for a different **FREE** craft each day.

Monday: make your own beaded flowers and plant them in a pot

Tuesday: assemble and paint your own birdhouse.

Wednesday: decorate your spring hat craft.

Thursday: make your own pioneer rag doll.

Friday: make your own sock caterpillar.

****For our museum members only**, we are offering first pick up choice from **April 6th - April 9th** between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please call 705-549-2150 to make arrangements.

Non-member pickups will be on **April 10th, 11th** between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. You will also be able to pick up during the week of Spring Break if you pick up prior to the craft day.

We will be offering instructional videos on our museum facebook and youtube page each day for the pertaining craft of the day. So hold onto your kits once you pick them up, until the actual craft date.

The museum would like to thank the Friends of the Museum and their fundraising partners Delta Bingo at Home Taptix for sponsoring these programs.



Walking Tours are Back!

In 2020 as we tried to pivot to the new restrictions that were placed on museums we started to offer historical walking tours in Penetanguishene. These tours were guided by Museum staff and told stories of the past in an entertaining manner about the history of the buildings in the downtown area.. The walking tours were a popular program for us and we are happy to announce the new dates for 2021. The programs will run Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 :00 p.m. at a cost of \$5. Registration is required for these programs as they are restricted in numbers and registration will be available through our website at www.pencenmuseum.com

Downtown Walking Tour Dates

June 10, 24
July 8, 22
August 5, 19
September 2, 16, 30
October 14, 28

Rotary Champlain Wendat Park Tours

Along with our Downtown Walking Tours, the museum premiered a new walking tour last summer through the Rotary Champlain Wendat Park. This tour focused on the indigenous and francophone history of the Penetanguishene area and taught the visitors the significance of the

statues and sculptures in Rotary Champlain Wendat Park. Led by museum staff, visitors learned some inside information about various elements of the park and history of the area. This tour will take place this year on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each and must be pre-registered through our website.

Rotary Champlain Wendat Park Tours

June 8, 22
July 6, 20
August 3, 17, 31
September 14, 28
October 12, 26

Please note that all dates are subject to change under Covid-19 restrictions.

Get Social With Us!!!

Over the last year the museum has been consistently uploading on our many social media platforms to keep the community entertained on all matters of history in Penetanguishene. On youtube we have uploaded videos about the history of lumbering, the history of Winterama, along with several other short vignettes about several topics, crafts and artifacts in our collection. Starting in December, we also starred in a weekly Show & Tell with Huronia Museum in which we pick a topic and each museum must find an artifact in our respective collections to talk about. These videos are available on our Facebook page and the Huronia Museum's youtube. Along with these videos, we have created content on our Facebook and Instagram accounts about many artifacts in our collections along with recipes from the past. If you have not seen any of these posts, we do encourage you to check out our social media sites and start interacting, we love to read all of the comments that are left and it makes us feel more connected to our community.

 www.facebook.com/pencenmuseum

 www.instagram.com/penetanguishenemuseum

 www.youtube.com/Penetanguishene Museum

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thank you to the following who have renewed their memberships or become new members in 2020 and early 2021. We appreciate the support that you give us during a difficult time.

Lu Robitaille	Bev Ward-LeMaitre
Freda Nicholson	Anita Dubeau
Tom Smith	Deborah Crawford
Joe Maurice	Janet Maurice
George Reeves	Garry Vangerliden
Cynthia Meyrick	Robert Dubeau
Karen Dubeau	Rand Paterson
Amanda Antal	Steve Antal
Hunter Antal	Zora Antal
River Antal	Brenda Stewart
Fred Holmes	John Dubeau
Beth Dubeau	Claudia Cochrane
Ken Mackie	Prima Rita McIntosh
Fred Beck	Peter Desrochers
John Crean	Elizabeth Desrochers
Waxy Gregoire	Helen Kennedy
Irene Lau	Ruth Sneath
Carol McConnell	Ralph Lynn
Gail Tinney	Mike Tinney
Gay Harrigan	Eugene Harrigan
Leslie Lynn	Peter Davis

