



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW





MANAGER'S MESSAGE

In 2022, Grey Roots enjoyed our first “normal” year post-pandemic and there was no shortage of projects to keep us busy. The main building is undergoing an update to the Grey County Gallery’s permanent exhibits. Installation of the new section, titled Abundance, is underway, with plans to open in 2023. Another grand opening on the horizon is for the general store in Moreston Heritage Village. With the building construction complete, the task falls to Grey Roots staff to add the final interior touches and “dress” with 1920’s period artefacts and reproductions. This year, we welcomed the return of special events with Spring into Moreston, Harvest Fest and the long-awaited Moreston by Candlelight, as well as community led events such as the Emancipation Festival Speaker’s Corner and Gospel Event and a commemoration of the No.2 Construction Battalion organized by the Grey County Black Heritage Society. During the summer, the museum grounds were filled with the sounds of happy kids at KidsCamp and families enjoyed Zooz’s Place - our new interactive children’s gallery made possible by a sponsorship from Fairmount Security. As a way to nurture future partnerships, we kicked off the first year of the Grey County Community Cultural Initiatives Fund. The fund,



launched in March, supports partnerships and collaborations that create new opportunities to raise awareness of Grey County’s diverse cultural history. We send our congratulations to the organizations and individuals who were selected as recipients. We continue to be grateful for the time given to us by the Indigenous Advisory Circle. Their input on the development of new permanent exhibits has been generously shared and hugely informative. We look forward to getting together again to build on our discussions and share hopes for the future.

As always, Grey Roots could not do our great work without the support and contributions of our volunteers. We send our sincere thanks to all who have given their time for the benefit of the museum. My personal thanks to Grey Roots staff who are so dedicated and talented. We look forward to bringing you many more thought-provoking, engaging, and fun experiences at Grey Roots.

Best wishes, Jill Paterson



Charlotte Diggs, died 25 May 1883, 75 years

Charlotte Diggs first appears in the written record for Grey County in the Old Durham Road Registry for Glenelg Township. For 24 November 1849, the registry lists Charlotte, (43) along with her husband Joseph (54). They were from Virginia, of African descent and had spent the 10 previous years in Wellesley Township, Canada West.

The Greenwood Cemetery Registry listed Charlotte's place of birth as Africa. Charlotte (40) is listed in the 1861 census for Glenelg Township near Priceville, along with Joseph (55) who worked as a cooper. By 1871 Charlotte (49) was widowed and living alone in Priceville. According to the Agricultural Census for that year, she had a small farm. In the 1881 census Charlotte (60) was still farming. Charlotte died from "exhaustion of vital powers".

Sources: 1861 census for Glenelg Township

1871 census for Antaresia Township

1881 census for Antaresia Township

1868 Old Durham Road Registry for Glenelg Township

Overseas Deaths, 1899-1917

The Greenwood Cemetery Registry

ARCHIVES

ARCHIVAL COLLECTION

In 2022 the Archives was fortunate to add over 90 new acquisitions to the collection. Many thanks to our donors for their efforts in preserving Grey County's history.

An interesting group of images on glass plates and film have been digitized and are available to view on the Archives database. The negatives are the work of two Owen Sound photographers, William Craig (1833-1918) and William J. Craig (1873-1960) and show local streetscapes, harbour scenes, vessels and more. The negatives were donated to the Grey-Owen Sound Museum in the mid-1990s and were catalogued and described at that time. Thanks to co-op students James Giberson and Jago Garrett for scanning, and summer student Leah Heyns for assistance in formatting the images.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROJECTS

This year, both virtual and live lectures connected audiences with informative and engaging presenters. Speakers Richard Thomas, Lori Oschefske, Peter Whitehead, Glen Norcliffe and David Holah shared history, knowledge, and research on a wide variety of topics.

The Greenwood Cemetery Indigent Plot Narrative Project was officially launched in October with a presentation featuring readings drawn from research into those interred in the plot. The Narrative Project is the result of 3 years of research and compilation by Naomi Norquay and Rachel Lobo. Active from the 1850s until the 1980s and known colloquially as the cemetery's "Potter's Field", the plot is the final resting place of 1200+ Grey County residents. The project combed through historical records - census reports, marriage, death and birth registries, land registries and newspaper death notices to reconstruct the lives behind the names of about 500 people who are buried in the plot. Learn more about this important project and read the narratives at greyroots.com/potters



COLLECTIONS

This year Grey Roots received nearly 300 items to add to its permanent artefact collection in 79 accessions (groups of items). Highlights include: a painting of St. George's Anglican Church by Edith McDonald and (coincidentally) the original front doors of St. George's from the side facing 10th Street East; a complete 1933 North American Furniture Co. dining suite (model 129); the last RCA cabinet stereo to roll off the line of the Owen Sound RCA factory in 1975; and a 1946 McCormick-Deering orchard tractor bought and used by Willis and Della Hutchison, apple growers near Clarksburg, and then by Vail's Orchards of Meaford. Each item is numbered, catalogued, photographed, and uploaded to our online collections management database which is searchable through Grey Roots' website.

The collections team mounted ten small exhibitions over the past year, with topics ranging from Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee to a partnership with the Durham Art Gallery celebrating Durham's Sesquicentennial, to hosting *The Seven Ages of the Bicycle* from the Kincardine Bicycle Museum.

One of our big projects in 2022 was writing text for phase 2 of the redesign of the Grey County Gallery (*Abundance*) and liaising with local cabinetmakers,

Wood and Wallworks, to manufacture and install cabinetry which will hold over 100 artefacts and archival documents.

The other large-scale project was working with Domm Construction and our facilities department to guide the Moreston general store build. We contracted local carpenter Charles Davies Customs to create the 1920s style cabinetry which will anchor the store's interior while holding hundreds of original and replica goods from soap to sugar, and everything in between. We are very busy researching and preparing authentic looking commercial packaging to provide visitors with a memorable and immersive village experience in 2023.





EVENTS

Continuity and Innovation – these were the by-words for Grey Roots’ Special Events in 2022. As the province lifted pandemic related capacity limits in early spring, Grey Roots celebrated with a brand-new event, *Spring Into Moreston*. Like waking up after a long winter’s sleep, Moreston’s buildings once again came to life with the interpretation skills of our treasured volunteers and summer students.

Another new event, *Harvest Fest*, greeted the fall season. Although the name and certain activities were new, traditional elements from our long-running Pratie Oaten event could be found and will continue to be included as Harvest Fest becomes an annual event.

The year concluded with the return of a holiday classic, *Moreston by Candlelight*, presented for the first time since 2019. Once again, the glow of candles, lamps and lanterns, the jingle of bells on horses, and the sound of traditional carols filled Moreston Heritage Village. Two spectacular evenings drew over 1900 visitors to Grey Roots and Moreston, with rave reviews all around.

Grey Roots is committed to maintaining the delicate balance between continuity and innovation at our events throughout 2023 and beyond. Attendees will rekindle beloved memories while experiencing the thrill of something new during every visit.





FACILITIES

This year saw significant progress on the general store in Moreston Heritage Village. Domm Construction completed the framing, roofing, insulation, doors, drywall, and siding. Facilities staff, meanwhile, have laid the hardwood floor, mounted the tin ceiling, painted, and installed wooden siding and trim. Once cabinets are installed, the store will be dressed with display cases, replica products and artefacts. We look forward to opening the store to the public this year.

Working with our dedicated volunteers, we completed several building projects, including sun shelters which provide much needed shade for children attending KidsCamp, and a storage shed to house spare parts for the antique automobiles.

Vehicle Restoration Volunteers worked on several exciting projects. The 1923 American LaFrance fire truck was fired up and ran briefly (it sounded



amazing). Work proceeds on the transmission, brakes, and finishing touches on the accessories. The box on the 1943 1500CWT army truck has been patched, sandblasted and repainted. The motor is reinstalled, and body parts, wiring, etc. are now being reassembled. Finishing touches are being applied to the Mogul hit and miss engine which ran successfully just before Christmas.

The live steam railway is almost complete with only 3' of track left to install. Next steps will be a test with the gas speeder, installation of ballast and final grading! We hope to soon welcome visitors aboard.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

There was a *lot* of good news to share in 2022. Going all the way back to late January when we excitedly announced our reopening to the public on February 1. Alongside the reopening, we launched two hockey exhibits and ran a campaign alongside local minor hockey associations which allowed dozens of young players to enjoy the exhibits with their families and teammates.

The good times continued to roll into the summer, when we officially unveiled the Zooz's Place Children's Gallery with a ribbon cutting ceremony and party. Some 160 smiling faces celebrated with us.

In the fall, we hosted our first exhibit preview event for members since 2019 for Leonardo da Vinci Machines in Motion. We were thrilled to see the museum full of our friends, members and volunteers, everyone enjoying good company and a great new exhibit. Look for the next preview event coming this spring!

If you've driven the highways around Owen Sound lately, you may have spotted some flashy new Grey Roots billboards. This update was a long time coming and we're very pleased with our new signage. See if you can spot them in the wild!





HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

MORESTON HERITAGE VILLAGE RETURNS!

This summer, we had the pleasure of returning Moreston Heritage Village to full operation! Once again, visitors could tour our many heritage buildings, being welcomed by costumed volunteers and summer students. We offered regular cooking, gardening, and blacksmithing demonstrations, and our cows, Maisie and Hartleigh, loved receiving attention and clover flowers from eager young visitors!

Our amazing village volunteers served hundreds of shifts during the summer, and then came back again at Christmas to welcome thousands of visitors at Moreston by Candlelight. As one intrepid volunteer noted, "The visitors were all so pleasant and so happy to be back at an event like this...all in all - a lovely event - my personal favourite."

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY CIRCLE

This year, alongside knowledgeable, committed, and creative representatives from Neyaashiinigmiing and Saugeen, we created an Indigenous Advisory Circle. The Circle provides guidance and knowledge to Grey Roots on local First Nations history and culture. This helps us to tell more complete, inclusive, and accurate stories of Grey County's past in our exhibits and programming.

Since our first meeting in April, the Circle has shared invaluable support on the re-development of the Grey County Gallery and feedback on our new *Saukiing Anishnaabekiing Presents Our Stories* exhibit (including the title!). The generosity and openness of the members has taught Grey Roots staff much over the last few months, and we are only just beginning. Chi-miigwetch for everything so far!



GREY COUNTY COMMUNITY CULTURAL INITIATIVES FUND

In 2022, Grey County launched an initiative to partner with and support community groups. The Grey County Community Cultural Initiatives Fund, administered by Grey Roots, supports projects that raise awareness of Grey County's diverse cultural history. The Fund helps bring authentic, diverse cultural voices to visitors and residents of Grey County.

We are proud to share that five of our funded projects are already making an impact in communities throughout the region.

The Negro Creek Descendants and Community Friends Group organized public meetings and education booths and created a digital archive and booklet about the area's Black settlers.

The Owen Sound Emancipation Festival was "much appreciative of this grant to make our events successful. Our festival this year was one of the most attended in recent history and that was in part due to the grant we received from the Grey County Community Cultural Initiatives Fund."

The Anishinaabe Cultural Experiences Centre at Cape Croker Park acquired display cases for their exhibits, local author Bonita Johnson-deMatteis, is updating her 2003 book, *Lest We Forget*, which tells the stories of Grey County's Black veterans, and the Grey County Black Heritage Society is launching an essay contest about Black history for local students.





PROGRAMMING

KIDSCAMP

The return of KidsCamp in 2022 was amazing! We welcomed up to 20 children weekly, hosting over 90 unique KidsCampers over the season, some of whom attended four weeks of camp! It was great to be back in the museum building, close to all the exciting exhibits. KidsCampers enjoyed themes from 'Colour' to 'Being Green' to fun with 'S.T.E.A.M.' through science experiments, crafts, and activities.

We are looking forward to another year of hands-on learning and fun at KidsCamp this summer!

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

For March Break 2022, we modified our traditional day camp style of programming, and welcomed family groups for fun-filled, family-centred activities. From making s'mores to getting messy in the snow with paint-filled pendulums, our 40+ families had a lot of fun over the break. It was wonderful to see different generations enjoying the activities together.

In June, we officially opened our new Children's Gallery, Zooz's Place. The kick-off celebration featured complimentary ice cream, the fabulous Tammy Cruikshank (Early Literacy Facilitator for EarlyON), and of course, oodles of fun! Sponsored by Fairmount Security Services, Zooz's Place is perfect for younger visitors and their adults looking for hands-on, immersive activities. The space is regularly updated with new activities to complement the season or our current exhibits, so keep on coming back to Zooz's Place!



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

In the spring of 2022, we were excited to welcome back students for in-person school programming. From Cooking by the Calendar and Settler Savvy in Moreston Village, to exhibit tie-ins Northern Perspectives and Made to Move with Leonardo da Vinci, there was a lot of variety to attract teachers and educate students.

Throughout 2023, we will be introducing even more new regular programming to connect with our exhibits, heritage buildings, and services. Are you a teacher looking for more information about programming, or would you like to suggest a program? Contact Programs Coordinator Laura Arnold, laura.arnold@greyroots.com.





YOUTH PLACEMENTS

In 2022, we welcomed:

- Two high school co-op students: in Archives / Collections and Administration / Visitor Services
- 13 summer students to Heritage Interpretation, Visitor Services, Collections, Archives, and Facilities

Many of these summer students were funded thanks to grants from the Government of Canada's Young Canada Works at Building Careers in Heritage, Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions, and Canada Summer Jobs programs.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

VISITORS

- 17,059 people visited the museum in 2022
- During August, our busiest month, we welcomed 3,309 visitors
- Moreton by Candlelight drew in 1,900+ holiday merry-makers

MEMBERSHIP

Approximately 1680 people are represented in our 538 total active memberships in 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: 7,360 likes – 216,141 users viewed our Facebook posts

Twitter: 2,053 followers – Our tweets were viewed 15,952 times

Instagram: 1,957 followers – 7,883 users viewed our posts on Instagram

YouTube: 108 subscribers – Our videos were viewed 1,927 times



STAFF UPDATES

2022 brought some changes to the team at Grey Roots Museum & Archives.

This year we said a fond farewell to Engagement Manager Claudette Martin.

In Facilities, Ted Noble took on the role of Housing Project Manager for Grey County, remaining with Grey Roots part time, while Facilities Technician Stephen Melville joined the team.

We welcomed Doug Cleverley into the role of Events Coordinator, as Christian Camp moved on to pursue new opportunities.

In Visitor Services, we said goodbye to valued team members Amber Thomson, Chelsi Bovingdon, and Karolina Brozy and welcomed Quinn Skene and Sharon Bye to the department.

We thank all our outgoing staff for their excellent service and wish them all the best in 2023 and beyond. We offer a warm welcome to the new members of our team – be sure to say hello if you spot any new faces when you visit!



GET INVOLVED

There are many ways you can support Grey Roots' mission to preserve and share the history of Grey County. Perhaps the best way is to simply visit! Book a research appointment in our reading room, spend a quiet afternoon touring world class galleries and exhibits, or round up the family for your favourite event in Moreston Heritage Village. If you'd like to extend your support, come back out again with a friend! We'd also love to have you join us as a member, volunteer or donor.

MEMBERSHIP

Members enjoy numerous benefits, including unlimited access to the Museum and Archives, invitations to events and exhibit launches, as well as great discounts on programs and merchandise in the Museum Store. Renew or begin your membership at [greyroots.com](https://www.greyroots.com), we'd love to have you as part of the Grey Roots family.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers at Grey Roots contribute to the community in so many meaningful ways; putting smiles on visiting faces in our gorgeous heritage village, restoring classic vehicles in our auto shop, researching and

writing in the Archives, delighting event attendees and more. Join our vibrant team of volunteers to get in on the fun!

DONATIONS

Donations, whether financial or material, are always appreciated. These contributions are major assets in our efforts to safeguard and showcase the history of Grey County. Financial donations can be made online or in person, to either the Museum or Archives. We are always eager to discuss donations of relevant pieces of community heritage.





DIRECTORS MESSAGE

2022 was a much-awaited year for us at Grey Roots. It felt like a true return to the work we know and love. Our signature events once again attracted thousands of smiling visitors and we made significant progress on exciting projects - looking at you General Store! We launched a brand-new Children's Gallery for our youngest visitors and their families, as well as new community-focused initiatives to support the amazing diversity of voices found in Grey County.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the wonderful members, visitors, volunteers, and staff that make up the Grey Roots family. Each of you has my sincere thanks for allowing us to do the work that we love, sharing the human and natural history of Grey County, and putting smiles on faces as we do it. We are so grateful for your ongoing support and for the community we share. We are eager to continue this good work in 2023 and hope to see you soon.

Sincerely, Savanna Myers



THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

greyroots.com/volunteer



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