



# NELLES MANOR

## 2019 Year End Report

DECEMBER 2019

Volume 1, Number 1

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### **Contact Us**

[www.nellesmanor.ca](http://www.nellesmanor.ca)  
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## A Very Good Year

With our first few years behind us, we have grown, developed and endured. Starting a Museum from scratch is a daunting task. Maintaining a 221 year old facility is a challenge both in terms of property and finances.

We continue to see growth in our tours this year, we had many larger tour groups including a group from the Royal Ontario Museum, plus a growing day by day visitor count.

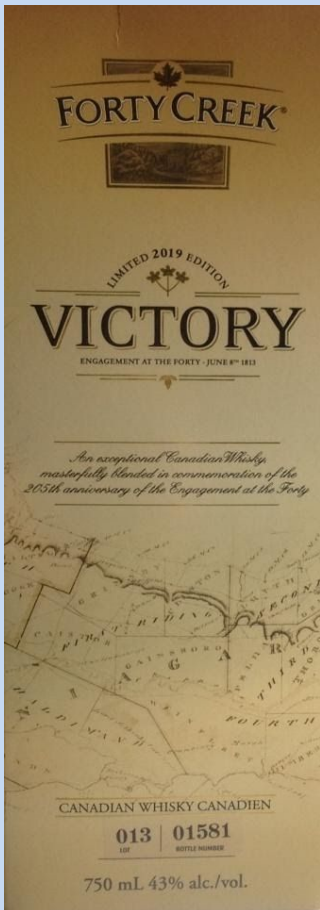
Our programming has increased with regular Victorian teas, a Victorian Picnic, Ghost Tours and a Christmas event. I must make special mention of our partnership with Steel City Paranormal who has regular programming on site, and Nick Wallace who held 4 “séances” at the Manor. The annual quilt show has been a great partnership with the Grimsby Quilters’ Guild and an opportunity to show the historical aspects of early living. Of course our big event this year was the Re-enactment of the Battle of the Forty. With great support from the Grimsby Museum and Old Fort Erie in particular, along with representation of many historic groups and museums from across the region, it was a great success. We could not have managed this without a very supportive grant from the Niagara Region Cultural program. We look forward to bringing many of these programs back in the new year and the first major event will be the Mother’s Day Tea on May 9th, 2020.

Maintenance is always a concern with a property of this age. Thanks to the constant work of Barry Coutts and many others we have been able to ensure its integrity. A major investment was made this year in the modern kitchen at the back of the house to allow us to use it for events. The kitchen has now been approved by the Health department so we can now prepare food on site. We continue to work to minimize our costs such as utilities and external maintenance where possible to ensure our financial stability.

We continue to promote the Manor through social media, at events such as the Battle of Stoney Creek and through our brochures and advertising. Many thanks to our volunteers who attend these events and represent us to the many visitors from far and wide.

We want to thank the many people and organizations that have supported us through their financial contributions including the Forty at the Forty group and Forty Creek Whisky (see below).

126 Main St. W.  
Grimsby, Ont. L3M 1R8



Our Museum cannot prosper with just tours and events; financial donations and memberships are still a major part of our operations as they provide much needed financial and community support.

We were fortunate this year to have a wonderful student assist us as our summer programming coordinator and we were able to receive partial support for her wages through a grant from a Federal Employment program.

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## Our Volunteers are Special

It is extremely rewarding to be able to present a home of this age and in particular its role in the growth and development of our community and our country. However, a building on its own can be of limited interest without the ability to present the home and its history in greater dimension.

Our volunteers bring the home to life; they are the fabric that ties the building to the historical aspects and add layer upon layer of information and activity to the physical structure of the building.

Our tour guides bring the lives of the families who lived in the Manor to life. They detail the home's role in the community and the country, with particular emphasis on the War of 1812 when a significant battle was fought on its grounds.

Our events committee plans our events ranging from teas, to hearth cooking classes to Christmas events and everything in between. Food is prepared to enhance the events; the Manor is cleaned and polished and decorated. Everything is wonderfully prepared.

For the Ghost Tours we have a great group of actors and volunteers who create an enduring experience for our visitors.

We of course cannot forget Linda and Barry Coutts who founded this wonderful community gift, for their constant upkeep and maintenance on a daily basis. Without their constant attention to the Manor we would never be able to manage.

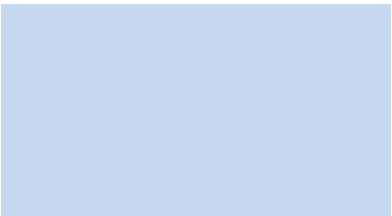
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## A Special Thanks to Forty Creek Whisky

This year we were very fortunate to have partnered with Forty Creek Whisky Company. Each year they bring out a new special, limited edition whisky in the Fall. This past year they wanted to honour the Battle of the Forty and the history of the area. Prior to our June 8 event they were able to take photos, interviews and film of the Manor. As a result of our re-enactment event in June they were able to add vintage aspects including the element of the period uniforms and participants.

From these images they were able to produce a professional video for us that is on our website and also use much of the material to promote their new product which they labeled Victory as shown on the left.

Forty Creek staff were absolutely wonderful to work with. They were professional at all times, and couldn't have been more helpful or supportive of our Museum. We were included in their Fall release and had the



opportunity to promote Nelles Manor and speak to countless visitors from across Ontario.

For the use of our material and resources they made a donation to our Museum that was very helpful in us meeting our financial needs for the year.



Thank you all for your support and we look forward to a successful 2020 year