

NELLES MANOR MUSEUM

1798 Heritage House and War of 1812 Battle Site

October 2024

Newsletter

Volume 2024, Number 8

Nelles Manor Museum is operated by **Nelles Manor Heritage House**, a non-profit charitable organization.

We present Nelles Manor, a 1798 Georgian style house built by United Empire Loyalist Robert Nelles from local materials. The Manor opened as a museum in 2016 and represents the history of the Nelles Family who through their involvement in early government and military service plus their extensive early trade and commerce helped to build Canada as an early Nation. The Manor grounds are also the site of the Engagement at the Forty that took place during the War of 1812 - that may have been an important part in the destiny of Ontario and Canada.

Grimsby Arts Walk

On Saturday September 21 Nelles Manor Museum was pleased to have participated in the 3rd annual Grimsby Arts Walk. This event is a collaboration with the Grimsby Museum, Grimsby Public Art Gallery and the Town of Grimsby who activated Coronation Park.



Visitors who had a tour of the museum were lucky enough to also see volunteer Kate Gardiner demonstrating open hearth cooking. Samples disappeared fast!!! Keep an eye out for upcoming cooking classes!

We are very fortunate that the Grimsby Lakeside Pumphouse Artists Association have their show and sale on the grounds of the Manor every year. Member Doug Archer did a watercolour of the Manor.

This year we also had music performances by Laurel and Hulley and Tim Wilford. The music added a wonderful atmosphere to the event.

For more photos please follow us on Facebook/Instagram.

Thank you to everyone who attended!

Board of Directors

L. Coutts – Chair

B. Coutts

A. Hurst

C. Gudas-Murphy

E. Furlan

J. Roberts

K. Pyatt

Museum

Manager/Curator

Truth and Reconciliation Day



September 30, 2021, marked the first observance of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Survivors across Canada have long told stories of the abuse and deaths that took place at these institutions.

Commemorating this day to honour Survivors and increase understanding of the history and legacy of Residential Schools is one step in a long journey towards truth-telling and meaningful reconciliation.

For more information: <https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/>

A Note from the Chair

Hello!

As someone once said, change is the only constant. And so, our summer season has passed, allowing new situations both in our lives and at the Manor.

We had over 900 visitors from various places including Pennsylvania, Belgium, and India who enjoyed tours and events. We now step into a different part of the Manor's year.

We're saying goodbye to Cheryl Allen whose tours over the last few years enlightened many. Events will miss her contributions as well as the town market her "presence".

Bill Thompson and his garden gloved right-hand Wendy are opting for new endeavours - or more of the old ones. Bill's "building" around here not only shows in many exterior aspects but also in the structural parts of our activities and administration, generally an integral part of the Manor.

So, among our new volunteers is Jim Roberts who brings his financial experience with non-profit organizations and interest in our purposes at the Manor to our board.

New activities await our efforts with the Harvest Tea and Spirit Whispers events. Tours by appointment will continue.

Thanks to all who have, and are, helping to pass along and preserve the life and history of Nelles Manor.

Happy change of season...

Linda

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Tour Days and Hours

Off-season Tours

You can still book a tour during our off-season, September to May at info@nellesmanor.ca

There are still many events throughout the year for you, your family and friends to enjoy.

Upcoming Events

Saturday October 5 - Harvest Tea

Celebrate an afternoon with family and friends around an intimate table full of savory and sweet treats in a 1798 Upper Canada Manor.

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$45 per person

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/997209559637?aff=oddtcreator>

October - Spirit Whispers: Paranormal Event

We invite you to connect with the spirits of Nelles Manor.

Thursday October 17 & 24 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 p.m.

Friday October 18 & 25 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 p.m.

Saturday October 19 & 26 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/1000292350347?aff=oddtcreator>

December 7 – Christmas at the Manor Tour with Father Christmas and Open Hearth Cooking

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/nelles-manor-museum-and-heritage-house-25218215405>

December 8 – Christmas at the Manor Tour

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/nelles-manor-museum-and-heritage-house-25218215405>

December 14 - Candlelight Christmas

What could be better, than an evening spent in candlelight in a 1800s manor house! Music and great food! Time with friends and meeting new friends. If that interests you, please join us!

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$45 per person

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/1024842540627?aff=oddtcreator>

Thank You Clara!



Another season at the Manor has come to a close and we thank our summer student Clara Falconier for all the hard work she has given the museum. Her focus on details is a great asset to our cataloguing process and will allow for more artifact research in the future. We heard repeatedly from the visitors she gave tours to that she was so well informed, and they learned so much.

Clara will be staying on as volunteer as her studies permit.

By a Length of Chain

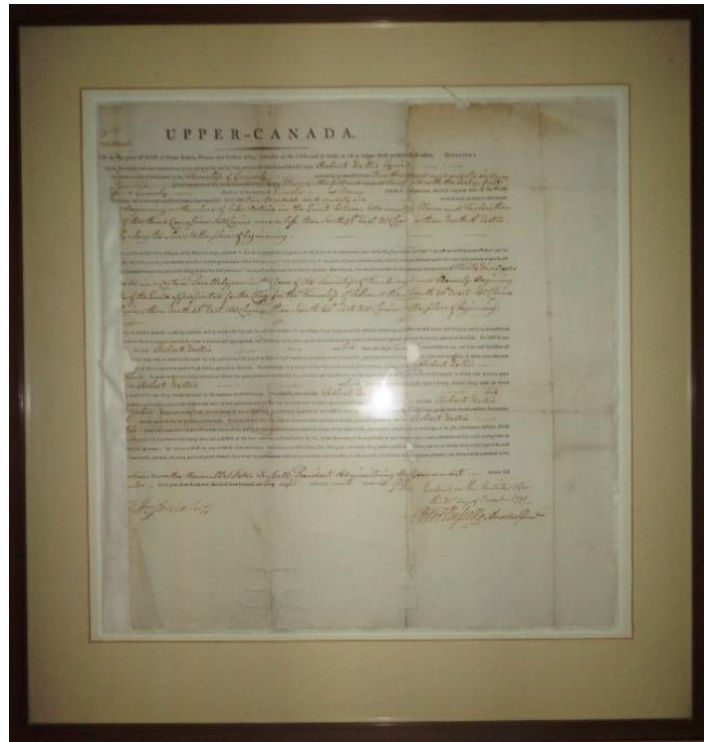
In 1710 when the Nellis Family arrived in New Jersey as Huguenot refugees. Escaping persecution from the French crown. It would be 70 years later that the Family would once again become refugees, this time from the newly formed United States of America. As many United Empire Loyalists they made the journey to Upper Canada. Most Families received 200 acres for their loyalty to the British crown. The Nellis family (which was the spelling at the time), received over the average due to their military service and their work in the Indian Department. Nelles Manor Museum has two of these deeds on display. To Lieutenant Robert Nellis 1500 acres along the grand river, and to Robert Nellis Esquire 2000 acres in the Township of Grimsby Deeds would be awarded to Families, bearing the seal of King George III, and the signature of Peter Russell, the auditor general of Upper Canada. Peter was born in Cork, Kingdom of Ireland on June 11, 1733. In his early life he served in the military in the sevens year war, and later in the American revolution. Seeking promotion, he served as assistant secretary to Sir Henry Clinton and was promoted Captain in 1781. He then spent some time looking for work. In Aug of 1791 he was appointed as Upper Canadian receiver and auditor general with seats on the Executive and Legislative councils. It was with this appointment that he finally began to have power in his life. In 1794, after Chief Justice Osgoode was transferred to Lower Canada, Simcoe appointed Russell as a temporary puisne judge.

John Graves Simcoe was the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (1791-1796). On 1 Dec. 1795 Simcoe requested leave of absence, and recommended that Russell be chosen to administer the government. Russell was appointed administrator on 20 July 1796, and on the following day Simcoe left York.

Russell's appointment was temporary and was replaced 10 April 1799 by Peter Hunter. It was in these three years that Russell signed both deeds at Nelles Manor.

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Both deeds would have bore the King's seal, Russell's signature and have the general information printed on a printing press. The information on the deed written in cursive would include: names, dates, township, lot numbers and lot measurements.

Lot measurements were done by Gunter chain. This method was introduced in 1620 by English clergyman and mathematician Edmund Gunter. Chains are 66 feet (22 yards) in

length. The chain has 100 links. 10 chains by 10 chains equals one acre. So, the average allotment of 200 acres per loyalist would have been 2000 chain square.

Measuring the distance between concession 1 and concession 2 from line 1 to 8 the distance between them is .7 of a mile, 3696 feet, or 56 chains. Then the line roads break up the space between the concessions into lots with the distances .5 to .6 of a mile or 2640 feet to 3168 feet or 40 chain to 48 chain. Which is 224 acres to 268.8 acres. Making the lots at the smaller end.

By a length of chain the British crown divided this land for the United Empire loyalists. Into 200 acres parcels of land or more. On these lands they would, over time, clear the land. To build a home to live, farm to grow food, and a sanctuary from the persecution they faced in the United State of America. These grants went on to form communities such as Grimsby, Clinton, Newark, St Davids and many more. Many of the families from that time still live in the area. The log homes are gone, Most the fields and orchards have been subdivided to build more homes and businesses. The growth that started by families like the Nelles. In communities and heritage that we all love today.

Mark Les

Early Card Games - Hazard

History

Hazard is an early English game played with two dice; it was mentioned in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in the 14th century. It was immensely popular in medieval Europe and was played for high stakes in English gambling rooms.

Despite its complicated rules, hazard was very popular in the 17th and 18th centuries and well into the 19th century and played for money.

At Crockford's Club in London (1823-1845), hazard was especially popular. Around 1805 the scion of a wealthy Louisiana family brought the game from London to New Orleans and developed craps through a simplification of the rules. Craps is now popular in North America but neither game remains popular amongst the rest of the world.

The origin of the word hazard is the Arabic word *az-zahr*, meaning "chance or luck" which comes from the Turkish word *zar* and Persian word *zar* meaning "dice." How this relates to the game is unknown. There's some speculation the game was first played by the crusaders laying siege to a castle, called Hazart or Asart, in the 12th century.

Rules

Any number may play, but only one player – the **caster** – has the dice at any one time.

In each round, the caster specifies a number between 5 and 9 inclusive: this is the **main**. They then throw two dice.

- If they roll the main, they win (throwing in or **nicking**).
- If they roll a 2 or a 3, they lose (throwing out or **outing**).
- If they roll an 11 or 12, the result depends on the main:
 - with a main of 5 or 9, they throw out with both an 11 and a 12;
 - with a main of 6 or 8, they throw out with an 11 but nick with a 12;
 - with a main of 7, they nick with an 11 but throw out with a 12.
- If they neither nick nor throw out, the number thrown is called the **chance**. They throw the dice again:
 - if they roll the chance, they win;
 - if they roll the main, they lose (unlike on the first throw);
 - if they roll neither, they keep throwing until they roll one or the other, winning with the chance and losing with the main.

This may be simpler to follow in a table:

Main	Nicks	Outs	Chance
5	5	2,3,11,12	4,6,7,8,9,10
6	6,12	2,3,11	4,5,7,8,9,10
7	7,11	2,3,12	4,5,6,8,9,10
8	8,12	2,3,11	4,5,6,7,9,10
9	9	2,3,11,12	4,5,6,7,8,10

The caster keeps their roll until losing three times in succession. After the third loss, they must pass the dice to the left, that player becoming the new caster.

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Betting

Bets are between the caster and the bank (the **setter**), which may be the remaining players acting as a group.

If the caster nicks on the first throw, they win an amount equal to their stake. After the first throw, the caster wins their stake if they get their chance before their main.

After the first throw, the caster (and others, via side bets) may wager an additional sum that the chance will come before the main. These bets are made at odds determined by the relative proportions of the main and the chance:

Main	Chance						
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5	4/3	—	4/5	2/3	4/5	1/1	4/3
6	5/3	5/4	—	5/6	1/1	5/4	5/3
7	2/1	3/2	6/5	—	6/5	3/2	2/1
8	5/3	5/4	1/1	5/6	—	5/4	5/3
9	4/3	1/1	4/5	2/3	4/5	—	4/3

For example, with an odds stake of £10, a main of 7 and a chance of 5, a caster stands to win £15 ($3/2 \times £10$); with the same stake, a main of 5 and a chance of 6, they could win £8 ($4/5 \times £10$).

Vivian Chow

Artefact Showcase



Campaign Cabinet

This artifact is a portable toiletry cabinet. It stands 88cm high and 58cm wide, with the top section having a height adjustable mirror and a hole for a washing basin. Underneath there is a cabinet door where things (presumably related to hygiene) can be stored.

This Toiletry Cabinet is a type of Campaign furniture. Campaign furniture is a term typically used for furniture designed for military officers on campaign, but the term could also denote any kind of furniture meant for travelling.

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Campaign furniture was usually built for easy storage and modularity; campaign furniture was almost always designed to either be able to fold in on itself, or to be taken apart and reassembled. The Nelles Manor cabinet is no exception; the mirror that can be retracted into the cabinet, and it can also be disassembled for transportation.

Regardless of era, campaign furniture is always made without any kind of ornamentation. Durability is the most important element of campaign furniture as they need to be able to take a beating while they're transported around by boats and wagons. Thus flourishes, which are often delicate and take up unnecessary space in storage, are skipped over.

While plain, campaign furniture is usually well made as it is designed to last. They are created with good quality hardwood like mahogany, oak and camphor. The Cabinet is made of walnut and (besides the mirror) is still in very good condition.

The Nelles Manor Museum campaign cabinet was purchased by the Coutts and had come from the estate of General Sheaffe who took over for General Brock after his death at Queenston Heights.

Clara Falconier

A Wedding at the Manor



On Saturday September 14 Debra Wagner and Alan Carnegie were married at the Manor. It was a lovely ceremony with friends and family.

Congratulations!

This ceremony continues Colonel Robert Nelles' legacy of performing weddings at Nelles Manor. He married over 200 couples during his time as Justice of the Peace.

If you are interested in having your intimate wedding or vow renewal at the museum, check out our website or contact us at info@nellesmanor.ca

All donations to Nelles Manor Museum of \$20 or more are tax deductible and a donation receipt for tax purposes will be issued.

Supporting Nelles Manor Museum

Become a Friend of Nelles Manor

Some of the benefits of becoming a Friend of Nelles Manor include receiving first notification and early registration for ticket sales on all events and programs. As a Friend you also tour the Museum for free during our regular season. As a member of the **Museums of Niagara Association** we are part of the reciprocal agreement program so that with your support through Friends of Nelles Manor you also have free admission or other perks at the other Niagara museums that are part of the program.

To become a Friend of Nelles Manor the annual cost is only \$25 for individual and \$40 for family. Your contribution helps support the preservation of the Manor and programs. This contribution helps the museum financially as we do not receive annual operational funding from any government level. Your contribution shows us the community support and interest in our mandate of protecting heritage.

If you would like to become a Friend of Nelles Manor, please contact us at info@nellesmanor.ca .

Remember, Friends of the Manor receive advanced ticket sale notice.

New & Renewed Friends of the Manor

Cameron Nelles

Volunteering - the Gift of Your Time and Knowledge

If you have the time and want to contribute to an important cause while meeting some great people along the way, please consider becoming a volunteer. The museum offers many diverse opportunities and has many areas that need your support. We appreciate the gift of your time and knowledge and can coordinate around your availability - whether for a few hours or a whole day; weekly, monthly or a few times a year.

If you are interested in being a tour guide, we train and support you. We have a detailed training manual for you to be able to lead our visitors through the history of the home and the Family.

Join our great group of dedicated volunteers!

Financial Support

As a nonprofit charitable organization funding is always top of mind. Nelles Manor Museum is a gem in the landscape of early Upper Canadian history and is a centrepiece in the community. Maintaining a 1798 building is an

ongoing responsibility and with your support it will continue for centuries more.

Nelles Manor Museum is an independent organization that does not receive any sustaining funding from any level of government.

Become a Donor by contacting us at info@nellesmanor.ca or calling 289-235-7755. All donations of \$20 or more receive a tax receipt.

Donor Levels

Friend	\$25 - \$99.99
Partner	\$100 – \$999.99
Champion	\$1,000 – \$4,999.99
Patron	\$5,000 - \$9,999.99
Visionary	\$10,000 - \$49,999.99
Founder	At the discretion of the Board

Legacy Giving

Your legacy supports the Manor's heritage legacy. Consider making a donation from your estate or life insurance policy to Nelles Manor Museum. Your gift could be made to our annual operations or to an endowment fund that would support our major capital needs, or where the income supports our annual preservation, maintenance and operations costs. Please consider being a legacy donor and consult your lawyer or accountant as to how to provide this type of support.

Become a Sponsor

Sponsor an event or our annual season. We have several sponsorship levels.

Thank you to our sponsors!

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Value

88.5 the Lake; Agis Computing and News Now

If you would like to support Nelles Manor Museum as a sponsor, contact us at info@nellesmanor.ca.

**For more information on our events and activities visit
our website www.nellesmanor.ca**