

NELLES MANOR MUSEUM

1798 Heritage House and War of 1812 Battle Site

September 2024

Newsletter

Volume 2024, Number 7

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.

Music at Nelles Manor – Shari Vandermolen Trio



The smooth sound of jazz filled the air at the Manor on Civic holiday Monday August 5th. There was a great turnout, and everyone had a wonderful time.

Music at Nelles Manor – Natalie Walker



Photo courtesy of Tyler Parks 88.5 The Lake

With stormy weather threatening all week many braved the elements for the Natalie Walker performance on August 18. Celtic music kept the party going!

Board of Directors

L. Coutts – Chair

B. Coutts

A. Hurst

C. Gudas-Murphy

E. Furlan

J. Roberts

K. Pyatt

Museum

Manager/Curator

Annual Vintage Car Show



On Saturday August 24 over 20 cars arrived for the 3rd Annual Vintage Car Show. The oldest car was a 1915 Model T. Every decade of automobile was represented. Mark Donoghue delighted everyone with his music.



Tour Days and Hours

Nelles Manor Museum's 2024 drop in tour season comes to a close on Monday September 2.

The museum will be open on Labour Day 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
The last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.

Contact

126 Main St. W.
Grimsby, Ontario
L3M 1R8
289-235-7755
www.nellesmanor.ca
info@nellesmanor.ca

Off-season Tours

You can still book a tour for groups of five to ten people during our off-season, September to May. Please contact info@nellesmanor.ca

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

**August 8, 1813, is a date to remember.
On August 8, 2024, it was.**

During one of the naval battles of the War of 1812, a violent squall capsized two American schooners, the Hamilton and The Scourge (formerly Lord Nelson) off Port Dalhousie, now a National Historic Site. A ceremony to commemorate this event and the subsequent loss of 53 sailors was held at the Naval Memorial Garden in Stoney Creek. Representatives for the American and Canadian Navies and various government branches were involved with the formalities, preceded by the Veterans' Colour Party. As each lost sailor's name was read a red carnation was placed on one of the tombstones. Ceremonial prayers and laments rounded out the memorial.

The sound of the lake's waves lapping on the shore nearby during the silent tribute encouraged the remembrance of a different kind of patriot who lost their lives for their beliefs.

This ceremony is held annually and is open to the public

Linda Coutts

Annual Siege of Fort Erie Reenactment



Photo credit Sarah Brown

Several Nelles Manor Museum volunteers are also members of the reenactment community. As camp followers, artillery, and as seen here, firing muskets, and creating what was known as "fog of war". The fog was caused by hundreds of black powder muskets firing at once. They participated in this year's event at Old Fort Erie on August 8.

Mark Les

Upcoming Events

Saturday September 21 - Grimsby Arts Walk

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Entrance to grounds free.

Heritage House tours: pay what you can.

- Grimsby Lakeside Pumphouse Artist Association show and sale on the lawn of Manor
- Music throughout the day
- Open hearth cooking demonstration as part of the heritage house tour

Nelles Manor Museum is only one stop on the Grimsby Arts Walk. Make sure to visit Grimsby Museum and Coronation Park!

<https://www.grimsby.ca/parks-recreation-and-culture/special-events/grimsby-arts-walk/>

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 on a paranormal tour 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>

Land on the Grand River – Nelles Family

General Haldimand received distressing news in the Spring of 1783. The British signed a treaty ending the war with America. The British retained Canada but accepted a border through the Great Lakes. The new boundary sacrificed the forts of Detroit, Michilimackinac, Niagara, and Oswego. The treaty left out Britain's Indigenous allies putting them on the American side of the border. Haldimand confided to a friend, "My soul is completely bowed down with grief...and have humbled ourselves ..." Indigenous speakers in their councils expressed their anger and disbelief that their British allies had betrayed them and handed their lands to their enemies.

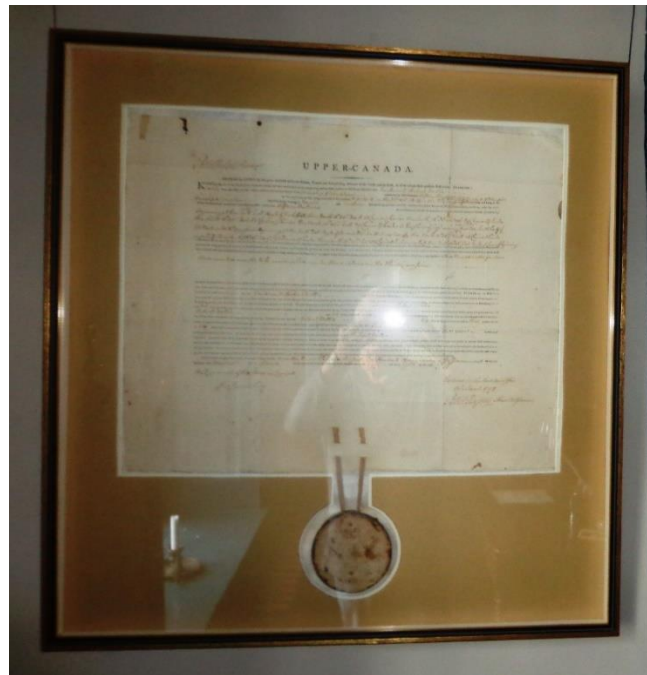
Fearing an Indigenous uprising, the Commander at Niagara, Alan MacLean collected 1,800 gallons of rum from the merchants to inebriate the Iroquois. The rum may have secured temporary peace but reversed his

Contact

126 Main St. W.
Grimsby, Ontario
L3M 1R8
289-235-7755
www.nellesmanor.ca
info@nellesmanor.ca

attempts to reduce Indigenous drinking. That summer, the British also increased their presents to the Indians at Niagara fearful of an Indigenous uprising.

The British held onto the forts because of American violations of the peace treaty. The states blocked British merchants from collecting prewar debts and harassed Loyalists who returned to New York State only to meet angry mobs. The Indigenous wanted to be able to connect the Indigenous world east to west. Joseph Brant took up their stance where Indigenous land could be north on Lake Ontario and not be divided south of Lake Ontario in New York State. Initially Haldimand wanted the Mohawks on a small reserve at Tyendinaga near Loyalist settlements. Brant selected the Grand River valley on the Niagara Peninsula. Haldimand endorsed his selection. In 1784 John Butler negotiated a land cession from the Mississaugas six miles on each side of the Grand River. In 1785 Brant led the Mohawks (870) at Loyal Village near Fort Niagara to settle on the Grand River. Another group (460) from Lake Erie settled on the Grand. Brant also took in white settlers for Grand River. Most were volunteers from war time or were in Butler's Rangers or the Indian Department. The land was good for farming so the farmers involved could show the Indigenous how to grow their own food. John Norton, a friend of Brant's was one of the model farms. His house on the Grand River reserve, now sits north of the Brown house on Pelham Road today.



The Grand River valley was a fertile land with tree cover and the river had pike and whitefish. In 1792, Patrick Campbell, Scottish visitor, called the valley "the finest country I have as yet seen..." Ascending the river from Lake Erie, the visitor would find Delawares and Cayugas. Another fifteen miles on the east side was the Nelles settlement. On February 5, 1798, Brant met Peter Russell, deputy to Simcoe to complete the deeds from the province to the Indigenous. To Brant this was a step towards Indigenous selling land to anyone. John Crooks had a 1000-acre lot which turned into a

legal quagmire upon his death in 1833. Governor Simcoe and Hunter, who followed him refused the sale of Indian lands.

The following is an extract from a letter from John Dease, a partner to John Butler, to Sir John Johnson dated September 18th, 1784.

"I have had some messages from the Messasagas Regarding the Sale of their Lands..... Captn Nellus who has the Commander In Chief's Permission to trade with the Messasagues on the Grand River where the Delawares are settled has requested I should Mention to You that he will Esteem it a Great favor to be permitted to take up his Lands.... (B.103, p.460)

Hendrick Nelles at Niagara, on November 19,1783 writes to Haldimand about the purchase of a tract of land from "the Missassagoe Indians along the Lake, or any other tract..." The Haldimand Treaty of October,1784 promised a tract consisting of approximately 950,000 acres along the Grand River to the "Mohawk Nation and such others of the Six Nation Indians as wish to settle in that Quarter" in appreciation of their allegiance to the King....

Hendrick writes a two-page memorial to Haldimand in 1784. "The Memorial of Hendrick Nelles Captain to the Indian Department at Niagara." He recounts his losses in the Mohawk Valley and asks for "a purchase of land in the name of the Crown" "The Nelles tract of land was the largest, extending along the riverbank and many miles back into Seneca township. These tracts were still marked on the map of Haldimand in 1879 " Annals No.6 p.67. It was about 4,254 acres.

Allan Smith

Manor Update – West Side Porch



Volunteer Bill Thompson showed his wonderful skills in hand making the replacement west side porch.

The original railings were installed in the 1950s. The new version highlights the Georgian style of the Manor.

Contact

126 Main St. W.
Grimsby, Ontario
L3M 1R8
289-235-7755
www.nellesmanor.ca
info@nellesmanor.ca

Early Card Games - Whist

History

Whist is a trick-taking card game developed in England. It is the English national card game, and it has passed through many phases of development, being first recorded as trump (1529), then ruff, ruff and honours, whisk and finally whist in the 18th century. It is difficult to determine if this was the exact order of the progression, or more likely, some of these games were developed concomitantly. However, in the 19th century, whist became the premier intellectual card game of the Western world, being superseded by bridge by about 1900.

Trump (also known as "English ruff") likely came from the French game triomphe (also known as "French ruff") played in the 15th century which used four suits, one of which was randomly selected as trumps. This game became extremely popular in Western Europe in the 16th century and is ancestral to many modern card games.

"Ruff and honours" was a version of this game that was popular in the 16th and 17th centuries. The first mention of the game that we can find is in Charles Cotton's *The Compleat Gamester* of 1674. In the 18th century Whist superseded ruff and honours. The name comes from the 17th-century whist (or wist) meaning quiet, silent, attentive, which is the root of the modern word wistful. There are quite a few references in the literature that suggest the game was meant to be played in silence.

Edmond Hoyle published *A Short Treatise on the Game of Whist* in 1743. It became the standard text and rules for the game for the next hundred years. In 1862, Henry Jones, writing under the pseudonym "Cavendish", published the first edition of *The Principles of Whist Stated and Explained, and Its Practice Illustrated on an Original System, by Means of Hands Played Completely Through*, which became the standard text. In his book, Jones outlined a comprehensive history of Whist, and suggested that its ancestors could include a game called Trionfi, mentioned by a sixteenth century Italian poet named Berni, and a game called Trump (or Triumph), mentioned in Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra. Many subsequent editions and enlargements of Jones's book were published using the simpler title *Cavendish On Whist*. By this time, whist was governed by elaborate and rigid rules covering the laws of the game, etiquette and play which took time to study and master.

In the 1890s, a variant known as bridge whist became popular which eventually evolved into contract bridge. Partnership whist, with four players in two partnerships, remains popular in Britain in the form of social and fund-raising events called whist drives.

Rules

Number of Players

Four people can play in partnerships of two against two with the partners sitting opposite each other. Players draw cards to determine dealer and

Contact

126 Main St. W.
Grimsby, Ontario
L3M 1R8
289-235-7755
www.nellesmanor.ca
info@nellesmanor.ca

partners, with the two highest playing against the lowest two, who have seating rights.

The Pack

The standard 52-card pack is used. As in many bridge games, two packs of cards of contrasting back design are recommended. While one pack is being dealt, the other can be shuffled for the next deal. The cards can be shuffled by any player, though usually the player to the dealer's left. The cards are cut by the player on the dealer's right before dealing.

Rank of Cards

A (high), K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2. (In drawing for partners and deal, however, ace is low.)

The Deal

The dealer gives each player one card at a time, face down, beginning with the player on his left, until they come to the last card. The last card is the trump card.

The Trump Card

The dealer places the last card of the pack face up on the table, and every card of its suit becomes a trump. When it is the dealer's turn to play to the first trick, they pick up the trump card and it becomes part of the dealer's hand.

Object of the Game

Each of the partnerships tries to score points by taking any trick in excess of six. The partnership with the most points at the end of play wins the game.

The Play

The turn to play is in clockwise rotation. The player on the dealer's left leads first and may play any card. Each player in turn plays a card, following suit if possible. If you cannot follow suit, a player may play any card. Four cards played (including the card led) constitute a trick.

A trick is won by the person who played the highest trump. Any trick not containing a trump is won by the person who played the highest card of the suit led. The winner of each trick leads next.

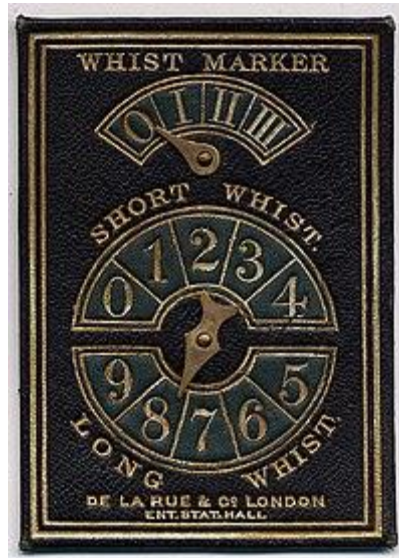
Play continues until all thirteen tricks are played, at which point the score is recorded. If no team has enough points to win the game, another hand is played.

Scoring

Each odd trick (a trick in excess of six) counts one point for the side winning it. The first team to reach 5 points wins a game. There are so-called "Hotel Rules" variations in which the teams agree to play to a higher score, such as "American" and "Long" (seven and nine, respectively).

Until approximately the beginning of the 19th century, the winning team was the first to 10 points (Long Whist).

After the beginning of the 19th century, the winning team was the first to win 2 games of 5 points (Short Whist).



Etiquette and Strategies

To comment on the cards in any way is strictly against the rules. One may not comment upon the hand one was dealt nor about one's good fortune or bad fortune. One may not signal to one's partner. Part of the skill involved in the game is one's ability to remember what cards have been played and reason out what cards remain. Therefore, once each trick is played, its cards are turned face down and kept in a stack of four near the player who won the trick. Before the next trick starts, a player may ask to review the cards from the last trick only. Once the lead card is played,

however, no previously played cards can be reviewed by anyone.

Methods of keeping score include whist marker devices, or a set of four metal counters which can be arranged in different formations for the score values 1 through 9.

Vivian Chow

Artefact Showcase



Soapstones - These handled stone blocks from the Nelles Manor Museum collection are examples of a common warming device used in the 1800s. They're quite primitive; the stone slabs would be placed near a heat source (usually a fireplace) for a while until they were sufficiently warm and were then used. The blocks are made of soapstone, which has remarkable heat retaining qualities. Soapstone's high heat capacity made it a useful material in cookware, it was often used in making griddles and fireless cookers, as well as in lining ovens. Soapstone slabs typically served as foot and hand warmers, but were also used to heat

carriages, beds and sleighs during the winter. Many (understandably) thought the soapstone warmers were too uncomfortably hard, so they were usually wrapped in a cloth material like flannel to soften them. Those

who felt that the soapstone slabs were still too stiff, even after being wrapped, were advised to use heated bags of sand as a substitute.

Soapstone body warmers were still used into the early 20th century, although by the late 19th century it was seen as antiquated. It was replaced by the increasing popularity of rubber hot water bottles (often referred to as "India-rubber bottles" in the early to mid-19th century). The last innovation to the soapstone slab was the invention of the electric soapstone warmer. It had the benefit of being more cost efficient than the traditional electric heating pad, with one newspaper advert stating that "The use of current for a few minutes will bring the stone to a good heat...it will retain a high temperature for a long time". Unfortunately for the soapstone warmer, this was not enough to bring it back from the grave. By the late 1920s, soapstone warmers were a thing of the past; one 1927 newspaper article listed "Soapstone Bed Warmers" alongside "Moustache Cups" and "Bustles" as things from the "Good Old Days...All Gone Forever".

Clara Falconier

Violinist Wanted

Kindred Spirits trio – who play music for Nelles Manor Museum events - is looking for a violin to join their cello and guitar. They play an eclectic mixture of music from the Renaissance to the American Songbook at community events in the Niagara area. If you would be interested in using your talents to have fun and support your community, they'd be very glad to hear from you. Mp3's and sample music are available on request. For further information please message Kate Pyatt at Nelles Manor Museum info@nellesmanor.ca .

Supporting Nelles Manor Museum

As with all houses, maintenance needs to be done. Here at the Manor, it is time for the main section of the roof to be replaced. A previous assessment had given us a few more years. That would have given us time to put forth a complete fundraising plan. We do not have that time as the roof will be replaced this autumn. On behalf of the museum, I would like to ask you to support us with your donation and being a part of replacing the roof. It will cost over \$50,000.00.

The roof is not just a cover for the building, it protects the original 1798 windows, glass, and parging that covers the escarpment stone structure. It protects our fabulous collection from the elements.

You can make your donation by etransfer at info@nellesmanor.ca

Thank you for your consideration.
Kate Pyatt
Museum Manager/Curator

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

Kim Arrowsmith-Mohr & Miles Mohr
Wendy Arscott
Joan Edwards
Catherine Mellish

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 house and the Nelles Family.

Students are welcome to volunteer for their secondary school hours.

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.

Legacy Giving

A donation from your estate or life insurance policy to Nelles Manor Museum 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!

Signature

Forty Creek Whisky; Grimsby Hyundai; Grimsby Power;
Harmony Jewellers; Life Coach Financial Strategies
and Spaceless Marketing

Supporter

The Lynn Fee Team (Keller Williams Realty); St Andrews Anglican Church
and Dave and Chris VanSickle (Royal Lepage Macro Realty)

Value

88.5 the Lake; Agis Computing and Newsnow

If you would like to support Nelles Manor Museum as a sponsor, 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.

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