



# NELLES MANOR MUSEUM

## 1798 Home and War of 1812 Battle Site

April 2024

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2024, Number 3

### WELCOME

#### NELLES MANOR MUSEUM

**Nelles Manor Museum** is owned by Nelles Manor Heritage House, a non-government, not-for-profit volunteer driven organization.

We present Nelles Manor, a **1798** Georgian style home built over a period of ten years by United Empire Loyalist **Robert Nelles** from local materials.

The Museum also 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 site of the home is also the site of a significant battle (the **Engagement at the Forty**) in the **War of 1812** that may have been an important part in the destiny of Ontario and Canada.

## 2024

Coming up is our opening weekend. Open to public tours for all three days and especially on Saturday May 18 when we have a bake sale and some vendors with the famous butter tarts for sale.

Also, our famous Mother's Day Tea is May 11, only 2 single tickets available.

We are working with local officiates to provide an optional venue for small weddings and people renewing their vows. This would take place in our historic drawing room where many, many early couples were married some 200 or more years ago. Those who wish to have a small service of 10 people or less will have the opportunity to have their service in one of the oldest homes in Ontario.

**For 2024** we have been honored to have so many local organizations sponsor the Museum with various levels of support. These organizations respect the history of our community and want to ensure the preservation of this historic property.

Just as they have supported us, we ask you to support them so they can continue to support this community.

**Signature Sponsors** – Harmony Jewelers; Forty Creek Whisky; Grimsby Power; Grimsby Hyundai; Spaceless and Life Coach Financial Strategies

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

**Value Sponsors** – 88.5 the Lake (our local Radio station); Newsnow; and Agis Computing



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### BASEBALL CAPS

We have a limited supply of great looking baseball caps embroidered with our name. They are available for \$25 each. Thank you to Calhoun Sportswear for their contribution and support of Nelles Manor Museum.

**At Nelles Manor  
Museum  
We bring History  
to Life**



**April 14 – April 20 was volunteer week in Ontario.** We are a volunteer driven organization. We rely on our volunteers for almost everything. We held an event at the end of that week to recognize and thank our many, many volunteers without whom we could not have been able to present our historic property and managed our many events.

Come and be a part of our wonderful dedicated volunteers who bring their enthusiasm and knowledge and dedication to the world of our history.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Nelles Manor wasn't just the home of a major person in Robert Nelles who was a Town Warden, Justice of the Peace, Magistrate, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada (4 times) and a Lieutenant-Colonel of the 4<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Militia during the War of 1812, but it was also a centre of the community.

Weddings were performed in the Manor. Meetings of the local Lodge were held here for several years. The Celebration Ball at the end of the War of 1812 was held at the Manor.

There are several references to the fact that many travelers were given accommodation at the house including local travelers, indigenous travelers and British dignitaries all who traveled between York (Toronto), the Six Nations Reserve and Niagara (Niagara-on-the-Lake)

We do know that the Forty (Grimsby) was the headquarters for the British Forces for several weeks after the Battle of the Forty. With the significance of the home, it was likely a part of the British activity.

With the extensive trade by the Nelles families throughout Lower and Upper Canada the home would also have been a center of commerce for the community and the region.

## Volunteers -

### Volunteers Needed

**As we begin a new year we look forward to the busy activities of presenting and preserving our important Historic property. These activities could not be done without our incredible volunteers.**

**We are looking forward to the return of our volunteers from the past year and greeting all those who wish to be a part of our 2024 year**

If you are interested, please contact [info@nellesmanor.ca](mailto:info@nellesmanor.ca) or 289-235-7755

## New and Returning Friends of Nelles Manor

Laura & Tom Brock  
Jim and Mary Volk  
Edda Martinello  
Andrea Sloan and Kevin Humston

## Become a Friend of Nelles Manor Museum

Some of the benefits of becoming a Friend of Nelles Manor includes 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 well, we have participated in The **Museums of Niagara** reciprocal agreement so that with your support through Friends of Nelles Manor you also have free admission to several of the Niagara Region Museums.

The cost is only \$25 for single and \$40 for family and the contribution helps support our operations. **This contribution helps us 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 Grimsby heritage.

If you would like to become a Friend of Nelles Manor, please contact us at [info@nellesmanor.ca](mailto:info@nellesmanor.ca).

**Remember, Friends of the Manor receive advanced notice for all events.**

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### Call For Candidates - Board of Directors

Nelles Manor is looking for people with an interest in history to join our Board of Directors. We are an operating Board in that members of the Board are expected to assist in the on-going operations and support our other volunteers in the many aspects of presenting and preserving our history.

Meetings are generally monthly. Committees are limited but Directors are expected to be a part of at least one committee.

We are looking for people with a passion for history and experience in Board service, governance and business.

If you are interested, please contact us at [info@nellesmanor](mailto:info@nellesmanor) and we shall send you an opportunity to discuss your qualifications and our expectations in more detail.

All donations to Nelles Manor are tax deductible and a donation receipt for tax purposes will be issued for amounts over \$20

### Contact

[www.nellesmanor.ca](http://www.nellesmanor.ca)

[info@nellesmanor.ca](mailto:info@nellesmanor.ca)

126 Main St. W.  
Grimsby, Ont. L3M 1R8  
Phone: 289-235-7755

## Estate Planning

Nelles Manor is one of the few historical properties of original Loyalist built heritage homes left in Ontario. One of the ways to support the Manor is to include Nelles Manor Heritage House in your estate plans.

Contact us if you would like to be one of our amazing volunteers.

A donation from your estate or life insurance policy to the Manor could be supportive in a number of ways:

- To our annual operations
- or to an endowment fund where the income supports our annual preservation, maintenance and operations costs, or
- To a capital fund for major capital needs such as roof, equipment or other major purchases.

Consult your lawyer or accountant as to how to provide this type of support that will help ensure the continuing preservation of this important property.

### EVENTS FOR 2024

**May 15 – Mother's Day Tea**

**May 18 – 20 Opening weekend Butter Tart celebration and one-of-a-kind crafts**

**June 15 – 16 Engagement at the Forty recognition**

**June 23rd – Concert Series number 1 - Old Tyme Fiddlers**

**July 7<sup>th</sup> – Concert Series number 2**

**July 20<sup>th</sup> – Quilt Show**

**August 5<sup>th</sup> – Concert Series number 3**

**August 18<sup>th</sup> - Concert Series number 4**

**August 24 – Vintage Car Show**

**September 28 - Grimsby Arts Walk**

**October 12<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Tea**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> annual October event TBA**

**December 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Christmas tours**

**December 14<sup>th</sup> – Annual Christmas Reception**

- Remember Friends of the Manor have first opportunity for notices and tickets to events.

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## **Board of Directors**

L. Coutts – Chair  
B. Coutts  
A. Hurst  
C. Gudas-Murphy  
E. Furlan

## **Events Committee**

Chair: Kerry  
Vandermolen  
Cheryl Allen  
Nancy Barons  
Linda Coutts  
Katherine Fisher  
Karyn Henderson  
Kate Pyatt  
Carla Reid  
Nancy Simon  
Bill Thompson  
Jennifer Toews

B. Thompson –  
Treasurer

## **Contact Us**

[www.nellesmanor.ca](http://www.nellesmanor.ca)  
[info@nellesmanor.ca](mailto:info@nellesmanor.ca)

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Grimsby, Ont. L3M 1R8  
Phone: 289-235-7755

Newsletter Editor  
B. Thompson

At the end of April, we had the assistance of Arborwood Tree Service to manage some of the very old trees on the east side of our property. Proper tree management is not only helpful from a safety concern but it removes dead and potentially dangerous areas. This not only benefits the tree and extends its life but our responsibility to our neighbors and visitors. Below please see the extent of their work in helping us with this program.

Their staff were very professional and the site was completely cleaned up when they left. We are very grateful for their assistance.



**New for Nelles this year will be a concert Series featuring four dates and four different Music styles.**

Tickets are \$10 per concert or \$30 for the series. Children under 12 are free and students are \$5.00 per concert. Our first concert will be Sunday June 23 from 2 – 4 pm. Ticket price will include a cookie and a glass of lemonade. Please bring a lawn chair.

Please note there will be no house tours on the day of the concerts.

**More to come in the coming weeks**

For more information on our events and activities refer to our website  
[www.nellesmanor.ca](http://www.nellesmanor.ca)