



NELLES MANOR MUSEUM

1798 Home and War of 1812 Battle Site

Jan- Feb 2024

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2024, Number 1

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

Although we are not yet open for general public tours, we were pleased to have a group visit from a local Paranormal group. They spent an eerie Saturday night investigating the possible presence of unusual sights and sounds.

During February we sent out our Charitable receipts to all of our supporters. If for any reason you did not receive your receipt, please do not hesitate to contact us.

During this off-season period, we have taken the opportunity to work on several maintenance projects. One of the interior doors was painted to remove the modern era scratches and dents, and the entire centre hall was repaired (many cracks and peeling paint areas) and give a fresh coat of paint. A bathroom is also being refreshed with all new paint finishes.

Maintaining a **225-year-old home** is an ongoing process. One of our major projects this year will be to refresh the Carriage house portion of the building and repair all deterioration especially the stucco which is failing in areas. This is a costly repair and we are pleased to acknowledge the support of the **Town of Grimsby** through their Community Capital Fund for approximately 25% of our cost.

We are also preparing for a very costly replacement of the Wood shingles on the roof of the Main House. After 20 years they have just about reached their limit.

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.

We are also grateful for the **Niagara Community Foundation** for their grant which will allow us to have 4 concerts of local artists during **2024** on the front lawn of the Manor this season. Keep watch for further information regarding dates, artists and times.



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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Below are some interesting **early 1800** cost of goods. Considering today's costs and the inflationary increases these costs look very interesting. However, the early settlers had little choice of goods as most of the basic items had to be grown on their property or imported. There were few if any grocery or general stores nearby.

Thanks to the **Annals of the Forty** published by the Grimsby Historical Society we have the following information.

Remember, currency was often in short supply and food and other resources were often obtained by barter (an exchange of goods or labour).

Wheat sold for \$ 1.92 per bushel
Butter sold for .24 cents per pound
Beans sold for .48 cents per bushel
Beef sold for .12 cents per pound
Eggs for .24 cents per dozen

Imported articles of food and clothing were expensive:

Sugar was .48 to .72 cents per pound
Black pepper \$1.32 per pound
Salt sold by the barrel at \$11.52 per barrel
Coffee for 96 cents a pound and tea at \$1.44 to \$2.44 per pound

Some less expensive items were:

Whisky .48 cents per Quart (locally made) and Rum .96 cents per Quart (imported)
Beer was .36 cents per quart as was Cider

Some household basics:

An iron pot was \$3.84 and an iron shovel was \$2.88
A dozen knives and forks were \$7.68
A yard of flannel was \$3.88 per yard and linen was \$1.92 per yard
Calico was .10 cents per yard and Muslin was .08 cents per yard.

In those days travelling shoemakers, tailors etc. stopped at various houses and worked mostly for their food and lodging.

Most settlers relied on their home garden for day-to-day food items.

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

Let us Know!!

The Board of Directors are working on a strategic Plan for Nelles Manor to move forward into the coming years. For those of you who have been involved, accessed our historic home, attended our events, and / or received our communications; we would like to hear from you.

Are there things you would like to see improved, is there something you would like to see more of or less of, would you like to see some things changed?

What is your impression of our historic home and property?

Email us with your thoughts **before March 15th** so we can consider your comments before our planning session.

please contact info@nellesmanor.ca

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

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

Retired? / Bored?

Is your spouse not used to you being home all day?

We have plenty for you to do!

We have plenty of Dust and Repair and Teaching and Documentation for everyone.

We need Painters, Carpenters, Paint Scrapers, Archivists, Gardeners, Tour Guides, Dust Removers, Graphic Artists, Weed pullers, Bakers, Cooks, GreetersYOU

JOIN US

If you are interested, please contact info@nellesmanor.ca or 289-235-7755.

Contact

www.nellesmanor.ca

info@nellesmanor.ca

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

Become a Friend of Nelles Manor Museum

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

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.



In 2023 we had visitors from 46 Ontario communities, several from British Columbia and Alberta and also from Newfoundland & Labrador. **From the USA** we had visitors from Ohio, New York state, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Missouri, California and Washington state. **From around the World**, we had visitors from Egypt, Corsica, Scotland, England and Ireland, from South Africa and India.

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.

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.

IN Memoria

We wish to recognize the following supporters who passed away in 2023.

Joan Coutts - Friend of Nelles Manor and donor
Elizabeth (Liz) Duern - Volunteer
L. M. (Tod) MacKeller - Friend of Nelles Manor and donor
Dennis Pyatt - Friend of Nelles Manor, donor and volunteer

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Victoria Day weekend is our opening weekend for Public tours.

Prior to that is our **Mothers' Day Tea** in the historic home. More will be sent out prior to the event as to times etc.

Remember, Friends of the Manor receive advanced notice.

Group Tours can be arranged in the off-season by appointment and are depending on weather conditions.

Please contact info@nellesmanor.ca or 289-235-7755 for more information.

Board of Directors

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

Events Committee

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- Cheryl Allen
- Nancy Barons
- Linda Coutts
- Katherine Fisher
- Karyn Henderson
- Kate Pyatt
- Carla Reid
- Nancy Simon
- Bill Thompson
- Jennifer Toews

Contact Us

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The fireplace in the Drawing room where we believed Robert Nelles served in his many capacities and performed Weddings in the very early 1800's.

As this year begins, we look forward to a busy 2024 as we have planned many events to interest you and give us an opportunity to present this significant historic property to you.

Newsletter Editor
B. Thompson

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