



# NELLES MANOR Newsletter

March 2021

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## **Contact Us**

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## **New to our Collection-part 1 - revised**

As mentioned previously we have been given several artefacts and reproductions of the early 1800 period to augment the existing items at the Manor. (see comments under On-going activities)

One of the early artefacts we have been given is a pistol. This is a percussion pistol circa 1841.



As shown previously this pistol had originally been described as belonging to a soldier based on a plate on the side, however, on closer examination the name was that of the manufacturer of the lock (firing mechanism). This error was noticed by a supporter who did some wonderful in-depth research.

Markings on the barrel indicate it was made between 1841 and 1855 by Birmingham Gunmakers Company in England.

He identified that there were a few unusual aspects to the piece. One, the barrel gauge is much larger than expected and two, the trigger guard is much larger and ornate than expected and more in keeping with a long gun. Also the brass fitting on the end of the pistol appears not to be original and added subsequently.

## **ON-GOING ACTIVITIES**

While we have been shut down by the pandemic this has not an uneventful time for the Manor. 200-year-old houses don't pay attention to shutdowns. There have been several issues related to the upkeep of the property that need to be attended to, such as the following.

1. Water damage from an upper water source had created a flood and water damage in the historic 1788 kitchen ceiling and floor. Due to the shutdown materials were hard to purchase but were finally obtained and repairs and restoration made by Barry Coutts. A plumbing bill ensued.
2. There was a plumbing problem in the attic apartment that required repairs to that unit. Plumbing bill ensued.
3. The furnace suffered failure in a couple of areas and new several valves needed repair or replacement. Again, all handled by Barry Coutts who knows the system so well.

Also, we had a dilemma about how we display artefacts and items relevant to the period, but not specifically relevant to the home. Our extra space is very limited.

The good news is that after consideration, we decided that the space adjacent to the master bedroom could be used for historical displays and small meetings. This space was part of the 1950's addition when the home was converted to apartments. Over the past month or so, a couple of us have been painting, cleaning, updating and converting this space into useable space for those needs. This will be available for our tours and programs when we expect to open on Victoria Day weekend, all things being equal, and the government permitting such activities. This space will add another aspect to the Manor tours and education programs.

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## Volunteer - TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

**Don't forget us!!!**

Are you a local history buff? We are looking for some more help next season. 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 tour guide**. We coordinate our volunteers according to their individual schedules and preferences, whether for a few hours or a whole day. We will train 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.

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## Estate Planning -

Nelles Manor is one of the few pieces of original Loyalist built heritage 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 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.

Consult your lawyer or accountant as to how to provide this type of support

All donations to Nelles Manor are tax deductible and a donation receipt for tax purposes will be issued

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Thank you all for your encouragement and we look forward to a safe and successful 2021 year!