



NELLES MANOR MUSEUM

1798 Home and War of 1812 Battle Site

May 2023

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2023, Number 4

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Contact Us

www.nellesmanor.ca
 info@nellesmanor.ca

126 Main St. W.
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2023

Our Mothers' Day tea was its usual success with a sold-out venue. The fashion show by Donna's boutique added to this wonderful event. Below are just four of the guests enjoying the wonderful sandwiches, desserts and teas.

Thank you to all the attendees who supported Nelles Manor Museum with their attendance

Thank you to Donna's Fashions for a wonderful Fashion Show

Thank you to our wonderful Volunteers who created the sandwiches, desserts and served our guests, making this an event everyone looks forward to.



Upcoming is our Nelles Family reunion on **June 24**. See below. We ask that you please register prior to **June 6**.

For more information, please email info@nellesmanor.ca or nelles.manor.info@gmail.com.



We are pleased to report that the Grimsby Chamber of Commerce has decided to support Nelles Manor Museum from proceeds of their golf Tournament. It takes place June 22 at Peninsula Lakes Golf Course. Come out and support the Chamber and Nelles Manor Museum. Registration is available by contacting the Chamber at info@grimsbychamber.com



As evidence of the wide-ranging visitors at Nelles Manor and the diversity of the Nelles heritage, one of our first visitors in 2023 was Pat & Peter Sampson of Victoria B.C. They were doing a cross Canada trip to research and identify relatives. Unfortunately, Pat & Peter won't be at the reunion as they are continuing on to Newfoundland in their cross Canada quest. Abraham Nelles' daughter Maria Eliza married Rev. William Sampson.



These were not our only out of town visitors, we had visitors from Sudbury, Golden B.C, Fonthill, as well as the local area so far this year.

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



On June 17th we will have a ceremonial flag raising to commemorate the 210th anniversary of the Battle of the Forty. This takes place at 11 am and the public is invited to attend.

This is the picture of a flag raising to commemorate the Fenian Raids in a previous year.



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Summer Student

We are pleased to announce Clara as our summer student. This position was made possible by **Canada Summer Jobs**. We are grateful to the Federal Government for providing most of the funding for this important role for us. Clara will be helping to record and catalogue our archives, artefacts and family items. In addition, she will assist our tour guides in providing tours of the Manor.

At Nelles Manor
Museum we bring
History to Life

DID YOU KNOW?

After the battle of Stoney Creek and as a result of the subsequent **Battle of the Forty on Robert Nelles land**, the American forces retreated back to Fort George and called in their troops from Queenston and Fort Erie. The British Forces then used the Forty (Grimsby) as their headquarters for several weeks. While the Americans were primarily in the Fort, there were many skirmishes between the two adversaries. One of those is highlighted below as recorded in British journals. The Nelles Family continued to be involved in the ensuing battles.

In these records, Niagara is a reference to the town, not the region.

Henry Nelles referred to in the report below is Robert Nelles' son.

Thomas G. Ridout to Thomas Ridout.

ST. DAVIDS, 20th July, 1813.

On Saturday, 17th, Henry Nelles and I rode down to the Cross Roads, three miles from Niagara, where the Royals, King's, and 600 or 700 Indians are posted. I understood the Americans were advancing into Ball's fields. Immediately the yell was given, and Blackbird and Norton set out with the Indians to meet them. Nelles and I rode along, and in a few minutes the skirmish began by the Western Indians getting up on the left flank and the Six Nations upon the other. The enemy consisted of 500 men. They soon retreated, firing heavy volleys upon Blackbird's party, which was the nearest. The road is so straight we could see into town, and Nelles and I rode along with the Indians to within one and a quarter miles of Niagara, when we perceived a large reinforcement join them with a piece of artillery, and they again advanced with a large front, firing grape shot. The Indians scattered in the woods, but we were obliged to keep the road. By this time three companies of the Royals and a brass six-pounder came up and posted on this side of Ball's field, the Yankees on the other side. We fired for some time, when the Americans thought fit to retreat. At one time from the farther end of Ball's field a mile and a half this way the road was covered with Indians, officers and soldiers and horses, and from the Presbyterian church they must have judged our force at 3,000 men. We had about 1,000. A good many Yankees were killed. One Indian took two scalps. A young Cayuga had his arm and side carried away with a cannon ball, and another had a ball through his arm. Some of the musket balls came pretty close to us.

The Cross Roads now are very strong. Dickson is expected here as soon as he returns from the expedition that has gone against Sandusky and Presqu' Isle, with 1,500 Indians.

(From *Ten Years of Upper Canada*, by Lady Edgar, pp. 203-4.)

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deductible and a
donation receipt for
tax purposes will be
issued for amounts
over \$20

Our First Annual Fundraising Campaign

Recently we provided a series of articles in the local paper outlining just how important Nelles Manor Museum is to our community and in a broader sense to all of Canada. The Manor home is one of the oldest open to the public in Ontario, it is situated on the site of one of the most significant battles of the War of 1812.

Since we are not a government owned, operated or funded museum, it is necessary for us to look to our many supporters and the general public for financial support. As you can imagine it is costly to maintain a 225-year-old home. While we raise funds through tours, events and grants, our costs continue to grow.

Your donations help pay for our maintenance fees such as snow removal and lawn care. Our utility costs during winter are over \$1,000 per month and we are trying to build funds for an eventual replacement of our cedar shake roof. In order to continue to be historically designated and to maintain the historic accuracy of the building, we need to continue its roof style of cedar shakes.

Nelles Manor Museum is a place **Where History is Brought to Life**. Your support is important to the presentation and preservation of this Historic Site.

We can't do it without you – your donations make it possible

You can send a donation to us at the enclosed address or donate through Canada Helps.

A charitable receipt will be issued for all donations over \$20.00.
Charitable registration No. 81779-2831

Volunteers -

We are gearing up for our 2023 season and will be contacting all current volunteers as events and tours begin. We have a gardening committee, a new Marketing committee and are looking for a Volunteer Co-Ordinator and Tour Co-Ordinator/ Trainer. Always interested in more tour guides. If you haven't been a guide before, we have a very instructive training manual to help you learn.

As you enter the grounds from the East side you may notice a large area of bare ground near the entrance to the office. **This is courtesy of our garden group.** This area will be full of milkweed and other pollinator plants for our **Butterfly Garden**. The bare patch has been planted with seeds of several appropriate flowers that will develop as the season progresses.

Nelles Family Reunion

This year, the Museum will be hosting its first **Nelles Family Reunion**. Previously the Nelles Family Association of Canada organized these events, but the organization came to an end in recent years. This not only involves families under the Nelles surname, but also descendants such as Anderson, Woolverton, Ball, Anderson, Bingle, Grout, Gurney, Pilkington and Rutherford amongst many others.

Planning is well underway and registration forms are now available. It looks to be a very educational day with tours and other activities. The event will include a picnic, there will be tours of the Manor, the historic neighbourhood as well as the historic Church built on land donated by Robert Nelles, and much more. An outline of the family trees of Robert and his siblings will be presented for review and any updates.

Whether you are a Nelles descendant or not, it will be an interesting day and an opportunity to learn about the vast family network and some of the history of the Nelles families.

If you wish to participate in the tours and special events, you must be registered in advance by completing a registration form. It is important to reply by June 5.

Please email info@nellesmanor.ca for a registration form.

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 membership in 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 and 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.

New and Renewed Friends of Nelles Manor

Anne Adams
Jennifer Connors
Joan Edwards
Anita Hurst

Newsletter Editor
B. Thompson

For more information on our events and activities refer to our website

www.nellesmanor.ca

Thank you all for your encouragement and support and we look forward to a safe, healthy and successful 2023 year!