



# The Beledoon News



A newsletter reflecting activities of the "Von Ayres Cultural Centre"  
Wallaceburg & District Historical Society, Wallaceburg & District Council for the Arts, Jeanne Gordon Hall  
and Wallaceburg & District Museum  
e-mail: [museumpr@kent.net](mailto:museumpr@kent.net) online: [www.WallaceburgMuseum.ca](http://www.WallaceburgMuseum.ca) May and June 2024



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**A message from the Curator's corner**

**Kaelyn Gregory**



On April 25<sup>th</sup>, our own Henry Van Haren received a Chatham-Kent Community Recognition Award. This annual initiative is designed to celebrate and honour the individuals who have made a significant contribution to our community. The award was presented by Mayor Canniff, and Councillors Hall and McGregor. Beyond being the President of our board of directors and spending countless hours at the museum, Henry also does genealogy research by request, has spent several years researching and documenting cemetery locations in Chatham-Kent. He also is on multiple community projects, working with the Wallaceburg BIA and the Whimsies Paddle Rental Project, the Chatham Kent Heritage Network and their plaquing project, the WAMBO committee, and the Chatham Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.



The museum would like to thank Henry for all of his time and effort. We are proud to know such a community oriented, hardworking individual.

**EASY History Trivia**  
Wallaceburg History Trivia

Answers page 10

1. When did the Post Office operations move from the Federal Building to the Wellington St. location?
2. How many years did the Police services operate from the Federal Building?
3. Who was the first Mayor of Wallaceburg?
4. In what year was James St. first paved?
5. What building was first built at the location of the Wallaceburg Museum? (505 King St.)

**BORN IN MAY**

- Stubborn and adamant
- highly motivated and inflexible
- Attracts others and loves attention
- Physically attractive
- Understanding
- fertile imagination
- Sharp debating skills
- Loves literature and the arts
- Dislike being indoors
- Restless
- Spendthrift

**BORN IN JUNE?**

**YOU'RE ...**

- 1.) CHARMING
- 2.) VISIONARY
- 3.) MATERIALISTIC
- 4.) FRIENDLY
- 5.) PICKY
- 6.) MOODY
- 7.) COLD LOVER
- 8.) RARELY SHOW EMOTIONS
- 9.) FUNNY
- 10.) KIND
- 11.) GOOD IN DEBATES
- 12.) OPEN-MINDED

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**Jeff A. Wesley B.A. (Hon.), LL.B**





**GRANNY'S  
CORNER**  
"On the Lighter Side"

Do kids still catch fish eggs and tadpoles from ponds and ditches?

Trying to wade in with knee high rubber boots and not slipping in ourselves did not always end well. But we still scooped enough eggs to carry home in pails of murky habitat water to watch the process of eggs to tadpoles to tiny frogs. It was a lesson in responsibility and dedication to fetch "fresh" pond water for them every couple of days and then release them back to where they came from.



Why did the ghost go to the party? For the boos!

What did the traffic light say to the car?  
"Don't look. I'm about to change.."



**You can now follow us on:**

**TikTok: @wallaceburgmuseum**    **Facebook: /wallaceburgmuseum**  
**Youtube: WallaceburgMuseum**    **Instagram : wallaceburgmuseum**

**ELRIC**  
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The Beledoon News  
Newsletter of the  
Wallaceburg & District Historical Society Inc.  
505 King Street, Wallaceburg,  
ON N8A 1J1  
Phone 519 627-8962  
E-mail: museumpr@kent.net  
Contributors 2024:  
Jim Mulgrew, Leesa Ervin, Kaelyn Gregory,  
Henry Van Haren and Myrna Jewell

*Please feel free to contribute to the next  
Newsletter.*



**THE JERRY BENN FAMILY  
IS A  
PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE BELEDOON NEWSLETTER**



**An editorial by Jim Mulgrew**

**The Wallaceburg Brass and Iron Mfg. Co. Ltd.**

**Opportunity came in 1905.**

In 1905 Wallaceburg Brass and Iron Manufacturing Co. Ltd. was organized. On July 28 it received it's charter. There were four equal shareholders: H.W. Burgess (General Manager), D.A. Gordon (President), H.J. Mc Douglas (Secretary) and Anthony LaCourse.

The factory started in the original town hall which was located on the site of the present Museum on King Street. The company rented the lower floor and built a corrugated iron building at the rear.

The brass company had limited capital and limited experience in manufacturing. They were fortunate to have access to a lot of technical help from former residents of Wallaceburg who were involved in various brass plants in Detroit at the time.

**Confidence Versus Experience:**

The new company hired a superintendent, Fred McDougall, whose family was originally from Wallaceburg, but who had learned their trade in Detroit.

What the new company lacked in experience they made up for in confidence. They borrowed some illustrations from their friends in Detroit, and printed a catalogue in which they claimed, "any article sent out by us may be depended upon as being the very best kind," and went on to say, "we are prepared to send quotations on anything in brass goods on receipt of samples or descriptions."

Reference: The Wallaceburg New, Centennial Edition, Wednesday, June 18, 1975.

What happened next? Can't wait? Visit The Museum Research Room!

Teaser: - "IN BUSINESS TO STAY" – "Experience Continues"



**ADVERTISE  
HERE**

**If you are reading this,  
so are your  
potential customers!**

**Contact us for details.**

**Beledoon News**

Are you looking to expand advertising as a small or large business?

Has your family and family name been here forever?

Perhaps you would like to advertise in our Beledoon Newsletter.

The newsletter gets published 6 times a year.

Cost for a year is \$100 for a family, \$125 for a business.

For more information please contact Jill at

[businessamin@wallaceburgmuseum.com](mailto:businessamin@wallaceburgmuseum.com)

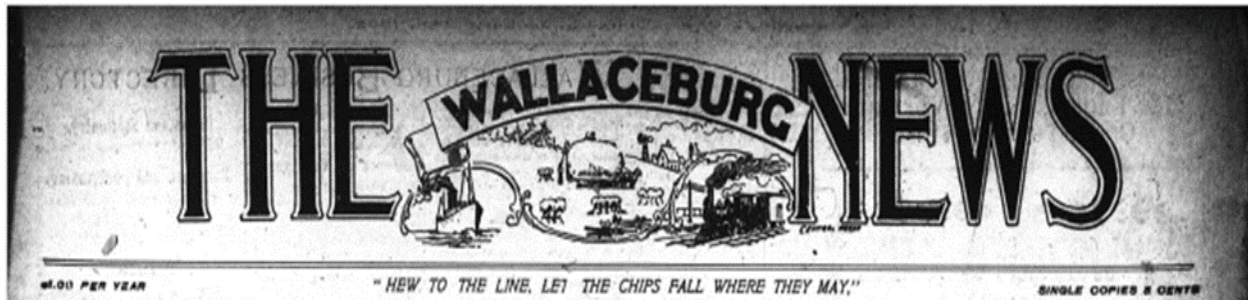
For those advertising in the Beledoon News paper it's renewal time.

Thank you for your support

KEVIN CAVANAGH  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
409 NELSON ST.,  
519 627-3231



**Supports the  
Historical Society**



Newsletter – Part 1-

Museum beginnings

This year, the museum celebrates 40 years as a part of the Wallaceburg community. My article in this newsletter is part 1 of 3 and will acknowledge the contributions of the many volunteers that put in countless hours of their time. What started as a passion to preserve the history of this area and pass it on to next generations, became a dream to create a museum and is now a centerpiece in the Southside redevelopment area.

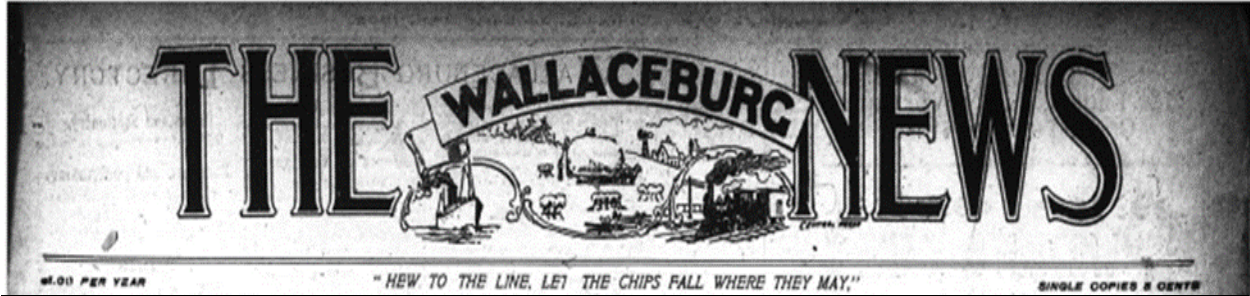
The Historical Society started out about ten years prior to the opening of the Wallaceburg and District Museum. They would meet in various locations including the Library and Wallaceburg High School. It was Al Mann, along with Frank Mann and other like-minded individuals, were the driving force in collecting historical artifacts and documents to eventually fulfill their dream. Prior to the availability of the old Hydro Hall, items collected were stored on the second floor of the old Colwell's Newspaper office and at the 5 and 10 store. (Now Duchene's Paint and Accent Gallery). During the meetings of the Historical Society, plans were discussed on such things as a permanent location for a museum and how to catalogue and preserve the valuable articles as well as finding financial support for their goals. The late 60's provided a promising location for the museum when the Town of Wallaceburg acquired the former home of Dr. George Mitchell (Later known as Chateau DeLorme). The town was to demolish the house to create a parking lot, but the Wallaceburg Museum Committee started talks with the Town to allow for purchase of and use of the property as a museum. A deal could not be had and the property was demolished. This is what inspired heavy collection, preservation of towns history – a fear that we would lose more heritage.

It wasn't until about 1982, that hope was renewed when Wallaceburg started negotiations with the Wallaceburg Hydro Commission for the sale of the Hydro Building to the town. In November of 1982, an agreement was reached to allow the Historical Society to store their collection in the building while negotiations continued. September of 1983, it became official that the museum had a new home when the Hydro Commission sold the building to the Town of Wallaceburg for the sum of \$1.00 and the town agreed to allow the Historical Society to use it as a museum.

The Hydro property included a main building with a theatre above that was not accessible from hydro hall. The Main building was multiple floor levels and at that time did not include the hall upstairs. Although the Elevator was a recent addition to provide access to the upstairs theatre, there was no doorway to connect between the museum and theatre lobby. The Meter Building (now the Research Room) was a separate building. The Theatre at this time was not included in the use agreement with the museum nor was the parkette or the meter building.

**The K. Simpson Family  
is a Proud Sponsor  
of the Beledoon Newsletter**





Newsletter – Part 1-

Museum beginnings

With George Van Snick as President, work began to transform parts of the building for use as a museum. The early years of the museum focused on finding funds and transforming the building into display areas and storage for the growing collection. At this time, The Town of Wallaceburg was the landlord and supplied much of the financial assistance needed to pay for salaries and help pay the bills.

I am currently working on digitizing the museum meeting minutes and reading through them to determine when and what projects were on their agenda. Stay tuned for Parts 2 and 3 of this series as I will talk about the individuals that formed the board of directors as well as the staff and other volunteers needed to run the museum. I will also list the different projects and renovations that took place throughout the years. Until next time .

Henry Van Haren

**The Rex Crawford Family  
is pleased to be a Beledoon Newsletter sponsor**

THE WALLACEBURG AND DISTRICT  
MUSEUM'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

June 29th, 2024 • 505 King Street, Wallaceburg • 519-627-8962

Save the Date

Have you got a story to tell us about volunteering at the Wallaceburg Museum over the last 40 years? We would love to hear about it.

Are you a  
Wallaceburg High School Teen  
looking for  
Volunteer hours?  
You've come to the right place!

If you are interested in receiving community service hours by volunteering at the Wallaceburg Museum, please go to our website and click get involved. Fill out the volunteer with us form, provided. When complete press send and we will reach out to you for more information.

Gamble HUB International

902 St. Clair St., Chatham, Ontario

Office 519 333 5839

## Yesterdays by Myrna Jewell

### The History of our Town Names

**Now that spring has arrived, that means you might be able to get out and about for a little stroll. As you pass by the street signs, do you ever wonder where the names may have derived from?**

Trawling through the Courier Press archives I came across a story written by Al Mann called "What's in a Name" from May 2004, where he researched many of the names and their origins. Here are a few :

**WALLACEBURG:** Postmaster Hugh McCallum chose the name Wallaceburg on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 1837 after Sir William Wallace, the Scottish patriot who led the revolt against King Edward I after invading Scotland. Wallace led a band of Scottish patriots who defeated the English at the Battle of Stirling Ridge, thus stirring the Scottish people for several hundred years.

It may come as a surprise to some that the town had a few unofficial names. One is "The Forks" with the North and East branches of Big Bear Creek (now Sydenham River) meeting at this site. Being on Chippewa lands the Forks became known as "Waub-e-go-no-gee" meaning 'rat town' since unattended goods were sometimes pilfered from the resident rodents. Another uncomplimentary name that was given was the "Town of 40 Thieves" which seems self-explanatory.

**ARGYLE AVE:** named after John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, the Duke of Argyll who was governor general of Canada from 1878-1883. Argyle is a county in Scotland and also the diamond shaped pattern of various colours often knitted into socks, scarves, neckties, etc.

**ASHTON AVE:** Developer Charles Hazzard named the road after Ashton Lillie (1887-1979). Lillie was mayor from 1945-1946 and a member of various service clubs and most prominent in musical activities. In 1911, he began employment at Wallaceburg Brass, later elevated to company secretary- treasurer, a position he held until retiring in 1956.

**AVONDALE:** named after the Avon River in England, made famous by Shakespear.

**BEATTIE ST:** named after James Beatty, founder of the first baseball team in 1871. As a businessman, he erected the towns most magnificent brick buildings on the north west corner of James and Nelson in 1888 which included the Queens Hotel. James Beatty later operated a general store.

**BIDEN ST:** named after William Biden, the original investor in the Baldoon Golf Course and Country Club. He was a sailor and owner of the tug named the 'Maude'.

**BRIDLEPATH ROAD/WINNERS CIRCLE/PADDOCK ROAD:** all refer to the agricultural and fairgrounds which included a half mile racing track. Owned by Joseph Saint who was mayor from 1931-1933. His family owned a furniture store and funeral business.

**BLAKE ST:** named in honour of James Blake McDougall (1823-1892), a descendant of the original Baldoon settlers. His son, Hugh Blake McDougall (1863-1953) was another prominent member of the family.



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Hours: Monday to Saturday 9:00am—5:00pm

Sundays Closed



## Yesterdays by Myrna Jewell

### The History of our Town Names—page 2



**BRUCE ST:** Honours Earl of Elgin James Bruce (1811-1863) who was governor-general of Canada from 1847-1854. What I found interesting was that this area was also known as Tiger Alley. Does any of our readers know where that nickname might have originated from?

**CAMERON ST:** Named after the Cameron Clan represented by tartan of basic red squares.

**DUFFERIN AVE:** Named after the Marquis of Dufferin, Frederick Temple Blackwood who was governor-general of Canada from 1872 – 1878. Educated at Eton and Oxford, when he came to Canada, he became involved in the Pacific Scandal which resulted in Prime Minister John A MacDonalld resigning.

“Royal Row” reflects the strong British influence of naming the streets during the 1800’s, including Queen St, King St, Duke St, Earl St, and Prince St.

Other streets named after British royals are Elizabeth, Mary, and Victoria,

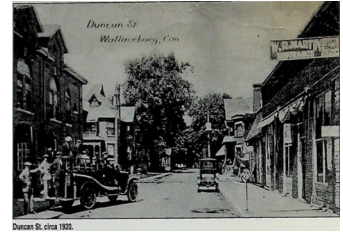
**DUNCAN ST:** Honouring the King of Scotland of 1034, King Duncan I reigned from 1034 to 1040.

**FRASER ST:** honours the family of Charles Fraser, a local customs officer and land surveyor who died in 1897.

**GILLARD ST:** named after Thomas B Gillard, a merchant who came to the town in 1880 and died 1895. Gillard was an insurance business partner with Charles Chubb, the reeve and county warden.

**HIRAM ST:** named after Hiram Little, who operated a popular general provisions outlet on the corner of James and Nelson in the 1800’s.

**JAMES ST:** named by James Baby who settled here from Windsor and opened a general store in 1839. He sponsored the town’s third street survey and encouraged the name Babysville. Realising the area known as ‘the point’ where the library sits today, would be the core business centre, he named it James Street after himself.



**LAFONTAINE ST:** named after Sir Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine (1807-1864), a politician who began his career in the lower assembly in 1830. He retired from politics in 1851 and later became a baronet by Queen Victoria.

**MARGARET AVE:** named after the wife of surveyor and customs officer Charles Fraser.

**MURRAY ST:** named after James Murray (1719-1794). The first governor-general of Canada who served as brigadier under General James Wolfe against the French in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.



Are you or some of your friends looking for some old-fashioned fun and socializing? Get your daubers ready because we’re calling your number so you’re able to call **BINGO**. Guests will be having a blast with different kinds of wins including traditional lines, corners, multiple patterns, and more. All on 3 card sheets in a variety of colours, which include 10 games. If you find the big BINGOs are a little too fast, come on out and give our BINGO a try.

Thursdays – Wallaceburg Museum upstairs in the Jeanne Gordon  
Hall 1:30pm to 3:30pm  
\$8.00 per book/10 Games  
Proceeds go towards prizes.

Oak ST: refers to the common oak trees that were important to the economy when logging was a primary source of commerce during the 1800's. Oak Street was extremely busy with the entrance to the glassworks beginning in 1894 until the new Garnet St office was opened in 1985.

SANFORD ST: named after Sanford Platt, who ran a grocery and shoe retailer in the late 1800's.

WALL ST: When Charles Fraser was laying out his survey in northern Wallaceburg in the late 1800's, the area was known as 'The Wall' after the dense forest that met the town perimeter.

WELLINGTON ST: named after the Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley ( 1769-1852), a British soldier and statesman who became famous at the Battle of Waterloo. He later became leader of England's Tory party and was elected prime minister.

WILLIAM STREET: named in honour of Sir William Wallace, the hero of Scottish independence and for whom Wallaceburg was named.



By Jim Mulgrew

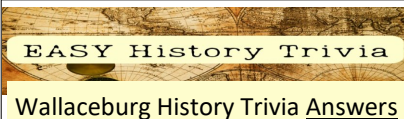
**THERE IS NO LEAD IN OUR LEAD PENCILS !!!!**

Graphite pencils

The ability to leave marks on paper and other objects gave graphite its name, given in 1789 by German mineralogist Abraham Gottlob Werner. It stems from ("graphein"), meaning to write or draw in Ancient Greek.

From the 16th century, all pencils were made with leads of English natural graphite, but modern pencil lead is most commonly a mix of powdered graphite and clay; it was invented by Nicolas-Jacques Conte in 1795. It is chemically unrelated to the metal lead, whose ores had a similar appearance, hence the continuation of the name. Pencils are graded in hard or soft leads. 'H' for hardness and 'B' for black or soft. The range is indicated on the pencil anywhere from H9 to H. The more clay in the mix the harder the lead. HB is the middle of the range, the soft leads range from B to B 9. In some brands this can go as high as B12. Historically, graphite was called black lead or plumbago. Both of these names arise from confusion with the similar-appearing lead ores.

Ref: Wikipedia.



1. 1967
2. 30 years (1970 to 2000)
3. James W. Seinhoff
4. 1911.
5. The First Town Hall.

Questions page 2

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Fri 8:30 - 6:00  
Sat 9:00 - 1:00



# What's going on at the Museum

## 1st Annual Youth Juried Art Show

Free to enter  
Limit of 2 entries  
per student

At the  
The Wallaceburg and District Museum  
Art and Education Room  
The exhibit is open to all mediums.  
Open to students 18 and under

### CATEGORIES Jury Choice & People's Choice Award

Judge for yourself  
**YOUR VOTE WILL COUNT!**  
You can vote once per day  
for your favourite work  
Tuesday, May 7, 2024  
to  
Wednesday, June 5, 2024

### OPENING TIMES

TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS  
10AM UNTIL 4PM

(Cash Prizes are 1st, 2nd and 3rd in both categories)

For more information  
505 King Street Wallaceburg, ON N8A 2R6  
Phone: 519-627-8962 Email: [museumpr@gmail.com](mailto:museumpr@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.kent.net/wallaceburg-museum](http://www.kent.net/wallaceburg-museum)

Entry Drop Off  
Saturday, April 27, 2024  
Entry Deadline  
Saturday, May 4, 2024

Exhibition on display  
Tuesday, May 7 2024  
to  
Saturday, June 15, 2024

Closing Ceremonies and  
Awards Night  
Thursday, June 13, 2024  
Everyone Welcome  
Refreshments  
6pm-7pm  
Award Ceremony @ 6:15pm

Sponsored by



## 13th Annual Juried Art Exhibition

At the  
The Wallaceburg and District Museum  
Art and Education Room  
The exhibit is open to all mediums and ages 19 and over

### Calling all Artist's

### CATEGORIES Jury Choice & People's Choice Award

Judge for yourself  
**YOUR VOTE WILL COUNT!**  
You can vote once per day  
for your favourite work  
throughout the month of July

### OPENING TIMES

TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS  
10AM UNTIL 4PM

(Prizes are 1st, 2nd and 3rd in both categories)

For more information  
505 King Street Wallaceburg, ON N8A 2R6  
Phone: 519-627-8962  
Email: [museumpr@gmail.com](mailto:museumpr@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.kent.net/wallaceburg-museum](http://www.kent.net/wallaceburg-museum)

Entry Deadline  
Saturday, June 15, 2024

Exhibition on display  
Tuesday, June 18th to  
Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Closing Ceremonies and  
Awards Night  
Thursday,  
July 30th, 2024

Everyone Welcome  
Refreshments  
6pm-7pm  
Award Ceremony  
6:15pm

Sponsored by



Looking for VENDORS, Balloon Twisters, FOOD Trucks  
July 1, 2024 here at the  
Museum

## Wallaceburg & District Historical Society (Museum)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, June 17th, 2024  
7:00pm at the  
Von Ayres Cultural Centre,  
505 King Street,  
Wallaceburg.

Everyone Welcome

All members are invited to attend.  
For more information please call  
519-627-8962

Become a Member, or a Board Member.

Be the change you want to see  
today and in the future



We are looking for  
Volunteers  
July 1, 2024 12pm to 5pm

**Come Celebrate  
Canada Day &  
The Wallaceburg & District  
Museum's  
40th Anniversary**

**Monday, July 1, 2024  
12:00pm-5:00pm**

**12:00pm Celebration Begins**  
Food, BBQ, Drinks, Vendors, Games

**12:00pm-12:15pm Opening Ceremonies**  
Sing O Canada  
(All children welcome to stage to sing)  
Cake Cutting

**12:30pm-5:00pm Entertainment**  
12:15pm Wallaceburg Martial Arts  
Demonstration  
12:30pm Check 7  
2:00pm Paula and the Cornhuskers  
3:30pm Crystal Gaze  
**Children Activities**  
Glitter Tattoos, Face Painting, Games, Bouncy  
Castles, and Photo Booth.

Event will be held at the Wallaceburg & District Museum  
505 King Street,  
For more information call 519 627 8962, email [museumpr@kent.net](mailto:museumpr@kent.net)

**We are looking for Vendors**

**KIDS  
Summer Camp**

**At the Wallaceburg Museum  
2024**

Fun and creative camp activities for boys and girls ages 5 to 11.  
Summer camp will be indoors and outdoors.  
Bring your own snacks and lunch. Each week will have a theme.  
Drop off is 9:00am Pick up 4:00pm. Camp runs Tuesday to Friday.  
Weekly Fee \$60 (4 days per child) Daily Fee \$15per child

Week 1. Tuesday, July 2 to Friday, July 5.  
Week 2. Tuesday, July 9 to Friday, July 12.  
Week 3. Tuesday, July 16 to Friday, July 19.  
Week 4. Tuesday, July 23, to Friday, July 26.  
Week 5. Tuesday, July 30 to Friday, August 2.  
Week 6. Tuesday, August 6 to Friday, August 9.  
Week 7. Tuesday, August 13 to Friday, August 16.  
Week 8. Tuesday, August 20 to Friday, August 23.

Register at the Museum.  
For more information, Please call Leesa at 519 627 8962  
Or email [museumpr@kent.net](mailto:museumpr@kent.net)