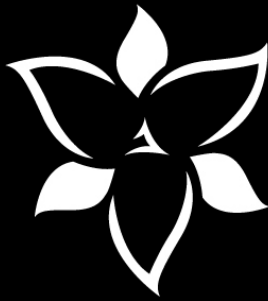




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\$13,900 OTF Grant Brings Local Museum Collection and Exhibits Online

South Glengarry, ON - In 2021, the Glengarry, Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum received a \$13,900 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. This grant has allowed the museum to adapt its programming for online delivery so it can more widely share the historical narratives it covers. With these funds, the museum has overcome pandemic limitations and ensured safe and effective delivery of educational content to a much wider community, including students learning from home. The grant has also ensured that people of all abilities can enjoy the museum's offerings.

“I want to commend the Museum staff for their hard work and diligence to ensure they are able to overcome the pandemic so that residents can access their important historical and cultural assets,” said Jim McDonell, MPP for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry.

With this funding, the museum purchased equipment with which to digitize its collection in films, educational modules, and other virtual formats. At present, the museum has completed its first film, centered on the North West Company, which will be available online and at the museum this year. (While current restrictions are not conducive to gatherings, the museum plans to host an in-person première of the film in the coming months.) In the future, the museum will film its Loyalist exhibit and any future temporary exhibits. Behind-the-scenes looks at the artefacts and other facets of local history will also be the subject of content to come.

This grant also facilitated the fulfillment of the museum’s mandate of inclusivity and accessibility by addressing existing issues and allowing for future growth. The North West Company exhibit is situated on the museum’s second floor, accessible only to those who can make it up the building’s original 19th century stairs. As such, it was chosen as the first exhibit to be made virtually available. Given the age of the building and physical constraints, this grant ensures that everyone, of any ability, can enjoy all that the museum has to offer.

“A project of this magnitude and scope would not have been possible at the museum were it not for the Ontario Trillium Foundation,” said Keleigh Goodfellow-Théorêt, curator at the Glengarry, Nor’Westers and Loyalist Museum. “We are so thrilled at the opportunity to share what the museum has to offer to such an unprecedented degree.” The Glengarry, Nor’Westers and Loyalist Museum, located in the village of Williamstown in South Glengarry, preserves and shares an extensive historic collection of the county’s past, focusing on early settlement of the area and local contributions to Canadian history. Housed in a Georgian-style, two-storey brick schoolhouse built in 1862, the museum features permanent exhibits on the Loyalists who settled in the area and the North West Company of the fur trade. For more information on the museum and updates on future events, please visit www.glengarrynorwestersandloyalistmuseum.ca.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario’s non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario’s economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.