

HERITAGE CORNER

What's new and what's coming up at the Moore Museum

New exhibit honours Corunna baseball star

A new Rob Thomson display has been completed at Moore Museum.

Robert Lewis Thomson, local baseball star, grew up in Corunna. Rob represented Canada at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, California, where he participated in the baseball demonstration sport. He was then selected by the Detroit Tigers in the 32nd round the following year and found himself playing catcher and third baseman in the Minor League.

In 1988, Rob went from playing baseball to coaching. From 1990 through 2017, Robert joined and held various positions with the New York Yankees in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. In November of 2003, Rob was named to the Major League Baseball's New York Yankees Major League Coaching Staff. On April 4, 2008, due to Major League Baseball's New York Yankees Manager Joe Girardi's respiratory illness, Rob was chosen to manage that night's game. This made Robert "Thoms" Thomson the first Canadian full time manager in Major League Baseball since 1934. During his time with the New York Yankees, Rob secured five World Series Rings in 1996/98/99, 2000 and 2009. Rob was hired by the Major League's Philadelphia Phillies in December of 2017 as their bench coach (right-hand man to the team's manager/assists in decision making).

On June 15, 2019, Robert Thomson was inducted into Canada's Baseball Hall of Fame. "I am humbled and honoured to be inducted into Canada's Baseball Hall of Fame!" said Thomson. "Growing up in Corunna, Ontario, I would have never dreamt that such an honour would be bestowed onto me." On July 13, 2022, Interim Manager Robert Thomson managed a game against the Toronto Blue Jays at the Roger's Center in Toronto, Ontario. This made Robert "Thoms" Thomson the first Canadian to manage a Major League Baseball Game in Canada. ~Curator, Fiona Doherty



A Christmas program in progress.

Holiday programming back for the holidays

Moore Museum's most popular school program "Community Christmas Celebrations: Traditions of the World Arrive with the Settlers" is set to begin for pre-booked groups in November. A real favourite with students is pulling taffy, as well as creating a tree ornament to take home. We hear each year of families who make the placing of this decoration on their tree an annual tradition. The program's long-term popularity is evidenced by parent chaperones who recall making a decoration here when they were children themselves.

This program about Christmas traditions has become a tradition itself! Both popular activities, along with a tour highlighting the traditions and decoration ideas early settlers brought with them from their various countries of origin, provide a two-hour program suited to the Ontario curriculum. This offers rich learning experiences related to both the Grade 2 *Changing Family and Community Traditions* and the Grade 3 *Communities in Canada, 1780 - 1850* topics. The program can also be adapted to suit Kindergarten students to provide an opportunity for exploring a part of the community, with hands-on activities.

~Curator Fiona Doherty

Downriver Craft Sale a hit!

The 2022 Downriver Craft Sale and Gift Show was a tremendous success, with almost 100 tables and booths offering the most varied selection of goodies ever seen. One of those unique products was crafted by Robert (Gus) Gostick of Brigden, far right, who turns retired propane tanks into works of art like Halloween pumpkin lanterns and an ingenious Batman hot dog cooker. The Shaw building, above center, was prone to pedestrian traffic jams, the entire museum site was populated by vendor tents, and the food tent ran out of food long before the event was over. In short, the Downriver Craft Sale was a big hit.



MORE HERITAGE CORNER

Moore Museum's Shaw building receives artistic paint job

Before the pandemic shut down, the Moore Museum received a grant from the Creative County Grant Program to fund three murals. Local artist Tim Allen was commissioned in 2020 to create them. He was the artist that painted the fantastic locomotive mural for the main building.

For those who aren't familiar with the Creative County Grant Program, its goal is to "nurture creativity and imagination through arts, culture and heritage projects; promote innovation and support new, dynamic efforts in the creative community with the goal of financial self-sufficiency and continuity; develop unique

cultural resources and enhance the health and vitality of our communities; support the development of new and diverse audiences for cultural activities and programs; encourage inclusion and celebrate diversity through our rich creative community; foster creativity by encouraging collaborative partnerships; promote culture as a key component of economic growth and quality of life."



The west side of the Shaw building now has two faux window murals that represent activities that might have taken place inside a century ago.

Fire Prevention Week a time to plan for safety

As Fire Prevention Week approaches, the St. Clair Fire Department reminds residents that "Fire won't wait! Plan your escape!"

It is important for everyone to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance so that they will know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds.

Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will also be different. Have a plan for everyone in the house. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure someone will help them.

St. Clair Fire urges everyone to read and heed these key home fire escape planning tips:

- ⇒ Make sure your plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- ⇒ Smoke alarms are required to be installed on every storey of the home and outside the sleeping area.
- ⇒ Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.



Accident victim receives community support through Corunna Legion event

On Sunday, Sept. 11, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 held a breakfast to support accident victim Mike Watts, who was injured in a motorcycle accident in the U.S. Mike is well known in St. Clair Township, and our community came out in full force to show their support for him.

A total of \$4,615 was raised to support Mike in his journey back to good health. We would like to thank Chris at Corunna No Frills for donating the food, and our volunteers who helped to cook, serve, and clean up. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated by the Branch 447 and the Watts' family. Left: Eric Hancock, President of Branch 447, right, presented a cheque from the breakfast proceeds to Jeremy Watts, Madi Watts and Christina Watts.

Legion photo

