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# Muse News

The Newsletter of the Orillia Museum of Art and History

Volume 10, Issue 2

Spring 2004

## Sir Sam on Schedule—A Building Committee Report

*Based on an Interview with  
C. Richard Oatway by Judy  
Archer*

As of the third week of April, we are in week seven of a 17 week project at the Museum. Building started March 1, with Storburn Construction as contractor, picking up where they left off about three years ago. For the most part, the same crew are involved.

One of the first jobs was to replace a whole section of the floor as one walks in the front door. Where the former terrazzo floor was, the joists were buried in concrete, and they were cracked. Then, throughout the building there were three-inch differences in the floor level from one end of the building to the other. There were almost four different floors on the main floor alone. The single biggest job completed so far was to level the floor. The floor leveling was accomplished by a self-leveling process. A membrane was

laid over the whole floor, then a truck backed up to the building, and a liquid consistency of thick coffee was poured. Within an hour and a half we could walk on the floor. Visually, this floor has a big impact.

The electricians are now rewiring the entire building with rough-ins to the second floor. Spray insulation will be used to fill in all the cracks and gaps. This will be a big help in conserving heat.

All the wall studs are in place from three years ago. On the ground floor, the eleven and a half foot ceilings and the open floor space create a very spacious feel, even with the unfinished walls.

The area on the ground floor is 4,612 square feet and 4,654 square feet on the basement floor.

Next is the plumbing and the drywall. The architect and contractor are currently seeking out people to restore the plaster columns and sections of the ceiling. There are no material or substantive surprises, which is good news. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-August.

At the back of the building there is going to be a loading ramp where

one existed before.

Wheelchair access will be located at the side entrance. The mansard roof and clock tower spire will be built between June and August.

If you would like to see further pictures, please check out the Museum Website and click on "Restoration". The website is [www.orilliamuseum.org](http://www.orilliamuseum.org).

### Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers in several capacities will be greatly needed over the next couple of months. The museum interior will require painting in July and August. If you are interested in helping, please call the Museum at 326-2159. Our occupation of the building in September will necessitate the need for more volunteers than we now have for the Shop across the street. We are going to need "sitters" to occupy the gallery space to keep an eye on the displays and artifacts that will be set up. The sitters do not need to be on the "cash computer" at the sales desk as I realize that some of our volunteers do not like to operate the cash computer. But we are going to have to have more help in the enlarged premises. Please consider donating some of your spare time once a week for a couple of hours to assist us. Thank you!

*Jean Sarjeant, Chairman*

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The Newsletter of OMAH is available free of charge with a current membership. The Museum gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of its Members and Supporters. The Museum is a registered charitable organization No. 13723 0587 R0001.

## Chairman's Message

Spring looks like it is finally coming as I write this for the current newsletter. Before going any further, I would like to thank all the volunteers who looked after the shop and museum while I was away on a wonderful, restful holiday in Portugal with my husband, Dave. It was nice to get away, especially after having the surgery on my right hand –which, by the way - is coming along quite well. Marilyn Dennis and Elaine Milner kept everything and everyone in order and they did a terrific job of keeping the shop open and running. Thank you ladies - well done!!

Now I know that you will want to know how the Sir Sam Steele Building is coming along after such an awesome fund-raising campaign. At the present moment, we have raised \$278,878.00 for the building fund. When I left for Portugal, the place was in a mess with a lot of construction material all over. When I returned home, I found both the basement and main floor had been cleared up and the new concrete floor was down with the metal partitions all in place. The electricians are in the building now and the plumbers are due in next. According to the site supervisor, everything is on target and

on time. With that in mind, we should meet our target date of September to be back in the building.

We will still need a lot of help - the painting is going to be done on a volunteer basis. That means that we will be looking towards the membership for help in that area. So if you know of anyone who likes to paint and they might be willing to lend a hand - please ask them and let us know who they are so we can get ready for that aspect of the renovations.

Don Ross and Dick Johnston, our fund raising chairmen, did a wonderful job in getting things organized for the campaign. Richard Oatway has kept us up to date on the financial process and now we just need everyone to make sure pledges are in on time. It would be impossible at this stage to begin to thank everyone who worked so hard on this campaign, but they will all be acknowledged at the annual general meeting that will be coming up soon.

Speaking of the Annual General Meeting - it will be held on June 9, 2004 at the O.P.P. AUDITORIUM once again. You will find the notice in this newsletter - so mark your calendar now. We will need people to come on board the executive who are willing to

give a lot of time and effort to see the renovation project finished. This means that if you are asked to join, please consider that we have a lot to do to complete this stage of the project, and we will need willing workers who will put in many hours of dedication towards that end. That means physical work in some cases, and many meetings to cover all the details that must be worked out. This is not for the faint of heart, believe me!!! But those who are willing to put in this kind of effort are more than welcome.

Our Pot Luck will be at The Leacock Home again this year, on June 16th, 2004. You will receive notices about this in the near future (thanks to Mary Hunter and her "mail-out" crew).

Keep in mind that our gift shop is still open (and we have many wonderful items for sale). So please, drop in for a visit, have a candy and say hello to the wonderful volunteers who staff the desk. Hoping to see you soon -

*Jean E. Sarjeant, Chairman*

**Gift Shop Hours:** Monday to Friday 10 a.m to 4 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday closed)

## The Building Is Just The Beginning

*Based on an interview with C. Richard Oatway, submitted by Judy Archer*

Now that construction in Sir Sam Steele is in full swing, OMAH's Board of Directors is looking to the future. They have identified five areas of museum management that require focus. Concentrating effort in these particular areas will ensure that the museum is run professionally. Committees needed include Finance, Sustaining Fund Raising, Governance, Programming, and Acquisitions.

The Finance Committee would be

responsible for preparing budgets in consultation with the Director/ Curator and other committee heads, reviewing financial results of the Museum, meeting with the auditor etc.

The Sustaining Fundraising Committee will explore how we raise money to maintain the building and operate a professional museum. They will identify ways of raising money and find people to help them do it.

The Governance Committee will develop a governing model for the museum that is more responsive to the membership. This includes ensuring that the governance process is

more democratic and consultative. All of the above committees would be standing committees.

We also need to articulate the changing needs for volunteers as we move into the building in the fall. These committees will all be staffed by volunteers, so this is an opportunity to reflect on what contribution you are willing to make to any of these committees.

## OPP—The Place to Be!

OMAH's Annual General Meeting takes place June 9th, in the OPP GHQ Auditorium, at 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for members to get first hand information on what's taken place over the past year -- lots! -- and where we hope to be going in 2004-2005.

The program will include summary reports on our several hard-working committees, our financial situation and the election of the Board of Directors for the coming year.

With the 'Phase 1' renovations to the Sir Sam Steele Memorial Building slated for completion by late summer and an increased need for volunteers and permanent staff, the new year promises to be an exciting one.

The AGM is your opportunity to find out what's needed, how things will work, --and how you can become more involved. Refreshments will be served and we look forward to seeing you there!

### Annual General Meeting

TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2004  
AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE  
 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
 AUDITORIUM, 777 MEMORIAL AVENUE, ORILLIA,  
 ONTARIO, L3V 7V3

FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- (1) To elect or appoint nine (9) directors to serve until the next Annual General Meeting of the Members
- (2) To review and approve the Financial Statements for the period ended September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003
- (3) To appoint the Auditor for the Orillia Museum of Art and History
- (4) To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Orillia, Ontario

April 13, 2004

Peter McEwen

Secretary

**Please note: Parking for the evening will be in the area denoted as "South Parking Lot—Employee Parking Only". Please do NOT park in the main parking area in front of the building.**



## Kiwanis Club Donates to Art Education

Recently, the Sir Sam Steele building celebrated its 110th Anniversary. A ceremony was held in the Coach House Gallery, complete with a beautifully decorated cake showing the Sir Sam Steele Building, donated by The Chocolate Mousse. The true 'icing on the cake' was a cheque presentation by Kiwanis Club President John Waite, who presented a cheque for \$25,000 to support the Children's Art Education Centre. "The Kiwanis Club of Orillia is thrilled to support the Children's Art Education Centre in the exciting new Orillia Museum of Art and History. Our club's focus is 'Young Children Priority One', and I know that this will provide countless area children with the opportunity to tour and participate in a first-class gallery and museum, without



Left to right: Dr. Richard Johnston, Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee; Marilyn Dennis, Treasurer, OMAH; Sue Mulcahy, Fundraising Committee; Juliana Hawke, Education Committee; Don Ross, Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee; John Waite, President, Kiwanis Club; Ben Cole, Treasurer, Kiwanis Club; and John Mayo, Kiwanis Club.

having to leave Orillia," said Waite.

The Art Education Centre will offer exciting hands-on art classes, workshops, lectures and art and history sessions to school groups.

The Kiwanis Club funds will go toward everything from specialized art equipment to furniture for the new centre.

Many thanks go to Don Ross, Heather Decker, and Juliana Hawke, who made an effective proposal to the Kiwanis Club in January.

*Juliana Hawke*



## Education Update

Members of the OMAH Education Committee have been very busy over the past few months. In January, Deb Brown and Juliana Hawke worked on updating and redesigning the “Learning on Tour” brochure for the schools. We wanted to provide more detailed information about our programs and use some of the wonderful photographs that we have been taking of students enjoying these popular art and history sessions. Many thanks to David Hawke for his computer expertise in scanning photos, typing, layout and printing this new brochure. Copies are available at the OMAH office if anyone is interested in taking a look.

In late February, these new brochures

were sent out, along with an accompanying cover letter to all Orillia and area elementary schools. The response has been very good, with a total of 27 half-day sessions already booked. Of particular note is Orchard Park Public School, where we are scheduled to deliver programs in each classroom – reaching over 500 students!

Also in January, six sessions were presented to the primary classes at Couchiching Heights Public School (four on Arthur Shilling, two on the Group of Seven). We were pleased to receive some very positive feedback from both the students and teachers at this school. The following written comment was sent to us from the

school, and used in our February cover letter:

*“The programs presented were dynamic and the material effectively complemented the curriculum. The presenters related well to the children, and the students were engaged and interested. Very stimulating and worthwhile!”*

Many thanks to our art instructors Deb Brown, Terri Lee Milley and Juliana Hawke, and our teacher volunteers Kay-Anne Broger, Ruth Watt, Wally Bremner and Valerie Connor, who present these successful programs in the schools.

*Juliana Hawke*

## Website Under Development

The website for the Orillia Museum of Art and History, [www.orilliamuseum.org](http://www.orilliamuseum.org), is under construction. While much of the website is still being created, there are a number of up-to-date photographs depicting the restoration and building construction (click on Restoration). Several issues of the newsletter are also available. Other areas such as Gallery Shop, Exhibitions, Programs, and Membership will soon be enhanced, making the website a “one-stop spot” for all your information about the OMAH.



*Kay-Anne Broger delivers the Arthur Shilling programme at East Oro Public School.*

## RWTO Donates to Art Education

We have been very fortunate and pleased to receive an important donation recently to education at OMAH.

The Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO) has donated \$500 to us through their grant program. This money will go directly to our in-school education programs and will be used to purchase teaching materials such as reference books, easels, carrying cases for art supplies and art reproductions. These

items will be of great benefit to the instructors who go into the classrooms.

Thanks go to Valerie Connor and Kay-Anne Broger for writing and presenting the grant proposal to RWTO!

*Juliana Hawke*

## A new look for OMAH's News

As you have noticed, the look of this newsletter has changed! The Communications Committee is trying out some ‘new looks’ and names to reflect OMAH’s new era and consolidate its corporate identity. This issue, we have used a graphic illustration of the Sir Sam Steele building, and of course, a new name for the newsletter. We will be trying out new ideas in the next few letters, so please expect some changes!

Many thanks to Qennefer Browne for her graphic expertise!

## 2004 International Women's Day Art Show - A Wonderful Success!

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Women's Day Art Show celebrated again this year at the Coach House Gallery was an exciting and successful exhibit. Over 325 people visited the show during its four and half week duration, including three art classes from Park Street Collegiate Institute – a significant increase over the previous years. Response from visitors and the press was extremely positive.



Covering a range of media from stained glass to oils, textile hangings to black and white photography, the art work beautifully interpreted our theme, "A Sense of Place." With the highest number of participants in the show's

history, the sixty seven artists came from Orillia, Barrie, and Peterborough. The exhibit's wonderful sense of unity is thanks to the remarkable job of arranging and hanging the art by Jean Sanders and Peter McEwen.

The highlight of the exhibit was our second annual Artist Forum. Over half the artists came together for an evening at the Coach House Gallery to discuss their work. It was an enjoyable evening of storytelling and sharing, which we hope to continue as a tradition in future years.

Many thanks to everyone involved with the show either as a participant or

volunteer. The exhibit was able to open five afternoons a week thanks to the volunteer gallery sitting of many of the show's artists. A special note of appreciation goes to Lucy McGarvey and the staff of the Shadowbox, who faithfully opened and closed the Gallery each day. Stunning flower arrangements were provided by Anytime Flowers, Flowers by June, Marsha's Flowers, and Sandy's Flowers. Thank you to OMAH, The Shadowbox, and Tiffin's Creative Centre for sponsoring the exhibit.

We look forward to another year of exciting "art making" and further celebrations of women's art.

*Mary Ann Tully for the International Women's Day Art Show Committee*

**Sixty-seven artists  
contributed work to the  
show, the highest number  
of participants in the  
show's history.**

## Current Governance Volunteers

### Board of Directors

Jean Sarjeant, Chairman  
C. Richard Oatway, Vice-Chairman  
Peter McEwen, Secretary  
Marilyn Dennis, Treasurer  
Wally Bremner, Peter Gill  
Tom Jarvis, Bill Tiffin  
Lucy McGarvey

### Standing Committees

**Executive Committee**  
Jean Sarjeant, Chairman  
C. Richard Oatway  
Peter McEwen, Marilyn Dennis

### Communications

Peter Gill, Chairman  
Olive Schisler  
Qennefer Browne  
Jim Watt, Judy Archer  
Bruce Macmillan, Theresa Soper

### Education Committee

Peter McEwen, Chairman  
Juliana Hawke

### Building Committee

C. Richard Oatway, Chairman  
Jean Sarjeant  
Peter McEwen  
Tom Jarvis  
Bob Browne

### History Committee

Wendy Hutchings, Chairman  
Pat Angus, Dick Johnston  
Qennefer Browne, Wally Bremner  
Jim Watt, Fayne Bullen  
Pat Gill

### Ad Hoc Committee

#### Fundraising Committee

Don Ross, Co-Chair  
Dr. Richard Johnston, Co-Chair  
Sue Mulcahy  
Marilyn Dennis  
Tom Jarvis  
Richard Oatway  
Peter McEwen  
Roger Pretty  
Lucia McGarvey  
Jean Sarjeant  
Bill Tiffin  
Judy Archer  
Penny Balfe

## Mark Your Calendars

Please note the following upcoming History Committee events:

May 19th, Speaker on "The Temple of Sharon", 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church, all welcome.

June 16th, Pot Luck Supper, 5:00 p.m. at Swanmore Hall. Bring your goodies and