

TBHMS Newsletter FALL 2022



Executive Director:
Scott Bradley

Curator / Archivist: Michael deJong

**Chief Operating Officer:**Marcus Agombar

Education & Outreach
Coordinator:
Dannielle Pesheau

Collections Curator: Sarah Silvestri

**Exhibits Curator:**Sydney Belluz

**Fundraising Coordinator:**Sarah DiBiagio

**Bookkeeper:** Karen Bortolin

#### Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society

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The Society recognizes the ongoing support of the City of Thunder Bay through its Cultural Funding Program



# A Message From The President

Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

It has been a busy couple of months for staff and volunteers of the Society. With the lifting of COVID restrictions, the Museum has once again been experiencing the hustle and bustle missing over the last couple of years. From summer camps and special events on site to participating in community events, to fulfil our mission to preserve and interpret the history of Northwestern Ontario. The Museum also has become a much-requested excursion for the various cruise ships that have returned to the City after a long absence.

Although meetings of the Board of Directors have been on its summer hiatus for July and August, all of our committees have been regularly meeting. A new ad-hoc committee has also been established by the Board to facilitate the development of the Society's next five-year Strategic Plan. After a competitive process, Compass Leadership has been selected as consultants to support that committee's work. Over the next month, members will be receiving information about a consultation meeting to be held in the afternoon on Tuesday, 20 September at the Museum.

Finally, a thank you to all our staff and volunteers who have worked hard over the past couple of months getting ready for an active and exciting fall.

All my best.

Michel S. Beaulieu, PhD President

#### In this issue:

Staffing Changes / New and Upcoming Exhibits / Events

## **New Fundraising Coordinator**

#### Please welcome Sarah DiBiagio to the Thunder Bay Museum

The Thunder Bay Museum is happy to announce that Sarah DiBiagio has been recruited as the Fundraising Coordinator through the Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. In this position, Sarah will oversee the Museum's various fundraising initiatives including memberships, donations, funding applications, bingo, classic car raffle, and more.

Sarah grew up with a love for museums, visiting as many as she could in her family travels around Canada and the United States, Europe and New Zealand. Inspired by history and anthropology classes in high school, she majored in Anthropology at Lakehead University and minored in Women's Studies with an interest in bringing new,

underrepresented lenses to her research. After a few years in academia, her focus turned to bringing support and representation to underserved communities, particularly Thunder Bay's Queer community. Local activism led her to receive the Mayor's Community Safety Award for Outstanding Community Project, serve on the McMaster President's

Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community and to interview with CBC for the event Pride is a Protest. In her free time, Sarah produces a feminist zine with an activist collective, plays bass guitar in local bands and spoils her two cats Jojo and Leo!







## **Education & Outreach Coordinator Change**

#### Brief farewell to Marissa Nieminen

We have exciting news to share about our Education & Outreach Coordinator, Marissa Nieminen. She's having a baby!

To ensure continuity of educational and outreach programming, the Thunder Bay Museum has hired Dannielle Pesheau as a backfill for Marissa's role. Dannielle will be starting on 12 September 2022 and Marissa is expected to begin her maternity leave in late September 2022 and will be on leave for 18-months.

## **Donation from Ken Boshcoff**



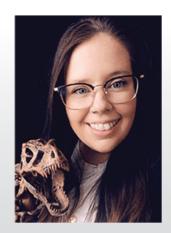
Marissa Nieminen

The Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society recently received a donation of \$2,500 in July from Ken Boshcoff, former City of Thunder Bay Councillor, Mayor and MP for Thunder Bay-Rainy River. Mr. Boshcoff's financial contribution, through The Ken Boshcoff Charitable Foundation, will be added to the thousands of dollars he has generously donated to the Society over the years to support the Thunder Bay Museum's operations and programmes.

Mr. Boshcoff said of this latest contribution, "I am donating now to encourage elected officials,

whether currently serving or retired, to financially support arts and heritage organizations. Many are already avid supporters, so I am hoping other elected leaders will join in by showing their support. This will go a long way in encouraging others to invest in our community."

For more information about the Thunder Bay Museum and its programs, please visit: <a href="https://www.thunderbaymuseum.com/">www.thunderbaymuseum.com/</a>



Farewell to Kathleen Jewett

After six years of service, the Thunder Bay Museum is sad to say farewell to our Front Desk and Gift Shop Attendant, Kathleen Jewett. You may recognize Kathleen as the friendly voice greeting you when calling or visiting the Museum.

Thank you Kathleen for all your hard work and we wish you the best on your next adventure.

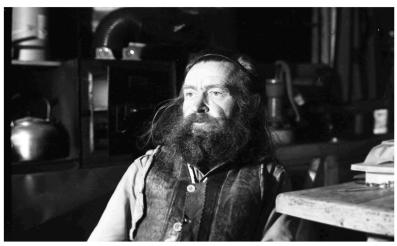
## The Legend of Wendell Beckwith

#### On display starting 7 September 2022

At long last, our exhibit about the life and story of Wendell Beckwith is on display in our second floor gallery. This exhibit is a companion to the feature-length film *In Search of Wendell Beckwith* (www.thunderbaymuseum.com/beckwith-film-project), a partnership between the Thunder Bay Museum and filmmaker Jim Hyder. Come see a rich collection of photographs, artifacts, scientific drawings and more that tell the story of Wendell's life and research at Whitewater Lake in what is now Wabakimi Provincial Park, and all of those who interacted with him and

supported him. The Museum is grateful to all of those individuals and organizations that made the film and exhibit possible.

Scan to learn more or watch the film





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### Medicine At The Lakehead

#### Exhibit opening November 2022

This exhibit will feature a timeline of the history of medicine at the Lakehead, with a specific focus on epidemics and pandemics that have swept through the region. Visitors will be able to learn about the various diseases and viruses that have affected people here, while also exploring the roles of Indigenous medicine, prominent doctors and hospitals, and how mass-scale world events, such as the World Wars, have affected public health. This exhibit has been guest-curated by Lakehead University students Emily Hunt and Haileigh Riddell in partnership with Thunder Bay Museum curatorial staff, and partially funded through the Information and Communications Technology Council Work-Integrated Learning Digital grant.





## Prisoners-of-War in Northwestern Ontario

#### Exhibit opening October 2022

This exhibit is being developed as a partnership between the Thunder Bay Museum and the Thunder Bay Military Museum. It will tell the story of World War II Prisoners-of-War in Northwestern Ontario, with a



particular focus on artwork and crafts created by POW's while biding time at the various internment and bush camps along the Lake Superior North Shore and elsewhere in Northwestern Ontario. The exhibit will prominently feature the artwork of German submariner Georg Hoegel from the permanent collection of the Thunder Bay Military Museum.



## **High-Density Shelves for Collections Storage**

#### Progress update for the Museum

The Museum Assistant Program (MAP) Collections Management Grant project at the Thunder Bay Museum is supporting the transition to new high-density shelves in the Second Floor Storage Room. This shelving will allow the Thunder Bay Museum to maximize the available object storage space, and continue to acquire new donations. Thanks to the hard work of the Collections Project Assistant, Raquel Robbins, we expect that the project will be completed by October 2022. Throughout this project, Raquel has inventoried, re-housed and moved offsite over 1000 objects!



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Before & after photo of the Second Floor Storage

## **Doors Open Thunder Bay**

This year during Doors Open, we're offering back-of-house artifact collection storage tours, artifact displays on early agriculture in the area as well as a museum-wide family-friendly scavenger hunt.

We need volunteers to help make the Doors Open 2022 a success. Opportunities include: Front Desk Attendant, Exhibit Assistant, and Doors Open Information Ambassadors. To sign up, please contact: collections@thunderbaymuseum.com





Summer Camps Are A Big Success

Summer camp was back in full swing this year! With seven jammed packed themed weeks, the campers enjoyed playing games from around the world, making various crafts such as animal keychains, tie-dye shirts and rain sticks, and eating some delicious food, all while making new friends. We can't wait to see what next year's summer camp will hold!

