

PARTNERSHIP EXHIBITS

Two partnership exhibits were also installed in temporary exhibit spaces. These partnerships were important to allow for expanded stories to be presented in the Museum.

The 2023 Community Curators display, **Mental Health is a Journey**, was installed by partners from the Tanner Steffler Foundation. The exhibit features objects loaned by members of the foundation's Youth Council that symbolize their mental health struggles, coping mechanisms, and hope. The exhibit also featured an iPad where visitors could view videos from the foundation's docu-series, and a supplementary display of artifacts from the museum collection that provide insight into how people in the past coped with mental illness.

A temporary exhibit of 10 quilts on loan from the Wolfe family, **In Honour of Residential School Survivors**, was on display for the summer months in one of the Museum's large exhibit galleries. Each quilt featured the same Journey Home fabric panel with different motifs and fabrics sewn by the Kincardine Sunset Quilters Guild on behalf of Miss Kettle & Stony Point Jr. These quilts were gifted to the Residential School Survivors of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation at the close of the exhibit.

The Outreach exhibit programme was continued:

- Summer Reading Program Connections – Goderich Branch, Huron County Library

- Co-op student artifact selections – Seaforth Branch, Clinton Branch & Goderich Branch, Huron County Library
- Exeter 150th Anniversary – South Huron Town Hall
- Alice Munro artifacts – Alice Munro Branch, Huron County Library
- Huronlea Homes for the Aged reminiscence case – Brussels related artifacts

Work proceeded in the permanent exhibit galleries with construction projects in the new Industry gallery to be installed on the upper floor of the museum. Work included drywall, electrical, paint, and flooring. Installation of the full exhibit will take place through 2024.

Five redeveloped interpretive panels were installed at the Tiger Dunlop Tomb with updated graphics and text in a more accessible format.

At the Historic Gaol, a new exhibit was developed and installed in the front entrance exhibit room that examines the development of the county gaol and prisoner demographics based on the Gaol prisoner registry (1841-1922).

The 2023 Huron County Agricultural Hall of Fame inductee, Robert James Scott, was added to the agriculture gallery with a presentation by his family and members of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture. Scott was recognized as one of the most dynamic and influential men in Canadian agriculture through the Depression and World War 2.



SELECT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

The Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol facilitated a variety of special events & activities over the course of 2023 both in-person and virtually.

In-person presentations included:

- Kathryn Adams spoke about her mother's experience as one of Canada's last British Home Children or Migrant children.
- A film screening of 1998's *Soop on Wheels*, a documentary about the life and contributions of disabled Blackfoot political cartoonist and residential school survivor Everett Soop. Filmmaker Sandy Greer was in attendance for a Q & A.
- Cree activist, artist and writer Crystal Semaganis. She spoke about the Semaganis' family and their experience of the Sixties Scoop.
- Author Talk & Book Fair in partnership with the Huron County Library to spotlight local authors and stories.

Virtual presentations included:

- Lucie Heins of the Royal Alberta Museum, regarding the return of World War II Red Cross comfort quilts from the UK to communities across Canada

In-person and virtual education programs were provided for local students, as well as Kids & Dads program, summer day camps, and PA Day camps.

In-person events included Multilingual Movie nights, Family Day programming, Historic Places Days, Behind the Bars, Ghost Tours, Halloween Trick of Treating, and a Holiday Open House. The annual Textile Show and Sale was also facilitated by the Huron County Spinners, Weavers & Quilters guilds at the Museum. Partnerships with other departments included Maple Mania events.

Outreach programs and presentations were provided for a number of groups including OneCare, Huronview Home for the Aged, Ontario Ancestors Huron Branch, the Ontario Museum Association and the Sustainable Huron and Water Protection Steering Committee. Staff also attended local community events at The Launch, Huron County Pride Festival, Goderich Children's Festival, Huron Multicultural Festival, Exeter 150th Anniversary, Huron County Library Summer Reading Program, Bayfield Fair, Huron County Plowing Match, Seaforth Fair, Belgrave Elementary School Fair, and the Goderich Salt Festival.

The Museum also participated in filming for *Secrets des profondeurs – Secrets of the Depth*. The crew exploring the wreck of the *Wexford* visited the Museum to record interviews with the Senior Curator during their time in Huron County.

