



DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES

UPDATE

WINTER
2021



THIS ISSUE
I SPY
and more



DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES

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Vice President

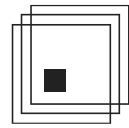
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FROM THE CURATOR

MADE IN DUNDAS BOX



MADE IN DUNDAS BOX

SHOP LOCAL BUSINESSES
SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM

We're so grateful to our wonderful and supportive community! Through our two offerings, both in the fall and at Christmas, 300 packages of Dundas delights found their way to new homes! Thanks to your support of our Made in Dundas Box program, \$23,000 was spent at local small businesses and \$7,000 was raised for the Dundas

Museum's award winning education programs! To put that in context, that's enough for 1,500 individual students - thank you!

The small businesses of Dundas are an important part of what makes this community so wonderful and unique.

I would encourage those who can to continue to buy local as we each do our part to get through this challenging time together.

Please be sure to keep an eye out this spring for the next Made in Dundas Box – Shop Local Business and Support Your Museum!



Kevin Puddister
Curator & General
Manager



Special Thanks

Beanermunky Chocolate
Bowes Herb Cleaners LTD
Carnegie Gallery Dear Grain
Detour Cafe
Café Domestique
Dundas Valley Gift Shop
Dundas Valley School of Art
Gray's Florist
INDIA Village Restaurant
The Keeping Room
Old Bagel House
Picone Fine Food
Taylor's Tea Room
The Village Bakery Dundas
Weir's Lane Lavender & Apiary

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Dundas Museum and Archives is to act as stewards of the community's heritage as represented by the objects and archival material entrusted to us. We make this history available through our accessible exhibitions, education programming, research facilities, an online presence and the support of community initiatives.

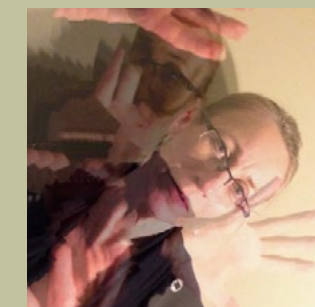


Samantha Green Departs for DCS

After nearly four years as our Admin and Marketing Coordinator, Samantha Green has moved on to a new opportunity at Dundas Community Services. We wish her well and thank her for her time at the Dundas Museum!

DM+A Welcomes

Karin Fish as their new Administrative and Marketing Coordinator. [Learn more about Karin.](#)



STAFF

Kevin Puddister
Curator & General
Manager

Sandra Kiemele
Archivist & Assistant
General Manager

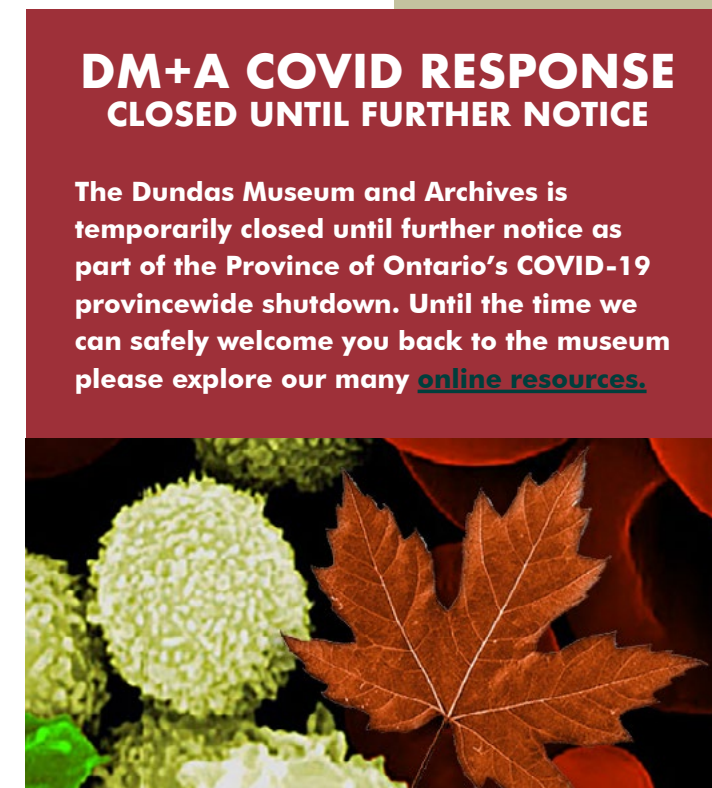
Severine Craig
Collections Manager

Karin Fish
Administrative &
Marketing Coordinator

Anna Patterson
Education, Events &
Volunteer Coordinator

Austin Strutt
Exhibitions Coordinator

Marley Beach
Victoria Caravaggio
Miranda Vander Vliet
Richard Griffin
Museum Attendants

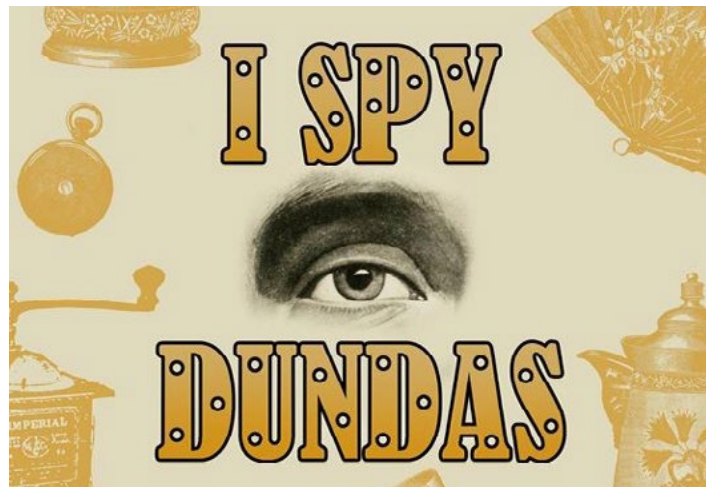


DM+A COVID RESPONSE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The Dundas Museum and Archives is temporarily closed until further notice as part of the Province of Ontario's COVID-19 provincewide shutdown. Until the time we can safely welcome you back to the museum please explore our many [online resources.](#)

EXHIBITS & EVENTS

I SPY



Feature Exhibit: I Spy Dundas

The Dundas Museum and Archives is home to an astonishing collection of treasures. More than 16,000 artifacts, and still more archival documents of local significance, are stored in temperature controlled conditions in our vault. Each of these objects alone has a story to tell, but together they testify to history of dedicated collecting and preservation in partnership with a community that deeply values its history.

Our current exhibit I Spy Dundas, invites you to explore the vast collections of the DMA and take a closer look

at the artifacts that preserve our community history. Here at the Dundas Museum we have a first-hand understanding of how preserving objects from the past helps us to preserve history and memory. An artifact can tell us a lot about the people who made, used, or cared for it. From family photos, fine china, and watercolours, to curiosities, tools, and toys, the artifacts in our museum all have stories to tell. All these and more are on display

in [I Spy Dundas](#), a feature exhibition which highlights local treasures that rarely emerge from our vault. With this exhibit we will welcome visitors (especially young ones!) to explore our collection and challenge themselves to find the hidden details listed in the I Spy riddles that accompany each display.

The permanent collection of the Dundas Museum and Archives represents 80 years of historical collecting and preservation. But our mission never stops! Find out how you can contribute to preserving the history of our town and expanding our artifact collection. You might be surprised

just what we are looking to collect, and what we aren't!



Austin Strutt
Exhibitions Coordinator

Held over during the current lockdown, we hope you'll visit I Spy Dundas sometime soon!

Current Projects: Main Gallery Renewal

Every cloud has its silver lining, and while the DMA remains temporarily closed to the public we are taking time to retouch and renew exhibits



Main Gallery

in our Main Gallery. Our aim is to expand the scope of our interpretive content, archival images, and artifacts within this space.

We will include more stories from a wider range of perspectives, and bring up more treasures from our vault for you to see. This exhibit tells the story of Dundas from the earliest known human inhabitants up to the present, with a special focus on individuals, events, and aspects of local culture. The Main Gallery has always been a place where those unfamiliar with our remarkable history can take time to explore. We also hope that even the most well-informed Dundasians may find some facts that will surprise them!

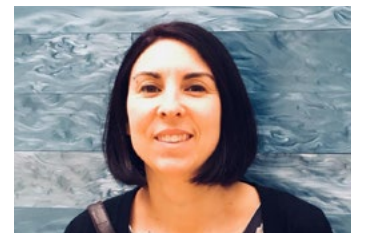
As we move ahead with this project, major updates will be presented on our social media as they are installed. Check out the [DM+A Youtube Channel](#) for videos exploring the rich history of Dundas.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

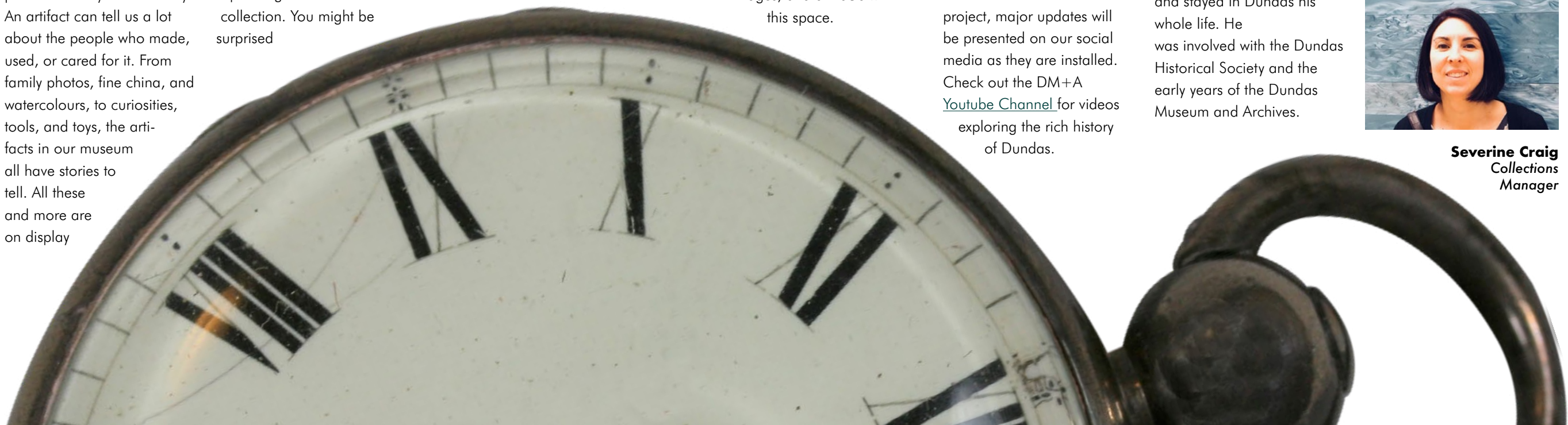


W.G. Brown's barbershop located at 75 King Street West.

[William George Brown](#) was born July 10, 1840 in Maryland, USA. His parents, Thomas and Julia Brown, both African American, moved the family to Canada when William was a boy. They were in search of a better life and settled in Dundas. In 1868, W.G. Brown opened up his own barbershop at 75 King Street West. In 1897 William married Hannah Elizabeth Archer after his first wife's death. They had one child together, Alden Brown born in 1898. Their son became a bookkeeper and stayed in Dundas his whole life. He was involved with the Dundas Historical Society and the early years of the Dundas Museum and Archives.



Severine Craig
Collections Manager



ARCHIVES

COVID-19 AT THE MUSEUM



Sandra Kiemele
Archivist & Assistant
General Manager

Monday, March 16, 2020 was an extraordinary day. After a weekend of hearing about the worsening COVID situation, it came as no surprise that Monday would be the last time staff would be working together for some time. Staff scrambled to ensure we could work from our homes. We left the Museum that day with the necessary equipment and supplies, confident that we could make this work.

The Museum's model is built on people visiting. But when your model is disrupted by a pandemic you search for silver linings and two stood out. First were the initiatives taken by the Museum to move into an integrated digital work environment. When staff was on-site, having a platform online for meetings didn't seem critical. After March 16, it did. In a week Kevin had organized our online staff meeting. Discussions about projects happened online where staff interact individually or in groups. Documents, images, and plans are shared while collaboration on everything from grant applications to exhibition design happens online. So, while our doors appeared closed, staff worked together to develop creative solutions surrounding the closure.

Second was the culmination of years of work to provide online access to the Museum's artifact and archival collections. Not a month before the lockdown, the major project to transfer the Museum's collections data to a user-friendly platform was completed. Prior to that, the database was on an internal server and only accessible on Museum computers. Thankfully the improved server has contributed to our ability to work remotely. Since March, staff have input volumes of new data and cleaned-up the database. During the second closure, we will continue this work. Ordinarily these kinds of tasks often slide while more immediate projects demand attention. Having this time has allowed us to focus on small but very important tasks. Of course, the big question we all had was, "How do we remain relevant when visitors can't come to the Museum?" This is where the staff's creativity and ingenuity really stood out.

If people couldn't come to the Museum, we would bring the Museum to them. Staff developed online tours, documentaries, and videos featuring artifacts from the collection. On the

website, the [Museum at Home](#) and [Archives at Home](#) sections encouraged people to learn at home through databases, activities, and links to other museum content. As the lockdown continued, alternative ways of presenting school programs were developed with great success. The entire staff deserves an immense amount of credit for their perseverance in these achievements. The support that staff received from the Board of Directors cannot be overstated. Their dedication to the well-being of the staff and the Museum complex was fundamental to the successful off-site operation of the Museum.

We can't wait to welcome you back to the Museum in person. Until then, know that staff are hard at work behind the scenes, doing our best to bring your community Museum to you at home.

Visit the DM+A Museum at Home
Austin Strutt during the making of *Live from the Museum: A Century Ago Virtual Tour*



EDUCATION

VIRTUAL LEARNING

While we certainly miss having classes visit the museum, we are thrilled that we have been able to deliver virtual education programs to over 200 students since the fall. Thanks to the technology of today, students of Dundas can still learn about the past! We have been able to provide existing programs like "Grade 5 Social Studies: First Contact" and [create new custom programs](#) that meet the needs of teachers and students. We even have the unique opportunity to take classes where they usually aren't able to go – behind the scenes into our vault! While it's very difficult to bring whole classes into the limited space of our storage area, with the help of a webcam and wifi we are able to bring students directly into this space to see the fascinating objects inside. It has been exciting to explore new opportunities and find creative solutions during this time.

We look forward to welcoming students back into the museum but in the meantime, we are happy to meet them online. We are available to teachers, parents, and students for support and aim to provide useful resources for our community whether in person or virtually.



Image from the Virtual First Contact Program

Online Learning at the Museum

To learn more about the programs we offer, visit the [Education Programs page](#) on our website. Or submit an [Education Request Form](#) on our contact page for more information. We also have many resources and activities available on our [Museum At Home page](#) to make distance learning a little easier.

Anna Patterson
Education, Events & Volunteer Coordinator



**H.G. Bertram
FOUNDATION**

The DM+A is grateful for the support from
The FRIENDS of the MUSEUM
and these major contributors



Canada



**HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Help the Museum Document Covid-19!

It's hard to believe it's been nearly a year since Covid-19 changed our lives. You might remember that in April the Museum asked for your input to ensure that this extraordinary period is well documented.

We are still looking for stories! Your unique experiences and photographs will help future generations understand this remarkable time.

If you'd like to share these with the Museum we ask you go the [submission page](#) on our website. You can upload documents and photographs.

Or send something to us by regular mail, we welcome that too!

Covid-19 Collections
139 Park Street West
Dundas, ON L9H 1X8

SHARE YOUR STORY



*A welcoming space
where the community
engages with
Dundas' past.*

DONATE

Dundas

**Should
Old Acquaintance
Be Forgotten?**

Did you miss the DM+A
Robert Burns Day video?

ENJOY HERE



**EXPLORE
DM+A**

**GIFT
SHOP**



**DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES**

VISIT THE DM+A

Tues 1:00 pm	4:00 pm
Wed 1:00 pm	4:00 pm
Thu 1:00 pm	8:00 pm
Fri 1:00 pm	4:00 pm
Sat 1:00 pm	4:00 pm
Sun & Mon	Closed

**TEMPORARILY
CLOSED**

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