



DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES

UPDATE
AUTUMN
2022



NEW FEATURE EXHIBITION!

Deep Focus: Dundas Glass Negative Photography

with

- HISTORIC DUNDAS IMAGES
- ARCHIVAL AMBROTYPES
- COLLECTION CAMERAS

and MORE!



FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to Fall... then on to Winter!

DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES

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It feels to me that those glorious summer days just up and left us. And I hope, if able, you did enjoy a true summer, albeit very hot and humid, with the return of Cactus Festival, the CactusFest Parade, or any number of activities which have resumed after a temporary hibernation.

COVID-wise, we and our families are slowly and safely getting accustomed to a new normal, and we strongly encourage you to err on the side of caution in all you do. To that end, while the Dundas Museum & Archives (DM&A) has re-opened and has resumed its regular hours, our staff continue to sanitize regularly, and most often you will see them

wearing masks (although they are no longer required).

I hope that you were able to get into your Museum to view the special anniversary exhibition, "What Dundas Means to Me" before it closed! We're sad to see it go, but it was a necessary step to prepare for "Deep Focus: Dundas Glass Negative Photography 1850-1930," which opened to the public on October 1st. The Dundas Valley Historical Society also resumes its monthly presentations this fall, on the 2nd Thursday of most months in the Pirie House, right here at the DM&A.

On behalf of the Museum's Board of Directors and Staff, we encourage you and yours

to come back to visit us and view the ever-changing displays of our extensive collections and archives. And although summer has left us, autumn has arrived in glorious colour to remind us to enjoy the natural beauty of the Valley Town we are thankful to call home.

Best Regards!
R.F. (Russ) Powers
President/Board Chair



ON NOW (and coming soon!)

Pirie House:

ROAD MAPS

Emma Enright's marvellous textile creations explore and reinterpret traditional methods of loom weaving.

October 4th, 2022 to
November 19th, 2022

MONDAY PAINTERS

The newest exhibition by the local plein air artists "The Monday Painters" will exhibit at the DMA with a selection of local landscapes executed in a variety of media by local artists.

November 22nd 2022 to
January 7th 2023.

Community Curator:

THE NUTCRACKER

Join us this November for Arts Dundas Weekend and see a special Community Curator display of costumes from 'The Nutcracker' on loan from the Hamilton Academy of Performing Arts.

November 3rd, 2022 to
November 6th, 2022 only.



Community Curator:

DUNDAS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

German immigrant Wilfred Weisensee built a clubhouse in Dundas in the 1950s where kids built elegant model airplane and memories that would last a lifetime. Explore the days when model gliders soared the skies of Dundas, with artifacts and images on loan from the family of Wilfred Weisensee.

November 22nd 2022 to
January 7th 2023.

EXHIBITIONS

New Feature Exhibition: DEEP FOCUS

Welcome to *Deep Focus: Dundas Glass Negative Photography*. The newest exhibition at the Dundas Museum and Archives aims to show that some of the most remarkable photographs ever taken of Dundas were taken directly on glass.

Before the invention of photographic film, plates of cut glass coated with a light-sensitive emulsion were used as a medium for early photography. Though delicate, these photographic plates are striking for their sharpness and clarity, preserving moments from the past in unparalleled detail. The DMA is home to a collection of several hundred original glass negatives taken by local photographers. Dating from the 1850s to the 1930s, these images recorded the period in which the early Victorian Town of Dundas developed into the community we know today.

What is a glass negative? A "glass negative" is simply a photographic plate that has been exposed within a camera and had a picture taken on it. The light-sensitive emulsion coating the plate turns dark when exposed to light. For this reason, the lightest part of the scene makes the darkest spot on the plate, creating an image that is 'negative.'

The glass negative collection has always been a source of particular interest for the staff here at the Dundas Museum and Archives. The images preserved in this part of our archive represent some of the most visually striking and iconic views of historical Dundas ever taken. Because of their remarkable quality, they have been used countless times in exhibitions, publications, and advertisements over the years.

But their incredible detail also makes them invaluable sources of historical information, and we often consult them when conducting research. This exhibit aims to allow the visitor to explore these images as we do, discovering the fascinating details hidden within them. We hope visitors will leave having experienced what makes these photos so magical.

- Exhibitions Coordinator
Austin Strutt

[Click here to check out our write-up in The Hamilton Spectator!](#)



STAFF

Kevin Puddister
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Severine Craig
Collections Manager &
Assistant General Manager

Kelsey Haas
Archivist

Marley Beach
Administrative &
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Anna Patterson
Education, Events &
Volunteer Coordinator

Austin Strutt
Exhibitions Coordinator

Marie Both
Curatorial Assistant

Museum Attendants
Victoria Caravaggio
Richard Griffin
Kaya Rzyszcak
Liana Shaw

ARCHIVES

Anniversary Ambrotypes

Ambrotypes, sometimes called collodion positives, were created by underexposing glass negatives and placing the resulting image against a dark background.

The DMA collections include these examples (right), which are coated in a black lacquer on the reverse. Like the earlier daguerreotypes, ambrotypes were often placed in decorative gilded cases. The donor of these ambrotypes found them in Niagara-on-the-Lake and decided to remove the photographs from their cases to take a peek at what was

inside. Remarkably, in two of the cases were notes identifying both the photographer (R.S. Brooke) and the sitter – John Kerwin! The photographs were taken for Kerwin’s 20th and 25th birthdays, in 1861 and 1866.

John Kerwin was born in Dundas on May 30, 1841, the son of Patrick Kerwin and Mary Bird. When he sat for these portraits, Kerwin was working as a plasterer. From 1880 until his retirement in 1910, Kerwin was a grocer on the north-east corner of King and Church Streets.

According to T. Roy Woodhouse, the grocery “was protected by an electric burglar alarm with a bell in the house. He also laid bear traps covered with wrapping paper on the floor behind the counter... He once caught a burglar who sawed the trap off his leg using a knife for a saw. The burglar escaped, but Chief Twiss followed a trail of blood and arrested him.” Kerwin died on January 27th, 1918.

Sadly, we have yet to identify the man in the third image.

- Archivist Kelsey Haas

AMBROTYPE PORTRAITS!



R. S. BROOKE,
HAS NOW OPENED HIS
New Portrait Room
On the Corner of Sydenham Road and King Street, which has been built and arranged with sky-light and side-light combined, expressly for the purpose of taking Portraits in the most approved styles.
By this arrangement Pictures can be taken, irrespective of the weather.
Prices considerably reduced.
Dundas, Sept. 3, 1858. 29



P-2359

P-201



These ambrotypes are recent additions that have joined the collection of the Dundas Museum and Archives from Niagara-on-the-Lake.



1.

John Kerwin's
Portrait taken
By R. S. Brooks
In Dundas, Ont.
On his 25th
Birth Day. May
the 20th 1857

1R.



2.

John Kerwin's
Portrait taken by
R. S. Brooks
In Dundas, Ont.
his Birth Place
On his 25th
Birth Day. May
30th 1866

2R.



3.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE



THIS MAN?

COLLECTIONS

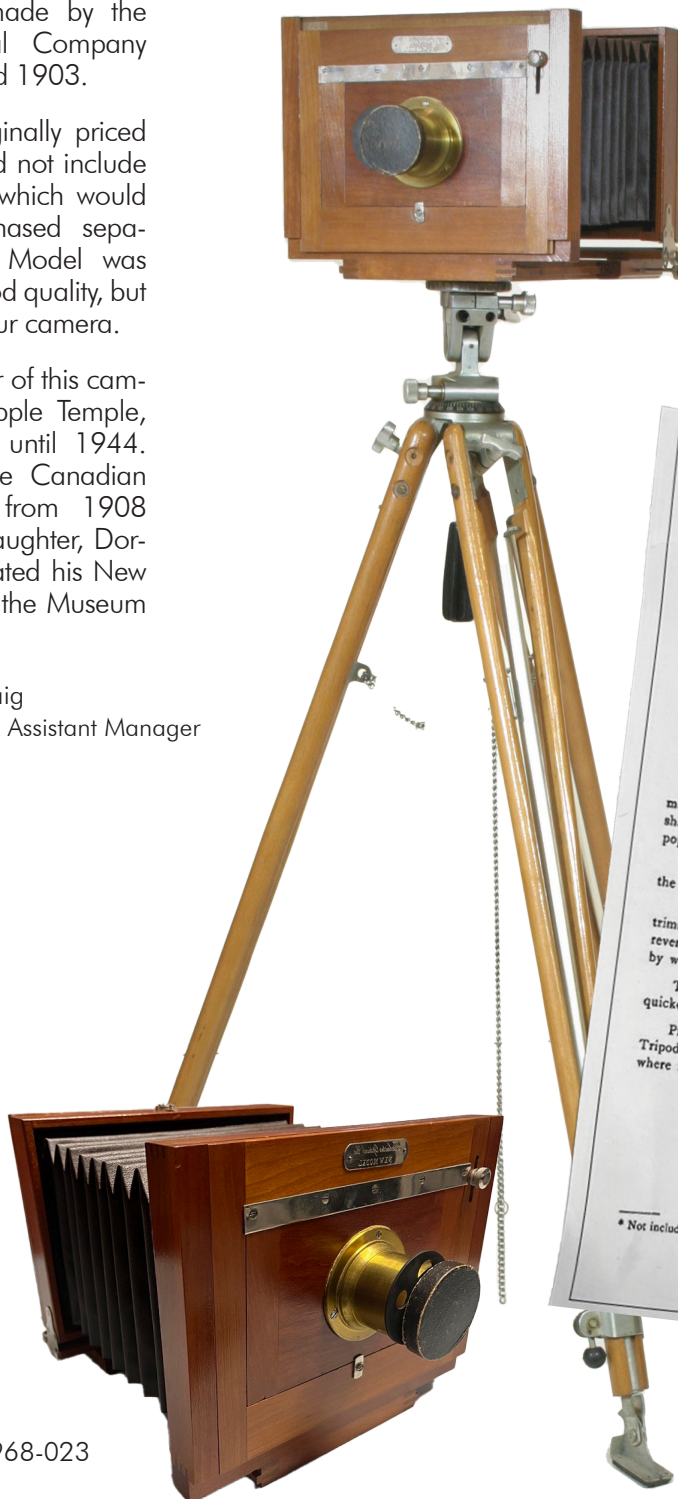
"New Model" Glass Negative Camera

The dry plate camera that you can peer through in our new Feature Exhibit is known as the "New Model," made by the Rochester Optical Company between 1885 and 1903.


This size was originally priced at \$12.00, but did not include a tripod or lens, which would have been purchased separately. The New Model was marketed as a good quality, but affordable, amateur camera.

The original owner of this camera, Herbert Whipple Temple, lived from 1874 until 1944. He worked in the Canadian Customs Office from 1908 until 1939. His daughter, Dorothy Betzner, donated his New Model camera to the Museum in 1968.

- Severine Craig
Collections & Assistant Manager



NEW MODEL.



The New Model Camera is well known, it having been on the market for six years, and its popularity attests its merits. This camera shares with the New Model Improved the reputation of being the most popular Camera in market for amateur's use.

It is very light and compact, making a very desirable camera for the amateur who desires a good but cheap outfit.

It is made of selected cherry, highly finished, and with nickel trimmings. It is provided with sliding front, folding bed, and is easily reversed for upright pictures by our new adjustable reversing clamp, by which means the strain is entirely on the bed where it belongs.

The folding part of bed is held rigid by our new clamp-hook, the quickest, easiest and most effective device yet used for the purpose.

Price includes R. O. Co.'s Single View Lens, Standard Folding Tripod, Carrying Case and one Perfection Plate-Holder, (except 8 x 10, where neither lens nor tripod are included.)

SIZE OF VIEW.	WITHOUT SWING.	SINGLE SWING.
3½ x 4½	\$ 9 00	\$10 00
4 x 5	9 00	10 00
4½ x 6½	10 00	11 00
5 x 7	11 00	12 00
5 x 8	11 00	12 00
6½ x 8½	13 00	15 00
8 x 10	*15 00	*17 00

* Not including lens or tripod.

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1968-023

EDUCATION & EVENTS

Black History in Dundas Walking Tour

10 Places to Learn About Black History in Dundas

We can't wait to welcome students back to the Dundas Museum and Archives this school year! We've already had the first classes of the year visit and the excitement is palpable. While we prepare a new batch of programs for this school year, we're happy to continue offering our most popular programs both in-person and virtually. Although there's nothing like a field trip to the Museum, our virtual programs have allowed classes from across the GTA to 'visit' us here in Dundas.

Spending more time outside over the past couple years meant we were able to develop some fun and informative walking tours. New

to the permanent line-up of education programs is our 'Black History in Dundas Walking Tour'. This program is based on the tour originally developed for Black History Month and includes research conducted by Cabinda Consulting. The walking tour visits 7-10 sites significant to Black History in Dundas and the route and duration can be adjusted to meet all accessibility needs.

Whether you're visiting us in-person, virtually, or on a walking tour - there have never been more ways to learn about the local community with Dundas Museum and Archives! Check out the [Education Programs](#) page on our website to learn more

about arranging an in-person or virtual trip to the Museum. Submit an Education Request Form on our [Contact](#) page or email: anna@dundasmuseum.ca with questions or for more information. We also have lots of resources and activities available on our Museum at Home page to make distance learning a little easier.

We look forward to seeing students of all ages in person or online this school year!

- Anna Patterson
Education & Events
Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

ESCAPE ROOM
AT THE DUNDAS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

THE MYSTERY OF THE
**Mechanics
Institute**

A HALLOWEEN ESCAPE ROOM FOR 4 - 8 PEOPLE
OCTOBER 27TH - 31ST 2022

\$25 PER PERSON - \$20 FOR FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM
REGISTER ONLINE AT dundasmuseum.ca IF YOU DARE!

Sat. November 5th:

10am-12pm:

[Weaving 101](#)
with Emma Enright (\$50)

1pm-3pm:

[Weaving Wonders!](#)
(All-Ages, Free)

Sun. November 20th:

2-4pm:

Diane Maranger
[Book Launch](#)

Please RSVP by Nov. 13th to
dmaranger1@gmail.com

Sat. November 26th:

1:30-3:30pm:

Monday Painters
[Exhibition Opening](#)



Sat. December 3rd:

[Made in Dundas](#)
[Holiday Special!](#)



H.G. Bertram
FOUNDATION

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



Meet Marie!



Hello, my name is Marie Both!

I am excited to be working as a Curatorial Assistant at the Dundas Museum & Archives through the Young Canada Works: Building Careers in Heritage Program. In 2020 I graduated from the Museum Management and Curatorship course at Fleming College. During my time at

the DMA I will be inventorying and reorganizing portions of the collection, including the Large Artifact Storage and Recent Acquisitions, to make these spaces and the artifacts they hold more accessible. I look forward to practicing and further developing my skills!



OUR VISION

A welcoming space where the community can engage with Dundas' past.

RENT

The DMA Education Centre is available to rent for your event!
[Contact us today.](#)

DONATE

In-person, by mail or at support.dundasmuseum.ca

Your donation supports our ongoing work and collections.



DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES

HOURS

Tues	10:30 am	4:30 pm
Wed	10:30 am	4:30 pm
Thu	10:30 am	8:00 pm
Fri	10:30 am	4:30 pm
Sat	1:00 pm	4:00 pm
Sun & Mon	Closed	

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