

Newsletter for the Commanda Museum



Edition # 20

www.commandamuseum.org

May -June 2026

Message from the President

Hello, hello

To all our dear friends along the 522 and, Bartlett, and Bennet and the Alsace, it has been a minute since I wrote. We had a meeting the other week and I am going to start with the most important item up for discussion, we missed you, all, of youour Volunteers, our Vendors, our customers and, even our “passers by” who honk to say “hey”. We have ambitious plans, for the upcoming season, the annual Canada Day Party, will be spectacular (come hungry), Friday Evening Farmers' Market, painting the exterior of this building.. Our darling Church, please, please come out and help to clean up the outside of this elegant old lady a Show Stopper, we need your assistance to do that! Stop by for one of our nearly world famous milk shakes, heartily endorsed by MPP Graydon Smith

Stay safe and strong, see you soon.

Darlene Erskine

President, Gurd and Area Historical Corporation

Volunteers/Directors Wanted!

With the departure of two directors last year (Gord and Deb), the board for the Gurd & Area Historical Corporation is looking for folks to participate as directors. We are a working board, so more actively involved in the daily operation of the museum. The board meets about once a month, taking time off over the winter months. Ideally suited for retired folks, folks with a bit more spare time. Please reach out if interested! Many thanks to Marie Pare who is stepping up to take over the Treasurer position.

Not interested in the board? We can always use volunteers in other capacities! Thrift shop sorting, special events, painting, maintenance, no shortage of needs around the museum!

Come find out more about the Gurd & Area Historical Corporation, the board and the museum at our upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Annual General Meeting - June 5, 2026 - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Commanda Museum (4077 ON522)

The Thrift Store (Annex Thrift) started up in 2025 and will continue for 2026. The store will be open during regular museum hours with a special **clear-out sale May 24th** (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

Got a lot of items, email to arrange pickup if needed. Drop-off locations are open 24/7 at the museum (east wing ramp) and at the Restoule Legion!

Thinking of downsizing, parents retired, kicked an unruly tenant out? Our resident handyman Mike Nelson has Powerhouse Construction Services, and provides estate clean-out services. Leave the work of packing boxes, taking loads to the dump, listing things for sale, etc. etc. to a professional. Contact Mike at powerconservices25@gmail.com to arrange a quote. Mike's goal is donate the bulk of items from clean-out's to the museum thrift store/online auctions.

2026 Operating Hours

Due to staffing issues this season (no student grants), we're reducing public operating hours.

Friday: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*holiday's 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hours are subject to change prior to season opening.



Commanda & Area Barn Project

If you, or someone you know, has an old barn on their property, please reach out. We'd love to include it in the *Your Old Barn Study* and help map the barns of our area.

Writing from "downtown" Commanda (Forest & Farm),

Jonathan Harris
Director, Gurd and Area Historical Corporation

Friday Farmers' Market

New this season! Starting July 3rd, and every Friday until September 4, we are hosting an evening market from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the museum grounds. There will be a variety of vendors, farm fresh produce, baking, artisans and live music. Spread the word! We're still accepting **vendor applications** until the end of May



The July 1st Jackpot: Support Local History!

50/50 Supporting the Commanda Museum

Draw Date July 1, 2026
in the smokey hills
of Commanda, Ontario
4077 ON522

\$10 for 1 ticket
\$20 for 3 tickets
\$50 for 8 tickets
\$100 for 20 tickets
\$150 for 50 tickets



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Back for 2026! We are having a few online 50/50 raffles via Rafflebox. Our first raffle starts up May 16 with the draw happening after the close on July 1, our annual Strawberry Social and opening day for the season. Anyone in Ontario can purchase tickets so spread the word! Last year's big winner took away \$1,850 so let's see if we can top that! The **raffle page** goes live 6:00 a.m. May 16

School Group Visits

We were absolutely thrilled to collaborate with our neighbours in "downtown" Commanda, [Fun in the Forest/Forest & Farm](#) to host four classes (Grade 1's and Grade 2's) from [École publique Héritage](#) in North Bay. Over two days in early April, children came to the smokey hills to learn about Commanda, maple syrup, trees, watch presentation from Steve Morrin on wildlife calls and get a taster of Maple syrup milkshake. We are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with Fun in Forest on future school groups and events.....maybe even a Halloween event this year!



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**Gurd & Area Historical Corporation/
Commanda Museum**

4077 ON522, Commanda
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