



NEWSLETTER

Edition # 19

www.commandamuseum.org

October-November-
December 2025

Volunteers/Directors Wanted!

With the departure of two directors this past 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.

Message from the President

Hello to all our Museum Friends, thank you all for your constant kindness and support! It may go unsaid, it does not go unnoticed. Thanks especially to those that keep a vigilant eye on the Museum as they pass by, letting me know who and what is happening thereit takes a village. Preparing the Museum for winter is a big undertaking, imagine your summer cottage, times ten! Water lines, kitchen cleanup, refrigerator emptied, floors done up and, we got a much needed, brand new door, on the west side that will make a difference, no more snow piles on the gift room floor. Thank you also, to the Vendors, who graced us with their many wonderful products, it adds so much to the Museum experience. We have some unique plans for the New Year, I am hoping they will come to fruition, fingers crossed. Look to see the Museum dressed for Christmas, thanks to Jen and Mike, the sweet Church is snug and ready, for the coming months and quietly waiting to welcome visitors next season. Remember to attend the Commanda Community Centre's Annual Christmas Bazaar,

November 30, many one-of-a-kinds items there. On behalf of the Board Members of the Commanda Museum, we wish you a season of joy, contentment and comradery. Eat way too much, laugh way too hard and, dance like nobody's watching.

Our best to you all, always

Darlene Erskine

President, Gurd and Area Historical Corporation

Commanda & Area Barn Project

It's always healthy to pause, reflect, and reassess. Recognizing some personal burnout and too many hats, I've stepped back from the Secretary-Treasurer role but will continue serving as a director, helping to manage a new partnership with Ontario Barn Preservation to help document historic barns in our region. As the regional representative, I'll be the link between the museum and OBP. 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

Regional Rep - Parry Sound/Muskoka
(Ontario Barn Preservation)

Thrift Store Finds

Guest contributor - John Alan Harris (Scarborough)

One never knows what type of treasures lurk behind the doors of so many thrift stores in this Country. It was during a short video clip of the Commanda Museum thrift shop that I spotted what could be a nice addition to our household. It was a vintage Merryweather fire helmet from Britain. But what made this an exceptional find was that it opened up to what looked to be a place for perhaps a drink glass , small bottle of. Whatever it was a cool piece and our son Jonathan secured it for me at a fair price. The helmet made it home to Scarborough and I posted it on a couple of firefighter sites that I belong to. A firefighter and avid helmet collector in Britain messaged and asked if I would be willing to part with it and offered me a wee bit more than I had paid for it. Turns out that in the late 50's early 60's when a firefighter would retire the Merryweather Company would it many instances be given the helmet to retrofit with this hidden treasure within. Remember it's the 60's.. and the truth is? It is a smokers cabinet. You put your pipe your smokes, lighter matches etc. in it. But what was really cool was the fact that my pal Simon Hillman knew of the family that originally owned it.

Happy 'Thrift' Shopping this Christmas season

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The Thrift Store (Annex Thrift) has been operating and getting known around town! Sale so far have netted over \$900 for the museum! Annex Thrift will remain open Saturday's until Thanksgiving weekend , 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Got a lot of items, give us a call or 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 retirement, kicked an unruly tenant out? Our superstar volunteer here Mike Nelson has started a new business, [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.

