



Our 20th anniversary in 2025 was a very busy year!

Friends' photos with Santa was a wonderful success. Our Giving Tree was at Benares Visitor Centre from late November to the first week of January.

Liz Durdan was busy booking our On the Verandah performers for this summer. She's already doing a no rain dance for Fridays this summer.

We received a generous donation of a print of Benares in Winter which is now available for sealed bidding at Benares after being on display at the Art Galley of Mississauga in December.

Joe Zammit has resigned from our board of directors. Friends would like to thank Joe for all his contributions especially as Chair and Past Chair. We now have two openings on the board.

Friends would also like to send condolences to the family and friends of Julie Morris who passed away in December. Julie was a long-time member of the board and Honorary member as well.

Many of our board members enjoyed greeting visitors at our table in the log cabin at Maple Magic 2026.

Our success is due to the support of all of you as well as the museum staff. We are extremely grateful for our generous sponsors. Please take a minute to look at their names and logos towards the end of this E-Newsletter.

The **AGM is scheduled for May 11th at 7pm** at the Benares Visitors center.

@ Membership Reminder: If you haven't renewed your 2026 *Friends* membership, please do so. Your support makes all the difference.

In This Issue:



Recap of 2025
Museum Events



Upcoming Exhibits



Maple Magic



Save the Date

RECAP FROM 2025 EVENTS

Santa Photos at Bradley:

What a wonderful turnout we had this year in the Bradley log cabin. Our photos with Santa were booked early on both days. We love seeing families dress in their matching sweaters and outfits. Paws N' Mr Claus was very entertaining as usual. In addition to dogs in all shapes and sizes, we had 3 cats and a bird. We truly appreciate seeing family and pets return year after year.

This is our traditional event, and it could not take place without the on-going help of our sponsors. Our sincere thank you to Gary Betts Re/Max Realty Specialists Inc. and Black White International Business.



Friends also greatly appreciated the loot bags that PetValu Clarkson Crossing provided. The dogs and cats love them and it adds to our event.

Santa, thank you for joining us during your very busy schedule. Jorj and Alma, you capture each perfect moments with such talented photography. this team after helping us for decades will be retiring. Their photos will be cherished for years to come.

On Saturday at Paws N' Mr Claus, three animal services officers from SCARF helped us stage the animals again this year. We always need their help. Thank you for smiling through it all! Friends donated to SCARF for their support.

Who sets up the room, manages the site and all those other behind the scenes jobs? Museums staff of course. Thank you to Lindsay & Meaghan. and the interpreters who helped provide order both days.

Save the date for 2026. Family photos will be Friday, November 27th from 3-7pm. Pet photos will follow on Saturday November 28th from 11am to 3pm. **Booking will open early in November on Eventbrite.**



Friends of the Museums 2025 Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2025 Giving Tree. We raised over \$500.

The tree was on display in the Benares Visitor Center for November 2025 to January 7, 2026.



The Credits

Annual awards gala presented by Heritage Mississauga

On November 6th, members of the Friends of the Museums of Mississauga and Heritage teams attended The Credits, an annual awards gala presented by Heritage Mississauga which honours members of the Mississauga community for their contributions and achievements with a celebration of community heritage. This year, Liz Durdan, a long-time volunteer of Friends of the Museums of Mississauga, was awarded the Betty Ross Memorial Volunteer Award.

Liz supported her husband, Fred, the First Chair of Friends of the Museums, for the 7 years he was in office, and together they co-chaired the 2010 Starlight Gala, a major fundraiser for the Museums. Liz acted as the Chair for Friends from 2020 to 2022 during COVID, and she is now the lead for the popular On the Verandah concerts at Benares Historic House. Her fellow volunteers stated, "She always shows up and does what she says she will do". High praise for any volunteer.

Thank-you to Liz for all her support of the Museums, and congratulations on an award that is well deserved.



In Memory of.....



Julie Patricia Morris

December 21, 1951 - December 12, 2025

A long time Friends board member and Honorary Member passed away in December after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Julie's friends and family remember her sincere kindness, warmth, generosity, strength and boundless energy. She had the ability to make everyone feel included. Julie was very loyal. We will remember her sharp sense of humour and her smile.

Julie and her husband Jim Fisher (deceased 2007) co-founded the Alzheimer's Society of Peel.

As a realtor, Julie's contributions to her Mississauga community were creative, enthusiastic and extraordinary. She volunteered with Friends of the Museums of Mississauga, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 82, MIRANET, the Clarkson BIA, and more.

Julie also helped to build the Museums' collection by recommending museum staff to any clients who were downsizing. This resulted in a few great donations, including one related to the Herridge family and WWI.

May you rest in eternal peace Julie.

Here is the link to Julie's Obituary:

<https://turnerporter.permavita.com/site/JulieMorris.html?s=40>



Bid for a Beautiful Cause

Own a piece of local history!

Bring home a beautiful winter scene of Benares Historical House; a print (131/1500) of the original painting by Jack Jelillian. This previously loved artwork was generously donated by a former Museum volunteer to support Friends of the Museums of Mississauga.

Place your bid and make a difference at the Benares Visitor Centre.

- Minimum bid: \$150
- Bidding closes: June 20th, 2026
- Please deposit your completed bid sheet in the box provided at the Visitor Centre



All proceeds to Friends of the Museums of Mississauga to support educational programs at the Museums of Mississauga.

Winners will be contacted during the week of June 21st. If there is a tie, the earliest highest bid wins.

Pick up and payment will be at the Benares Visitor Centre.

Museum Events

“The Way We Played: A History of Childhood Fun”

Courtneypark Library
December 2025 - April 2026

This exhibit invites you to explore the history of games and toys in Mississauga from 1900 to the present. Childhood play can offer a revealing glimpse into the daily lives and experiences of people and, in Mississauga, the way children played reflected the city’s changing landscape and evolving community.

As Mississauga grew from a rural town into a bustling urban centre, children’s play evolved too. Schools, organized sports, and playgrounds provided new spaces for recreation, while technological advancements brought radio, television, and video games into the mix. By the late 20th century, play highlighted the city’s cultural diversity, combining traditional outdoor games with global influences, new toys, and digital entertainment that connected young people across neighbourhoods and around the

This exhibit at the Courtneypark Library features photographs and artifacts from the Museums of Mississauga and Heritage Mississauga’s collections to show audiences how the evolution of play has shaped the city’s people, environment, and shared experiences of childhood



Figure 1 – The Way We Played on display at Courtneypark Library

Image – Museums of Mississauga

Museum Events: Continued

“Out of the Vault: Beyond the Shore”

Adamson Estate
January 2025 – April 2026

This exhibition is the second installment of the Out of the Vault series, which brings rarely seen artifacts from the Museums of Mississauga collection into public view. While the exhibit highlights meaningful stories from across the city, this edition of Out of the Vault celebrates the museum’s new presence at the Adamson Estate by shining a spotlight on the history of Lakeview and Port Credit. As some of the city’s oldest lakeshore communities, they hold deep connections to the waterfront, industry, and settlement. Their rich histories provide an expanded selection of artifacts, allowing a closer look at how these neighbourhoods have evolved over time.



Figure 2 – Out of the Vault: Beyond the Shore on display at the Adamson Estate.

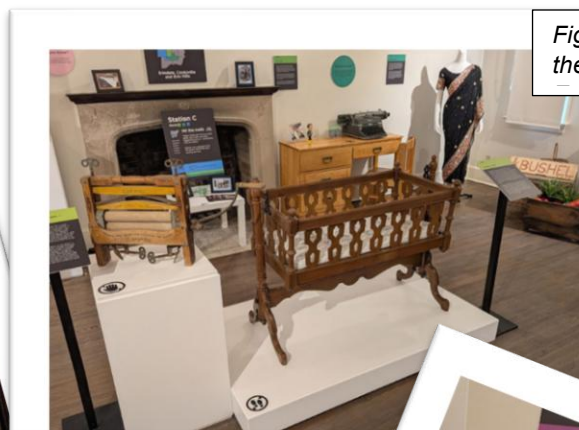


Figure 3 – Out of the Vault: Beyond the Shore on display at the Adamson

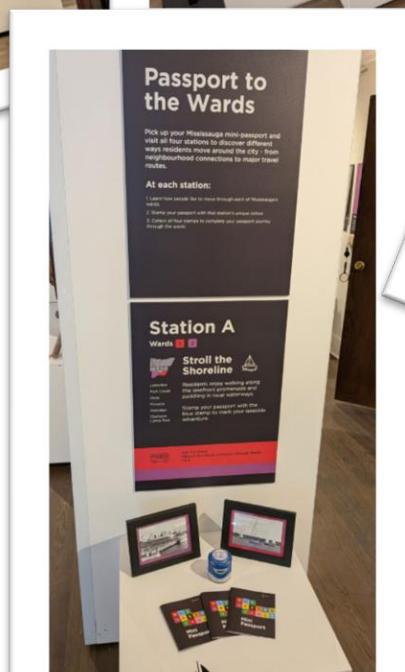


Figure 5 – This interactive invites visitors to stamp mini passports at four different “passport stations” across the galleries.



Figure 4 – In the 1800s, stonehookers skimmed the lakebed for shale used to build roads and foundations across early Mississauga. Their long rakes scraped the shallows as crews balanced skill and care. This interactive invites visitors to haul shale from the lakebed by using miniature stonehooks.

Museum Events: Coming Soon!

Master of Museums Studies Capstone Project

April 2026 – September 2026

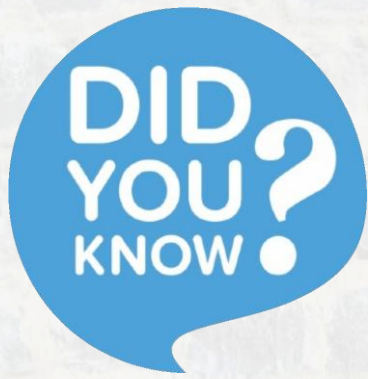
Each year, the Museums of Mississauga welcome a group of Master of Museum Studies students to curate their own exhibition. As part of this collaboration, students work closely with the community to gather stories and experiences that inspire and shape their displays.

This initiative not only highlights local voices but also provides students with meaningful, hands-on experience in key areas of museum practice such as community outreach, collections management, interpretive planning, and exhibition design. This year, students will curate an exhibit that celebrates the past, present, and future of sports in Mississauga and the role that athletics have played in shaping community life.

Join us this spring to see this exhibition come to life!

All images for museums events courtesy of Museums of Mississauga

Museums write up by: Maysoon Sheikh, PhD
Lead Interpreter, Exhibitions & Research Museums



The Grange: Legends of the Museums Comic Book launched Feb. 28th

Heritage Mississauga, in partnership with the Museums, launched its latest comic book, Legend of the Museum, at Benares Visitor Centre on February 28th. The comic book brings artifacts from our collection to life in a fun and creative way. Artist Daniel Wong was on site to sign comics,

and there is a small exhibition of the featured artifacts on display until mid- summer. Drop by and get your copy today.

Fresh Look at Benares House

After 30 years, Benares House hallway is getting an update. From March 2nd to March 27th, the house will be closed so we can remove the old paper, fix the plaster, paint, and finally re-wallpaper the upper and lower hallways. Staff had previously bought heritage wallpaper, knowing this project was inevitable. The paper by Charles Rupert is called Chelsea Damask and dates from 1890 to 1914. Come by in April to see our new look.

Recent Donations

The Museums accepted a few interesting donations this winter, including some wonderful outfits made by Justine Lyn when she attended St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School (2011-2015). Justine took Fashion and Creative Expression classes, which inspired her to join the fashion club and organize fashion shows together with her peers. The plaid top and skirt were loosely inspired by Korean Hanboks. Justine is pictured at the 2015 fashion show with her teacher, Ms. Mazzei.

Another great donation was from Dave Cook, local historian and author. Dave's brother, Don, worked for Orenda Engines and received an invitation to the Avro Arrow unveiling. He couldn't attend, but we were happy to accept the unused invite and rsvp card. The Avro Arrow was unveiled on Friday, October 4th, 1957.

We currently have a small exhibition of recent donations from 2024-2025 on display at the Benares Visitor Centre.

Thanks to all our donors for supporting us and helping to preserve our history.

By:

Stephanie Meeuwse, Collections Supervisor, Museums of Mississauga



MARCH WAS MAGICAL AT MAPLE!



Maple Magic 2026 took place at the Bradley Museum the two weekends surrounding March Break. Approximately 2,000 people visited during the event. Friends board members greeted visitors over the four days in the log cabin. We met people from other countries, as well as many local families.

There were a variety of activities available. Families enjoyed participating in the scavenger hunt. In the barn, there were pancakes with real maple syrup. Knowledgeable Museum interpreters conducted outdoor guided tours of the maple sap line. There were crafts on the upper floor of the log cabin and games on the lawn & in the Anchorage. The Maple Gift Shop was very popular in the log cabin.

On the first weekend, and in variable weather, Elder Mark Sault of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and his team, taught about Indigenous seasonal foods. There were samples of a variety of teas including cedar, white pine and sweet water. There was also puffed wild rice, corn soup, bannock, cured moose meat and fish samples for attendees to enjoy.

On the second weekend, there was a petting zoo with cute bunnies, goats, a duck and chickens.

An energetic group of student volunteers were also helping at each location.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this annual event such a success!

For additional pictures please visit our Facebook page.





Save the Date

FoMM AGM

Our AGM will take place at **Benares Visitor Centre** at **7 pm** on **Monday May 11th**. There will be a short meet and greet starting at **6:45pm**.

Please visit our website closer to the date for the agenda.

Just a reminder that 2026 memberships are due before the meeting.

On the Verandah

2026 Schedule:

June 5 Just Us

12 Mississauga Band of the
Salvation Army

19 Age of Reason

26 Mississauga Pops

July 3 Midnight Hour

10 Little Peter and the Elegants

17 Subourbon Street

24 That Band

31 River North

Aug. 7 Octokats

14 Dixieland Plus

OTV returns for another season starting June 5th and every Friday thereafter. Concerts start at 7pm at the Historic Benares House



Two days this year! Saturday June 13th and Sunday June 14th.

Mark your calendar for this fun annual event!

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS OF MISSISSAUGA

VISION

An enthusiastic volunteer organization that promotes, strengthens and financially supports the Museums of Mississauga

MISSION

We support the preservation of our Museum Collections, Programming and Exhibits.

We raise awareness and financial support through events and sponsorship.

We channel charitable grants for the Museum.

For more information & future event dates about the Museums of Mississauga visit: <https://culture.mississauga.ca/museum>



MAJOR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gail Clark	Christine Batiuk
Joyce Delves	Don Harrington
Liz Durdan	Sue Shanly
Anne Fabierkiewicz	June Newhouse
Wanda Hall	Mary Jane John
Sadaf Zuberi	Tanya Caruana
Rosemarie Bowman	

Two Openings Available!

Other partners: Pet Valu - Clarkson Crossing Plaza, Gary Betts – Re/max Realty Specialists Inc.

WE NEED YOU!

Please consider becoming a member of FOMM, volunteering, attending one of our events, becoming a sponsor or donating through Canada Helps.

REMINDER: it is time to kindly renew your annual membership

Site: www.fommississauga.com

Email: Fommississauga1@gmail.com

Facebook: fb.me/FOMMississauga

Address:

1801 Lakeshore Rd. W, Unit 6, P.O. Box 52560,
Mississauga, ON L5J 4S6

Stay
Tuned

for information on future
interesting fundraising
events.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

What do Friends do?

We are an enthusiastic volunteer organization that promotes, strengthens and financially supports the Museums of Mississauga. We fulfill our MISSION to support the preservation of our Museum Collections, Programming and Exhibits; raise awareness and financial support through events and sponsorship and channel charitable grants for the Museum. Our efforts seek to ensure the integrity of the Museums” in these activities:

- Sponsor and volunteer at Museum events e.g. Maple Magic
- Sponsor educational programs on-site and in-school
- Fund artifact acquisition, cataloguing, conservation and preservation
- Sponsor artifact exhibits throughout Mississauga
- Host “On the Verandah” at Benares Historic House
- Fund busing for students to all Museums sites
- Host Fund-Raising activities e.g. Gala, Garden Party, Receptions
- Host Photos with Santa for Pets and Families

Benefits of Friends Membership:

- Friends E-News keeps you up-to-date with Museums and Friends
- Programs and activities exclusive to Members
- Enjoy learning at the Museums in unique volunteer opportunities • One vote per member at AGM

To become a Member of Friends of the Museums of Mississauga, just complete the form and make your donation

Friends of the Museums of Mississauga Annual Membership

Individual (\$10) Family/ Business (\$30)

Donation \$ _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

phone: _____

This information is collected under Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act so that we may keep you informed and aware of activities of Friends of the Museums of Mississauga organization, and to determine and facilitate your donations or payment of fees. We do not rent, sell or trade this information with outside organizations.

Friends of the Museums of Mississauga is a Registered Charity #822293619 RR0001.

Please make cheques payable to:
Friends of the Museums of Mississauga **Return your completed form with payment to:**
Friends of the Museums of Mississauga
P.O. Box 52560
1801 Lakeshore Road West, Unit 6
Mississauga, ON, L5J 4S4

Charitable Donation Receipts are issued for \$30.00 and over.

To donate on-line for an immediate receipt please go to:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/friends-of-the-museums-of-mississauga/>

Contact details:

Website: www.fommississauga.com

Email: Fommississauga1@gmail.com