



*Telling the Story of Our City's Rich Ethnic & Industrial Heritage
As a City Located on the Historic Erie Canal & Mighty Niagara River*
NORTH TONAWANDA HISTORY MUSEUM

Lumber City History Center

54 Webster Street

North Tonawanda, New York 14120

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A new museum of the rich immigrant heritage of North Tonawanda, known as “the Lumber Capital of the World,” and its role as an important shipping and manufacturing center on the Historic Erie Canal and the Mighty Niagara River in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Museum Hours: Mondays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays through Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Also open by appointment; admission free; donations accepted**

*Proud to be a member of the Cultural Alliance of Niagara, the Downtown Merchants Association of North Tonawanda,
the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas, the Cultural Alliance of Niagara,
the New York Council of Nonprofits,
the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies,
the Upstate History Alliance,
the Niagara County Federation of Historical Societies, and
the Erie County Historical Federation!!*

NORTH TONAWANDA HISTORY MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2009

For the year 2008

Issued

5th Annual Meeting

Annual Reports and 990s for all years of our existence are posted on the North Tonawanda History Museum Online at www.nthistorymuseum.org under the Administrative & Legal tab of the menu listing

ENTERING OUR SIXTH YEAR!

Provisional Charter: April 20, 2004

Provisional Charter Extension: December 16, 2008

**Thank you to all who have helped us to
get established, develop, and prepare for
The “future of our past”:
Our new home in the
LUMBER CITY HISTORY CENTER
54-60 Webster and 59-61 Manhattan Street**

Now watch us and help us as we create for you within its walls:

- ❖ The North Tonawanda History Museum,
A first-class museum of the unique and rich history of
North Tonawanda and its people:
including exhibits of artifacts, a virtual reality component,
interactive exhibits, a reference library, a genealogy department,
and educational programming and events**
- ❖ The Gateway Cities Welcome Center,
Including local, regional, and statewide maps, brochures, and other information
on cultural and recreational sites and activities, businesses, accommodations,
services, and other offerings in
the Gateway Cities of North Tonawanda in Niagara County
and the City of Tonawanda in Erie County
and all of Niagara County
for residents, tourists, and other visitors to the area**
- ❖ The Gateway Cities Event Hall and Meeting Facilities,
In which we will host local, regional, statewide, and national
organizations presenting workshops and seminars and other meetings,
using North Tonawanda’s restaurants and catering operations,**

and connecting the attendees with area attractions, accommodations, and other needs in the Gateway Cities and all of Niagara County

❖ The Lumber City Gift Shop

A source of books, publications, and interesting gift items, reflecting local history, including

- ✓ **Museum publications, including the first full-length volume: “North Tonawanda: The Lumber City,” our many smaller publications, the “Niagara Historic Trail,” and our heritage cookbook series, “North Tonawanda Ethnic Cookbook,” “North Tonawanda Families & Their Favorite Recipes,” and “North Tonawanda Sweet Treasures.”**
- ✓ **Publications by local authors**
- ✓ **Postcards of historic North Tonawanda and the City of Tonawanda**
- ✓ **Calendars**
- ✓ **CDs of The Richardson Boat Story, Bison Shipyard Story, and others**
- ✓ **DVDs of Erie Canal history and travel**
- ✓ **Ethnic gift items**

❖ The Sugar Bowl

A recreation of the beloved Sugar Bowl operated by the Pullman family for six decades on Webster Street. A working soda fountain, candy shop, and lunch counter, to serve as a snack bar for our visitors and guests, and a nostalgic reminder of the popular Sugar Bowl for our more mature visitors and an educational opportunity for younger visitors and those who never experienced it.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

The Board of Trustees of the North Tonawanda History Museum wishes to thank the hundreds of volunteers who donated time and effort to our ongoing activities, our programming, and preparing to move in 2008. Although we know there are no doubt thousands of hours of additional donated services performed by individuals and organizations or businesses for which we cannot reconstruct the time, our in-house record keeping indicates that at least 10,662 hours of volunteer service were performed for the History Museum last year.

Charitable organizations like the History Museum most frequently use the value of volunteer time for recognition events or communications with funding sources to show the amount of community support an organization receives from its volunteers.

According to the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the value of volunteer services can also be used on financial statements – including statements for internal and external purposes, grant proposals, and annual reports – only if a volunteer is performing a specialized skill for a nonprofit. The general rule to follow when determining if contributed services meet the FASB criteria for financial forms is to determine whether the organization would have purchased the services if they had not been donated. However, were it not for an organization's volunteers, paid staff would have to be hired to perform all the work done by the volunteers.

The hourly rate for calculating the value of the hours donated is based on 2007 figures and calculated at \$19.51 per hour, the Federal rate. The estimated value of the services allowed in New York State in 2007 was \$26.18 per hour. The value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly earnings of all production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls (as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics). Independent Sector takes this figure and increases it by 12 percent to estimate for fringe benefits.

It is very difficult to put a true dollar value on volunteer time. Volunteers provide many intangibles that can not be easily quantified. For example, volunteers demonstrate the amount of support an organization has within a community, provide work for short periods of time, and provide support on a wide range of projects.

However, using the above as a guide, using the Federal rate of \$19.51, the value of 2008 volunteer services on behalf of the North Tonawanda History Museum was \$204,177.30. Using the New York State rate of \$26.18, the value was \$279,131.16.

The Board of Trustees of the North Tonawanda History Museum, as part of its annual year end assessment of activities and programming, is pleased to announce that the North Tonawanda History Museum Online received 755,368 hits in 2008, up from the 598,236 hits in 2007. This was an average of 2,064 a month in 2008, up from 1,640 a month in 2007.

Visitors accessing the Online Museum were from a monthly average of 56 countries in 2008, and 48 in 2007. October 2008 included site visits from 66 countries.

John Zellner Neal has been the Online Museum Curator/Webmaster since February 2005. He also is Assistant Executive Director.

The History Museum also is pleased to announce that Kristin Doebler has assumed the role of Facebook Editor and has created a Facebook page for the History Museum. Ms. Doebler is a Fort Mill, South Carolina resident.

The Board of Trustees is planning to develop a "Friends of the North Tonawanda History Museum" type organization in the coming year. Individuals or groups interested in participating in the planning of fundraising events and activities to support the History Museum and its new Lumber City History Center at 54 Webster Street are invited to contact the Museum at 213-0554 or nthistorymuseum@aol.com.

UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PHASE TWO – May 2009

The Board of Trustees of the North Tonawanda History Museum is pleased to announce the second phase of the capital campaign for the Lumber City History Center project. We successfully completed the first phase with the purchase of 54-60 Webster Street on March 18, 2009. Our eternal gratitude goes out to Jack and Carol Kopczynski who were Honorary Co-Chairs; Carl Hoover, Business Chair; and Michael Mroczka, Business Professional Chair of the Lumber City History Center Committee during Phase One. We will forever be indebted as well to NYS Senator George D. Maziarz for his faith in us from our first interest group meeting, Niagara County Legislator Peter E. Smolinski, the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, the Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, the WalMart Foundation, the M&T Charitable Foundation, and the many private donors who made the building acquisition possible.

The Museum, which began as a grassroots interest group in September 2003, raised \$300,000 toward the acquisition of the building at 54-60 Webster and 59-61 Manhattan Street between May 2007 and March 2009. This first phase was allocated to the purchase of the building, with an assumed first mortgage and a second mortgage held by the previous owner; the costs of due diligence, first year operating expenses, including insurance, utilities, telephone/internet service, security system, and other expenses; legal expenses totaling over \$10,000 for the Museum's attorney.

We have operated from 54-60 Webster since January 20 and have been officially open since March 18. We officially moved out of our startup rented facilities at 314 Oliver Street over the Martin Luther King weekend. We also removed the huge assortment of collections items and furniture and equipment we had been storing in the Gersh Building at 621 Payne Avenue courtesy of the North Tonawanda School Board and then of Gersh Academy that weekend as well.

We have been busy organizing and beginning the lengthy process of re-inventorying all of our collections items, which included more than 200,000 items at the time of the move. We have set up temporary exhibits as we have re-inventoried items. We have held one used book sale, with a second one planned for May 9, two lectures, our annual North Tonawanda's Birthday Celebration, and have been open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. since January 20. The facility is showing people who visit or attend our programs how ideal it is for our intended use.

During May, we will continue to be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will be open on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Spring Used Book Sale; on Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for Spring Local Author's Day. The annual Preservation Month Bus Tour pickup will begin in the municipal parking lot on Manhattan Street on Saturday, May 23, but the Museum will not be open that day so that staff can participate in the tour. We will be closed Tuesday, May 26 in order to host a private tourism conference. We will be closed Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.

Beginning June 1, we will be open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will be open Wednesday, June 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. for our Annual Meeting for the Public, at which time we will submit our written annual report. Copies of all annual reports to date and our 990s to date are on our website under the Administrative & Legal section..

The Museum will be closed Saturday, July 4 for Independence Day. During Canal Fest of the Tonawandas week, July 19 to 26, the Museum will be open from noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday, July 19; and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. from July 20 through July 26, including a variety of special programs, exhibits, and other activities for children and families.

Current needs regarding the operations in the building include the need to haul away a significant amount of debris that was left in the building by three previous owners. The seller paid \$9,700 to a local individual to haul away all of the debris. He worked for almost a month and hauled away a lot but did not finish it all and is unable to complete the job. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who would haul away the remaining debris for whatever scrap value they might make.

We need all the filing cabinets we can get, several more desks, several supply storage cabinets, many more strong wooden bookcases, tables, and another map cabinet. If anyone has any of these items, please let us know.

We are pleased to report on the enthusiastic and positive response to our being in the building. People are bringing in their family histories, photos, and precious artifacts. Used books arrive daily for our used book sales. Supporters come in with file folders, copy paper, and other office supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, and other general supplies. We are working with Partners in Art Studio and Pencil in the River Studio on Webster Street to properly frame and mat many of

our priceless photos and maps, with proper glass to protect from light damage and conservation matting for proper preservation; to duplicate and preserve in CD form copies of the more valuable ones, and properly preserve the originals.

We use ATI Services, also on Webster Street, for our security system. We continue our use of local suppliers of services we need and have regular providers for most things, eliminating the need to constantly re-educate new providers on our needs. We have built relationships with our suppliers from the beginning and our loyalty to them has paid off in their loyalty to us.

People frequently come in to purchase special gifts for family members or friends from our gift area. We stock books by many local authors as well as our own publications, CD versions of the Richardson Boat story and the Bison Shipyard story, and DVDs about the Erie Canal. Our historic postcards are also a popular item. We hope to soon create a line of current local postcards as well.

We are now stocked monthly by Brochures Unlimited and have our own tables of brochures and information about local attractions and businesses. We have a variety of maps of the local area, including Niagara County and New York State. We receive quantities of free area publications as well from local and regional organizations.

Visitors are coming in for help in learning how to navigate the Tonawandas and Niagara County. The word has gotten around rapidly that we are open and that we will serve as the Gateway Cities Welcome Center as well as the North Tonawanda History Museum's home. Our publications continue to be very popular, especially the new Niagara Historic Trail guide at this beginning of the tourist season, and our full-length book. We haven't missed a beat on our programming, in spite of having moved the end results of nearly six years of gathering collection items and administrative materials.

We receive dozens of phone calls weekly asking how to contact other organizations or even City departments. We also have had a similar number of visitors coming in just for maps or brochures, who then see what we are all about, spend time with us, purchase our books, buy tickets to our coming events, and sign up for our newsletter.

The members and other supporters who visit are enthusiastic in their praise of our efforts thus far. They truly consider the North Tonawanda History Museum "their" Museum, as we always intended they would. Their excitement and pleasure at learning so much they never knew and so much that they thought no one else would remember of the history of our City is heartwarming to John and I, the Museum's two full-time personnel. We have a key corps of regular volunteers and are beginning to train a number of new recruits. We have a huge job to do to complete re-inventorying everything and setting up exhibits, while we continue our day to day operations and programming, work on writing future books, and pursue grant funds.

Phase two requirements include raising the following: \$5,600 for legal fees for the HSBC attorney regarding the mortgage assumption, \$1,400 for an appraisal ordered by HSBC, \$800 for a more appropriate appraisal ordered by the History Museum for their own use; \$203,000 to pay off the first mortgage before February 15, 2011, and \$298,000 to pay off the second mortgage before February 15, 2014.

Already performed renovation/repair costs also need to be covered, including \$4,000 for electrical work we already had performed, and \$2,500 for heating system repairs which were needed because the previous tenant in the north side of the building had turned the heat off and it remained off for over two years, causing damage to heating pipes. The tenant had agreed to reimburse us and submitted a check to our attorney. However, when we cashed the check, it was refused because they had issued a stop payment order. We are unlikely to collect this sum from them.

Phase two also includes the need for a sprinkler system, a new HVAC system, and a roof replacement so that the three systems will provide a similar lifetime and should be good for ten years or more. A passenger elevator and additional ADA-compliant restroom facilities are also needed. We also wish to install a solid fire warning system throughout the building. Estimated cost for all of this work is \$525,000. This figure, however, is subject to change as the History Museum architect prepares the sketches and cost estimates. It is expected to be revised downward rather than upward.

We have been fortunate to gain a new architect who appreciates the vision for the building. He also hopes to convert our heating and electrical system to solar energy.

In addition, we need to pay property taxes for the 2009-2010 year because our purchase took place 16 days too late to file the appropriate request for tax exemption on property taxes. We were facing a nearly \$20,000 tax bill but requested the new appraisal which resulted in bringing the assessed value down. The City Assessor has agreed to accept the reduced assessed value. We have also submitted a request for consideration of a waiver of the deadline for filing the form for tax exempt status but consider it unlikely that this will be approved. We estimate a \$15,000 tax bill for our first year in the building. We will be tax exempt in future years.

We have focused all of our efforts in the last two years on the capital campaign. Because of this, we need to raise another \$11,000 to cover additional expenses during that period, including legal fees for our Provisional Charter Extension and other legal matters and accounting services.

Interior and exterior renovations will be a part of phase three.

\$6,500 is needed in the near future. \$7,000 is needed by September 1. \$203,000 is needed by February 28, 2011. \$11,000 is needed as soon as possible. The property taxes, unless waived, will be due at the appropriate tax times for the three entities, City, County, and School. \$290,000 is needed by February 28, 2014. The additional \$525,000 is expected to be raised with a combination of grants and donations, with December 1, 2010 as the target date for completion. In the meantime, we are paying nearly \$5,300 monthly in mortgage payments, most of which is interest. Paying off the mortgages quickly will save us a significant amount of interest.

To sum up, we need to raise \$39,500 in the next six months for the pertinent parts noted. To pay off the mortgage indebtedness, we need to raise \$203,000 before February 28, 2011, and then \$298,000 before February 28, 2014. We hope to raise the \$525,000 for renovations through grants and other funding sources.

We hope to develop a “friends” type group within the History Museum to serve as our fundraising unit. We are looking for a creative and appealing name for the group and volunteers to help us get it launched.

In the meantime, we request that you tell your friends about our September 12 Historic Treasures Tour of ten historic homes. Tickets are available now at \$15 each. The carriage ride ticket is an additional \$5. Our gift area is continuously stocked with books and other gift items.

We continue offering the 8x8” tiles in the Buy a Brick program. They are proving very popular at \$100 each. Naming rights for parts of the building and the naming right for the entire building are possibilities for a significant donation. The building will be called the Lumber City History Center but we can name the building after a donor family and have it house the Lumber City History Center. The Lumber City History Center will eventually have all of the planned components: The North Tonawanda History Museum; our reference library, including a genealogy department, the Lumber City Gift Shop, the Gateway Cities Welcome Center, the Gateway Cities Event Hall and Meeting Facilities, and the Sugar Bowl (soda fountain/candy shop/lunch counter—based on the original operated by the Pullman family).

We hope to establish an endowment for the continued future of the North Tonawanda History Museum as well.

We know these numbers sound overwhelming. We remind you, however, that the small group of volunteers who began the North Tonawanda History Museum had no resources at the time. The community and former residents responded almost immediately to help us get started, to keep us going, to solve one problem after another in our development, and to get this far. Everyone imaginable has done their part, some small parts, some huge parts, and some in the middle range—to make each step happen. We have never wasted time thinking that anything was impossible or couldn’t be done. We have instead always invested our time and effort into finding ways to accomplish each thing we set out to do.

We thank you for your continued interest and support of our efforts. Some of you have given of your time, some of your funds, some of your family’s heirlooms as well as your family or personal treasures, not to mention the donation of office equipment and furniture or services. The combination of contributions of all kinds has made impossible things happen thus far and will continue to develop the North Tonawanda History Museum into the lasting legacy we, as its founding leaders, wish it to be for our City and its residents.

DVD Copies of our 55-minute PowerPoint presentation created by John Zellner Neal and Danielle Oney in 2008 are available if you would like to use it to share with a group of friends. We are always happy to accommodate groups or individuals who wish to view it at the

Museum, by appointment only, however. We will also be pleased to present it for your group. Contact us to make arrangements.

Accomplishments of the North Tonawanda History Museum September 2003 through April 2009

Our accomplishments since September 10, 2003, have been our response to requests from the community, students and teachers, and those participating in Museum activities, presenting or creating programming to fulfill the existing needs and desires of our local community for historical programming and increasing access to local history in usable form.

1. Established the legal format and initial operating procedures and job descriptions for necessary eventual paid staff, filling them totally with volunteers under the direction of an originally-intended full-time volunteer Director.
2. Established an Advisory Committee of community leaders, almost all of whom have remained active in that role since October 2003, many putting in more time in providing advice to the volunteer Director in the museum development than actual members of the Board of Trustees. Most of these individuals are committed to multiple community organizations and municipal organizations, lacking sufficient free time to commit to the role of Trustee. Their advice and support from the beginning has been a key to our solid growth and development as a new organization seeking to fill existing needs rather than to duplicate existing services.
3. Enthusiastic response from the public and people around the world has encouraged the volunteer Director to put in more than double time continuously since September 10, 2003; and an original volunteer staff and technological assistant who became a full-time volunteer webmaster in February 2005.
4. North Tonawanda History Museum On-line at www.nthistorymuseum.org, was established on October 15, 2003, in response to early suggestions. Reaches interested individuals around the world and providing students and others with a valuable resource on local history available 24/7. Has had hundreds of thousands of visits during its existence, many regular visitors who no longer live in the area and many who do not read local newspapers, whose only contact with us is our newsletter and our online museum.
5. Recruited and trained part-time volunteer administrative and museum staff, replacing them as necessary due to turnover; recruited, trained, and supervised hundreds of volunteers for general purposes and events during this period. The volunteers under the direction of the volunteer Director have researched and studied and then put into action the results of their research and studies in creating our operating format, hampered only by our lack of adequate facilities in which to operate.
6. Initiated programs, events, and activities in response to suggestions and requests from the community, educators, and former residents.
7. Received a Provisional Charter from the Regents of the State University of New York on April 20, 2004, and our 501(c)(3) retroactive to that date in 2004.
8. Operated from the home of the volunteer Director until summer 2004 when a member donated the use of facilities in a vacant storefront at 314 Oliver Street, assuming the heat and electric expenses. Recruited and supervised volunteers in the cleaning, repairing, and painting of the facilities.
9. Purchased computer system and other necessary equipment and PastPerfect Software in 2004 with a grant from Senator George D. Maziarz. Installed a telephone and DSL service in December 2004 after having used the volunteer Director's phone and internet service to that point. Continue using webmaster donated AOL service and online museum is maintained and updated on his personal equipment.
10. Began accepting donations of items for the collections in November 2004. Facilitated offsite storage for larger collections and items and furnishings and equipment as needed from November 2004 to the present.
11. Went from operating in donated facilities to being rent-paying tenants on the sale of the property at 314 Oliver Street as of September 1, 2005. Received a grant from Senator George D. Maziarz to assist with occupancy expenses in our development phase. Transitioned by spring of 2006 to raising all operating expenses. Have had over 4,500 visitors since December 2004 in spite of size (500 square feet of usable space), inadequate parking, and poor location. Jessica Johnson of the Amherst Museum visited us to present de-accessioned items in the fall of 2006 and commented, "I can't believe you are accomplishing all you are doing from HERE!"
12. Endured a major crisis in 2006, created by the lack of facilities requiring many events to be planned in donated use or free facilities. Inclement weather during a weekend event in July 2006 and a planned 3-week event in October, both intended to be educational and cultural events with fundraising potential, created financial losses, due mainly to having done our first paid advertising of significance for those events.
13. Additional crisis developed in the latter half of 2006 with the pending and eventual sale of a school district owned building in which we had been storing collections items and other museum possessions since 2004.

14. Collections – Although our inadequate facilities limit our ability to properly showcase our growing collections, a reality that has led to our focusing on taking the history out to the people through the online museum, in publications, and through our events in the community, our collections have grown, in spite of not officially having asked people for their donations yet, to the point where a CAP (Conservation Assessment Program) grant was requested and granted in 2006, providing us with a CAP report of importance to our future plans for the creation of the ideal collections storage facilities in a permanent museum home. Our collections include a tremendous variety of types of items, including but not limited to:

1. Artifacts
 - i. Furniture and appliances
 - ii. Manufacturing memorabilia
 - iii. Lumber related memorabilia
 - iv. Antique toys
 - v. Ceramic, glass, plastic, metal, wooden items of all kinds
 - vi. Other

2. Textiles and related materials
 - i. Cotton
 - ii. Silk
 - iii. Rayon
 - iv. Nylon
 - v. Leather
 - vi. Furs
 - vii. Beaded items
 - viii. Quilts and lace
 - ix. Other

3. Books and other printed materials
 - i. Local histories from the past
 - ii. City Directories
 - iii. School yearbooks and other publications
 - iv. Reference books, biographies, autobiographies
 - v. Religious books and Bibles from the 1800s in various languages
 - vi. Other

4. Archival materials
 - i. Newspapers and newspaper clippings
 - ii. Magazine and other industrial advertising
 - iii. Maps
 - iv. Blueprints and other drawings
 - v. Catalogs of businesses
 - vi. Church histories
 - vii. Baptismal, confirmation, high school graduation, and recognition certificates
 - viii. Family genealogical histories
 - ix. Property searches and historical deeds and other records
 - x. Posters
 - xi. Other

5. Photographs
 - i. Of various types of photographic methods from early 1800s to present
 1. Black and white and color
 2. Framed and mounted and unframed and unmounted
 3. Mounted in scrapbooks
 4. Individual and groups
 5. Postcards
 - ii. Digital

6. Digital materials, stored on
 - i. Online museum collection
 - ii. CDs
 - iii. DVDs
 - iv. Museum computers

7. Audio-recorded materials
 - i. Records, 45s, 78s, 33-1/3s
 - ii. Audio tapes

8. Video-recorded materials
 - i. VHS tapes
 - ii. Older version films
 - iii. Mini-cassettes (camcorder)
 - iv. CDs
 - v. DVDs

15. Publications:
 1. "North Tonawanda Ethnic Heritage Cookbook" – January 2005
 2. 1st Annual Report – June 2005
 3. "Historic Gardens Tour" guide – June 2005
 4. "Historic Treasures Tour" guidebook – August 2005
 5. "North Tonawanda: The First 100 Years – 1797 – 1897" – April 2006
 6. "North Tonawanda: The Lumber City – a self-guided walking/driving tour" – May 2006 – produced with a \$5,000 grant from the New York Council for the Humanities
 7. "The Rand Family Left a Lasting Imprint on North Tonawanda and the World" – May 2006
 8. "Historic Gardens Tour" guidebook – June 2006
 9. Annual Report 2006 – The First Two Years – June 2006
 10. "North Tonawanda: A Celebration of Our Diversity!" – October 2006
 11. "Historic Gardens Tour 2007" guidebook
 12. "Historic Treasures Tour 2007" guidebook
 13. Annual Report 2007
 14. "North Tonawanda Families & Their Favorite Recipes" (2006)
 15. "North Tonawanda: The Lumber City" (a 428-page hardcover book, September 28, 2007)
 16. "North Tonawanda Sweet Treasures" (December 2007)
 17. Annual Report 2008
 18. Newsletters – March, September, and December annually; mailing list grew from 79 in September 2003 to 2,330 in March 2007, 3,800 in September 2007, 4,500 in January 2009.
 19. "Niagara Historic Trail" (2009)
 20. "Remembering Yesteryear" weekly column in Tonawanda News, begun March 29, 2004, through December 3, 2007
 - i. Reprints of columns in other publications:
 1. "Growing Up Polish in North Tonawanda" by Steve Litwin, April 12, 2004, column, reprinted in Polish-American Journal in July 2004 issue
 2. "NT's Polish community played role in Haller's Army: Three from North Tonawanda who made a difference in World War I" December 11, 2006, column, reprinted in Polonez, a national Polish Canadian publication out of Toronto in 2007
 21. Bi-monthly column on North Tonawanda history in "Bridge" (Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas newsletter), begun March 2009

16. Programming and Activities
 1. **Regular Programming Established -History Nights or Events**
In donated or rented facilities due to our own lack of facilities:
 October 2003 to March 2003 – Buffalo Suzuki Strings Musical Arts Center
 April 2004 to December 2005 – DeGraff Community Center
 2004, 2005, 2006 – 16 weeks of history walks on city streets each year
 July 2005 – Pine Woods Park; October 2005 – North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens

January 2006 to December 2006 – North Tonawanda Senior Center
 July 2006 – Gratwick-Riverside Park; October 2006 – North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens
 October 2006 – Sportsplex Family Entertainment Complex (rented)
 February 2007 – Riviera Theater (rented)
 February 2007 to continuing – DeGraff Community Center – Board meeting location
 April 2007 – Elks Lodge #860, September through December 2007 – Sutherland Lodge.
 2006, 2007, 2008 – monthly programs at DeGraff Skilled Nursing Facility, Northgate Healthcare, and
 Alterra Sterling House, occasional programs at DeGraff Adult Day Care.
 2007 – 2008 monthly programs at Sutherland Lodge

2. Ethnic Heritage Programs

October 2004 - Polish, March 2005 - Irish, October 2005 – Polish, March 2006 – German;
 October events are part of State Humanities Month focus; February 2007 – “Simple Gifts” ethnic folk
 music concert; October 2008 – Italian American
 Ethnic Christmas – December 2004 – Polish; December 2005 – Italian; December 2006 – German;
 December 2006 – Polish; December 2007 – Dutch. December 2008 – Celtic

3. Industrial Heritage Programs

February 2006 – Ascension Industries factory tour; September 2006 – Richardson Boat Co. presentation;
 February 2008 – Wurlitzer pipe organ program at the former Wurlitzer factory

4. Military Heritage Programs

November 2004 – WWII and Haller’s Army/WWI
 November 2005 – WWII and War of 1812
 November 2006 – Safe Haven/WWII

5. North Tonawanda’s Birthday Party celebrations

April 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 - also celebrates appropriate anniversaries of businesses and
 organizations and the Museum’s anniversary; 2007 celebrated 150 years of shared history with the Towns of
 Wheatfield and Tonawanda and the City of Tonawanda; 2008 – celebrated Niagara County Bicentennial, Town
 of Cambria Bicentennial, Town of Wheatfield 132nd, City of North Tonawanda’s 111th anniversary.

6. Preservation Month Bus Tours

Annual bus tour in May since 2004 – of regional historical sites and museums, in 2005 presented alone to
 Niagara County Historical Society campus in Lockport; in 2006 presented in collaboration with Historical
 Society of North German Settlements in Western New York (HSNGS) and the Sanborn Area Historical Society
 (SAHS), touring Holland Land Office Museum in Batavia and LeRoy House and Jello Gallery in Leroy; in
 2007 presented in collaboration with HSNGS, SAHS, and the Historical Association of Lewiston, touring the
 Cobblestone Museum in Childs and the Medina Railroad Museum.; 2008 along Niagara Historic Trail: Erie
 Canal Discovery Center and First Presbyterian Church windows tours in Lockport; Basket Factory restaurant in
 Middleport; The Winery at Marjim Manor in Appleton; Hrovol House in Newfane.

7. Historic Treasures Tour – bi-annual all-day tour of historic homes and sites since 2005

8. Historic Treasures Recognition Program – a cast bronze plaque program has been developed for recognizing
 properties of historical significance – initiated in 2006.

9. History Walks – guided 90-minute walks, for individuals, groups, or as field trips – begun in 2004

10. Historic Gardens Contest & Tour – annual 2-1/2 month tour and contest 2005 – 2007; 2-day tour 2008

11. Ethnic Heritage Festival – bi-annual all-day festival since 2006

Included over 650 participants, and Service learning projects (2) developed with Buffalo State College
 Sociology Dept. under Dr. Amitra Hodge, and community service project developed with North Tonawanda
 High School Academy of International Studies

12. Haunted Gardens on the EEEEErie Canal

Annual 3-week October program 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008. combining history and Halloween in a format created to provide community service and other volunteer service opportunities for high school, middle school, elementary school, and college students; also includes adult volunteers. We've been told by youth group leaders that we are the only organization offering such a project in this part of the state.

13. Annual Dinner & Meeting

June 2005 in the Elks Lodge #860 ballroom
June 2006 in the Hideway Grill Banquet Room
June 2007 at Pane's Restaurant Banquet Room
June 2008 at Pane's Restaurant Banquet Room

14. Senior Citizen programming - monthly programs 2006, 2007, 2008 at

Alterra Sterling House assisted living center in Wheatfield
DeGraff Skilled Nursing Facility
Northgate Healthcare Center in Wheatfield
Occasional programs at DeGraff Adult Day Care Center

15. Other Programming Established

- ✓ History Weekend July 2006 in Gratwick-Riverside Park
to be further developed and repeated regularly in the future once we are in a permanent facility
- ✓ **Other events:**
 - Open House at 314 Oliver – Winter Walk December 2004, 2005
 - Open House at 314 Oliver Street – Doors Open Niagara 2005, 2006
 - Open House at 314 Oliver Street – Canal Fest Week 2005
 - May 15, 2004 – participated with RealtyUSA in an open house of a historic home
 - May 22, 2004 – presented an all-day antique appraisal, auction, and concert in the Buffalo Suzuki Strings Musical Arts Center
 - October 2005 – presented a concert on multiculturalism in the DeGraff Community Center
 - February 19, 2007 – presented an ethnic folk music concert in the Riviera Theater.
 - Polish Dozynski (Harvest) Festival – Lancaster - 2005
 - Annual participation in
 - Winter Walk of the Tonawandas – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and part of its planning committee 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
 - Canal Fest of the Tonawandas 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
 - Community Fair at Tonawanda High School – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 - Annual Boy Scout Jamboree – 2006
 - Oliver Street Art Show – August 2005, April 2006, August 2006
 - Antique & Classic Boat Society annual show at Buffalo Launch Club – 2005, 2006, 2007
 - September exhibit at North Tonawanda Public Library – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

16. Museum Director and members of Museum helped City create a local historic preservation ordinance, leading to the establishment of a historic preservation commission. Museum Director and Trustee Neal served on Commission August 2005 to January 2008; Trustee Lasky, and Trustee Emeritus Cheeley serve on the Historic Preservation Commission.

17. Participated in the Bi-National Tourism Alliance's Doors Open Niagara – October 2005, October 2006, as community lead for North Tonawanda, City of Tonawanda, Wheatfield, and the Town of Tonawanda.

18. Sponsored a logo design contest for area students in the spring of 2004 and one open to the general public in 2005.

19. Haunted history ghost walks – one season of ghost walks in 2005

20. Internship projects – SUNYAB School of Architecture & Planning – 2006 – 2 individual projects; 2007 – 2 group projects

21. Learning Service projects – Buffalo State College – 2006 with Sociology Class/Ethnic Heritage festival and book; 2007 with Sociology/geriatrics class/oral history program with nursing homes; 2008 with Marketing Class

22. Oral History Program – developed as our first internship project with a D'Youville College student, it utilizes college students doing intergenerational interviews of senior citizens and also recording of Museum programming

for future use, and has included individual college students from all area colleges, and a service learning project developed with Buffalo State College Social Work Dept. under Dr. Hilariski in 2007.

23. Research – Although initially it was anticipated that we would only collect artifacts, with no emphasis on archival materials, requests for research assistance and our own requirements for research materials in order to create the requested publications and events and adequately describe our collection items, led to the early realization that a reference library was a necessity for the museum itself. Actual users of the museum and individuals who contact us by phone and over the internet have created the reference library with their requests and our response to them.

24. **Exhibits:**

February 2004 - Tonawanda News Open House – general history exhibit

February 2005 – T-NT Expo – general history exhibit

August 2005 – Antique & Classic Boat Society Annual Show – Richardson Boat & Bison Shipyard exhibit

October 2005 – Polish Dozynki (Harvest) Festival – North Tonawanda Polish heritage exhibit

September 2005 – North Tonawanda Public Library – ethnic & industrial heritage

October 29, 2005- January 29, 2006 – a treadle sewing machine from our collection was included in “The Wall: Reshaping Contemporary Chinese Art” exhibit at the UB Art Gallery in the Center for the Art on UB’s North Campus in Amherst.

August 2006 – Antique & Classic Boat Society Annual Show – Richardson Boat & Bison Shipyard exhibit

September 2006 – North Tonawanda Public Library – industrial heritage exhibit

November 2006 – North Tonawanda Public Library, “Why Archives Matter” exhibit in collaboration with the Upstate History Alliance

December 2006 – Greater Buffalo Savings Bank lobby, “Why Archives Matter” exhibit in collaboration with the Upstate History Alliance

April 21, 2007 – NTHM “North Tonawanda’s Birthday Party” program at Elks Lodge #860 - 150 Years of Shared History exhibits by community organizations

September 2007 – North Tonawanda Public Library – industrial and ethnic heritage exhibit

September 2008 – North Tonawanda Public Library – industrial and historic downtown and Oliver Street exhibit

25. **Lumber City History Center/Future of Our Past Campaign/5&10 Campaign**

Properties the Board of Trustees explored and ruled out as our permanent home:

2003 – Wagenschuetz Hardware Store building – 230 Oliver Street

2003 – Stranda Theatre building – 540 Oliver Street

2004 – McRae’s Tavern building – 315 Schenck Street

2005 – 2006 – Remington Rand building/IRC & Herschell-Spillman structure – 164 Sweeney Street

2007 – McLean’s Chevrolet building – 27 Main Street

Timeline on acquisition of 54-60 Webster Street building:

September 2006 – Mayor Lawrence V. Soos provided contact information on the new owner

September 2006 – Initial phone call: Donna Zellner Neal/Vadim Gorobets

April 2007 – Non-binding letter of intent to sell building to NTHM for \$675,000 received from Vadim Gorobets

April 2007 – Trustee and Vice President John H. Kolecki suggests “5&10” Campaign

May 2007 – NTHM President John H. George signed non-binding letter of intent to purchase building

July 2007 – NYS Senator Maziarz obtained a \$10,000 grant to pay the legal fees for negotiating and closing on the purchase

July 2007 – Niagara County Legislator Peter E. Smolinski obtained a \$5,000 grant from Niagara County toward the purchase

January 2008 – The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation authorized a \$150,000 grant for the purchase

February 2008 – Business Chair of the Lumber City History Center Committee Carl Hoover announces \$510 challenge grant

February 2008 – First draft of purchase agreement presented to Vadim Gorobets; negotiations began on final Agreement

April 2008 – Downpayment required increased from \$5,000 to a non-refundable \$33,750, with closing to be November 30 or sooner; downpayment required in 30 days raised in 25 days.

June 2008 – Business Professionals Chair Michael Mroccka sponsors Community/Neighborhood Extravaganza To raise funds for building purchase

June 2008 – John Zellner Neal and Danielle Oney present the completed PowerPoint presentation on the Lumber City History Center/North Tonawanda history at Annual Dinner & Meeting

June 2008 – Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation approve a \$5,000 grant toward purchase of the building

July 2008 – John H. George signs purchase agreement as President

July 2008 – Donna Zellner Neal obtains keys from Phoenix Frontier and security code, permission to access building

July 2008 – Donna Zellner Neal and John Zellner Neal presents the DVD version at special showings in the 54 Webster building during Canal Fest

July 2008 – WalMart Foundation presents \$2,000 grant for the project at our Canal Fest booth

July 2008 – President Carl Tamburlin and Donna Zellner Neal and John Zellner Neal coordinate due diligence period of purchase agreement

September 2008 – President Carl Tamburlin presents “Dancing Under the Stars” in 54 Webster to promote the Campaign

November 2008 – Roof repairs completed by owner under NTHM supervision; debris removal at a cost of \$9,700 paid for by Mr. Gorobets using local contractor; John Zellner Neal supervised four weeks of debris removal

November 2008 – Donna Zellner Neal negotiates a lease with Tanning Bed to replace lease with seller upon closing

December 2, 2008 – NTHM makes \$1,400 deposit to turn gas on in the building

December 2008 – NTHM holds its first Winter Walk participation in 54 Webster

January 2009 – NTHM has electric turned on in the building in our name

January 12, 2009 – NTHM has insurance placed in force in our name on the building

January 2009 – NTHM has heating problems caused by Phoenix Frontier repaired

March 18, 2009 – President Carl Tamburlin and Donna Zellner Neal attend closing in Buffalo, assuming existing mortgage with HSBC and taking on second mortgage with Regent Properties owned by Vadim Gorobets; \$150,000 Margaret L. Wendt Foundation grant used to pay down the seller’s existing mortgage after our assumption

March 18, 2009 – Tanning Bed lease payments begin

April 15, 2009 – First mortgage payment made to HSBC Bank and first mortgage payment made to Regent Properties

Volunteer Service

Although there were many other volunteer service hours put into Museum efforts by individuals at their homes or other locations who did not document their hours, we were able to verify the following contributions of time by many hundreds of individuals, some giving an hour or two and others, such as our Director and Webmaster, putting in full time and more:

September 10, 2003 – December 31, 2004 – over 6,000 hours of volunteer service
 January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005 – 12,454 hours of volunteer service
 January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006 – 12,198 hours of volunteer service
 January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007 – 15,218 hours of volunteer service
 January 2, 2008 – December 31, 2008 – 10,662 hours of volunteer service

We successfully tailor community service, learning service, and internship needs of students, youth group leaders, Eagle Scout projects, and others to their requirements and our own needs. Many other area agencies refer students to us for the opportunities we have earned credibility for providing. We have utilized the Retired Senior Volunteer program since November 2004, with one RSVP volunteer being a continual volunteer since then as part of our office staff.

Awards & Recognition to date:

1. October 12, 2004 – Daniel B. Niederlander Award from the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society for general excellence in creating a new history museum and developing programming.
2. Spring 2005 – Museum Director nominated for Community Hero Award of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County for her efforts in establishing a new history museum.
3. 2005 – Museum Director given Good Neighbor Award by Iney Wallens, WHLD radio, and Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital
4. October 15, 2005 – Organizational Award of Merit from the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies for the planning, development, and carrying out of the first Historic Treasures Tour of historic homes and the publication of the Historic Treasures Tour guidebook.
5. May 9, 2006 – Museum Director given Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of extraordinary commitment and exceptional performance as a member of the Volunteer Administrators of Western New York (VAWNY) for 2005 – 2006
6. November 15, 2006 – Organizational Honorable Mention Award from the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies for the planning, development, and carrying out of the 2005 and 2006 Historic Gardens Contest and Tour and the publication of the Historic Gardens Tour guide for 2005 and the Historic Gardens Tour guidebook for 2006.
7. Spring 2006 – Nomination by Dr. John H. George, Superintendent of Schools, North Tonawanda School District; Margaret A. Waite, Library Director, North Tonawanda Public Library; and A. Daniel Bille, North Tonawanda City Historian, for “excellence in leadership” from the American Association for State & Local History.
8. April 14, 2007 – Certificate of Commendation from the Upstate History Alliance, one of only 11 organizations recognized in 2007, for the Museum’s guided and self-guided interpretive tours programming, which includes the 2006 publication of a self-guided tour booklet, guided history walks hosted by the Museum for sixteen weeks each year in 2004, 2005, and 2006, the 2005 Historic Treasures Tour and related guidebook; and the 2005 and 2006 Historic Gardens self-guided tour and related guidebooks.
9. May 10, 2007 – Director awarded Citizen of the Year-Heritage award by the Am-Pol Eagle for her leadership in developing an ethnic heritage focus of the Museum’s programming as a new organization.
10. Dr. H. William Feder, a recognized historian and historiographer in Niagara County, has repeatedly called the North Tonawanda History Museum “a role model for doing local history for all of Niagara County.”
11. John Percy, a recognized historian in Western New York wrote a positive book review in “Western New York Heritage” magazine, Winter 2008 issue, on “North Tonawanda: The Lumber City.”
12. April 24, 2008 and May 8, 2008 –2008 Group Volunteer of the Year Award for the New York State Health Care Facilities at the nomination by North Gate Health Care Facility in Wheatfield for our programming there. They were the first nursing home to ask us to do a program and they have been very grateful. They inspired DeGraff Skilled Nursing Facility and Alterra Sterling House to invite us to do similar programs there.
13. April 13, 2008 – Certificate of Commendation from the Upstate History Alliance Award of Merit Program for our first full-length book, “North Tonawanda: The Lumber City” at the Upstate History Alliance/Museum Association of New York Annual Conference at the opening reception on the evening at the Albany Institute of History and Art. Reviewer remarks noted with the award: “It is clear that this project responded to a community need and involved members of the community in interpreting their own history.”

GRANTS RECEIVED 2004 - 2009

Kopczynski Family Foundation - \$1,000 – 2004
For Start-up Operating Funds

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation - \$5,000 – 2004
For Programming equipment and supplies

Upstate History Alliance/New York State Council of the Arts - \$500 – 2004
“Get Ready” Consultative Services Grant for Long Range Planning

Western New York Association of Historical Agencies - \$250 – 2004
Technical Assistance Consultative Services Grant for Board Development and Training

RealtyUSA - \$1,000 – 2005
Major Sponsorship – Historic Treasures Tour 2005

HSBC Bank, NA - \$350 – 2005
In recognition of Judith Mittiga’s volunteer services – 2005

Upstate History Alliance/New York State Council of the Arts - \$300 – 2005
GO grant to attend
April 24-26, 2005 UHA/MANY Annual Conference in Rochester, NY

New York Council for the Humanities.- Speakers for the Humanities Grant - \$450 – 2005
For December 2005 Italian Christmas Program

New York Folklore Society/New York State Council of the Arts - \$1,800 + travel expenses
mentoring grant – 2005
For consultative/mentoring services to plan First Ethnic Heritage Festival for 2006

Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation - \$5,000 – 2005
For Oral History Demonstration Program

York Children’s Foundation - \$1,000 – 2005
For Education Program – WebQuest

New York Council for the Humanities,
A state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities
\$5,000 – 2005
For Two Self-Guided Walking Tour Brochures

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
\$5,000 – 2005
For operational expenses

Heritage Preservation: The National Institute for Conservation
Washington, D.C., supported through a cooperative agreement
with the Institute of Museum and Library Services
2006 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP)
\$6,540 to hire a professional conservator and a preservation architect

Anonymous Foundation - \$1,000 – 2006
2006 Ethnic Heritage Festival Seed Money Grant

HSBC Bank, NA - \$350 – 2006
In recognition of Judith Mittiga’s volunteer services – 2006

Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation - \$5,000 – 2006 – For Equipment

York Children’s Foundation - \$2,000 – 2006
For Education Programming – For operational expenses

Heritage Preservation: The National Institute for Conservation
Washington, D.C., supported through a cooperative agreement
with the Institute of Museum and Library Services
2006 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP)
\$6,540 to hire a professional conservator and a preservation architect

New York Council for the Humanities, Speakers for the Humanities Grant - \$500
For "North Tonawanda: A Celebration of Our Diversity!" October 2006
Dr. Frank Gardaphe: "Linguine and Lust: Food and Sex in Italian-American Culture"

New York Council for the Humanities, Speakers for the Humanities Grant - \$500
For "North Tonawanda: A Celebration of Our Diversity!" October 2006
Dr. Sherrie Bayer: "Ciudad y Suburbia: The Changing Nature of Latino Immigration"

New York Council for the Humanities, Speakers for the Humanities Grant - \$350
For "Dave Ruch" October 2006

All for Ethnic Heritage Festival

Upstate History Alliance
\$150 – 2006

For Courtney Reichman to take online course in collection management.

New York State Council for the Arts Decentralization Grant
\$1000 – 2006 – For "Simple Gifts" concert February 2007

Niagara Area Foundation - \$200 – 2006
For DVD Player for Oral History Program in Nursing Homes

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation's
Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour (PennPAT) Presenter Program
\$2,500 – 2006 – For "Simple Gifts" concert February 2007

New York Council for the Humanities, Speakers in the Humanities Program Grants - \$2,000
For four speakers for 2007 programs:
Dr. Peter J. Rose: "Dutch Influence on the American Kitchen and Life" – September 20, 2007
J. Ward Regan: "Feet, Hooves, and Rails:
Transportation in Nineteenth Century America" – October 20, 2007
Susan Aberth: "El Dia de los Muertos: The Mexican Celebration of Life" – November 8, 2007
Dr. Peter G. Rose: "The Forgotten Holidays" – December 8, 2007

Niagara County - \$5,000 – 2007 – For Phase II
The Lumber City History Center

Corporate Gifts for Historic Gardens Tour
Ascension Industries - \$250
Michael D. Mroczka/Realty USA - \$250

Corporate Gifts for Historic Treasures Tour
Cipriano, Inc., Realtors - \$500
Brick, Brick & Elmer - \$500
Greater Buffalo Savings Bank - \$500
Sherwood Florist - \$500
Pioneer Printers, Inc. - \$500
Keyser Buick - \$500
Humphrey House Antiques - \$500
Corporate Gifts: Other
Andy's Tree Service - \$250

NYS Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Senate Member Initiative Grant from Senator George D. Maziarz
\$10,000 – 2007

For Legal Costs of Acquisition of Lumber City History Center & Gateway Cities Welcome Center facility

Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation
\$5,000 for Equipment for Lumber City History Center – 2007

Museums for America Grant from
The Institute for Museum & Library Services
\$37,800 for staff salaries – 2007 – 2008

Upstate History Alliance GO Grant
\$150 – 2006
For John Zellner Neal to take online course in collection management.

Niagara County - \$5,000 – 2008
For Niagara Historic Trail Project
New York Council for the Humanities
A state affiliate of the National Council for the Humanities
\$2,500 – 2008
For Niagara Historic Trail Project

The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation
\$150,000 – 2008
For the purchase of
54 Webster Street
For the Lumber City History Center and Gateway Cities Welcome Center project

New York Council for the Humanities, Speakers in the Humanities Program Grant - \$2,000
For :

September 20, 2008 – Dr. Peter Eisenstadt:
“The Unity of New York State: The Upstate/Downstate Divide in Historical Perspective”
and
October 4, 2008 - “Italian American Heritage Day
Dr. Frank Gardaphe:
“Leaving Little Italy: Last Words on a Locale”
“Linguine and Lust: Food and Sex in Italian-American Culture”
“From Wiseguys to Wise Men: Masculinities and the Italian American Gangster”

NYS Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Senate Member Initiative Grant from Senator George D. Maziarz – 2008
\$50,000
For Acquisition Costs – Lumber City History Center & Gateway Cities Welcome Center

Upstate History Alliance
\$500
“GO!” grant from the Museum Advancement Program
For January 17, 2009 all-day Board Retreat with workshop sessions on:
Board Roles and Responsibilities and Strategic Planning
Presented by the Council for Community Services of New York State

M&T Charitable Foundation
\$2,500
For Lumber City History Center project

Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation
\$5,000
For Staff Salaries

Anonymous Private Family Foundation
\$1,000
For the Lumber City History Center project

New York Council for the Humanities
Speakers in the Humanities
\$2,000
For 4 lectures in 2009

**Our thanks to these funders and to all individual
and business donors for their faith in our efforts.**

**Thank you to our life members
For believing in the long-term future
of the North Tonawanda History Museum**

CHARTER HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

For Outstanding Service and Contributions in our Crucial First Year

Joseph P. Armenia, Jr., CPA, A. Daniel Bille, John Borycki, Betty A. Brandon, Thomas A. Brick, Frank Budwey, David J. Burgio, Theresa L. Carpentieri, Penny Creasey, William M. Davignon, James Douglass, Dianne S. Flay, Gary Franklin, Cynthia Fredricks, John Fredricks, John H. George, Ed.D, Tim Gerwitz, Carl P. Hoover, Thomas M. Jaccarino, John Kopczynski – deceased 2005; Alexandra Kopczynski, Christopher Lane, Jason Law, Thomas Lawrence, Kay Learned, Stephen Litwin, George D. Maziarz, Arlene Stocki McNair, Judith L. Mittiga,, Ken Mountain, Michael Mrocza, Donna Zellner Neal, John P. Zellner Neal, Priscilla C. Zellner Neal, Timothy J. Neal, John S. Olszowka, Ph.D, Lou Omel, JamiLee Piatt, Raphaelle A. Proefrock, Paul A. Rumbold, Jr., Lou Santiago, George D. Soemann, Marilyn Soemann, Valerie VanVoorhees, Sarah E. Walter, James Weber, Barbara Wickman, David R. Zobrist

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

For Outstanding Service and Contributions to Museum programming and development

Cosimo Capozzi, Pamela Hogan, David Maziarz, Joann Mis, John F. O'Connor, Dale Rogers, Lawrence V. Soos, Carl Tamburlin, Jerome Whitehead, Jack Kopczynski, Carol Kopczynski, Jane Garis, Walter Wozniak, Danielle Oney.

CHARTER LIFE MEMBERS

Membership dues for this category of membership have created the beginning of an endowment fund, the earnings of which only will be used in the future for Collections Acquisition and Exhibit Maintenance. We thank the following Charter Life Members for their early support. Anthony C. Abdulla, Stephen C. Ash, Gail P. Bille, Randy C. Fahs, Thomas Frauenheim, JoAnn Fritz, Marvin Fritz, Arlene Stocki McNair, Carl W. Onofrio, Olga E. Paroski, Peter & Beverly Rasch (In memory of Henry & Helen Ryder and Dr. Carl & Marge Rasch). Glenna G. Sternin, John Bernhard Thuersam, Sandra A. Wurl, Amy F. Zebulske, Katherine Ann Zebulske, Knights of Columbus Madonna Council 2535

LIFE MEMBERS

Membership dues for this category of membership go into an endowment fund, the earnings of which only will be used in the future for Collections Acquisition and Exhibit Maintenance.

Margaret A. Cheeley, Virginia Green Doebler, Mary E. Clemesha, DeGraff Memorial Hospital, Friends of the North Tonawanda Public Library, Holler-Grapes Insurance Agency, James A. Maglisceau, Barbara Newman, Christine Kroetsch, Margaret R. Jaenecke, Thomas C. Tamburlin

IN MEMORY

Sadly missed but their support will never be forgotten

Deceased Charter Members 2004

Ellen Wall Markovitz – Charter Honorary Senior Member

Deceased Charter Members 2005

John Kopczynski, Sr. – Honorary Charter Life Member

Charles E. Hewitt – Charter Senior Member

Joseph V. Kocsis, Sr. – Charter Senior Member

Deceased Charter Members 2006

Richard Snopkowski – Charter Senior Member

Richard E. Aldridge, Jr – Charter Senior Member

George F. Saliba – Charter Senior Member

Jessie Kowalzuk – Charter Senior Member

Eugene Camann – Charter Senior Member

Deceased Charter Members 2007

Gretchen Rasch Denk – Charter Contributing Member

Deceased Charter Members 2008

VaNorma Radloff VanSlyke – Charter Senior Member

Howard G. Johnson – Charter Senior Member

John H. Kolecki – Charter Senior Member and Trustee

Deceased Charter Members 2009

David Short – Charter Family Member

Arlene V. Stocki McNair – Charter Honorary Life Member

2008 VOLUNTEERS

Museum Staff

Donna Zellner Neal, Executive Director

John Zellner Neal, Museum Collections & Digital Collections Curator/Coordinator to August 15, 2008*

John Zellner Neal, Assistant Executive Director August 16, 2008 to present*

Jane Garis, Archival Records Coordinator

Walter Wozniak, Research Coordinator

Lou Omel, Research Assistant

Carol Kopczynski, Cataloguing Assistant

Carrie Joyce – Staff Assistant

*John Zellner Neal was a full-time volunteer from October 9, 2003 through August 14, 2008, and has been our first paid employee since.

June 21, 2008 COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD EXTRAVAGANZA

Major Sponsor Of Event: Michael Mroczka/RealtyUSA

Special Thanks to Gersh Experience for providng facilities outside and inside

June 21, 2008 Theme Tray Auction

Part of Community/Neighborhood Extravaganza

A Special Thanks To All Of Our Donors!

Coordinator: Danielle Oney

Starry Night Theatre, Inc., Santora's Phase II, Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises, The Buffalo Bills, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Maid of the Mist, John Kolecki, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Smolinski, Niagara's Wax Museum, Midas Muffler, Aquarium of Niagara, The Cheesecake Factory, Firth Jewelers, Lucille Ball/Desi Arnaz Center, Barbara Wickman/Barb's Sweet Treat, DeGraff Memorial Hospital/Kaleida Health, The Buffalo Sabres, Jeanne Treat, Donna Zellner Neal, Nancy Donovan, Skateland Family Fun Center, JoRon's Beauty Salon, Franco's Pizza, Treichler and Son Nurseries, Margaret Waite/North Tonawanda Public Library, Terrilee Oney, Jessica Oney, Danielle Oney, Wendy's Enchanted Florist, A. Daniel Bille

Volunteers who worked the event (June 21 and June 22 – preparation and event) *

Donna Zellner Neal, John Zellner Neal, Danielle Oney, Barbara Wickman, Carl Tamburlin, Don MacDonald, Linda Moore, Nancy Donovan, Kathy Delbert, Priscilla Neal, Lou Omel, Joan Dirmyer, Carol Kopczynski, Bill Reece, Jane Garis, Frances Wilson, Jessica Brant, Steve Kurbiel, Eric Oney, Aaron Brady, Marilyn Lasky, John George, Diane Meholick, Greg Witul, and Mike Mroczka.

*significant additional time was devoted to planning the event since March by staff and other volunteers

John Kolecki, Diane Meholick and Amy Bull did book signings.

June 21 Used book sale

Thanks to Rev. Carl Onofrio and the YWCA of the Tonawandas and so many donors of used books!

Thanks to Kevin Gersh, Kevin Stark, and Ken Hoefert of Gersh Experience for the use of their facilities.

Pickup of books:

Prep/packing at Museum: Donna Neal, John Neal;

Hauling, unloading, moving from Room 140 and Set up:

Book Sale helpers during the day:

Refreshments: Barbara Wickman

Canal Fest 2008

The following volunteers made Canal Fest 2008 possible for us:

Donna Zellner Neal – 148 hours; John Zellner Neal – 59-1/4 hours (40 paid and 19-1/4 to be taken in comp time); **Danielle Oney** – 58-1/4; **Carl Tamburlin** – 47-1/2; **Barbara Wickman** – 41-1/2; Priscilla Neal – 43-1/4; Lou Omel – 4-1/2; Kathy Delbert – 2; Jessica Oney – 7; **Marilyn Lasky** – 2-1/2; Peggy Waite – 2; Suzanne Daddis – 3; Courtney Reichman – 14; Bob Zayatz – 6; Heather Grefrath – 11-1/2; Carol Kopczynski – 3-1/2; Josie Pettigrew – 4; Diane Bracken – 3; Lou Ann Rossi – 3; Jane Garis – 4; **Bill Reece** – 1-1/2, **Nancy Donovan** - 1.

Total hours: 478-3/4

Trustees noted in bold.

Thanks especially to Carl Tamburlin, Barb Wickman, John Neal, and Danielle Oney for all the help setting up, preparing for set up, taking down, hauling, working the booth. Thanks to Priscilla Neal for helping open up the booth each morning and closing it up each night all week. Thanks to Barb for all the running around she did to pick up mail, make deposits, covering the book, at least 9 hours of baking cookies, and other errands she ran. Thanks to Courtney Reichman and Bob Zayatz, Danielle Oney, and Carl Tamburlin for miscellaneous errands.

Historic Gardens Tour 2008

Sponsor: Humphrey House Antiques

Co-sponsored by:

Cipriano, Inc., Realtors; Coffee Crossing; Dale “Towpath Tiller” Rogers; The Fish Place; Gleam & Glimmer; Matt’s Music; Pane’s Restaurant; Pioneer Printers, Inc.; Project Pride; Peter E. Smolinski

Linda Hankinson, Chair, Historic Gardens Committee

Garden Tour Committee:

Gail Bille, Margaret Cheeley, Peter Trinkwalder. Dale Rogers, Suzanne Chank, Dr. John H. George, Donna Zellner Neal

Judges: Linda Hankinson, Margaret Cheeley, Dale Rogers

Event workers: Donna Zellner Neal, John Zellner Neal

Garden Tour Guide:

Editor: Donna Zellner Neal

Maps: Niagara County Center for Economic Development

Printing: Pioneer Printers, Inc.

Used Book Sales – 2008

Thanks to Rev. Carl Onofrio and the YWCA of the Tonawandas and so many donors!

Thanks to Kevin Gersh, Kevin Stark, and Ken Hoefert of Gersh Experience for the use of their facilities.

Pickup of books:

Prep/packing at Museum: Donna Neal, John Neal; Carl Tamburlin, John Kolecki, Walter Yaro, Steve Ash

Hauling, unloading, moving from Room 140 and Set up: John Neal

Book Sale helpers during the day: John Neal, Danielle Oney

Take down and hauling back into Gersh – John Neal, Danielle Oney, Carl Tamburlin, Wayne Sheldon, John Kolecki

Refreshments: Barbara Wickman,

Haunted Gardens 2008

Thanks to the North Tonawanda Auxiliary Police, the North Tonawanda Parks & Recreation Dept., the North Tonawanda Public Works Department, and Hartland Carriages, and Barbara Wickman and Terrilee Oney for refreshments. Thanks to Danielle Oney for a super job at planning and coordinating and to John Neal and Barbara Wickman for helping her in the last weeks. The youngsters who participated are too numerous to list but volunteers were Steve Ash, Bill Reece, Josie Pettigrew, Joan Dirmyer, Priscilla Neal, Kathy Delbert, Brian Blantord, Terrilee Oney, Eric Oney, Jessica Oney, Jodi Hahn, Carl Tamburlin, Donna Neal. Thanks to the Public Works Dept. and the Recreation & Parks Dept. for loaning us items, and to Dean Hutter, Carol Kopczynski, and Barbara Wickman for loans of equipment.

Winter Walk 2008

Winter Walk 2008 = December 6, 2008 – 54 Webster Street

Volunteers who helped set up during the week: Trustees: Danielle Oney, Donna Neal, Barbara Wickman

Other Volunteers: Carol Kopczynski, Carrie Joyce; **Employee:** John Neal

Volunteers who worked the event: Trustees: Carl Tamburlin, Donna Neal, Barbara Wickman, Terrilee Oney, Robert Zayatz, William Reece; **Trustee candidate:** Randy Warblow; **Other volunteers:** Carrie Joyce, Josie Pettigrew, Jodi Hahn, Priscilla Neal, Kathy Cahill, Brian Blandford, Jim Wickman; **Employee:** John Neal

Authors who participated in the book-signing: Jeanne Treat, David Lawrence Reade, Kevin H. Siepel, Bob Kostoff, and John Percy. John Kolecki was unable to participate because of his surgery and recuperation.

At least 40 letters to Santa were received. Danielle and Terrilee Oney came up with and implemented this part of the event and will be sending letters from Santa to the kids. Terrilee also provide a packet of Santa dust for each child depositing a letter. Danielle purchased 1 square inch of the North Pole for the North Tonawanda History Museum and we had the deed on display at the desk set up for kids to write their letters to Santa Claus. Although unable to participate, Danielle Oney coordinated the face painting for the third Winter Walk and Jodi Hahn and Terrilee Oney did the face painting.

Barbara Wickman provided a Holiday Express model railroad display from Jack's Trains, which was supervised throughout the day by Brian Blandford. She also provided holiday candy and fudge for sale, hot coffee, tea, and cider for sale, Christmas cards for sale, all from Barb's Sweet Treats and Jack's Trains. John Neal and Carrie Joyce and Jim Wickman assisted Barb with mechanical needs for the train. Barb supervised the free donut holes and cold cider tables, assisted by Josie Pettigrew and Kathy Cahill.

Carl Tamburlin kept the floors clean and hung additional decorations throughout the day and provided community relations support to the Executive Director.

Jodi Hahn did face painting ALL day. Priscilla Neal, as always served as a trouble shooter and person who does everything as needed without fail as she has done for five years at many events. This was Kathy Cahill's second event, the first having been Dancing Under the Stars. She also will assist with the Celtic Christmas and will be bringing her son to help there. John Neal served as the greeter/door monitor, assisted by Randy Warblow and Bob Zayatz. Josie Pettigrew has been volunteering for five years now and can always be counted on. Carrie Joyce has been with us the last few months and is proving to be very valuable. She designed our Winter Walk flyer also. Bill Reece was part of the clean up, close up shift. Carol Kopczynski set up a display of gift items that drew good attention. Carrie Joyce helped with signage and decorating.

And, because the heat was not working in the building, we all froze.....

Celtic Christmas

Chair: Danielle Oney

Donna Neal, John Neal, Priscilla Neal, Jodi Hahn, Carrie Joyce, Josie Pettigrew, Courtney Reichman, Barbara Wickman, Terrilee Oney, Carl Tamburlin.

North Tonawanda's Birthday Celebration, April 18, 2009

The North Tonawanda History Museum celebrated its annual "North Tonawanda's Birthday Celebration" for the sixth year on April 18 for the first time in its own building at 54-60 Webster Street.

We recognized some of our volunteers and some of North Tonawanda's many businesses and organizations who have made a commitment to doing business in the City by recognizing the number of years they have been in business. These businesses and other organizations are creating their own part of North Tonawanda's history. We couldn't possibly recognize everyone but this group was a marvelous representation of what made North Tonawanda's history.

Special thanks to the Rev. Louis Dolinic for opening the program with a blessing of the building and to George Trautman, Commander of Seabee Veterans of America, Island X-8, for leading in the pledge to the flag.

Awards of recognition were presented to:

Museum volunteers and years of service: Stephen C. Ash – 2003 – 2009; A. Daniel Bille – 2003 – 2009; Jane Werth Garis – 2004 – 2009; John H. Kolecki – 2004 – 2008 (deceased 12/31/08); Carol Kopczynski – 2005 - 2009; Donna Zellner Neal – 2003 – 2009; John Zellner Neal – 2003 – 2007; Employee 2007 – 2009; Priscilla Zellner Neal – 2003 - 2009; Danielle M. Oney – 2006 - 2008; Josie Pettigrew - 2005 - 2009; Carl Tamburlin – 2005 - 2009; Peter Trinkwalder – 2005 – 2009; Barbara Wickman – 2003 - 2009; Walter Wozniak – 2007 – 2009.

Moving/Reorganizing Crew Leaders 2009: Douglas Hershberger; Benton Hiltz II; Randall Warblow; Edward Wokersien.

Moving Crew 2009: Carl Onofrio; Joan Onofrio; Elaine Timm.

Special Advisor Volunteers: Margaret Cheeley – 2004 - 2009; Beverly DiPalma – 2008 - 2009; Carl Hoover – 2003 – 2009; Deborah Jaeger – 2005 – 2009; Michael Mrocza – 2003 - 2009; John W. Percy – 2003 - 2009; Margaret L. Waite – 2005 – 2009.

Special Museum Helpers: Daniel Harmon - 2009; Douglas Hershberger - 2009; Benton Hiltz II - 2009; Carrie Joyce - 2008 - 2009; Nik Mukhopadhyay - 2005 - 2009; Lou Omel - 2004 - 2009; Carl Onofrio - 2006 - 2009; Elaine Timm - 2008 - 2009; Randall Warblow - 2008 - 2009; Edward Wokersien - 2007 - 2009. For their faith in the project and their efforts in making it a reality, the following were honored as honorary chairs of the Lumber City History Center Committee: Co-Chairs: Jack and Carol Kopczynski; Business Chair: Carl Hoover; Business Professionals Chair: Michael Mrocza.

Thank you to Budwey's Bakery for the amazing job done on creating 50 different birthday cakes for commemorating the following: North Tonawanda History Museum's 5th Anniversary; North Tonawanda's 112th Anniversary as a City; 200th Anniversary of George N. Burger's building first log tavern on the Little River; 166th Anniversary of St. Martin Lutheran Church; 148th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church; 140th Anniversary of St. Mark's Episcopal Church; 129th Anniversary of Tonawanda News; 116th Anniversary of North Tonawanda Public Library; 115th Anniversary of Wattengel Funeral Home; 114th Anniversary of Buffalo Pumps; 108th Anniversary of BPO Elks Lodge 860; 103rd Anniversary of Riverside Chemical; 101st Anniversary of City Market and the 112th anniversary of the land purchase by the City for it; 96th Anniversary of Dom Polski; 95th Anniversary of DeGraff Memorial Hospital; 87th Anniversary of Budwey's; 73rd anniversary on Division Street; 84th Anniversary of Walker Bros. & Monroe Jewelers; 84th Anniversary of Gardei Industries, LLC; 80th Anniversary of American Legion Post #264 Band; 83rd Anniversary of Riviera Theatre; 70th Anniversary of Tonawandas' Business & Professional Women; 68th Anniversary of Taber Industries; 63rd Anniversary of Third Warders Social Club; 63rd Anniversary of American Legion Stephen Sikora Post #1322' 57th Anniversary of Taylor Devices; 55th Anniversary of Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas; (71st anniversary of founding of Business and Civic Association of the Tonawandas); 55th Anniversary of Twin-Ton Auto Sales; 52nd Anniversary of the Downtown Merchants Association of North Tonawanda; 50th Anniversary of Pane's Restaurant; 46th Anniversary of Matt's Music; 43rd Anniversary of Pioneer Printers, Inc.; 40th Anniversary of Buffalo Suzuki Strings; 70th Anniversary of the opening of 4-6 Webster Street building; 39th Anniversary of International Filler Corp.; 37th Anniversary of Ghostlight Theatre; 36th Anniversary of Confer Plastics; 35th Anniversary Paperback Swap n' Shop; 34th Anniversary Ascension Industries' 33rd Anniversary of Carnegie Art Center; 30th Anniversary of Carrousel Society of the Niagara Frontier; 24th anniversary of Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum; 27th Anniversary of Frank's Liquor Store – 74th Anniversary of the building as a liquor store; 26th Anniversary of Canal Fest of the Tonawandas; 29th Anniversary of Nestor's; 25th Anniversary of Barb's Sweet Treats & Jack's Trains; 25th Anniversary of A-1 Home Appliances; 19th

Anniversary of Impressive Imprints; 18th Anniversary of ATI Services; 14th Anniversary of Partners in Art; 13th Anniversary of Hodgepodge; 11th Anniversary of Project Pride; 9th Anniversary of Tanning Bed on Webster Street

Additional thanks for exhibits on the Chamber ofCommerce of the Tonawandas,The Tonawandas Business&Professional Women, and Partners in ArtStudios.

Volunteers who helped prepare for North Tonawanda’s Birthday Celebration:

Donna Zellner Neal, Benton Hiltz, Priscilla Zellner Neal, Jodi Hahn, Stephen Ash, Eleanor Ash, Barbara Seufert, William Bauza, Margaret Bauza, Randall Warblow, Derek Warblow, John Zellner Neal, Barbara Wickman, Carl Tamburlin

Volunteers working the day

Donna Zellner Neal, John Zellner Neal, Barbara Seufert, Benton Hiltz, Barbara Wickman, Carl Tamburlin, Edward Wokersien, Carl Onofrio, Randall Warblow, Priscilla Neal, Jodi Hahn, Margaret Bauza, Robert Zayatz

Volunteers and our employee* in April 2009 in the Museum’s new home and on Museum business:

Donna Zellner Neal, John Zellner Neal*, Walter Wozniak, Priscilla Zellner Neal, Jodi Hahn, Carrie Joyce, Dan Harmon, Nik Mukhopadyay, Lou Omel, Jane Garis, Carol Kopczynski, Suzanne Till, Jill Tylec, Randall Warblow, Benton Hiltz, Doug Hershberger, Ed Wokersien, Robert Zayatz, Barbara Wickman, Carl Tamburlin, Walter Yaro, Carl Onofrio

Speaker Accommodations and Chauffeurs

Debbie Jaeger – accommodations; Greg Witul, Carol Kopczynski

Collections Pick Up

John Zellner Neal, Barbara Wickman, Donna Zellner Neal, Ben Hiltz, Doug Hershberger

**Four More Full-Length Books & Standalone Index Planned
For “North Tonawanda: The Lumber City”
SPONSORS ARE NOW NEEDED**

The North Tonawanda History Museum will be publishing a stand alone index for its first full-length book. Originally intended as a 6x9” 325 page book with an index, with the contributions of information from its constituents, the book project grew into a 7x10” 428 page book without the index. We intended from the beginning to keep the price affordable, hoping at first to have the smaller size at a \$29.95 cover price. The publisher of the present book required a \$39.95 price for the completed project. With an index included, the cost of the book would have been considerably more. Realizing that not all purchasers would need an index, it was decided to retain the affordable price and produce a separate index later.

We offer the book for \$34.95 directly and will mail it anywhere in the United States for an extra \$4. To date, only a few requests have been made for an index. It has been the intention from the beginning, however, to produce an index for the first book and for the next three that are planned, and ultimately for one index to cover all four.

The stand alone index will be published locally for the History Museum by Pioneer Printers, the official printer of the North Tonawanda History Museum. Museum representatives anticipate that the index will sell for \$10. Advance orders will be accepted for the index and will be mailed out for \$3 additional or you will be called to pick it up. It is hoped to be released in the first half of 2008.

We also encourage residents and family residents to dig out the family and individual historical photos and records and all historical material they have collected on the history of North Tonawanda. If you prefer not to donate your originals, History Museum volunteers will copy and scan them and return them safely to the owners. The materials will be used in completing the next three full-length books. History Museum researchers are already gathering additional materials and working to fine tune facts for future volumes. We have already begun drafting all three.

“North Tonawanda: Historic Treasures” will focus on buildings, homes, and other sites in the city. A 2009 release date is anticipated. “North Tonawanda: Its People” will focus on the stories of the people who have lived in or were born in North Tonawanda and their accomplishments. A 2010 release date is anticipated. “North Tonawanda: Lumber Capital of the World” with a 2011 projected release date and “North Tonawanda: Industrial Center” with a projected 2012 release date are also being drafted.

Patron sponsorships for the publication of these four books will be accepted as they were for the first full-length book. For \$100, a patron will be listed in the book of their choice as a patron and receive a copy of the book upon release. For \$175, a patron will be listed in the two books of their choice and receive a copy of each upon release. For \$250, a patron will be listed in three books of their choice and receive a copy of each upon release. For \$300, a patron will be listed in all four books and receive a copy of each upon release. The copies included in the patron arrangement may also be donated in the name of the patron to area schools or the North Tonawanda Public Library or others at the donor’s request. The cover price for the books will not be official until the total number of pages for each is established. However, those wishing to make advance orders for “North Tonawanda: Historic Treasures” may do so for a \$35 donation per book, plus \$5 if the book is to be mailed. The price may later be increased due to length and increased production costs for future purchasers.

The Museum accepts Master Card and Visa orders and will mail any of its publications to addresses anywhere in the world. Use the form below to become a patron or place an order.

**PLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PAST:
THE LUMBER CITY HISTORY CENTER**

_____ I/we wish to donate \$ _____ toward the needs of the Lumber City History Center project, payable as follows:

_____ Lump sum donation enclosed.

_____ Initial donation of \$ _____ enclosed, and a donation of \$ _____ for _____ weeks, _____ months, _____ quarterly _____ annually.

_____ My/our check is enclosed for \$ _____.

_____ Please charge my/our Master Card or Visa Card as noted below.

Funds donated by you in response to this solicitation shall be used by us solely for purposes of acquiring, renovating, and developing real property for use by the North Tonawanda History Museum as the home of our museum and its proposed related activities, including but not limited to a visitor's center and history center.

The North Tonawanda History Museum is a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to us may be deductible to the extent provided by law. Please consult your tax advisor.

_____ Please list me/us on any recognition materials as:

(optional), in memory of _____
or in honor of _____

_____ I/we wish to be listed as an anonymous donor.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ **Phone** _____

For credit card (Visa or Master Card) payment(s):

_____ Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on card

Address for cardholder

Send to:
North Tonawanda History Museum
54 Webster Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

“Demonstration Edition” of the “Niagara Historic Trail” update 2008-2009 released; project made possible by two grants and volunteer efforts of historians in Niagara County

The North Tonawanda History Museum, in cooperation with the County of Niagara and the Association of Municipal Historians of Niagara County and other County historians, the Historical Society of North German Settlements in Western New York and the Niagara County Historical Society, has produced a “Demonstration Edition” of “Niagara Historic Trail: A self-guided historic tour of Niagara County.” It is an update of the original 1975 County project and the 1991 update by the County.

The 166-page spiral bound book (designed for use in driving around the County so that the pages will remain open for reference) will be available in January initially through the North Tonawanda History Museum and will also be distributed to other County cultural and tourism locations wishing to handle the sale.

Cost of the “Demonstration Edition” is \$15 each and can be mailed for an additional \$4. The North Tonawanda History Museum is accepting advance orders and accepts Master Card and Visa. Mail orders should be sent to the History Museum at 314 Oliver Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120.

The new “Niagara Historic Trail” is dedicated “to our inspirations for their love of local history: Dr. H. William Feder, A. Daniel Bille, and John W. Percy.”

Although the North Tonawanda History Museum is presently actively involved in moving from their three previous locations into their new home at 54 Webster Street, orders may be placed by phone at 213-0554 or email at nthistorymuseum@aol.com. A Museum representative will get back to you within 24 hours and arrange for pick up or delivery or mailing.

When the current Trail update project began in early 2008, the entire County of Niagara was enthusiastically celebrating the 200th anniversary of its establishment. The volunteer crew of municipal historians and historians from historical organizations in the County did not know what to anticipate in doing the update. A few had been involved in the earlier versions and some had never seen the printed versions of the earlier efforts. We did, however, generally conclude that, since a significant number of sites included in the previous two printed publications either no longer exist, were of current interest at the time of their original inclusion, or required new or additional descriptive material based on knowledge gained since the earlier publications, an updated version was justified.

The original intent was to have each community section updated and redone as correctly and thoroughly as possible so that the current publication would be an appropriate addition to the celebration of the County’s anniversary and provide a starting point for future updates, since technology has significantly improved in recent years and repeat printings and updated printings are much easier to facilitate. The finished product was to serve visitors to Niagara County, students of local history, and residents and become the basis for regular future updates and printing.

The plan was to fund the initial printing with grants and use the proceeds of the sale of the actual first printing for future printings. A dedicated fund was established by the North Tonawanda History Museum for this purpose, and a \$5,000 grant was obtained from the Niagara County Legislature and a \$2,500 Mini-Grant from the New York Council for the Humanities, a New York State affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, toward the initial printing costs. Beverly DiPalma of Quinlan Associates volunteered her services for the design of the cover. Carl Hoover of Pioneer Printers served as a consultant to the editor as plans progressed. Donna Zellner Neal, North Tonawanda History Museum Executive Director served as Editor and coordinated the project. Dr. H. William Feder made a presentation on the original Trail project at a March 2008 program of the North Tonawanda History Museum.

Because of the complications of a busy anniversary year in the County, a number of municipal historians were unable to fulfill the request for the historical descriptions, photos, and mapping data for their communities. We apologize, therefore, if their communities’ segments require future work. Without their assistance, we worked with what others were able to provide and did some of the work at the editor level so that all towns and villages and cities in Niagara County would be represented in the guidebook. The delays that resulted and the additional unanticipated work prevented us from having a completed copy at the initially planned time in September.

Our goal from the beginning, however, and the requirements of our funding of the printing, were for a book to be published in 2008 that could be easily updated and reprinted as needed.

Once the copy was as complete as we could make it, with the variety of styles provided merged into a uniform style, mapping proved to be a problem because it was not just a matter of adding available maps. Much of the material supplied, at a significant contribution of time by the historians, did not incorporate street addresses into the descriptions. In some instances, we had to totally eliminate a site which has an important history but for which siting it on a map was not possible as we passed our initial deadline and were continuing past the original schedule to complete the publication.

Locating accurate maps which would work became a problem. From the beginning, we had planned on using a uniform map, breaking it into segments. That, we found as time was running out, left us with maps which did not agree with either of the previous publications in detail. The historians who provided actual street addresses make it possible for the reader or traveler to locate their sites using the addresses. We resigned ourselves to using what we had for the first printing. John Zellner Neal of the North Tonawanda History Museum worked with the editor on this. We will appreciate input from users of the book and the contributing historians so that the first update we do may include any necessary corrections and revisions. We also will be grateful for better maps for future reprints.

We realize at this time with the initial printing that better maps are a necessity for the next printing. Good quality black and white local municipal maps of the cities, towns, and villages are desired for future updates. It is our belief that the kind historians who worked with us in getting this “demonstration edition” together will, upon seeing the initial printing, assist in locating and preparing better local maps. We also hope that other historic sites omitted from this initial printing of the publication can be incorporated into

the next printing. We hope as well that street addresses can be included – or at least a description of where on the road or street, or between what other sites, a site is located.

Copies will be distributed to all participating contributors to the publication and to the Mayor of each of the three cities, the Town Supervisors of the twelve towns, and the Mayors of the five villages. City, Town and Village Clerks will also be given a copy of the “demonstration edition.” The “Demonstration Edition” will be available for purchase and will be reprinted as needed until the next update. It is hoped that the publication will be updated every couple of years.

Printing of the publication was made possible by two grants, a \$5,000 grant from Niagara County and a \$2,500 grant from the New York Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The two grants covered the costs of printing. Representatives of the Council informed Museum staff that they were especially impressed at the focus on insuring for the continued availability and reprinting and plans for necessary future updating of the publications.

Printed initially as an August 23, 1975 supplement in the Lockport Union Sun & Journal and an August 24, 1975 supplement in the Niagara Gazette and Tonawanda News, the project was created with the support of the Niagara County Legislature in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution (1776-1976).

The 1975 publication noted that “The Niagara Trail is, by many standards, one of the most spectacular tour routes in the world. It is an historic pathway of pioneers upon which has been shaped the destiny of many nations, especially the United States of America. For many centuries, this dramatically scenic area of natural and man-made wonders has been an international center for exploration and adventure, industry and invention, agriculture and commerce, art and science, religion and reflective study, recreation and sports. Over the years, millions of people from many lands have made it their home. Its history is alive, providing a proud heritage which shapes those no involved in giving form to the future.

The Niagara Trail defines much more than a network of roads serving as a basic path to all areas of Niagara County; it refers to a way of life, a culture, a heritage. The Niagara Trail tells the story of the United States of America, as lived by the pioneers of Niagara County, past and present.

2009 Board of Trustees

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John Zellner Neal

The North Tonawanda History Museum received a Provisional Charter from the Regents of the State of New York on April 20, 2004, and is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Our Provisional Charter was extended on December 16, 2008, to December 16, 2013.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the North Tonawanda History Museum is to assemble, preserve, protect, and exhibit collections pertaining to the history of North Tonawanda, its people and community life, focusing especially on our rich immigrant heritage and role as an important shipping and manufacturing center strategically located on the historic Erie Canal and Niagara River in the 19th and 20th centuries. As a research and educational institution, we plan to be both an active participant in the historical and cultural tourism focus of North Tonawanda and a focal point for students of all ages to participate in historical studies and activities of the City.

VISION STATEMENT

The North Tonawanda History Museum will provide leadership to the North Tonawanda community in the promotion of historic awareness and interpretation of the people's history in the community.

Mission and Vision Statements Approved by the Board of Trustees, February 19, 2004

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

---Margaret Mead

"Make no little plans, they have no magic to stir men's blood; think big."

---Daniel Burnham, architect

"Every important idea for social change in the last 100 years has come from the nonprofit sector."

-----Peter Drucker

"Cherish the past, adorn the present, construct the future."

-----William Clough-Ellis

"Don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally."

-----David Frost

"Some people dream of success...while others wake up and work hard at it."

----Author Unknown