

It's the future of our past....
At the Lumber City History Center
Operated by the North Tonawanda History Museum
2012 EVENT SCHEDULE

HOURS FOR 2012:

February 1 - May 31: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Wednesday

June 1 - August 31: Monday through Saturday – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September 1 - December 31: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday–10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Wednesday

Holiday schedule

Closed January 16 for Martin Luther King Day

Closed April 6 – 8 for Easter holiday celebration

Closed May 26-28 for Memorial Day holiday celebration

Closed July 3 & 4 for Independence Day celebration

Closed September 1 – 3 for Labor Day weekend

Closed November 22 – 25 for Thanksgiving Day holiday celebration

Closed December 24 – 25 for Christmas holiday celebration

Closed December 31 – January 1 for New Year holiday celebration

The North Tonawanda History Museum Blue Star Museum Program offers free admission to active duty military personnel and their families all year and admission for veterans year round will be at the reduced rate of \$3 if they are not members of the North Tonawanda History Museum. A reduced membership rate is offered for veterans with a discount for all membership levels and free membership for active duty military personnel and their families. Admission is free to the History Museum for members at all times. The veteran rate is \$7.50 for seniors; \$10 for individuals; \$20 for families; and \$175 for individual life membership. The History Museum is also a participating vendor in the Niagara County “Thank-a-Vet” program, extending the same benefits to non-members of the History Museum who present their photo identification card from Niagara County.

January 7, 1854 – Establishment of the Village of Tonawanda

FEBRUARY – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Winter Used Book Sale– 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bag of books - \$5; paperbacks – 50 cents ea. or 3 for \$1; hard covers - \$1 ea. or 3 for \$2.

Saturday, February 11, 2012

2 p.m. - 90 min. video - “Race to Freedom: The Story of the Underground Railroad” – a historical melodrama about the Underground Railroad. Featuring Tim Reid and Glynn Turman.

Monday, February 13, 2012 – President’s Day

Saturday, February 18, 2012

2 p.m. Heather Peck – Lockport Main Street and the business, cultural and heritage tourism, historic preservation focus of the City of Lockport and the civic support of that focus

February 22, 2012 – Ash Wednesday – Museum closed

Saturday, February 25, 2012

2 p.m. –60 min. video - “Whispers of Angels: A Story of the Underground Railroad” – winner of the Chris Award Statuette, 2002 Columbus International Film and Video Festival. Long format interview with prominent historians blend with dramatic reenactment

to create a powerful story about the fight to end slavery. Actors Edward Asner and Blair Underwood portray the two most prominent abolitionists on the eastern line of the Underground Railroad, Thomas Garrett and William Still.

Saturday, March 3, 2012

1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - 150 min. video – “Underground Railroad,” hosted by Alfre Woodard, a new documentary from the History Channel that unveils the history, heroes, and villains of the Abolitionist movement.

Saturday, March 10

2 p.m. “ War of 1812: Fury, Frenzy and Honor”



A lecture by Raya Lee

As the bicentennial of the War of 1812 approaches, both the United States and Canada are exploring its legacy of lasting peace. While there were no tangible gains to either adversary, the US and Canada both went on to expand and prosper. But the war itself has infused our culture with dramatic stories: "Old Ironsides" and the struggles for naval supremacy; the significance of the Niagara Campaign; the defeat of Tecumseh; Dolly Madison's heroism during the burning of Washington, D.C.; and, the perseverance of the people of Baltimore and of Fort McHenry, which inspired "The Star-Spangled Banner." The War of 1812 is sometimes labeled "The Forgotten War." In this lecture we re-discover and remember this conflict's impact on America.

Raya Lee is a graduate of Fredonia State with a masters degree from SUNYAB. She has served as assistant librarian with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and as music librarian at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. This is a return engagement for her at the North Tonawanda History Museum.

This program is funded by the New York Council for the Humanities, Speakers in the Humanities Program.

Saturday, March 17, 2012 – St. Patrick’s Day

2 p.m. – “The Siege of Niagara: 1759-2009” -approximately 120 minutes, the story of a struggle between two longtime foes that would determine the map of North America and lead to the creation of two great nations: the United States and Canada, took place on Lake Ontario at Fort Niagara in 1759. On July 3-5, 2009, thousands of re-enactors brought history back to life and this presentation brings out all the color, pomp, and action. Courtesy of Old Fort Niagara. DVDs are available for purchase.

Saturday, March 24

2 p.m. “The Olver Family” presented by Ward Bray, wood carvers, property owners, Ward Road, Oliver Street, Wallace Avenue, Adelaide Place, etc.

Saturday, March 31

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - 145 min. video - “The War of 1812” – First Invasion: The War of 1812; Save Our History: Star-Spangled Banner; Behind the Scenes of First Invasion: The War of 1812 – by the History Channel

APRIL – VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION MONTH

April 1 – Palm Sunday – 3:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 626 Oliver Street – MUSEUM CLOSED
Our Lady of Czestochowa “Lenten Reflections-The Way and the Words” will take a free will offering for parishioners choice of TCCO, Knights of Columbus Madonna Council, the BPO Elks Lodge 8 60 or the North Tonawanda History Museum

3:30 Lenten Music

4:00 The Way and The Words Begins

5:35 Social following in the school basement

April 6 – 8 – Easter holiday weekend – Museum closed

April 14

2 p.m. “The Great American Jukebox,” a 45-min. video by Andrew Stein Videography

April 16, 1836 – Establishment of the Town of Tonawanda

April 20, 2004 – North Tonawanda History Museum became a chartered Museum

Saturday, April 21, 2012

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Open House

North Tonawanda's 115th Birthday Celebration and North Tonawanda History Museum's 8th Anniversary Celebration

North Tonawanda was incorporated as a City on April 24, 1897.

North Tonawanda History Museum was chartered on April 20, 2004

2 p.m. - 65 min. presentation - "North Tonawanda" – a 3-minute video presentation, courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas; **"Niagara USA: A Great American Getaway"** – a 5-minute presentation, courtesy of the Niagara Tourism & Convention Corp., and **"North Tonawanda: Lumber City History Center Project"**, a 55-minute presentation on North Tonawanda's history and the history of the North Tonawanda History Museum and future plans for the Lumber City History Center.

April 22, 2012 – Earth Day – Museum closed

Sunday, April 22, 2012

Second Annual North Tonawanda Memorial Bowlathon at Tonawanda Bowling Center, in collaboration with the Tonawandas USBC Bowling Association. (Tonawanda Bowling Center is at 574 Young Street in the City of Tonawanda.)

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - \$15 each; contact History Museum for tickets

Sponsors: Barb's Sweet Treats/Jack's Trains; Pioneer Printers, Inc.; North Tonawanda High School National Honor Society; Niagara USA Chamber.

April 24, 1897 – North Tonawanda incorporated as a City

April 25, 2012 – Administrative Professionals Day – Museum closed

Saturday, April 28, 2012

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - 140 min. video - "The War of 1812" - The Battle of New Orleans; Andrew Jackson: A Man for the People; The Ironclads; Surviving an 1812 Battleship- by the History Channel

May 8, 1945 – Victory in Europe Day

May 8, 1865 – North Tonawanda became a Village

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Spring Used Book Sale – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bag of books - \$5; paperbacks – 50 cents ea. or 3 for \$1; hard covers - \$1 ea. or 3 for \$2.

Sunday, May 13, 2012 – Mother's Day – Museum closed

May 15, 1918 – Barge Canal opened

New York Heritage Weekend – May 19-20-21, 2012 – Museum open

The First Annual Jim Hurtubise Day in North Tonawanda – May 21, 2012

The Jim Hurtubise Exhibit - Location – all three days: North Tonawanda History Museum - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Classic Car Show - Open to any pre-1980 vehicle – no trucks – Day to be determined - Location – Manhattan Street parking lot – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Banners: Location: Webster Street and Oliver Street - Banner

Jim (Herk) Hurtubise Way (aka Oliver Street between Sweeney Street and Tremont Street)

Carrousel Horse with Jim's No. 56; Jim (Herk) Hurtubise Way signs (2)

Next goal: checkered walkways in that block

May 20, 1836 – Establishment of the Town of Wheatfield – Museum closed

May 26 – May 28, 2012 Memorial Day weekend – Museum closed

May 31 – June 6, 2012 – Museum Week



An I LOVE NEW YORK and Museum Association of New York (MANY) promotion, designed as an easy and effective way to encourage the state's residents, as well as out of state visitors, to explore the breadth of the state's outstanding museums and heritage organizations.

Saturday, June 9 – “The History of the Town of Tonawanda, presented by John W. Percy, Town of Tonawanda Historian

June 10 – 14, 2012 – National History Day Contest – Museum closed Sundays

Thursday, June 14, 2012 – Flag Day

Friday, June 15, Saturday, June 16, and Sunday, June 17, 2012

Doors Open Niagara Weekend – Free admission

Daily Schedule – Museum open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. all days – Free admission

- 1 p.m. - “**The Grand Erie Canal**”, a 62 minute video presentation, courtesy of Low Bridge Productions of Rochester. (DVDs available for purchase in North Tonawanda History Museum.)
- 2 p.m. - “**Cruising America’s Waterways**”, award-winning PBS series, 90-minute video presentation: “The Erie Canal: Albany to Buffalo,” courtesy of Media Artists, Inc. (DVDs and book available for purchase in North Tonawanda History Museum):
 - Episode 1 – “Buffalo to Lockport”
 - Episode 2 – “Lockport to Newark”
 - Episode 3 – “Newark to Albany”
 - “15 Years on the Erie Canal” by Jonathan Edwards
 - Historic Photos courtesy of the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse
 - Lock Design/Operations, hosted by Tim Green

Sunday, June 17, 2012 - Father’s Day

June 18, 2012 – 200th anniversary of the Declaration of War by the United States – War of 1812

Wednesday, July 4, 2012 - Independence Day - Museum closed

July 4, 1817 – Construction began on the original Erie Canal

Sunday, July 15 – Sunday, July 22, 2012 – Canal Fest of the Tonawandas week

Daily Schedule – Museum open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. all days – Free admission

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- “15 Years on the Erie Canal” by Jonathan Edwards
Historic Photos courtesy of the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse
Lock Design/Operations, hosted by Tim Green
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Saturday, August 4, 2012

Summer Used Book Sale – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bag of books - \$5; paperbacks – 50 cents ea. or 3 for \$1; hard covers - \$1 ea. or 3 for \$2.

August 10 – 12, 2012 – Canal Splash Weekend – Museum closed Sunday

August 14, 1945 – Victory over Japan Day

Monday, September 3, 2012 - Labor Day

Saturday, September 15, 2011 – Lee Simonson

2 p.m. – “Tuscarora Heroes and the War of 1812 Attack on Lewiston” – presented by Lee Simonson, author of “Tuscarora Heroes.” Simonson is a former Niagara County Legislator.

December 19, 1813 was Lewiston's most important day and one of the greatest untold stories in American history. Lewiston citizens found themselves on the front line during the War of 1812 and were under attack by the British and their native allies. On the morning of December 19, 1813, Lewistonians were running for their lives in an attempt to escape the thrashing knives and tomahawks. Many of them didn't make it and blood was running down Lewiston streets.

At the moment when it seemed all hope was lost and the local citizens thought they would all become victims of a ghastly massacre, men from the local Tuscarora nation ran down from atop the Escarpment and rescued the fleeing population. Despite being outnumbered 30 to 1, the Tuscaroras devised a quick strategy to fool the British into thinking that there was a large unseen force ready to swoop down on the invading troops. The enemy stopped in its tracks and the Tuscaroras were able to buy precious minutes for the surviving Lewiston residents to escape east on Ridge Road.

A book by Lee Simonson called "Tuscarora Heroes" which details exactly what happened that fateful morning. For all of you who are confused about the War of 1812 and what it meant to Lewiston, and the United States, this is a "must attend" program and an opportunity to hear from the author himself. The book (just \$10) contains the first compilation of the names of all of the Tuscarora Heroes who put their lives on the line to save their Lewiston neighbors. Find out what happened and how the events that took place right here shaped our nation and the world.

Saturday, September 22, 2012

2 p.m. “A Day of Infamy at the Pan-American Exposition” presented by Demelt Shaw

Saturday, September 29, 2012 – Smithsonian Museum Day – Free admission

Museum Day Live! is in its 8th year. It is a nationwide event where participating museums and cultural institutions across the country. The official program requires you to present a Museum Day Live! ticket for free admission. Over 1,400 museums and cultural institutions across the country participate in this national celebration of culture and learning. Visitors may download an Admission Card from www.smithsonian.com. However, the North Tonawanda History Museum will be extending free admission to all with or without the Smithsonian Admission Card in recognition of Museum Day 2012. The Smithsonian Institute will be doing a massive national outreach promoting all participating sites in Museum Day.

Saturday, October 6, 2012

Fall Used Book Sale – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bag of books - \$5; paperbacks – 50 cents ea. or 3 for \$1; hard covers - \$1 ea. or 3 for \$2.

Saturday, October 13, 2012

2 p.m. John W. Percy, Town of Tonawanda Historian – “The War of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier.” October 12, 1812 was the first cross-river invasion at Queenston

The **Battle of Queenston Heights** was the first major battle in the War of 1812 and resulted in a British victory. It took place on 13 October 1812, near Queenston, in the present-day province of Ontario. It was fought between United States regulars and New York militia forces led by Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer, and British forces and Canadian militia led by Major General Isaac Brock, and Major General Roger Sheaffe, who took command when Brock was killed.

The battle, the largest in the war to that point, was fought as the result of an American attempt to establish a foothold on the Canadian side of the Niagara River before campaigning ended with the onset of winter. This decisive battle was the result of a poorly managed American campaign, and may be most historically significant for the loss of the British commander.

Despite their numerical advantage and the wide dispersal of British forces against an invasion attempt, the Americans, who were stationed in Lewiston, New York, were unable to get the bulk of their invasion force across the Niagara River due to the work of British artillery and reluctance on the part of the undertrained and inexperienced American militia. As a result, British reinforcements were able to arrive and force those Americans on the Canadian side to surrender.

Saturday, October 20, 2012

2 p.m. “Polonia: Western New York’s Polish-American Legacy,” a 92-minute video produced by WNED with the Western New York Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation as lead sponsor; donated to the North Tonawanda History Museum by the Kosciuszko Foundation.

It is the story of one of every three Erie County residents and 39% of North Tonawanda’s residents. It is the story of an immigrant group that arrived in the Buffalo area with little but faith, determination and the traditions of their oppressed homeland, but which eventually became one of the most vibrant, close-knit and creative communities in Western New York. It is the story of Western New York’s Polish-Americans. Celebrate the history, rich traditions and amazing culture of Polonia. Witness the struggle to build distinctly Polish neighborhoods and institutions that would preserve language and culture. Examine the indelible connection between the Polish identity and religion. Experience the beautiful Polish Christmas and Easter traditions and find the heart of Polonia – Serve Polonii in the thousands of Polish-Americans who continue to preserve and celebrate their dynamic heritage.

October 26, 2012 – Anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825

Saturday, October 27, 2012

2 p.m. Dr. Thomas A. Chambers presents “American Antiquities are so Rare: Commemorating 1812 on the Niagara Frontier”

Perhaps no other part of the United States saw more battles during the War of 1812 than the Niagara River borderland in western New York State. In later years its decaying fortifications and overgrown battlefields provided reminders of the struggle’s bloodshed and indecisive conclusion. Tourists traveling to Niagara Falls visited nearby Fort Niagara, Queenston Heights or Lundy’s Lane, constructing the war’s memory in the process. As one visitor wrote during an 1821 trip to Niagara, “This beautiful country stimulates my patriotism.” Battlefields and monuments on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border became sites where Americans, and especially New Yorkers, came to understand why the War of 1812 mattered, and how they could remember its fallen heroes. Their emotional responses to place and history at Niagara’s battlefields both honored veterans and neglected the war’s causes. Memories of 1812 envisioned a peaceful border between two nations that had once shed each other’s blood.

Dr. Thomas A. Chambers is Associate Professor of History and Department Chair at Niagara University and Department at Niagara University. He took his Ph.D. and M.A. at the College of William and Mary, and earned his B.A. at Middlebury College. He currently serves as Chairman of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Commission, and has been active in the 1812 Legacy Council. His book on battlefield commemoration is forthcoming from Cornell University Press.

This program is funded by the New York Council for the Humanities, Speakers in the Humanities Program.

Saturday, November 3, 2012

2 p.m. – “Haller’s Army” – video from Military Heritage Day 2004

Tuesday, November 6, 2012 – Election Day

November 11, 2012 – Veterans Day – Armistice Day – Museum closed Sundays

November 22, 2012 – Thanksgiving Day – Museum closed November 22-25

Friday, November 30, 2012

6 p.m. - German Christmas, presented by the Historical Society of North German Settlements in Western New York

Saturday, December 1, 2012 – Winter Walk in the Gateway Cities – Open House

December 7, 2012 - Commemoration of December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor Day

Saturday, December 8, 2012

2 p.m. “The American Civil War” (120 minutes) video presentation, a battle-by-battle account with all of the great battles of the Civil War, from Manassas to Appomattox.

Saturday, December 15, 2012

1 p.m. – “Polish Christmas” – a video of the History Museum’s December 2004 Ethnic Christmas

2 p.m. – “Italian Christmas – The Legend of La Befana” – a video of the History Museum’s December 2005 Ethnic Christmas

Tuesday, December 25, 2012 – Christmas Day – Museum closed December 23-25

Monday, December 31, 2012 – New Year’s Eve – Museum closed December 30-January 1