

# MURNEY NEWS

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



The museum is  
opening on May  
21rd!

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### OVERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Happy April everyone!

The sun is shining, birds are chirping, and summer is on the way. As we are getting ready for the 2022 operating season, we have many exciting projects on the horizon! Read on to get the latest updates from our director, Tabitha, and manager, Simge on the museum's 2022 projects.

On April 23rd, we attended the final presentations of the Queen's University Engineering Department's ASPC 100 course, which provides an opportunity to apply engineering science and mathematics content in situations emulating professional practice. Three teams designed an educational tool of 32-pounder Blomefield cannon to aid in the interpretation of the Tower's built heritage while other teams created solutions for improving the environmental conditions of the Tower. We were truly impressed with the overall quality of the projects and we would like to thank all students for their hard work this semester and their invaluable contributions to the museum!



## MEET DR. TABITHA RENAUD

### *Museum Director*

*How long have you been at the museum?*

I became Director in 2019, but had been with the Tower and the Kingston Historical Society for several years before that.

*What is your favorite fact about Murney Tower Museum?*

I love that the Tower used to serve as a "wishing well" for Kingstonians. Archeologists discovered many people threw coins in our ditch, particularly during the World Wars when they were worried about their loved ones.

*What excites you most about the summer season?*

Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers is installing art in the Tower as part of #hopeandhealingcanada. She has been travelling across Canada installing artworks at cultural heritage sites to broach the subject of decolonization. We also launching a new exhibit showing how the Tower's unique cistern system worked.



## MEET SIMGE ERDOGAN-O'CONNOR

### *Museum Manager and Curator*

*How long have you been at the museum?*

I joined the museum team right before the outbreak of Covid in March 2020.

*What is your favorite fact about Murney Tower Museum?*

In May 1882, a baby was born in the Murney Tower and she was named after the tower. Her name was Murney May Pugh!

*What excites you most about the summer season?*

I can't wait to share our opening exhibition entitled "The Voices of Murney" with our audiences. Co-developed by myself and our assistant curator, Joanna Dermenjian, the exhibition focuses on the period of 1848-1888, during which Murney Tower was used as a barracks for soldiers and their families. It brings to light the hidden social and domestic aspects of the Murney Tower alongside the unknown stories of the people who called Murney "home."



Murney Tower acknowledges with thanks the continued support of the City of Kingston, the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites, and the Kingston Historical Society.

