

MURNEY NEWS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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OVERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Happy May Everyone!

On Thursday, May 19th, we hosted a private soft opening event for our partners, collaborators, and community members. We welcomed colleagues and partners from Tourism Kingston, Queen's University, the Kingston Historical Society, Kingston and Area Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites. We were able to give a sneak peek of our new artifacts and exhibits which the staff worked very hard at over the fall and winter. We served food and drinks while guests looked around and mingled. This was a fantastic opportunity for the new staff to meet with important figures that help keep the museum up and running while the permanent staff and board were able to reconnect in person with other members of the community.

The Tower had a successful opening day on Saturday May 21st with an astounding 220 visitors. It was great to see so many enjoy tours, the new exhibits, and leave with a smile on their face. The staff were very excited for our new exhibit, The Voices of Murney, and the site-specific art installation by Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers, and they seem to be a hit with the public already.





MEET JIMMY POWELL

Jimmy is entering his fourth year at Queen’s University, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Media in Classical and Political Studies. While initially arriving at Queen’s intending on just pursuing a degree in Political Studies, Jimmy quickly discovered a passion for history, leading to the additional focus of Classical Studies. Throughout his three years at Queen’s, Jimmy has had the privilege of learning about how to accommodate previously marginalized voices into the modern interpretation of history. Jimmy hopes to utilize this knowledge to help explain the stories of people that lived in Murney Tower and is very excited to show people the new Voices of Murney exhibition. In Jimmy’s free time, he often plays and watches sports. He is a big fan of the Toronto Blue Jays and the Calgary Flames, along with being a pitcher on the Queen’s Baseball team. He also is an avid reader, who enjoys both fiction and nonfiction. One of his favourites of all time is the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, which inspired his initial interest in history when he was younger. More recently, Jimmy has been reading memoirs detailing the circumstances of recent political events, such as the Trump Presidency. Jimmy looks forward to welcoming you to Murney Tower this summer!

MEET ANDREA DOUGLAS


Andrea joined our team in May 2022 after completing her second year at Queen’s University, where she is a History major and Political Science minor. Originally from Ottawa, she has always been an appreciator of the work museums do to educate the public and preserve important elements of Canadian and global history. Andrea has been a writer for Queen’s Inquire Publication, she has served on the editorial board of Queen’s Politicus, and she has been a member of the Queen’s University History Department Student Council. She is bilingual in English and Spanish and adores reading both historical fiction and non-fiction!

Andrea is also an avid traveler and loves exploring new places, cultures and traditions. One day, she hopes to live and work abroad, either in the field of history or as a lawyer. Some of her hobbies include playing tennis, film photography, cooking and taking long walks with a good podcast. In the future, Andrea plans to discover more about art history and its role in better contextualizing social history, particularly during the late modern period of European history with which she has always been fascinated!



MEET KENDRA KLAGES

Kendra is a Bachelor of Music and History graduate and current Teacher College student at Queen’s University. As a music student she majored on the clarinet, but spent much of her studies exploring and researching music in history through courses such as Canadian Music History, Music and Resistance, Irish Music Archives, and her directed study that focused on how the identity of Canadian musicians impacts their music and the public presence. She has always had an interest in the history of Canada, but she realized she wanted to take it up as a possible career in recent years after working as a historical interpreter at Grey Roots Museum. Murney Tower interested her because she enjoys learning about colonization, wars, and life in the 1900s and onward; however, she hopes it will give her opportunities to learn more about museum education and ways to implement music into museums. She is looking forward to working on some future events and educational programs, and she can’t wait to learn more about the art installation by the Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers. In her free time, you’ll find her playing music, exploring museums, reading, hiking, or knitting. Currently she is planning tours of the Kingston Penitentiary and Fort Henry and trying to find some great hiking trails; if you know of any, let her know when you are visiting the Tower. She cannot wait to see visitors and share her love of history with them!


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.

