

# MURNEY NEWS

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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## OVERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Happy July Everyone!

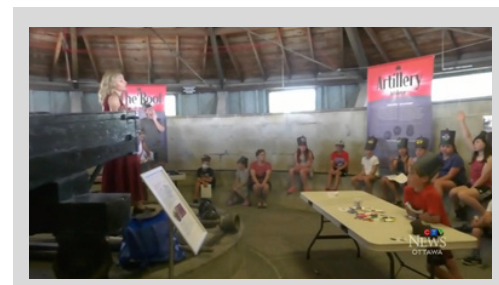
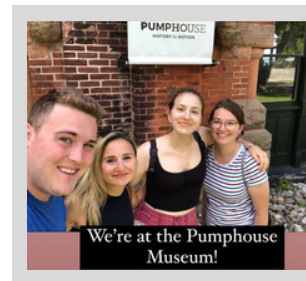
The tower is going from slightly chilly to quite warm with the July heat wave, but that hasn't slowed us down! With over 100 visitors most days, and planning future events as well as working on new educational projects for the fall and winter, the staff is very busy.

Social media and program assistant Kendra and manager Simge planned the onsite educational program "Kids Take Over the Museum Day," coming up on August 2nd. It will be the biggest event of the summer, and we're very excited to welcome the kids and their families to the tower!

Collection assistant Andi spends her days in the museum's offsite storage facility preparing the museum collections for accessioning. You will be able to read more about Andi's experiences on the next page!

As well, our Chief Assistant Jimmy has been busy revising our self-guided tour and brainstorming ideas for potential restoration projects.

We are glad we have been so busy because we know it is bringing in over 5,000 visitors and we look forward to seeing many more!





## C&C: Curator and Collections

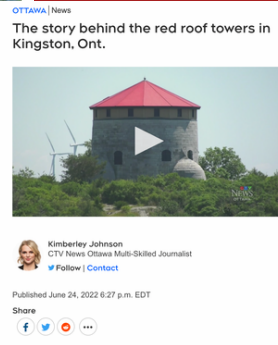
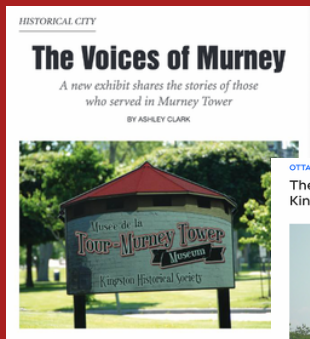
This month the program everyone was waiting for, C&C: Curator and Collections returned! It was a hit last year online; this year we are able to present it in person! We had 13 people attend our first session on July 14th which was very pleasing because there were only 15 tickets available and we almost reached our limit.

Our Curator, Simge began the night by giving a great tour of the tower, going into great detail, and answering many questions. Then, in a presentation about the Housewife's Sewing Kit that is on display, held on the gun platform, she gave the history of the kit and its owner, Mrs. Hitchcock of the Hitchcock House on Wolfe Island. The guests were able to examine the kit at close range and admire the amazing detail of the kit's construction.

## Check Out Our Latest Features

Over the past few months, Murney Tower has had a lot of publicity. In July, it was featured twice! Ashley Clark from Kingston Life interviewed Simge about the new exhibit, "Voices of Murney," which was visited by approximately 5,000 visitors since its opening. Simge offered special insights into the development and implementation of the exhibit and revealed her favourite artifact on display! The Kingston Life magazine features people, events, and news in Kingston. You can read the interview and other stories from the June-July Kingston Life issue at <https://www.thewhig.com/category/magazines/>.

Kimberley Johnson from CTV Ottawa visited the tower to talk to our Simge about the Martello Towers in Kingston and the unique history of the Murney Tower. Johnson also spoke to some guests from Glenburnie School who were in the museum that day for a special school tour. You can find this article on the CTV news website at <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/the-story-behind-the-red-roof-towers-in-kingston-ont-1.5962448>.



## Collections Update with Andi

Hello everyone! I'm Andi and I work in Murney Tower's storage unit! At the beginning of the tower's season, we had under 250 artifacts inventoried and organized in the storage whereas today, we have almost 700 artifacts inventoried. A typical day in storage involves me gathering boxes of artifacts and carefully unwrapping them, then assessing their condition and finding the accession number on each. I write out a tag for the artifact with its accession number, then position it for photography, making sure both the tag and artifact are visible.

After the picture is taken, I wrap the artifact in acid free tissue paper using no tape, adhesives or staples (which is sometimes difficult), to protect the artifact. Lastly, I write the artifact's accession number in pencil on the acid free tissue paper and put it carefully in a storage box, recording what box the artifact goes into and uploading all relevant information about the artifact into our collection inventory. One of the coolest artifacts I've found recently was a powder horn, probably dating from the period of the tower's occupation! Powder horns varied in style and material and were an essential accessory to muzzle-loading guns. Until pre-packed bullets became widespread and easily accessible, powder flasks were used to store gunpowder and to pour it into the guns. Gunpowder flasks were made in a variety of materials, but ferrous metals were typically avoided because they were prone to giving off sparks when hit.

