

Bi Monthly Update

Cottonwood's Winter 2021/ 2022



Photography by Jessi McConnell

President's Message

Clayton Spears | Cottonwood Mansion Preservation Foundation

HALDIMAND'S LIVING TIME CAPSUL

Peter Jaycock, one of Cottonwood's trustees has completed a promotional video in which he personally does the narration. In it he refers to a time long before Canada was a country; decades ahead of the Klondike gold rush and in a time before there were cars on the dusty wagon tracks of Haldimand County. It was at that time when William Holmes Jr. laid the foundation for a beautiful new home for he and his wife Mary. While Cottonwood is an edifice to a bygone era, we can go back even farther to the roots of the property on which the Mansion was constructed.

When I was transferred in 1965 by the Royal Bank as the manager of its branch in Fisherville, I was happy to learn that Helen and I were taking up residence in a close knit and caring community where the majority of its Lutheran residents were of German descent. I was also aware of an old derelict house north of Selkirk and not knowing its history, lamented that such a once magnificent structure was falling into a major state of disrepair. Having said this, in 1988, I had an opportunity to meet the late Larry Hamilton, the property's new owner and it was he who provided me with the history of the lands and the house itself. To the many folks who drive past Cottonwood, it's simply an impressive old house that was restored and is now a place to visit and hold special events. However, thanks to Larry, I learned the property's history actually dates back to the late 1700's when the Hoover clan

from Pennsylvania purchased large tracts of land in Rainham and Walpole townships. After this, I was awed by the number of local families who traced their lineage back to these original Hoover patriarchs and it was Mary who had inherited 200 acres of the original vast acreage whom William Holmes courted and married. In summary, Cottonwood Mansion Museum is simply not an impressive old house, but rather, it's a link to the very essence of the history that makes Haldimand County stand out in Southern Ontario. If we were to ever lose this integral part of local history it would be a monumental disaster and therefore it behooves each of us to carry on with the dream that Larry Hamilton envisioned in 1988.

Clayt Spears, President
Cottonwood Mansion Preservation
Foundation

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Holiday Events 2021

On behalf of Cottonwood Mansion Museum's staff and board members, we would like to take this time to thank the members of the community, local businesses, supporters and volunteers for the completion of a successful holiday season! Each of our events provided guests with unique experiences including historic house tours focused on the influence of Victorian Christmas, impeccable afternoon tea services, and our Nostalgic Christmas Exhibit showcasing Christmases past from 1800-1970s. Our family fun events such as our Home for the Holidays that included live musical performances and special appearances from Santa Clause and Christmas donkeys from Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge, truly added to the magic and wonderment of the day!

It was a pleasure hosting new and unique experiences that we hope to bring back this year in 2022 and to make a staple in Cottonwood's annual events for the future. Though we have seen great attendance and success in many of our events such as the Christmas Afternoon Teas, Candlelight Tours, and Hogmanay High Tea, the existing circumstances due to Covid 19 which lead to the closure of museums for the month of January, are still prevalent and therefore we encourage members of the museum and public to continue their interest and support through donations, memberships, and attendance of future events as we enter into a new year. Please visit page 4 for a list of upcoming events for 2022!



Updates

During these difficult times, Cottonwood Mansion has been faced to adapt to restrictions and closures. Although challenging, we continue to strive in our commitment of continuing to provide a space of education and experiences to the public, as a venue and as a valuable historic landmark within Haldimand County.

At the beginning of February 2022, Cottonwood Mansion Museum's application was approved for the Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations which grants \$5000 in support of the effects due to Covid. As we prepare for another season of memorable special events and programming, we encourage the members of Cottonwood and the general public to stay connected with the latest updates via our website and social media.

www.cottonwoodmansionmuseum.com

Instagram @cottonwoodmansion



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Upcoming Events

Valentine Afternoon Tea

Sunday, February 13th, 2022

11:30am & 2:30pm

SOLD OUT

Pancake Day

Saturday, March 12th, 2022

(Rain date: Sunday, March 13th, 2022)

11:00am - 1:00pm

Membership Event

Sunday, April 24th, 2022

12pm - 3pm

Mothers Day Afternoon Tea

Saturday, May 7th 2022

11:30am & 2:30pm

Garden Fundraiser

Bouquet Making Workshop & Cream Tea

Saturday, May 28th, 2022

Garden Tea Party

Sunday, May 29th, 2022

Notice of Inventory Project

Third Notice

Cottonwood Mansion Museum is currently undertaking an inventory project. At this time we are not taking any object donations while we sort through our collection to maintain the integrity of the museum and to focus its purpose and representation.

Garden Fundraiser

In the spring of 2021, the staff and board of Cottonwood Mansion set a plan to design a Victorian garden which would focus on traditional historic garden practices and incorporate popular Victorian flowers. This new venture would allow an additional feature and experience to guests for educational programs, maintaining historic practices and demonstrations, and providing the perfect backdrop for photos and venue rentals. In May of 2021, the completion of one garden bed was finished along with a row of beautiful hydrangeas. Our mission for 2022 is to complete this garden in its entirety through our Garden Fundraiser weekend from May 28th to 29th. Please visit cottonwoodmansionmuseum.com for more details.



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Thank you to all our Supporters and Volunteers

We want to thank all of our Donors and Volunteers especially for their generosity over the past season of 2021 and for the continued support into 2022. Our events would not be possible without you! We hope that we can count on your continued support throughout the rest of the year so that Cottonwood Mansion Museum may continue in our hopes being a beacon as a cultural centre, venue and historic landmark!



If you wish to volunteer or become a monetary donor of Cottonwood Mansion Museum, please contact us at cottonwoodmansion@gmail.com or visit www.cottonwoodmansionmuseum.com

GARDEN FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY MAY 28TH
&
SUNDAY MAY 29TH 2022



Please note that this diagram is not an accurate representation of the Victorian Garden

**THIS MAY, HELP SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS IN COMPLETING OUR
VICTORIAN GARDEN PROJECT!**

BOUQUET WORKSHOP & CREAM TEA

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH 2022

GARDEN TEA PARTY

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH, 2022

More information to follow