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# The Cottonwood Crier

Newsletter  
March & April 2024



Spring is in the air at Cottonwood Mansion!

*Welcome to the Cottonwood Crier newsletter! Continue reading below for some exciting updates and upcoming events.*



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### OTF Capital Grant Recipient!

Cottonwood Mansion Museum is the grateful recipient of a 2023 Ontario Trillium Fund Capital Grant, in the amount of \$96,600 to restore and increase accessibility to our front porch. Due to



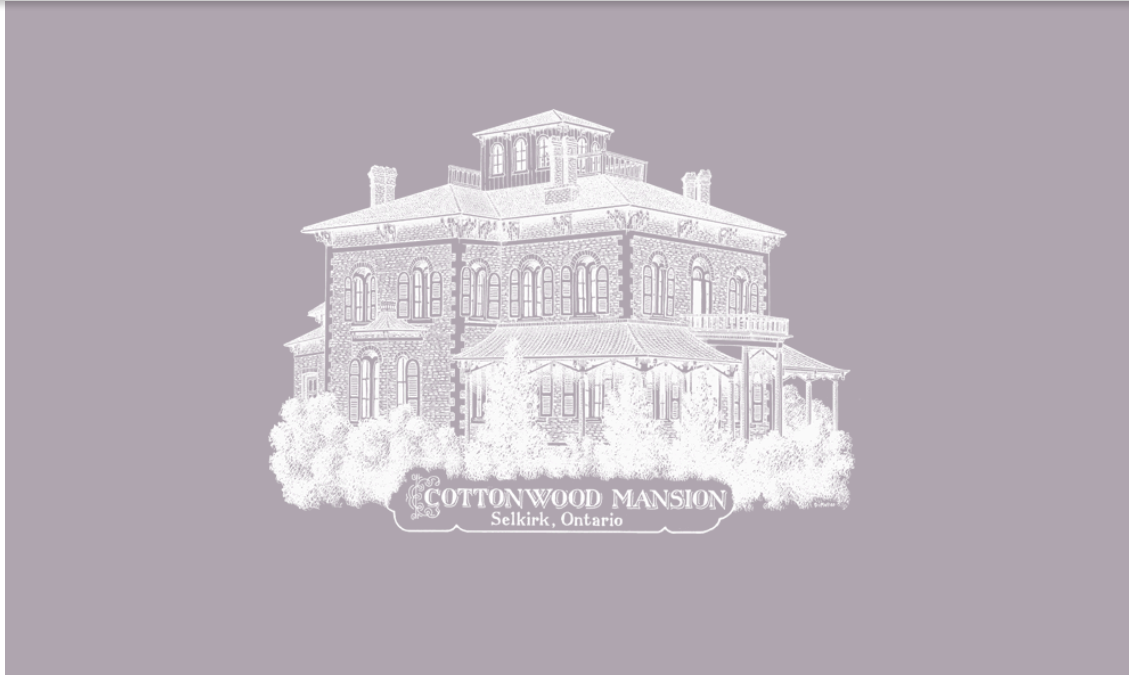
Flashback to 1992! Check out this photo taken during the original restoration of the Verandah in the Summer of 1992!

💎 💎 **You're Invited** 💎 💎

**Cottonwood Mansion Preservation Foundation Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday May 25, 2024**

**11:00 am**

All members are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting on May 25th and help shape the future! Meet the board members, connect with fellow members, and hear about some very exciting updates! We look forward to seeing you there!



## Upcoming Events



### Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Sunday, May 12, 2024

11:00am & 2:00pm

\$60 per guest

Celebrate Mom and the important women in your life at Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at Cottonwood Mansion! Enjoy the live music by our talented Harpist while you enjoy a set menu of sandwiches, scones, and treats, with a selection of tea options including our signatures, the Cottonwood Heritage Blend and the Country Blueberry Blend! This event concludes with an historic house tour of the mansion and the opportunity to visit our Gift Shop.



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Saturday, May 18th, 2024  
11:00am-3:00pm  
\$135 per guest

We are thrilled to be hosting another set of sensory-packed Victorian House Guest Experiences in 2024! We have been receiving some stellar reviews regarding this program, and we can't wait to share it with more guests. A Spring-themed experience will run in May, and more themed experiences will run through-out the year! Book your spot and enjoy the magic of being a Victorian House Guest today.



### Victorian Strawberry Social

Saturday, June 15, 2024  
11:00am-2:00pm

Get ready to jam because this event is going to be berry special! Take a walk down memory lane while enjoying strawberries, ice cream, lemonade, live music, historic house tours, and more!

Rain date June 16th, 2024.



### Queen's Afternoon Tea

Saturday, July 6th, 2024  
11:00am & 2:00pm

Celebrate the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Cottonwood Mansion's Queen's Afternoon Tea. Enjoy an exciting dressage show in honour of the Queen's love for horses and sit down to a lovely Afternoon Tea complete with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's favourite goodies and tea, of course!

Rain date: Sunday, July 7th, 2024



## Past Events and Updates

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April 27th, 2024  
6:00pm & 8:30pm

Cottonwood ran its first set of Public Paranormal Investigation of the 2024 year in partnership with Spirit Hunters Ontario. These investigations equipped guests with more equipment, and the opportunity for independent investigations.

We had lots of activity onsite! We are looking forward to hosting the next Public Paranormal Investigation in November!



### Happy National Volunteer Week!

April 14 - 20, 2024 is National Volunteer Week! Cottonwood Mansion Preservation Foundation wants to say a big thank you to all of our devoted volunteers, we are so appreciative of all of your hard work and continued contributions that make Cottonwood Mansion Museum successful!

If you would like to volunteer at Cottonwood Mansion, please reach out to us at [cottonwoodmansion@gmail.com](mailto:cottonwoodmansion@gmail.com)! We are always looking for enthusiastic help, and have a wide range of needs and skills that would be greatly appreciated.





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Tickets for the Queen's Commemorative Tea are live! Book your tickets today!

[Book Now](#)

## From the Desk of the Museum Manager

For those unaware, our current Museum Manager, Iona Whatford, has gone on maternity leave. I want to introduce myself formally. My name is Casey Monkelbaan, and I am the interim Museum Manager at Cottonwood.

I have been settling into my role here at Cottonwood over the past few months! While I have been a volunteer at the site since 2023, taking on the position of Museum Manager has been a challenge, like any new job. However, I have been lucky enough to have the full support of the Cottonwood Mansion Preservation Foundation Board during this transitional period!

I had a great experience attending Selkirk Heritage Day at the end of February and the Dunnville Lions Home and Garden Show in April. These were my first experiences representing Cottonwood Mansion, and I met and engaged with many community members. The love of Cottonwood Mansion indeed runs deep in this community!

With the warm weather approaching, I am eager to begin our busy season! I am excited to continue running our very successful Victorian Afternoon tea events and get to know this lovely community!

We have a lot of exciting events coming up, and I couldn't be more thrilled to share them with you! From the delightful Victorian Strawberry Social to the Queen's Afternoon Tea and Dressage Show, as well as the return of the highly

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I would also love to extend my reach to the greater community and the very dedicated volunteer pool at Cottonwood. Your input is invaluable in shaping our events and making this 2024 year the best it can be! We are all in this together, and your ideas and suggestions are always welcome!

- Casey Monkelbaan, interim Museum Manager



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