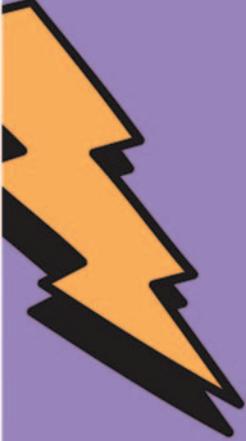




45.0°N 81.3°W

BRUCE
county

Be an explorer.



2023
The Year
in Review
Annual
Highlights



BRUCE COUNTY
museum & cultural centre

brucemuseum.ca

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



(L to R) YOR Winner, Quinn, Beau, Cathy, ; Ontario Historical Society Dorothy Duncan Public History Award.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre Recognized with Dorothy Duncan Public History Award

The year started off with our newest in-house exhibition *Made in Bruce*, concentrating on Bruce County inventions past and present. This theme of innovation continued as we started our work on three major priorities in our 2023 Business Plan. Both the reviews of the volunteer and educational programs centred around service delivery and program excellence driven through best practice research and most importantly conversations with key stakeholders. The goal for the revised museum expansion plan, kicked off in August and is expected to be completed February 2024, so stay tuned for more on this.

In 2023 we presented several new exhibitions and had the opportunity to work with many community partners to bring these stories forward. The Youth on Reconciliation exhibition which was the first year of a three-year commitment in partnership with the Legacy of Hope Foundation and Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) to bring exhibitions focused on the true history of Indigenous peoples launched in September. The BCM&CC collaborated with SON committee members to ensure each exhibition contained localized content. This exhibition had just under 100 pieces of artwork created by local youth, wellness and

educational resources and the opportunity for visitors to meet weekly with members from Chippewas of Nawash or Chippewas of Saugeen to engage in informal discussions for continued learning and better understanding. Many thanks to all the committee members who have supported this project from the start and continue to guide this reconciliation work with their knowledge, expertise, and time.

With the release of the Canadian Museum Associations *Moved to Action Report* in 2022, the BCM&CC responded to the particularly important call of repatriation. In 2023, we collaborated with SON to create a Repatriation Framework and Guideline and have actively worked to repatriate archaeological collections. So far, this work has resulted in two separate archaeological collections of 55 bankers boxes of material redirected to SON along with approximately 200 artefacts now on loan from Saugeen Ojibway Nation to the BCM&CC. We continue to make this work a priority and work in partnership with SON on collections management projects.

Other major highlights for the year include the recognition for an outstanding public history project awarded by the Ontario Historical Society Dorothy Duncan Public

History Award for the Newspaper Digitization Project, the launch of the Young Canuckstorians Veterans video diaries and the return of our Speaker event with Jesse Wentle to name a few.

Looking ahead to 2024 I am pleased to announce we have another fabulous year planned with a variety of in-house and traveling exhibitions – *The Thread of a Story: When Artefacts Inspire Art*, *Woodland People*, *True vs False*, *Indian Day School* and *Play Hard Fight Hard*. We also have several returning and new programs such as *Muse Talks*, *Black History Month*, *Wildlife Wednesdays* and much more.

We will remain focused on all our 2024 Business Plan Goals and continue to ensure we are providing relevant, engaging exhibitions, programs, and service to all our members, partners, and visitors. Thank you for your continued support and I will you all the best for 2024!

Warm regards,

Cathy McGirr
Director, Museum & Cultural Services

EXHIBITS

Made in Bruce

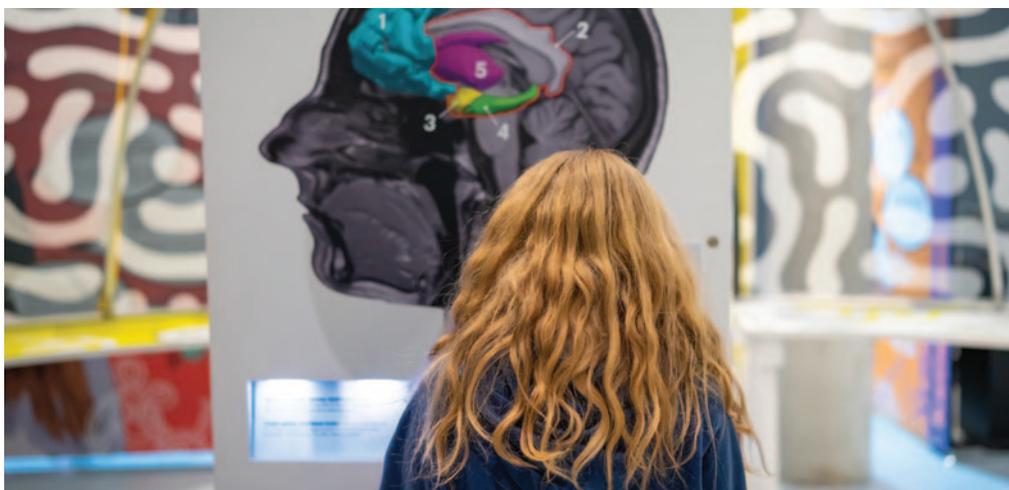
Early in the new year, we launched our Made in Bruce exhibit, showcasing Bruce County's most innovative individuals—inventors who made their mark by developing new products and tools, or by making improvements on existing designs. The exhibit featured inventions such as W.A. Gerolamy's fanning mill, Krug Bros Ltd.'s dresser drawers, Donald McKenzie's hockey stick, and more. Indigenous innovations included snowshoes, canoes and life sustaining vessels of various materials.



A selection of local inventions featured in the Made in Bruce exhibit.

Teens: Creative Minds

Teens: Creative Minds, a travelling exhibit from the Musée Nature Sciences (Sherbrooke, QC) delved into the mysteries and marvels of the teenage mind. The exhibit included profiles of 11 Canadian teenagers from the past 100 years who paved the way for innovation with the hope of changing the world, with interactive displays of their major inventions. This exhibit was made possible in part by the Government of Canada and the J. Armand Bombardier Foundation and was proudly presented by Ontario Power Generation and media partner 101.7 The One.



Visitors explore the mysteries of the teenage brain in our summer exhibit, Teens: Creative Minds.

Escarpment Roots: The Land, the People, the Story

This juried art show by the Bruce Peninsula Society of Artists (BPSA) explored the rich heritage and breathtaking landscapes of the Niagara Escarpment. The show featured captivating artworks created by talented local artists who drew inspiration from the interplay between the land, its people, and the fascinating stories that shape the region's identity. The show concluded with a closing reception in early September and the awarding of a People's Choice Award, which went to Anita Cunningham for her quilt submission titled "Baby Hummingbird."



People's Choice Award Winner "Baby Hummingbird"; quilt by Anita Cunningham.

This Must Be the Place

Bold colours, big scale and creative storytelling came together in the very first exhibition of work by Bruce County-based artist Heather Lynne Travis. The show featured a collection of over 30 artworks that invited new conversations around childless heroes – including pop culture icons like Dolly Parton, Ina Garten, Missy Elliott, and others — and celebrated the diverse stories of women without children and infertility.



Heather Lynne Travis strikes a pose during the public opening of her exhibit, *This Must Be the Place*.



Artwork submissions from local youth inspired by the meaning of Reconciliation.

Legacy of Hope: Youth on Reconciliation

Opening in September, this exhibition reflected on Reconciliation through the artistic expression of youth in Canada, featuring artwork and poems by winners of the first Imagine a Canada competition (March 2016). Artworks by local youth, and educational resources were also included with drop-in opportunities to meet with community members from the Chippewas of Saugeen and Chippewas of Nawash, for a more personal perspective on the exhibit.



Saugeen First Nations Indigenous Veterans Day Display



85th Anniversary of Southampton Rotary Club

Community Displays

Displays included Saugeen First Nations Indigenous Veterans Day, 85th Anniversary of Southampton Rotary Club, MMIWG, and Truth and Reconciliation Day.



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls display



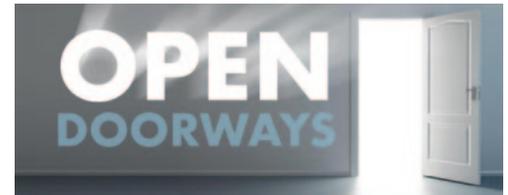
Ribbon Skirt in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day

Launched Digital Exhibits

4

Visit: brucemuseum.ca/exhibits

Ne'bwaakaah giizwed ziibi



COLLECTIONS

During 2023, over 400 items were digitized and added to our online collection, bringing the total number of objects to more than 3,100. Newly digitized items include new accessions, the Alan Weinstein Art Collection, and artefacts from other projects.

20 new stories were added to the Stories & Artefacts section of the museum's website, bringing the total to 98 stories featuring more than 375 images and objects. Story topics include Bruce County folk schools, Hannah Rusk Kelly and miniature paintings, Bruce Peninsula zinc mines, the Saugeen Mineral Water Company, and post offices. Collections received over 26 new donations, which included more than 85 artefacts.

Some highlights include:



Captain Spence Teapot (2023.002.001)

This teapot is part of a set that was presented to Captain John Spence by the village of South-ampton for his efforts in the rescue of the propeller New York in October 1876. The teapot complements a slops bowl and pocket watch, also within the museum's collection, awarded to Captain Spence for the same rescue.



Dr. Barnardo's Home Child Medallion (2023.011.001)

The medal was given to Edward James Surrige, who was a British Home Child from the Barnardo's Homes. Surrige arrived in Canada in 1910 and was sent to help with farming duties at the home of John C. McKenzie and Mary "Minnie" Kinmond in Kincardine Township. The medallions were given to boys who stayed in their first placement after arrival and obtained good conduct for at least two years.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

During February's Black History Month presentation, titled "Erasing Erasure," we were joined by Dorothy Abbot of the Grey County Heritage Society and local researcher Aly Boltman, who spoke about her work on the Potters Field Project in Owen Sound, identifying unmarked historical grave sites where many Black and Indigenous community members were placed. Ottawa-based historian William Felepchuk spoke about Black families and their settlement patterns within Bruce County.



Visitors get up close with some critters during the Animal Antics Family Day show.

We saw a packed house for our Animal Antics Family Day show, with presentations by Speaking of Wildlife and Zoo to You, Eco bird feeder crafts, and a pop-up pet adoption clinic with Carroll's Animal Sanctuary and Rescue.



Making eco-bird feeders during Family Day!

March Break was a hit among children and parents alike with a week-long schedule of educational and entertaining activities for families. The Museum hosted magic and wildlife shows featuring local Ontario fauna and birds of prey, presented historical deep dives, and held robot battles in the Bruce Gallery.



Program Coordinator Evan Vatri shows off artefacts in Bevans General Store during March Break.

Our sold-out "Breakout of the Bruce" bus tours, made possible by New Horizons for Seniors, led us out of the County for a memorable excursion to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Participants explored permanent exhibits, Collections and new shows including Cree artist Kent Monkman's "Being Legendary," and "Global Fashion and Textiles." We also travelled to Stratford to witness the humor and spectacle of the popular musical "Spamalot."



Dr. John takes visitors on a journey into outer space during March Break.

In the depths of winter, we got cozy with our companion "Break out of the Bruce" book club. 15 seniors read and discussed the award-winning historical/fantasy novel, *The Invisible Life Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab. For many, the program offered a chance to get back out into the community after the height of COVID.



ROM Bus Trip: A group of seniors enjoys their first tour at the Royal Ontario Museum.



Break Out of the Bruce Book Club participants meet to chat about the selected novel.

In recognition of Pride Month, we hosted a screening of the award-winning CBC Doc “Take Me to Prom,” with a visit from the film’s director Andrew Moir, and a post-film discussion on broader political issues facing LGBTQ+ groups today. We also worked with the Bruce County Public Library to again display our “Book Nook” which housed a growing collection of 2SLGBTQ+-friendly reads.



Pride 2023 Equality Panel speakers, (L to R) Fort Papalia (Kincardine Pride), Andrew Moir, Lesley Birchard (CBC), Evan (BCM&CC) Pastor Gord (United Church), Joe Wesley (Saugeen First Nation).

We had another busy summer with weekly Museum tours and our sold-out Wildlife shows throughout July and August. Visitors got to see and handle a diverse range of local animals, including reptiles, rescued forest fauna, and rare birds found within Canada. Our cultural demonstrations also continued with presentations from author Dorothy Ladd, local knowledge keeper Natacka Pucan, Elder Shirley John, Parks Canada, Chef Zach Keeshig, and the Historic Saugeen Metis.



Hanging out with reptiles during this summer’s Wonderful Wildlife shows.

We closed out the summer with our Sunday at the Symphony show, which brought the magic of live classical music to the Museum with a symphony performance by returning guests Music on the Bruce, featuring musicians Shane Kim on violin, Caitlin Boyle on viola, and Sarah Pratt-Parsamian on violin.



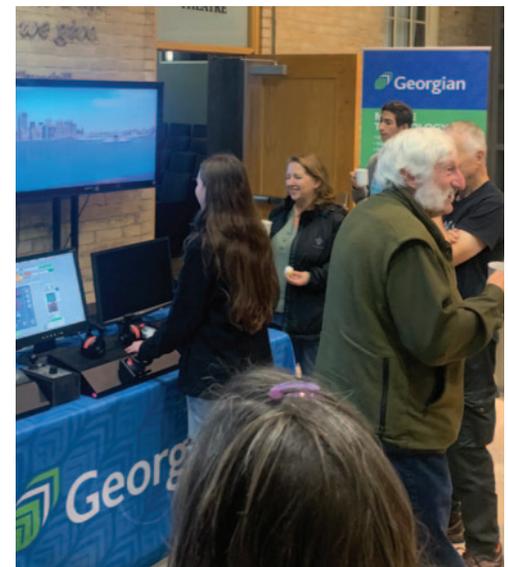
Chef Zach Keeshig demonstrates how to clean a Lake Trout.

Our Muse-Talks program continued with a double feature on innovative new technologies in both the healthcare and maritime sector. Guest speakers from Georgian College brought cutting-edge educational equipment for guests to test out. New to the program this year, a sold-out Muse-Talks for juniors, which featured a Disney Sing-along with local singer Erin Milley-Patey and Christina Edwards on piano.



Elder Shirley John shares teachings with community members of all ages during Cultural Demonstrations.

In November, Bruce Remembers program commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Italian Campaign (1943) with a presentation by returning guest—, acclaimed historian and author Tim Cook. The event—, hosted by local historian Mat Johnson —, shed light on the impact that this dangerous and complex battle had on Canadian military efforts during the Second World War and highlighted the bravery of the individuals who fought.



Guests interact with Marine navigation technology from Georgian College with Captain Colin MacNeil (Georgian College).

EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

This year we welcomed many students back to the Museum for their first field trip in years! Over 1800 students and 250 teachers and parents attended our programs at the Museum and in classrooms with our Mobile Museum. Artefact identification, gallery visits, songs, games, STEM challenges, visual art, outdoor exploration, and special guests were just a few programming highlights. In coordination with our temporary summer exhibit *Teens: Creative Minds*, we also featured a program that saw teen and adult visitors try to overcome an escape room challenge!

Our popular PA Maker Days were expanded in 2023 with STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) programming around exhibits like *Made in Bruce*, and seasonal themes. Kids explored their creativity as they designed, built, and experimented with their fellow friends and campmates.

During Earth Week, the Museum offered presentations and educational activities from the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the Bluewater Education Foundation - Outdoor Education Centre. Created in collaboration with Bruce Power, these digital programs focused on species-at-risk, their impacts on local habits and biodiversity, and what we can do to protect these species.

The KidZone Summer Discovery Day Camp ran for eight weeks in July and August, providing a safe and fun space for children ages 5-10. Led by two summer students and assisted by our dedicated junior volunteers, the summer was full of educational crafts, games, outdoor play, Museum exhibit exploration and workshops. The campers were also able to attend the Marine Heritage Festival's boatmaking workshop.

2023 also saw the return of our Museum Munchkins program. Aimed at children ages 18 months to four years, the Munchkins activities such as dot-colouring, sensory toys, sorting activities, playdough, parachute games, and more. Themes such as Lunar New Year, Little Dinos and Music &



Grade 2/3 students ask Museum volunteer John Park about artefacts in Bevan's General Store.



Grade 3 and 4 students from Arran-Tara Elementary School dig for fossils.



Paisley Kids and Us campers build a LEGO™ tower during their design challenge program.



Students build a LEGO™ tower during a design challenge program.



Summer student Willow leads Maker Day participants in a snack-craft building challenge.



Heather Lynne Travis leads Maker Day participants in an art workshop.

Movement were enjoyed by all.

The last program of the year was Merry Munchkins where children learned about the value of giving back by 'shopping' for ingredients in the Museum's Bevan's General Store to create a meal kit that could be donated to an area food bank.

Digital Educational Resources

Check out our online Education Centre for additional learning resources related to BCM&CC exhibits and programs! These resources are suitable for grades 1-12 and are great tools for both educators and parents looking to add to their experience after visiting the Museum.



March Break campers go back in time while exploring the Bruce Remembers exhibit.



March Break campers carefully watch a snapping turtle during the Speaking of Wildlife show.



A March Break camper helps out during the Baker Magic Show.



March Break campers work together to turn a large millstone under the watchful eye of camp leader Arianna.



Summer student Willow leads Summer Camp participants in a watercolor painting activity.



Museum campers work together on a DUPLO® building.



Night at the Museum participants take stage directions from program facilitators Leo Dragonieri and Julia Scaringi.



Museum Munchkins with their parents and guardians working on a craft.

ARCHIVES & RESEARCH ROOM

During 2023, the Archives continued to connect people with information in-person and online.

- 19,700 items are described in Online Collections
- 28,000+ images are viewable in Online Collections
- 7,950 soldiers are recognized on Bruce remembers.org
- 2,230 volunteer hours were contributed to the Archives
- 115 donations of archival records received

Online Resources

175 soldiers were added to bruceremembers.org this year. Hundreds of soldier records were also edited, adding over 300 newspaper clippings and 550 soldier profile photos. We continue to accept soldier information, photos, letters and diaries for Bruce Remembers and our Online Collection.

2,415 items were added to the Archives, Photos and Library sections of Online Collections (collections.bruce-museum.ca), thanks to the work of staff, 11 volunteers, a Young Canada Works intern, a Mohawk College Library Technician Program field placement student, and a Saugeen District Senior School co-op student.

In 2023, an additional 2,000 digitized newspaper issues were uploaded to newspapers.bruce-museum.ca. These include Walkerton Herald-Times issues from 1935-1967, Teeswater News issues up to 1930, Hepworth Progress issues from 1911-1920, and Paisley Advocate issues, 1867-1889.

Events & Reference Services

Archives Awareness Week focused on the Archives' mandate to collect materials reflecting all cultures in the County of Bruce. It included presentations by Historic Saugeen Metis Executive Director Jenna McGuire and May Ip, founder of the Grey Bruce Chinese Heritage and Culture Association. Archives staff assisted about 1,800 visitors and researchers, either in-person or by email and phone.

Archives Collection Highlights

The adage "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" is proven true by many of the photographs and picture postcards in the BCM&CC Collection. They evoke feelings and relay information about events, places, people and time periods more effectively than verbal descriptions alone. In 2023 around 500 photographs and postcards were donated to the Archives. Many of the donated images were accompanied by written biographies, reminiscences, or articles, providing context and making them even more valuable to those wanting to explore our past. If you have images that reflect experiences in the County, please consider donating them by contacting archives@brucecounty.on.ca.



Archivist Deb Sturdevant assists Researcher Audra Bolton.

Business photographs reflect the role of industries and experiences of their employees.



Hugh John Fitzsimmon, for Kincardine Fuel Co., at Kincardine Trade Show ca. 1960, A2023.001.002.

Military photographs honour our veterans and reflect their experiences during conflicts.



98th Anti-Tank Battery in action, by Edmund Fitton Scott, A2023.034.001-005.

Picture postcards depicting places help us take a step back in time and visualize changes in our communities.



Tobermory, Ont. ca. 1940, by B.P. Colcloug, A2023.068.028.

Family photographs reflect fashion, occupations, places, relationships, and more.



Mabel and Carl Gruetzner (on the right) at Southampton Tennis Court on the corner of Gilbert and Thompson Lanes, ca. 1920, A2023.039.001.

Young Canuckstorians Project

In collaboration with The Young Canuckstorian Project and the 340 Griffin Squadron Air Cadets, the BCM&CC, led by Archives Staff, launched the Young Canuckstorians – Bruce Remembers digital exhibit on November 10, 2023. This project features six 6-8 minute commemorative

video vignettes that highlight the experiences of First World War Bruce County soldiers as reflected in their diaries and letters housed in the BCM&CC Archives, along with the experiences of some of our Nursing Sisters and women on the Home Front. In November, veterans and cadets enjoyed a private premiere

screening of the videos. The videos may be viewed from brucemuseum.ca's Exhibits and Education Centre pages. This project was made possible by Veterans Affairs Canada: Commemorative Partnership Program, Walkerton Legion, Tobermory Legion and Peter Meyer, in memory of his mother.



Cadets who worked on the Young Canuckstorian Project pose for a photo L) Cadet Corporal Sarah Elliott, Young Canuckstorian Project founder Mickey Maple, Cadet Corporal Tyler Little, Cadet Flight Corporal William Toby, Cadet Corporal Christine Mba, 340 Griffin Squadron Air Cadets Civilian Instructor Andrew Reinhart.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Volunteers Muriel Shular and Gord Sprule are all smiles while providing bar service during an event.

Our volunteer program went through a full review in 2023. As a result, several new initiatives have been implemented, including the hiring of staff volunteer coordinator, Matt Smith. A big thank you to volunteer Dwight Clarke, over the past 10 years overseeing the program and his dedication to service for the BCM&CC and its patrons.

Our Museum volunteers worked more than 3,500 hours collectively this year, working on archives, special events, collections, landscaping, children's activities and much more.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who might be, please visit the volunteer section of our website brucemuseum.ca or email masmith@brucecounty.on.ca.



Volunteer Larry Kerr works on the Bruce County Railway Exhibit.

REVENUE DEVELOPMENT



Development Officer Renata Bell (Right) receives a sponsorship contribution from Kaitlyn Nevill of Ontario Power Generation (OPG).

Sponsorships & Community Partners

We are grateful for our sponsors and community partners who enabled us to bring over 20 events and programs to life in the Bruce County community! In 2023, we welcomed two new sponsors to our list of supporters including Nuclear Promise X and TD Bank Group.

If you're interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities for 2024, please visit us at www.brucemuseum.ca. Thank you for your continued support!

51
Community
Partners in
2023

Over
550
Membership
Holders



Jesse Wenthe live on October 19th at the Port Elgin UNIFOR Family Education Centre.

Donors

Our speakers event made its return in 2023 with over 250 participants in attendance. The event featured a talk by Indigenous advocate Jesse Wenthe, and included a signing opportunity for his award-winning book, *Unreconciled: Family, Truth and Indigenous Resistance*. All funds raised at the event supported the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre's Archives expansion.

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors who enable us to continue to inspire, educate and remain the destination of choice for exploring Bruce County's collective history.

If you're interested in learning more about how you can become a donor, please visit brucemuseum.ca. Donations can be made in a variety of ways, which include general donations, and commemorative and memorial gifts, in addition to supporting our Endowment Fund.

NEW STAFF AT BCM&CC

Matt Smith, Volunteer Coordinator

Thing you like the best about BCM&CC?

So far, the best part of the BCM&CC is the people. Both the staff and volunteers have been very generous with their time and knowledge.

Where are you from?

I grew up in Barrie but moved to Kincardine in 2011.

Where were you before you started with us?

Over the last 12 years, I worked with Rogers TV in Kincardine.

Membership

Our membership base experienced steady growth in 2023 and we were excited to introduce new membership benefits to our already lengthy list of perks. Starting in 2023, Museum members had the opportunity to pre-register for our popular children's March Break and Summer camps. Members also received an exclusive invite to our exhibit opening for Teens: Creative Minds where they enjoyed a first glimpse of the exhibit while enjoying some treats! During the holiday season, members who attended our Light Up the Holidays event received a members-exclusive holiday treat bag.

Thank you to our members for being part of our Museum family! Learn more about how YOU can become a member at brucemuseum.ca.



*Matt Smith,
Volunteer Coordinator*



45.0°N 81.3°W

BRUCE
county

Be an explorer.



Thank You!

Members, Donors, Community Partners,
Sponsors and Volunteers

brucemuseum.ca



BRUCE COUNTY
museum & cultural centre

33 Victoria St. N., Southampton ON N0H2L0 (519) 797-2080 Toll Free: 1-866-318-8889 www.brucemuseum.ca

Thank You to our 2023 Partners!

