

Subject: FW: Discovery North Bay Museum Newsletter

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MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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Lest We Forget

I recently visited my grandparents in Brockville. I am very lucky to have a great relationship with both my grandmother and grandfather. They are now in their eighties (my grandmother will be annoyed I have given this secret away!) As active, involved community members and volunteers, I can only hope that my retirement will be as rich, well travelled and healthy as theirs has been. Everything I enjoy in life, including a wonderful job, a happy family, a lovely home, and the freedom to do as I choose, I owe to Canadians like my grandfather.

During this most recent trip to see my grandparents, I spotted a large photo album that I had never seen before. In this album, I was amazed to find Grandpa had documented his years overseas. Having taken an interest in photography as a young man, he photographed the ocean, ruined cities, and groups of his fellow young soldiers huddled together on the floor of railcars for warmth.

My grandfather is an Air Force Veteran. I used to think Grandpa chose not to speak about his experiences overseas, however it dawned on me perhaps I had never truly taken the time to ask specific questions.

Some people are gifted storytellers, and my grandfather is one of these people. Not a man of many words, he can artfully combine brief yet descriptive commentary that leaves the listener with a clear picture of events. He also loves to tell a good joke.

Like many young men in his generation, when he enlisted, he looked forward to adventure and travel in countries unknown to him. My grandmother and grandfather, already dating, waited to marry until after the war, writing letters to each other and dreaming of the future.

Three weeks after my trip to visit Grandma and Grandpa, I am still scanning photographs from Grandpa's album, anxious to hear more of the stories associated with them. I hope that you will enjoy a few of his photos below.

Left: Charles Buell (Grandpa) Middle: a soldier in the window of the officer's mess celebrating victory by uncorking a bottle of champagne. Right: a Dutch family holding a sign that reads "Canada".



Heritage preservation, a few simple ideas.



Maureen Cowcill is a fascinating lady! She is a Museum volunteer at Discovery North Bay. She is making a difference in heritage preservation in her community. Not long ago, we gave her a 10 minute assignment to think about some simple, yet important tips for heritage preservation. In record time, she rattled off countless ideas about involving youth and families in taking ownership of their heritage.

Now it is your turn. Can you think of ways to make a difference in heritage preservation?

Here are a few of Maureen's thoughts;

1. Research and document your family history. Include anecdotes, family traditions, favourite recipes, means of support (farming, trapping, commerce, etc). Go back as far as you can. Explore your heritage to see where you fit in.
2. Create a family historical scrapbook which can be added to over the years.
3. Involve children in activities like baking bread, growing food, making things from 'scratch', playing with hoops and balls rather than video games. Help them experience a former way of life.
4. If you have some interesting anecdotes or artifacts from days of old, offer to share them in a school.
5. Take a look at your community and try to figure out why it started. Was it location? Water supply? Farm land? Trade route? For example, fortified castles in England were built with the goal of being easily defended, on high ground.
6. Is your community near water? Could you build a replica of the types of crafts used to travel on the water?
7. Some streets are named after people. Who are these people and what did they do that resulted in a street being named after them?
8. Label your photographs!
9. 100 years from now, your own life will be 'history'. Do you plan to leave something for future generations to help them understand the triumphs and struggles that your generation faced?