

Amherstburg Historic Sites Association: Park House Museum

Full Programming Guide



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Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Park House Museum is to collect, preserve, study and exhibit the heritage of the town of Amherstburg and its people.

The Museum will strive to collect artifacts and documents that depict the town and its people's past in the terms of settlement, cultural achievement, trade and marine history which brought about the growth of the town to its present state.

The museum will provide for the preservation and availability of such material for all those who wish to see and study it, to further understand the heritage of the town and its people.

The institution will be a non-profit educational establishment operated for the betterment of the town and open to the public regardless of race, creed, gender, age or occupation.



Our Mission Statement

The Park House Museum exists to inspire appreciation for the heritage of the Town of Amherstburg and its people through the presentation, preservation and study of its collections.

Complete Listing of Programs Offered at the Park House Museum

If you've missed one of our special events, but you were still interested in the topic... we are now offering a la carte packages. You can book any program for an individual (**Historic Foods Series excluded) or small group; all programs must be booked in advanced. Please contact the museum for details and pricing.

A La Carte

Lecture Series *

History of the Park House and the Fur Trade
Aboriginals in Southwestern Ontario: 8000BC - 1450
Politics and Victorian Fashion
Social Etiquette
Importance of Herb Gardens in the 19 Century
Victorian Medicine and Disease
Women in the 19th Century
Women in Film in Pre Code Hollywood
Early Urban Development
Canadian Army Medical Corps Nursing Sisters and the Great War
Amherstburg at War 1914 - 1918
Canadian Women in the Military 1899 - 1945
Food Rationing in Wartime Canada
History of Hallowe'en
Murders and Mayhem in Amherstburg
Canning and Food Preservation
Ghost Tours
The Benefit of Public History

The Lectures Series can be combined with the Victorian Tea program

Hands - On - Series

Baking
Basic Crochet
Churning Butter
Hearth Cooking
Introduction to Historic Costuming
Introductory Millinery
Making Candles
Quill Penmanship
The Writing Workshop
Tinsmithing

Historic Foods Series **

The Loyalist Stew (5 to 16 people indoors, or up to 25 outdoors)

WW1 Dining: Food in the Trenches (5 to 16 people indoors, or up to 25 outdoors)

A Victorian Tea (2 to 16 people)

Victorian Dining Experience (groups of 6 to 8 people only)

Life-Long Learning (For Academics, Career, Scouts, or Just because)

Public Speaking Skills

Paper Editing

Grammar in Writing

Essay and Research Writing

Resume Writing

Camping Essentials

Knots and Lashings

Winter/ Summer Outdoor Skills

Campfire Cooking: 101

Sewing Basics - Buttons, Mending, Hemming, and Badges

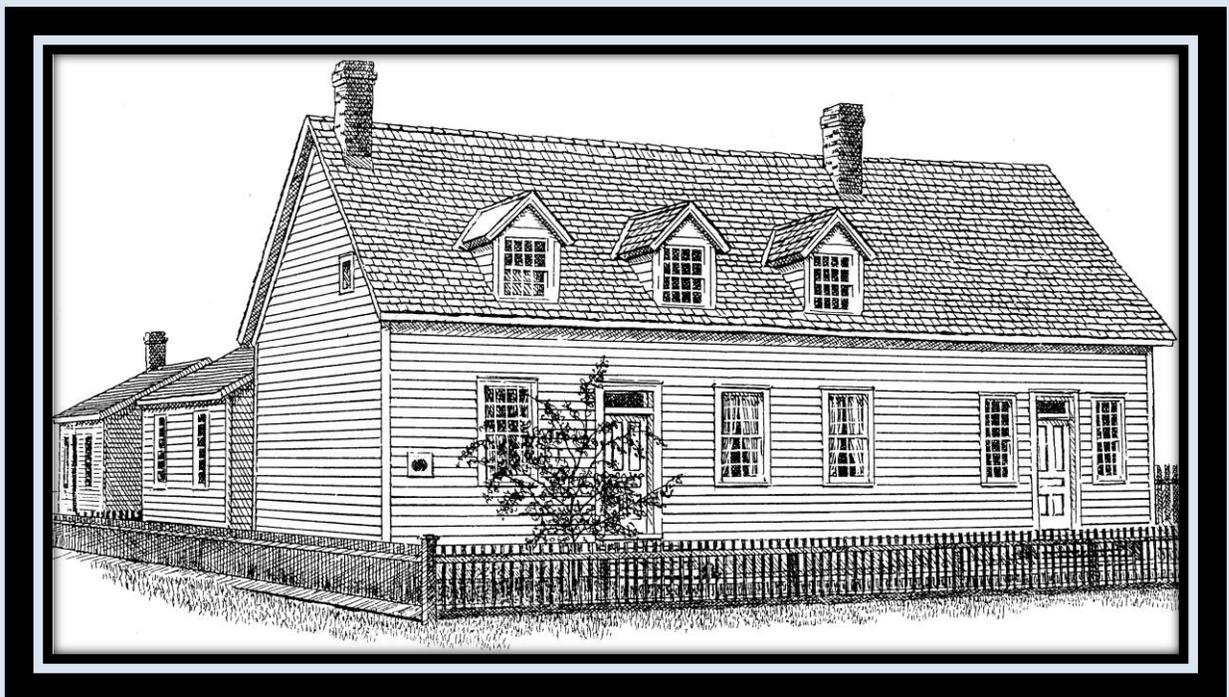
Citizenship

Hosting a Dinner Party – Essentials

Music

Music Off the Back Porch

Woodwind and Brass Music Lessons (Excluding trombone)



Curriculum Based Field Trips

Pre School:

Cookies and Books with the Parks

Children get to listen to a story read by a costumed interpreter. A juice box and cookies are included with this program, which is geared toward children in preschool.

Elementary School Programs

Heritage and Identity: 1780 - 1850

****Most Popular JK - 3 Program****

This wonderful program illustrates the lifestyle of pioneer children and their families. Students learn how children lived without running water, indoor washrooms, electricity, and gender roles. Students are able to visually compare historical differences with today's society. What did pioneer children do for fun? Join us for the spectacular walk through and hands on activity. A hands-on activity is included with the tour.

Healthy Habits: Disease and Medical Development in Canadian History

This program investigates healthy habits, medical practices of our ancestors, local progress, the development of germ theory, gender roles, and the professionalization of nursing. Students are able to view Victorian medical instruments. What do we do differently? Hands-on Activity is included with this tour.

Land, Economics, and Politics: Loyalists and the Fur Trade

****Most Popular J/I Program****

This comprehensive program looks at the trade relations between the Native Americans and Early Europeans, development of Canada, and its relevance to the museum. The students also gain an outlook into the settlement of Windsor and Essex County. Students will gain the opportunity to critical assess the negative and positive aspects of the fur trade and land development.

The American Revolution and the Park House History: House Tour

Built in the 1790's at the mouth of the Rouge River in Michigan, this house is rooted in a rather unusual history; during the house tour students learn of the house history and of its connection to the United States. Mrs. Park was the granddaughter of a Rev War and 1812 veteran, so how does this relate to American Revolution and its affect regarding the development of a Canadian town? Hands-on activity is included with this tour.

French Settlements in Essex County

While the program is in the delivered in the English language, it is rather rich in cultural heritage. Students take a look into the past and discover French influences during the settlement of Essex County. Highlights include: Assumption Missionary, settlement of Detroit, the Fur Trade, First Nations, the Seven Years' War, and Petite Cote. Hands-on activity is included with this tour.

Past Traditions: Victorian Christmas

Suitable for children in the primary grades, this whimsical program illustrates how children and families celebrated Christmas in the 1850's. Stringing popcorn, singing carols, baking cookies and making crafts are among the number of possibilities to customize this programs to your students' needs and interests.

Past Traditions: All Hallows Eve and the Autumn Harvest

This program examines at the history of Halloween. Beginning with the Irish tradition of All Hallows Eve and 19th Century immigration to Essex County, students learn of the transition into the Halloween that we know today. At the same time, students learn the importance of the harvest and celebration surrounding autumn. Students are able to see Edwardian decorations and try a hands-on activity. This program is also available as a secondary/ post – secondary lecture.

Secondary School Programs

Politics and Fashion in Victorian Britain

Politics, Industrial Revolution, the Royal Family, Trade Unionism, Gender Roles, Consumerism, and Fashion in Victorian Britain; students will learn how these are all interconnected while examining clothing artifacts from the era.

Oh Grammar, You're So Funny!

Designed for senior high school and post-secondary students, this lecture based program is satirical sketch designed to promote proper grammar and facilitate functional writing skills.

Archaeological Studies: Culture and Artifacts in Southwestern Ontario

This programs looks at various Aboriginal cultures in Southwestern Ontario (8000 BC to 1800 AD). Students are able to examine arrow points in the museum's collection and discuss methods of surveying, excavation, and artifact collection.

Women and War, 1914 – 1945

This is a lecture based program that looks at the role of women in the First and Second World Wars. What types of policies were introduced that contribute to contemporary society?

Permanent Exhibits

The Victorian Home

The Park House Museum was owned by the Park Family for over 100 years... hence the name. In commemoration to the height of its mercantile success, the main floor has been restored to the Park's 1850's residence and is our permanent display. In a home built without electricity and running water, come and explore how your ancestors lived without our modern convinces.

Loyalists and the Fur Trade

When Detroit was ceded to the United States, following the Revolutionary War, the owners decided to dismantle the building and float it down the Detroit River to Amherstburg. Come and See how this historic building is rooted in a romantic history and learn of its role in the Fur Trade. How was this small town affected by a War fought in the United States? What was the role of Aboriginals in our community and their relationship with early European settlers?

Temporary Exhibits and Displays

Second Floor Exhibition Room

The second floor exhibition room is home to our temporary exhibits. These exhibits are redesigned two to four times per calendar year. Biannual Exhibits include the Children's General Store, Vintage Family Game Room, and Victorian Medicine. The annual Vintage Doll and Toy Exhibit displays in November and December of each year. The Summer Exhibit premieres every July to October, with the occasional June or May opening. Summer exhibits, generally a one of, feature items from our community collection; these artifacts are arranged thematically to illustrate another piece of Amherstburg's history. Past Exhibits have included, Amherstburg and the Great War, Amherstburg in the 1920's, Photographs and Tintypes, Amherstburg Wedding Culture in the 19th and 20th Century, Amherstburg during WWII, Vintage Valentine's Day Cards, Craftsmanship and 19th Century Tools, and Fashion and Gender Roles...

Main Floor Exhibits through the Seasons

During each year the main floor is decorated to tastefully coordinate with the historic nature of the season. October presents a Victorian Funeral in the parlor and a 1920's Halloween Party in the dining room. Mid- November through December visitors can view Victorian Christmas decorations in our beautifully decorated parlor, dining room, office, and kitchen. Our front yard is home to: the beautiful heritage herb and flower garden from May through September, a harvest theme and massive scarecrow in October, and cedar garlands with beautiful bows in November and December.

Annual Events

Canada Day - July 1st

Hand-On Heritage – Every weekend in July and August

All Hallows Eve Festival – Third Sunday in October

A Dicken Christmas: Victorian Traditions - Last Sunday in November/ First Sunday in December

Throughout the year temporary events will be advertised such as: WW1 Christmas in Amherstburg, WWII Christmas in Amherstburg, Victorian Afternoon Tea, Harry Potter Day Camp, Princess/ Prince for a Day, Vintage Movie Outdoors, Confederation House, WW1 House etc...

A General Walk -In Tour

A general walk-in tour will consist of a guided-tour of the house, a background history, and the cultural relevance of town of Amherstburg throughout its existence. All permanent exhibits are included with the tour as well as special exhibits. Visitors are always welcome to take a self-guided tour. The museum is child friendly and offers a scavenger hunt; there are three to choose from that are geared to different age groups. We understand that children have a tendency to touch items, so we have carefully chosen an artifact(s) from each room that may be handled. There are 10 rooms to explore located between the first and second floor; the Pensioner's Cottage has two additional artisan rooms, containing a tin shop and printing press that may be viewed (weather permitting).