

Agenda

Westport Historical Committee

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

1:00 p.m.

Additions to /Approval of Agenda

Previous Minutes

Archives Update

Curator's report

New Business

Year end close up

Social Media coverage over winter

New Council contact

Roundtable

Adjournment

Next Meeting at the call of new chairperson.

Curator's Report—September, 2022

1. Visitor Count: We have had a terrific season—even by pre-pandemic standards—with just under 2,300 visitors through the museum. By this point in 2019 we had 1,999 visitors.
2. Money brought in: It has been a fantastic year for sales and admissions—as of September 25th, we have brought in \$4,086.47 in admissions and \$2,145.00 in book sales, for a total of \$6,231.47. In comparison, in 2019 (which was our last pre-pandemic season) our total was \$5,963.40, and we still have two weeks left to bring in more money this season!
3. The 3rd Book: I have come to realize that the 3rd book of Westport will have to be for a decade, as I am closing in on 300 pages and still am not through 1938, so I have some editing to do, as we won't want to go over 350 pages because then we'd have to charge more. I will have it done by the spring of 2023. Some of the photos from the first two books I have had to reuse in this one, because we need to keep in mind that some people might not have purchased book 1 and 2 and they will need context in the photos. I have tried to use as few repeats as possible.
4. Acquisitions: We have had a few exciting items come in recently and they will be great for next season.

Masonic Lodge Artifacts: Barb McCulloch brought in a large leather bag of Masonic items which belonged to W.C. Taylor—everything from sashes and medals to booklets and manuals. I think we have enough items to do a Masonic display next season, if everyone thinks that's okay.

Portrait of George Earl Wing: Brenda and Chris Wing donated an oval-framed portrait of George Wing who was killed at Vimy Ridge. John Wing has also donated cards sent home to Westport from the war from George Wing, as well. These will be a great addition to our military display next season.

1940s Doll House: Karen McMahon brought in a hand-made dollhouse made in the 1930s or 40s and she will also bring in a photo of the original owner with the item and a date of 1941. It isn't large, so it is on the floor of the child's bedroom.

Scale (will be brought to the museum in the spring): Robb Merkley is donating a large, meat-weighing scale which was in his family's meat shop. He says it is quite accurate (just off by a few pounds), and it's big enough that a family could weigh themselves on it. I think this will be a really fun attraction for people.

5. Summer Student: This season we had a student for 3 days a week (20 hours). Her name was Piper Paterson and she is a relative of Gwen Tobin. Piper will be going through the course in Applied Museum Studies at Algonquin College, so she was very well-suited for the position of Assistant Curator. If we get funding next summer, we hope she will be able to return.

6. Winter projects: Over the winter I will be working on completing the 3rd book of Westport, as there is still a lot of work to be done on it. I will also be finishing up the scanning of the Wing Collection slides (which also includes a multitude of family photos of the Wing family that aren't put online and will be given to John and Sue Wing on a disc upon completion), and posting old issues of the Review-Mirror to our Facebook page.

6. Closing up for winter: The Museum will close for the season on Thanksgiving Sunday. After that, I will do the usual to get ready for winter and shut off the water and drain the pipes.