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# NORTH TONAWANDA HISTORY MUSEUM NEWS

712 OLIVER STREET – (716) 213-0554 – [WWW.NTHISTORYMUSEUM.COM](http://WWW.NTHISTORYMUSEUM.COM)

OPEN TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS FROM NOON TO 4:PM

Volume 3, Issue 1

April, 2020

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## Pandemic's Effect on the Museum

Howard Roeske

After being closed for exhibit upgrading all of February, the museum reopened on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and then closed again on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

We had a few admission-paying visitors in the two weeks the museum was open, and a couple of members visit during that time. The museum did kick-off its Spring Speaker Series with Gerald Haligan which resulted in some donations.

However, other scheduled presentations and fund raisers are postponed indefinitely. Consequently, our revenue stream has stopped

The regular volunteers that are dedicated to making the museum a place of pride have been coming in at staggered times to continue their fine work.

.Only about 1/3 of the membership renewals have been returned to date. Annual membership renewals and donations are what keep the museum open. If you haven't yet returned your renewal, please consider doing that soon. I thank all of our members whom have already done so.

The Membership / Renewal form can be downloaded from [WWW.NTHistoryMuseum.COM](http://WWW.NTHistoryMuseum.COM)

For the information of our out of town readers, the NTHS Multi-class reunion and Canal Fest have been cancelled for this year.

## Looking for NTHS Yearbooks

The museum is looking to add the following NTHS yearbooks to the reference library.

1928 1947 1955 1966 1968 1975  
1977 – 1991 and 1994 – 2019

## Did You Know?

### The (Bloody) labor Strike of 1892

In June of 1892, the workers who unloaded and loaded lumber from and onto the lake freighters and canal barges in NT went on strike. They wanted the abolishment of the "Stevedore System" and recognition of their union.

Stevedores were work gang bosses who hired the men. They would pay the men less money or hire fewer workers than they were allotted, and pocket the rest of the money.

Any worker who complained was fired and blackballed.

The lumber dealers reacted to the strike by hiring strikebreakers. On June 11, 600 strikers with guns, rocks, and clubs, confronted the strikebreakers at the docks of the Weston Lumber Company. NT Police who were on hand fired their guns into the air in an attempt to disperse them. Some of the strikers then fired their guns at the police and strikebreakers. Others used their clubs to assail the strikebreakers, injuring several.

Eight of the ringleaders of the rioting strikers were subsequently arrested and the local militia was activated. All work had stopped on the docks with the militia patrolling the area.

A few days later the state of NY was able to negotiate an agreement that settled the dispute. The workers got the Stevedore system abolished, but did not get their union recognized.

- Walter Wozniak

## NT Football Hall of Fame Exhibit

We are proud to display artifacts on loan from the NT Football Hall of Fame. Included is the trophy that started the T-NT rivalry in 1909!



## Thank You!!!

The trustees and volunteers want to publically acknowledge the following for their generous financial support since the publication of our last newsletter:

Ben Hiltz,  
Kim and Audrey Monkiewicz  
Valentina Kozlowski,  
James Rząd,  
Richard and Sandra Posa,  
Linda Huber  
Nickolas Divirgilio,  
Michael Mierzwa,  
NTHS Class of 1957,

And the many people that sent donations in the memory of Ralph Lafreniere

Ralph was the principal previous owner of our building and as part of the purchase we offered to name the Reference Library for him. Upon Ralph's passing, his image and a black rose was added to the area signboard.



## Commemorative Tiles

The tile order form can be downloaded from our website: [WWW.NTHistoryMuseum.COM](http://WWW.NTHistoryMuseum.COM)

## Attention Amazon Shoppers!

The Amazon foundation will donate a small portion of the purchase price if you use [WWW.SMILE.AMAZON.COM](http://WWW.SMILE.AMAZON.COM) and specify "North Tonawanda History Museum" as your charity

Here are photos of some of the exhibit enhancements made in February, 2020.



A soda jerk was added to the Ice Cream Parlor



The Family Life exhibit was brought to near completion. A few manikins still needed.



The "Hands-on" area was completed. And the 1850's pump organ added

### Jest for Fun

It has been suggested we could make up the slowdown in the revenue stream with the current situation, the museum hold a toilet paper raffle

