Greetings,

Located in the historic village of Williamstown, the Glengarry, Nor’Westers & Loyalist Museum preserves the history of Glengarry County. This area was settled in 1784 by the United Empire Loyalists who were led out of the Mohawk Valley by Sir John Johnson after the Revolutionary War. The legacy of the Loyalists is still felt strongly within the county and much of our local history stems from these families and the values they brought with them as they travelled north and rebuilt their homes and lives in Glengarry.

As with many other institutions, the COVID-19 pandemic has upended our plans for 2020 in terms of community events and educational programming. It has also meant that the anticipated income which would have been generated by these efforts has not materialized. The museum board of directors has chosen to use the extended closure of the museum to redesign and modernize the permanent Loyalist exhibit. Former plans to upgrade this exhibit were postponed when the museum’s past curator died in 2009 and the years that followed were difficult due to the loss of one of the museum’s main driving forces. Recent years have seen a renewed energy at the museum and much effort has been directed at necessary fundraising. While this has kept the museum operating and the collection accessible to the public, it has been demanding on the time and efforts of our team.

Pictured right: the colours of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Volunteers, the silver breast plate of Captain John MacKenzie of the King’s Royal Regiment of New York, and the silhouette of Lieutenant Colonel John MacDonnell of Greenfield, aide-de-camp of General Sir Isaac Brock, are just three of the treasures that can be found at the Glengarry, Nor’Westers & Loyalist Museum and these three are the only known artefacts of their kind.
With the museum being closed due to COVID-19, we have decided to take this opportunity to redesign the Loyalist exhibit. However, since we cannot safely fundraise with events, we are reaching out to you for financial assistance to complete this project. Whether a United Empire Loyalist or a general history buff, there is much to see and celebrate in the Loyalist exhibit at the Glengarry, Nor’Westers & Loyalist Museum. We are asking for your help in sponsoring the preservation of some of our most prized artefacts, such as our ceremonial sword which was owned by Colonel Alexander Fraser or our KRRNY silver breast plate, owned by Captain John Mackenzie and thought to be the last of its kind. Your generous donation would also be put towards creating ways to exhibit these artefacts in a safe and suitable manner, displaying them to their best advantage for years to come. Your generosity would be much appreciated for this exciting venture and as a registered Canadian charity, we would be happy to provide tax receipts for any donations in the amount of $20 and upwards.

We also wholeheartedly welcome you to join our museum community by becoming a member. Membership has its perks which you can view on our website and that include free tours, first notice to events where tickets/seating is limited, and half off discount to our popular Tea Talks. Your membership is also highly beneficial to the museum, showing a tangible support that aids us in getting grants for projects as well as assisting with the operational costs involved in preserving Glengarry’s history.

Have you renewed your 2020 membership yet? While the museum may be closed for the summer, membership plays a key role in museum support, especially in difficult times such as these. Renewal is easy and can be done by sending in the bottom portion of this page with your membership dues. Because of closures, we have extended any 2020 renewals so that they only expire in December of 2021 (that’s two years for the price of one). We thank all who have renewed and encourage those who haven’t to rejoin the museum community.

Kindest Regards,

Joyce Lewis
President of the GNLM

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Membership: Wintering Partner (Dual $30) ___ Trapper (Individual $20) ___ Donation: Amount ___
Please indicate which membership type you would like and enclose the corresponding amount. For memberships and/or receipt-able donations, please fill out your contact information above. Membership expires in December 2021. Thank you!

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