

Manager's Message

Hello PAMA Members and Donors,

It's a new day.

As we continue through these most uncertain times, I want to send all of you wishes of good health and happiness.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, PAMA is closed to the public until further notice, however our work continues in many new and interesting ways.

PAMA has gone digital! If you're looking for fun and creative ways to keep engaged, look no further than PAMA@Home daily activities.

PAMA@Home provides art and history exploration with a variety of easy, fun-filled activities for all ages. Using simple materials, PAMA is happy to provide easy step-by-step instructions for art activities, games and fun things to do while at home. Activities will be posted daily during PAMA's closure so be sure to check back each day for something new to try!

Share your creations with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and tag us @visitPAMA. All tagged submissions will be entered in a draw to win some fun PAMA giveaways!

We'll also be sharing behind the scenes content from our curatorial teams, including exclusive tours of our Art, Museum and Archives storage on our social media channels.

We thank you all for your continued support during these precarious times and hope to see you all at



To remind ourselves to look for the small joys

PAMA in the near future. So, come and explore, connect and create with us...virtually.

Stay safe and stay well,

Rene F. Nand
Manager, Community Engagement and Visitor Experience
rene.nand@peelregion.ca

Museum

This Time in History: Active Collecting during COVID-19

What 3 things would you put in a time capsule to capture this moment in time?

In response to our new and unexpected reality, cultural institutions around the world are taking on a new role: chronicling the COVID-19 event in real time.

Here at PAMA, museum staff are collecting material, stories, journals, drawings, songs, photographs and letters, both physically and digitally, as a way to share expressions of struggle, determination and courage within the community.

We have all been living through dramatic changes at home and at work during the past few weeks, as restaurants, gyms, churches and businesses have either closed or adapted to physical distancing guidelines. Community events have been cancelled or delayed, and layoffs are affecting our families.

We think it's important to document and share this historic moment while it's happening. Let's bring these experiences together, constructively and creatively, as a community. And we want you to be part of this.

Are you creating messages of encouragement in your neighbourhood using chalk messages on the sidewalk? Do you blog? Do you send virtual postcards to neighbors and families? Have you changed your business and what are you sharing with your staff and customers? We want to know about it.

We're gathering photos, journals, posters and business signage, home lesson plans, original new works of art and music, modified take out menus, pandemic cross-stitching, even scans of your grocery lists. If they reflect the social, medical or economic impacts of COVID-19, we'd welcome them.

So much more than 'a window into the past', these are the objects, ideas, stories and images that are a part of our lives here and now. It is the role of PAMA's Museum to gather together and share meaningful expressions of who we are, how we define ourselves and how we live, preserving these experiences for each other and creating a record for future

generations. This project supports, engages and builds communities for life.

Join us by sharing your digital content now but please hang on to your physical content until we reopen.

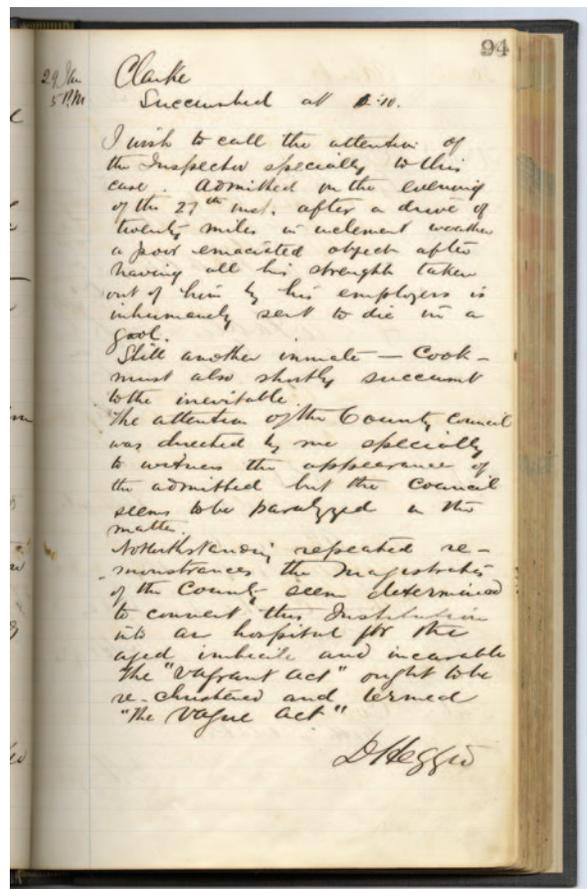
To Participate

Send your digital content to
PAMAMuseum@peelregion.ca

We'll respond to every message, and post highlights each week on social media. By the end of the COVID-19 event (and it WILL end!) we'll have created a community-based time capsule to reflect on this health crisis and show our resilience.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sam Cronk, Senior Curator, History
sam.cronk@peelregion.ca



The power of primary sources: Dr. David Heggie's journal, January 29, 1882. Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives. Gift of Dr. D.C. Heggie.

Archives

For Your Eyes Only

Recently, I was working with some Peel government records when I came across a 1932 inspection report of the County Jail and it offers some tantalizing insights into its historic operation.

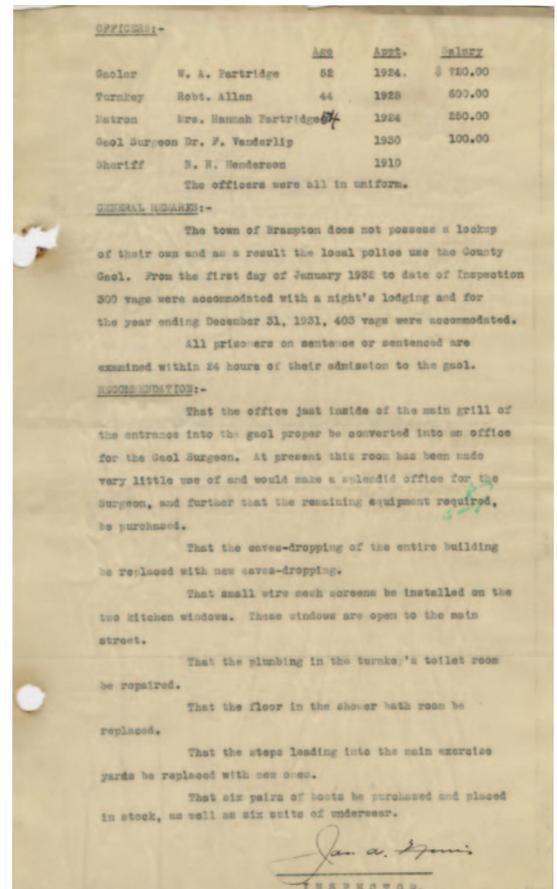
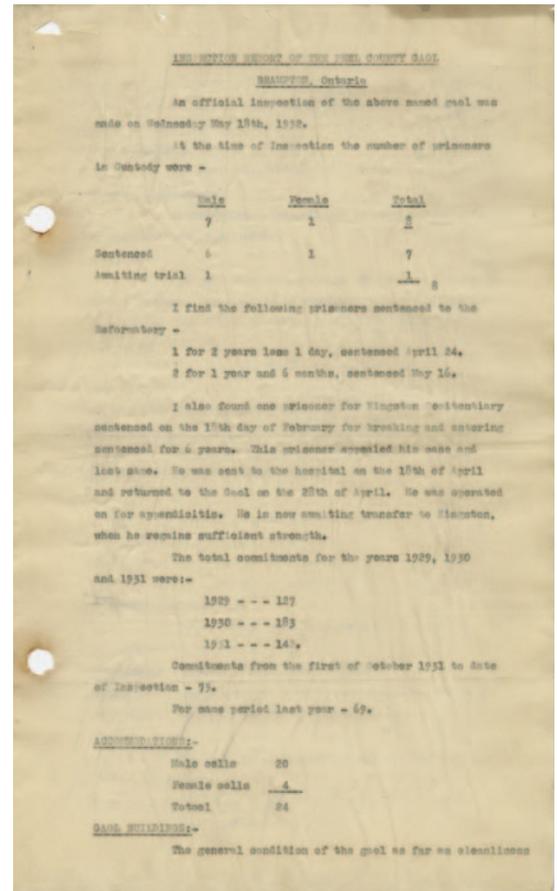
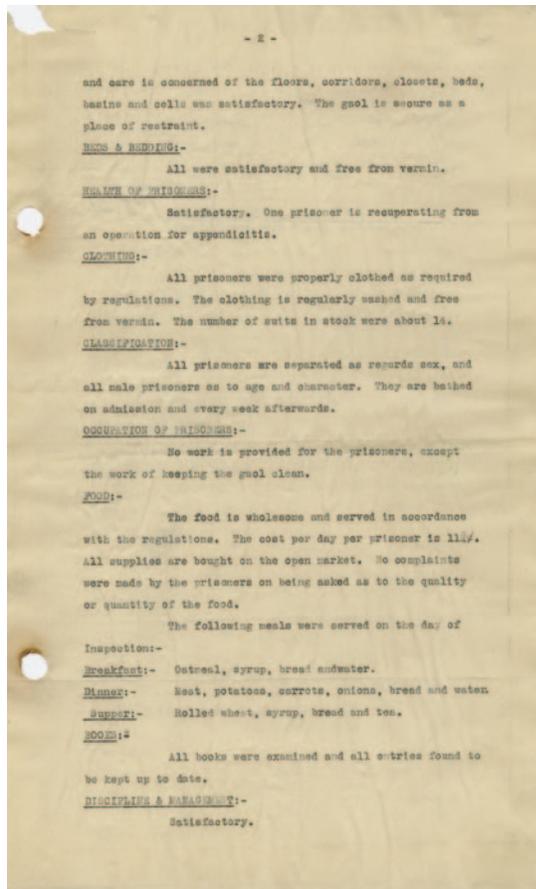
For example, between January 1929 and December 1931, 452 people were locked up in the jail. These prisoners were served “wholesome” food that included oatmeal, syrup, bread, water, meat, potatoes, carrots, onions, rolled wheat, and tea. The cost to feed each prisoner per day was roughly 12 cents.

The report also gives us the names of the five jail employees including the gaoler [warden], turnkey, matron, surgeon, and sheriff along with their ages, the year they were appointed, and what they were paid (the yearly salaries ranged from \$100 to \$720).

Finally, the report hints at the effects of the Great Depression in the Peel area: from January to May of 1932, 300 “vags” (vagrants) were housed for the night in the jail. This accounts for approximately 1% of the Peel population at the time which was roughly 28,000 people.

Records like this are why I often talk about my fondness for “glorious government records” when explaining my job. For those interested, additional jail inspection reports can be found among the archival records of the County of Peel.

Kyle Neill, Senior Archivist
kyle.neill@peelregion.ca



Nothing New about Limitations

Walking into grocery stores recently and being greeted by the sight of empty shelves in every aisle was a new experience for most.

For some it was a reminder of reasons why they left their birthlands and settled locally. For others, it brings to mind other periods of limited availability, rations and restrictions. And we don't just mean the great cauliflower shortage of 2019!

We are used to certain limitations — the amount of curbside garbage that can be picked up and occasionally water usage is restricted in summer for lawn watering. But there are other examples of widespread good citizenship requiring restraint.

Between October 1973 and March 1974, the international oil cartel OPEC instituted an oil embargo aimed at nations they considered supportive of Israel during the Yom Kippur War against a coalition of Arab nations. With the post World War II car culture firmly entrenched, motorists found themselves paying about 400% more at the pump than the previous year and some stations instituted rationing. Fuel purchases were limited not only in litres (gallons back then) but also by plate numbers; odd number plates one day, even plates the next.

Canada was late to the imposition of public rationing during World War II starting in 1942. European countries closer to the battle lines had been dealing with them for a few years. As had also been the case during The Great War (WWI) supplies of imports including coffee, tea and sugar were limited so ration books or coupons were needed to buy those little luxuries.

Even domestic and locally produced goods including meat and dairy were on the ration list to make sure the troops had their share. Adults and children had their own books with coupons that were given to retailers to keep track.



Ivan Melhuish fonds

The current COVID-19 situation has resulted in some of that, with a modern culture having never been seriously confronted by the possibility of supply shortages and mandatory quarantine. Frustrating? Yes. Annoying? Absolutely. Sacrifice? It brings to mind an image from PAMA's Melhuish collection.

So go ahead and buy what you need for the next week or two and then stay home.

Monika Moravan, Visitor Service Guide
monika.moravan@peelregion.ca