



## INGERSOLL CHEESE & AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

Location: 290 Harris Street, Ingersoll, Ontario  
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December 07, 2009

Mayor Paul Holbrough  
Members of Ingersoll Town Council

Santa's Village opened with a fireworks display which was more spectacular than last year's, a good start to another successful winter wonderland event. The weather was co-operative with the park solid with spectators.

The Community Museum was opened November 20th and will remain open Friday evenings from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 p.m. until 9 p.m. until December 19th.

Visitors to the museum were impressed as in previous years with the Wilson Johnson carving, and the Military display. This year we continued with the display of old fashioned children's toys, several of our younger (and some older) visitors had great fun playing with toys that would have been popular 100 years ago. Most of the visitors stated that they look forward to returning during the summer months to see the Cheese Factory and the agricultural barns with their various displays.

The Museum volunteers were entered a float in the Christmas Parade this year and we chose the theme of education from the early 1900's through to modern day as compliment to the 100th Anniversary of Princess Elizabeth School.

The Museum Advisory Committee will be meeting on a regular basis throughout the winter months as we continue formulating our Strategic Plan for the operation and expansion of the museum facilities. The first meeting was very productive, as we discussed the current School Outreach Programs, the possibility of working with the Creative Arts Centre and creating more dairy and pioneer related programs. The Committee felt that the museum needs more exhibits depicting Ingersoll and area history. Other ideas are to work with the Fusion Centre and have some of the senior members of the community describe their life experiences as a voice record. This coupled with a program to digitize the records and publications already on hand and make them available in electronic format for research.

Increasing awareness of the Museum through advertising was also discussed, using the local paper(s), Rogers Cable, London Free Press and the Cliffhanger. At the November meeting of EON members discussed the feasibility of museums within the organization working together to promote each others' special events. The possibility of an EON website and branding was discussed in order to promote the organization and its member museums, a sub committee was formed to investigate this possibility. EON plans to have a 80' x 120' tent available at the International Plowing Match, September 21-25, 2010 and is asking its members to supply volunteers and displays depicting their particular area. In connection of the upcoming 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812, each museum is requested to research the effects of the War on their area, for inclusion in a documentary. More on this later.

Respectfully,  
Jon Bowman  
Chairman,  
Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum Advisory Committee