

The Highlanders Museum

This short report covers the period May 2011 to May 2012.

Raising Museum Awareness.

The following events were covered with the aim of raising awareness of the Museum:

- a. June-50th Anniversary of the Queens Own Highlanders in Cameron Barracks.
- b. July-Armed Forces Day/Inverness Highland Games.
- c. August-Historic Scotland Events weekend at Fort George.
- d. January -Talk to the Nairn Literary Institute.

Museum Closure.

The museum closed at the end of September 2012 and we commenced preparations for packing and moving the Main and Reserve Collections from the museum into 2 Casemates loaned by HS.

Decant.

The collections were packed and moved as scheduled by the 20th December. This proved to be a mammoth task, but was achieved even with distractions such as the Fundraising Dinner, Review Boards and the numerous meetings in conjunction with the project.

The decant phase involved the following members of staff/volunteers and enormous credit goes to them for the patience, understanding, humour and hard work in meeting the requirements.

Amanda Galleitch (she also found time to get married in January). Museum Assistant

Alyson Henry. Cleaner and Part Time Museum Assistant

Sheila Simey. Volunteer

Brian Blackley. Volunteer

Jack McCall. Volunteer

They packed about 150 boxes of varying sizes. Wrapped in excess of 500 pictures/prints. Used over 3500 sheets of acid free paper, 3 rolls of Tyvek paper, 25 rolls of Bubble wrap, 2 rolls of polythene, 36 rolls of parcel tape and 24 rolls of cellotape. In addition a dozen pens and 20 marker pens ran dry through usage. Completed countless lists and then photocopied them all.

The NADFAS ladies made over 300 Calico protection bags for the textiles and again our thanks to them for their efforts.

January to May.

The team continued to list and pack items from the back stores and offices. Numerous articles belonging to the MOD in the form of accommodation stores have been downscaled. Two large guns (1 field gun) and (1 Anti-tank gun) were stripped and moved with the larger of the two re-assembled outside (under the arches) with HS approval. A number of larger paintings and furniture were moved and stored in Cameron Barracks.

The stored collection then became the responsibility of the new Collections Care Officer – Lynsey Easton and she commenced working to a schedule along with Allan Carswell. Their work involves preparation of the artefacts for the new display interpretation.

Andrew Ferguson also joined the team and commenced liaison with HS and UHI on the education and learning package.

The staff attended the following training courses:

- a. 1st March Inverness Museum-Recording and Marking Objects.
- b. 13th March Inverness Archive Centre-Handling and Moving Items.
- c. 16-20 April Amanda Galleitch and Mick Low attended the Museum Curator's Course at the National Army Museum.

In addition furniture and mannequins were moved to storage in the Chapel. 14 display cases were gifted to the Applecross Heritage Centre and they have now taken possession of them.

Items from the Disposal Pool were gifted to the following:

- a. Dingwall Museum.
- b. Jersey Museum.
- c. Forres Museum.
- d. Shetland Museum.
- e. Seaforth Club, Nairn.
- f. Malta Museum.
- g. Dufftown Royal British Legion.
- h. Commanding Officer 7 SCOTS in Perth.
- i. Army Cadet Force Inverness.
- j. The Gordon Highlanders Museum.

A team of volunteers have now commenced the task of updating the museum records on MODES (computer programme sponsored by Army Heritage Branch).

Future Tasks.

The following tasks have been identified and will keep the full time staff busy over the summer months:

- a. MODES update to continue. Supervised by Amanda.
- b. Implement a new SHEF manual. Update Risk Assessments, COSHH registers and Fire Diary. Museum Manager.
- c. Initiate a Filing System with the aim of improving the general administration and professionalism of the staff and researchers. Museum Manager.
- d. Check the Main and Reserve Collections (Weapons, swords and silver). Alyson and Volunteers.
- e. Plan IT upgrades. Amanda.
- f. Improve the On Line Shop. Amanda.
- g. Plan for re-opening. All.
- h. Plan for future anniversaries. WW1. (2014) Waterloo. (2015).

- i. Stall at Armed Forces Day/Inverness Highland Games in July. Raising awareness of Museum and Royal Regiment of Scotland. Amanda/Museum Manager.
- j. Stall at HS Events weekend in August. Raising awareness of Museum and Highland Heritage. All.
- k. Plan for a Volunteers recruitment day. Manager/Amanda.

Recent Acquisitions

Since the 1st October we have accepted and accessioned in the following artefacts:

- Medals – 45
- Sports Medals/Trophy's – 45
- Photographs – 105
- Documents (including letters and certificates) – 107
- Pictures – 2
- Badges – 5
- Glengarry – 1
- TOS -1
- Flags – 1
- Op Telic – 12
- Soldier Box – 1
- Plaques – 2
- Radios & Accessories – 3
- Weapon – 2

Summary

The priority from October to December was the packing/storage of the collections. This then changed to clearing offices, furniture and mannequins. In addition some training has been carried out and again where identified formal training days will take place either in Fort George or through Museum Galleries Scotland.

The continued goodwill and flexibility of staff and volunteers will lead to continued success in meeting our targets for reopening.

M.C. Low MBE
Museum Manager

May 2012