



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### THE BROME COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC ON JUNE 22 WITH “A SEASON OF CULTURAL WELL-BEING”

**Knowlton, June 1, 2020** — The Brome County Historical Society is pleased to announce that it will reopen to the public on **Monday, June 22, 2020** in keeping with the Quebec government’s decision to authorise museums to open their doors to the public. The Society will be open to the public from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Sunday**.

“These past weeks, we have witnessed first-hand the resilience of our community, and everyone at the BCHS strongly believes that culture will allow for well-deserved moments of entertainment and education. We look forward to welcoming you soon and launching our 2020 summer season that promises to bring the BCHS closer to its community than it ever has been” said Peter White, President of the Board of Directors.

#### 2020: A SEASON OF CULTURAL WELL-BEING

Since closing in mid-March, the BCHS has developed innovative cultural programming that bring Brome County’s history to life while respecting all directives and guidelines from public health authorities.

Heritage and culture are not only fields of study but also pillars of individual and communal well-being. The BCHS has undergone a veritable renaissance over the past five years and we encourage our local community to come and discover our permanent galleries, many of which have been renovated over the past few years, as well as marquee objects such as our Fokker D.VII biplane—one of seven original Fokker D.VIIs in the world.

Beyond our permanent collection, on July 14, the Museum will open *Fashioning Femininity*, a revival of last summer’s extremely successful exhibition on women’s fashion in Brome County from 1850-1950. For 2020, the design of the exhibition has been completely rethought in our newly renovated Temporary Exhibition Gallery and new artefacts have been added. The exhibition will be on display until March 14, 2021.

Throughout the summer, the Archives will publish bilingual thematic research guides to help individuals access our historical materials with greater ease. Moreover, the Archives are **waiving all research fees** for the 2020 summer season and have implemented new strategies to share digital copies of research materials with interested researchers.

Lastly, the BCHS has revised its social media strategy to post regular and engaging content showcasing the history that is all around us. This new strategy includes our *Virtual Museum of Brome* initiative which will encourage the local community to share pictures and information on historical artefacts or documents they own or cherish.

Over the coming weeks, the Museum and Archives teams will be announcing more initiatives in greater detail.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

The safety of our visitors, employees, and community is our priority. Following the recommendations and guidelines developed by public health authorities, the Brome County Historical Society has adapted its visitor experience to the current situation.

- Cancellation of all scheduled special events until August 31, 2020. This notably includes all antique & craft markets, “Tea & a Tour” events, the Night at the Museum Gala, and exhibition vernissages.
- Suspension of group visits until further notice
- Closure of the Children’s Museum until further notice
- Creation of an online portal to purchase tickets via our website. Visitors are encouraged to pre-purchase their tickets if they are able to do so.
- Implementation of clearly marked one-way paths throughout the museum
- Installation of hand sanitising stations at the entrance and throughout the Museum
- Daily disinfecting of washrooms and frequently touched surfaces
- Installation of plexiglass barriers at the entrance desk in the Museum and the Archives
- Requirement for all employees to wear masks when interacting with the public or other staff members. Masks will be strongly recommended for visitors
- Training all employees interacting with the public to ensure the continued implementation of all measures described above.

Further details concerning the various measures taken by the BCHS will be released over the coming weeks before the opening of the museum. The BCHS will adhere to all directives and recommendations released by the Ministry of Culture and Communications and the Commission des normes, de l’équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail as the public health situation progresses.

## ABOUT THE BCHS

Officially incorporated on March 9, 1898, the Brome County Historical Society works diligently to acquire, preserve, research, exhibit, interpret, and publish items of historical interest encompassing all of the historic Brome County and its sites. As a registered non-profit organization, the Brome County Historical Society owns and operates an accredited Museum and an accredited Archives Centre welcoming visitors, researchers, families, and groups.

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Interviews may be arranged with BCHS officers or staff members upon request.