

HERITAGE PERTH

PERTH MUSEUM



PERTH MUSEUM – MATHESON HOUSE

Step back in time as you enter the world of the 1840's at the elegant Matheson House, home of the award winning Perth Museum.

Matheson House, now home to the Perth Museum, is owned and operated by the Town of Perth, financial assistance provided by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. This formidable and elegant neo-classical building was designated as a National Historic Site in 1966 and portrays the Scottish merchant's house of the 1840's. In 1994, the Perth Museum was presented with the "Museum Award of Excellence" by the Ontario Historical Society.

The stone dwelling was built in 1840 for the Honourable Roderick Matheson, a wealthy Perth merchant of the period and a senator in Canada's first parliament after Confederation. The four period rooms - parlour, dining room, drawing room and a warm and welcoming kitchen - have been meticulously furnished and restored to reflect the lifestyle of the Matheson family who owned the house for 90 years.

Roderick Matheson was born in Scotland in 1794 and emigrated to Upper Canada in 1806. During the War of 1812-14, Matheson served in the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles and fought in 33 separate incidents. He came to Perth as a half pay officer in 1818 and established the business now known as Shaw's of Perth.

Matheson's store prospered, and, by 1840, he was able to build a fine Georgian home of local sandstone. The Matheson family resided there until 1930.

Following the death of Eliza Matheson, the last surviving Matheson offspring, the building was converted first to the Birkacre Tea Room and Inn and then as the Vanity Fair Tea House. In 1948, it was sold to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #224 and was used by them until 1966, at which time the town bought it. In 1967, the Town of Perth opened the Perth Museum as a Centennial project.

Nowadays, the museum features a full calendar of changing exhibitions in the main gallery while the third floor gallery relates the history of Perth's colourful past, featuring the pistols from the "Last Fatal Duel" in 1833; the story of the Mammoth Cheese that won first prize at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 and much more. There is something of interest for everyone in this gallery.

Outdoors, to the right of the museum, visitors will find a charming, enclosed Scottish garden containing the flowering plants and shrubs true to the era. An outdoor bake oven and kitchen herb garden can be found on the other side. The museum holds outdoor activities and pioneer demonstrations at various times during the season in this courtyard. Rooms are also available to rent for meetings.

You are invited to visit the museum and see for yourself that history can be fun and interesting. The Perth Museum is open all year, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm; Saturday and Sundays, 1-5pm. The museum is located at 11 Gore St. East and is air conditioned for your comfort. Municipal parking is available behind the museum. Group tours and school classes are welcome. For further information and bookings, you can contact the Perth Museum at (613) 267-1947. Or, to visit online, connect to the Town of Perth website at www.perth.ca, go to *Community Services*, and look under *Heritage* for *Perth Museum*.



Outdoor Oven



Kitchen



Dining Room



Drawing Room



Gardens



Last Duel Pistols

LOCATION: Located at 11 Gore Street East in the heart of downtown Heritage Perth, a short distance south along the street from Shaw's of Perth.