



2021-2022 Annual Report



61 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB
204-943-2835
info@dalnavertmuseum.ca



Mission Statement

The Friends of Dalnavert Museum are committed to:



Preserving



Presenting



Developing

Chair's Report

Dear Members of the Friends of Dalnavert Museum,

As I complete my time as Chair of the Board of Directors, I look back on 2021-22 as yet another very different year. We were open for parts of the year and closed for other long weeks as the pandemic continued to challenge both our personal and business lives. Thank you to all who continued to support Dalnavert Museum through those very challenging times. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who worked diligently to provide both in-person and virtual opportunities to enjoy Dalnavert's programs, collections and rich heritage.

The Board met virtually throughout this period, and I am pleased to confirm that a new Strategic Plan was delivered during the 2021-22 year. It will certainly be of great use to the Board, staff, volunteers, and supporters in helping Dalnavert Museum move forward from these very challenging times and into a new future. Thank you to the Directors (see the list, *right*) for your efforts and commitment.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, patrons, sponsors, supporters, donors, sustaining members, and general members for making the decision to support Dalnavert during the past year, whether by participating in on-site or online programming, donating, or sponsoring. Thank you to our corporate and government sponsors- The Winnipeg Foundation, the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba's Community Museums Grant program, Designated Heritage Building Grant Program, and Community Places Program along with the Government of Canada's Young Canada Works, Building Careers in Heritage, and Canada Summer Jobs employment programs. Together, we have created a broad alliance of individuals and groups who are working together to protect and develop one of Winnipeg's treasures.

We look forward to moving beyond *COVID-19* and to continuing our collective efforts to build and to expand Dalnavert's place and role in the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny McMillan

Chair



Staff

Mark Traynor, *Executive Director*

Charlene Van Buekenhout, *Director of Programming & Marketing*

Ayda Loewen-Clarke, *Museum Operations & Development Manager*

Pat Scott, *Accountant*

Doug Scott, *Custodian (retired)*

Drew Cruikshank, *Canada Summer Jobs Museum Coordinator*

Isabel Macfarlane, *YCW Communications & Community Engagement Assistant*

Alexa Nicolle, *YCW Intern Curator*

Dyna Sanderson, *YCW Collections Assistant*

Board Members

Penny McMillan, *Chair* Giles Bugailiskis

Lilian Tankard, *Past Chair* Vivi Dabee

Kelly Scott, *Treasurer* Jennifer Janzen

Kristen Lynch, *Secretary* Calla Lofvendahl

Susan Ainley James Skinner

Inés Bonacossa Vanessa Warne

Executive Director's Report



Dear Members of the Friends of Dalnavert Museum,

For over 125 years, Dalnavert has stood quietly over this strip of Carlton Street and watched as history unfurled steadily before it. When we consider some of the great events of that period – two World Wars, the General Strike of 1919, a Great Depression – our own turbulent times appear, if not less daunting, certainly surmountable. While Dalnavert has many faces, the stoic aspect of its character has helped to drive us forward through another pandemic year.

That is not to downplay just how hard this past year has been for all of us, and as an organization Dalnavert was no different. Ongoing public health closures and restrictions, reduced footfall in the downtown area, and rising inflation presented challenges that, unfortunately, largely remain with

us at the time of writing. Additionally, the pandemic resulted in sources of revenue upon which we formerly relied becoming dormant or disappearing altogether. However, thanks to our community of staff, volunteers, and supporters we have worked hard throughout this time not just to survive but to ensure that Dalnavert will be more resilient and adaptable in the future.

But that is not to say that the 2021-22 year was without successes. As our Treasurer's Report (p. 3) indicates, we maximised funding opportunities over the course of the year, built up reserves and increased our earned revenue by almost 15%. We also used this time to review and update key museum infrastructure such as our membership system, invested in new technology, and expanded our staff capacity.

This was also a busy year for our Board who met regularly to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan focussed on pandemic recovery, audience growth and new business development. Thanks is due to all of those Board members who volunteered so much of their time for this important work. While it was truly a team effort, a special thank you must go to our outgoing Chair, Penny McMillan, who has demonstrated a passion and steadfast commitment to our organization during her tenure.

We also commissioned a Heritage Building Conservation Report in order to identify the conservation needs of Dalnavert in the coming decades. This work was undertaken by Bridgman Collaborative Architects with support from the City of Winnipeg and the Province, with the final report to be delivered by the end of this summer. Currently the Friends of Dalnavert Museum invests approximately \$30,000 annually to support the ongoing conservation requirements of the house and this report will provide an invaluable roadmap for how we will protect this treasure for future generations.

Finally, if Dalnavert remained quiet for much of the year, our Collections Room was a busy place indeed! We received so many beautiful donations throughout the year (see highlights, p. 8-9) that will have a lasting legacy for our museum. Thank you to all of our donors – we treasure every object and the stories associated with them.

These impactful achievements aside, we must not rest on our laurels in the years ahead. Yes, Dalnavert has lived through so much, but it did so only because past generations found value and meaning in this building. As our world changes, I look forward to working alongside you all to ensure that our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to draw their own meanings and inspirations from this remarkable house.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Traynor

Executive Director

Treasurer's Report



Dear Members of the Friends of Dalnavert Museum,

On April 7, 2015 the Friends of Dalnavert Museum Inc. (FDM), incorporated under the Manitoba Corporations Act as a not-for-profit organization. Since that time the FDM has successfully positioned the Museum with a sustainable and balanced operating plan that includes support from The Winnipeg Foundation, the City of Winnipeg, numerous provincial and federal grants, in addition to earned revenue, donations, sponsorships, memberships, programming and fundraising events. However, it should be noted that the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Dalnavert's operations remained significant during this period.

Revenue for the year ending March 31, 2022 reached \$403,700. Importantly, we recorded increases in most areas of earned revenue during the 2021-22 year which pointed both to early signs of recovery as well as reflecting investments and improvements that were made to museum operations and systems over the past year.

Our operating expenditures, while remaining high due to rising inflation and supply chain disruptions, was reduced by 4% against the previous year to a total of \$304,206. As the trading environment remained unpredictable, we continued to be diligent in tempering our overheads throughout the year.

Despite the difficult circumstances of the past year, management and staff were able to realize year-end earnings of \$89,771 after amortization. This means that since 2020, the FDM has produced earnings of over \$215,000 which reflects our efforts to attract and shore up pandemic supports as well as expanding funding supports for key areas such as programming and business development. The FDM's Internally Restricted Reserve, established to support the future preservation of the heritage building and property, was increased by \$22,000 and has a current balance of \$37,400.

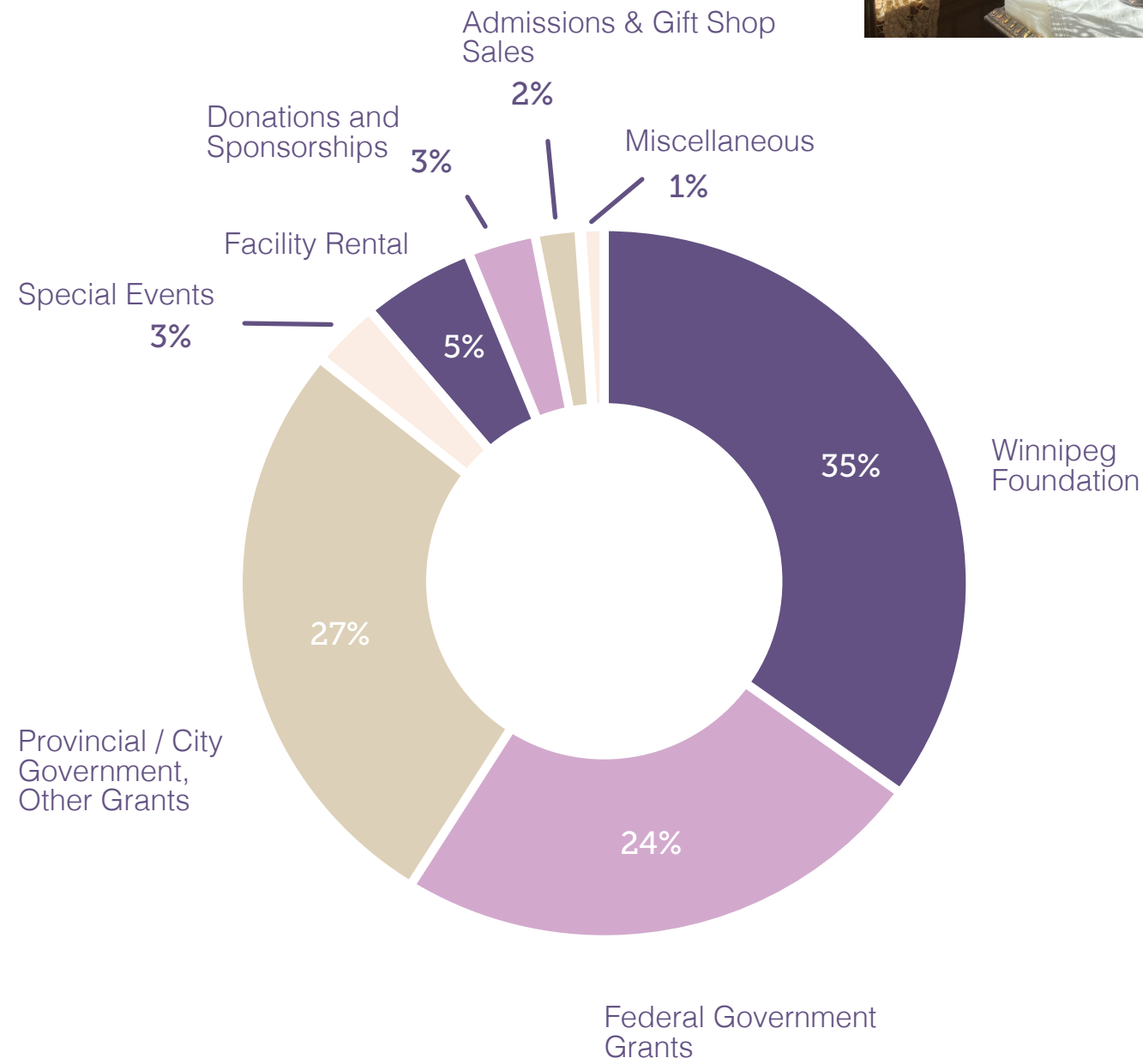
In closing I would like to thank staff and volunteers, along with past and continuing Board members, for their ongoing support of Dalnavert Museum through what was another challenging but exciting year.

Respectfully Submitted,

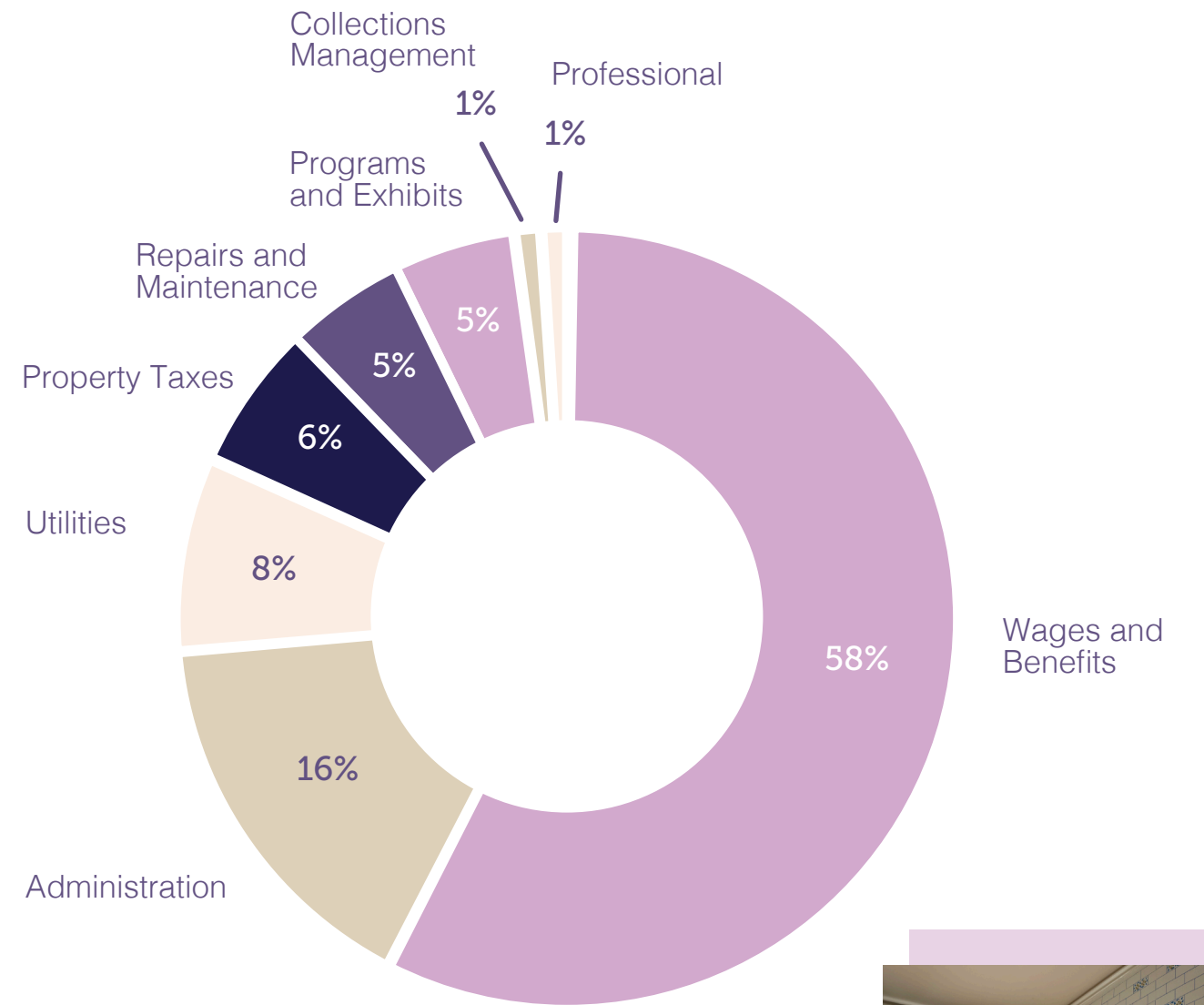
Kelly Scott

Treasurer

Revenue



Expenses



Programming Highlights

2021-22 remained a challenging year in terms of COVID-19 restrictions, however, that didn't slow down our programming! In addition to creating unique virtual program options, such as our popular Stories from Home project which encouraged users to become curators in their homes during lockdown, we were thrilled to see the gradual return of visitors for in-person events. From fancy teas to fascinating talks, our creative programs saw Dalnavert reach a wide audience far beyond our local community. With special thanks to the spectacular Charlene Van Buekenhout, our Director of Programming and Marketing, who was supported by Isabel Macfarlane and Ayda Loewen-Clarke during the year. Check out some of our 2021-22 highlights!

We were excited to partner with The Winnipeg Foundation to help mark their centenary with a series of high teas which took place virtually and in-person at Dalnavert throughout the year. Each tea included artistic programming, ranging from Métis folk music to Al Simmons, and helped to support the joint Dalnavert Museum Fund-Elizabeth Alloway History Scholarship which is an annual award offered to Masters students studying the role of women in Canadian history.



As a Culture Days hub, Dalnavert hosted an incredible range of musical performances that were unbound by the constraints of space and time. We hosted drumming styles from around the world led by our Elders, early medieval music played on traditional instruments, and early jazz classics from the Great American Songbook.



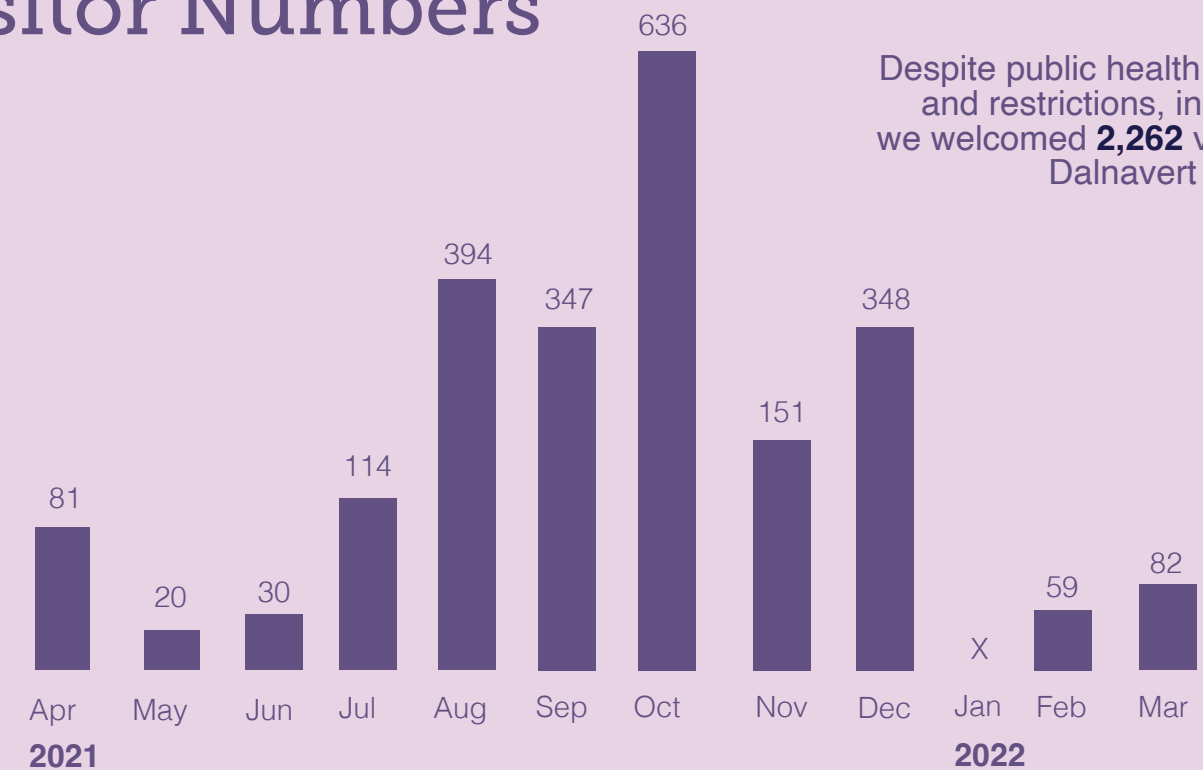
Halloween saw our Victorian mansion teeming with ghosts and the return of our popular The Empty House audio tour in the dark, along with kid-friendly scavenger hunts during the day. Our favorite skeleton Mabel was in her element for the month of October!

We were so excited to welcome guests to Dalnavert for Christmas this year! The house was a delight to the senses – the fresh and finely decorated fir tree released its sweet perfume in the parlour as the gentle sounds of Christmas classics performed by the Winnipeg Early Music Society wafted through the halls. We had old favourites like the Victorian Christmas Tours and Ron Robinson reading A Christmas Carol, and created new traditions with our Christmas Teas!



In partnership with The Winnipeg Foundation, the Elizabeth Alloway Lecture Series drew together so many knowledgeable speakers to talk about topics ranging from paper-based art practices, to urban Métis settlements, to Victorian pet culture. As these events were broadcast virtually we attracted a wide audience - including visitors from the US and Europe!

Visitor Numbers



Despite public health closures and restrictions, in 2021-22 we welcomed **2,262** visitors to Dalnavert Museum

Collection Highlights

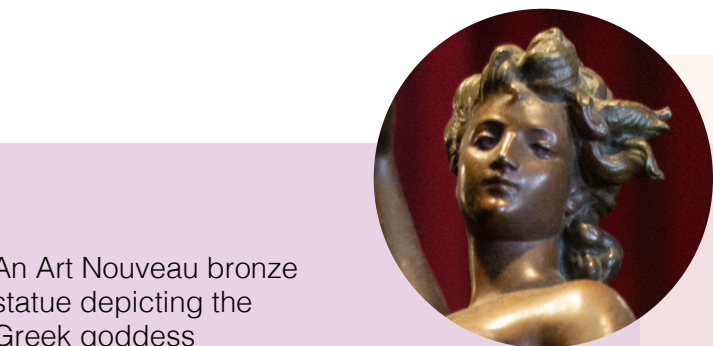
Museum collection rooms are not often thought of as places of wild excitement, but Dalnavert's proved itself such a place in the past year! From ornate wedding dresses to colourful political pins, we were honoured to take possession of so many beautiful and fascinating objects. Just as each object helps to shed light on what life was like in Winnipeg in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the provenance of every donation often brings with it a rich story or family history. We treasure these stories as much as the objects themselves, and we are grateful to all who entrusted their pieces to our care. With special thanks to our fabulous Collections Registrar, Inés Bonacossa, who was supported in her work by Dyna Sanderson and Alexa Nicolle during the year.



This 1900 gold Victoria Old Head sovereign was issued by the London Mint in England. The obverse of the coin features Thomas Brock's portrait of Queen Victoria, also known as the Old Head, the Veiled Head or the Widow Head, and produced from 1893 to 1901.



This beautifully presented set consists of a maple wooden box and a set of matching fish forks and knives. Produced in Sheffield, England, this once made a fine wedding gift!



An Art Nouveau bronze statue depicting the Greek goddess Amphitrite sits atop a green onyx base housing a clock with a gold medallion at its centre. The statue is made in the style of the French sculptor Auguste Moreau (1834-1917) and, we think you'll agree, looks pretty well against Dalnavert's deep red wallpaper.

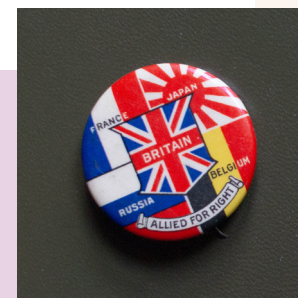


This late-nineteenth century glass beaded purse features a gold coloured metal frame and metal clasp. Its delicate red and purple flowers and pink roses with green leaves are exquisite!



This unusual ladies' four leaf clover pin is made from braided red leather and features the distinctive clover in a clear glass medallion. We think it looks perfect on Daisy's dresser!

The Victorians certainly knew how to make a wedding dress! Dated to c. 1884, this attractive net A-Line bridal gown features a flounce at the bottom of the hem and embroidered floral motifs.



Each of these fascinating political pins shares a Dalnavert connection. In the case of the Hugh John Macdonald and Charles Tupper pin (right), it commemorates Hugh John's brief foray into federal politics and was likely produced shortly after Dalnavert was built. In the case of the World War I pin depicting the flags of the Allies (left), it is likely that Lady Macdonald sold pins like these from Dalnavert to support the war effort.



Thank You to Our Volunteers

“The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Society & Solitude* (1916)

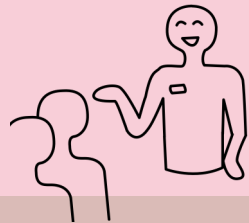
Dalnavert Museum and Visitors' Centre owes its success to the hard work, knowledge, and love that the dedicated volunteer community puts into it. These generous contributions of time and expertise allow Dalnavert to continually go above and beyond, and the passion of this dedicated team of people breathes life into the space daily.

Volunteers do a little bit of everything at Dalnavert Museum

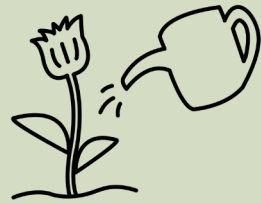
Education



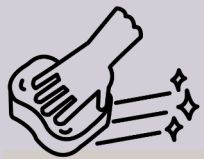
Tours



Gardening



Collection Care



Special Events



Historical Research



And more!

Volunteers contributed over

2,400 hours

of their time this past year

Their work is invaluable – but at a living wage, that’s worth about

\$36,000

per year



“The best part about volunteering is being surrounded by the history and beauty of the house. It’s like going back in time when I give a tour. We are helping visitors imagine the life of the people who lived in the house, from the cook and the maid to the Macdonald family.”

Linda Rigaux

“I absolutely love being in the beautiful old house and it’s wonderful to spend time with staff, volunteers, and visitors who share that feeling.”

Donna August



“The best part of volunteering (at Dalnavert) is the opportunity to get immersed in some local history, and history offers so many good stories along with insight into events and people who have shaped the present day.”

Melodie Eshoo



Donna August
 Ines Bonacossa
 Jean Boyes
 Giles Bugailiskis
 Brock Capell
 Lucy Christopher
 Drew Cruikshank
 Michelle Desourdy
 Mary-Lynn Duckworth



Melodie Eshoo
 Lorraine Endler
 Jane Fudge
 Emily Gartner
 Marion Harrison
 Jeannie Hiebert
 Jennifer Janzen
 Virginia Lockett
 Calla Lofvendahl
 Paul Longtin

Jade Naylor
 Deb Riel
 Linda Rigaux
 Ron Robinson
 Joanne Roach
 Stephen Rozniatowski



Kristin Lynch
 Arla Marshall
 Linda McDowell
 Barb McEwen
 Gary McEwen
 Scott McKenzie
 Penny McMillan
 Susan Moffatt
 Val Mollison
 Heather Mousseau

Liz Scales
 Kelly Scott
 Jim Skinner
 Eleanor Stardom
 Mary Steinhoff
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 Ursula Veness
 Lucy Warne
 Vanessa Warne
 Tylene Wright



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