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NIAGARA *this* WEEK

Military museum readies a battle plan

Ontario Trillium Foundation grant help board chart course for the future

Niagara This Week - Niagara Falls

By [Richard Hutton](#)

NIAGARA FALLS — Just like every successful military campaign has relied on a well thought out strategy, the Niagara Military Museum has come up with a strategy to help fuel growth for the Victoria Avenue facility.

After receiving a \$6,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the museum board hired consultant Janis Barlow to help formulate a strategic plan that would help map out its future. With the plan in its final stages, the museum's board opened the doors May 21 for an open house-style event to mark the occasion and express its appreciation for the assistance.

“We needed to develop a strategic plan,” said Jim Doherty, the museum's president. “It's an important step we need for getting anything and increasing our credibility when applying for any funding down the line.”

The document helps clarify the mission of the museum and sets down in writing its values, goals and objectives.

“We've got the final draft,” Doherty said.

“Now they have a business plan going forward,” Barlow added. “It references their instinct to be a welcoming place for families.”

She said she received help from Niagara Falls Museums manager Clark Bernat and director of recreation and culture Kathy Mouldenhauer, as well as what she described as the “well informed” volunteers who “aspire to engage the community in their own history.”



Niagara Military Museum president Jim Doherty, right, shows consultant Janis Barlow and Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates some of the museum's collection of war propaganda materials.

Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates was on hand to check out the museum for the first time.

He was impressed.

“It’s important for us as Canadians to remember the sacrifice made by many young men for fought,” Gates said, adding he felt a personal connection to what the museum stands for.

“My father (James) fought in World War II from 1939 to 1945,” Gates said. “He stayed on an extra year in Europe. I’m very proud of him.”

As he browsed through artifacts ranging from newspapers, propaganda posters, weapons and uniforms, he was impressed.

“The history in particular, is interesting,” he said.

The Niagara Military Museum is located at 5049 Victoria Ave.