Dear Supporter of the National Bottle Museum,

The estate of Burton Spiller bequeathed a generous settlement to the National Bottle Museum. Coupled with the selling of the Glassworks building, the museum, after years of struggling to make ends meet is on solid footing with the flexibility to now grow. This is all good!

But we have new challenges. We have to invest our windfalls and continue to be that unique museum in upstate New York that preserves the history of bottles and its industry. We need to upgrade many things from building maintenance to computers. A top project is rebuilding the website. We have already begun brainstorming sessions to plan our direction and priorities. And we are acutely aware that in order to survive on solid financial footing we need to change direction. So this year will be the beginning of new adventures! Come visit the museum and check out our monthly exhibit featuring a theme. Keep a watchful eye out as we introduce a lecture series and an exciting fundraiser. Please renew your membership this month. Your membership continues to be our main source of support and we thank you.

Sincerely,

Ellie Dillon, Board President

Contact us:
Tel. (518)-885–7589
Email: nbm@nycap.rr.com
FB: National Bottle Museum

Renew your membership today! Form is at end of newsletter.

Thank you for your support.
Two Museums... One Village

The National Bottle Museum and the Saratoga County Historical Society at Brookside have joined forces to offer a special membership package. If you join both museums the special price will be $45.00! Membership form will be at end of newsletter. Come and visit the two unique museums only blocks apart in the Village of Ballston Spa.

41st ANNUAL

SUNDAY JUNE 7th
2020 SARATOGA SHOW
Antique Bottle Show & Sale
SARATOGA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

FAIRGROUNDS ADDRESS:
162 PROSPECT STREET
BALLSTON SPA, NY
LIVE FLAMEWORKING DEMONSTRATIONS BY GLASSWORKS STUDIO
DOORS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 9 AM
SHOW RUNS TIL 2:30 PM
ADOPTION:
$5 ADULTS
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE
EARLY ADMISSION
8 AM / $15

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Roy Topka
518-779-1243
rmt556@yahoo.com or
Adam Stoddard
518-256-7663
acstoddard63@gmail.com

2020 Bottle Show Info:
Contact : Roy Topka at: rmt556@yahoo.com
Adam Stoddard at: acstoddard63@gmail.com

The permanent exhibit of Bottles of the USA will soon be getting a facelift. It will become an interactive exhibit highlighting state and matching bottle. (Thank you Adam Stoddard.)

Coming Soon!!
The Second Floor of the Museum will be expanding! The backroom will be opened up to create more exhibit space.

Donated Molding tools from Gerard Dauphinais
What does one write when one has nothing to write about?

Christmas is behind us, and Chanukah is half over. Kwanza is just beginning. There is some snow on the ground here in Ballston Spa, though the temperature forecast suggests that some of it will be disappearing soon. More will come, of course, it’s just that time of year.

Even with people visiting the area for the holidays, NBM gets few visitors this time of year. November saw 99 visitors sign the guestbook, from 9 states, Quebec and Great Britain. I’m pretty sure December’s numbers will be higher, fueled by B Spa’s annual Christmas parade, which goes right past the museum front door. NBM always has hot chocolate and cookies for visitors that evening.

An added attraction is two antique music boxes on loan from Art Dell, Jr., longtime NBM member and former Trustee. One plays tin discs, each with its own song, the other has a cylinder that moves over slowly until it gets through all the songs, then resets back to the first song which happens to be “My Grandfather’s Clock.” They are amazing machines, and need to be seen and heard to be truly appreciated.

Art also loaned the museum some Hudson Valley stoneware from various potteries, all decorated with birds. Again, it needs to be seen to be truly appreciated.

I just noticed that the name signed for the Great Britain visitor is “Jimmy Page.” Pretty sure it wasn’t THAT Jimmy Page.

So there you have a number of very random thoughts….. See? I didn’t have anything to write about….

Support two museums. $45.00 to join both. Membership application at end of newsletter.

Saratoga type bottles from the Eleanor and Ralph Work collection
Digs and Stories from the Desk of Roy Topka

Driving down a street in Cohoes I saw a house being boarded up that looked rather neglected and inquired of the person doing the work. He was rather angry that now evicted tenants had trashed the house and he was going to refurbish the entire place but did not have the time or money now. I asked about looking for the old privy in the small, unkempt yard, explaining how a dig works, and was told sure, anything you do will be an improvement, just don’t dig over your head. Sure, Fine I said, having no idea if there even was a pit how deep it could go.

Probes were busted out in short order and three likely spots located. I told the owner I would be back Saturday and he said he might be there. Returning, I started at the most likely spot, which was well under four feet deep but a good 6’ long. Starting in the middle a foot down I ran into clean white ash and thought I might be stuck with a turn of the century pit. Shortly after I was happy to start finding slicks that were early 1870’s. As it turned out the bottom foot of the hole was filled with glass & ceramics all the way across, so much so that bottle mortality was high.

Since the pit was shallow I was able to dig & undermine half, and then throw the dirt from the other half where I had been digging. Despite much breakage I took home: a dozen pontil & post pontil slicks, J. Nevin Cohoes & Thomas Cream Nector Troy aqua blobs, Some older milk glass, a Lairds Perfumer, E. Defreest stoneware w/blue letters, I.P. green improved mineral waters, and a I.P. cobalt Boardman NYC soda.

Having time the 2nd spot, a smallish 3,x 3,x 3 affair, was taken out. This was older than the first hole, but only contained an older, plain slip glaze stoneware bottle, and a Dr. Browns Ginger Pop stoney w/poorly fired cobalt lip. The third spot was left for last as I did not think it a privy and it was not very big. I dug quickly and found it was a trash or cleaned out pit, having the oldest artifacts in the yard, but no whole items. Well, that was it.
NATIONAL BOTTLE MUSEUM®
76 Milton Ave.
Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020
(518) 885-7589
www.nationalbottlemuseum.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP in the National Bottle Museum is open to one and all in the following categories:
$20.00 up to $49.00 — FRIENDS
$50.00 up to $149.00 — SUPPORTERS
$150.00 and up — BENEFACTORS
$500.00 and up — CORPORATE DONORS

The NATIONAL BOTTLE MUSEUM is a non-profit (501 C-3) educational institution chartered by the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education. The museum is not subsidized, but raises all of its own funds and is governed by an elected volunteer Board of Trustees, operating under universally accepted museum policies. Museum memberships include: The Museum Association of New York, The Southern Adirondack, Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association, and the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

Members receive our newsletter containing information on the museum and upcoming shows. Each spring, the Museum sponsors a Bottle Show & Sale known as “The Saratoga Show” which attracts enthusiasts from coast to coast in the United States and several provinces of Canada.

_____________________________________________________

PLEASE PRINT NAME & FULL MAILING ADDRESS

Please make checks payable to National Bottle Museum & mail to:

Membership Chairman
National Bottle Museum
76 Milton Ave.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Name: ________________________________ Phone: ( ) __________________

Street or P.O. Box: ______________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ___________ Zip: ________________________

Amount Enclosed: $ ________ New: ______ Renewal: ______ Gift: ______ Date: __________

Bottle Club (if any): _______________________ Email Address: __________________
This is an unique opportunity to support two museums in one small village. Come and spend the day in Ballston Spa to eat, shop and visit the Museums!

Support your museums.

12 month membership

Name: __________________________________________________________

Email: _________________________________________________________

_address: ______________________________________________________ Phone:________________________

**Membership special: $45.00 includes both museums.**

Checks payable and mail to
Brookside Museum, 6 Charlton Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Credit Card# ___________________________ Ex Date____________________ CVC#_______

We sincerely thank you for renewing your membership. Soon our new website will be up and running making donations and memberships easy to renew.