

Hillary House National Historic Site participates in Culture Days



By Erika Manassis

Increasingly, engaging with arts and culture has been cited as one of the best ways to increase one's personal level of happiness.

Globe and Mail author and economist Todd Hirsch writes that one of the most effective ways to become creative and innovative is to bombard the brain with things it has never encountered before.?

At Hillary House National Historic Site, you can always expect to encounter the unfamiliar and surprising.

Based out of Hillary House, Aurora Historical Society aims to create opportunities for Aurorans to engage with local culture. Throughout the year, children's activities, outreach at public events, holiday celebrations and partnerships with local businesses are implemented to encourage widespread participation in Aurora's rich heritage community.

Built in 1862, Hillary House has plenty to offer Aurorans of all ages. Visit this historic site to learn about one of the founding families of Aurora and their deep military, medical and arts roots. Inside the house you will see and handle medical artifacts once belonging to Dr. Robert Michael Hillary, juxtaposed with the remnants of the family life that once flourished here.

Antique and original furniture, clothing, décor and toys create a window through which to observe the Hillary Family at various stages of their residency in Aurora.

Prepare to be surprised as you wander through this unexpectedly large home-turned-museum. The rotating roster of exhibitions in the Ballroom and renovated Exhibit Rooms of Hillary House are sure to offer new delights with each visit.

On Saturday, September 26, the Aurora Historical Society invites you to enjoy this cultural and historical landmark to celebrate Culture Days 2015.

An interactive genealogical workshop hosted by Barbara J. Starmans will help you to develop your family tree, while crafts are sure to entertain younger visitors. After their crafts, children are invited to participate in Let's Talk to Kids, an audio/video initiative that documents children's memories of Aurora. Hillary House NHS will be open from 12 noon to 4 p.m. and free tours will be offered throughout the day.

Engaging in local culture has been found to be of the easiest ways to boost your own innovation, creativity and happiness. Aurora Historical Society, with its partner organizations of the Aurora Cultural Roundtable, look forward to your active participation in creating an amazing Culture Days 2015 experience.

Look for your passport to fun and creativity in The Auroran and at participating venues. Take part in family-friendly activities, win prizes and make culture part of your daily life.