

Congregation B'nai Israel  
190 Church St  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2R 3E9



January 20, 2017

Dear Members of the Congregation B'Nai Israel,

I would like to take a moment, on behalf of the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre and the City of St. Catharines to sincerely thank you for the display of your Congregation's objects at the Museum throughout 2016. The exhibition, which was on display in two display cases in our lobby was very striking and told a compelling and interesting part of our community's story.

It was my very great pleasure to work with the members of your community to put together this beautiful exhibit. I would like to especially thank Pearl and Howard who were instrumental in the planning, development and installation of the display. Their enthusiasm for the history of the Congregation B'Nai Israel helped take this project to the highest standard.

In 2016, the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre welcomed more than 86,000 visitors who would have seen the B'Nai Israel exhibition. I personally witnessed numerous visitors who stopped and took the time to really look closely at the objects and stories on display.

Exhibits like the one put together by your congregation are an important way for us to continue to tell all the stories of our community's history and to share the incredible diversity of the people who live in this city. Sharing that diversity is the best way to build an understanding and tolerance of all communities that make up our country.

As we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's Confederation in 2017, I hope that your congregation will continue to engage with the Museum. We will be developing an exhibit which will be opening on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will explore St. Catharines through the lens of the City's residents. This will be a living times capsule of our community today as we look forward to the next 150 years. We are asking for community members to loan to the Museum one object of their own that represents them and why. If any of the members of your congregation are interested in participating, they can contact me at the Museum.

In conclusion, I would again like to thank you sincerely for your participation in our exhibition program and I look forward to working with you again soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Powell".

Kathleen Powell  
Supervisor of Historical Services