



Huble Homestead/Giscome Portage Heritage Society

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CLEANING AND CARE OF HISTORIC OBJECTS

General Information:

- Historic items all require a softer touch than modern items but certain types of materials need even gentler care. Such items include textiles, paper items, photographs and plant materials.
- All historic items (except ceramics and glass) should be handled using cotton gloves as the oils and salts from our skin can cause damage and corrosion to the items.
- At all times items should be kept out of direct sunlight if at all possible as the sunlight will cause fading and drying of the materials.
 - Certain items are especially susceptible including anything that has dye, pigments or paint. Red colours will suffer the worst from direct sunlight.

Basic Care:

- Be careful not to pick items up by parts that may break (ie: the backs of chairs, the top of tables, the spines of books or the handles of china).
- Keep items clean, dry and out of sunlight as much as possible.
- Wrap items in acid free tissue during storage to help protect and keep them clean.
- Silver should be polished infrequently only with polish made specifically for silver items.
- Wooden furniture does not need to be oiled. Keep it clean and dry and once a year apply a thin layer of a good paste wax with a clean soft cloth.
- Handle books and documents with extreme care and keep them free of dust and dirt that can promote the growth of mold.
- Keep paper and photographs in acid free envelopes and out of the light to keep them best preserved.
- Reproductions of family photos can be displayed while the originals are kept safe.
- Textiles and fur should be stored in an archival box or a clean cotton bag so they can be protected from dust while moisture cannot build up on the items.

Useful Websites:

- Huble Homestead Tip Sheets for Basic Care of Artifacts
www.hublehomestead.ca/AntiqueAppraisals
- Canadian Conservation Institute
<https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute.html>