

February 2024

Happy New Year! The celebrations for our tenth anniversary ended as 2023 closed. It was an exciting year with so many special events and programmes. The completion of the London Township Heritage Tour Book in time for the Heritage Fair in April concluded the set of tour books for Delaware, Lobo and London Townships. All are available at the Middlesex Centre Archives for \$10 each. These are a great way to travel and see the beauty and history of Middlesex Centre! The Heritage Fair was a resounding success once again. Plans are already in place for the 2024 Heritage Fair on April 6th in the Delaware Community Centre. The first cemetery tour was launched in October. That left people asking for it to become an annual event. That could happen as there are lots of cemeteries in Middlesex Centre and all have stories to tell. The Marsh Store and Friends documents were digitised. The annual events in which MCA usually participates were still part of our busy agenda too – our annual Fund-Raising Online Auction with Filson Auction in February, the Poplar Hill Picnic, Ska-Na-Doht 50th Anniversary celebrations, Canada Day, Ilderton Fair, Remembrance Day services, Delaware Seniors Appreciation and production of our annual calendar! As well, MCA members write articles monthly for the Villager magazine and speak at local engagements. As you can see, besides the task of preserving and documenting local archival materials, MCA is helping researchers and supporting our community. We also continue to be actively engaged in the work to establish a Middlesex County Archives.

With that list of events and tasks, our volunteers are extremely busy. We need more volunteers, especially to help with outreach activities as in those listed above. Volunteering at the Archives is always welcomed too.

So far, in 2024 we have just completed our Online Fund-Raising Auction. Now we are planning for our 4th annual Heritage Fair on Saturday, April 6th. Mark that date on your calendar. There are historical groups' displays, book sales and a lunch counter. It is a **MUST** attend event and all at no cost for admittance. Watch our website and Facebook page for more details.



HERITAGE FAIR

HOSTED BY



SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

DELAWARE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 2652 GIDEON DRIVE, DELAWARE

- FREE ADMISSION
- HERITAGE DISPLAYS
- COMMUNITY GROUPS
- PRESENTATIONS
- LUNCH BOOTH
- BOOK SALE TABLE
- SPECIAL ACTIVITY FOR KIDS **NEW!**
- VISIT THE ARCHIVES

CASH ONLY FOR VENDORS AND LUNCH BOOTH

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK Middlesex Centre Archives

middlesexcentearchives@gmail.com

Maintaining the Archives and its Annex does cost money - over \$60,000 annually. The Middlesex Centre Archives is funded through fundraising activities, memberships, donations and grants. To-date, MCA has received a \$4630 from the Middlesex Centre Council Grants Programme. Thank You Middlesex Centre Council! The donations from local service clubs, and private businesses and citizens, are our other sources of funding. Income Tax receipts for any donation over \$20 are available. Grants applications, when available, are sought. MCA has been very successful with these in the past. However, grants are becoming less available. As you can see, money is always on the Board of Directors' agenda.

For those who are members, the Annual General Meeting for MCA is on Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 P.M. at the Komoka Library Meeting Room in the Wellness Centre. This is your opportunity to learn more about MCA, its plans and to ask questions. It is important to have your

input. If you are not a member, check our webpage, and fill out a membership form.

Regards,
Carol

Archivist Corner

Since becoming archivist at MCA some changes have been made and additions to our events schedule have been added. Some of you may have attended the Cemetery Tour in October. The feedback from participants was that it was a resounding success! We were thrilled with the turnout, but also the day itself. We visited three local cemeteries, along with local historians to serve as guides. Each historian provided details unique to each location and provided more insight into those who used each burial ground. We were also fortunate to be able to visit three places of worship: Poplar Hill Baptist Church, Friends Meeting House at Coldstream and Denfield Anglican Church. Being able to see the worship space of each was very rewarding and added to the tour. Many on the tour had never visited any of these locations and it was a great day to learn about local history and some of the more notable former residents. We hope to host another cemetery bus tour in the fall. Please keep your eyes open for details.



Mother and daughter attendees read tombstones at Tiffany Cemetery

We are now well into 2024. Donations are slowly coming in. It is a sign of the times, as folks return to their pre-pandemic lives and purging has slowed down. But no worries, there is still lots of work. A big focus for 2024 will be populating the database. This will be a slow process as each box and fonds will be examined. We are looking forward to this long-term project. A great big “thank you” to the Municipality of Middlesex Centre who provides the funding for the database through the annual

Council Grant. We apply each year for funding and the Municipality continues to approve our request.

In addition to the database, the 2024 Council Grant request also included funding for the rehousing of a very special MCA collection. In 1984, London Township had a bicentennial project in which they collected, reproduced via photography and created a pictorial history of the former Township – people, places and things! Those photo are in desperate need of rehousing into archival safe enclosures. This project will also begin in the next few months. An estimated 1500 images are included in this project (along with the original negatives!).

For seven years MCA has hosted a heritage fair. Originally, it was held in February during Ontario Heritage Week. But in 2022, while still on the brink additional pandemic shut-downs, MCA board of directors agreed to reschedule in April in conjunction with Archives Awareness Week. This April 6, we will host our third Heritage Fair in April. We are excited about the planning that is taking place and the number of community heritage groups who have already registered! Watch social media for more details concerning an afternoon speaker session and an activity for the kids! Be sure to also watch our Facebook and Instagram accounts as we join other archives across the province from April 1 to April 26 with #ArchivesAtoZ.

The Heritage Fair is free to attend and we encourage you to invite someone who may not have attended before to come out and see what it’s all about. We are your community archives, and we hope to see you there! Oh, and if you do come, don’t forget to bring cash for lunch and pie in the lunchroom!

Cheers,
Krista

Attend
Middlesex Centre Archives
Annual General Meeting
March 28, 2024
7:00 P.M.
Library
Komoka Wellness Centre

MIDDLESEX CENTRE ARCHIVES

THANKS OUR ONLINE FUNDRAISING AUCTION BUSINESS DONORS

4 Pizza Sake
80S Pizza and Grill
Arva Appliances
Arva Flour Mills
BJs Market
Bloomers Family Farm
Bloomin Bog Gardens
Body Essence
Bonnie Baker Hodgins Realtor
Brain Freeze
Canada Curling Stone
Coldstream Concrete Ltd.
Crump Family Farm
Crunican Orchards
DeVries Cheese Factory & Store
Excel Pharmacy
Flagstone Financial
Floral Temptations
Flynn Group of Companies
For Pizza Sake
Forest City Business Equipment
Fringe Hair Spa
Gardiner's Barn Quilts
Gingerbread House Bakery
Glenn Stott
Granite Computer
Haskett Funeral Home
Hillside Restaurant
Home Hardware Komoka
Hoskin Feed & Country Store
Ilderton Pet Hospital
Jezebel Apothecary

King Edward Restaurant & Pub
Little Off The Top Hair Salon
Livy Bean Market Place
Llyndinshire Golf and Country Club
London Tire Sales Ltd.
Market Pet Store
MCA
McLachlan Family Maple Syrup
Municipality of Middlesex Centre
New Life Mills, Denfield
Nicky Stanton - Avon Representative
Oak and Linen Home
Oxbow Audio Lab
Parkway Garden Centre
Picards Peanuts
Proof Line Farm
Remax - Rob Sanderson
Rolling Ridge Maple Products
Ruff Trax Pet Supply
Saros Creative
St. Marys GMC
Stewart Overhead Door
Suni's Convenience Store
The Spa Date
The Union Pub
Tim Hortons Ilderton
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