

December 2019

It is hard to believe that 2019 is fast drawing to a close. At the Middlesex Centre Archives, the months speed by so quickly with so much happening and changing.

2019 has been a year of change. Our Board of Directors saw newcomers Gail Prior, Sharon MacMillan and Glenda Ladell join the Board while Jeremy Robson, Glenn Scarborough and Linda Kaiser retired. The Executive also changed with our founding Chair, Bev Hughes retiring from that role and late this year taking on the Acting Secretary position. Carol Small is now Chair with Dave Zavitz, Vice-Chair with Ken Veldhuis, Secretary and Gail Prior, Treasurer.

Due to our overwhelming success since 2013, we have rented the Annex to process our incoming donations and for storage of archival materials. With more shelving added, this area is also filling up fast. If visiting MCA, our Archives at 2652 Gideon Drive is still the place to come.

We are receiving lots of materials from near and far. For the most part, it is Middlesex Centre related. We are so happy to see these materials being saved and donated to the Archives. This means they will be preserved and available for generations to come.



Ilderton Main Street Veteran Banner

We were so proud and pleased to help the Ilderton and District Lions Club and Ilderton Legion Branch 531 with their Veteran Banner Project. The banners along Main Street in Ilderton brought a new awareness to Remembrance Day and to the men and women who gave so much for us.



MCA Archivist, Carolynn Bart-Riedstra shows a 124 year-old poster from Delaware United Church time capsule.

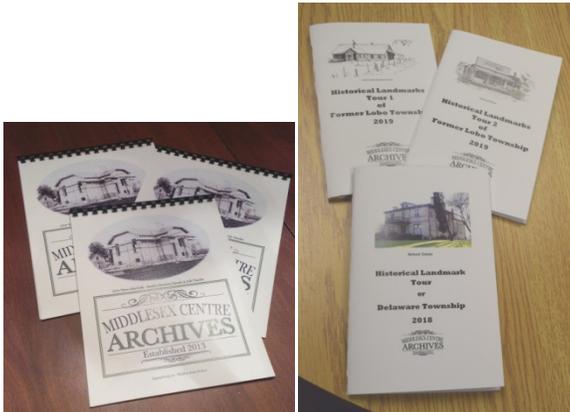
One of our exciting occasions was opening the Delaware Methodist (United) Church's time capsule on October 30th. Originally placed in the Church's cornerstone on July 1, 1895, the glass jar reluctantly gave up its contents of newspapers, maps, posters, historical accounts of the church and a drawing of the interior layout of the church. After 124 years, most articles were in pristine condition. A group of interested folks gathered at the Annex to watch the opening.

Our projects at the Archives continue. The documentation of War Brides in our area is ongoing. If you know someone who is/was a war bride, please let us know. They have a story to tell and remember.

We have completed three Historical Landmark tour books – one for Delaware and two for Lobo. These are receiving very positive reviews. We are continuing the work on London Township historical landmarks.

Write Your Own Story

As well, we have a new 2020 calendar that features former schools of Middlesex Centre.



We have been busy in the communities. Our displays were at the Ilderton Fair, Sharon School Reunion, Vanneck United Church Anniversary, Ilderton, Poplar Hill and Delaware Lions Seniors' Dinners, as well as the Gold Creek Community Club Centennial.

Please mark, **Saturday, February 22, 2020** on your calendar. That is 3rd annual **Middlesex Centre Archives Heritage Fair** to be held at Delaware Community Centre from 10 to 4. Many Middlesex County and local groups with interests in local history will be there.

As the old year closes, MCA has some ideas that may help preserve our heritage.

Some New Year's To-Dos For You

Check documents, photos, letters etc. before tossing them out

Too many historic materials are still being tossed in dumpster bins. We received a photo album recently that a passerby retrieved from a dumpster. That album contained photos of early Middlesex Centre family members. We were thrilled that it was saved! If you are involved with an estate or helping clean out a house, shop etc., please check each piece of paper to make sure that once-treasured pictures, documents, letters, etc. are not tossed away. Even if the photo does not have names on it, they may still be identified some day. If you or family members do not want them, we would only too happy to receive them. Once they are assessed and meet archival criteria, they are preserved in archival quality storage. So keep searching for those treasures.

Each second that passes becomes history! Many of us have a whole lot of seconds and history that have passed! Every person has an important story to tell. Someday, your children or grandchildren will ask about you. What do they know about you? Documents and data can give your birth date etc., but you are more than that! Your stories make you come alive. Those stories of you are how they will remember you. Everyone is important and interesting. What a great gift and legacy you will leave the next generation. Now find that paper/computer and start writing!

When working on these projects, don't forget to give a copy to the Archives!

The MCA Board of Directors, Archivist, and Volunteers wish to thank you for your support throughout 2019. We look forward to seeing you in 2020. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2020!



From MCA Zavitz-Bycraft Collection

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter or our webpage.

Carol Small, Chair
Middlesex Centre Archives

Weather permitting:
Open Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
First and Third Saturday of month 1 – 4 p.m.
(closed on holiday weekends)
Closed December 19, 2019 to January 7, 2020

Email: middlesexcentearchives@gmail.com
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