



Dedicated to Preserving our Heritage Resources

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Fall 2020 Newsletter



transferring them to Annex A for processing. After processing, the documents are taken to the Archives to be included in the collections there.

In conjunction with London-Middlesex Health Unit and the Municipality of Middlesex Centre guidelines, we opened on September 16th. With a generous donation from Flynn Company Ltd. (London office) of custom-cut plexiglass, masks, gloves, surface sanitizer and hand sanitizer, we are well equipped with PPE equipment. Re-arranging of the offices to allow for social distancing, stringent rules for making appointments and only one visitor at a time, signing contact tracing forms, sanitizing hands and equipment, all make MCA a safe place for visitors, staff and volunteers.

One would think that with the Middlesex Centre Archives closed since March, due to Covid-19 restrictions, very little would have happened. Nothing could be further from the truth.

You at home were very busy sorting and cleaning those projects that you never had time to do. We got emails and phone calls from all across Ontario! We got questions about what to do with the materials. Would we take this collection? Is this valuable to the Archives? What should we do about these materials? We were happy to be asked. That meant precious Middlesex Centre documents were not being put in a dumpster!

With that, we realised that many documents would be arriving at the Archives once Covid-19 restrictions were loosened and we could re-open. We had to plan for that as the documents would need to be quarantined. Paper can carry Covid-19 for up to 4 days. So we rented another unit, Annex B, two doors down from Annex A on Longwoods Road in Delaware. In Annex B, we receive any new documents, store them there for 4 days before



Our work continues on our special projects. Research is ongoing with the Canada 150 Heritage Landmarks for London Township. The tour

booklets for the former Delaware and Lobo Township tours are very popular. For only \$10 per book, follow the route through Middlesex Centre to see the heritage landmarks and the splendid autumn colours. Our identification of local War Brides and Veteran projects continue.



All the negatives from “The Heritage of Lobo” book collection have been digitized – over 3000 of them! Some had no identification and we do need help with those pictures. Any help with any of these projects is certainly welcome.

Middlesex Centre Archives did respond to the Municipality of Middlesex Centre’s request for input to the Municipality’s Strategic Plan. During the closure, the MCA Archivist and volunteers kept busy writing numerous articles about local history for several magazines.

We do wish to recognise the generous donations of our local Lions Clubs in Delaware, Poplar Hill and Ilderton as well as Town and Country Mutual Insurance Company. Private and memorial donations have also been received. Because we must raise funds through grants or donations, we are constantly working to keep our income and expense columns balanced.



Selma Meeting House (Selma) - Coldstream



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Cover Page of 2021 Calendar

Look for our next edition of the Middlesex Centre Archives calendar that features Middlesex Centre churches. It will be available by Thanksgiving at \$15 per calendar. It is the perfect gift for those on your list who have everything. It is even in time to send off to those far-off relatives and friends.

With being closed, funding is even a greater issue now. We applied for and received a Department of Canadian Heritage Grant. We have applied for several other grants and are awaiting word on those. However, because we had no traffic into the Archives, book sales, research fees etc. completely stopped. Consider making a monetary donation or memorial donations to MCA. We are a registered charitable organisation and issue tax receipts for amounts over twenty dollars.

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter or our webpage.

Carol Small
Chair
Middlesex Centre Archives

Open Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
First and Third Saturday of month 1 – 4 p.m.
(closed on holiday weekends)