

Dedicated to Preserving our Heritage Resources

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Another three months have passed and the Archives remains closed. The Board of Directors decided to keep the Archives closed until it was safe to re-open. Many of our volunteers are senior citizens and some with vulnerable people in their homes. Although we may think we are an essential service, we just could not risk affecting the health of our volunteers. So we remain closed at this time.



Just a few of the donated items in quarantine
Annex B



That being said, the Archives has been a very busy place. Many emails continue to arrive with questions and offers of donations. Mail continues to be delivered. Donations continue to arrive including major collections. Those are stored in Annex B awaiting processing.

With the successful application of the Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Grant for \$17 000, new rolling shelving has already been installed in Annex A. Archival supplies have arrived in anticipation of re-opening. Air purifiers are installed and working. With the Municipality of Middlesex Centre Grant of \$5000, additional rolling shelves will be installed in Annex B. In addition, donated wooden shelving has arrived in the Archives itself. These shelves will hold the family history collections in the Reference Section.



Rolling Shelving In Annex A

The Covid-19 closure caused the cancellation of the very popular Middlesex Centre Archives Heritage Fair in February. That event had grown exponentially in the number of vendors and attendance since its inception in 2018. It is definitely in the plans for February 2022!

Without the Heritage Fair, the Board of Directors sought new means to reach out to the people of Middlesex Centre and area. What better way than an

online auction! The MCA members, the community and local businesses responded overwhelmingly. They donated articles for the auction and then they participated in the actual auction. In fact, www.filsonauction.com was the social hub for Middlesex Centre and beyond residents for the week of February 6th to 11th. With such a range of items offered, the auction had something for everyone. It was a resounding success! The auction achieved two goals. It told people the Archives is definitely alive and functioning. It also brought in over \$7800 much needed funds to Middlesex Centre Archives. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way and thanks to Ray and Caroline Filson and their team at Filson Auctions. The Board of Directors has decided to make this an annual event. We already have some items donated for the 2022 auction. So start thinking about what you can donate!



MCA Calendar 2021

The *Kilworth-Komoka-Delaware Villager* magazine expanded to include a new publication, the *Ilderton and Area Villager*. Middlesex Centre Archives contributes an article for each publication. Currently, Dave Zavitz is writing a series of 4 articles about his great, great grandmother, Anna Hampton Zavitz, titled *Anna: Courage of Conviction*. Read about the incredible people who helped develop Middlesex Centre.

The Committee to Establish a Middlesex County Archives resumed meetings through Zoom in February 2021 after a hiatus since March 2020 due to Covid-19. Currently the group, with membership from across Middlesex County, is working on a business plan.

The Board of Directors of the Middlesex Centre Archives continues to meet virtually through Zoom meetings. Committee work also continues through Zoom meetings. The Annual General Meeting for the Middlesex Centre Archives was held on March 30th, again with a Zoom meeting.

The Executive and Directors remain:

Chair – Carol Small

Vice-Chair – Dave Zavitz

Secretary – Bev Hughes

Treasurer – Gail Prior

Directors-at-large – Glenna Ladell, Sharon McMillan and Mary Vanderwal.

Our calendars for 2021 featured some churches of Middlesex Centre. Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the Archives had record sales. Thank you to the vendors who sold these for us – Crunican Orchards, Arva Flour Mill, Floral Temptations, The Marsh Store, Foodland (Komoka), Delaware Variety and BJ's Country Market.

