

Fall 2022 Newsletter

The Fall colours are brilliant this year! We do hope you are able to get out and enjoy them. At the Archives, Covid rules remain in place, full vaccination requirements, masking and with space limits; please contact the Archives via telephone or email for an appointment.

Because we have received so many family histories, etc., we have had to re-organise the Ken Veldhuis Reading Room resources. That was a big task as all books had to be moved, re-shelved, catalogued and recorded. This is just one example of our collections and the work involved.



Dr. Ken Veldhuis Reading Room



We are about to embark on a massive data project of cataloguing and recording all that is housed in the various Hollinger boxes on all the shelving units in both rooms at the Archives and in the Annex.



Just a few of the boxes to be catalogued

In the meantime, MCA maintains a busy Outreach Programme. Displays have been at the Irish Heritage Festival at Fanshawe Pioneer Village, the Ilderton Fair and at the Retired Teachers' Organisation (RTO) District 8 Fall Meeting. A presentation was also made to RTO District 8 Directors.



Ilderton Fair Display

Archivists from local Archives also visited and toured MCA. It was an honour to host this group and showcase our Archives. In its short history, MCA has received many honours and accolades.



Visiting Archivists

See our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts to find some interesting tidbits about history in Middlesex Centre and beyond. Have you read the MCA articles in issues of the Villager – Komoka/Kilworth/Delaware and Ilderton? Check them out to learn more about our Middlesex Centre communities and our people.

Middlesex Centre Archives did receive a \$4,000 grant from the Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations under the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. As well, MCA received a generous donation from AXIOM Mutual Insurance Company. All grants and donations are very much welcomed, as this is our major means of raising funds. At MCA, we do pinch every penny twice! Why not donate and get your name on our Recognition Boards in the Archives. Memorial and special occasion donations are a great way to support the Archives. Tax receipts are given for donations over \$20.

Our 2023 memberships are now available online with easy e-transfer payment available through our website. Other payment options are also available. Here is the link: <http://middlesexcentrearchive.ca/membership-application/>

Our 2023 calendars are in the making. This year's theme is *Industry In Middlesex Centre*. Look for those at all the usual local venues and at the Archives. Great Christmas gifts for those who have everything! Our self-guiding tour booklets of Delaware and Lobo Townships also make wonderful Christmas gifts. Drop into the Archives to purchase some at only \$10 each.



Tour Book - \$10

Our TENTH anniversary plans are starting to take shape. Our logo has taken on a new look for that special anniversary. Check the left-hand corner of this newsletter.

Our popular “Heritage Fair” is booked for April 1st. There is no fooling with history – so mark your calendars. The London Township Tour books will be unveiled and for sale at this Fair. Stay tuned for more great announcements.



2023 Calendars coming soon \$15

SAVE THE DATE!

Middlesex Centre Archives
**HERITAGE
FAIR**

**WE'RE NOT FOOLING
AROUND WITH OUR
HISTORY!**

April 1, 2023

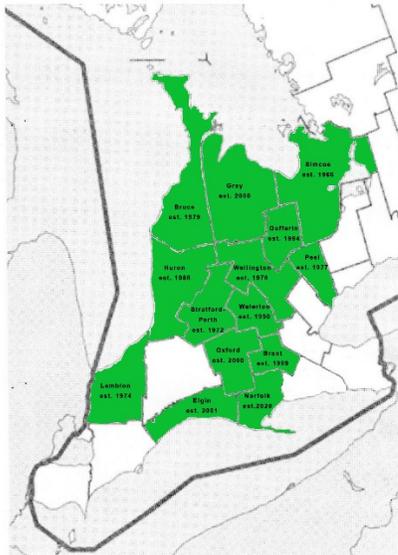
Delaware Community Centre
www.middlesexcentrearchive.ca
for more details



As you read this newsletter, you will note our many activities. It takes many hands to carry out all this work. If you are interested in being a part of a dynamic group that accomplishes much, volunteer with us! Contact MCA via telephone or email to become a volunteer. You will love it!!!!

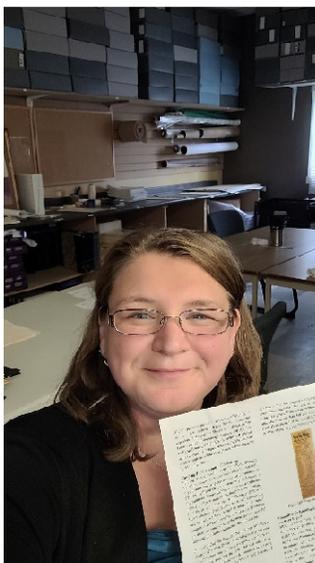
Yes, Middlesex Centre Archives members remain very active and dedicated to the establishment of a Middlesex COUNTY Archives. Stay tuned as we continue in this quest.

Map To Show Southwestern Ontario Counties With County Archives



■ - County Archives
□ - No County Archives

From The Archivist – Krista Taylor



Krista at work in the Annex

Greetings!

I'm pleased to share a little bit of what I've been up to as archivist for the MCA newsletter.

My focus continues to be the digitization project funded by a Digital Heritage Communities Project (DHCP) grant. This grant was awarded with the purpose of digitizing the ledgers, records and photographs associated with the Society of Friends (Quakers) of Coldstream, in the former Township of Lobo.

The MCA is privileged to own this collection, including several original ledgers from the sawmill, grist mill, carding/woolen mill and store. These ledgers provide insight into the commerce and daily needs of the community during that era. Documents such as these are rare which is why accessibility is essential. These documents will help provide a better understanding of the economic and social development of rural Ontario, the contributions of the Society of Friends to their community, rural history and genealogy.

To date, more than 3500 scanned images, from 22 ledgers have been created and saved. This includes scans of both single and double pages. Eventually, these images (by ledger) will be formatted into a PDF which will then be accessible for viewing. Where possible, the ledgers will be indexed to make them more useful and accessible.

The project is not just about digitizing. Prior to digitization, each document is cleaned and where necessary, conservation is done. The documents are being digitized because of their fragility and condition. Digitization will prevent over-handling, excessive light exposure and possible damage, which will ensure longevity of the original documents.

The project should be wrapped up in March 2023. There are no current plans to make the digitized ledgers available online as we do not currently have the infrastructure to do so. But they will be available for viewing on-site.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with what's going on with MCA and see images from our collection! If you haven't already, be sure to give us a "Like".