



Dedicated to Preserving our Heritage Resources

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Spring 2020 Newsletter

Spring signals new growth, new hope and new projects outdoors etc. In that context, thank you to the Municipality of Middlesex Centre for painting and bringing our outdoor sign at the Archives back to life. However, this year is certainly different and one that we have never seen or experienced before. We do hope people are keeping records because in 50 to 100 years, our descendants will be researching in archives to discover how their ancestors (that's you) survived Covid-19. Once MCA is open to the public, we would love copies of those memoirs.

Our last day open to the public was March 11th. However, work at MCA continues from our homes. Emails with requests continue, and although we cannot access MCA materials, we can make other suggestions to help. Updates to Twitter, Facebook and our webpage continue, so check those out. Donations continue to arrive - even into our personal mailboxes. We just can't process them right now.

The Board of Directors continues to make decisions and the AGM was held virtually on April 28th. From the AGM, our Board of Directors are: Bev Hughes (Past-Chair and Secretary); Carol Small (Chair); Dave Zavitz (Vice-Chair); Gail Prior (Treasurer); Sharon McMillan, Glenna Ladell and Mary Vanderwal. We are pleased to have Mary join the Board to complete the one-year term left vacant by the death of Dr. Ken Veldhuis - a long time, ardent worker and supporter of MCA. MCA has named the reading room, *The Dr. Ken Veldhuis Reading Room*, in his honour and memory.Carolynn Bart-Riedstra remains our Archivist.

The *Heritage of Lobo* book project of scanning ALL 3000 plus negatives is completed. It was an ominous task but with the negatives digitised, these valuable pictures will be accessible to the community. All articles that were collected for the book in the late 1980s were photocopied, and photos copied via camera and photocopier with names recorded. They were sorted into files for the various chapters in preparation for writing the book and for an archives. Those files are missing! If we had those files, the task of identifying the

photos would have been much easier. We did miraculously well with only about 200 photos not identified. **WE WOULD LIKE TO LOCATE THE MISSING FILES! PLEASE HELP US!!!!** In the meantime, we will post some of the unidentified photos through our webpage and Facebook.

On February 22, MCA hosted its third annual Heritage Fair. Local historical groups and individuals set up displays. The crowds were at the doors before they opened at ten o'clock. They came from near and far but all had an interest in local history. People browsed, asked questions, donated articles to MCA, and purchased books, etc. What a resounding success! This event has grown every year and next year looks to be bigger and better.

Up until Covid-19 changed our ways for outreach, we had been very active with presentations and displays. Now, we are facing the cancellation or postponement of many community events. We thank the organisers of these events for making these difficult decisions that are always done in the interest of keeping people safe.

One of our goals, to establish a Middlesex County Archives, is also on hold until conditions are safe for us to meet. Two highly successful meetings have already taken place with a great response from groups across Middlesex County. So look for this group to re-activate when Covid-19 restrictions are gone.

The Middlesex Centre Archives will remain closed until it is deemed safe to open. The safety of our Archivist, volunteers and our guests are our prime concern at this time. Please feel free to contact us by email. We will always try to help. In the meantime, please stay safe. We look forward to seeing you sometime in the future.

Regards

Carol Small

Chair, Middlesex Centre Archives

Photos from Heritage Fair

