

# Committee to Establish a Middlesex County Archives

## OFFICERS

**Chair** – Carol Small  
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**Secretary** – Bev Hughes

**Archivist** –Carolynn  
Bart-Riedstra

## MEMBERS

Ekfrid Community  
Museum

Glencoe & District  
Historical Society

Komoka Railway Museum

London & Middlesex  
County Branch, Ontario  
Genealogical Society

London & Middlesex  
Historical Society

Lucan Area Heritage  
Society

Middlesex Centre  
Archives

Middlesex Centre  
Historical Society

Mossley Post Heritage  
& Citizenship Society

Strathroy Historical  
Society

Wardsville Historical  
Museum

Westminster Township  
Historical Society

Representatives from all  
Middlesex Communities

## Who Would Use the Middlesex County Archives?

**Municipal Clerks and Other Municipal staff** – Usually municipalities are the first place that people might contact for information about families or properties. The Middlesex County Archivist will be able to deal with these questions and reduce the time that Municipal staff need to look through municipal records to help people or even deal with MFIPPA requests. Removing records from municipal offices will free up valuable space, and records will be transferred to a space that is environmentally-controlled, centralized and conducive to adding longevity to the records. If records are needed by municipal staff, they will be easily and quickly available.

**Town Planners and Developers** – The Total Archives concept, allowing the donation of private papers in addition to municipal records, will provide information for planners and developers. Whether they need information for environmental studies or to look at photographs of old buildings, the records held by the Middlesex County Archives will assist their research.

**Lawyers** – Archives have different information that ranges from city directories to municipal records. Lawyers might be trying to find heirs in an estate or working on a case that requires proof of residence. Photographs, maps and other records can be used to prove land claims. Municipal records can provide information about items such as drainage.

**Architects and Heritage Advocates** – Both might be interested in looking at information about early settlers, their buildings and other older structures. Again, photographs might be useful, but so might directories, assessments rolls and other municipal records. Architects can use examples of older buildings to find something that fits into a certain style or even streetscapes to make sure that a new building will be in keeping with the area. Heritage advocates spend endless hours at archives looking for information when trying to save buildings, or designate heritage sites or natural areas.

**Scholars** – All levels of students - elementary school to Professors - use archives. Records provide information about whatever people are interested in, and the type of records used will vary depending on the research request. In many instances, municipal records are used for census information or studies of demographics, crop growth and rotation, and agricultural history. What can be researched or found in an Archives is unlimited.

**Educators** – Archives are an ideal place to introduce children at an early age to the wonder of history. Educators often use archival materials to teach lessons. The Archives of Ontario has a much-enhanced programme for schools using their records, but using local records is even more rewarding. When students see their parents'/grandparents' names from the 1980s or earlier, it is exciting for them to discover that they have a connection that old. It introduces them to the benefit of archives.

**Tourists** – Many genealogists or people interested in the area come to the Archives. In many cases, other family members tag along, spending invaluable tourist dollars in local amenities, restaurants and accommodation. This is in addition to the donations that might be given to the Middlesex County Archives.

**Genealogists and Family Historians** – These are probably the most important group of users and certainly the most prolific. Many Archives will say that over 45% of their users are genealogists. The records used include census, municipal records of all kinds, local history books, area newspapers, local cemetery transcriptions and anything else that can be obtained. The value of genealogists and family historians is that they understand the value of archives. They are often willing to donate a family history for someone else to see. They are staunch supporters of keeping records, taking care of them and making them accessible.