

Newsletter Fall 2021

After being closed since December 15, 2020, MCA opened on August 28th with full Covid protocols in place – mandatory mask wearing, social distancing, contact tracing sign-in, appointment only, and proof of double vaccination required for entry. We are pleased to be back!

Grants and Donations

Even though we were closed, a lot has happened. Many collections continued to arrive and are being processed by our archivist and volunteers. New rolling shelves were installed in Annexes A and B with thanks to Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Resilient Communities Fund and Municipality of Middlesex Centre Grants. From the OTF Resilient Communities Fund, desks and chairs for Annexes A and B, and archival supplies were also purchased. The Covid rent supplement helped alleviate some rent expenses. The Ilderton Library donated shelving that added much needed space to the Ken Veldhuis Reading Room in the Archives. Upon its closure, Vanneck United Church donated tables and chairs that makes processing in Annexes A and B much easier.



New Desk, Chair and Rolling Shelving Annex A



New Shelving Dr. Ken Veldhuis Reading Room, MCA



Rolling Shelving Annex B

As mentioned, grants were applied for as they became available. To date, we have received the following: OTF Resilient Communities Fund for \$17,000; Middlesex Centre Municipal Grant for \$5000; Canada Heritage Grant for \$5000 as well as the Covid Rent Subsidy. We continue to monitor and apply for all grants that may be applicable to MCA.

Our Archivists

Our archivist, Carolynn Bart-Riedstra, is beginning to ease into a well-earned retirement. Carolynn has guided our Archives into the vibrant facility it is. Archival-based policies and practices are in-place and volunteers are well-trained. Carolynn's heart is with MCA, her very special project. Consequently, she remains in an advisor role. We congratulated Carolynn on her retirement, say a big "Thank You" and wish her all the best.

MCA is proud and pleased to announce that Krista Taylor is our new archivist. Krista brings considerable experience to the position. She has worked with the Port Hope Archives, Peterborough Museum and Archives, Dufferin County and Elgin County Archives. Krista also brings an expertise in digital archival work. She is already working with the volunteers to process and catalogue the backlog of donations.

Funding, Donations and Online Auction

Funding is a constant concern for MCA. Monetary donations are always most welcome. MCA is a non-profit organisation that issues tax receipts for donations over \$20. Just mail your cheque or e-transfer your donation to the Middlesex Centre Archives at addresses listed in this newsletter. Start to think of what donations you would like to make to our online auction in February 2022 with Filson Auctions. The 2021 auction was such a resounding success that we have decided to make it an annual fundraiser. Just email or call us to let us know. Rumbblings are there are some amazing donations planned already! Stay tuned for further information about this event.

Our 2022 Calendar features “Main Street, Middlesex Centre”. The Main Streets of our villages of yester year will show how some villages have grown over the years; others have remained the same and still other have disappeared. Look for the calendar coming soon to a store near you or order from the Archives. Cost \$15 or mailed \$18.

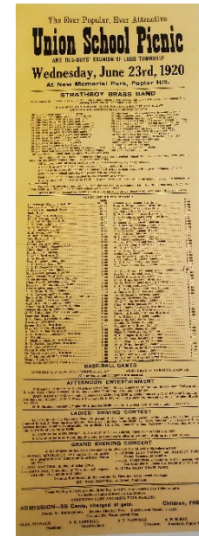
Our Projects

As we look toward 2022, we are hoping that Covid will have abated so that we can host our “Heritage Fair” on February 19th. Get those vaccinations so we all can be safe and get back to attending some special events!

MCA continues to make contributions to the Villager magazines. The articles tell of people and events from Middlesex Centre. We do have a long and proud history. We are also fortunate that so many people recognise the value of saving their documents and contributing them to the Archives. It makes researching these articles so much easier and more interesting too.

The first task is tackling the backlog of donations. We also do want to complete our Heritage Buildings project. As you will recall the Delaware and Lobo Townships Tour books were published pre-Covid. The task now is to complete and publish London Township Tour books. We need more help to complete this task. Please volunteer

your time for this interesting and worthy task. Also, MCA needs more volunteers. The task is never dull; the company is great and you just never know what you will find. Out of an envelope fell this original Poplar Hill Picnic Poster for the first picnic in 1920. Email or call the Archives if you can give a little of your time.



Poplar Hill Picnic June 23, 1920 Poster

Committee To Establish A Middlesex County Archives Report

MCA members have been very active with The Committee To Establish A Middlesex County Archives (CEMCA). Fact sheets and pertinent information have been sent to all municipal councillors and staff throughout the summer months. Check our website or Facebook page to see these. Members from all areas of Middlesex County made information presentations to their local councils. Four of those councils passed motions to support a Middlesex County Archives. On September 28th, a presentation was made to Middlesex County Council asking for the County to commit to establishing a Middlesex County Archives and to form an Advisory Committee on which CEMCA has offered to work with the County. The Councillors took no action at this time. Stay tuned. CEMCA is continuing to work on this important initiative.

Carol Small
Chair
Middlesex Centre Archives

Weather permitting:
Open Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
First and Third Saturday of month 1 – 4 p.m.
(closed on holiday weekends)
Closed December 16, 2021 to January 4, 2022