



## Dedicated to Preserving our Heritage Resources

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January 2022

Happy New Year!!!!

The good news!!!

The Middlesex Centre Archives (MCA) remained open for the 2021 Fall season. With Covid restrictions in place, the Archives did have many visitors – by appointment only and one at a time!

Now for the other news!!!!

The beginning of 2022 sees the Archives once again closed. In order to maintain the safety of our staff, volunteers and visitors, the Board of Directors closed the facilities until February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board will make a determination at its January Board Meeting to see if it is safe to re-open the Archives. If not safe, the Directors may keep the Archives closed for an extended period. At that meeting, the Board will also determine if the popular Heritage Fair in February will be happening or if it will be cancelled. Stay tuned for further information!

In the meantime, please continue to notify the Archives via email or a call to one of the Directors if you have archival donations. Arrangements will be made so you can deliver the items to Annex B, our quarantine area for donations.

Our Archivist Krista Taylor has been working at the Archives all Fall. She has been familiarising herself with the Archives and assessing the archival donations that continue to arrive. You may have seen her posts on Facebook and read her article in the Villager. She is a busy person as she tackles the backlog of donations and finds space for them. When we are open once again, please do drop in and say “hello”. In the meantime, if you have a question for Krista, please email the Archives.

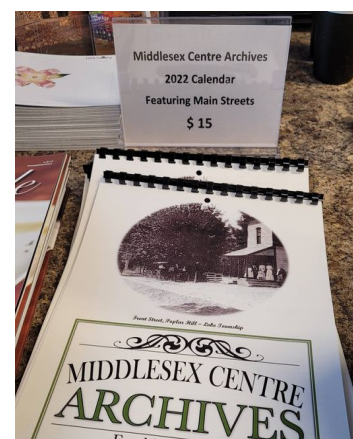
The Board wished Carolynn Bart-Riedstra well as she retires. Carolynn has brought the Middlesex

Centre Archives from a dream to a reality that is making a huge difference in the preservation of Middlesex Centre history. Her expert knowledge has put a firm foundation in place from which the Archives continues to grow and expand. Thank you so much Carolynn!!!!

Another retirement. Our Treasurer, Gail Prior, has retired. Thank you Gail for your diligent work for MCA. Gail is remaining as a Director. We are pleased to announce that Ken Filson is our new Treasurer. Ken brings experience in nonprofit organisations as well as being an accountant. Welcome Ken.

Ever an optimistic group, plans were put in place for our annual Heritage Fair on February 19th. Many historical groups throughout the region saw this as an opportunity to get back to “normal”, and they responded enthusiastically. Stay tuned to see if Covid adds the Heritage Fair to its list of cancellations.

MCA produced its 2022 calendars with the theme, “Main Streets of Middlesex Centre”. It is amazing to see how our villages once looked. If you have not got a calendar yet, they are still available at PJ’s and Delaware Variety in Delaware, Foodland in Komoka, Municipal Office in Coldstream, Floral Temptations in Ilderton, Crunican Orchards near Birr, and Arva Flour Mills in Arva.



MCA memberships (\$15) are now due Check [www.middlesexcentearchives.ca](http://www.middlesexcentearchives.ca) for a membership form.

MCA is now looking forward to its 2022 fundraising online auction with Filson Auction ([www.filsonauction.ca](http://www.filsonauction.ca)). Bidding starts February 5 and ends February 10<sup>th</sup>. Last year was the first year that MCA held this fundraiser. It was so successful that MCA has decided to make it an annual event. Our theme is “Shop Local” and Valentine’s Day. When supporting the MCA Online Auction, local merchants and MCA benefit. That is a “win” for all involved.

Items for the auction will be received until January 14. To-date, items received include books (many historical), a bike, a balloon ride, an antique car tour, tools, appliances, china, antiques, Denfield and Middlesex County memorabilia, arena ice time, gift baskets, curling stones, coins, handmade textiles, birdhouses, local produce, pet items, gift certificates -- many different and unique items. You will just have to check Filson Auctions!! Bid and bid often. It is exciting to watch the fast and furious bidding as the auction draws to a close!

Middlesex Centre Archives remains active with the Committee To Establish a Middlesex County Archives (CEMCA). A presentation was made to County Council on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The County is studying the proposal. In the meantime, CEMCA continues to monitor the situation, including County Council meetings. CEMCA has received much support from across the County. If you are speaking with a County Councillor, mention your support for a Middlesex County Archives.

To see what is happening at the Archives, check our website or our Facebook site. Follow us on Twitter @MiddlesexArchiv

Please stay safe!

Regards

Carol Small  
Chair  
Board of Directors  
Middlesex Centre Archives



**Middlesex Centre Archives (MCA)**  
**Fundraising**  
**Online Auction**  
[www.filsonauction.com](http://www.filsonauction.com)  
**Bidding Opens Feb. 5, 2022**  
**Bidding Closes Feb. 10, 2022**  
**Donations accepted until**  
**January 14, 2022**  
**Email**  
[middlesexcentearchives@gmail.com](mailto:middlesexcentearchives@gmail.com)  
**Contact: Carol Small 519-666-1488**  
**Bev Hughes 519-666-0452**  
**Mary Vanderwal—519-666-0815**  
**Your support is greatly appreciated.**

As in all like-minded organisations, we like to support each other’s endeavors. MCA is supporting the London-Middlesex Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society with this request. I hope you can help.

*The London & Middlesex Branch of The Ontario Genealogical Society is seeking copies of printed (or digital) church histories, or church anniversary publications of any church located in Middlesex County (whether existing or closed). With so many churches closing, or being repurposed, we wish to ensure that a local copy is preserved and digitized for future generations. If your New Year’s Resolution was to declutter and you come across a spare copy of a church history to donate, or would be willing to loan it to us for digitizing, we would be most grateful.*

*For more information, please email the branch Recording Secretary, Sheila Johnston at: [londonmiddlesexsecretary@ogs.on.ca](mailto:londonmiddlesexsecretary@ogs.on.ca)*