

Happy 10th Anniversary
Middlesex Centre Archives
2013-2023

April 2023

The Middlesex Centre Archives continues to be a busy place. That seems to be a familiar theme for the Archives.

In January, the Archives had several projects to complete. A new strategic plan for MCA was developed to guide the Archives through to 2027. The three goals include: To grow community outreach; to have organisational stability and to have sustainable funding.

In January, the volunteers were busy gathering items for the Online Auction with Filson Auctions. Again our members, community members and community businesses donated an array of amazing items - books, research, electronics, tools, artwork, handwork, appliances, gift certificates, giftware, gift baskets, china etc. The auction was a success raising over \$6000. The Archives uses this money for general supplies, rent and archivist costs. It does take a lot to keep the Archives going. The 2023 budget is for nearly \$65,000.

In January, a committee consisting of Ann Rexe, Susan Gordon, Steve Rosser and Carol Small finished researching pre-1870 built structures of the former London Township. With research complete, writing edited and re-edited, permissions granted, pictures taken, and a route developed. A tour booklet was created (similar to the former Delaware and Lobo Townships' Historical Landmark Tour booklets). All four books were available at the MCA Heritage Fair on April 1. All were popular items. They may be purchased at the Archives for \$10 each.



On March 30th, MCA held its annual meeting where the annual reports, financial statements, budget, strategic plan and constitutional changes were received. At this meeting former Chair Carol Small retired as Chair. The 2023 Board for Middlesex Centre Archives is:

- Chair – Glenn Scarborough
- Vice-Chair – Danny Jefferies
- Secretary – Bev Hughes
- Past-Chair – Carol Small
- Directors – Mary Vanderwal, Frank Berze and Dave Zavitz
- Treasurer – Ken Filson
- Archivist – Krista Taylor



Some items from the auction

The annual MCA Heritage Fair was held on April 1 in the Delaware Community Centre. Each year, this

Fair has more historical groups participating and more people attending. 2023 had the most participants and the biggest crowds yet! For the first time, two workshops were offered. Archivist Krista presented *Your Collection: Paper to Pixels* and London & Middlesex Branch OGS presented *the Cemetery Transcription Project and An Overview of Find A Grave*. Both were popular and another item to add the Heritage Fair list for next year.

At the Fair, MCA kicked off its year of 10th anniversary celebrations in fine style with visits from dignitaries and cake! Representing the Municipality of Middlesex Centre was Deputy Mayor John Brennan. Warden Cathy Burghardt-Jesson brought greetings on behalf of Middlesex County. Greetings from Lianne Rood, MP for Lambton, Kent and Middlesex were received.



Carol Small, Warden Burghardt- Jesson, Glenn Scarborough



Deputy Mayor John Brennan & Warden Burghardt-Jesson



Visitor Frances Kilbourne saw an 1894 London Advertiser print at the Fair. So she went home and got her copy.



Crowd at the Heritage Fair

Events planned for the Anniversary Year include: Poplar Hill Picnic in June, Canada Day in July, Open House in August, Ilderton Fair September 29-October 1, and a Cemetery Tour in October. Look for more information on our Facebook page, Twitter, and webpage about these special events.

Our volunteers are an already extremely busy group with 4326 recorded hours donated to MCA work in 2022..... and the Archives was closed in January and February! With MCA's 10th anniversary celebrations, even more time is required. Volunteers are the backbone and life-line of MCA. Please join this dynamic group and become an MCA volunteer. Email/call the Archives at contact information provided above. You will find it very rewarding!

From The Archivist

Work has continued with the scanning project for the Marsh Store Collection. I have had the pleasure to speak about his work to groups over the last few months, and I continue to stress its significance as nationally, provincially and locally significant. MCA is very fortunate to have such a historically rich collection.

I've also been asked, what happens once this project is completed? Firstly, the ledgers will now be accessible. Unlike before where they were restricted due to physical condition, the scanned images will be available for viewing on the Reading Room reference computer. We currently have no plans to make these available on-line. All of the ledgers will be available as a PDF for easy access. At the conclusion, more than 25 ledgers will have been scanned. They give a great deal of insight on the various businesses that were operating in Coldstream. From the carding mill to the telegraph, the Marsh Store was at the centre of industry in the community.

Images and small periodicals will also be scanned as support materials to better understand the context of this collection.

While I have enjoyed learning so much about this collection and what it can mean for MCA as a research destination, I look forward to returning to regular day-to-day archival work, policy writing, developing our volunteer program and preparing for a summer season of researchers. Thankfully, there is no end of opportunities for expansion and learning at MCA!

Cheers,

Archivist Krista