



Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee Meeting

September 4th, 2019

Elgin Heritage Centre

Present: Chair- Helen Van Brenk, Vice-chair- Perry Clutterbuck, Joan Mansell (Secretary), Sally Martyn, Kim Teuscher

Regrets: Amanda VandenWyngaert, Charlie Jenkins

Staff in Attendance: Brian Masschaele, Mike Baker, Ally Shelly (recording secretary)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chair Helen Van Brenk

2. Additions to the Agenda

3. Approval Minutes from June 5th, 2019.

Moved by Perry Clutterbuck, and seconded by Sally Martyn that the minutes from the June 5th, 2019 meeting be approved as corrected. Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Brian Masschaele thanks those who attended Georgia Sifton's retirement party August 23rd, 2019. The party was a success with many staff, volunteers and museum partners in attendance.

5. Correspondence

None

7. Curator's Report

Mike reports that the next exhibit Voices from the Engraver should be delivered Friday. Bob Osthoff will be in this weekend to start installation and finish rebuilding the Link Trainer. The next steps are to secure the mount.

The Engravers exhibit is a standing exhibit leaving the wall space empty.

A small exhibit on the west wall with items from Middlemarch may be used to fill the space. Luella Monteith's book on Middlemarch has been sent to the designer, and should be printed in a few weeks. These items will be good content to encourage a reception for the book at the Heritage Centre.

Programming

The Heritage Centre is participating in Culture Days and Doors Open again this year.

The Culture Days event will be held on Saturday, September 28th from 1:00-3:00pm London artist Ron Milton will conduct an intaglio printmaking demonstration on a 19th century engraver's hand press, which is on loan from Black Creek for the engraving exhibit.

Doors Open St. Thomas is Saturday, October 5th this year. The Train will be stopping at the Heritage Centre at approximately 10:15am, 12:15pm, and 2:15pm, guests will stay for roughly one hour before the train departs. The Heritage Centre will hold children's activities, the Elgin County Archives will have the green screen. The Archives and Council Chambers will be opened for tours.

Exhibits Schedule 2020

January - April, 2020

Paul Baldwin show on architect, David Kilpatrick. Jan Row will be photographing the buildings.

April 8 - September 2, 2020 - My Story, My Tattoo

September 10 - Jan. 4, 2021-Hockey

Mike shares information on a travelling exhibit for possible booking in 2021

"The Ones We Meet"

This exhibit focuses on the indigenous contributions to the discovery of the ships Terror and the Erebus in the northwest from the Franklin Expedition.

The discovery of the Terror and Erebus is continually in the news generating a great deal of interest.

There is a diving expedition on the Terror now; likely more material will be available for that program by the time the show arrived here. A key element of this show is indigenous connections, there may be an opportunity to make local indigenous relationships, exhibits and programming.

8. Year-to-date Statistics

Ally Shelly shares the attendance and gift shop statistics for summer 2019.

Attendance for the duration of the BCATP- Aerodrome of Democracy exhibit May 14- Aug 31

Walk- ins - 537

3 Tours - 25

Attendance Total – 562

The guest book was re-established for the Shunpiker Tour on May 15, 2019 we have since acquired 144 signatures, including guest locations and comments.

Gift Shop

Net sales for July 2019 before expenses deducted were \$481.18

Net sales for August 2019 before expenses deducted were \$492.12

Ally Shelly will be trained to complete the monthly financials, going forward a more in-depth report on the gift shop will be achievable.

9. Museum Partner Reports

Via email Amanda provided an Elgin County Museums Update, including partner events for the Aylmer Museum and Archives; Backus Page House Museum, Edison Museum/Collection, Elgin County Railway Museum, Gay Lea Museum and Port Burwell Marine Museum. See Attached.

Sally Martyn reports on the Sparta Forge and Anvil Museum and The Sparta Church and Cultural Centre.

They had 3 summer students; two on nine week grants and one at the Church working 3 days a week. Two of the students did very well encouraging approximately \$150 a week in donations.

The exhibit at the Church Museum this season is a collection of handmade historical costumes by Elizabeth Brandeau and a collection of sewing machines. The museums will stay open until Thanksgiving.

The Feast at the Forge re-enactment dinner will take place November, 9th 2019; a few tickets are still available for purchase.

A patio has been installed north of the Church Museum for visitors, benches have been installed to honour past volunteers that have passed away.

A quilt exhibit has been proposed for exhibit for the 2020 season.

Brian Masschaele reports that the St. Thomas- Elgin Public Art Centre has expressed an interest in becoming a museum database partner. Mike will be working with Laura Woermke to make this possible.

10. Committee Member Reports

Joan Mansell reports that the WI's Southern Area Convention will be held Saturday October 5th
Brain Masschaele will be receiving the Erland Lee Award honoring his dedication to the
Women's Institutes initiatives.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held November 6th, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Heritage Centre.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 p.m.

Motion to adjourn, moved by Kim Teuscher. Carried.

Elgin County Museums Update
September 4, 2019

Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

- The Life and Legacy of Thomas Edison show ended August 31st
 - Featured selections from the Edison, Vienna & Area Museum as they don't have any physical display space
- The next exhibit is "Soups On!" A look at the history of local restaurants and dining through the ages
 - Exhibit runs September 16th – November 29th
- Annual Tour of Homes
 - November 15th and 16th

Backus Page House Museum

- Paranormal Adventure with Capture Paranormal Investigators
 - November 1st
 - Tickets \$25 a person
- A Celtic Christmas Dinner in the Museum
 - November 30th - December 1st
 - Tickets \$100 a person

Edison Museum/Collection

- They do not have any permanent display space yet – minor displays in the community including one in Straffordville
- Annual Edison Dinner and Silent Auction
 - November 9th at the Vienna Community Centre
- Lighting of the Christmas Lights
 - November 23rd at the Vienna Memorial Park 7-9 pm

Elgin County Railway Museum

- Halloween Family Dance Party
 - October 26th from 6-9 pm

Gay Lea Museum

- Art Jam – A day for artists and musicians of all abilities to share, create, and connect
 - September 14th from 10 am – 4 pm
 - Adults \$25 and kids \$5

Port Burwell Marine Museum & Lighthouse

- They are participating in the 2019 Community Exhibits Program and have a display at the Legislative Building
- Closed Labour Day for the season