



Elgin County Heritage Centre Open with Controlled Access as of August 11th, 2020

On Tuesday, August 11th, 2020, the Elgin County Heritage Centre will be re-opening to the public subject to new safety procedures brought on by the COVID-19 global pandemic. The health and safety of our visitors and staff will always be our top priority. Therefore, we are implementing a number of measures based on regulations and guidance from the Province of Ontario and [Southwestern Public Health](#) (SWPH) which must consider factors such as the need to provide adequate space for social distancing, respecting limits on public gatherings and enhanced cleaning procedures.

The following changes will apply to public visits to the Elgin County Heritage Centre as of August 11th, 2020:

- The centre will be open to the public Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Visitors will be limited to three individuals who do not reside in the same household or two social circles provided that the size of each circle is five people or less. Everyone living in the same household is within a social circle.
- Hosting of community meetings and special events are suspended.
- Drop-in visits are permitted. However, entry will be controlled and the door may remain locked when other visitors are inside the centre. Visitors may be subject to health screening prior to entrance. Names and contact information for all visitors will be recorded.
- Visitors must wear a non-medical mask (or face covering) in accordance with [the letter of instruction](#) from SWPH and [provincial recommendations](#). Visitors should provide their own mask.
- There shall be no touching of exhibits. Visitors are urged to limit the touching of surfaces during their visit.
- Visitors must hand sanitize before and after their visit. Staff must be allowed time to sanitize high touch surfaces before further visitors are permitted.
- Visits shall be limited to 1 hour maximum. Extensions will only be granted should there not be other visitors waiting and subject to staffing availability.
- The gift shop will be open. Visitors should only touch items that they intend to purchase. Cash and electronic payments for items will be accepted. **All** interactions with staff, including gift shop transactions, must occur through the plexiglass on the reception desk.

- Donation of artifacts shall be accepted. In accordance with [Canadian Conservation Institute guidelines](#), donated items will be physically isolated for a period of 72 hours and will not be handled until this quarantine period has expired.
- Access to public bathrooms shall be provided upon request. Proper hand sanitizing must be followed before and after using these facilities. Hand sanitizing stations are available.
- The centre could be closed on short-notice subject to public health considerations and staffing availability.

Other Considerations:

- Visitors should consider contacting the centre to book an appointment to visit or to donate artifacts. Visits may be booked by contacting museum@elgin.ca or by calling 519-631-1460 x193.
- The museum's website at www.elgincounty.ca/museum has numerous virtual exhibits and a comprehensive, searchable database which visitors are encouraged to enjoy in lieu of an on-site visit.