



Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee Meeting

March 2nd, 2022

Elgin Heritage Centre

Present: Sally Martyn, Kim Teuscher, Charlie Jenkins, Amanda VandenWyngaert, Donna Lord, Jennifer Beauchamp, Joan Mansell (Secretary)

Regrets:

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Amanda VandenWyngaert, acting chair.

2. Confirmation of Members Terms

The following are terms of office for the current members of the committee:

Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee 2022 Members

- Amanda VandenWyngaert, Chair (1st year of second 4-year term, 2nd year as Chair) - Museum liaison member
- Kim Teuscher Vice-Chair (1st year of second 4-year term, 1st year as Vice-Chair) – Member-at-large
- Joan Mansell, Secretary (1st year of fifth 4-year term, 7th year as Secretary) – WI member (east)
- Jennifer Beauchamp (1st year of first 4-year term) – Museum liaison member
- Donna Lord (2nd year of first 4-year term) – WI member (west)
- Charlie Jenkins (3rd year of second 4-Year term) – Agricultural representative
- Councillor Sally Martyn – County Council representative

Brian reports that County Council accepted revisions to the Museum's governing by-law to increase representation for County museums by one member, making two representatives and to decrease at-large representation from two members to one.

Jennifer Beauchamp, the new museum liaison committee member was introduced. Jennifer is curator at the Port Burwell Marine Museum and museum assistant at the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum/Oxford Museum School. Committee members introduce themselves to Jennifer.

3. Election of Officers

Sally Martyn nominated Amanda VandenWyngaert to the position of chair. Amanda accepts position.

Sally Martyn moved that nominations close, seconded by Charlie Jenkins. All in favour.

Sally Martyn nominated Kim Teuscher to the position of chair. Kim accepts the position.

Sally Martyn moved to close nominations, Donna Lord seconded. All in favour.

Charlie Jenkins nominates Joan Mansell to remain Secretary. Joan accepts the position.

Donna Lord moves to close nominations, seconded by Sally Martyn. All in favour.

4. Additions to the Agenda

*Moved by Sally Martyn to approve the agenda as circulated,
seconded by Jennifer Beauchamp. Carried.*

5. Approval Minutes from October 6th, 2021.

Correction to the October 6th, 2021 minutes, Amanda VandenWyngaert was not in attendance.

*Moved by Donna Lord, and seconded by Charlie Jenkins that the minutes from the
October 6th, 2021 meeting be approved as amended. Carried.*

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

7. Correspondence

Thank you letter to Perry Clutterbuck for Museum Advisory Committee service

Mike Baker shared the letter, remembering Perry's 16 years of service on the Museum Advisory Committee.

See Attached.

8. Curator's Report

Mike Baker updated members on museum projects.

a) Brief Overview of the 2021 Annual Report

Overall attendance was 432 visitors for the roughly half year we were actually open to the public. Without programming and events to promote the exhibitions, the numbers dropped off precipitously.

Given the closures we resorted where possible to on-line programming including for example the cycling tour of Malahide we created with Onthisspot last summer.

On This Spot Elgin County Tour - <https://www.onthisspot.ca/cities/elgincounty>

Other Programming Highlights -

During lockdowns in the early part of the year, we were able to communicate much of the content of the exhibitions through social media. Followers for our Twitter and Facebook feeds are both up.

In the fall I put together a talk on Elgin County and London WWI memorials for the RCR museum lecture series. It was presented live in London for the Women's Canadian Club on November, 11th to about 350 women with another 65 watching on live-stream. And once more to a meeting of the Golden K Kiwanis in January.

Inspired by the recent donation of several memorials including the 91st chapel and honour rolls from the Rodney Legion. There is a potential for an online exhibition. Part of the county-wide checklist of cultural assets.

b) 2022 to Date

Highlight for this year to date has been the organization and launch of an online Black history tour. The museum was invited to assist with a guide to Black History sites in this part of Ontario – while we have very few, both Port Burwell and Port Stanley were landing points for many formerly enslaved persons. And there is some record of specific individuals arriving there.

We redesigned the project to fit the requirements of the Healthy Communities Fund, an application to which was made by Museum London on behalf of the partners. The grant allowed the partners to retain Onthisspot to create tours in three locations using content developed by the partners.

Thanks to launching in several communities the tours received very good press coverage. An interview with Global News was picked up Culture Days and resulted in the tour's listing in their national on-line newsletter.

On This Spot Black History Tour - <https://www.onthisspot.ca/cities/middlesexcounty>

Family Day was a slow start to recovery. This event normally hosted approximately 70 visitors, we did not promote to ensure we could follow Covid protocols. For March Break, we will have wider promotion.

c) Upcoming Programming

Vimy Lecture proposal – Saturday, April 9th, 2022.

Recommends Blair Ferguson to share what he does with the students at St. Joe's. He had the entrance signs to Wallacetown note the VC and Ellis. A live stream for the talk will be arranged.

Bike Fair in St. Thomas – Saturday, May 14th, 2022.

Might exhibit the high wheel and a bike history banner at the event, held at the Horton Street Farmers Market.

Exhibits

Space to Spoon has had a slow start, 54 visitors attended for the month of February.

Baker Picnic opens April 16 – Ingenium has offered a free extension for Space to Spoon, we will possibly run both shows at the same time.

9. Bushell Projects

Three of the murals (of 6) have been completed and installed.

Two others are nearing completion. Yet to commission the remaining locations -Rodney and Dutton.

Augmented Reality – EXAR is working on the detailed art for the Port Stanley adventures. Working on two others related to the museums -the Ontario Hospital and the VC. EXAR expects to be ready for draft presentation on March 25th and launch, if all looks good, sometime around the middle of April with a “louder launch” in June.

Outdoor Learning Area - will be completed this year. Have had initial contact with South Dorchester School, will meet with them to view their outdoor space weather permitting.

Conservation – we viewed the first work to be completed in October; sufficient funds to complete a second smaller work.

Digital Archivist has been working on the Stollery photograph collection.

Database

Oneida Language and Culture Centre is now one of the online database partners. We are also assisting with building exhibition furniture for the Centre.

10. Storage / Facility Planning

Brian Masschaele reported on planning for improvements to the museum's collection storage.

Fiona Murray has been hired on a one-year contract funded through the Bushell Estate to conduct a collection review. She started in February.

Fiona is reviewing artifacts in the collection to ensure that they fit the museum's mandate, are in adequate condition, and have proper documentation, before potentially deaccessioning any

items.

This project is an ongoing incentive to start reviewing the museum's needs before approaching council with a strategic plan for the future. The renovations at the County Administration Building are starting this year with the installation of new elevators. The impact renovations have on museum and archives services will be reviewed after the renovations are completed.

11. Museum Partner Reports

Amanda VandenWyngaert provided an Elgin County Museums Update, including partner events for the Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives; Backus Page House Museum, Edison Museum, Elgin County Railway Museum, Gay Lea Museum and Port Burwell Marine Museum.

Jennifer Beauchamp, as a museum liaison will take over reporting on Elgin County Museum updates, as Amanda is now committee chair.

See Attached

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

Student summer job opportunities have been advertised, they should have two students to open both sites for the 2022 season. One interview is being conducted this week.

Last year the students had an opportunity to update the Church with the new exhibit Pioneer Know How. This exhibit will likely stay installed as it had a short season last year with closures. Students may have an opportunity to update the Forge and Anvil Museum this year, exhibits are usually the history of Sparta.

They are hoping to hold their annual fundraising events, the High Tea and Fashion Show in May and the Feast at the Forge dinner in November, pending Covid protocols.

13. Committee Member Reports

Donna reports that Women's Institutes have met twice via zoom and have been able to make donations in the community.

Joan shares that this year the Women's Institutes are celebrating 125 years.

A press release sharing the history of the Women's Institutes' efforts of supporting and inspiring women was shared to local news media. A few journalists have reached out to write

stories.

Roger's TV will be conducting an interview for International Women's Day.

See events are planned this year to celebrate:

Event Details:

Open House at the Museum

Thursday, May 19th, 2022

Elgin Military Museum, 30 Talbot Street, St. Thomas

Time: 1:00-4:00 pm

Program:

In honour of the 125th Anniversary of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Yarmouth Glen Branch of Elgin District in Southern Area extends an invitation to you to attend this event for conversation and rekindling of memories. The photo gallery will be a highlight to reminisce while enjoying light refreshments.

Past, present WI members and public are invited

Event Details:

Afternoon Tea

Wednesday June 29, 2022

Masonic Centre of Elgin, 42703 Fruit Ridge Line, St Thomas.

Time: 2:00 pm

Program: "Early Years of WI" with Adelaide Hunter Hoodless & Erland Lee

Donations taken for WI Scholarship fund

Sponsored by Elgin District Women's Institute

Past, present WI members and public are invited

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held June 1st, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the Heritage Centre.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.



Perry Clutterbuck
6619 Boxall Rd.
R.R. #2
Port Stanley, Ontario
N5L 1J2

February 12, 2022

Dear Past Warden Clutterbuck,

On behalf of Elgin County Council, please accept my sincere appreciation for your 16 consecutive years of service on the Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee in roles as both Chair and Vice-Chair. Your vast knowledge and commitment to preserving the County's history have served the Museum well. I know you have been a tireless advocate for both the Museum and Archives over many years, including during your time on Elgin County Council as both Warden and Councillor. Through your service to the County, you have played an invaluable role in preserving the County's rich heritage so that it can be available for generations to come.

Please know that you will always be welcomed to participate in future Museum activities and events.

Sincerely,



Mary French
Elgin County Warden

Cc: Mike Baker, Manager of Museum and Archives
Brian Masschaele, Director of Community and Cultural Services



Elgin County Museums Update
March 2, 2022

Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

- Open on March 7, 2022 for the season
- Reopen with the exhibit “Just What the Doctor Ordered: The Medical History of Aylmer and Malahide”
 - The exhibit features the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, optometrists, and chiropractors of Aylmer and Malahide
 - We are currently finishing a publication that will accompany the exhibit

Backus Page House Museum

- Open by appointment only

Edison Museum

- The Bayham Historical Society hosted a series of vaccination clinics

Elgin County Railway Museum

- Currently closed to the public

Gay Lea Museum

- They have been closed since the start of Covid-19
 - Waiting for permission from head office to reopen

Port Burwell Marine Museum & Lighthouse

- The Marine Museum remains closed for the season, and they are preparing for the upcoming season.