



Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee Meeting

November 6th, 2019

Elgin Heritage Centre

Present: Chair- Helen Van Brenk, Vice-chair- Perry Clutterbuck, Joan Mansell (Secretary), Sally Martyn, Amanda VandenWyngaert, Charlie Jenkins

Regrets: Kim Teuscher

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Chair Helen Van Brenk

2. Additions to the Agenda

Landscaping and Flag Pole - Brian Masschaele

*Motion to approve the agenda. Moved by Sally Martyn, seconded by Perry Clutterbuck.
Carried.*

3. Approval Minutes from September 5th, 2019.

*Moved by Perry Clutterbuck, and seconded by Joan Mansell that the minutes from the
September 5th, 2019 meeting be approved. Carried.*

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Correspondence

None

6. Curator's Report

(a) 2020 Exhibit Schedule

Mike circulated a copy of the 2020 exhibit schedule. This information will be published in the 2020 Elgin Tourism Guide and on the 2020 Heritage Centre rack cards.

David Kilpatrick, Architect
January 18 – April 4, 2020

The 1870s was a boom-time in Elgin-St. Thomas set-off by the building of two rival rail lines. Many of the surviving commercial blocks, homes and churches from that era are a testament to the prosperity of the times. Many of these are the legacy of a young architect David Kilpatrick (1852- 1902) whose brief time in the area left us with some of our finest buildings. Present-day images of his work are complemented by period photos and artifacts.

Curated by Paul Baldwin

My Story, My Tattoo
April 18 – August 22, 2020

My Story, My Tattoo features 32 photographs and stories of people and their amazing tattoos. The exhibit includes audio stations, videos and text panels. Participants represent every walk of life - everyone from a cancer survivor to teachers and their students, a firefighter and a farmer - and live throughout Wellington County. All of the individuals were open and honest, and their stories and personalities are represented through this series of thought-provoking and colourful images.

A travelling exhibit from the Wellington County Museum and Archives

Hockey
August 31 – December 19, 2020

This one-of-a-kind travelling exhibition offers visitors an exciting interactive experience showcasing high points in the sport from both yesterday and today. This engaging exhibition brings the history of the sport to life through profiles of participants at both the professional and amateur levels. It is presented in a series of graphic panels using photographs and reproduction of key artifacts, memorabilia and works of art. Also included are audio archives and an audio-visual interactive where visitors can record their own running commentary of a portion of a hockey match.

A travelling exhibit from the Canadian Museum of History

(b) Offer of three works from Kirtley Jarvis

Mike shared information on the offer of three works from Kirtley Jarvis.

In 2008, Kirtley Jarvis, a London textile artist, was the museum's artist-in-residence. Part of her position involved assisting with the mounting of a large signature quilt exhibition.

To accompany the quilt show, she created a number of works based on records she found in the museum's collection. Three of the works are now on offer to the museum. Mike recommends accepting two as donations and purchasing a third. Two are flat textiles and easy to store and exhibit. The third is a small life jacket similar to those of the early 20th century. These works each relate to a theme in the county's history: the lake, the field, and the community.

Works by Kirtley Jarvis:

1. Aldborough Corn Club
2. 1950 - Picnic Prizes
3. Bessemer No. 3

7. Indigenous Outreach Initiative

Brian shared that since the booking of the "The Ones We Meet" exhibit for 2021, efforts have been made to make connections with local indigenous groups. Chippewa of the Thames and Oneida Nation of the Thames have met at the Heritage Centre to review items from the museum's collection and discuss relationships. Munsee – Delaware Nation is the next group to connect with.

Brian will be meeting with individuals from Oneida again in relation to their archives and grant applications. They are interested in working together to create an exhibit.

8. Year-to-date Statistics

Mike circulated a draft of the Annual Report which will be presented to Council by December 2019.

Key figures for the year including Programming, Attendance, Events and Giftshop numbers for the 2019 to October 31, 2019 were provided.

Attendance 2019 (to October 31):

Events and walk-ins – 2323
9 schools – 285 and 48 teachers and parents
6 tours – 46
Rentals and meetings – 226
Outreach – 238
Total – 3166

Doors Open St. Thomas, Saturday, October 5th this year. Saw 349 people stop at the Heritage Centre of the course of the day.

November will host a number of events that will see the attendance numbers increase before the end of the year:

Training - Nov.14

Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz Memories of Ontario Farmerettes book presentation – Nov. 16

Luella Monteith's Middlemarch book launch - Nov. 17

Gift Shop

2018 net income 2157.96 (to Nov. 30)

2019 net income 1437.30 (to Oct. 31)

Admissions

2018 Admission donations \$2230.95 (Nov. 30)

2019 Admission donations \$2014.29 (Oct. 31)

9. Landscaping and Flagpole

The landscaping at the Heritage Centre is nearly complete. The gardens are completed and the Doggett carriage step arranged in an eye-catching location at the entrance. Final touches will be completed in the spring as the landscaping connecting the new POA is completed.

A community flag pole has been installed in front of the Heritage Centre, which will be governed by Council policy. The flag pole will hold community flags that will spread awareness and commemorate designated events or non-profit organizations.

10. Museum Partner Reports

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 in 2019; 2 of the students are interested in returning in 2020.

The exhibit at the Church Museum was handmade historical costumes by Elizabeth Brandeau and a collection of sewing machines. The museums closed on Thanksgiving.

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

The Feast at the Forge re-enactment dinner will take place November, 9th 2019; Tickets are sold out. Reverend Nick Wells will portray Col. Talbot.

Nick Wells has donated a number of reproduction outfits to the Sparta District Historical Society. Clothing he often wears at the fashion show.

Mike Baker and Bob Osthoff still need to decide how to reassemble the millstone from the Sparta Mill to install at the new patio at the Church Museum.

11. Committee Member Reports

Joan Mansell reports that the Elgin District Women's Institute hosted the Southern Area 105th Convention at the Keystone Complex in Shedden on October 5, 2019. Seven districts participated in the program and Elgin's 6 branches had duties to perform. Elgin had 28 members present. 3 branches from other districts have disbanded. Branch fees have increased to an annual fee of \$25.00.

Jennifer Dow from Kettle Creek Conservation Area was a guest speaker with a video presentation on the theme "Time for Tick Talk" on lyme disease. Dana Hubert, Veterinary Technician gave a personal account of living with lyme disease and the consequences of tiredness, Annie Isobel Tait, Crinan WI spoke about her exposure to a tick bite and follow-up medication.

Mary Clutterbuck, Elgin President / Tweedsmuir Coordinator, read the nomination for Brian Masschaele receiving the Erland Lee Award from FWIC. He was presented with a certificate of recognition for all the work and research he has done digitizing the Tweedsmuir books. Grant Jones, Mayor of Southwold, gave congratulations for the WI's in the absences of Elgin Warden, Duncan McPhail.

There were 130 members attending. Collection was \$310 for Pennies for Friendship and the basket draws made over \$600. This is for fundraising in the community or universally.

Charlie Jenkins shared an advertisement in Ontario Farmer on the open house for the new Monoak Farms dairy barn which was constructed this year. The open house was held October, 31st in Belmont. The event hosted 400 people. They are now remodelling their bank barn which is 150-200 years old, many farms are tearing these barns down. The construction of these robotic barns signifies the change of landscape to the countryside now being seen across Elgin.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held April 1st, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the Heritage Centre.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 p.m.

Motion to adjourn, moved by Charlie Jenkins. Carried.

Elgin County Museums Update

November 6, 2019

Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

- Current exhibit is “Soups On!” a look at the history of local restaurants and dining through the ages
 - Exhibit runs September 16th – November 29th
- Annual Christmas Tour of Homes
 - November 15th and 16th
 - Tickets \$20 a person or \$10 for volunteers
- Close for the season November 29

Backus Page House Museum

- DNA Genealogy Course
 - November 13 – 7:00 -9:30 pm
 - \$10 a person
- A Celtic Christmas Dinner in the Museum
 - November 30th - December 1st
 - Tickets \$100 a person
- A Very Victorian Christmas
 - Saturdays and Sundays December 7 – December 31
 - Tour of the Museum decorated for Christmas

Edison Museum/Collection

- 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

- Open for their Winter Hours, open Saturdays 12 – 4 pm

Gay Lea Museum

- Closed for the season, visits by appointment

Port Burwell Marine Museum & Lighthouse

- The wheelhouse was painted, but still isn't ready for visitors inside
- They are participating in the 2019 Community Exhibits Program and have a display at the Legislative Building about fishing in Port Burwell/Lake Erie
- They closed Labour Day for the season