



## **Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee Meeting**

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Elgin Heritage Centre

**Present: Chair- Amanda VandenWyngaert, Vice Chair -Kim Teuscher, Sally Martyn, Donna Lord, Joan Mansell (Secretary)**

**Regrets: Jennifer Beauchamp, Charlie Jenkins**

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

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Amanda VandenWyngaert, chair.

### **2. Additions to the Agenda**

*Moved by Sally Martyn to approve the agenda as circulated,  
seconded by Donna Lord. Carried.*

### **3. Approval Minutes from March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.**

*Moved by Donna Lord, and seconded by Joan Mansell that the minutes from the  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 meeting be approved as presented. Carried.*

### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**None**

### **5. Correspondence**

**None**

### **6. Curator's Report**

Mike Baker updated members on museum projects.

## **Year-to-Date Statistics 2022**

The Elgin County Heritage Centre has had a total of 363 visitors in 2022.

Donations from the donation box total \$120.00 and the museum received a donation of \$250.00 from Catherine Elliott-Shaw.

The gift shop revenue is \$657 and the expenses are \$136.76 for a net total of \$520.25.

The Centre has hosted several meetings, the WI's and Rug Hookers have started using the space again.

The annual Family Day was finally held again this year, with little advertising the day only saw one family. The child visiting did go on the cover of the Hometown St. Thomas magazine.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Vimy lecture was held April 9<sup>th</sup> 2022, this was the first live event held at Heritage Centre in two years. Local historian and author Blair Ferguson spoke about Ellis Sifton and the educational visits he conducts at local high schools to teach students the importance of remembering the sacrifices individuals who have served in the armed forces have made. The event was successful with 37 people in attendance.

## **Projects**

Our summer student Ellery Cuculick started May 6, 2022, she will be assisting with various collection-based projects. Ellery is pursuing a Masters in History at Western University.

Yarmouth Glen Women's Institute was assisted with their 125th project, an open house at the old museum held May 19th, 2022.

Images from the database have been provided to two new Onthisspot tours. We're working with the heritage committees in Dutton Dunwich and Southwold to develop Bike tours. A grant was received from Green Lane Community Fund to help fund these projects. Each tour will have approximately thirty images.

The first school booked in nearly three years is scheduled for Friday June 3. Covenant Christian School from London, we are expecting approximately 40 kids.

Antiques Club will meet at the Heritage Centre, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 pm for a lecture on Picnics, which coincides with the current exhibit, Canada's Oldest Annual Picnic.

The Alma College Alumnae are hosting their final reunion on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a bus will visit the Heritage Centre to see a display on Alma College.

The Baker family whom the exhibit Canada's Oldest Annual Picnic is centered will hold their

125<sup>th</sup> family reunion on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The Elgin District Women's Institute was assisted with their 125<sup>th</sup> project, an Afternoon Tea on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 celebrating 125 years of the Women's Institute.

## **7. Bushell Projects**

The augmented reality project with partner EXAR- Studios is close to completion. The Port Stanley attraction should be launched in June.

The Port Bruce murals completed by artist Candy McManniman have been completed and installed. The Highwheel Way cycling tour will be launched on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm, the murals will be unveiled at this event. Rick Wolfe a bike collector who has lent items in the past has been invited to bring his high wheel bicycle.

There are two murals left to be completed. Candi McManiman will create one for Rodney and Melissa Kempf with create one for Dutton.

## **10. Storage / Facility Planning**

Fiona Murray reported on the developments to date with the on-museum's collection review.

### **Advisory Board Update:**

- Overall project goals
  - What the goals are (from project overview document)
    1. Ensuring that every item has a permanent number and a database entry with donor information (if available) and photo.
    2. Identifying items to be deaccessioned (poor quality and/or a lack of information).
    3. Organizing the storage space. Making sure each item is in a logical location that is listed on the database. Making room for future donations as well as the space that archives will need upstairs.
  - How I'm meeting the goals so far
    - Developed process to survey all resources with information about donor, object history and cataloguing process (numbering)

- Processing process: cross-referencing any numbers, numbering the object, researching donor information and object history, updating the database entry, updating/creating donor files
  - Outcome of process: permanent number, updated database entry, updated donor file
  - All relevant information in one place
  - Recommending items for deaccession, researching and contacting institutions and other parties that might be interested in taking items
- Number of items processed
  - Total: 357
- Number of items deaccessioned
  - 191 frames to Art Centre
  - 21 frames to Roland Schubert
  - 5 items sent to other institutions
    - 4 dolls to Avataq Cultural Institute
    - 1 picture to Burlington Historical Society Museum (Wisconsin)
  - 1 item returned to donor
    - Painting by Candy McManiman
  - Total: 218 items deaccessioned
- Number of items marked as candidates for deaccession
- Organization of cataloguing references and resources
  - Index of references
  - Organizing reference area
  - Creating reference and resource guide
- Creating project overview document as I work
- Next steps
  - Continue reviewing and processing the collection

- Fine Art as a long-term loan to the Art Centre
- Textiles, flat storage, manor storage, unprocessed donations (especially doctor's tools)

### **11. Museum Partner Reports**

Amanda VandenWyngaert provided an update on the Aylmer Malahide Museum and Archives. Their current exhibit is "Just What the Doctor Order: A Medical History of Aylmer and Malahide", the exhibit will be accompanied by a publication which will be printed shortly. The museum has acquired a new building and will be moving to the old Royal Bank on Talbot Street in Aylmer. The building has been purchased, additional fundraising will take place to raise funds for renovations and any additions

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

Student summer job opportunities had been advertised from February to April, they had received only one application that did not work out, but found one student through volunteers at the museum and re-connected with a past student that accepted the position.

There was no High Tea and Fashion Show this year, but there are plans to host a version of the Feast at the Forge, in September on the lawn behind the church with a tent. A program on 1919 and the pandemic will be presented by Nick Wells.

### **13. Committee Member Reports**

Joan Mansell thanks Mike and Ally for their help in creating the posters, invitations and assisting with the May 19<sup>th</sup> Open House at the Museums event. The event hosted 50 people. She also shared the poster created for the Elgin District Afternoon Tea event. The event, celebrating 125 years of the Women's Institute will be hosted at the Masonic Centre on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

The WIs have a number of events this year:

The 125th WI Anniversary celebration is at Erland Lee Museum on June 25th from 11-4pm.

Southern Area WI Picnic is on July 23rd at Kirkton Community Centre with Perth South District hosting.

Southern Area Women's Institute Tweedsmuir Workshop is on August 6th at Trillium Village, Strathroy with Middlesex District hosting.

Southern Area Women's Institute Convention is October 22 at Morpeth Hall from 10-3 pm. Host is Kent District.

The 110th Anniversary Celebration for Wallacetown WI is on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 from 2-4 p.m. at Wallacetown Hall.

Donna Lord shares the article on the Yarmouth Glen and Middlemarch Women's Institutes that was published in Hometown St. Thomas magazine, Geoff Rae had contacted Donna for information on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Institutes. She also reports that Middlemarch president Ann Brown has been replaced by Marg Palmer.

### **13. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the Heritage Centre.

### **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.