



Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee Meeting

September 7th, 2022

Elgin Heritage Centre

Present: Chair- Amanda VandenWyngaert, Sally Martyn, Donna Lord, Charlie Jenkins

Regrets: Vice Chair -Kim Teuscher, Jennifer Beauchamp, Joan Mansell (Secretary)

Staff in Attendance: Brian Masschaele, Mike Baker, 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 Donna Lord to approve the agenda as circulated,
seconded by Sally Martyn. Carried.*

3. Approval Minutes from June 1st, 2022.

*Moved by Donna Lord, and seconded by Sally Martyn that the minutes from the
June 1st, 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.

Attendance

Overall to Sept. 3rd (last day of the Baker exhibit) program and walk-in total is 888

January to September 2021 - 296

Exhibits

Space to Spoon ran January 8 to April 2nd. We didn't open in 2022 until February 1st.

We recorded a total of 186 visitors for it.

The Baker 125th reunion ran from April 16 to September 3

Cipher/Decipher will run September 17 - January 7, 2023

2023 Exhibits

Selections from Cycling Collection of Rick Wolf.

We have had a few of Rick's cycles on exhibit in the past – 2012. His collection has grown considerable since then. We are participating in cycling/walking tour project developed in partnership with St. Thomas Tourism and St. Thomas library on September 10th and a cycling event is also planned for next spring in St. Thomas which we will be a part of.

Selections from the permanent collection will be installed on the east wall to run at the same time as the cycling show.

Programming

April 9 - The 10th Annual Vimy lecture, Blair Ferguson - 37

June 3 - Covenant Christian School - 25 Students and 8 Chaperones – 35

June 7 - Antiques Club – curator's talk on the 19th century picnic phenomenon 21

June 10 - Alma Alumnae last reunion - 45

June 18 – Baker Picnic Day - 27

June 24 - Media event for the MacEachern Donation - 13

August 3 Jack Graney book signing - 9

Bill Rayner the author was joined by Steve Peters who brought images of his visit to Cooperstown to watch the Floyd Frick Award ceremony.

We are planning for a tour by Western's Public History classes – about 30 students – on the 23rd

Tentative date for Elgin Historical society “Welcome Back” meeting – October. 26th. Radar?

“Rental” -4 Tuesdays this fall – Alzheimer’s – 15 people

Attendance at Events

3 events held for the WI’s 125th – produced two branch displays and portrayed Erland Lee (again)

June 28 - Launch of the High Wheel Way – provided material on Elgin County cycling history.

Cycling event, September 10th –at Horton Market - we will be providing a kid’s program and banners. We have prepared a walking tour guide for the three tours in the afternoon.

The five adventures for Port Stanley are finished and ready to be launched. We are having signage produced and installed prior to the launch. Will go live sooner – for the Western students.

<https://www.railwaycitytourism.com/talesoftalbot.html>

7. Bushell Projects

Murals - four locations are now completed and installed: Port Burwell, Belmont, Shedden and Port Bruce which was unveiled at an event on June 28th.

the remaining locations -Rodney and Dutton – are underway. Melissa who did Belmont is working on Dutton and Candy McManiman who did Shedden and Port Bruce - is working on Rodney. They should be installed by the end of October.

Augmented Reality Attractions

The five adventures for Port Stanley are finished and ready to be launched. We are having signage produced and installed prior to the launch. Will go live sooner – for the Western students.

8. Collection Review

Fiona Murray left for another job at the beginning of August.

She will be replaced this month by Maddie Howard, who had been working in the archives until recently.

Fiona processed 824 items; deaccessioned 218 items, and there are a further 114 marked for possible deaccession. Wrote and posted 30 social media posts.

Most of the deaccessions were framed works – we’ve unframed almost everything; most were documents which we can now transfer to the archives.

Also disposed of a number of empty frames - mostly to the Art Centre.

Large bench going to Fanshawe Village;

Large number of artifacts without donors have been moved off the shelves which we can now start to rearrange to provide additional space. Looking for new homes for anything that doesn’t turn out to have a catalogue number.

Looking for homes for the unprocessed material

Art Works – transferring the fine art to Art Centre. Will have a show of these works in November.

9. Museum Partner Reports

Amanda VandenWyngaert provided an update on the Aylmer Malahide Museum and Archives. They had announced in June that the museum acquired a new building and will be moving to the old Royal Bank on Talbot Street in Aylmer. The capital campaign has been launched, and subsequent fundraisers will be held to raise funds for renovations.

On September 15th, an open house will be held at the new building to share development plans and receive community input.

The exhibit “Just What the Doctor Order: A Medical History of Aylmer and Malahide”, publication has been printed and is available at the Aylmer – Malahide Museum.

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

They had two summer students, one returning student and a new local high-school student that has learned how to weave over the course of the summer and is very eager to continue employment in future seasons. The 2022 season was very successful with many visitors and \$4000.00 in donations.

A version of the Feast at the Forge is going to be held Saturday, September 10th on the lawn behind the church with a tent. Nick Wells will present a program on 1919 and the 1918 pandemic as a WWI chaplain, accompanied by Tracy Gordon as a nurse. The Ukes of Hazzard will perform period songs as entertainment.

10. Committee Member Reports

On behalf of Joan Mansell, Donna Lord shared the WI Report.

Yarmouth Glen WI celebrated FWIO's 125th Anniversary at the Military Museum on May 19th; in the former Elgin County Museum with displays and exhibits from years gone by.

It was well attended with 60 registered and reminiscing the past with other branches in Elgin.

The Tweedsmuir Workshop was held in Strathroy with Middlesex District hosting. The Roll Call was school memories and about 35 attended.

Elgin District had 13 stories from our branch members and Mary Clutterbuck made the presentation.

Upcoming Southern Area events:

A September road trip is planned to travel a designated route on the participants own time schedule. This is a fundraiser for the London Children's Hospital and Oxford District is hosting the trip.

We paid \$20 per ticket and will visit areas of interest along the way.

Southern Area Convention is hosted by Kent District and is being held on October 22nd at Morpeth. A silent auction will be held with each branch donating a useful item of \$10-15.

Theme is "Come Enjoy the Real World" with 4 workshops to attend and have fun with crafts.

Elgin was pleased with the media coverage from West Elgin Chronicle, St. Thomas Times Journal, and Aylmer Express.

Donna Lord shared and update on the Elgin District Women's Institutes Afternoon Tea Event.

Elgin County District Women's Institute
"AFTERNOON TEA"
Celebrating 125 years of Women's Institute in Ontario
1897 – 2022

Elgin District WI enjoyed a social afternoon from 2-4 pm at Elgin Masonic Centre, Fruit Ridge Line, St. Thomas. Several WI members were dressed in period costume and 61 registered for the event.

Elgin President, Mary Clutterbuck welcomed with singing "O Canada" and Annie Isobel Tait, Pianist.

Greetings from MP, Karen Vecchio; MPP, Rob Flack; MP (regrets); Warden of Elgin / Mayor of Aylmer; Mary French; (Tom Marks read her greetings with regrets); Mayor of Central Elgin, Sally Martyn; Mayor of St. Thomas, Joe Preston (regrets); Manager of Museum & Archives, Mike Baker; Director of Community & Social Services, Brian Masschaele; FWIO President, Michelle Phillippi (regrets); FWIO President-Elect, Margaret Ogar; SA President; Lorraine Cornford-Schertzl (regrets) SA Regional Board Director, Laura Green (regrets); S A Voting Delegate, Nancy Muir; Associated Country Women of the World, Anne Innes; Oxford President, Sheila Greason; Middlesex President, Marilyn Howey.

Mary opened the meeting with singing of "The Ode" and reciting "Mary Stewart Collect" in unison.

The program "The Early Years of WI" was directed by Joan Jackaman, who also prepared the script. The re-enactment was at the beginning with Adelaide Hoodless giving a speech on February 19, 1897 at Stoney Creek, Ontario. The meeting was at a Farmer's Institute with Erland Lee chairing. Adelaide stated that this could be modeled as a Women's Institute with information on domestic science issues being taught to women. She stressed the need for women to learn more about sanitation after the death of her 14-month-old son, because he was fed milk which had not been pasturized. Domestic Science was not taught in the schools then. There were 101 women attending that special evening where the constitution was signed by Janet and Erland Lee. The home is presently a museum and FWIO office.

One objective was to raise enough money with donations going to the 4-H scholarship fund in Elgin. Mary Clutterbuck, Chair, was ecstatic with achieving this goal today. Our gratitude was expressed.

There were several displays; Tweedmsuir books, Elgin Exhibits, Memorabilia from the past, Elgin Book Sales, Southern Ontario Support (SOS) Jewellery sales, Elgin Banner with branches displayed.

The program plans were initiated by the Elgin District Executive; President, Mary Clutterbuck; Past-President, Madeleine Jenkins; Secretary, Joan Mansell; Treasurer, Kathy Minnema; Education Programs, Joanne Erickson; and Assistant Programs, Joan Jackaman.

A floral display was won by Nancy West, Oxford District. The tables were decorated with blue & yellow silk posies and blue coasters using our WI colours were made by Madeleine Jenkins. Thanks to Tracy Gordon who donated period costumes for the characters in the play.

Courtesies were announced by Kathy Minnema.

Elgin WI Branches: Crinan, Middlemarch, Wallacetown, Yarmouth Glen
Southern Area WI Districts: Elgin, Kent, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth South

The event ended with the singing of the "WI Grace". Attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by Kathy's Catering.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held November 2nd, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the Heritage Centre.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Moved by Sally Martyn.