



Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee Meeting

November 2nd, 2022

Elgin Heritage Centre

Present: Chair- Amanda VandenWyngaert, Vice Chair- Kim Teuscher, Jennifer Beauchamp, Sally Martyn, Donna Lord, Charlie Jenkins

Regrets: Joan Mansell (Secretary)

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

Before the meeting is called to order, Brian Masschaele took a moment to recognize Sally Martyn's end of council term and to thank her for not only being the committee's council representative for 8 years, but to thank her for years of service to the community.

Thank you for representing council and the community

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by Amanda VandenWyngaert, chair.

2. Additions to the Agenda

Indigenous Outreach

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

3. Approval Minutes from September 7th, 2022.

*Moved by Charlie Jenkins, and seconded by Kim Teuscher that the minutes from the
September 7th, 2022 meeting be approved as presented. Carried.*

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Confirmation of 2023 Service

Brain Masschaele reports that with new council elected, a confirmation of officers is required to bring forward a recommendation for the committee in 2023. All members are eligible to serve in their current capacity, there is a limitation for committee officials of 8 years.

He asked members to confirm that they are able to continue serving and to confirm membership in the new year.

6. Correspondence

a) Women's Institute Tree Planting

On behalf of the Elgin District Women's Institute, Joan Mansell had written to request a tree be planted at the Heritage Centre to commemorate the Women's Institutes' 125th anniversary. Due to the landscaping planned for the property, a new tree is not possible. It was suggested that a plaque recognizing the WI's 125th anniversary be erected instead.

Motion to council to request approval of a commemorative plaque on the property of the Elgin County Heritage Centre be made.

Moved by Donna Lord, seconded by Sally Martyn. Carried.

b) Community Museum Operating Grant / Pay Equity Grants Application was approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport with a grant of \$14, 438 for the 2022-23 year, including museum pay equity funding of \$1 200.

7. Curator's Report

Mike Baker updated members on museum projects.

Exhibition schedule 2023

Cycling: An Unspoken History

Approximately 15 selections from the Rick Wolf Collection bicycle collection will be included, along with medals, posters, ancillary material such as advertising novelties, accessories such as oil lamps and horns, and costume.

There is potential for band music; and a Bike event similar to the event held with the St. Thomas library and tourism in September, may be held possibly earlier in the year.

Virtual cycling tours are underway in Southwold and Dutton-Dunwich.

Permanent exhibit on the history of Elgin County will be mounted on the east wall with a combination of shelving and cases – Along the Talbot Road-Rail-Highway - relates to cycling.

Context for some present-day landmarks – see the virtual tours and the context for them: churches, towns, historic sites.

<https://www.onthisspot.ca/cities/elgincounty>

Attendance 2022 (to November 1)

The museum was closed for four weeks – Jan. 5 – Feb. 1

Programs and Tours – 541

Walk-in exhibit attendance (to October 26) – 708

Total Attendance -1249

Gift Shop

2021 net income \$ 74.00 (to Nov. 26)

2022 net income \$1676.16 (to Oct. 26)

Admissions

2021 Admission donations \$312.00 (to Oct. 31)

2022 Admission donations \$545.00 (to Oct. 26)

8. Bushell Projects

Augmented Reality Attractions

Placed anchors for the last three adventures last week – Railway City Brewery, Thornton Arena, and 460 Sunset.

A virtual visit to the historic St. Thomas Psych building and an animated Jumbo mural were added to the St. Thomas group at that time.

Murals

Last 2 murals were picked up on October 30th and delivered to Perfect Signs for treatment and installation. Installation is expected to happen in the next few weeks weather permitting.

Conservation

Restoration work on a Reginald Whale canvas entitled Spohn's Flats has been completed. Another three works have been identified for treatment, a St. Thomas painting, possibly another Whale; an honour roll from Independent Order of Oddfellow's. They will be sent for treatment before the end of 2022.

Artifact Acquisition

A significant Jumbo collection has been acquired.

RCAF Link Trainer

A plan has been developed to place the Link on a table saw dolly so it can be moved around the museum as needed and to create a series of cams to simulate its movement. Completion is set for Spring, 2023.

9. Collection Review

New assistant, Maddy Howard started in September.

A collections review was commenced in February, 2022 to identify pieces that lacked documentation, were not fully processed, or did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the collection. Items were also identified that could be better conserved and interpreted in other repositories.

Focus is on artifacts with Inventory numbers – assigned around the year 2000 – listed in binders sometimes reveal a donor's name. Search other records card files, Dorothy's columns, older database entries.

Unless its deemed essential to the collection, they are listed and offered to other museums in the region. Any that were not transferred elsewhere were sent to auction. Eight chairs were taken to auction on the 30th.

Over 500 artifacts have been assessed to date:

- Approximately 200 documents were unframed and transferred to the archives. The empty frames were taken to the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre.
- The Art Centre has also taken in approximately 50 pieces of the museum's fine art pieces on long-term loan. An exhibition of these works is planned for the fall of 2022. These transfers have free up storage space for future accessions.
- Other groups completed - medical, bottles, tools, eye glasses,

Results include freeing nearly 30 shelves and about half of the art racks.

10. Museum Partner Reports

Jennifer Beauchamp provided an Elgin County Museums Update, including events for Backus Page House Museum and Port Burwell Marine Museum.

Backus-Page

- Opened in March
- Exhibit revisiting the old country
- April Clean up Day
- Wings of the Wetlands
- Book Signings-
Sharon Bobier – Ellis Wellwood Sifton: Farmer to Solider
Valrita Fournier - Love Hate Whiskey
- Tyrconnel Historical Society – campfire
- November Cleanup Day planned
- December Christmas Dinner
- An Open house is planned for January

Port Burwell Marine Museum

- Closed September 6th for the Season
- 2 Students for the summer
- 2395 Visitors at the Marine Museum
- 2954 visitors at the Lighthouse
- Joint education program with the Port Burwell Library ran for 6 weeks in the summer
- OSWR grant for lighthouse exterior restoration
- Grants to purchase supplies for the museum

Jennifer Beauchamp expressed concern for staffing at the lighthouse.

In recent years there has been a problem with female summer students being harassed by visitors while working alone at the lighthouse. To assist with this issue the Lighthouse has been closed with a sign stating tours can be requested at the Marine Museum.

Jennifer Beauchamp asked members if they have any suggestions on how to deal with this issue.

Members discussed the concern for student safety at the Lighthouse and suggested options for better security, it is suggest looking into the possibility of installing security cameras at the Lighthouse and agree a sign indicating tours can be arranged by visiting the Marine Museum is the best option.

Brian Masschaele offered to discuss the issue with Elgin County Tourism as the Lighthouse is staffed by their summer student.

Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives

Amanda VandenWyngaert provided an update on the Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives. On September 15th, an open house was held at the new building to share development plans and receive community input. The event was well received and garnered some donations. A car show fundraiser was held October 1st, the event had 100 cars and attracted new group of people.

A Mennonite History Project has begun to gather information on the low German speaking community in Malahide. Museum staff will be attending 22 churches in Malahide to gather information.

An Art show featuring local artists will be held on November 22, 2022 in partnership with the Aylmer BIA.

The museum closes November 25 for the season, but will be having pop up exhibits, the first is Christmas Through the Ages opening November 26.

Sparta Forge and Anvil Museum and The Sparta Church and Cultural Centre

Sally Martyn reported 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.

A version of the Feast at the Forge was held Saturday, September 10th on the lawn behind the church with a tent. Nick Wells presented a program on 1919 and the 1918 pandemic, he enlisted members of the audience to re-enact stretcher bearers and Tracy Gordon re-enacted the role of a nurse and how casualties may be treated. The event hosted 80 people.

Next year at the Church Museum the exhibit will be on the history of quilts.

Banners featuring historical buildings and sites will be made to hang on the new light standards.

The High Tea and Fashion will return in 2023, likely at the end of May.

11. Committee Member Reports

Donna Lord shared the WI Report.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Area Convention

The Southern Area Women's Institute Convention was held on Saturday, October 22, 2022 in Morpeth with 50-60 members attending. It was great to be able to meet again in person. The fall colours were magnificent on the drive to and from the event.

The business part of the meeting was reduced by emailing the reports to branches before the convention and having attendees accept the reports in advance as printed.

For many years, the Women's Institute has been a project partner of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) and supported the ACWW financially with our 'Pennies for Friendship' donations. The name of the collection has been changed to 'Rural Women in Action Fund'.

Southern Ontario Support (SOS) is a society of ACWW formed to focus on the international side by supporting women around the world. Fundraising is a big part of the SOS mandate. Jams and Jellies were sold. Members sold apples and cider at the Embro fair. The 'Tree of Life' artisan jewellery is popular and soap will soon be available for sale.

The Southern area members support the London Health Science Centre and the Children's Hospital by making medical dolls, afghans, prayer shawls, hats, finger puppets but unfortunately the Hospital Gift Shops are not allowed to accept any knitted or crocheted items yet because of COVID restrictions. Toiletry bags are still needed.

In the afternoon, we were all able to participate in four workshops which were entitled Meditation, Zentangles Art, Making Paper Butterflies, and Making Fabric Flowers.

The 2022 Convention was enjoyable and educational.

Submitted by Donna Lord

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ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW)
ZOOM MEETING – NOVEMBER 1, 2022
ACWW 101

Anne Innes led the Zoom meeting. She is the Coordinator between the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) and ACWW. ACWW was formed in 1925 and speaks for 9,000,000 rural women in 80 countries across the globe. Its headquarters are located in London, UK. ACWW acts as a consultant to the United Nations. Queen Azizah of Malaysia is a very active member and her country will be hosting the next ACWW conference. Men can also be members of ACWW.

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| Goals | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Amplify women's voices2. Connect with women around the world3. Mobilise to provide necessary education and supplies4. Empower women by giving them a helping hand |
| Projects | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Climate-smart agriculture2. Rural women's health3. Education and Community Development |

Note: Potential projects are carefully vetted and must be sustainable.

Three Current Project Locations

1. Sain Tus Centre in Mongolia – long-term project
2. Ntengwe in Zimbabwe – provided a waterline from a municipal water source to fields outside of town.
3. Uganda – Action for Disadvantaged People including people with AIDS.

Pennies for Friendship (PFF) collections from WI branches across the world were placed in a separate fund to help pay for ACWW administration and office expenses. Now, there is one ACWW fund and all donations go into that one fund. Every WI branch pays \$0.25 cents per member to ACWW every year.

There are three partner groups in Ontario: FWIO Society, Southern Ontario Support (SOS), and a Society in Eastern Ontario.

Submitted by Donna Lord

12. Indigenous Outreach

Brian Masschaele updated the committee on indigenous outreach plans with Oneida Nation of the Thames, a partnership has been established to assist them with strategies to develop a material collection and establish of a cultural centre. They became collections database partners earlier this year.

On October 10th 1840 after arriving in Port Stanley, the Oneidas walked from Port Stanley to their current location. An artist from their community has created images depicting this journey, and to further a partnership a mural at the Heritage Centre representing the journey has been suggested.

To unveil the mural, a special event on a significant date, either the anniversary of the walk or on September 30th National Day of Truth and Reconciliation would be planned.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held February 1st, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Heritage Centre.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Moved by Charlie Jenkins.