



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

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# 2021 CHAIRPERSONS MESSAGE

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives for the year 2022. We are, we hope, nearing the end of a period which has challenged everyone both personally and in their efforts for the greater community.

Those efforts are embodied in our amazing staff: Amanda, Kathi and Sarah. We are truly fortunate to have this triumvirate of talent working so diligently to further the aims of our amazing Museum: to celebrate the history, artifacts and especially the stories that represent our past, here in Aylmer and Malahide.

The recent year has seen new additions to our Museum Board. We welcome Rebecca Horeth and Dan Reid, who are offering their local experience to bring us closer to our community's interests. Welcome a-Board! An organization such as ours cannot function without a dedicated group of volunteers, and the Museum's are second to none. They make our Museum part of the community, not merely a reflection of it. Whether they help with exhibits, cataloging, raising funds or presenting us to the public, they are indispensable. Let us celebrate them.

Recent years have seen a concerted effort to find a new home. Our current home on East Street, as precious as it is to our 45 year history, has long been insufficient in size and location for our growth. Previous Museum Boards have struggled to find another perfect place to call our own. Over the years, the number of possible prospects has been boggling; great effort has led to disappointment. Yet we searched on...

A few days ago, Dan Reid and I were privileged to sign an Agreement of Purchase for a property on Talbot St. East, which we hope will be our new permanent location. A great deal of work by many people, especially by our own Kathi Vandermeer, has led to this moment. This building, with an outstanding central address and an historic story of its own, should be an appropriate location to allow the Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives to flourish for many years to come. Once the paperwork is finalized, we have the daunting, but rewarding task of making AMMA one of the finest community museums in Ontario. Thank You.

**Ron Sawyer**  
**Board Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives**

# 2021 FINANCE REPORT

Museum finances have been solid during 2021. As in 2020, government grants and money from e-gaming have replaced losses due to the pandemic (Tour of Homes, Heritage Stew Luncheon etc.), and allowed us not only to carry on as usual, but even to extend Sarah's tenure, and purchase capital items. Thanks to Kathi for keeping tabs on funding opportunities.

In the future, the Museum will face higher costs with the projected move downtown which will come with extended hours and higher utility costs. Hopefully local governments will fully back this move, both with encouragement and funding.

**Larry Jeffery**

**Finance Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives**

# 2021 ACQUISITION REPORT

Acquisitions for 2021 were received through email committee meetings throughout 2021. The quick, consistent responses from committee members assisted with this process. A new format, created with much help from Amanda and Sarah, for listing, describing and documenting items is now being used in 2022.

The acquisition committee consisted of Kelly Pearson, Deb Addley, Pat White, Barbara and Allen Cross, Janet Rigsby, Amanda VandenWyngaert and Sarah Bentley.

Acquisitions in 2021 included a large collection of East Elgin Secondary School memorabilia, including uniforms and cheerleading items, photograph composites from the Aylmer Legion, as well as a number of smaller donations from a total of 30 donors.

**Janet Rigsby**  
**Acquisition Committee Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives**

*In 2021 a total of 375 items were accepted into the collection. A special thank you to volunteers Vicki Hull and Bozena Boadway for assisting our Collections Manager Sarah in listing, cataloguing, and photographing all of our new acquisitions!*

# 2021 BUILDING REPORT

There were no major renovations or repairs required this year. Coad Heating performed the annual furnace check and replaced the filters in June. J.D. Fuller replaced one faulty motion sensor and the main battery for the security system.

COVID restrictions in 2021 affected museum operations. This included a lock-down and stay at home order being issued in March just when the museum was gearing up to re-open. This order stayed in effect until June when the museum was allowed to re-open at 50% capacity. Staff alternated between working from home and working on-site during this time. An appointment-booking option was added to the website to allow visitors to book a time to come see the exhibit. Visits were spaced out to maintain limit capacities, social distancing, and allow time between visits to clean and sanitize.

We are closer than ever to a new museum location. In private talks with the COO of McFarlan Rowlands Insurance, we learned that, due to their merger with Hamilton Ward Cathers Insurance, the two offices would be combined and relocated into new office space in the Trillium Building in Aylmer. The old Hamilton Ward Cathers building would then become available to purchase. We are making plans to purchase the Hamilton Ward Cathers building with a closing date in June 2022. Once the building purchase is finalized, we will initiate a capital campaign to raise money for renovations. In addition, several grants are being investigated to help with the costs.

**Kathi Vandermeer**  
**Office Manager, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives**

# 2021 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership letters were sent out at the end of 2020. In previous years, the membership term ran from February to January of the following year. It was decided to change this term to follow the calendar year of January to December. This will be less confusing for members especially once we are in a new building and remain open year-round. Membership numbers in 2021 were very consistent with the memberships from 2020. A committee should be formed to look at current membership levels and to look at ways of increasing the number of memberships sold each year. Revenue from membership sales is critical to help with general operating expenses.

Three new board members were welcomed in July 2020, Larry Telfer, Janet Rigsby and Bill Murch. In October of 2020 Arthur Oslach was accepted as a director after serving as the Town Liaison for many years. In November of 2021 two additional board members were accepted, Dan Reid and Rebecca Horeth. All agreed to join the board as active volunteers and directors.

	2020 Memberships	2021 Memberships
Traditional - \$20	16	16
Foundational - \$50	16	17
Archaeological - \$100	22	22
Historical - \$250	4	4
Classical - \$500	6	5
Archival - \$1000	1	1
Business Card Ad	7	5
¼ page Ad	4	2
Event or Exhibit sponsor	0	1

Kathi Vandermeer  
Office Manager, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

# 2021 VOLUNTEER REPORT

The year 2021 continued to bring challenges for the staff and volunteers of The A.M.M.A. as the Covid virus continued to hamper our return to our usual normal.

Once again the Volunteers were unable to participate in fundraisers for the Museum but those of us able and interested assisted with various projects throughout the year. Several volunteers helped catalogue and organize at the Museum, while others have taken shifts at the e-gaming sessions in St. Thomas. We were able to get together on September 22, 2021 to view the glass exhibit and have lunch at Pinecroft and again December 19, 2021 at the museum for a brief social gathering.

The recipients of the Provincial Volunteer Awards for 2021 are Bozena Boadway 40 years, Jacquie Jeffery 40 years, Larry Jeffery 35 years, Jessie Charlton 15 years and Yvonne Gavey 5 years.

I made the decision at the end of the year to step down as the volunteer co-ordinator for the A.M.M.A. For the last 40 years I have had the privilege of working and learning from incredible women. In my early days as a volunteer, members such as Doris Streib and Mary Stansel were an inspiration in their dedication to the concept of a viable small-town museum. Sarah Bentley has agreed to act as a liaison between the Museum and the Volunteers.

Thank you everyone for your support over the last 40 years.

**Jacquie Jeffery**  
**Volunteer Coordinator, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives**



# 2021 CURATOR'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone for their continued patience and support in 2021 as we, along with everyone in the world, navigated through our second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We intended to open for the season on March 15, however, due to the provincial lockdown and limitations, we were closed until July 16, and opened by appointment only. We closed for the season for our annual shutdown on November 26, 2021, reducing our operating months for the year to just four months. The vast majority of our exhibits, events, fundraisers, and programs were either cancelled or postponed.

## Exhibits

Our exhibit for the year was *Glass: Properties, Production, and Popular Categories Through the Ages*. The exhibit featured the history of and examples of Depression glass, uranium glass, carnival glass, mercury glass, milk glass, hobnail glass, and various examples of coloured glass. Visitors had the opportunity to change the lighting in the exhibit to ultraviolet light, which causes the uranium salts in uranium glass to emit photons, and effectively “glow in the dark”. While visitor numbers were down due to COVID, the exhibit was well received!

## Staff

In 2021, we said goodbye to our long-time Collection Registrar Vicki Hull, who retired in January. Vicki began working at the museum in the 1980s, before pursuing a career in business and management. She returned to the museum in 2008 to work on cataloguing and managing the artifacts in the collection. She was also an integral member of the Tour of Homes Committee. Vicki returned throughout the year as a volunteer to continue to assist us with the collection.

Sarah Bentley joined our staff as a permanent full-time staff member in 2021. She was initially hired on as a Digital Archivist through a donation from the Bushell Estate and remained on staff as the new Collections Manager.

In 2021, we were very fortunate to be able to hire two summer students through two grant programs. Ivana Csinos was a second-year student studying Commerce at Queen's University. She was hired through the Canada Summer Jobs program and she worked diligently to digitize the Museum's General Artifact Collection. Paul Hickling was a student of the Library and Information Science program at Western University. Paul was hired through the Young Canada Works program and he worked to reorganize and digitize our archival

collection. We were very fortunate to be able to extend Paul's grant and he was with us part-time throughout the fall and following spring.

We were grateful to have a co-op student, Alison Giesbrecht, from East Elgin Secondary School join us for the fall semester. She assisted us with digitizing our mortgage and event posters, packaging our archival books for safe storage, and database entry.

### Offsite Events and Displays

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our annual offsite events and displays, including those at the Home and Garden Show and at Springfield Family Fun Day, were cancelled in 2021. Our monthly seniors' programs at our two local senior residences were also cancelled. We are hopeful that these annual events and regular programs will return in the near future.

### Volunteers & Fundraising

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the majority of our special events and fundraisers, including our annual luncheons and our annual Christmas Tour of Homes, were also cancelled in 2021.

In 2021, we continued to use the funds received from the donation of the Estate of Donna Vera Evans Bushell received in November 2020. The donation funded a new "Digital Archivist" position, which employed Sarah Bentley throughout the year. The donation also funded the installation of a large-scale mural in downtown Aylmer, which was painted by artist Meaghan Claire Kehoe in August of 2021.

We also received a donation of \$3,500 from the Aylmer Area Community Foundation to fund the creation of our Edu-Kit programs, which will launch in 2022.

Throughout the year we also received funds from our participation in Bingos at Jackpot City in St. Thomas. Through this program the museum receives funds monthly that we can use towards the preservation and maintenance of our collection. This year we were able to fund a portion of Sarah's salary to work on the collection and we were able to provide a much-needed upgrade to our archival storage. We are very grateful to be one of the charities that receive funds through the charitable gaming program, and are very thankful for the volunteers that assist us with bingos each month.

In 2021, we were able to set up a point-of-sale system to be able to accept credit and debit transactions for memberships, gift shop purchases, and event tickets. We are hopeful that this will make it easier to sell tickets and accept payments in the future.

I look forward to seeing what 2022 has in store for the Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives, and I cannot wait to welcome people back into the museum!

**Amanda VandenWyngaert**  
**Curator, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives**

# 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

## Board of Directors

**Ron Sawyer**  
Chair

**Jacque Jeffery**  
Secretary

**Larry Jeffery**  
Finance Chair

**Janet Rigsby**  
Acquisition Chair

**Jacque Jeffery**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Rebecca Horeth**  
Director

**Dan Reid**  
Director

**Bill Murch**  
Director

**Arthur Oslach**  
Director

**Larry Telfer**  
Director

## Museum Staff

**Amanda VandenWyngaert**  
Curator

**Sarah Bentley**  
Collections Manager

**Kathi Vandermeer**  
Office Manager

# 2021 MEMBERS, SPONSORS, AND SUPPORTERS

## 2021 FOUNDATIONAL MEMBERS

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 Kathleen Brammall  
 Barb & Allan Cross  
 Ann Donkers  
 Rosemary Goble  
 Susan Graves  
 Sylvia Hall  
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 Bill Murch  
 Kael Sharman  
 DJ Smale  
 Ken & Mary Wilson

## 2021 HISTORICAL MEMBERS

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 Jim & Doreen MacIntyre  
 Carol McLay  
 Duncan & Margaret Sinclair  
 Harvey & Kathleen Tribe

## 2021 CLASSICAL MEMBERS

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 Rosemary Kennedy  
 Marvin Ryder  
 Pat White

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 Jessie & Bob Charlton  
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 Valerie Donnell  
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Marvin Ryder

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## 2021 SUPPORTERS

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The Springfield Lioness is a small group of civically minded women with a goal of making their community a great place to live. We're not all about fundraising. Our service work includes maintaining the Mary H Pearson Memorial Garden (Cenotaph Park, Springfield) and an annual Seniors "Christmas in July" event. Donations are made primarily to local endeavours, and include our school, fire department, parade, Fun Day, and area hospitals. As well we contribute to activities recognized as service projects of Lions Clubs International. Our fundraising events include an annual Community Beef Supper (each year in support of a new charity), "B" Sale (books, baking, etc) for Breast Cancer, Community Spirit Birthday Calendars and assignments at Jackpot City Gaming Entertainment in St Thomas. Anyone who is 18 years of age or older, who is service minded and is invited into the club may be a Lioness.

**Lioness Motto -- "WE SERVE TOO"**

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