



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

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14 East Street, Aylmer



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2024 CHAIRPERSONS MESSAGE

Aylmer is a town of (according to the sign) 8000 people. Malahide is a municipality of (according to the sign) 9500 people. All of these people have a history. All of them want to position themselves in historical context in order to define their place in reality. For AMMA, that's our job.

AMMA is in the process of making our efforts as relevant as possible in a world where more and more people want to acknowledge their heritage, honour their ancestors and remember the past. We know this, because our recent exhibits have been very well attended. When a descendant of immigrants sees the struggle of their grandparents to create a successful life in Canada; when a grandchild of a serviceman sees the honourable contribution of their patriarch in the Great War; when a fashionista sees the incredible designs of 100 years past: for AMMA, that's our job.

2024 was a year of challenges and triumphs for our organization. Struggles to secure funding, a string of donations—including a game-changing major donation to aid in our relocation efforts—and the call to speed up our renovation efforts have put a strain on our long-suffering staff. Unfortunately, budgetary pressures made it necessary to lay off the curatory staff for several weeks. We were fortunate to find a government program to ameliorate the financial effects on them. At the end of the lay-off, we welcomed them back enthusiastically (we missed them so), and they are now hard at work on our next exhibit, a study of the industrial roots of Aylmer and Malahide.

What awaits us in the coming year? The ongoing effort to get our renovation of the new location at 75 Talbot St. E. moving forward will be among our greatest challenges. Real work is under way. It will be a long haul, but worth it. I predict a turning-point year for AMMA.

Ron Sawyer
Board Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2024 FINANCE REPORT

Museum finances are always a concern, and, for this museum, must be separated into two categories. With the new museum building downtown, we are attempting to raise enough money to begin renovations. A donation of over \$100,000 from the Mennill family has given the museum a significant boost, and allowed us to begin the very first steps involved.

The other financial consideration, and completely separate from the first, is the day-to-day income and expenses for salaries, supplies, utilities etc. Early in 2024, we could see a shortfall of up to \$20,000 in our 2025 budget. That forced us to close the museum for 11 weeks in December/January/February in order to cut expenses. There is still a shortfall, but the Town covered our \$6,000 property taxes for each of 2024 and 2025, and that helped considerably. However, there are no guarantees for future years, and we badly need stable funding from our two municipalities.

Our sources of income are \$25,000 from Aylmer, \$6,000 from Malahide (cut from \$10,000 the previous year) and \$15,000 from the federal government. The major source of our funds, over \$60,000, comes from donations and volunteer fundraisers.

We would also like to give a special thanks to Jackpot Time in St Thomas, our largest source of volunteer-raised funds. They make it easy and enjoyable for us to raise money helping with their Bingos. Without their support we could not function at the level that we do.

Larry Jeffery

Finance Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2024 ACQUISITION REPORT

The Acquisition Committee continued to review acquisitions in 2024 through email. Donations were listed and photographed by staff for presentation to the Acquisition Committee. The committee determined which artifacts would be accepted into our permanent collection with consideration given to the artifact's provenance and relevance to our collection mandate.

Members of the Acquisition Committee included Kelly Pearson, Deb Addley, Pat White, Allan Cross, and James McCallum, with support from staff Sarah Bentley and Amanda VandenWyngaert.

In 2024 the Acquisition Committee accepted 4,899 items from 27 donors. The largest donation of items received in 2024 came from Ron Allen. The donation included 1,995 hand-drawn editorial cartoons dating from 1982 to 2023. In 2024 we were also able to process a large number of previously uncatalogued items in preparation for database entry. In total 2,390 items were appropriately catalogued.

James McCallum

Acquisition Committee Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

	Number of Items	Number of Donors
2021	375	30
2022	325	27
2023	954	42
2024	4,899	27

A special thank you to volunteers Bozena Boadway and Cathy Kasza for assisting our Collections Manager Sarah in listing, cataloguing, and photographing our new acquisitions!

2024 BUILDING REPORT

The committee meets as required. There were 2 meetings in 2024.

The committee has two purposes:

1. Fund raising to pay for the renovations at the former Hamilton, Ward and Cathers building at 75 Talbot St E.
2. Provide guidance to the AMMA Board of Directors on how best to proceed with the renovations to this structure.

Fundraising Guidelines

The museum has two fund-raising objectives:

To raise operating capital for the current facility on East Street through events like the Tour of Homes.

To raise funding for renovations to the new facility on 75 Talbot Street East.

We need to be clear with all participants that there are two streams of fundraising, each with their own purpose. The committee strives to keep fundraising events simple and manageable by museum staff and volunteers.

Where possible these events will be coordinated with the activities of the town and business community. Communications, promotion, and information are provided through the website, newsletters, letters of solicitation, tabloid posters, advertisements, and presentations to key community groups and organizations. These provide a schedule of events and pertinent information.

Fundraising events have included:

- Vintage car show.
- Murder Mystery Dinner.
- Solicitation of CRA-registered foundations who support museums.
- Donation boxes.
- Raffle draws.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was prepared by Kathi Vandermeer and Chris Csernyei. It was given to a local Engineering and Architectural firm to identify the services needed for the renovations. The scope of this project includes the review and assessment of the site conditions. As well as preliminary conceptual development and detailed design.

Professional services included in the 14-page RFP include site condition assessment, architectural concept design(s), cost estimating, design development and construction

documents. Assistance during the project bidding phase. Construction administration work is included in the proposal as separate tasks.

The committee is using the engineering and architectural concept designs and cost estimates to apply for funding through various foundations and government grant programs.

Physical Building Reports

14 East St., Aylmer

Throughout 2024 regular maintenance at our 14 East St. building continued. Larry Telfer arranged to have regular lawn maintenance completed. Volunteers Deb and Mike Addley maintained our gardens, weeding the garden and replacing the mulch. As a part of our 2024 CMOG requirements, we completed an Emergency Response Plan for our 14 East St. location. Finally, we had our air conditioner serviced amid issues with temperature control.

75 Talbot St. E., Aylmer

Primary activity in 2024 was a formal evaluation of the 75 Talbot St. E. building. This included pre-renovation Designated Substances and Hazardous Material Assessment prepared by ECOM on July 16, 2024. It also included a Building Condition Assessment prepared by Rimkus on August 15, 2024. Based on this information, it was decided to carry out further on-site examination of the structure by opening interior walls at select locations to ensure there are no other structural challenges. This will be scheduled for 2025.

Bill Murch, Building Committee Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

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

2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership dues are of great importance to the continued success of our museum. As museum membership has stayed consistent year over year, a membership campaign is needed to try to increase membership and sponsorship numbers overall. Memberships were promoted at all events held at the new building and at the Aylmer Fair. A membership drive was held at the Aylmer Canadian Tire as well, during which we were able to gain several new members. Two new members have joined the board of directors, Mary Hamm on February 13 and Melanie MacNeil on August 13, bringing our total number of board members to 11 including our Town and Township liaisons.

Classic Membership

Individual \$20	Includes 1 museum membership Admission for 1 to all museum exhibits Access to the Museum Archives (by appointment) 5 AMMA Newsletters per year
Friend \$50	<i>All Individual Membership Benefits above</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charitable tax receipt for a \$30 donation Recognition in the AMMA Newsletter
Supporter \$100	<i>All Individual Membership Benefits above</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charitable tax receipt for an \$80 donation Recognition in the AMMA Newsletter Admission for one guest to museum exhibits

Curator's Circle

Founder \$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive a Charitable tax receipt for a \$250 donation
Benefactor \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive a Charitable tax receipt for a \$500 donation
Associate \$1000+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive a Charitable tax receipt for full amount of donation

	2021 Memberships	2022 Memberships	2023 Membership	2024 Membership
Classic Memberships				
Individual - \$20	16	22	25	20
Friend of Museum - \$50	17	12	15	18
Supporter - \$100	22	19	14	11
Curator's Circle				
Founder - \$250	4	5	5	5
Benefactor - \$500	5	7	5	6
Associate - \$1000	1	1	2	3
Sponsorships				
Business Card Ad	5	6	2	3
¼ page Ad	2	2	2	2
Event or Exhibit sponsor	1	0	0	0

Kathi Vandermeer
Office Manager, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2024 VOLUNTEER REPORT

The Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives is incredibly fortunate to have a team of dedicated, talented, and hardworking volunteers to assist us in our operations.

In total, our volunteers contributed an outstanding 2,265 hours to the museum in 2024. Volunteers are credited for hours given as members of our board of directors, as members of our various committees, and as representatives of the museum at Jackpot Time Gaming Entertainment. We were also grateful to have the help of our volunteers in tasks like exhibit setup, cataloguing, collections management, building maintenance, and the operation of various events.

The Tour of Homes was a significant undertaking that would not have been possible without the contributions and dedication of our volunteers. The Tour of Homes Committee consisted of thirteen talented and passionate individuals, who helped us to organize our most profitable Tour of Homes to date. Over forty volunteers contributed to the event, and we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the tour possible.

Volunteers were unable to meet as a collective in 2024, without the coordination of a volunteer representative on our board of directors. Staff organized a small holiday celebration for volunteers, which they were welcome to attend in late November.

With the committed and capable volunteer base that the museum has accumulated, we look forward to a bright and prosperous 2025.

Task	Hours Contributed
Tour of Homes (including meetings, preparation, and the tour itself)	715
Database entry	498
Events (e.g. the Aylmer Fair, exhibit supervision)	349
Artifact listing and cataloguing	296
Meetings of the board of directors	125
Bingo volunteers (through Jackpot Time Gaming Entertainment)	118
Committee meetings (i.e. the Building and Acquisition Committee)	31
Miscellaneous activities	133
Total volunteer hours for 2024:	2,265
Total volunteer hours for 2023:	1,782

Sarah Bentley

Interim Volunteer Coordinator, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2024 CURATOR'S REPORT

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for their continued support throughout 2024! This year marked another busy year for the museum, with exhibits and events running at both our current location and our future building. The year was also filled with fundraisers and events to raise money for both our general operating fund and our relocation project. We wouldn't have had such a successful year without the support of our board, volunteers, members, and community. We are very fortunate to have so much community support!

Exhibits

Our primary exhibit through 2024 was *The Roaring Twenties: Flappers, Fashion, and Freedom*. The exhibit explored how the social and societal landscape of the 1920s was reflected in women's fashion. The exhibit also looked at Aylmer and Malahide in the 1920s and how the changing landscape impacted our community. We hosted a reception for the exhibit, with visitors arriving in their best 1920s fashion!

Throughout the year, we hosted exhibits and events at our new building in an effort to better utilize the space, raise additional funds, and promote the importance of our new building. The first exhibit was *Leaving Canada: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico*, a travelling exhibit on loan from Mennonite Heritage Village in Manitoba. The exhibit highlighted the large group of Old Colony Mennonites who emigrated from Canada to Mexico in the 1920s. The exhibit was made possible through a partnership with Mennonite Community Services, Mennonite Central Committee, and the Norfolk Community Help Centre.

The second exhibit we hosted at our Talbot Street location was *Arriving in Aylmer: Transylvanian Saxons in Canada since the 1920s*. *Arriving in Aylmer* was a collaborative exhibit guest curated by museum board member Rebecca Horeth. The exhibit showcased the findings from her thesis research, allowing visitors to explore the stories, histories, and traditions of the Transylvanian Saxons through the lens of folklore.

Staff

We were fortunate to receive the funding to hire two students in the summer of 2024. Morgan Kerr returned for her second year working at the museum. Morgan was a first year student studying English Literature at Western University. She was hired through the Young Canada Works program and worked diligently to digitize the museum's general artifact collection. Julia McCord joined us for her first summer. Julia was a recent graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University having earned her Honours Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. She was hired through the Canada Summer Jobs program and assisted us with our archival collection.

Offsite Events and Displays

Throughout 2024, we participated in two offsite events. On June 15th, we attended Springfield Family Fun Day where we set up our Victorian-era themed photobooth as an activity for attendees. Visitors were able to dress up, get their photograph taken, and take home a souvenir photo from the photobooth!

From August 9th to the 11th, we presented a display at the Aylmer Fair. The display featured information, photographs, and artifacts from our collection celebrating their 176th year!

Fundraising

Throughout the year, we were very grateful to receive funds from our participation in bingos at Jackpot Time in St. Thomas. Through this program, the museum received funds monthly that we were able to use towards the preservation and maintenance of our collection. In 2024 we were able to fund a portion of staff salaries to work on the collection, purchase archival and conservation supplies, and prepare exhibits and events. In total we received \$36,350 through Jackpot Time in 2024. A huge thank you to the volunteers that assist us with bingos each month, this amazing contribution would not be possible without you!

On September 7th we hosted our second annual murder mystery, *The Hertz Castle Killer*. It was a great evening and raised \$2,400 for the museum. On October 5th, we hosted our 3rd annual car show, raising an additional \$2,100 for the museum. In the fall we hosted two indoor yard sales in our Talbot Street location, raising roughly \$800 for general operating expenses.

In 2024 our largest annual fundraiser, the Christmas Tour of Homes, was a resounding success, marking our highest grossing year yet! Thanks to our volunteers, the tour was an incredible success, with over 700 people participating in the tour and raising nearly \$21,000 for the museum!

Throughout 2024, we were able to host three online 50/50 raffles through Raffle Box raising nearly \$700 for the museum. We also continued to receive donations from local community groups and organizations, including \$2,500 from the Calton Community Centre, \$1,000 from the Knights of Columbus, \$1,000 from the South Dorchester Optimist Club, and \$500 from the Springfield Swans.

I look forward to seeing what 2024 has in store for the Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives!

Amanda VandenWyngaert
Curator, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Board of Directors

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Chair

Larry Jeffery
Finance Chair
Vice-Chair

Jim McCallum
Acquisition Chair
Secretary

Bill Murch
Building Committee Chair

Rebecca Horeth
Director

Larry Telfer
Director

Shirley Fallowfield
Director

Mary Hamm
Director

Melanie MacNeil
Director

Arthur Oslach
Director
Aylmer Council Liaison

Sarah Leitch
Director
Malahide Council Liaison

Museum Staff

Amanda VandenWyngaert
Curator

Sarah Bentley
Collections Manager

Kathi Vandermeer
Office Manager

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 Marvin Ryder
 Knights of Columbus
 Tom Hill

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Springfield Swans

~ are members of Swans Ontario, a fairly new service organization that provides help and assistance to the community by volunteering. To assist those in need ~ to support fellow members ~ someone who offers their hand in friendship willingly. Are part of a team that strives to make a difference in the community through fundraising, service work, making donations and having fun! Springfield Swans maintain the Mary H Pearson Memorial Garden (Cenotaph Park, Springfield), host an annual Seniors "Christmas in July" event and a monthly Senior's afternoon on the second Tuesday of each month. Donations primarily are kept to local ventures, and include the school, fire department, parade, Fun Day, and area charities. Fundraising is varied and includes an annual Community Beef Supper (each year in support of a new charity), Bake Sales, Community Birthday Calendars and assignments at Jackpot Time Entertainment Centre in St Thomas. Anyone who is 18 years of age or older, who is service minded and invited into the club may be a member.

"Volunteering for a Better Community"

Check out our Facebook Page: Springfield Swans Club - Ontario ~~~ PO Box 179, Springfield, ON N0L 2J0



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