



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

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2025 CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

As we hurtle headlong into the current year, we are filled with hope and expectation that this will be the time when major progress will start to be apparent in our efforts to renovate and, eventually, make the move to our new location at 75 Talbot St. E. in Aylmer. There are many administrative hurdles to clear, and our hard-working staff is on top of the process and has everything under control. A rejuvenated Board of Directors is anxious to make the wise decisions that will guide us to our goal.

2025 was a good year financially, with generous grants from Aylmer and Malahide. Those grants, along with our participation at the Jackpot Time bingo sessions provided a substantial portion of our operating budget. The annual Tour of Homes, our biggest fundraiser, was the most successful yet, and garnered rave reviews from attendees who hailed from such diverse places as Mississauga and Windsor and even Manitoba and Nova Scotia. Thanks to our TOH Committee volunteers for their hard work. Next year should be even better.

Speaking of the volunteers, our heartfelt thanks go out to the people whose dedication to the Museum has them helping out at various bingos, car shows, garage sales, home tours, and open houses. This makes a real difference to our harried but estimable staff, who are the day-to-day backbone of our organization.

Our latest exhibit, now showing, is *Fashion Through the Ages*, which highlights fashion styles and trends from each decade ranging from the 1870s to the 1970s. Everyone is welcome at the Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives.

Ron Sawyer
Board Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2025 FINANCE REPORT

Aylmer Museum is one of the few private museums not owned by a municipality, nevertheless, we received valued support from both the Town of Aylmer and the Township of Malahide. Our other sources of funding are federal grants and funds raised by our volunteers. In 2025, our volunteers raised close to \$70,000. Most of this was from the Tour of Homes and Jackpot Time in St. Thomas.

Our operating costs, including wages, utilities, and purchases, have continued to increase year after year. It is more important than ever to source out opportunities for funding through increased municipality support, government support, grants, donations, memberships and sponsors.

A special thanks to our office manager, Kathi, who pays the bills, watches for grants, and generally keeps the wheels turning.

In the future, the museum will face higher costs with the projected move downtown: 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

2025 ACQUISITION REPORT

The Acquisition Committee continued to review acquisitions in 2025 through e-mail. 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 Jim McCallum, with support from staff Sarah Bentley and Amanda VandenWyngaert

In 2025, the Acquisition Committee accepted 4,261 items from fifty-three donors.

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
2025	4,261	53

Special thanks to summer students Moira Haldenby and Rae Slattery for their assistance in listing and cataloguing our artifact donations.

2025 BUILDING REPORT

The Aylmer-Malahide Museum Building Committee consists of museum staff, board members and community representatives all dedicated to the renovation of 75 Talbot St. E., Aylmer.

The committee has two purposes:

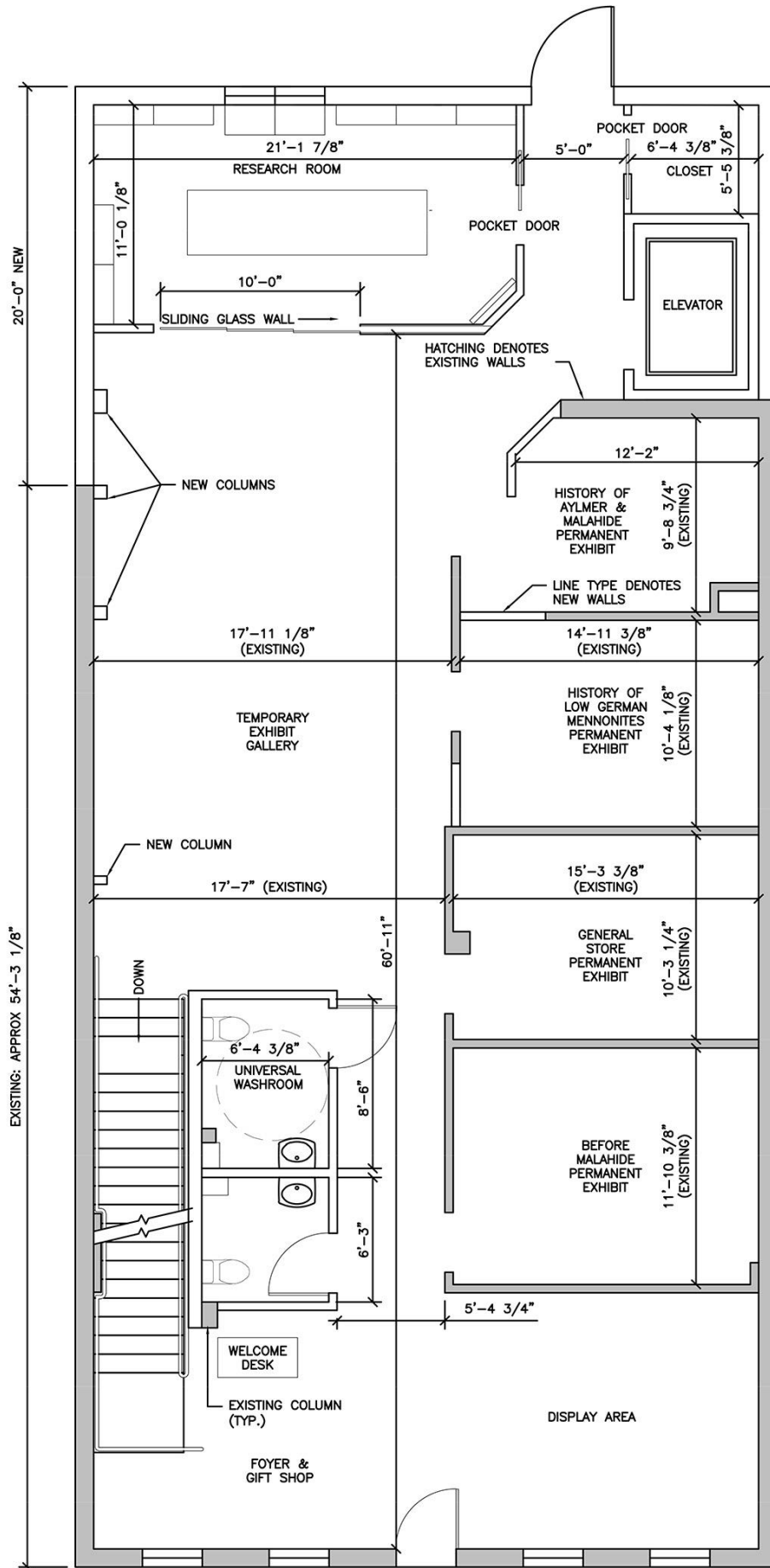
1. Fundraising for the renovation costs
2. Provide guidance to the AMMA Board of Directors on how best to proceed with the plans for the new museum.

Museum staff met with Rimkus A&E firm on Feb 6, 2025. This meeting was to finalize plans for a property condition assessment and an environmental assessment to be completed on the new building. These assessments were completed and reports issued for review. It was determined that further destructive testing was required to best determine the structural needs for the renovation plan. This was completed by the end of April 2025. After several revisions, Rimkus provided AMMA with a final conceptual plan for the new building (pages 7 to 9 of this document). The building committee met on December 8, 2025, to approve the concept plans, which were then presented to the AMMA board of directors at their regular meeting on December 16, 2025. This completed Phase 1 of our project. Expenses to date are \$60,000.

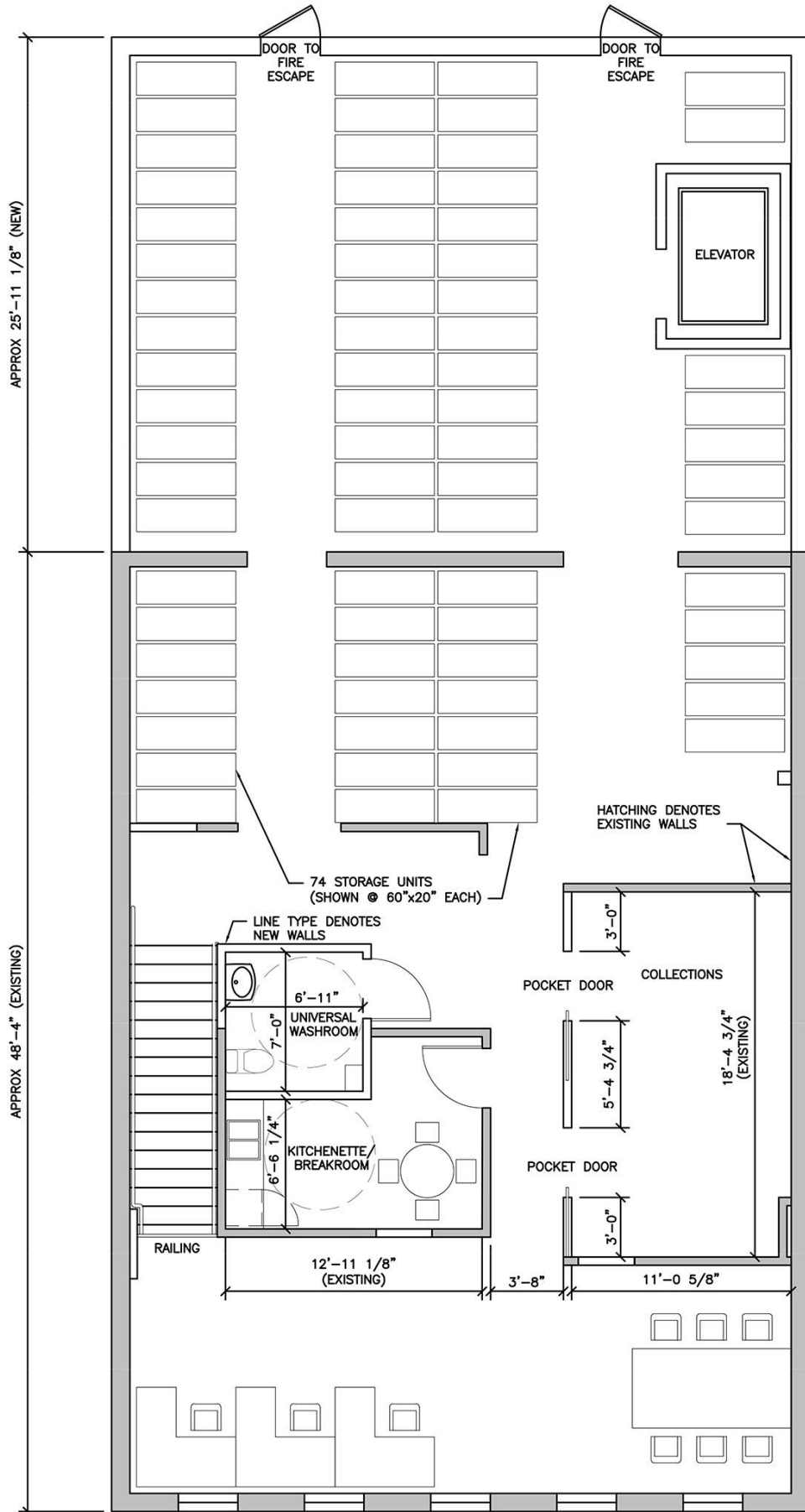
Rough estimates to complete all renovations as per the concept plan will be between \$1.5 million and \$2 million. The museum currently has \$200,000 in reserves for Phase 2. As a non-profit charitable organization, the museum will be eligible for many infrastructure and accessibility grants. These grants along with future donations will provide the required funding to complete the project.

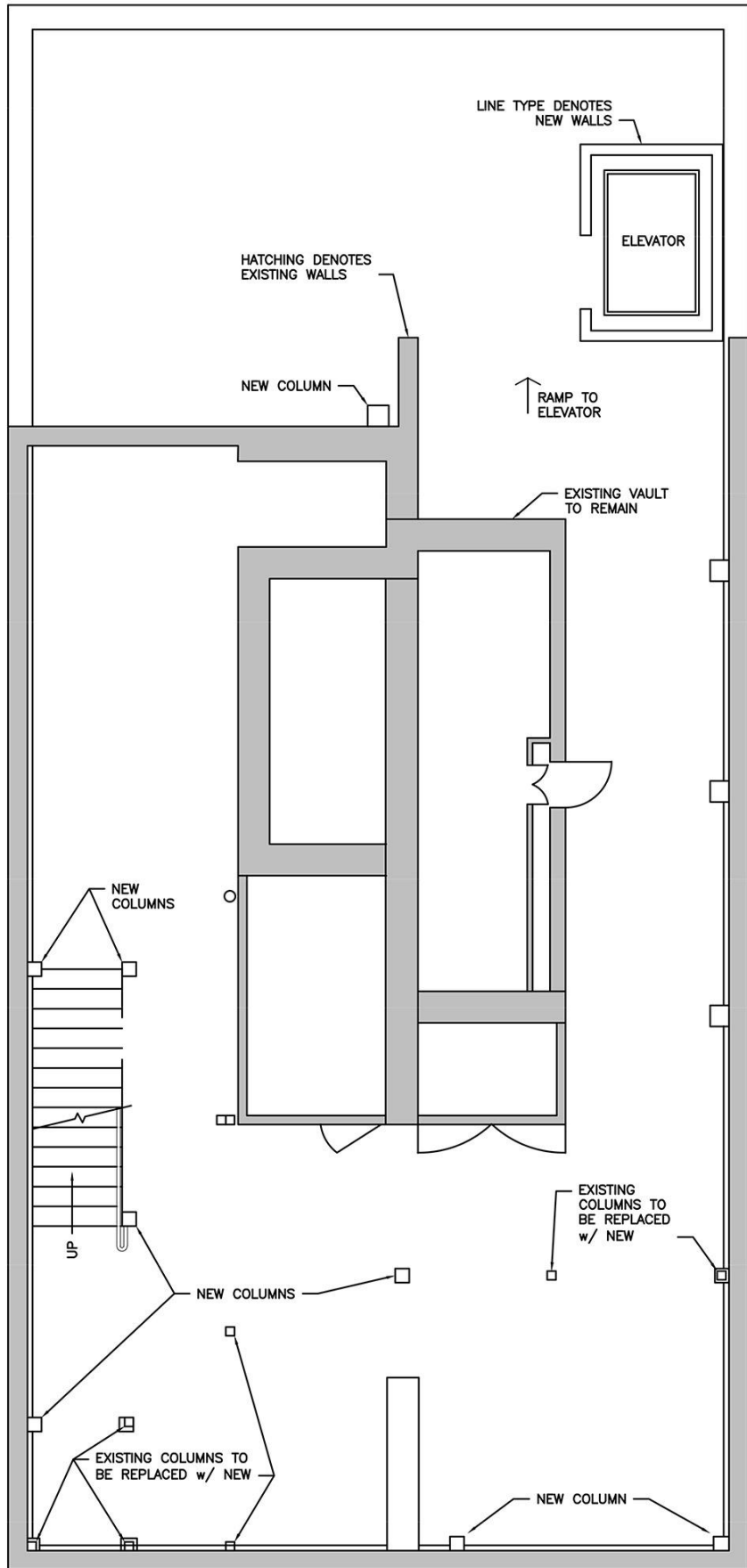
Fundraising events in 2025 included a vintage car show, several garage sales, and donation solicitations. We are looking at having a more aggressive fundraising campaign in 2026 to support Phase 2 and the eventual start of renovations.

Bill Murch, Building Committee Chair, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives
Kathi Vandermeer, Office Manager, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives



1 AMMA - CONCEPT PLAN - MAIN LEVEL - REVISED
PL-0 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"





2025 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Memberships are of great importance to the continued success of our museum. In 2025, there were sixty-six total memberships, down from sixty-eight the previous year. Many members renew every year but will change their membership level. This plus the addition of an exhibit sponsor resulted in an increase in membership funds from \$10,797 to \$12,062 from the previous year.

Efforts were made to increase memberships at all events held at the new building and at the Aylmer Fair. We will continue to promote new memberships in the coming years.

We thank all our members for their continued support. Your involvement plays a vital role in sustaining the museum's mission and programs.

Classic Membership

Individual \$20	Includes one museum membership. Admission for one 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.

Memberships	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Classic Memberships					
Individual - \$20	16	22	25	20	16
Friend of Museum - \$50	17	12	15	18	16
Supporter - \$100	22	19	14	11	12
Curator's Circle					
Founder - \$250	4	5	5	5	6
Benefactor - \$500	5	7	5	6	5
Associate - \$1000	1	1	2	3	2
Sponsorships					
Business Card Ad	5	6	2	3	4
¼ page Ad	2	2	2	2	4
Event or Exhibit sponsor	1	0	0	0	1

Kathi Vandermeer
Office Manager, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2025 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 1,762 hours to the museum in 2025. 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 ten talented and passionate individuals, who helped us to organize our most profitable and best-attended 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 2025, without the coordination of a volunteer representative on our board of directors. Volunteer response to the museum's calls for assistance may be bolstered in future years by the sense of community that regular meetings may provide. Staff organized a small holiday celebration for the 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 2026.

Task	Hours Contributed
Tour of Homes (including meetings, preparation, and the tour itself)	847
Database entry	413
Events (e.g., the Aylmer Fair, exhibit supervision)	125
Artifact listing and cataloguing	150
Meetings of the board of directors	53
Bingo volunteers (through Jackpot Time Gaming Entertainment)	138
Committee meetings (i.e., the Building and Acquisition Committee)	19
Total volunteer hours for 2025:	1,762
Total volunteer hours for 2024:	2,265

Sarah Bentley

Interim Volunteer Coordinator, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2025 CURATOR'S REPORT

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for their continued support throughout 2025! 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 couldn't have had such a successful year without the support of our board, volunteers, members, and community!

Exhibits

Our primary exhibit through 2025 was *From Farm to Factory*. The exhibit explored the history of industry in Aylmer and Malahide, and considered the role that Carnation Milk, the Aylmer Canning Company, and Imperial Tobacco played in our local economy and community.

We also 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. In the summer we hosted *Oh! Oh! The Works of Ron Allen*. The exhibit featured eighty of Ron's cartoons from his four decades of work as the cartoonist for the Aylmer Express. The exhibit was extremely well received and well attended!

Staff

We were fortunate to receive the funding to hire two students in the summer of 2025. Rae Slattery was a fifth-year student studying Psychology and Sociology at Laurentian University. She was hired through the Canada Summer Jobs program. Moira Haldenby was a third-year student at Western University studying Family Studies and Human Development. She was hired through the Young Canada Works grant. Both Rae and Moira assisted us with processing new donations and cataloguing and entering the accepted artifacts into our collection.

Offsite Events and Displays

Throughout 2025, we participated in several offsite events. On June 21st, 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 8th to the 10th, we presented a display at the Aylmer Fair. The display featured information, photographs, and artifacts from our collection celebrating their 177th year!

From September 15th to 21st, we presented an exhibit at the Aylmer Legion in celebration of Legion Week. The exhibit, titled *Service and Sacrifice: The History of the Aylmer Legion and*

the Local Impact of War, considered the history and community impact of Branch 81 of the Royal Canadian Legion. It also explored the profound impact that global conflicts had on our community.

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 2025, 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 an incredible \$46,479.48 through Jackpot Time in 2025! We are extremely grateful to Jackpot Time for their ongoing support through this program. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the volunteers that assist us with bingos each month, this amazing contribution wouldn't be possible without you!

In conjunction with our exhibit *Oh! Oh! The Works of Ron Allen*, we were able to sell copies of Volume III of the publication of "Oh! Oh!" generously donated by Ron Allen, raising \$590 for the museum! On October 4th, we hosted our fourth annual car show, raising \$1,500 for the museum.

In 2025, 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 860 people participating in the tour! Regular admission ticket sales raised \$21,000, advertising within the ticket raised \$3,000, and the volunteer gift baskets raised an additional \$2,200. We are so grateful to the Tour of Homes Committee and all the volunteers and community partners that make the event such a success!

We also continued to receive donations from local community groups and organizations. One notable donation was from the Mennill family - thanks to their incredible generosity we were able to add another \$100,000 to our relocation fund and establish the Mennill Family Conference and Research Room in our future location! We were also grateful to receive \$2,000 from the Estate of Donna Vera Bushell through the Elgin-St. Thomas Community Foundation.

I look forward to seeing what 2026 has in store for the Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives!

Amanda VandenWyngaert
Curator, Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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Chair

Larry Jeffery
Finance Chair
Vice-Chair

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Acquisition Chair
Secretary

Bill Murch
Building Committee Chair

Rebecca Horeth
Programming Chair

Larry Telfer
Director

Shirley Fallowfield
Membership Chair

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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 John & Henrietta Karn
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 Kelly Pearson
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 Rosemary Kennedy
 Susan Kyle & John Beekman

2025 ASSOCIATE

Marvin Ryder
 Knights of Columbus
 Tom Hill

2025 SUPPORTERS

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 Canadian Museum Association
 Canada Summer Jobs
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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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