

Committee to Establish a Middlesex County Archives

Report to Middlesex County Council March 14, 2023

OFFICERS

Chair – Carol Small
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Secretary – Bev Hughes

Archivist – Krista Taylor
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MEMBERS

Ekfrid Community Museum

Glencoe & District Historical Society

Komoka Railway Museum

London & Middlesex County Branch,
Ontario Genealogical Society

London & Middlesex Historical Society

Lucan Area Heritage Society

Middlesex Centre Archives

Middlesex Centre Historical Society

Mossley Post Heritage
& Citizenship Society

Strathroy and District Historical
Society

Wardsville Historical Museum

Westminster Township Historical
Society

Representatives from many Middlesex
County Communities

Introduction

The *Committee to Establish a Middlesex County Archives* was formed in 2020 to advocate for a central County Archives. Our *Committee*, whose members represent all of the municipalities of Middlesex County as well as local historical organizations, has been working to educate municipal and community leaders and the general population on the value and need for a County Archives.

In our presentation, archives, museum and library are defined with the purpose of each given. The imperativeness of an archives is shown with only a half generation (10-15 years) to save records. The requirements to digitising records and the cost of inaction are examined. The presentation is attached as part of this report. As well, we have included the names of municipal, organisation and business supporters for the establishment of Middlesex County Archives and just a few of the many letters from our supporters.

In summary, Middlesex County, as stewards of our heritage, needs a Middlesex County Archives:

- ✓ To assist municipalities to fulfill their **legal obligations** to maintain certain municipal documents in perpetuity.
- ✓ To hold **records of social, cultural, and historic importance** some of which are currently being stored in suboptimal conditions.
- ✓ To increase **access** to citizens, family historians, researchers and more.
- ✓ To preserve all records in proper **climate-controlled conditions**.
- ✓ To catalogue the holdings for easy retrieval under the care and direction of a **professional Archivist who will serve as a resource** to both municipalities and community members.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Small,
Chair, *Committee to Establish a Middlesex County Archives*



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Municipal, Organisation and Business Supporters Of A Middlesex County Archives

Municipal Councils

Middlesex Centre
Southwest Middlesex
Strathroy-Caradoc
Thames Centre

Lions Clubs

Delaware & District Lions Club
Dorchester Lions Club
Glencoe & District Lions Club
Ilderton and District Lions Club
Poplar Hill Lions Club
Thorndale Lions Club

Optimist Clubs

Dorchester Optimist Club
Ilderton Optimist Club

Agricultural Societies

Ilderton Agricultural Society
North Dorchester Agricultural Society
Thorndale Agricultural Society

Agricultural Organisations

Middlesex County Federation of Agriculture
Middlesex County Agricultural Hall of Fame
Middlesex County Cattlemen
Middlesex County 4-H
Tri County Heritage

Women's Institutes

South Lobo
Thorndale

Other Organisations

Western Libraries

London and St. Thomas Association of Realtors
Parkhill Carnegie Library
Donnybrook Legion
IODE, Val Griffith Chapter
Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society
Christ Anglican Church Cemetery Board
North Dorchester Cemetery Board

Businesses

Delaware Pump
R&S Graham Contracting
Dr. Bertha Wolf, Optometrist
REMAX Advantage, Rob Sanderson Brokerage
Koop Chanderdat, Owner, Komoka Kings
A & T Mutual Insurance (now AXIOM)
Kin Folk Finder

Historical Organisations

Mossley Post Heritage and Citizen Society
North Dorchester Heritage Book Project
West Nissouri Township History Book Project
Middlesex Centre Archives
Middlesex Centre Historical Society
Fanshawe Pioneer Village
Ekfrid Community Museums
Glencoe and District Historical Societies
Komoka Railway Museum
London & Middlesex Historical Society
London & Middlesex Branch OGS
Lucan and Area Heritage Society
Strathroy & District Historical Society
Wardsville Historical Museum
Westminster Historical Society
FamilySearch - Robert C. Young
Ontario Genealogical Society – Provincial Office