

Summer 2021

Covid-19 remains the dominant news story of 2021. The increasing number of vaccinations is having a positive effect on the reported case numbers. That and remaining vigilant, the hopes of getting back to a new normal is hopeful. With that positive prospect in mind, the Middlesex Centre Archives hopes to open its doors in early September. It all depends on the twists and turns of Covid-19 and the re-opening of the Delaware Community Centre as it is receiving a new roof and a newly-paved parking lot this Summer. We will keep you updated.

MCA has been closed since mid-December; however, people have continued to donate. Thank You so much! This is great! We have had several very large collections delivered to Annex B. Two of those donations filled a truck and an SUV. YES BIG! Vice-Chair Dave and Archivist Carolynn will be working to organise these donations so our volunteers can start to process them. When it is safe for our volunteers to return, we will begin the immense task of processing all this material.



Entry Room of Annex B



Glimpses of the work ahead



The Entrance to Annex B



In early July, thanks to a \$5000 Grant from the Municipality of Middlesex Centre, rolling shelving will be installed in Annex B. This shelving will soon house some of the donations shown in these photos that are waiting to be processed.

Middlesex Centre Archives continues to receive many email queries. Many people from outside our area and even from within Middlesex County identify the

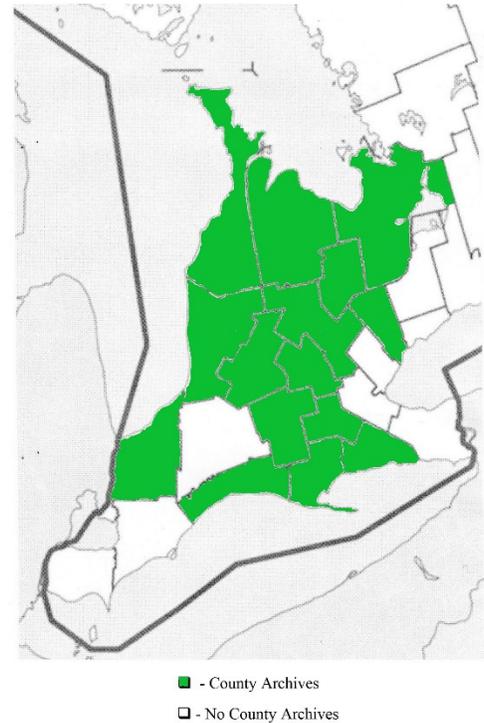
Middlesex Centre Archives as Middlesex County Archives. There is NO Middlesex County Archives!

Middlesex Centre Archives often becomes the research centre for County-related inquiries. It even becomes the donation centre when there is no other available location in the home municipality and items are destined for the dumpster. This costs MCA money for supplies, space, and archivist and volunteer time. Middlesex Centre Archives now has 3 locations, the Archives in Delaware Community Centre, Annex A and Annex B on Longwoods Road in Delaware. Oh, to have everything in one large location!

That leads into another area where Middlesex Centre Archives people are actively involved. In February 2020, a new group, The Committee to Establish a Middlesex County Archives, was formed with representatives from all municipalities in Middlesex County. Many of the historical societies in Middlesex County find that their aging volunteers are having difficulty continuing the work. They are concerned their many precious collections are going to be lost. Thus, they are anxious to see a Middlesex County Archives in place so historical records can be saved for future generations. Not only is a County Archives a place for local historical documents, it is a place for municipal council records. Most County Archives in Southwestern Ontario house municipal as well as local historical documents.

For further information, please check our website under the tab "Proposed Middlesex County Archives" to find information about Archives in general and the need for a County Archives. Keep checking this site as new information will be posted weekly. Also check our Facebook page. Councillors, CAOs and Clerks across Middlesex County are all receiving this information too. Topics include: *Municipal Act and Responsibilities, What is an Archives? How Will the Municipality and Clerks Benefit? Where Are the Records Now? Who Would Use the Middlesex County Archives, Resources Required, and Challenges and Opportunities* plus much more.

Map To Show Southwestern Ontario Counties With County Archives



The Committee to Establish a Middlesex County Archives will be making a presentation to Middlesex County Council on September 28, 2021. Please support our efforts. Let our councillors know of your support also. Ultimately it is County Council that makes the decision; but, they need to know that their constituents support this initiative. They are there to represent us.

By the time the Fall newsletter is produced, the news should be that the Middlesex Centre Archives is open with a beehive of activity happening. It would also be grand to report that Middlesex County Council supports establishing a Middlesex County Archives.

If you have questions or comments, please email us.

Have a safe and wonderful Summer.

Regards
Carol Small
Chair, Board of Directors
Middlesex Centre Archives

AND in full disclosure
Chair,
Committee To Establish a Middlesex County Archives