



CULTURAL SERVICES

2020 Annual Report



Cultural Services Division

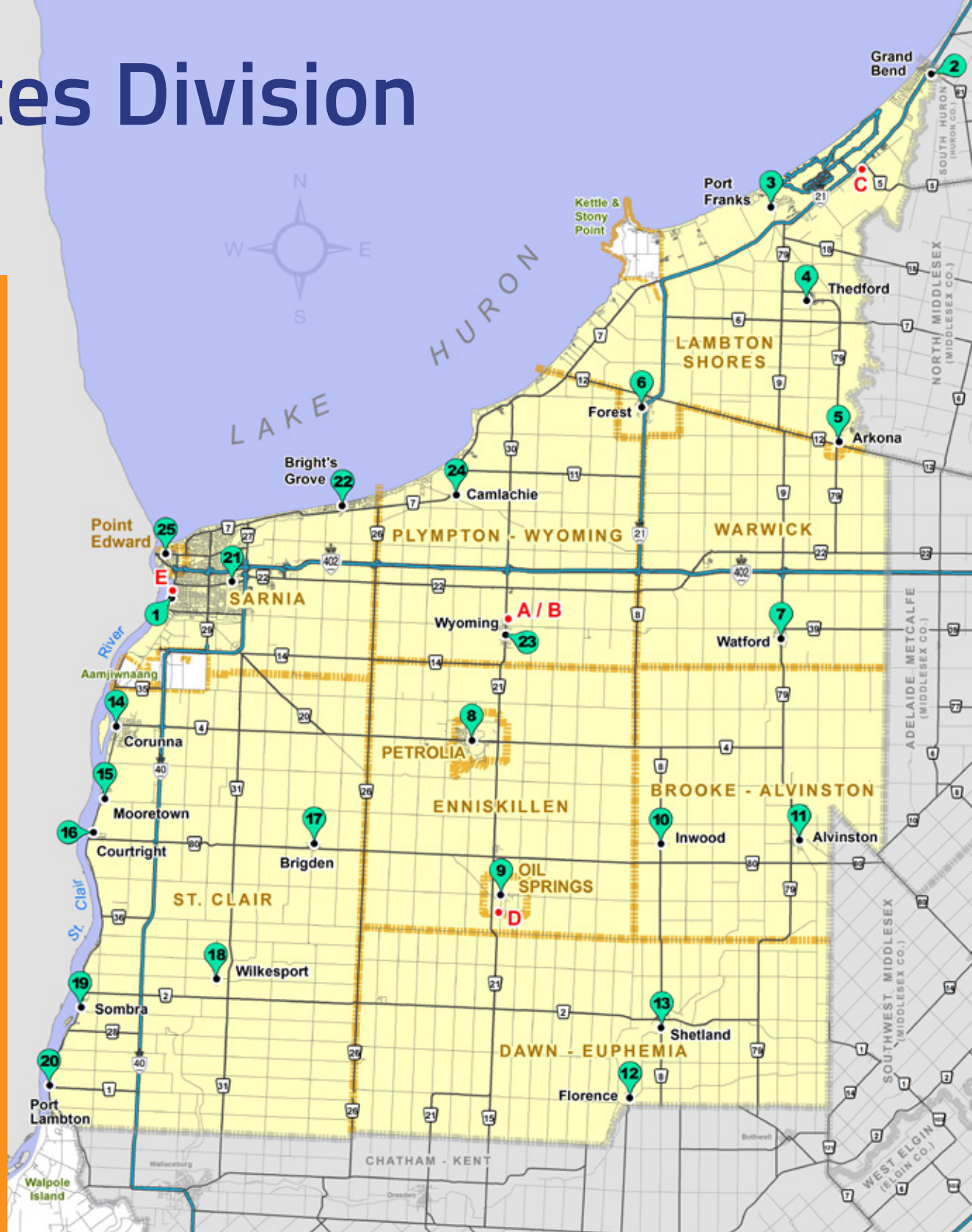
OVERVIEW MAP



Mallroad Library, with curbside signage and pedestrian pickup table in place.

ID	LOCATION	WEBSITE	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS
A	Library Headquarters	www.lclibrary.ca	519-845-3324	787 Broadway Street
B	Lambton County Archives	www.lambtonarchives.ca	519-845-5426	787 Broadway Street
C	Lambton Heritage Museum	www.heritagemuseum.ca	519-243-2600	10035 Museum Road
D	Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site	www.oilmuseum.ca	519-834-2840	2423 Kelly Road
E	Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery	www.jnaag.ca	519-336-8127	147 Lochiel Street

REGION	ID	LIBRARY LOCATION	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Region 1	1	Sarnia Library	519-337-3291	124 Christina Street S.	Sarnia
Region 2	2	Grand Bend Library	519-238-2067	15 Gill Road	Lambton Shores
	3	Port Franks Library	519-243-2820	9997 Port Franks Rd.	Lambton Shores
	4	Theftord Library	519-296-4459	16 Allen Street	Lambton Shores
	5	Arkona Library	519-828-3406	16 Smith Street	Lambton Shores
	6	Forest Library	519-786-5152	61 King Street West	Lambton Shores
	7	Watford Library	519-876-2204	5317 Nauvoo Road	Warwick
Region 3	8	Petrolia Library	519-882-0771	4200 Petrolia Line	Petrolia
	9	Oil Springs Library	519-834-2670	4596 Oil Springs Line	Oil Springs
	10	Inwood Library	519-864-2491	6504 James Street	Brooke-Alvinston
	11	Alvinston Library	519-898-2921	3251 River Street	Brooke-Alvinston
	12	Florence Library	519-692-3213	6213 Mill Street	Dawn-Euphemia
	13	Shetland Library	519-695-3330	1279 Shetland Road	Dawn-Euphemia
Region 4	14	Corunna Library	519-862-1132	417 Lyndoch Street	St. Clair
	15	Mooretown Library	519-867-2823	1166 Emily Street	St. Clair
	16	Courtright Library	519-867-2712	1533 Fourth Street	St. Clair
	17	Brigden Library	519-864-1142	1540 Duncan Street	St. Clair
	18	Wilkesport Library	519-864-4000	1349 Wilkesport Line	St. Clair
	19	Sombra Library	519-892-3711	3536 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair
	20	Port Lambton Library	519-677-5217	507 Stoddard Street	St. Clair
Region 5	21	Mallroad Library	519-542-2580	1362 Lambton Mall Rd.	Sarnia
	22	Bright's Grove Library	519-869-2351	2618 Hamilton Road	Sarnia
	23	Wyoming Library	519-845-0181	536 Niagara Street	Plympton-Wyoming
	24	Camlachie Library	519-899-2202	6745 Camlachie Road	Plympton-Wyoming
	25	Point Edward Library	519-336-3291	220 Michigan Avenue	Point Edward



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LCA Archivist Nicole Aszalos invites residents to share stories from the 2010 'Snowmageddon' event to mark the 10th anniversary.



Artist Ilyana Martínez of Z'otz* Collective shapes a sculpture during an artist residency at the JNAAG in January.



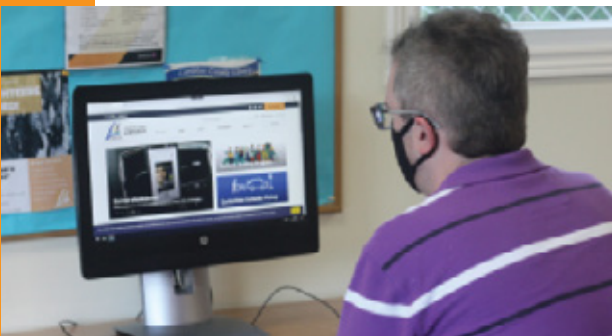
Artist Annie McLaughlin poses with one of the paintings included in her exhibit *Memories of Rural Life*, featured at LHM.

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Cultural Services Division Profile



OMC staff work with Bluewater Power and community volunteers to install a replacement three-pole derrick on the museum property.



Public access to select libraries for public computer use, wi-fi access and academic research was permitted from September to December with COVID-19 restrictions in place.



Use of eLibrary digital resources reached an all-time high in 2020 due to the pandemic, with increased downloads of eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, movies, newspapers and magazines while many patrons remained at home.

The County of Lambton Cultural Services Division's mandate is to provide leadership and support to advance cultural development for economic, social and broader community benefit in Lambton County. In support of this mandate, the Division assumes responsibilities in the areas of cultural planning and policy development, capacity building, program delivery, strategic investment and resource development.

Lambton County Library

Lambton County Library manages a network of 25 libraries, provides courier service to all County Divisions and several partner agencies (Tourism Sarnia-Lambton and Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership), and operates a mobile library outreach service. Services offered to its over 32,000 active card holders include the ability to borrow books, audio books, magazines, audio-visual materials and more. Patrons can participate in story hours, hear from guest speakers, and access reference service and the Internet through public computer workstations. Library card holders also have access to a range of convenient eLibrary services available on any device connected to the Internet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These services include electronic books, magazines, newspapers, digital media (such as music and movies) and educational courses.

Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

The Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery (JNAAG) is a free public art gallery located in downtown Sarnia. With the support of a dedicated staff and volunteer team, the JNAAG engages the community through a wide-range of exhibitions, tours, lectures and programs for all ages. The gallery's collection is comprised of 1,200 primarily Canadian historical and contemporary works of both local and national significance. The JNAAG is a regional gallery with a national mandate, and holds the distinction of Category 'A' designation received from the Department of Canadian Heritage. As such, the gallery meets and maintains a range of strict building, operational and professional standards.



Local Director Aaron Huggett on the set of *The Ace and the Scout*, a film project funded in part by the Creative County Grant Program.



The staff team at LHM pause for a photo in the Walden & Eisenbach Collections Centre. The museum reopened to the public in September.



View of *Inaabiwin*, an exhibition focused on the art work of five indigenous artists, which opened at the JNAAG in February.

Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site

The Oil Museum of Canada (OMC) is a designated National Historic Site, situated on the world's first commercial oil field. The ten-acre site features four historic buildings with reconstructed spring-pole and three-pole derricks dominating the property. A series of jerker lines, pumping stations, storage tanks and oil wagons combine with the material in the museum collection to bring the fascinating story of the oil industry to life. The main exhibition centre, constructed in 1960, houses over 9,000 artifacts that interpret the international influence of Lambton's proud oil heritage.

Lambton County Archives

The Lambton County Archives (LCA) serves as an active genealogical and local history resource centre. The archives preserves

significant local material including census records, birth, marriage and death records, local newspapers, corporate records, Land Registry records and a vast historical photograph collection. The archives offers seminars and information sessions to help individuals develop their historical and genealogical research skills, as well as educate Lambton's residents about their past.

Lambton Heritage Museum

Lambton Heritage Museum (LHM) is entrusted with the care of over 25,000 historic artifacts which preserve the history of Lambton County. Situated on 30 acres, the museum maintains six historic buildings, two display buildings and one main exhibition centre. The museum is open year round, and provides picnic grounds and the 1km Woodland Heritage Trail. LHM has evolved from a passive museum site to an active experiential tourism destination.

Sarnia Library Theatre

Sarnia Library is home to the Sarnia Library Theatre, which features special Cultural Services Division programming and also plays host to many events by community organizations and cultural groups. With a capacity of over 300 and state of the art projection, sound and lighting equipment, the theatre space is available for rent to accommodate concerts, lectures, celebrations, film screenings and more.

Creative County Grant Program

The Creative County Grant Program invests matching funds (up to 50% of the total cost) in new and innovative projects that build cultural capacity, strengthen the creative community, define Lambton's unique identity and enrich the quality of life of all residents. In 2020, the County prioritized projects demonstrating innovation in responding to the pandemic.

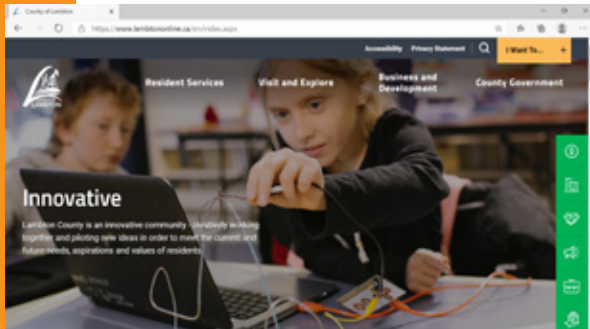
Below: Architectural concept rendering for the proposed Bright's Grove Library and Gallery in the Grove expansion project.



Enhancing Access, Visibility & Community Engagement



Lambton County Library offered a series of free *Kids' DIY* craft kits through the new curbside pickup service to support at home learning.



In 2020, Division staff supported the redevelopment of the County of Lambton website, as well as the library, museum and gallery subsites.

The Cultural Services Division strives to promote and enhance awareness of cultural opportunities across Lambton County, and provide access to relevant and engaging exhibitions, programming and services for residents at all phases of life.

With the closure of all libraries, museums and galleries under provincial order in March, community access to cultural services was significantly disrupted. With the gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions, the libraries, museums and gallery maintained community access to important services by quickly adapting to public health guidelines, and also strengthened engagement with enhanced content for online audiences.

Library Curbside Pickup Service

In May of 2020, while all Lambton County Library locations remained closed under provincial order, the Province announced details related to Stage 1 of the provincial framework to reopen the province. Stage 1 included the lifting of restrictions for libraries to allow for curbside pickup service. In response, Lambton County Library recalled a large portion of its workforce to implement a new contactless curbside pickup service at designated libraries starting in June.

Curbside service was offered at the Alvinston, Bright's Grove, Corunna, Florence, Forest, Mallroad, Oil Springs, Petrolia, Point Edward, Sombra, Thedford, Watford and Wyoming locations effective June 8th. The Grand Bend and Brigden library locations (both located in schools) were added to the list of curbside pickup locations in September following consultation with the school board, and the downtown Sarnia Library was added in November following the substantial completion of the renovation work underway at that site. These 16 locations ensured at least one curbside pickup option in each municipality across Lambton. Between June and December 2020, 100,619 library items were distributed through the new curbside pickup service to 4,950 Lambton County Library users - representing 40,495 loan transactions.

Libraries Reopen Safely

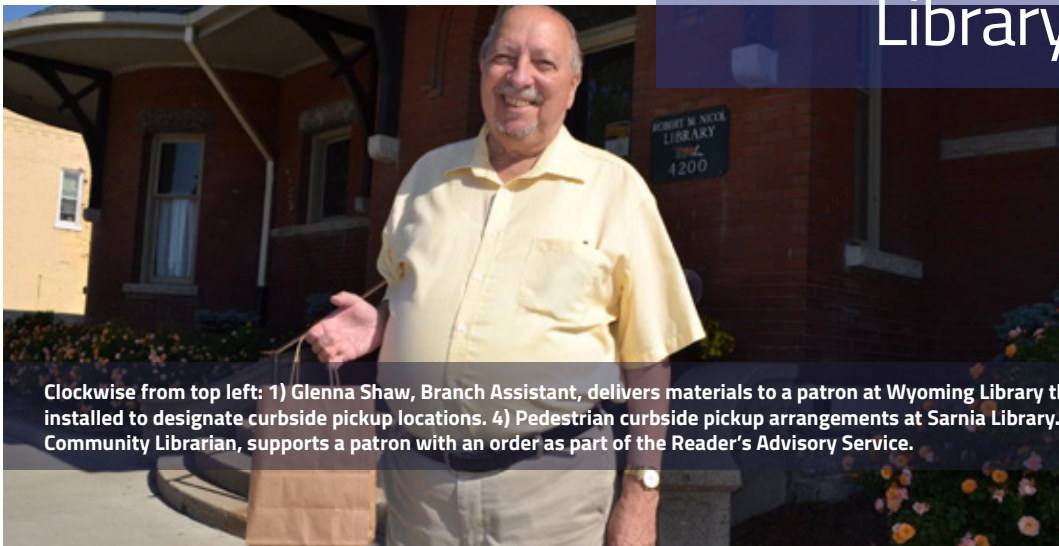
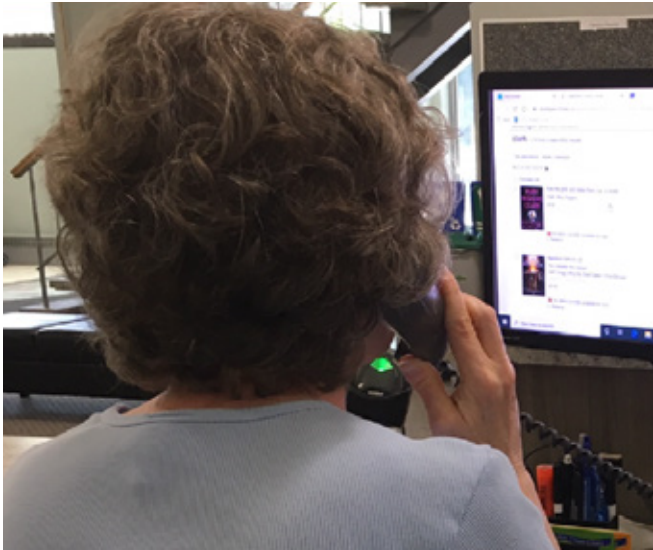
With the further lifting of restrictions under Stages 2 and 3 of the provincial framework over the summer, staff resumed public access to libraries in September, with some restrictions. While library patrons were not able to browse the library space for physical materials, 14 of the curbside pickup locations were made available for public computer access, Wi-Fi use, and in-person academic research by scheduled appointment, resulting in 1,086 in-person visits between September and December.



In late 2019, JNAAG was presented with the *Exceptional Leadership in Customer Service Award* by the City of Sarnia for its work with the Art Pod Program and its support of persons with disabilities. City of Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley and Councillor Bill Dennis present the award to Anna Miccolis, Community Art & Education Coordinator, and Tiffany D'Angela, Art Instructor.



From June to December
2020, **100,619** library
items were distributed
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Library users.



Clockwise from top left: 1) Glenna Shaw, Branch Assistant, delivers materials to a patron at Wyoming Library through the curbside pickup service. 2) Curbside pickup promotional graphic. 3) Curbside signage installed to designate curbside pickup locations. 4) Pedestrian curbside pickup arrangements at Sarnia Library. 5) MPP Bob Bailey collects his library materials using curbside pickup at Petrolia Library. 6) Ellen Dark, Community Librarian, supports a patron with an order as part of the Reader's Advisory Service.



Despite pandemic restrictions, Lambton Heritage Museum, Oil Museum of Canada, and Lambton County Archives safely welcomed **2,268** visitors by scheduled appointment from



Clockwise from top left: 1) OMC staff return to work in July after closure restrictions are lifted, and maintain physical distance protocols for the initial staff meeting. 2) Teresa Marie Phillips, Curator of Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale (centre), poses with (L to R) Warden Bill Weber, Dana Thorne, Andrew Meyer and Laurie Webb. 3) Visitors take in the Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale at LHM in September. 4) Colleen McLean, Archives Assistant, provides a tour of the LCA vault. 5) Matthew Rossoni, Preparator & Facility Operations, installs a wall mural of the original 1960 architectural concept drawing for the Oil Museum of Canada to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the museum. 6) Holly Morgan, Collections Coordinator, welcomes visitors at LHM.



Due to travel restrictions, visitors to JNAAG's *Confluence* exhibition experience a virtual artist talk with Meryl McMaster in February.



Christina Sydorko, Education Coordinator, gives a virtual presentation for the Alzheimer Society on hats from the OMC collection.



Artist Martina Bruggeman provides a demonstration during the *Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale* at LHM in September.

Social Media & Audience Reach

With many patrons unable or uncomfortable accessing in-person services during the pandemic, the Division adapted to actively promote its programs and services through online and social media channels. In 2020, the gallery produced social media content for 4,937 followers on Facebook, 760 followers on Twitter, and 1,251 followers on Instagram. The archives and museums meanwhile reached 6,038 followers on Facebook (collectively). The museums also reached 1,046 followers on Twitter, and experienced 128,237 visits to the museums' websites in the same period. The library also increased its social media presence in 2020, with 1,918 Facebook followers, 830 Twitter followers and significant website traffic with website views of 481,200.

Library eServices

Library eService offerings experienced a significant increase in demand, supporting at home education as well as the leisure and cultural needs of residents while they stayed at home as much as possible. The library's electronic circulation experienced its highest ever usage, with library card holders downloading or streaming more materials electronically than ever before.

In total, 410,355 e-service items (digital books, newspapers, magazines, audio books, music, movies, etc.) were accessed in 2020 (67,311 more than in 2019), with electronic materials accounting for approximately 60% of the total annual circulation (physical and electronic). The statistics illustrate that the ability to download materials electronically provided the library with a safe alternative for many library users in the face of pandemic restrictions.

Website Redevelopment Project

In 2020, the Division also supported the redevelopment of the County's online presence, including new websites for Lambton County Library, Lambton County Museums & Archives, and the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery under one consistent brand. Launched in March and July, the new websites were designed to enhance online service delivery in an increasingly digital age, particularly at a time when in-person interactions are challenging.

The service-oriented features include a responsive web design suitable for all mobile devices, and improved navigation to ensure access to information. Provincial accessibility compliance was also achieved, ensuring content meets and exceeds Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

The new sites offer enhanced news and calendar modules with customizable functions and features, including the ability to subscribe to news alerts and filter events by category to keep residents connected. Online payment and donation capabilities were also integrated to facilitate online payment for services and convenience for donors. Finally, residents are now able to register online for library, museum and art gallery exhibits, programs and services - a feature which supported the implementation of timed-ticket entry for capacity control.

The County received a gold award in the Government Digital Media category of the 2020 MarCom Awards competition for its work on the website redevelopment project.

Removing Barriers to Access

Lambton County Library eliminated overdue fines on children's print material effective March 1, 2020 in an effort to promote childhood literacy and facilitate access to children's books. The elimination of overdue fines for children's print materials helps to remove a financial barrier so children can continue accessing important community resources that contribute to early learning.

Creating & Delivering Great Experiences



Singer-songwriter Emm Gryner performs in February at Sarnia Library Theatre, with proceeds supporting Access Open Minds.



The Cultural Services Division aims to provide unique experiences that engage and inspire visitors. This is achieved through the presentation of exhibitions and interpretive displays, programs and activities, tours and events, and the appropriate use of emergent technologies to enhance the visitor experience.

With the initial closure of cultural facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Division staff adapted programming in response to changing circumstances. Many library, museum, archives and gallery experiences were delivered online, by recorded video or live through audio-video conferencing platforms in order to make services available as much as possible from home. With the lifting of restrictions in Stages 2 and 3 of the provincial reopening plan, limited in-person access to cultural facilities resumed with public health measures in place.

Library Online Activities

Lambton County Library developed a series of virtual programs for youth to support parents with young children at home with opportunities to continue developing literacy skills through online storytimes viewed 617 times.

As part of Ontario Public Library Week in October, the library expanded its online programs with the launch of a series of take home DIY activity kits for kids and adults that were made available through curbside pickup. Each kit was accompanied by an online video containing the 'do it yourself' instruction. Over 448 kits were distributed as part of the nine-week program.

For adults, the library offered a series of weekly online games where individuals could compete against each other in a timed trivia challenge. Available on the library's social media platforms, the trivia challenge has engaged 2,884 participants since it was launched in March.

Library card holders looking to sharpen their skills while at home were able to access free online learning and professional development courses through platforms like Lynda and Gale Courses available on the library website. In 2020, there were 440 active Lynda users and over 1,300 enrollments in Gale Courses by library patrons who accessed these instructor-led tutorials to help achieve personal and professional goals.

Museum & Archives Virtual Programs

The museums and archives also maintained audiences virtually through a series of digital panel presentations on topics of historical interest in partnership with Heritage Sarnia-Lambton and

Shelly Mallon, Collections/Preparator and Tim Churchill, Facility/Preparator install a suspended installation by artist Hannah Claus as part of the *Inaabiwin* exhibition, which opened in February at the JNAAG.



Linda Weir of Expedition Inner Wisdom leads a series of outdoor Mindful Meditation Workshops at LHM.



Ginger Weber and Warden Bill Weber try out the green screen at the LHM exhibit *Capturing the Moment: Photography in Lambton County*.



JNAAG staff stay connected with volunteers and continue training online during the closure period through virtual conferencing.

other heritage professionals. These presentations were offered live via Zoom on topics such as the history of the Spanish Flu pandemic, summer recreation, Lambton at War, and the local response to the 2010 snow emergency. The panel presentations attracted 237 webinar attendees, and 521 views of the recorded presentations on the LCA YouTube channel and the museum website.

JNAAG At Home

For those looking to explore their artistic side from home, JNAAG launched a series of free art-making videos online starting in March. Digital versions of the popular JNAAG Family Sunday program were posted online to keep the community engaged with art, with activities specially designed by local artists.

In August, the gallery expanded this program with the release of a series of free *Make Art Kits* containing essential fine art materials from the JNAAG art studio for the community to participate in art activities from home. The kits were made available for distribution across Lambton County through the library's contactless curbside pickup service. Each kit links to the current exhibitions at JNAAG, and includes information on the selected pieces or technique, historical context and step-by-step instructions for participants to build their

artistic skills at home. Users were invited to follow along with directions or an instructional video prepared by JNAAG staff and made available online through the website, Facebook or YouTube. In 2020, the JNAAG was able to distribute over 430 of these popular *Make Art Kits* throughout the community using the Library's contactless curbside pickup service.

Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale

The annual Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale at LHM was initially postponed as a result of the provincial closure order in March. Museum staff worked with the team at the Grand Bend Art Centre to make arrangements for the popular exhibition to proceed in September when the museum reopened to the public. The exhibit opened on September 2 and ran through until September 27, attracting 1,573 visitors in its short four-week run.

A variety of artist demonstrations took place outdoors at the museum throughout the exhibit. To allow for proper physical distancing inside, the museum arranged for reduced building capacity by implementing timed-ticket entry with visitors booking their appointment in advance. Despite these limitations, the exhibition experienced nearly \$80,000 in art sales, with proceeds supporting arts initiatives through the Grand Bend Art Centre.

Access to Museums, Gallery & Archives

After several months of closure and reduced capacity restrictions, the museums, gallery and archives were able to offer in-person visits by scheduled appointment starting in September.

Despite these limitations, the museums and archives sites provided in-person services to 4,543 visitors and program participants. Despite the cancellation of the annual Fall Colour & Craft Festival, which draws thousands of perennial visitors, LHM maintained its audience through a series of exhibitions that included *Paint Ontario* and *Capturing the Moment* and *Memories of Rural Life*. OMC saw consistent visitor numbers, despite the cancellation of the annual Black Gold Festival and horse and wagon tours in the summer months. While visitor traffic was limited to maintain physical distancing, the LCA continued to support 489 genealogical and local history requests from researchers between September and December of 2020.

The JNAAG welcomed over 3,700 visitors over the course of 2020, attending exhibitions including *Inspirational Moments*, *Confluence*, *Inaabiwin*, *Group of 7: Their Visions Revisited 100 Years Later* and *Ode to the Inside Out Questions*, or participating in the many gallery program offerings.

Developing Partnerships That Increase Community Involvement & Support



Staff of the Ontario Oil, Gas & Salt Resource Library demonstrate the geology of oil in virtual reality at OMC.

As a guiding principle of the County of Lambton Cultural Plan, the Cultural Services Division seeks to build partnerships and work collaboratively with the private, public and volunteer sectors to identify and seize shared challenges and opportunities.

Redeployment Support for Essential Services

In response to the ongoing public health effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the early months of the pandemic, cultural facilities were closed under provincial order. With these indefinite closures and the resulting shortage of work, employees involved in the day-to-day delivery of service at the library, museum and gallery locations were placed on lay-off, and offered the option of being redeployed to support other required services such as long-term care, social services or public health, as needed.

Over the course of 2020, 24 Cultural Services Division staff were redeployed to support COVID-19 screening at Long-Term Care homes, conduct regular inventory of personal protective equipment (PPE) for Lambton EMS, and provide communications and administrative support for

Lambton Public Health. In total, this group of staff who elected for redeployment contributed over 3,000 hours to these essential community services.

3D Printing of Protective Face Shields

At the outset of the pandemic, Lambton County Library was approached by a Sarnia resident, university student Jared Waller, about using the library's 3D printing equipment to support his effort to produce face shields for Bluewater Health, as local health-care providers scrambled to secure PPE in the numbers needed during the first wave of the pandemic. The 19-year-old was in his first year of studying electrical engineering at Carleton University when he returned home after the school closed because of the pandemic. All of the library's available 3D printers were relocated to the Sarnia Library location in March to support the initiative. For several weeks, Waller coordinated the production of over 100 face shields each week for the hospital, using both the library's equipment, along with his own.

Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton

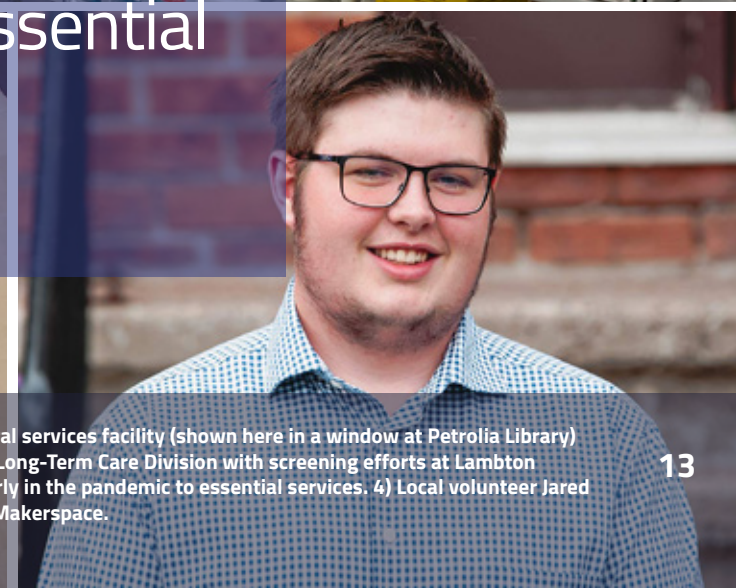
Despite pandemic restrictions, the JNAAG continued its ongoing partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton to offer the *Inspirational Moments* program. Participants visited



Local historian and author Phil Egan presents the Lambton County Archives with a copy of his latest book, *Keeping the Peace: 160 Years of Policing The Imperial City*. The book was researched with the assistance of Lambton County Museums & Archives, and supported by the Creative County Grant Program.

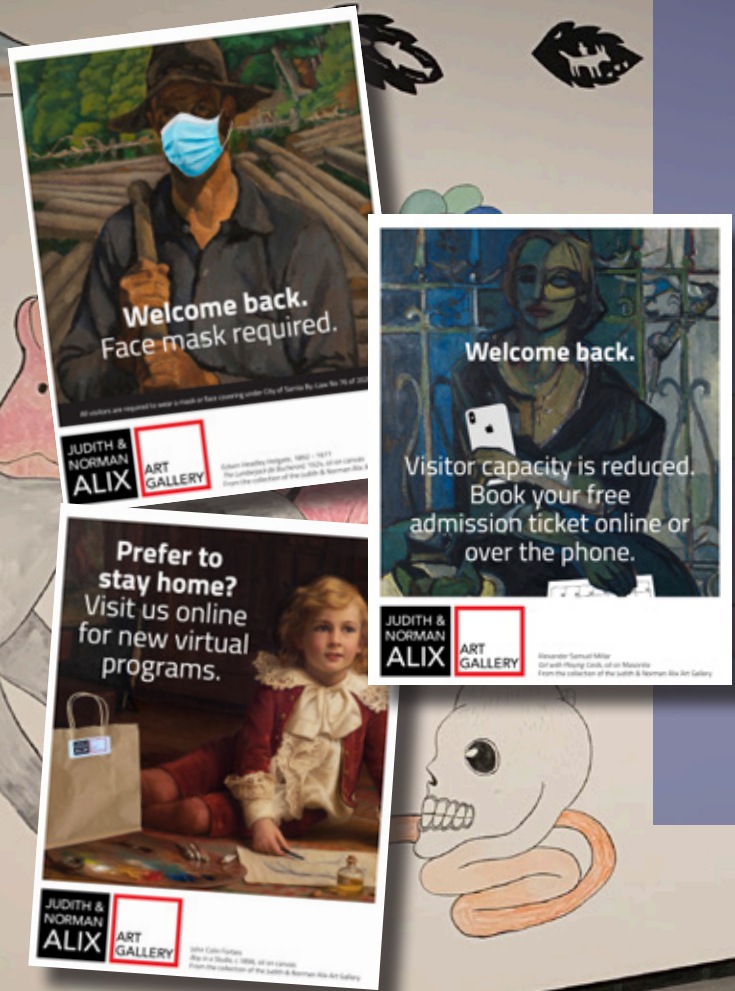


In response to the pandemic,
24 Cultural Service staff were
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 with Long-Term Care screening,
 Public Health communications, and
 PPE inventory, contributing over
3,000 hours to these essential
 community services.



Clockwise from top left: 1) With the closure of all public libraries under provincial order in March, *Stay Safe* posters were placed in every cultural services facility (shown here in a window at Petrolia Library) to communicate a message of unity and kindness during the uncertainty of the pandemic. 2) Nicole Aszalos, Archivist/Supervisor, assists the Long-Term Care Division with screening efforts at Lambton Meadowview Villa in Petrolia. 3) Sanitizer and personal protective equipment was collected from cultural services locations and redirected early in the pandemic to essential services. 4) Local volunteer Jared Waller worked with library staff to produce face shields for Bluewater Health using the 3D printing equipment available at the Sarnia Library Makerspace.

Despite the prolonged closure starting in March and limitations on public access after reopening in October, more than **3,700** people visited an exhibition or participated in a program at JNAAG in 2020, and over **420** *Make Art Kits* were distributed to residents through library's curbside pickup service.



Above: A visitor experiences the wall drawing created by Z'otz* Collective as part of the *Ode to the Inside Out Questions* exhibition at the JNAAG. Overlay: Posters promoting the reopening of the JNAAG in October. Below (Left to right): 1) Sonya Blazek, Curator/Supervisor, leads volunteer docent training for *Group of 7: Their Visions Revisited 100 Years Later*. 2) Rose Canino, Reception/Visitor Engagement, prepares a Make Art Kit for pickup as part of the *JNAAG @ Home* promotion. 3) JNAAG launches a new online registration program to support timed ticket entry to the gallery, contact tracing, and manage gallery capacity.





Anna Miccolis, Community Art & Education Coordinator, leads volunteer training in February for the *Confluence* exhibit at the JNAAG.



OMC staff Christina Sydorko and Deanna Bullard record an online program as part of the *Virtual Oil Museum Education* series.



Members of the *Save the Canatara Cabin Group* stand in front of the structure in Canatara Park before its relocation to LHM.

the gallery virtually for an afternoon of art discovery, fun and casual conversation about exhibitions and specific art works. The tours are followed by a hands-on art activity, redesigned every month and led by trained docents and instructors.

From December 2019 to March 2020, JNAAG featured an exhibition of works from the *Inspirational Moments* program, as an opportunity to celebrate the abilities and talents of participants and their care partners.

Museums & Online Learning

Working in collaboration with contacts at the local school boards, Museums & Archives staff created a series of new online education programs with connections to the Ontario curriculum. The online resources offer enhanced learning opportunities with interactive slides, videos, and activities. Several programs are made available with versions in both English and French.

OMC resources include an interactive lesson on *Simple Machines* related the early oil industry, and *Refining Crude Oil*, tracing the science and chemistry that has revolutionized the way these raw products are used. OMC staff also produced a series of educational videos entitled 'Drilling Deeper' and 'Holidays at OMC',

exploring the stories and artifacts featured at OMC. These videos received 671 views.

To enhance the LHM exhibit *Capturing the Moment: Photography in Lambton County*, LCA and LHM staff coordinated a series of Digital Lectures drawing 285 webinar attendees, and an additional 231 views of the recorded lectures on YouTube, covering topics that included iconic photographers and the importance of preserving family photos.

Funding Partnerships

The museums, gallery and archives benefited from strong financial support for various projects and operating expenses in 2020, offsetting the burden to local taxpayers and allowing the Division to pursue enhancements to its service offerings. As part of the planned OMC renovation project, Cultural Services Division staff actively pursued alternative revenue sources, securing funding support from the Alix Foundation (\$81,000) and the Ontario Efficiency and Modernization Fund (\$125,000). Staff also secured further grant support through the Department of Canadian Heritage under the Museums Assistance Program, COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund Component, resulting in \$28,426 in funding for LCA, \$58,251 for OMC, \$92,887 for LHM and \$100,000 for JNAAG.

In early 2020, County of Lambton and Town of Petrolia staff collaborated to identify opportunities to draw upon a recent bequest totalling over \$440,000 from the estate of Otto Schuldt and his late wife Kathleen Cunningham Schuldt to support needed building enhancement projects associated with the children's area of the library. As a result, over \$30,000 in improvements were undertaken by the Town of Petrolia in compliance with the approved use of the bequest funds for the library.

Save the Canatara Cabin

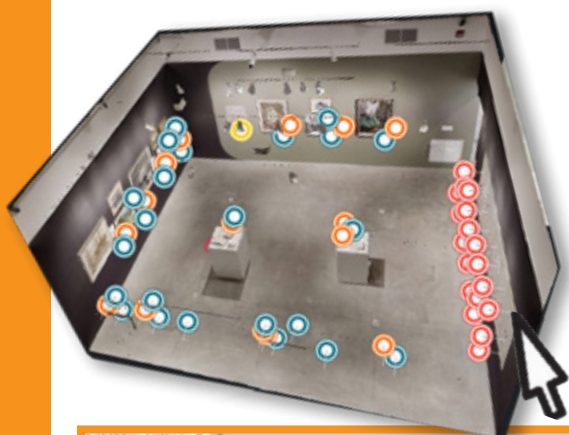
In 2020, the City of Sarnia and the County of Lambton finalized details to move a historic log cabin from Canatara Park to Lambton Heritage Museum, and see its restoration supported by the fundraising efforts of a local volunteer group.

The cabin was relocated to the museum in December, and will require significant restoration work to ensure its heritage elements are preserved for future generations. This restoration is being supported by the "Save the Canatara Cabin" group, a committee of dedicated volunteers who have committed to raising an estimated \$100,000 to restore the cabin with the support of the museum.

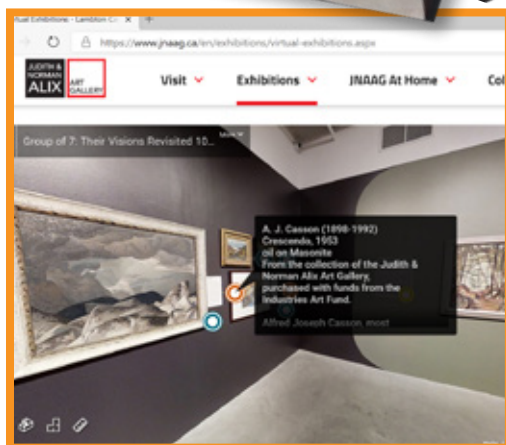
Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces



In the absence of a recognition ceremony, Warden Weber provides a video message to Rob Brooks for his generous donation to LCA.



The Cultural Services Division strategically manages and strengthens Lambton County's collections and associated research, developing and enhancing the important museum, gallery and library collections entrusted to the County.



For those not comfortable visiting the gallery during the pandemic, JNAAG worked with local graphic design firm TMRW Inc. to create interactive virtual tours of *Group of 7: Their Visions Revisited 100 Years Later* (seen here) and *Ode to the Inside Out Questions*, both available online at jnaag.ca.

Virtual Tours & Experiences

With public health agencies advocating for individuals to practice physical distancing, including staying at home as much as possible, the Division focused on making its spaces available virtually through online tours.

With the aid of a 360 degree camera, staff created fully interactive virtual tours of the OMC National Historic Site (including its main exhibit space and the historic buildings and features on the property), the Rokeby School House and Tudhop Cabin at LHM, as well as the galleries at the JNAAG, including the feature exhibits *Group of 7: Their Visions Revisited 100 Years Later*, and *Ode to the Inside Out Questions* by Z'otz* Collective. These virtual tours can be found online at lambtonmuseums.ca and jnaag.ca.

Digital Collections Access & Engagement

In 2020, residents were encouraged to visit the JNAAG, LHM, LCA and OMC online and through social media channels to discover regular features on highlights from the permanent collection and stories about the people, places and events that have shaped the fascinating history of Lambton County.

History buffs were also able to search the online museums collections catalogue, and library card holders were able to access Ancestry Library Edition through the library website, with billions of historical documents available for people interested in researching their family histories while at home. In 2020, Lambton County Library patrons submitted 98,406 searches through Ancestry Library Edition.

In May, those interested in preserving local history were invited to share their experiences throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by contributing to the Lambton County Archives *Collecting COVID-19 Stories* project, so future generations can appreciate the impact this global event had on the community. This same crowd sourcing approach to developing the archives collection was used in November when LCA invited the community to share stories and images from the 2010 Snowmageddon to mark the 10th Anniversary of the severe weather event.



Contractors build a new private meeting space as part of the Social Services Integration project at Corunna Library.



The staff team at OMC catalogued over 980 artifacts in 2020 to prepare for the planned renovation work at the museum in 2021.



Emily Bisson, Communications Officer, reveals the 2020 One Book Lambton selection, *Every Step She Takes* by K. L. Armstrong.

Social Services Integration

In 2020, the Social Services Division and Cultural Services Division worked collaboratively to initiate a rural outreach project creating meeting spaces for social services in local rural libraries. The project extends the reach of Ontario Works services to rural residents that live outside of the City of Sarnia through satellite locations integrated in select community libraries throughout Lambton. Through this initiative, the County will offer scheduled appointment hours in a private meeting space at the Wyoming, Thedford, Alvinston and Corunna libraries in order to ensure service delivery is aligned with broader community need.

With renovations now complete, access to these satellite meeting spaces will begin when pandemic restrictions are lifted. By reducing barriers to transportation, clients who live in the rural areas of Lambton County will be better able to access their caseworker, particularly to complete in-person employment planning and linkages to employment resources. It is anticipated that this rural outreach initiative could be expanded to include use by Housing Services and Children's Services, as well as potential future integration of additional services offered by other County Divisions.

Library Collections Management

With increased demand on eLibrary services, the library continued to expand its electronic collections, with 5,132 new Overdrive titles and 870 new CloudLibrary titles (digital eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming video and periodicals) added to the collection. The library also continues to subscribe to databases to give the library's 32,898 active card holders convenient access to millions of titles online to pursue their areas of interest. With physical materials continuing to circulate through the curbside pickup service, investments were also made in purchasing new titles for libraries. In 2020, 11,490 new titles were added to the library's physical collection (26,259 total new items). Traditional material circulation for 2020 reached 271,938 items.

As part of ongoing collections maintenance, phase two of the radio frequency identification (RFID) project was implemented in 2020. With the tagging of the collection started in 2019 to uniquely identify each item, this year saw the completion of tagging and the first RFID security gates installed at the Sarnia Library location. The RFID gates reduce accidental or deliberate removal of library items by detecting RFID tags. The tags, which replace bar codes, also reduce the incidence of human error while checking materials in and out.

Wi-Fi Access

Residents without access to internet are invited to access the free wireless internet available outside of most Lambton County Library locations. When libraries remained closed in the initial months of the outbreak to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Library's Wi-Fi extended beyond the walls of many of its buildings, providing public access in many of the facilities' parking lot areas. In 2020, the libraries supported Wi-Fi access for 3,200 distinct users.

One Book Lambton

In 2020, Lambton County Library partnered once again with The Book Keeper, Sarnia, to organize the annual literary event designed to unite people from across the County through one book. This year, residents are encouraged to read *Every Step She Takes* by Canadian author K.L. Armstrong as the One Book Lambton selection. The book is available to borrow through curbside pickup service using the online catalogue at lclibrary.ca or through the Iguana app, on the Overdrive, Libby and Cloud Library apps, or by purchasing a copy at any book retailer. Readers are encouraged to engage in various activities throughout the winter and spring of 2021 that highlight themes from the book.

Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Our Profile



Hon. Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries tours the JNAAG in August.



LHM accommodates the filming of Aaron Huggett's latest historical feature, *The Ace & The Scout*, which will be released in 2021.



Representatives of The County of Lambton, Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation (SWOTC) and Tourism Sarnia-Lambton (TSL) met with Parliamentary Assistant Sheref Sabway (third from left), Office of the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.

The Cultural Services Division endeavours to pursue opportunities that raise our profile at the provincial, national and international level, while maximizing our ability to contribute to the cultural, social and economic vitality of Lambton County.

Creative County Grant Program

In 2020, the Creative County Committee approved nine projects through the Creative County Grant Program, representing an investment of \$37,500 in funding. In response to COVID-19, the committee adjusted its application criteria to support cultural organizations that demonstrate innovation in adapting programs and activities to pandemic restrictions and public health guidelines.

It is estimated that this funding will leverage a total of \$202,631 in local cultural investment by applicant organizations and their respective partners, based on the total estimated project costs submitted by applicants. Projects such as a virtual concert series, the production of local heritage videos, and equipment for outdoor movie events were among the supported activities.

Engagement with Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism & Culture Industries

In January, the Cultural Services Division arranged for a delegation of representatives from The County of Lambton, Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation (SWOTC) and Tourism Sarnia-Lambton (TSL) to meet with Parliamentary Assistant Sheref Sabway, Office of the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference (ROMA) in Toronto. The delegation advocated for tourism and economic development investment in rural municipalities in Ontario, and took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of sustainable funding support for culture and tourism as major economic drivers in Lambton County.

The Division was honoured to host the Hon. Minister Lisa MacLeod at the JNAAG as part of her tour of Lambton County in August, where she announced increased funding from MHSTCI to support the long-term sustainability of the province's vital tourism industry. While at the JNAAG, the Minister learned about the efforts of staff to deliver innovative, safe experiences, such as timed-ticket entry to exhibits, *Make Art Kits* made available through the library's curbside pickup service, and virtual exhibit tours, in response to the impacts of COVID-19.



Architectural floor plan rendering for the renovations to the Oil Museum of Canada main exhibit building, which will begin in 2021.

Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively

As a guiding principle, the Cultural Services Division ensures the most efficient and effective use of County resources, and strives for continuous innovation in addressing the needs of the community.

Sarnia Library & Theatre Improvements

In 2020, the City of Sarnia continued work on a major renovation to the downtown Sarnia Library. Work included the addition of two new accessible universal washrooms off the second floor theatre lobby, as well as a new accessible main entry for the library and other alterations to the space to facilitate access to the theatre outside of library hours of operation. These improvements complimented the recent improvements made to the Sarnia Library Theatre by the County in 2019, which were completed in 2020 with a new theatre server in the lobby, a new projector and new stage curtains. Upgrades to the facility's electrical system and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) by the City are ongoing, and it is anticipated they will be completed in 2021.

Museum Facility Renewal Projects

In response to the recommendations of the 2018

Building Condition Assessment, several asset management related projects were initiated in Lambton County's museums in 2020. Plans for significant renovations to the 60-year-old OMC facility were developed over the course of the year in consultation with A+Link Architecture Inc., with work anticipated to commence in early 2021. The scope of the project includes upgrades to HVAC equipment, the replacement of the glass curtain wall surrounding the main gallery, lighting and electrical improvements, minor renovations and the complete redevelopment of the main exhibit.

Over the months of August and September, the Division also undertook major site improvements at LHM, including the replacement of the main driveway and establishment of 39 new asphalt parking spaces with concrete curbs (which includes three new accessible spaces near the entrance and one dedicated electric vehicle charge station), and 65 spaces plotted out with concrete curbs on an expanded gravel overflow parking lot for larger events. The site work also included new concrete ramps and sidewalks for accessibility to the main exhibit building and display barns. Other LHM projects included design and procurement for new exterior doors and windows to enhance energy efficiency, and plans for the renovation of existing washrooms to create two new universal washrooms for improved accessibility. These projects will commence in January 2021.



The main driveway at LHM is prepared for new asphalt, as part of parking lot and accessibility improvements at the museum site.



Dale Mosley, Training & Accessibility Coordinator for the City of Sarnia (far left), and Jocelyn Kerrigan, Facilities Supervisor for Lambton County Library (far right) review the progress on the new accessible main entrance at Sarnia Library.



CULTURAL SERVICES

Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

147 Lochiel Street
Sarnia, ON
N7T 0B4
519-336-8127
www.jnaag.ca

Lambton Heritage Museum

10035 Museum Road
Grand Bend, ON
NOM 1T0
519-243-2600
www.heritagemuseum.ca

Lambton County Library Headquarters

787 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON
NON 1T0
519-845-3324
www.lclibrary.ca

Lambton County Archives

787 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON
NON 1T0
519-845-5426
www.lambtonarchives.ca

Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site

2423 Kelly Road
Oil Springs, ON
NON 1P0
519-834-2840
www.oilmuseum.ca



BACK COVER IMAGES: Clockwise from top left - 1) Workers remove the chimney of the Canatara Log Cabin to prepare for its relocation to LHM. 2) Danielle Bettridge, Library Technician, showcases her picks for Top Ten Junior Fiction Books in January. 3) Interactive online program demonstrating *Simple Machines* used in the early oil industry, part of the Virtual Oil Museum Education series supporting at home learning. 4) Artists Nahúm Flores, Erik Jerezano, and Ilyana Martínez of Z'otz* Collective create a wall drawing over 66 feet wide and 15 feet in height as part of their exhibition *Ode to the Inside Out Questions* at the JNAAG.