



CULTURAL SERVICES

2017 Annual Report



ID	Library Branch Location	Telephone	Address	Municipality
1	Alvinston	519-898-2921	3251 River Street	Brooke-Alvinston
2	Arkona	519-828-3406	16 Smith Street	Lambton Shores
3	Bridgen	519-864-1142	1540 Duncan Street	St.Clair
4	Bright's Grove	519-869-2351	2618 Hamilton Road	Sarnia
5	Camlachie	519-899-2202	6745 Camlachie Road	Plympton-Wyoming
6	Corunna	519-862-1132	417 Lyndoch Street	St.Clair
7	Courtright	519-867-2712	1533 Fourth Street	St.Clair
8	Florence	519-692-3213	6213 Mill Street	Dawn-Euphemia
9	Forest	519-786-5152	61 King Street West	Lambton Shores
10	Grand Bend	519-238-2067	15 Gill Road	Lambton Shores
11	Inwood	519-844-2491	6504 James Street	Brooke-Alvinston
12	Mallroad	519-542-2580	1362 Lambton Mall Road	Sarnia
13	Mandaumin	519-383-8085	3021 Confederation Line	Plympton-Wyoming
14	Mooretown	519-867-2823	1166 Emily Street	St.Clair
15	Oil Springs	519-834-2670	4596 Oil Springs Line	Oil Springs
16	Petrolia	519-882-0771	4200 Petrolia Line	Petrolia
17	Point Edward	519-336-3291	220 Michigan Avenue	Point Edward
18	Port Franks	519-243-2820	9997 Port Franks Road	Lambton Shores
19	Port Lambton	519-677-5217	507 Stoddard Street	St.Clair
20	Sarnia	519-337-3291	122 Christina Street South	Sarnia
21	Sarnia Children's	519-337-3291	122 Christina Street South	Sarnia
22	Shetland	519-695-3330	1279 Shetland Road	Dawn-Euphemia
23	Sombra	519-892-3711	3536 St.Clair Parkway	St.Clair
24	Thedford	519-296-4459	16 Allen Street	Lambton Shores
25	Watford	519-876-2204	5317 Nauvoo Road	Warwick
26	Wilkesport	519-864-4000	1349 Wilkesport Line	St.Clair
27	Wyoming	519-845-0181	536 Niagara Street	Plympton-Wyoming

ID	Location	Telephone	Address	Municipality
A	Library Headquarters	519-845-3324	787 Broadway Street	Plympton-Wyoming
B	Lambton County Archives	519-845-5426	787 Broadway Street	Plympton-Wyoming
C	Lambton Heritage Museum	519-243-2600	10035 Museum Road	Lambton Shores
D	Oil Museum of Canada	519-834-2840	2423 Kelly Road	Oil Springs
E	Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery	516-336-8127	147 Lochiel Street	Sarnia

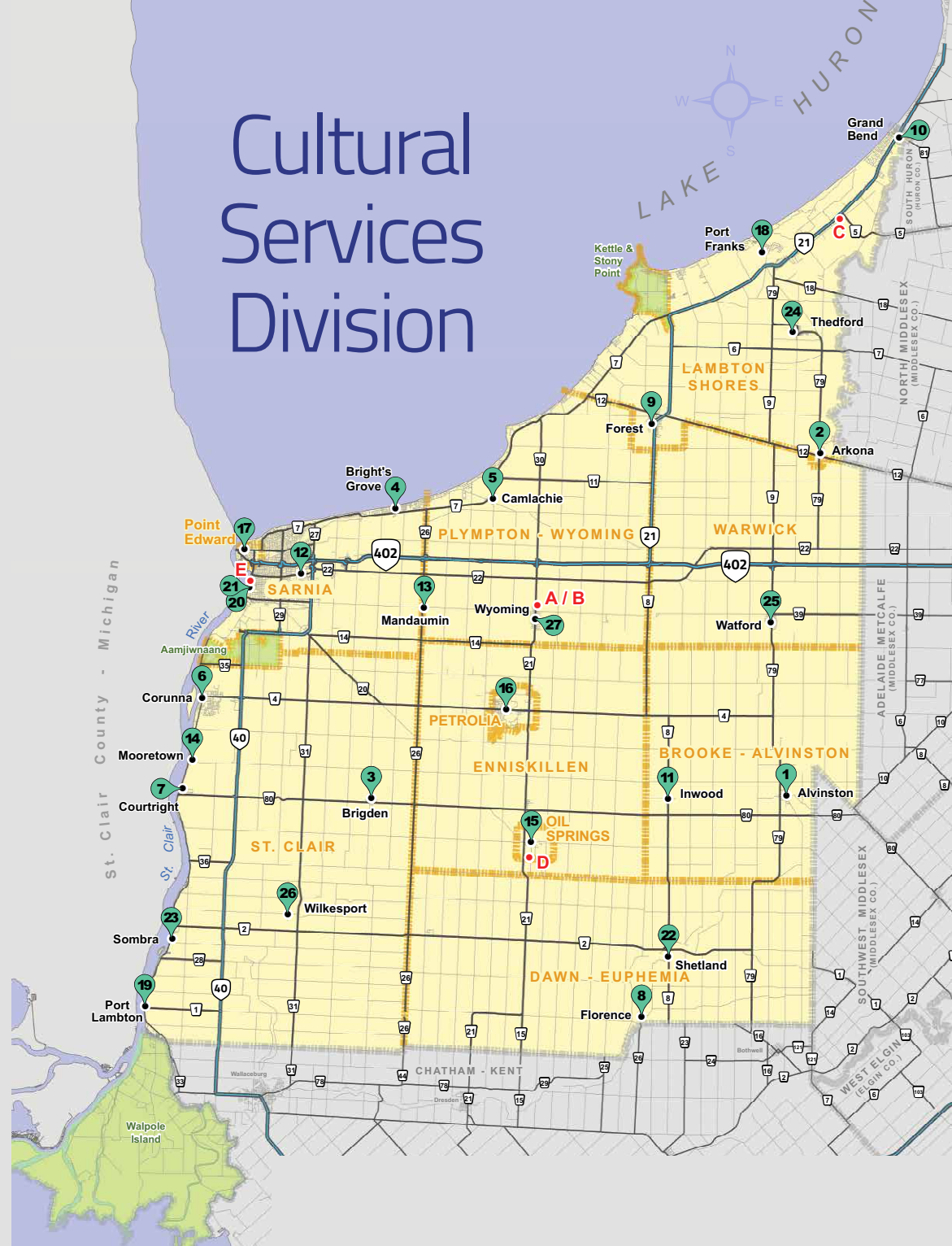


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Wyoming Library Princess Party



Paint Ontario Exhibition, Lambton Heritage Museum



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Cultural Services Division Profile



The Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

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 26 branch libraries, operates a bookmobile within the City of Sarnia and coordinates deposit collections in long-term care homes. Services offered in the branch libraries include books, audio books, magazines, audio-visual materials, story hours, guest speakers, reference services and Internet access. 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.

Lambton Heritage Museum

Lambton Heritage Museum (LHM) is entrusted with the care of over 25,000 historic artifacts, photographs and documents which preserve the history of Lambton County. In 2018, LHM will mark its 40 year anniversary since opening to the public as a source of community preservation and pride. Situated on 30 acres, housing five historic buildings, two display "barns" and one main exhibition centre, LHM has evolved from a collection of collections, to a key repository, safe guard and educator of Lambton's material history.



Lambton Heritage Museum



Watford Public Library



Oil Museum of Canada

Oil Museum Of Canada

The Oil Museum of Canada (OMC) is a designated National Historic Site, situated on the world's first commercial oil field. Located in Ontario's first designated Industrial Heritage District, and designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, the museum preserves and interprets the important history of Lambton's contributions to the worldwide oil industry.

Lambton County Archives

The Lambton County Archives (LCA) is the home of Lambton's largest archival collection, and serves as an active genealogical and history resource centre. The Archives preserves a growing collection of significant material including census records, birth, marriage and death records, newspapers, corporate records, Land Registry records and a vast historical photograph collection. These resources are used by a large cross section of both Lambton residents and researchers from across the country including genealogists, academic researchers, authors, playwrights, and business owners. 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.

Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

The Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery (JNAAG) is a free public art gallery located in the centre of Sarnia's downtown cultural district. 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 over 1,200 primarily Canadian historical and contemporary works of both local and national significance. Through its exhibitions and outreach, programs and collection, the gallery serves the community as a public resource that provides stimulating opportunities for people to come together, exchange ideas, grow and prosper through art.

Sarnia Library Theatre

The Sarnia Library is home to the Sarnia Library Theatre, which features special Cultural Services Division programming and also plays host to many community and private events. With a capacity of over 360 and 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 2012, Lambton County Council struck the Creative County Committee (CCC), comprised of the Warden, four County Councillors and five private citizens with proven commitment to the cultural sector to oversee the implementation of the County's Cultural Plan (2011) and encourage, partner and provide financial support to activities that promote a sense of cultural identity and pride in Lambton County.

Enhancing Access, Visibility & Community Engagement



Paint Ontario
Exhibition, Lambton
Heritage Museum

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

Through a consistent and innovative approach to community engagement, the libraries, museums and art gallery were successful in attracting new and diverse audiences in 2017. Thousands of residents and visitors to Lambton County came through the doors of these important community hubs, and more patrons accessed convenient online e-services from home than ever before.

Patrons of Culture

Library circulation statistics, which provide only a partial indication of total library visitation, amounted to 747,796 items circulated from October 2016 to October 2017 across the 26 locations of the library system and bookmobile service. Library run programs for the same period engaged 78,183 participants, while 75,680 patrons used Internet workstations, 374,375 accessed wireless Internet, and 69,932 individuals had their queries answered by a professional team of library reference staff.

The JNAAG saw 20,477 visitors and participants in 2017, with 1,432 participating in guided tours and just over 6,000 visiting the Canadian War Museum exhibit *Witness - Canadian Art of the First World War* that opened in September.

The archives and museum sites drew 19,974 visitors from October of 2016 to October of 2017. LHM saw increased visitation with the summer exhibit, *150 Years of Lambton County Quilts* attracting significant attention, and popular annual events like the Return of the Swans, Paint Ontario Art Exhibition & Sale and the Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival welcomed back perennial visitors. OMC saw strong visitor numbers with regular program offerings and special events such as the Black Gold Festival in July and horse and wagon tours throughout the summer months. Despite a temporary closure to facilitate minor renovations and the installation of new shelving, the LCA supported hundreds of genealogical and local history requests from researchers in Lambton County, and throughout Canada and the U.S.A.

Further, the Sarnia Library Theatre and meeting rooms drew 27,812 visitors for 341 event bookings organized by external user groups.

Media Exposure & Audience Reach

The year saw a significant level of exposure for Cultural Services through the support of our local media partners.

The JNAAG received publicity in print, radio and television promoting the Canadian War Museum exhibition *Witness - Canadian Art of the First World War*. Numerous newspaper

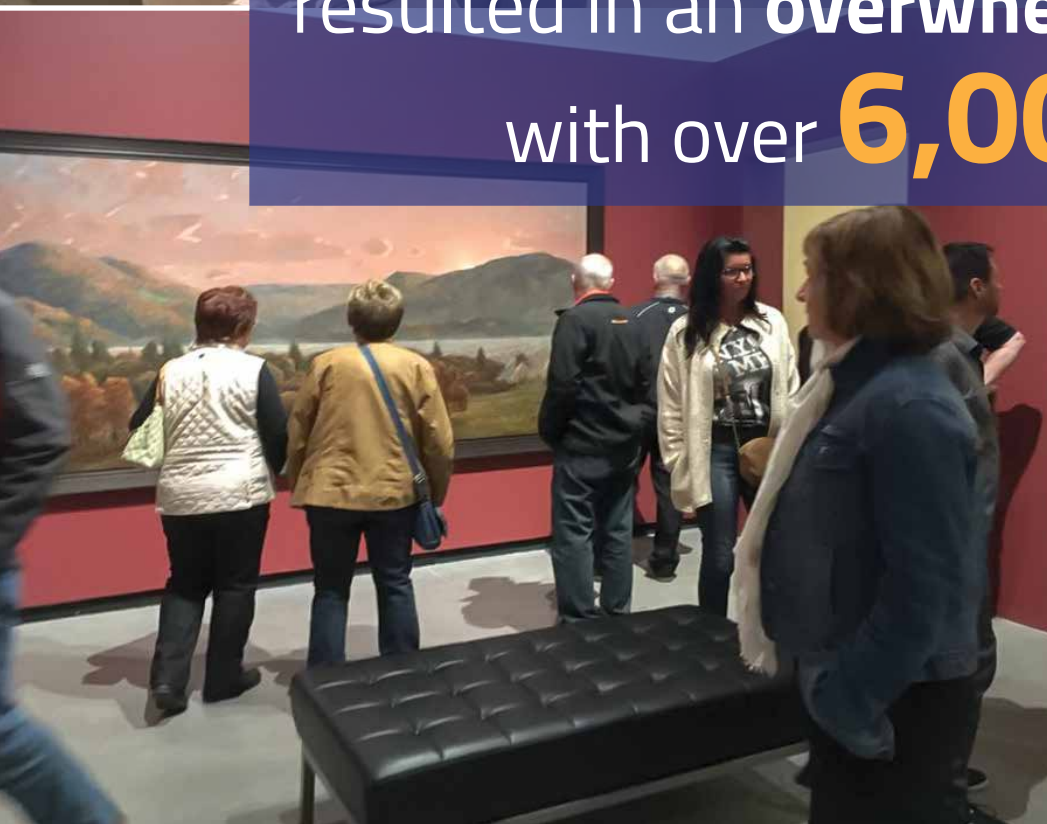
A photograph showing three children from behind, looking at a large 3D printer. The printer is a black frame with a brown print bed and a black extruder. A pink filament is being fed into the extruder. The children are in a room with a blue wall. The text is overlaid on a dark blue semi-transparent box at the bottom of the image.

In 2017, **13,647** people
attended the Makerspace or took part in
Mobile Makerspace programming
across the wider library system.

Installation views of *Witness - Canadian Art of the First World War*



Witness - Canadian Art of the First World War resulted in an **overwhelming public response** with over **6,000** visitors





Sarnia Library Theatre



Bright's Grove Library Knitting Club



Family Sunday at JNAAG

articles and interviews solicited public support for Lambton County's bid for the Oil Springs Industrial Landscape to be included on Canada's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, and documented the progress of renovation work undertaken at the LCA and LHM. The Sarnia Libraries Review study and Makerspace Programming also garnered attention for the Libraries, among other notable projects.

Over 36 articles were published on the Art Gallery in 2017, many as an outcome of the effective Media Breakfast events held for Exhibition Openings and Special Events. The JNAAG also coordinated weekly radio spots on all Blackburn Radio stations, print ads in the Sarnia Observer, Petrolia Independent, Sarnia Journal and the Standard Guide-Advocate, direct mail of the Gallery Guide distributed through local newspapers as well as mailings to members, and brochures and gallery publications distributed around the community.

In addition to traditional media outlets, the Division actively promoted its programs and services through online and social media channels. JNAAG web and social media sites attracted 69,286 page views representing over 7,600 users during the first three

quarters of 2017. During the same period, the gallery had 4,377 likes on Facebook, 714 followers on Twitter, and 262 followers on Instagram. Of the website visitors, over 60% were new visitors and visits originated from locations throughout Lambton County and across the province. The archives and museums meanwhile reached 2,177 followers on Facebook and 946 on Twitter (collectively), with 4,602 Lambton County Archives blog views and 77,650 visits to the museums' website from January through October. The library also maintained a strong social media presence, with 805 Facebook likes, 656 Twitter followers and significant website traffic during the first three quarters of 2017 with website views of 429,052.

Online & Electronic Services

Through varied programs and services, the Division also worked diligently to extend services beyond its facilities through outreach programs like the Bookmobile service and a growing suite of library e-service offerings designed to meet the educational and cultural needs of the community.

Lambton's electronic library system reached a new milestone in 2017. For the first time ever, library card holders downloaded or

streamed more materials electronically in the months of April, May and June (61,851) than all physical materials at Lambton's largest library, the Sarnia Downtown Branch (53,263) during the same period. In total, 246,015 e-service items were downloaded or streamed between October 2016 and October 2017, with electronic materials accounting for approximately 25% of the total annual circulation (physical and electronic).

This data provides insight into the transition that all libraries are experiencing throughout the province as the use of technology grows. For many individuals, downloading and streaming materials on devices such as tablets or smart phones is convenient, quick, and easy. The statistics illustrate that downloading materials electronically is a preferred method for many library users and the electronic library continues to grow in popularity.

While the use of electronic materials continues to increase, the traditional needs of library users remain: one-on-one research assistance, obtaining materials from the physical collection, accessing wireless Internet or a computer with Internet access, and participating in a wide range of programs that serve all demographics of the community.

Creating & Delivering Great Experiences



Sarnia Children's Library

The 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.

Programs & Activities

Informed by community needs and interests, public programs enhance visitor engagement and learning, and are linked to Division research, collections and exhibitions. Through the provision of a range of activities including tours, performances, presentations, educational programs and lectures that appeal to a broad audience, the Division successfully delivered exceptional experiences to the residents of Lambton County in 2017.

The Library Department once again offered the popular TD Summer Reading Program, this year with a 'Canada 150!' theme. A total of 25 branch libraries presented a variety of

Summer Reading activities, including 'See the Eclipse' (in partnership with the Sarnia Royal Astronomical Society), performances such as the Kids On the Block Puppet Show, and demonstrations from Heaven's Wildlife Rescue. In total, the programs engaged over 1,900 program participants.

JNAAG offered a broad range of workshops, artist talks, classes, and tours in 2017 for all ages, skill levels and interests. Programs included 46 Family Sunday activities, 16 TNT Fusion sessions, 40 Red Dot Tours, 18 guest lectures and eight Witness My Creation/D. I. Wine programs led by local artist instructors. In total, the gallery saw 6,244 participants in its 2017 program offerings.

At the archives and museums, 7,541 visitors engaged in programs and outreach including stop and share sessions as part of the *Lambton at War* exhibition at the gallery, summer day camps at OMC, participation at the Ausable Heritage Tree Festival and Fall Fair events, quilt appraisal workshops, Early Canadian Christmas school group programs, horse and wagon tours and blacksmith demonstrations, and even a Google hang-out virtual tour of the Tudhope pioneer cabin at LHM with elementary school students.

Exhibitions

The staff of the museums and gallery employ innovative display methods and engaging interpretive techniques to convey the wealth of their respective collections through exhibitions. They also host a diverse mix of temporary exhibitions on loan from galleries and museums across Canada and the world.



Pump jack demonstration, Oil Museum of Canada



Wyoming Library Maker Program



Lambton at War exhibition at JNAAG

The JNAAG and LHM launched several new exhibitions during the 2017 year, including:

- Heavy Hitters: The Group of 7 & Contemporaries
- The Bold & The New
- A Keen Eye: Early Donors
- Signposts & Traces: Ash Tree Memorial Trail
- The Story of Oil: A Partnership Between Art & Industry
- Elusive Utopia
- Winter Light
- Leading the Way: Early Canadian Women Artists
- Lambton at War
- 150 Years of Lambton County Quilts

The JNAAG hosted, *Witness - Canadian Art of the First World War*, a travelling exhibition developed by the Canadian War Museum to coincide with the centenary. As with all major exhibitions held at the JNAAG, *Witness - Canadian Art of the First World War* represented the culmination of several years of coordination and planning on the part of staff. Ultimately, *Witness* resulted in an overwhelming public response with over 6,000 visitors. The exhibition explored how the First World War was documented in Canadian art, both at home and overseas, and included a number of official war art pieces

by renowned artists, A. Y. Jackson, Frederick Varley, David Milne, and Mabel May.

Makerspace

In June 2016, Lambton County Library launched its permanent “Makerspace” in the Sarnia Library. This represented the first phase of a two-year project funded in part by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport’s Ontario Library Capacity Fund. The Makerspace at the Sarnia Library offers patrons an opportunity to create content through various resources such as computers, a 3D printer, laser-cutter, audio and visual devices, and traditional arts and crafts materials. A library card is required to access the Makerspace.

In January 2017, staff coordinated the launch of the second phase of the project - the creation of a “Mobile Makerspace”. The Mobile Makerspace involved rotating various pieces of Makerspace technology throughout Lambton’s remaining 25 library branches and offering programs introducing the equipment to Lambton’s residents.

The Makerspace has been successful in introducing and engaging new, diverse audiences to library services. It has given the

public access to technology that allows them to design, prototype, and manufacture items at their local library using tools that would not otherwise be accessible or affordable to the general public. It has given both students and adults opportunities to learn computer coding and programming that enables them to thrive in an increasingly digital economy.

The community response to both Makerspace and Mobile Makerspace has been incredibly successful with overwhelming demand for programming with community groups and school classes. This is in addition to the regular programming that was scheduled throughout the 2017 calendar year.

During Phase One of the project in 2016, which involved the development of the Makerspace at the Sarnia Library, 6,549 people attended the Makerspace. In Phase Two of the project in 2017, which saw the addition of the Mobile Makerspace, 13,647 people attended the Makerspace or took part in programming in some manner across the wider library system.

Developing Partnerships That Increase Community Involvement & Support



Lambton Heritage
Museum

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

Volunteerism

Volunteers make meaningful contributions in support of the Division's goal of delivering high-quality and responsive programs and services to the community. Volunteer roles also facilitate social inclusion, skills development, and a sense of community ownership.

From October 2016 through to October 2017, the Lambton County Library system benefitted from 304 hours of volunteer service throughout its branches, while 131 volunteers contributed over 1,600 hours to the programs and services offered at the archives and museum sites. The dedicated team of 71 enthusiastic volunteers at the JNAAG devoted 2,578 hours of their time in 2017 to enhancing the visitor experience as docents, collecting exhaustive research to provide context to the works on display in the *Witness*

exhibition, and even learning music from the First World War era to entertain gallery visitors through song.

Community Involvement

Several collaborations with community partners were pursued in 2017 to enhance the expertise of Division staff, extend the range of service delivery, and secure project funding to supplement existing resources.

Building on the success of the established community-led library model, Lambton County Libraries hosted 1,509 programs, activities and events between October 2016 and October 2017 that were coordinated by outside user groups, drawing 10,329 participants.

The JNAAG continued to foster partnerships with various community organizations and institutions, including the Alzheimer's Society of Sarnia-Lambton, Communities in Bloom, Sarnia Lambton Rebound, Art Walk, South Western International Film Festival, and Lambton College.

From March 2016 to March 2017, the Art Gallery also played a significant role in culturally diverse communities and newcomer populations, through participation in the County's Immigrant Youth Engagement Project (IYEP) with its TNT program geared for youths ages 9–13. The IYEP program demonstrates innovation and excellence in community development, connecting immigrant/newcomer youth with opportunities to participate in visual arts programming. The JNAAG continued TNT (with the same program focus) throughout 2017 and into 2018 as part of its regular programming.



246,015 e-service items were downloaded or streamed between **October 2016 and October 2017**, with electronic materials accounting for approximately **25%** of the total annual library circulation

In 2017, a total of **18 projects** were approved through the **Creative County Grant Program**, representing an investment of **\$99,350 in support** of new cultural initiatives across Lambton County. This investment leveraged **\$351,800 in private contributions** to cultural projects by applicant organizations and their respective partners.





The Story of Oil: A Partnership Between Art & Industry, JNAAG



John Oravec and Marisa Bernardi: donations to JNAAG's permanent collection



Black Gold Festival, Oil Museum of Canada

The Museums Department continued to support collaborative projects and networking with the Heritage Sarnia-Lambton organization, and worked with local museums such as the Plympton-Wyoming Museum and Forest-Lambton Museum to loan artifacts for exhibition development. Other community research, exhibit and program partnerships include the North Lambton Quilter's Guild (bi-annual exhibit), Grand Bend Community Health - Walking Group, Lambton Shores Nature Trail Committee, Lambton Shores Skating Club, Paint Ontario, Grand Bend Studio Tour, the Ontario Genealogical Society, Sarnia Heritage Committee, and the Sarnia Parks & Recreation Department.

LHM also worked in partnership with the Lake Smith Conservationists (LSC), aligning priorities to pursue needed landscaping improvements at the museum while marking the 25th anniversary of the organization. Through the financial support of over \$15,000 from the LSC, the museum coordinated the revitalization of the front garden space to create a new concrete programming courtyard with flag poles, seating, improvements to landscaping and accessibility and a feature commemorative monument recognizing the contributions of the LSC to the museum and community.

Partnerships in Learning

From engaging the expertise of academics and artists, to developing opportunities for student internships, the Division fostered relationships with cultural professionals and educational institutions to build its capacity.

The JNAAG Art & Ideas lecture series, featured the expertise of 21 guest speakers including local area artists, commercial gallery owners, collectors, conservators, historians, and curators who fascinated the full-house audiences with their stories.

OMC has an ongoing partnership with the Western University graduate program in Public History. During the summer of 2017, OMC hosted two internships facilitated through the Robert Cochrane Lambton County Fellowship. The program was established by Charlie Fairbank, owner and operator of Fairbank Oil Fields, a 600 acre working oil field adjacent to the Oil Museum of Canada site that continues to use authentic 19th century oil extraction technology to pump oil from over 350 wells. The fellowship, named in memory of one of Charlie's closest friends, supports a four-month internship through the Public History program, offering students a hands-on opportunity to work at the OMC. This year, the graduate students undertook research into the historical record surrounding

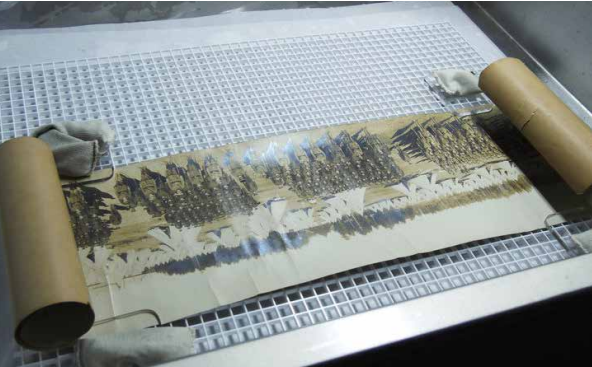
indigenous use of oil in Lambton County. They traced the early oil extraction practices of James Miller Williams, and completed a comprehensive review of marketing practices and visual identity/signage associated with OMC to inform a new marketing strategy.

The archives and museums also benefited from strong financial support for summer student placements offered through the Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations Program (\$15,834 received) as well as the Canada Summer Jobs Program (\$16,016 received).



Lake Smith Conservationists, Lambton Heritage Museum

Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces



Preservation of a panorama photograph of the Battalion taken in 1916 at Camp Borden

The Division strategically manages and strengthens Lambton County's collections and associated research, developing and enhancing the important collections amassed over the past century.

New Archives & Museum Storage

Providing appropriate storage conditions is critical to ensuring the long-term survival of the collection. In 2017, LCA undertook a comprehensive collections storage project that saw purpose-built high density mobile storage equipment installed in the facility to provide enhanced public access and room for anticipated growth.

LHM will also see the installation of a new high density mobile system in early 2018, drawing the collections from various locations within the museum building into a centralized storage solution. This offers 14 double-sided high density mobile carriage rows for open artifacts, one double-sided cantilever textile rack for rolled textiles, and seven double-sided wide span shelves for furniture and large objects.

These systems maximize the available space within the facility to allow for the presentation of the entire collection in one area of the building. This system allows significant room for future collections growth, and addresses accessibility and health and safety challenges associated with current collections management practice.

Collections Management

The Division is committed to enhancing knowledge of the collection through research, publication and collection database development. A new collections management software program, *PastPerfect* was launched in the Museums Department, establishing the framework for collections organization, management of loans and condition reporting, and enhanced capabilities of sharing collections information online. In 2017, considerable resources were dedicated to addressing the backlog of cataloguing and digitization work with 1,900 electronic catalogue records created through summer student placements at LHM. Ongoing database management work continues at LCA, OMC and the JNAAG.

Conservation Work

Several important conservation projects were undertaken in 2017 in partnership with Book & Paper Conservation Services in order to preserve significant works of art and community artifacts for future generations, and make



Preserved works by Emily Carr at JNAAG



Preserved issue of the *Sarnia Canadian* newspaper from 1917



New mobile storage, Lambton County Archives

them suitable for public exhibition. Two works on paper by Emily Carr in the JNAAG collection, *Sea and Skyscape* and *Shore Scene with Sunset* underwent conservation to address deterioration and discolouration. The artworks were donated to the gallery by benefactors Pamela B. and Ian W.E. Harris, and had never before been displayed to the public. LHM also worked to address conservation needs for two artifacts associated with Lambton's 149th Battalion in preparation of the *Lambton at War* exhibition. The artifacts included a panorama photograph of the Battalion taken in 1916 at Camp Borden, and an issue of the *Sarnia Canadian* newspaper from 1917 documenting the departure of these troops overseas.

Acquisitions

In March of 2017, JNAAG celebrated the incredible donation from Imperial Oil Limited of eight works by York Wilson. This donation was part of a nation-wide initiative in which Imperial Oil donated approximately \$6 million worth of artworks to mark Canada's 150th birthday. York Wilson's artwork tells an important story about the role of oil in

Lambton County's evolving industry and culture. The gallery also recognized donors John Oravec and Marisa Bernardi by naming the third floor gallery in their honour. This gesture honours their ongoing contributions of contemporary, Canadian art to the gallery's permanent collection.

In 2017, 177 new artifact donations arrived at the archives and museum sites. With the centenary of the First World War and the exposure generated by the *Lambton At War* exhibition, several of these artifact donations document Lambton's involvement in the overseas conflict, while others included important objects, photographs and archival documents that serve to interpret the story of Lambton County. One notable acquisition for the museums was a presentation rifle once owned by Alexander MacKenzie of Sarnia, who was elected the Second Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada. The gun dates to around 1874, and includes a manufacturers stamp which bears the name of his brothers, John & Charles MacKenzie of Sarnia.

The library collections continued to evolve to respond to the needs and interest of the community, with 4,311 new overdrive

titles (digital lending of eBooks, audiobooks, streaming video and periodicals) added to the e-library collection, 17,209 new library titles put in circulation, and 4,411 interlibrary loans handled (2,192 of which were items brought in to satisfy Lambton County Library patrons, while the balance were shared with other library systems in Ontario). Further, LCL subscribes to databases (i.e Pressreader, Fregal, Hoopla, Tumblebooks, RBDigital) that give patrons access to millions of digital titles.



Presentation rifle once owned by Alexander MacKenzie donated to the Lambton Heritage Museum

Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Our Profile



Repatriation of kettle stone, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation

The 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

Part of this commitment involves serving as a resource to cultural stakeholders in the community and administrating the Creative County Grant Program. In 2017, a total of 18 projects were approved, representing an investment of \$99,350 in support of new cultural initiatives across Lambton County. This investment leveraged \$351,800 in private contributions to cultural projects by applicant organizations and their respective partners. Events such as artist tours, concert series, heritage publications, signage, events, a performing arts conference, public art installations, arts classes, and film festivals were among the many supported activities. These investments recognize creativity, culture and quality of place as fundamental

to building a sustainable, prosperous and diversified economy in Lambton County while providing a superior quality of life for residents.

First Nations Consultation & Engagement

The Division has initiated a dialogue with neighbouring First Nations communities to return items of cultural significance that are currently held in our collections. Staff have coordinated meetings with both the Walpole Island First Nation Heritage Committee and the Education Committee for Kettle & Stony Point First Nation (KSPFN), with plans to work with Aamjiwnaang First Nation as well in the coming months. Initial steps have been taken with KSPFN through the repatriation of a kettle stone, presented to Elder Barry Milliken at a County of Lambton staff event held at Hillside Elementary School in May of 2017. Building on this initial relationship, the Division aims to work collaboratively with neighbouring First Nations communities to address exhibit renewal and ensure that indigenous heritage is accurately and appropriately represented within the context of the museum.

Heritage Conservation & Promotion

The County of Lambton and Fairbank Oil Fields partnered on an application to Parks Canada to include the "Oil Springs Industrial Landscape" on Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites in 2017. Already a National Historic Site, the designation bid included the Fairbank Oil Fields property and the County's Oil Museum of Canada site. The oil field consists of 350 wells spread over more than 600 acres that continue to operate using authentic 19th century technology.

Protected in 2010 as the Oil Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act, the nomination initiative looked to attract international attention for the outstanding universal value of the site. Although not successful, the nomination process underscored the authenticity and integrity of the site, and its importance as the birthplace of the modern petroleum industry.

In March of 2017, the OMC was also recognized for its work in facilitating the preservation and understanding of artifacts related to the early days of the Canadian petroleum industry. The museum was presented with the Petroleum History Society's Preservation Award for 2016 at the Society's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in Calgary.

Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively



Lambton County Archives

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

Visitor Research

In 2017 Lambton County Libraries partnered with the City of Sarnia to undertake the Sarnia Libraries Review. The study demonstrated a commitment to understanding the needs and interests of the residents that the library system serves. Through a series of community consultation workshops and online surveys, staff gained valuable insight into the expectations of the public.

Staff & Organizational Development

Managing resources effectively to meet stakeholder expectations requires ongoing development of a motivated, dynamic, creative and skilled workforce, and an organizational structure and infrastructure that assists staff in achieving the objectives set by Council.

In 2017, the Library Department initiated all-staff professional development workshops in the spring and fall to communicate Department priorities, deliver consistent training and plan for programs and service delivery enhancements.

Training priorities also included a focus on service-oriented training (including Mental Health First Aid) to respond to the evolving and dynamic needs of patrons accessing cultural services.

Working in partnership with the Human Resources Department, the Division successfully completed the negotiation and implementation of new collective agreements with its two bargaining units - Unifor Local 65 and LCEA-CNFIU Local #3020.

Facility Renewal

Operational efficiency is also dependent on facilities that are well maintained and fit for purpose.

In 2017, LHM initiated a comprehensive engineering review of the facility, which enabled the Department to consider the priorities identified through the Lambton County Museums Strategic Plan. The facility renewal work commenced in October 2017, with completion anticipated by mid-February 2018. The renovation will include HVAC renewal, upgrades to lighting and electrical, ceiling tile replacement, accessibility upgrades, flooring and aesthetic improvements and upgraded signage.

The Library Department benefited from several investments by our municipal partners in 2017. The Village of Oil Springs renovated the Oil Springs Library with new flooring and paint,

while the Town of Petrolia made improvements to electrical and cabling work at the Petrolia branch to coincide with the installation of new shelving by the County. New shelving was also added in 2017 at the Forest Library branch and the Sarnia Children's Library.

Finance & Administration

Efficient resource management involves identifying alternative sources of revenue to deliver programs and services, reducing the overall tax impact.

Division staff successfully pursued several grant funding opportunities through federal and provincial agencies in 2017, and met standards compliance and requirements to maintain operating funding, including the following:

LHM: Community Museum Operating Grant - \$47,868

OMC: Community Museum Operating Grant - \$22,074

LCA: Cultural Spaces Canada - \$60,900

LCL: Public Library Operating Grant - \$265,865 (2017-18), Ontario Library Capacity Fund - \$37,310, Improving Library Digital Services Fund Grant - \$45,197 & Public Library Pay Equity Grant - \$18,083

JNAAG: Museum Assistance Program - \$15,000, Ontario Arts Council - \$33,000 & Canadian Museum Association, Careers in Heritage - \$10,000



Front Cover, Left to Right: JNAAG at Night; Lambton County Library Headquarters; Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival; Lambton Heritage Museum Agricultural Equipment; *Witness - Canadian Art of the First World War*
 Back Cover, Left to Right: Lambton Heritage Museum SSNo4 Brooke School; *Lambton at War* Talk & Tour; Petrolia Library Bee Program; TNT Fusion - Free After School Fun Program, JNAAG; Foreign Drillers Tent Exhibition, Oil Museum of Canada

**Judith & Norman Alix
Art Gallery**

147 Lochiel Street
Sarnia, ON
N7T 0B4
516-336-8127

**Lambton Heritage
Museum**

10035 Museum Road
Grand Bend, ON
NOM 1T0
519-243-2600

**Oil Museum
of Canada**

2423 Kelly Road
Oil Springs, ON
NON 1P0
519-834-2840

**Lambton County
Archives**

787 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON
NON 1T0
519-845-5426

**Lambton County
Library Headquarters**

787 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON
NON 1T0
519-845-3324

