

# MUSEUM

STRATHROY-CARADOC

*Discover Our Story!*

# 2023

YEAR IN REVIEW



*Preserve the Past*

*Share the  
Experience*

*Engage the  
Community*

# INTRODUCTION

Museum Strathroy-Caradoc started 2023 with the first meeting of the new Museum Advisory Committee (MAC). After orientation and welcoming of new members, Donna Pammer was selected as Chair and Marty Peterson as Vice Chair. The final member of the committee join us in April, rounding the committee out to five community members and our new Council Representative.

Along with a new Museum Advisory Committee, a new Collections Sub-Committee was formed. Orientation was completed in March and there were four meetings throughout the year to discuss and approve potential donations. There were 14 donations accepted in 2023. A reorganization of the collection will commence in 2024.

Five exhibits were shown in the main gallery and four smaller exhibits were on display in the museum's lobby area. The main exhibits consisted of the continuation of the traveling exhibit "Space to Spoon" from Ingenium, paired with "Our Local "Connection." This exhibit was followed by a community art show featuring the Strathroy Art Group, followed by our big summer exhibit called "Summer Fun" that collaborated with several local business and featured a mini golf course and a Glendale open-faced trailer. The year ended with "Grandma's Attic" which featured over 300 artifacts, many of which have never been on display before. In September, we also began a partnership with the University of Toronto's Master of Museum Studies program. For this project, we were partnered with a group of three students to work on a new permanent display on the history of Strathroy-Caradoc for the front lobby. This project will be conclude in the spring/summer of 2024.

Throughout the year, many programs were held at the museum and off-site. In the winter we held a new series called "Business Banter" where local businesses we able to come and give talks on the history of their business. We had eight different artist workshops, six different market visits, ten walking tours, PA Day programs, school visits, special events, four weeks of summer camps and more.





## 2023 MSC statistics at a glance

**20,664**

Total Visitors

**1200+**

Public Program Participants

**2**

School Groups

**125+**

Research Requests

**49**

Students

# Administration/Staff Development/Governance

The new Museum Advisory Committee (MAC) meet for the first time in February 2023, meeting an additional four times throughout the year. MAC receiving reports and information from Museum staff during this time. Members also attended a number of events throughout the year, including exhibit openings and programs.

Throughout 2023 Museum staff applied for a number of different grants

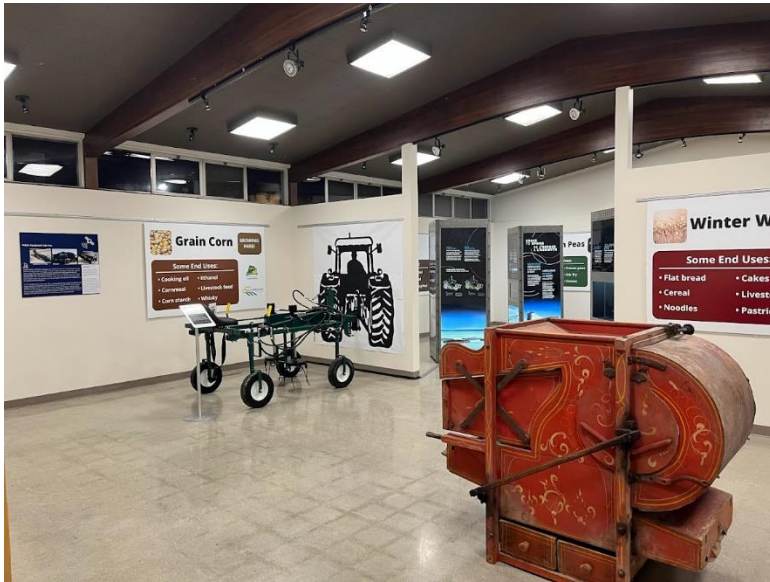
- Canadian Heritage MAP Grant
- Young Canada Works
- Summer Experience Program
- Wright Family Foundation Grant
- CMOG 2023
- Middlesex Heritage Grant

These grants allowed the museum to bring in traveling exhibits and displays, host new programs, and continue other museum operations.

Thanks to grants, Museum staff we able to bring on a summer student in a new role of Museum Assistant. Jannea O. was brought on for June to August to focus on summer programs, including camps and various adult programs.

Museum staff were able to complete a number of professional development activities including;

- PastPerfect Conference
- Possession and Acquisition License Courses
- Beyond the Blackboard
- Huron Perth Middlesex Museum Network
- Ontario Museums Association's (OMA) workshop
  - More than a Checklist: Decolonizing Historical Narratives in Museum Spaces
  - Contemporary Interpretive Writing
  - Advocacy is Multi-faceted
- Other workshops
  - Approaches to Online Exhibits seminar
  - Accessibility Planning Seminar



## Main Gallery Exhibitions in 2023:

- *Space to Spoon, and Our Local Connection*
- *Community Art Show*
- *Summer Fun!*
- *Ticks – Little Bugs, Big Problem*
- *Grandma's Attic*



# Lobby Displays



- *Community Pride Art*
- *Artifacts in Colour*
- *Battle of Longwoods*
- *Truth and Reconciliation*

# Gift Shop



*20+ returning and new local artists participate*

*New museum items added throughout the year*



# Education / Programming

Throughout 2023, Museum staff developed and executed a number of successful programs for both children and adults. These ranged from artist events, walking tours, market appearances, summer camps, and many more.

We also hosted a number of Indigenous theme programs:

- Moccasin Making Workshops with an artist from COTTFN, Mitchell R.
- Beading workshops with an artist from COTTFN, Elena K.
- Painting workshop with an Indigenous artist Steve M.

Museum staff continued relationships with Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and Strathroy-Caradoc Christian School (S.C.C.S). During the winter semester, we hosted one Co-op student From Holy Cross, who worked on various projects including collections, exhibit, marketing, programing and more.

It was also exciting to host Grade 3 students for S.C.C.S.'s Wax Museum event, where the students came in character of Famous Canadians for the public to interact with them. We also ran a school visit from S.C.C.S. for a class research project on the war veterans named on the Strathroy Cenotaph. Lastly, Museum Staff spoke to a class at North Meadows covering topics of artifacts, Indigenous relations and ancient civilizations.

Museum Staff hosted a number of PA Day programs for children, March Break camps and summer camps. Staff also ran a number of adult programs including artist workshops, murder mystery party, local business sessions, and more.



# Museum At Home Kits

Each kit comes jam packed with supplies for fun, hands-on activities to help you learn and explore, and a booklet filled with games, experiments, and themed recipes for you to try at home! Designed for Ages 5 – 10. Only \$20 per kit (tax included) while supplies last.

Dinosaurs & Archaeology



Art Attack



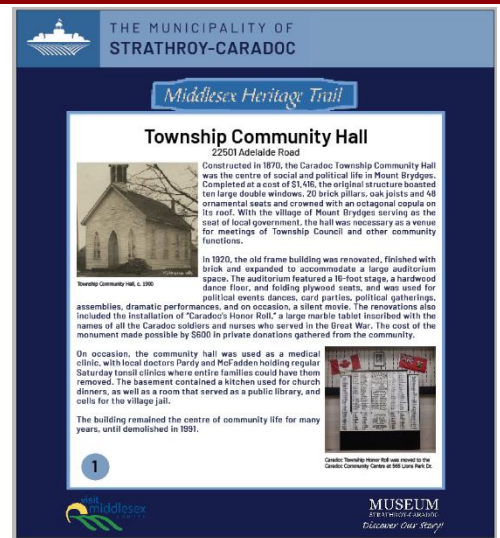
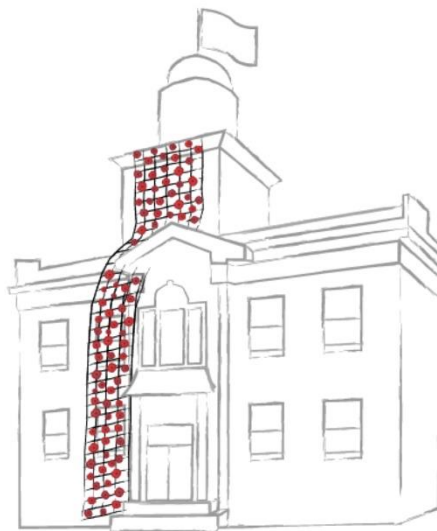
S.T.E.A.M.



Space Exploration



## Special Project



Light Box Wraps – Four light box in the community were wrapped in historical images from the collection.

Poppy Project – Announced Nov. 11, 2023, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Strathroy Cenotaph. Art installation of thousands of community-made poppies cascading down Town Hall.

Middlesex Heritage Trail – Updates begun on the Middlesex Heritage Trail signs located throughout the Municipality.



# Media

## TORONTO SUN

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property," Singh said, to which we'll agree.



Michelle Wright is the curator at Museum Strathroy-Caradoc. IAN SHANTZ/TORONTO SUN

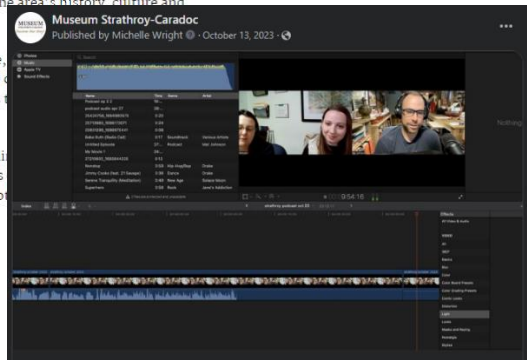
### A MUSEUM FOR 'EVERYONE'

Visitors looking to gain a better sense of the community will want to head straight to [Museum Strathroy-Caradoc](#).

Located next to the Town Hall on one of Strathroy's main drags, Front St., the museum provides insights into the area's history, culture and heritage.

"There's something in here for everyone," Wright said as she toured us through the museum's Attic, featuring various hidden treasures and exhibits in awhile.

The museum is housed in the same building as the former bank and features more than 30,000 artifacts in its collection. A large toothpick clock created using 136,500 toothpicks is also on display.



Special events listed in "Keepin' it Local" magazine

Multiple interviews on events and news for local radio station "myFM Strathroy 105.7"

Front cover of magazine "Marathon of History" and featured in an interview for the October podcast

CBC Radio Interview on the opening of the new summer exhibit

Featured in Toronto Sun article "Enjoy Strathroy" on Dec 9, 2023

# Digital Visitors

YouTube 285 views

Collections Blog 1629 views

Facebook followers 1688

# 2545

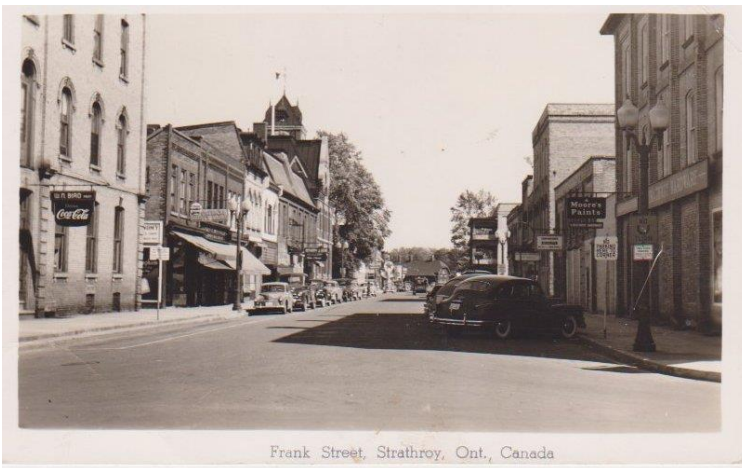
Instagram followers 857

Total followers

Museum Website 4188

# 2023 Collections Highlights

In 2023, the Collections Committee met 4 times to discuss potential donations. There were 14 donations, with 81 new items accepted into the collection as well as a number of education pieces and scanned material. The below images highlight a few of the items that were accepted, including double stroller used in the Strathroy Centennial Celebrations, an apple stencil from Sandy Ridge Orchard, a postcard showcasing Strathroy in 1940s and finally a Scottish outfit worn by Hugh Jay c. 1920.



Frank Street, Strathroy, Ont., Canada

