



OSHAWA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

— Collections. Spaces. People. —

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

GUY HOUSE
SYDENHAM
COUNTRY STORE



020.7.1

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MANDATE

The Oshawa Historical Society was founded in 1957 and is an affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society. The purpose of the Oshawa Historical Society is to bring together those individuals interested in the diverse historical aspects of Oshawa and to research, record, retain, preserve and present historical information pertaining to the Oshawa area. The objectives of the Society are:

- ◆ Encourage the study and research of the history of Oshawa.
- ◆ Secure and preserve an accurate account of the historical, architectural and archaeological heritage of Oshawa.
- ◆ Promote public interest in the history of Oshawa.
- ◆ Maintain, as an agent of the City of Oshawa, a community museum and archives as a repository for artefacts and written records of historical interest to Oshawa.

GOVERNANCE

The Oshawa Historical Society's governing body is the Board of Directors whose members are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting held in May.

Standing and ad-hoc committees assist the Board in their duties. These committees report to the Board and bring important matters to the Board for discussion and direction. The Standing Committees are: Finance and Audit Committee, Governance Committee and Human Resources Committee.

The day-to-day operations of the Oshawa Museum and the Oshawa Historical Society are the responsibility of the professional staff under the direction of the Executive Director.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



To say this has been a challenging year would be an understatement, and each of us has faced different struggles as we navigated through these many months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Oshawa Museum has been among many cultural and community organizations that has been largely closed to the public for 12 months. Our staff has done an admirable job of creating new avenues in programming in an effort to adapt to these unique times. It has not been easy, but under the steady leadership of the staff team, the museum and the Oshawa Historical Society has persevered. It seems likely that some of our new programming options will continue even after the worst of this pandemic is over and operations return to a more 'normal' state. The benefits of some virtual programming are clear – greater options for speakers, wider range of audience, no weather related cancellations, etc. Given our ongoing space restrictions at the museum, this required pivot to more online experiences is something we can certainly use going forward. Alongside that knowledge, our commitment to pursuing new capital improvements for the museum remains. At some point, we will all be able to gather again – and the Oshawa Museum can be a cultural hub in the southern part of our City. As things move forward over the next year, the Board will continue to advocate for new space so that the museum can further develop as the home to Oshawa's history.

This past week I have been reflecting on all the changes that our museum houses have silently witnessed over the many years they have existed. My own connection to the museum buildings dates back to my childhood growing up in a nearby neighbourhood, through experiences as a co-op student in high school, to many walks along the lakeshore with my late father when we would often discuss the houses and his own memories of them. It is comforting to know that our buildings are making it through these latest events and will be waiting for us when we can return to tours, garden teas, and on-site education programs. I look forward to seeing many of you in the doorways of Henry House, Robinson House, and Guy House again soon!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the staff, our volunteers, the City of Oshawa and our community partners for their continued support. Be well, and stay safe.

Best regards,

Keri Semenko
President, Board of Directors
Oshawa Historical Society

2020 AT A GLANCE...



COLLECTIONS

- 320 Henry House archaeological artefacts catalogued and digitized
- 136 Guiding artefacts accessioned & catalogued
- 2 exhibits: *Uniquely Oshawa & Lakeview Park at 100* (featuring images from the Lowry Collection)
- 2 Online exhibits: *Lakeview Park at 100* and *COVID-19 in Oshawa*
- 2 pieces of Smith Potteries acquired



SPACES

- Virtual Spaces—The OM continued to offer engaging opportunities through our online channels
- Launch of Virtual Speaker Series, held via Zoom
- 17 NEW videos on OM YouTube Channel—views up 12% in 2020 (47,099 annual views)
- Online Education Programs—one program launched in 2020 and two additional programs were in development for 2021 launch



PEOPLE

- Launched Audio Transcription Project to engage long-standing and new volunteers— 6 volunteers contributing 102.75 hours
- 380 total volunteer hours
- Social Media Increases 2020—Twitter: 2%; Facebook: 12%; Instagram: 21%
- Black History Month: 1538 people engaged in February and early March
- 180 OHS Members at 2020 year end

YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

JANUARY

Jennifer was invited to act as juror for Young Canada Works applications
Melissa and Jennifer attend a YDAMA Workshop; Jennifer presented at the workshop
2 Education Programs (1 Outreach: Secondary; 1 Lakeview Park tour: Durham College Students)
2 Evening Tours
1 Private Booking – Victorian Tea

FEBRUARY

Family Day at the OM: Artefact Explosion
Melissa attends two day CCI Workshop
Participated at eCAMP MENTORing Black History Month event
Jennifer spoke with *Inside Durham* about Oshawa's Black History
15 Outreach Education Programs (10 Elementary, 3 Secondary, 2 Post-Secondary)
1 Evening Tour
7 Outreach Presentations

MARCH

1 Education Program (1 Elementary Outreach)
1 Evening Tour
2 Outreach Presentations
1 Virtual Outreach (Private Group)
⇒ **March 13** – made the decision to close for an indefinite period of time due to COVID-19 pandemic

APRIL & MAY

Staff worked diligently from home and behind the scenes, offering engaging online content to our communities.
Jennifer invited to speak at an Ontario Museum Association webinar about collecting COVID-19
Jennifer worked with Durham Region Area Archives Group (DRAAG) to partner with the RMG to host an online talk by The ArQuives on collecting LGBTQ2+
Jennifer spoke with TVO about collecting COVID-19

JUNE

1 Virtual Outreach (Private Group)
Created video for City of Oshawa Virtual Indigenous Peoples Day
2 Summer Students started

JULY

July 13 – soft Museum reopening to members

July 20 – reopen for public tours

1 Virtual Outreach (Museum on Tower Hill Livestream)

Created video for Durham Region's Canada Day the Durham

Way Virtual celebration

Lakeview Park at 100 opens in Guy House

AUGUST

2 Virtual Outreach (Partnership presentations with OSCC)

Filming of *An Oshawa Yuletide*

SEPTEMBER

Private Garden Tour

Cemetery Tour

Facebook LIVE: Ask A Curator

Participated in City of Oshawa's Virtual Doors Open Oshawa

Hosted intern from Fleming College's Museum Management &

Curatorship program

Launch of virtual Primary Source Workshop

OCTOBER

1 Virtual Outreach

1 Virtual Presentation – Postcards for World Postcard Day

Archaeology Day – Facebook LIVE and video created for YouTube

NOVEMBER

3 Virtual Outreach

3 Virtual School Outreach (3 Post-Secondary)

Melissa participated in Future of Careers in Museums panel,

hosted by Royal Canadian Regiment Museum

Lisa spoke with *What's on Durham* about Christmas Tours

Uniquely Oshawa opens in Robinson House

DECEMBER

An Oshawa Yuletide launches to Members

An Oshawa Yuletide launch

1 Virtual Outreach

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

3 Tea & Talks

- History of Guy House
- Romance and Weddings
- Ephemera of Death (virtual)

4 Sunday FUNdays

- Curious About Cameras
- Communication
- Learning to Write Cursive
- All About the Christmas Tree (virtual)

5 Speaker Series

- Jennifer Weymark, OM: *Letters from the Trenches: Oshawa's WWI Soldiers*
- Dr. Amy Barron, Clarington Museums: *Camp 30*
- Lisa Terech, OM: *Lakeview Park at 100*
- Lisa Terech, OM: *An Armchair Downtown Walking Tour*
- Sonya Jones, The RMG: *The Stories Behind The Art*

TO BE VIBRANT AND VITAL

The OM is part of a vibrant cultural community in Oshawa. We continue to demonstrate our utility to the community by offering on-site, online and outreach services and facilities to develop knowledge and understanding in our users.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to focus on providing an excellent visitor and learning experience

- ⇒ “Museum at Home” Landing Page created—accessible from the Oshawa Museum Blog. This site is a collection of activities and videos for people to use and engage with at home.
- ⇒ Shifted *The Vintage Catwalk* exhibition content online with #StyleSaturday posts; curator written posts about the artefacts on display in this exhibition.
- ⇒ Creation of Audio Tour (to help with social distancing in small spaces), available on Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

Continue to develop and share a narrative to demonstrate the OM’s value and contributions to the community

- ⇒ Participated in virtual Indigenous Peoples Day celebration with video tour of *A Carrying Place* exhibit, and participated in virtual Orange Shirt Day commemoration with video of reconciliation installation.

Continue to promote culture of inclusiveness

- ⇒ Students and the OM: 3 students hosted in 2020—one secondary and two post secondary; 537.25 hours in 2020.
- ⇒ 1538 people engaged in February and early March in Black History Month activities.

MMC Intern Dylan (left) and Museum Assistant Mia (right) inside *Uniquely Oshawa*, the 2020 exhibit they helped to install.



RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL COLLECTIONS

The OM continues to explore **alternate and relevant strategies** to broaden reach, appeal to new audiences and capture diverse stories.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to deliver excellent on-line, on-site and outreach experiences

- ⇒ Worked with City of Oshawa Staff and Durham College Students in support of Lakeview Park 100 project.
- ⇒ *Discover Historic Oshawa* website launched—interactive mapping site, showcasing places of historical interest.
- ⇒ Launch of virtual Primary Source Workshop: 16 educators utilized the workshop.

Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the collection to refine the acquisition strategy

- ⇒ On-going research, oral history interviews for the upcoming 2020 exhibition *Leaving Home: Finding Home in Oshawa*.
- ⇒ 2 pieces of Smith Potteries acquired.

Utilize web based tools to share knowledge and public information, reach a broad audience and increase awareness

- ⇒ Creation of *COVID-19 in Oshawa* website: a project to collect and share experiences as we live through COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⇒ Application to Virtual Museum of Canada, to create an exhibit about the Harbour, celebrating 180 years, in partnership with Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA).

Exhibitions in 2020



- Annual feature exhibits: *The Vintage Catwalk*, in partnership with Patty Davis, The Costume People; *Uniquely Oshawa*
- Online exhibition partnership with RMG: *Oshawa's Nursing School*
- *Lakeview Park at 100*: online exhibition, and display of Lowry Collection images in Verna Conant Gallery
- Henry House: home adapted to allow for social distancing on tours, and installation of Summer Kitchen display

CONTINUE TO BE STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL

The OM cultivates **strong partnerships** and will continue to **initiate new relationships** in support of our mandate and offer new opportunities.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to seek additional sources of revenue



In 2020, we launched *An Oshawa Yuletide* video project, created with Empty Cup Media. We turned to members of the Oshawa Historical Society and corporate sponsors to help us make this unique video project a reality.

Through the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs programs, we brought two students onto the OM team: one for the summer, and one started in the summer and continued through to December, because of a Grant extension.

Continue to explore ways to meet and surpass attendance targets



February 2020 saw high levels of attendance for Black History Month events, such as lectures and school programs:

1538 people engaged in February and early March.

Early 2020, staff shifted engagement from in-person to online.

In September, we began using Zoom for the popular Speaker Series and, when possible, recording the lectures and having them available on our YouTube channel.

Practice good governance to ensure effective and efficient management



Staff held various positions as members or board members of:

Heritage Oshawa; Cultural Leadership Council; Archives Association of Ontario; Abandoned Cemeteries Committee; York-Durham Association of Museums and Archives; Durham Region Area Archives Group; Ontario Historical Society Board of Directors; Ontario Museum Association's Regional Museum Network Committee; Trent University Alumni Association – Oshawa Chapter.

COVID-19

In March, staff planned a response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the Museum stays relevant and engaged, and through 2020, we developed plans and framework, following Government guidelines, to reopen safely.

Laura Suchan represented the Oshawa Museum as part of the City of Oshawa Pandemic Response Team, participating in twice weekly meetings.



SPACES & FACILITIES

The OHS will continue to further the case for **improved spaces and amenities** to support the **efficient and sustainable operation** of the Oshawa Museum.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

**Promote facility expansion as 2024
Oshawa Anniversary Project**

**Continue discussions with city staff
and members of Council regarding the
facility expansion project**

**Develop an initial design concept which
seeks to define general scope, scale
and relationships of building
components**

OSHAWA MUSEUM EXPANSION PROJECT

Although much of our time was focused on the current situation of operating during a pandemic, staff and the Board of Directors kept moving forward with the future expansion plans for the OM. The OHS continued to promote the idea that our expansion project be considered as the official City of Oshawa project to celebrate the upcoming 100th anniversary in 2024 of Oshawa becoming a city. What better way to celebrate this significant milestone in the city's history than by investing in a new and modern museum facility to serve the community?

Staff worked on a new OM website (to debut in 2021) which will feature a page

Concept perspective of expanded facility, Lett Architects, 2018



SPONSORS AND DONORS

The Oshawa Historical Society appreciates the support of the City of Oshawa, the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, and Canadian Heritage.

We are also grateful for the individual donors and local businesses/organizations who supported our programs and activities throughout 2020. Thank you for your support.

2020 DONORS

To improve the efficiency of our operations while at the same time increasing the convenience for our donors, the OHS started using **Donation**, a software solution for small and medium sized organizations to streamline record keeping and the issuing of donation receipts. This new software enables the OHS to issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes electronically. Thank you to all the donors who supported the OHS through donations or participated in our year end fundraising challenge. To date we have raised over \$3300 for artefact purchase and special projects.

The Oshawa Historical Society wishes to thank the following donors for their support in 2020:

Adams, Nicole
Azzano, Shelley
Barker, Steve
Bayus, Pat
Bessie, Anne
Bilinski, Beverley
Cacciotti, Stacia and Fred
Cole, Merle and Mary Ellen
Cooper, Lisa
Cullen, Bruce
Davies, Robert and Betty
DeGuerre, Joanne
Dowsley, David
Drinkle, Denise
Ellis, Harold
Furey, Sprague
Gaskell, Sandra
Gough, Brian
Grieve, Jim

Haines, Helen
Hanna, Armour
Henderson, Margaret
Henderson, Sharon
King, Arlene
Kitchen, Dorothy
Kudel, Stoney and Catherine
Leask, Robert
Lord, Anne
Lovell, Arthur
Maddigan, Jenn
Malish, Marlene
Martin, William
McIntyre, Robert
McKenzie, Elaine
Moores, Grace
Osbourne, John
Pappy Gill Limited
Parker, Cathy

Passmore, Jill
Pearce, Richard
Perkin, Margaret and David
Perkins, Mary
Reiner, Suzanne
Rundle, Ted and Beth
Sangwine, Eric
Semenko, Keri
Simpson, David and Dee Prenger
Suchan, Laura
Sutton, Susanne
Terech, Katherine
Tonkin, Dave
Walters, Melody
Wilkinson, Margaret
Young, Peter

2020 SPONSORS

Robert Bell
Lisa Cooper & Family (Cooper's Auto Service)
Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority
Janet Dowson
Ontario Power Generation

2020 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Canadian Automotive Museum
Cedarcroft Retirement Residence
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA)
City of Oshawa – Art and History Committee
The Costume People (Patty Davis)
Durham CAS/Club Carib E-Camp
Durham District School Board
Durham College
Durham Region Area Archives Group
Durham Storytellers
Empty Cup Media (Colin Burwell)
FireMate Photographic (Derek Cutting)
Fleming College, Conservation Program
Heritage Oshawa
Rick Kerr & Paul Dobbs
Lovell Drugs
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations
Museum and Gallery Educators Collective – Durham (MAGEC-D)
Ontario Genealogy Society: Durham Region Chapter
Ontario Regiment Museum
Oshawa Express
Oshawa Folk Arts Council
Oshawa Public Library

Oshawa Senior Community Centres
Parkwood National Historic Site
Eric Sangwine
The Robert McLaughlin Gallery
Trent University Durham
Union Cemetery
University of Toronto, Museum Studies
Welcome Cyclists Network
Women's Herstory Connection, Durham Region
York-Durham Association of Museums and Archives

EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Oshawa Historical Society is pleased to support Oshawa students, their scholastic achievements, and their endeavours of post-secondary study with the **Oshawa Historical Society Award**.

The 2020 awards were as follows:

Eastdale CVI: Blake Fraser
MSGR Pereyma CSS: Matthew Charlebois
GL Roberts CVI: Anonymous
MSGR Dwyer CHS: Eilin Sosa Hernandez
R.S. McLaughlin CVI: Mady Rodrigues-Raby

No award was given to Maxwell Heights Secondary School or O'Neill CVI



MINUTES, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2020

Held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2020, via Zoom

1. **Welcome:** Laura Suchan, Executive Director, called to order the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Oshawa Historical Society and drew attention to last year's minutes printed on pages 13 of the Annual Report.

2. **A motion was called to accept the Minutes** of the May 21, 2019 Annual General Meeting as distributed.

Moved by Merle Cole

Seconded by Ted Rundle

Carried.

3. Laura asked the Membership to review the information contained in the 2019 Annual Report. **A motion was called to adopt the 2019 Annual Report as written.**

Moved by Chris Locke

Seconded by Beth Rundle

Carried.

4. Laura read the Nomination Committee Report detailing the members put forth for positions on the Board of Directors. **A motion was called to approve the Nominating Committee Report, dated August 7, 2020.**

Moved by Merle Cole

Seconded by Ted Rundle

Carried.

5. Laura asked for a motion regarding the appointment of Deloitte as auditors for 2020. **A motion was called "to reappoint Deloitte as auditors for 2020."**

Moved by Merle Cole

Seconded by Marjorie Sorrell

Carried.

6. Next Laura called upon Lisa Terech, Community Engagement, to recognize the 2019 Earl Hann volunteer of the Year Award recipient. **Peter Lloyd was the Earl Hann Award recipient for 2019.**

7. Lisa next recognized the 42 individuals who volunteered over 750 hours in 2019, thanking them for their contributions.

8. **Membership service pins and recognition** were presented by Lisa Terech, Community Engagement, to the following long-standing members:

5 year Certificates: Brian Drew; Ronald Meade; Lake Scugog Historical Society (Recognition)

10 Year Pins: William & Lindsay Cooper; Andrew Jackson; Winston LeGrand; Ed & Jean Warner

15 year pins: Donna Bradley; Robert & Betty Davies; David Dowsley; Gordon & Marilyn Dowsley; Bea Lack; Roy Miles; Grace Moores; Skip & Darlene Williams

20 Year Pins: David & Joan Andrews; Brian & Myrna Gough; Margaret & David Perkins

25 year pins: Steve Barker; Dorothy Kitchen; Susanne Sutton

Laura then called for **a motion to adjourn the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Oshawa Historical Society.**

Moved by Janet Dowson

Seconded by Ted Rundle

Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

SPECIAL GIFTS & MEMORIAL (BEQUEST) FUND

A motion was approved at the 2018 AGM to dissolve the Special Gift and Memorial Fund and that is to be completed in when the investment certificates are due for renewal in 2021.

Financial Statement

Dec. 31, 2020 Balance \$7,739

HENRY HOUSE BEQUEST FUND (ENDOWMENT)

In 1973, the Society received a bequest of \$2,000, the interest from this is to be used to finance projects that result in a tangible product and communicate a message regarding the heritage of Oshawa through Henry House.

Financial Statement

Dec. 31, 2020 Balance \$3,311

VOLUNTEER AWARD INVESTMENTS (BRICK FUND)

The Volunteer Award Investment (Brick Fund) was dissolved in December 2019 and its funds were rolled into the general OHS account. In the spirit of this fund, a garden brick to commemorate the recipient of the Earl Hann Volunteer of the Year Award will continue to be placed in the garden of Henry House.

Financial Statement

Dec. 31, 2020 Balance \$1,236

SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES

The Society’s income is based on membership fees, 50/50 draws, and donations. The Society also received an Organization Development Grant from the Province of Ontario in the amount of \$622. The majority of the expenses in 2020 were for speaker honorariums, Remembrance Day wreath, history awards and auditorium rental (2019 and 2020).

Total Income \$3 272

Total Expenses \$1 783

The 2020 Financial Statements completed by Deloitte LLP is on file and available upon request.

WHO WE ARE

The Oshawa Museum is administered by the Oshawa Historical Society through a duly elected Board of Directors as an agent for the City of Oshawa. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Oshawa Historical Society detail the election process and the roles and responsibilities of the Board.

The 2020 Board of Directors consisted of six members elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by the Oshawa Historical Society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keri Semenko – President

Marg Wilkinson— Vice President

Kori Booth – Treasurer

Janet Dowson – Membership Secretary

Christopher Locke—Director-at-Large

David Tonkin – Director-at-Large

MUSEUM STAFF

Laura Suchan—Executive Director

Jennifer Weymark—Archivist

Melissa Cole—Curator

Jillian Passmore—Visitor Experience Co-ordinator

Lisa Terech—Community Engagement

William Fiddler—Maintenance

2020 STUDENTS

Adam Arko—Museum Assistant

Dylan Clement—MMC Intern

Mia Vujcic—Archives Assistant



Oshawa Museum staff, clockwise from left: Laura Suchan, Jennifer Weymark, Lisa Terech, Melissa Cole, and Jill Passmore; screenshot from virtual staff meeting, March 26, 2020

AN OSHAWA YULETIDE

Amid the global pandemic, the Oshawa Museum realized holiday programming would look very different this year. We saw this as an opportunity to try something new and creative, and, in partnership with Oshawa based Empty Cup Media, *An Oshawa Yuletide* was created.

This short film, created in considerations of COVID-19 restrictions, celebrates the magic of a traditional Victorian Christmas experience! The audience follows Mary Cameron along as she helps the Henry family prepare for their Christmas celebrations in Victorian Oshawa.

“The OM made the difficult decision to cancel one of our most anticipated events of the year, the Annual Lamplight Tour,” said Oshawa Museum Executive Director Laura Suchan. “Christmas has always been a favourite time at the Oshawa Museum, and the spirit of this holiday is perfectly captured in *An Oshawa Yuletide*. We are very proud of this film and what was created by Colin Burwell of Empty Cup Media.”

***An Oshawa Yuletide* can be found on the Oshawa Museum’s YouTube Channel: youtube.com/OshawaMuseum**





OSHAWA

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

— Collections. Spaces. People. —

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