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 Community

The Oshawa Museum is situated on the traditional territory and treaty lands of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation.

Our work on these lands acknowledges the signatory communities of the Williams Treaties, as well as the Mississauga Nation and other members of the broader Indigenous community, for their resilience, and their longstanding contributions to the area now known as the Durham region.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Reaching the end of my tenure on the Oshawa Historical Society Board of Directors, I reflect back on the progress made by the Society and the Oshawa Museum over the past decade. I am deeply proud of the museum staff for their work in moving the organization forward and adapting to the changes we have all witnessed — particularly over course of the pandemic. As an organization, we have worked hard to develop new strategies, to harness changes to

technology, and to develop a more complete history of Oshawa that includes the diverse voices in our community.

The programs and exhibits developed by staff are also a clear reflection of the ongoing relevance of history. In particular, I reflect (with deep sadness) on the poignancy of the *Leaving Home*, *Finding Home* exhibit as the world tries to support a new wave of Ukrainian refugees. When we look at current humanitarian crisis situations, we often find unfortunate precedent in the historical record. Continuing to highlight history will, hopefully, one day help the world progress beyond repeating tragic events of the past.

It seems that, as much as things are always changing, they often also stay the same. The relevance and resilience of the Oshawa Museum is proof of both realities. The museum and the OHS have my best wishes as they move forward!

Best regards,

Keri Semenko President, Board of Directors Oshawa Historical Society

2021 AT A GLANCE...



— Collections. Spaces. People. ——



COLLECTIONS

- Registrars Kes & Savannah hired to assist with collections management
- 13 donations to the artefact collection and 12 donations to the archival collection
- Leaving Home, Finding Home in Oshawa: Displaced Persons and Stories of Immigration opened in Fall 2021



SPACES

- Virtual Spaces—The OM continued to offer engaging opportunities and experiences through our online channels
- Successful 2021 Virtual Speaker Series line-up, held via Zoom
- Virtual tours offered to groups and classes throughout the years
- Expanded the offerings of Online Education Programs



PEOPLE

- Continued successful Audio Transcription Project, engaging volunteers at home — 14 volunteers contributing over 230 hours
- Over 415 total volunteer hours
- Social Media Increases
 2021—Twitter: 1%;
 Facebook: 8%; Instagram:
 8%
- 152 OHS Members at 2021 year end

YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

- In the spring and fall, Oshawa's cultural organizations hosted Friday lunchtime lectures with Culture Chats @ Lunch, a fun and accessible series of talks and programs intended to support connection and well-being. We were proud to present three lectures for the series.
- Our partnership with Union Cemetery continued with three events showcasing the history found in this historic cemetery. A virtual Jane's Walk was held in May, a virtual pre-filmed tour debuted in July, and in August, we held an in-person walk.
- In August, we celebrated the return of in person events with Walking Wednesdays, five Lakeview Park walking tours, and Yoga in the Garden, presented in partnership with Durham's Yogi Community.
- The OM played host to a number of filming productions. We were the backdrop for a music video, and we welcomed the Bell Fibe TV1 production *Dark Hours* which explored the paranormal encounters experienced by staff and visitors to the Oshawa Museum.
- To commemorate **Orange Shirt Day**, the exhibition, *A Carrying Place: Oshawa's* Indigenous Story, was open for tours.
- In October, we were thrilled to welcome **OHS members for a preview** of our feature exhibition Leaving Home, Finding Home in Oshawa
- A beloved holiday event, Lamplight returned for 2021!









12 Sunday **FUNday LIVES** on Facebook



7 Tea & Talks from Home

ONGOING **ACTIVITES**



Speaker Series held on Zoom Series 5 Recordings available on OM

YouTube Channel

15 Virtual Class Visits and 30 classes signed up for Virtual Workshops





26 groups booked programs (virtual or in-person)



To Be Vibrant, Inclusive, 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.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to focus on providing an excellent visitor and learning experience

- ⇒ In April 2021, the OM launched their new website; this redesign enabled updates to be made by staff and created a more streamlined website experience for our visitors.
- ⇒ Virtual Union Cemetery Tour filmed and launched in July 2021.

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

- ⇒ Participated in 'Durham Camp in a Box' program with 20 non-profit organizations across Durham participating in this project, and 500 camp boxes distributed with art, science, food-related and physical activities and provided essential support to families in need.
- ⇒ Memory Box Program—rebrand and relaunch of 'education kits' offering virtual and in-person options.
- ⇒ Partnership with Art Your Service, an organization that creates meaningful programs and experiences for seniors.

Continue to promote culture of inclusiveness

- ⇒ Students and the OM: we were host to a highschool co-op student for Quadmester 2 (November 2021 to January 2022); 103.25 hours in 2021.
- ⇒ Traditions & Celebrations: The Story of Oshawa's Jewish Community—our 'microdoc' project, looking into Oshawa's early Jewish history and the favourite Hanukkah traditions and customs, as shared by members of the Jewish community. See page 15 for more info on this project.







RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL COLLECTIONS

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

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to deliver excellent virtual and, where possible, onsite experiences

- Discover Historic Oshawa website launched in 2020 and expanded throughout 2021—interactive mapping site, showcasing places of historical interest.
- ⇒ Offered a variety of virtual education workshops and virtual classroom visits throughout 2021: 28 educators received access to the Google Drive Education workshops; the OM delivered an additional 10 livestream class visits.

Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the collection to refine collection records to reflect inclusiveness

- ⇒ Four resource pages launched: Black History, Women's History, Asian History, Indigenous History.
- ⇒ Interview recordings from the *Traditions and Celebrations* project added to the archival collection, adding to knowledge and understanding of Oshawa's early Jewish communities.

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

- ⇒ Culture Chats @ Lunch—two new presentations created to further examine Oshawa's history.
- ⇒ Digital Museum of Canada Grant received to create an online exhibit featuring the Oshawa Harbour— From Ship to Shore: Looking at Oshawa's Relationship with Lake Ontario.

Exhibitions in 2021

• Annual feature exhibit: Leaving Home, Finding Home in Oshawa

Curator's Remarks

Museums are often thought of as places that collect, care for, display and interpret objects. While valid in many ways, this view omits the human element of museums.

An alternative approach is to think of museums as places that collate and share human experiences. In our daily work, we must go beyond the walls of our buildings and establish lines of dialogue with our communities, deepening our relationships with them and generating authentic bonds. The research for our exhibit, *Leaving Home, Finding Home in Oshawa* started in 2016 after Canada had launched Operation Syrian Refugees. Arriving here were people whose country had been ravaged by war, people who had lost everything and were coming to Canada in search of a safe place to start over. These stories were similar to the many Oshawa residents who arrived here as Displaced Persons after World War II, who had left their country ravaged and them without a home.



After World War II, Canada was a place to start over for many who lost everything during the war. Oshawa itself became home to a large number of Displaced Persons from all across Eastern Europe. Their stories, their experiences, helped shape the Oshawa we live in today. We felt it was important to learn more about their experiences and to see if they were different from the experiences of a new group of people coming to Canada in search of safety and a new life. Thank you to all of the families that participated in the project and who have trusted us to archive and share their stories.

CONTINUE TO BE STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL

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

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to seek additional sources of revenue

\$

Through the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs programs, we brought three summer students onto the OM team and two registrars through the Building Careers in Heritage program.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada with the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) grant and the Province of Ontario with the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) and Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG).

Support from the community led to the creation of a virtual tour of *Leaving Home, Finding Home in Oshawa* (launched in early 2022), created by Liberty 360.

Continue to explore ways to meet and surpass attendance targets



Through 2021, the OM used Zoom for various online programs, such as the Speaker Series, Tea & Talks from Home, and virtual tours of Union Cemetery; when possible, lectures are recorded and made available on our YouTube

channel. Facebook LIVE was used for monthly Sunday FUNday livestreams.

Education workshops and virtual tours offered to 45 classes.

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; 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.

COVID-19 & THE OM

Throughout 2021, the Oshawa Museum developed and adjusted plans and framework, operating as necessary, following all Government and Durham Region Health Department guidelines, to ensure safe reopenings and visitor experiences.

We continued developing dynamic virtual programs and opportunities for visitors to engage with the OM, even when we were closed to the public.

Laura Suchan represented the Oshawa Museum as part of the City of Oshawa Re-opening Team, participating in 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.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to promote facility expansion as 2024
Oshawa Anniversary project

Continue discussions with city staff and members of Council and other government officials regarding the facility expansion project Continue to seek funding sources for project

OSHAWA MUSEUM EXPANSION PROJECT

The Board of Directors, and specifically the Membership and New Spaces Committee, kept moving forward with the future expansion plans for the OM. In *Our Plan for Success: Oshawa Strategic Plan 2020-2023*, the City recognizes the OHS expansion plans as part of the theme "Enrich our Community through Culture." As stated in the Strategic Plan, one of the strategies under this theme is to "work with the community including, but not limited to, the Oshawa Historical Society to construct a new community-based museum as a legacy project for the City's 100th Anniversary in 2024" (see page 9). Vice-President Marg Wilkinson represents the interests of the OHS on the Community Centennial Committee and continues to promote the idea that a new museum space should be considered as the official City of Oshawa project to celebrate the upcoming 100th anniversary of Oshawa becoming a city. The position of the OHS is that investing in a new and modern museum facility to serve the community is a relevant and fitting way to commemorate this significant milestone in the city's history.

A new and improved OM website debuted which features a page dedicated to our future plans - http://www.oshawamuseum.org/future_plans. Keep an eye on this space for any new developments and ways to support as we look ahead to new projects and opportunities.

Concept perspective of expanded facility, view from Simcoe Street, 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 2021. Thank you for your support.

2021 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.

The Oshawa Historical Society wishes to thank the following donors for their support in 2021:

Wayne Adams David & Joan Andrews Satu Arvola

Shelley Azzano
Pat Bayus
Jeffrey Beaton
Anne Bessie
Beverley Bilinski

James and Glenna Black Milly Bouckley

Ron Bouckley Roger Bouma Donna Bradley

Stacia and Fred Cacciotti
Tom & Darcy Carvin

Merle and Mary Ellen Cole

Lisa Cooper

Dee Prenger & David Simpson Robert and Betty Davies

Joanne DeGuerre
David Dowsley
Denise Drinkle
Harold Ellis
Sprague Furey
Sandra Gaskell
Ina Gladman

Brian & Myrna Gough

Jim Grieve
Helen Haines
Armour Hanna
Margaret Henderson
Sharon Henderson
Sharon Henry
Steve Hoar
Dorothy Kitchen

Stoney and Catherine Kudel

Robert Leask Winston Legrand Michael Leonard
Chris Locke
Graham Lockey
Anne Lord
Arthur Lovell
Nancy Luey
Jenn Maddigan
Marlene Malish
William Martin
William McCormack
Elaine McKenzie
Grace Moores
Pappy Gill Limited

Marilyn Pearce Richard Pearce

Cathy Parker

Jill Passmore

Margaret and David Perkin

Karen Pikoulas

Kathy Ranstead Suzanne Reiner Ted and Beth Rundle

Eric Sangwine Keri Semenko Victor Shewchuk Marjorie Sorrell Susanne Sutton Dave Tonkin Melody Walters Margaret Wilkinson

Peter Young

2021 Sponsors

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

2021 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Canadian Automotive Museum
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA)
City of Oshawa – Art and History Committee
The Costume People (Patty Davis)
Durham District School Board

Durham College

Durham Region Area Archives Group Empty Cup Media (Colin Burwell)

Fleming College, Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management program

Friends of the Second Marsh

Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority

Heritage Oshawa

Lovell Drugs

Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations

Ontario Genealogy Society: Durham Region Chapter

Ontario Regiment Museum Oshawa Folk Arts Council

Oshawa Public Libraries

Oshawa Senior Community Centres

Parkwood National Historic Site

Eric Sangwine

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery

Trent University Durham

Union Cemetery

University of Toronto, Museum Studies

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 2021 awards were as follows:

Awards were also given to R.S. McLaughlin CVI and Eastdale CVI, however, no information about the award winners were provided.

No award was given to O'Neill CVI or GL Roberts CVI



A021.12.8.3—students outside of Union School #5, Thornton School (today's Thornton Dundee Clubhouse), c. 1880

MINUTES, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2021

Held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 18, 2021, via Zoom

- 1. **Welcome:** Laura Suchan, Executive Director, called to order the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Oshawa Historical Society and drew attention to last year's minutes printed on pages 14 of the Annual Report.
- 2. A motion was called to accept the Minutes of the September 15, 2020 Annual General Meeting as distributed.

Moved by Janet Dowson Seconded by Ted Rundle Carried.

3. Laura asked the Membership to review the information contained in the 2020 Annual Report. A motion was called to adopt the 2020 Annual Report as written.

Moved by Janet Dowson Seconded by Ted Rundle Carried.

4. Laura read the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws of the Society.

A motion was called to approve the amendment to BY-LAW 3 – MEMBERSHIP (Section 1 – General).

Moved by Kori Booth Seconded by Keri Semenko Carried.

A motion was called to approve the amendment to BY-LAWS 5 – MEETINGS (Section 2 – Board of Directors Meetings)

> Moved by Robert Bell Seconded by Ted Rundle Carried.

1. **Welcome:** Laura Suchan, Executive Director, called to order the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Oshawa Historical **LAW 5 – MEETINGS (Section 1 – General Meetings)**

Moved by Keri Semenko Seconded by Janet Dowson Carried.

A motion was called to approve the amendment to BY-LAWS 5 - MEETINGS (Section 4 – Annual Meeting).

Moved by Kori Booth Seconded by Janet Dowson Carried.

A motion was called to approve the amendment to BY-LAWS 6 – ELECTIONS (Section 2 – Voting Rights).

Moved by Ted Rundle Seconded by Janet Dowson Carried

A motion was called to approve the proposed changes to membership fees.

Moved by Keri Semenko Seconded by Kori Booth Carried.

5. 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.

Moved by Ted Rundle Seconded by Robert Bell Carried.

6. Laura asked for a motion regarding the appointment of Deloitte as auditors for 2021. A motion was called "to reappoint Deloitte as auditors for 2021."

Moved by Andrew Jackson Seconded by Robert Bell Carried.

- 7. Next Laura called upon Lisa Terech, Community Engagement, to recognize the 2020 Earl Hann volunteer of the Year Award recipient. Sunethma Munasinghe was the Earl Hann Award recipient for 2020.
- 7. Lisa next recognized the 31 individuals who volunteered 380 hours in 2020, 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: Graham Lockey, Robert McIntyre, Jenn Maddigan, Stacia Cacciotti, Bruce Cullen & Sandra Kell-Cullen, Maribeth Seabrook, Harold Ellis, Joanne & Bob DeGuerre, Larry Hicks, Karen Jordan
- 10 Year Pins: John & Dianne McFeeters, Marjorie Sorrell, Susan Marsh & Murray Burgess, Donna Martino, John Stephenson, Tool Group of Canada (recognition), Millbrook & Cavan Historical Society (recognition)

<u>15 year pins:</u> Tom Burnett, Kathy Ranstead, Scott & Oliva Smith, George Guy (Recognition)

20 Year Pins: Oshawa Public Library (Recognition)

25 year pins: Carol Evans (Recognition)

Laura then called for a motion to adjourn the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Oshawa Historical Society.

Moved by Chris Locke Seconded by Keri Semenko Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

SPECIAL GIFTS & MEMORIAL (BEQUEST) FUND

The Special Gifts and Memorial (Bequest) Fund finances the work of the OHS in This fund finances the purchase of a garden brick to commemorate the preserving the history of Oshawa. Funds are used towards projects which result in a tangible, permanent product and communicate a message regarding garden of Henry House. the heritage of Oshawa. A motion was approved at the 2018 AGM to dissolve the Special Gift and Memorial Fund (as a separate account) and that was completed in 2021.

Financial Statement

Dec. 31, 2021 Balance \$7,739

HENRY HOUSE BEQUEST FUND (ENDOWMENT)

In 1973, the Society received a beguest 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

Balance \$3.338 Dec. 31, 2021

VOLUNTEER AWARD INVESTMENTS (BRICK FUND)

recipient of the Earl Hann Volunteer of the Year Award which is placed in the

Financial Statement

Dec. 31, 2021 Balance \$1,236

SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES

In 2021 the Society's income was based on membership fees, and donations. The Society also received an Organization Development Grant from the Province of Ontario in the amount of \$622. Expenses in 2021 were for speaker honorariums, Remembrance Day wreath and history awards.

Total Income \$5,492 **Total Expenses** \$ 262

The 2021 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 2021 Board of Directors consisted of seven members elected annually at the Annual Meeting by the Oshawa Historical Society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keri Semenko – President

Marg Wilkinson– Vice President

Kori Booth – Treasurer

Janet Dowson – Membership Secretary

Michael Leonard—Director-at-Large

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





Top: Exhibit co-curators, Mia Vujcic and Melissa Cole

Bottom: OM Staff Laura Suchan, Lisa Terech, Jennifer
Weymark, and Jill Passmore

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.

TRADITIONS & CELEBRATIONS: THE STORY OF OSHAWA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

In the Fall of 2021, the Oshawa Museum undertook a video project, highlighting the rich Hanukkah celebrations as told by members of Oshawa's Jewish community. To execute this project, we once again partnered with Empty Cup Media to film and produce our 'microdoc' *Traditions & Celebrations: The Story of Oshawa's Jewish Community*, a fun and informative look into the favourite Hanukkah traditions and customs, as shared by members of the Jewish community.

From the turn of the 20th century, Jewish families from all over Canada, as well as abroad, started to move into the Oshawa area. Early Jewish immigrants worked together to build strong networks and spaces where they could gather and celebrate their traditions, and by the 1920s, there was a very strong Jewish presence in the downtown core.

This project is a part of the efforts of the Oshawa Museum to tell a more inclusive history of our community, one that includes people, places, and events that have not been included in previous local histories. It celebrates the Jewish community in Oshawa, as told by the community. The oral histories they shared have become part of the archival collection.

Research for this project also involved reaching out and establishing partnerships with the Ontario Jewish Archives. Established in 1973, the Ontario Jewish Archives acquires, preserves and makes available documentary sources related to Ontario's Jewish community. They were a supportive resource when starting the research into Oshawa's Jewish community and provided images that were used in the video.

The research into Oshawa's early Jewish community will be included in a new book on local history that the staff of the Museum are working on researching and writing. The focus of the book is to tell the stories that were unwritten and untold in previous local history books; the tentative release is planned for 2024.

Traditions & Celebrations: The Story of Oshawa's Jewish Community can be found on the Oshawa Museum's YouTube Channel: youtube.com/OshawaMuseum











— Collections. Spaces. People. —

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