

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



OSHAWA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

— Collections. Spaces. People. —





Henry House, September 2007.

From the Dowsley photograph collection, Oshawa
Museum archival collection, A022.6.102

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 President's Report
- 4 At a Glance
- 5 Year in Review
- 6 Dynamic and Integral
- 7 Relevant and Meaningful Content
- 8 Resilient and Flexible
- 9 Minutes, 2022 Annual Meeting
- 10 Sponsors and Donors
- 12 Financial Report
- 13 Who We Are
- 14 Upcoming Exhibitions 2023 / 2024

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 Durham Region.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I am very happy to report to you today about the activities, events, and accomplishments of the Oshawa Historical Society as it continues to manage the Oshawa Museum.

In December 2022, we said goodbye to long-time Executive Director, Laura Suchan. As an employee of the museum for more than 30 years, she has a wealth of knowledge of Oshawa's history. Her guidance and professionalism has set a high standard for the activities at the museum. Well done!

In January 2023, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Kat Akerfeldt. Formerly, she was Executive Director of Toronto's First Post Office for the Town of York Historical Society. She has enthusiastically embraced her new challenge and brings new ideas to enable the Society and the Museum to move forward. Welcome!

We now have a full roster of seven members on the board. All bring their particular expertise and share together their interest in history and in Oshawa's story. Thank you!

A big thank you to our full time staff and steadfast volunteers through this time of transition. Programs and activities are emerging from the fog of the pandemic, and they have been embraced and supported by our new director.

Through the fall, the Oshawa Historical Society Board held a membership drive which successfully increased our membership for the coming year.

A new partnership has been created with Oshawa Public Libraries for the monthly Speaker Series. Now located back at the McLaughlin Library Auditorium, both agencies engage speakers and attract audiences for this popular event.

In the past, the Museum has been partnering with Trent University Durham for archeological digs. We now hope to further engage their students, who are part of the campus on Thornton Road South, with museum activities

Lakeview Park, home to the Museum, is a changing landscape. The Oshawa Historical Society Board is working on being included in the city's plans as they continue to completion. We look forward to increasing programming space to expand our opportunities to engage the public interest.

You can help!!! As members, we hope you continue to tell your friends about the programs at the Oshawa Museum. Remind them of the Oshawa Museum Blog, the YouTube channel and the previous exhibitions online, all available at www.oshawamuseum.org.

As always, come down and see us at the lake!

Marg Wilkinson
President, Board of Directors
Oshawa Historical Society

2022 AT A GLANCE...



COLLECTIONS

- Registrars Kes and Savannah hired to assist with collections management.
- 18 donations to the artefact collection and 50 donations to the archival collection, representing hundreds of new items added to the collections.
- Exhibits *Leaving Home, Finding Home in Oshawa: Displaced Persons and Stories of Immigration* on display through 2022, and *From Ship to Shore: Exploring Oshawa's Relationship with Lake Ontario* opened in Spring 2022.



SPACES

- With support from the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) grant, public spaces inside Guy House refreshed.
- The OM continued to offer engaging opportunities and experiences through our online channels as well as offering our dynamic in-person programs.
- The successful 2022 Virtual Speaker Series transitioned to in-person programs in the Fall.
- 360 Virtual Tour for *Leaving Home, Finding Home in Oshawa* launched.
- The New Spaces Committee continued to work towards a museum expansion.



PEOPLE

- Continued successful Audio Transcription Project— 5 volunteers contributing over 62 hours (January to August).
- Over 279 total volunteer hours.
- 3 co-op students / interns contributing over 277 hours.
- Social media increases in 2022— Facebook: 15%; Instagram: 6%; TikTok: 34%.
- Fall Membership Drive saw 6% increase in membership; 166 OHS members at 2022 year end.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

- **Family Day from Home:** Archaeology Kits made available, and a Facebook Live on Family Day showcased the kits .
- In July, the **Holodomor National Awareness Tour** returned to the Oshawa Museum.
- To commemorate **Orange Shirt Day**, the exhibition, *A Carrying Place: Oshawa's Indigenous Story*, was open for tours.
- The Durham Storytellers joined the OM for the Museum's beloved holiday event, **An Evening of Lamplight**.
- Outreach / Partner events included:
 - ◇ Friends of the Second Marsh's Magic of the Marsh
 - ◇ Outreach display for the Oshawa Fire Department's Retirement Lunch
 - ◇ Oshawa Senior Community Centres' Swing into Summer
 - ◇ Oshawa Garden Club's Gardens Open
 - ◇ Yoga in the Garden, with Durham's yogi community
 - ◇ City of Oshawa's Canada Day at the Lake
 - ◇ Music in the Gardens, with the Oshawa Civic Band
 - ◇ City of Oshawa's Bright and Merry Market
- Conferences:
 - ◇ The Museum's Community Engagement Lead, Lisa, and Archivist, Jennifer, presented at the Ontario Association of Library Technician's conference.
 - ◇ The Oshawa Museum's Curator, Melissa, attended the Ontario Museum Association's conference.
- In the Media:
 - ◇ Curator Melissa recorded a podcast with the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce and HOPA Ports.
 - ◇ Bell Fibe TV filmed *Adventures with Saxon* at the Museum.
 - ◇ Museum staff appeared on *What's On Durham*.
 - ◇ ECG Productions were on site for a documentary, interviewing the family of Igor Gouzenko.
 - ◇ Started partnership with *Oshawa This Week* for a monthly column.

10  **3** 

Offered in person and virtually.

36 School programs—in-person, outreach and virtual, engaging over **1800** students.



ONGOING ACTIVITIES



Speaker Series **8** Speaker Series:

5 Virtual

3 In-person

8 Walking Tours:

5 Union Cemetery

3 Lakeview Park



19  Lectures delivered in person or virtually to community groups.



11  Group tours and programs, including on-site and outreach programs

TO BE A DYNAMIC AND INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN OSHAWA

We continue to create knowledge and public information that increases the understanding of Oshawa's history. We will expand the museum experience beyond our buildings to include enhanced and virtual tour options. The OM will continue to demonstrate our importance to the community by participating with partners to broaden our audiences and community reach.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to focus on providing excellent visitor and learning experiences



- ⇒ OM Activity Books: three books were created in 2022, available for visitors to the Oshawa Museum and digitally via the OM's Museum From Home page.
- ⇒ Students and the Oshawa Museum: a total of 36 school programs delivered through 2022, both onsite, in schools, and virtual opportunities, engaging over 1800 students.
- ⇒ Hosted the Holodomor National Awareness Tour in July to Lakeview Park.
- ⇒ Durham Storytellers joined us for An Evening of Lamplight.

Continue to encourage meaningful partnerships and collaborations



- ⇒ Students and the Oshawa Museum: we were host to a high-school co-op student for Quadmester 2 (November 2021 to January 2022), and we hosted students from Trent University Durham and Durham College.
- ⇒ Partner events in 2022 include: Friends of the Second Marsh's Magic of the Marsh; Oshawa Garden Club's Gardens Open; Yoga in the Garden, with Durham's Yogi Community; and City of Oshawa's Bright and Merry Market.

Continue to demonstrate the Oshawa Museum's value and contributions to the community



- ⇒ *Traditions & Celebrations: The Story of Oshawa's Jewish Community*, our 'microdoc' project, was the 2022 Innovation and Creation Champion award winner for the City of Oshawa's Culture Counts Awards.
- ⇒ Curator Melissa participated in meetings for the Moccasin Identifier Project and ordered a moccasin kit for the Oshawa Museum. More info: moccasinidentifier.com

TO PRESENT RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL EXHIBITS, COLLECTIONS, AND CONTENT

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

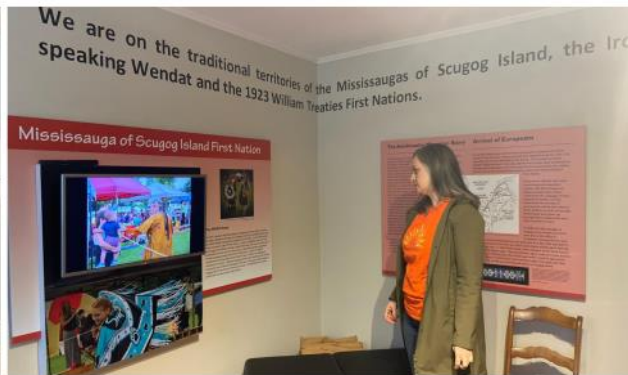
2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to deliver excellent virtual and, where possible, on-site experiences



- ⇒ Opened spring 2022: *From Ship to Shore: Exploring Oshawa's Relationship with Lake Ontario*.
- ⇒ Virtual exhibit: preparing to launch a new virtual exhibit, to be hosted on the Digital Museum of Canada website: *From Ship to Shore: Exploring Oshawa's Relationship with Lake Ontario*.
- ⇒ 360 virtual tour launched for *Leaving Home, Finding Home in Oshawa*.
- ⇒ Two virtual exhibits launched: *ES Shrapnel Sketches* and *Street Name Stories*.
- ⇒ New interpretive signs installed for each Museum building.

Continue to promote a culture of inclusiveness and diversity



- ⇒ Jewish history resource page launched, hosted on the Oshawa Museum Blog.
- ⇒ Ongoing research into Oshawa's Black, Asian, Jewish, Indigenous, and women's history, supporting an inclusive outlook on the stories being told.
- ⇒ To mark National Truth and Reconciliation Day (Orange Shirt Day, September 30), *A Carrying Place* was open for free tours. The Oshawa Museum also supported the City of Oshawa's Orange Ribbon Memorial in Lakeview Park by providing orange ribbons for visitors to add to the memorial.

Continue to explore digital engagement opportunities to expand accessibility and increase awareness



- ⇒ Audio Transcription Project, the Oshawa Museum Volunteer at Home Project, continued through 2022 with volunteers working to make the audio collection more accessible.
- ⇒ Continued to offer mix of virtual and in-person experiences, including events, education programs, lectures, and tours.

CONTINUE TO BE RESILIENT AND FLEXIBLE

The OHS promotes a culture of good governance and oversight to support our mandate and to seek opportunities for increasing revenue and operating efficiencies. We will investigate alternate ways of connecting with the community and increasing our audience base. Succession planning will ensure the OHS is in a good position to recruit and maintain staff and board members.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Continue to seek additional sources of revenue



Through the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs programs, we brought two 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).

Melissa Cole, Curator, painting the public spaces in Guy House, a project supported by the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) grant.



Continue to increase number of OHS members and broaden community support and audience base



Like many organizations, the Oshawa Historical Society experienced a decline in membership during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Directors struck a membership committee which met throughout 2022 and spearheaded the Fall 2022 Membership Drive. The drive ran from mid-September to early November and resulted in a 6% increase in membership. By the end of 2022, the OHS membership numbered 166, up 9% from the end of 2021.

The membership committee also undertook a survey of the membership which helped guide the fall membership drive, helped understand our membership and the benefits of joining, and planning for future events. Thank you to all members who completed the survey.

In-person Speaker Series resumed in September 2022, and research is underway to determine feasibility of a hybrid (in-person and virtual) Speaker Series for future events.

Practice good governance to ensure effective and efficient management



At the start of 2022, under the direction of the Executive Director, staff undertook a review of policies, for compliance and efficiency. The emergency manual and manual for

the Board of Directors were also updated in this process.

With Laura Suchan's retirement at the end of 2022, a succession strategy was completed, and the Executive Director position description was updated. The new Executive Director, Kat Akerfeldt, was hired at the end of the year, starting in the position in January 2023.

Staff held 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.

MINUTES, ANNUAL MEETING, 2022

Held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at the Arts Resource Centre, 45 Queen Street, Oshawa

1. **Welcome:** Laura Suchan called to order the 64th Annual Meeting of the Oshawa Historical Society and drew attention to last year's minutes printed on page 12 of the Annual Report.

2. **A motion was called to accept the Minutes** of the May 18, 2021 Annual Meeting as distributed.

Moved by Chris Locke

Seconded by Merle Cole

Carried.

3. Laura asked the Membership to review the information contained in the 2021 Annual Report. **A motion was called to adopt the 2021 Annual Report as written.**

Moved by Merle Cole

Seconded by Edward Novak

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 12, 2022.**

Moved by Peter Young

Seconded by Steve Barker

Carried.

5. Laura asked for a motion regarding the appointment of Deloitte as auditors for 2022. **A motion was called "to reappoint Deloitte as auditors for 2022."**

Moved by Janet Dowson

Seconded by Victor Shewchuk

Carried.

7. Next Laura called upon Lisa Terech, Community Engagement, to recognise the 2022 Earl Hann volunteer of the Year Award recipient. **The Audio Transcription Project Volunteers were the Earl Hann Award recipients for 2022.**

7. Lisa next recognized the 25 individuals who volunteered over 420 hours in 2021, thanking them for their contributions.

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

5 year: Adam Arko, Satu Arvola & George McCallum, Denise & Fred Drinkle, Michelle Vibert, Lee & Bryan Glover, Ted & Beth Rundle (Recognition)

10 Year: Helen R. Haines, Carol L Hewitt, Paul & Liz Terech, Samantha George, Parkwood (recognition)

15 year: Gary & Linda Bazowsky, Armour Hanna

20 Year: Merle & Mary Ellen Cole (Recognition), Janet Dowson (Recognition)

25 year: Pat Davies, Lisa Cooper (Recognition)

30 Year: Sandra Gaskell (Recognition)

35 Year: Regan & Nancy Hutcheson (Recognition)

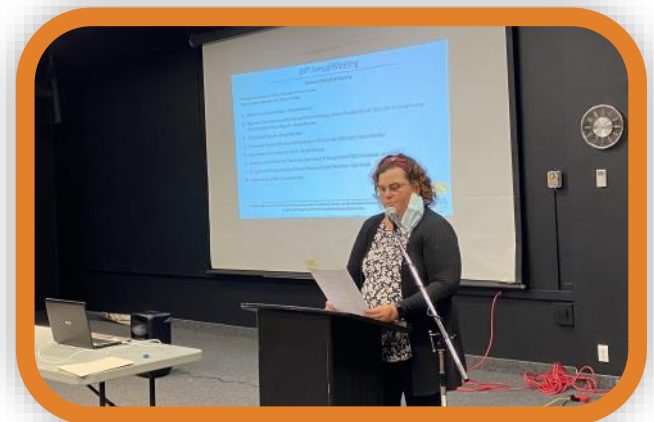
Laura then called for **a motion to adjourn the 64th Annual Meeting of the Oshawa Historical Society.**

Moved by Marjorie Sorrell

Seconded by

Steve Barker

Carried.



Executive Director, Laura Suchan, leading the 2022 Annual Meeting

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 2022. Thank you for your support.

2022 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 2022:

Satu Arvola

Pat Bayus

Ron Bouckley

Dani Crosby

Robert and Betty Davies

David Dowsley

Janet Dowson

Denise Drinkle

Harold Ellis

Stephen Fodor

Sprague Furey

Sandra Gaskell

Ron Getz

Brian & Myrna Gough

Angela Harris

Margaret Henderson

Carol Hewitt

Estate of Pearl Hooper

Winston Legrand

Graham Locky

Arthur Lovell

Jenn Maddigan

William Martin

William McCormack

Robert McIntyre

Grace Moores

North Oshawa Lions Club

Ontario Power Generation

Ron Pearce

Kathy Ranstead

Ted Rundle

Eric Sangwine

Peter Young

2022 SPONSORS

Robert Bell

Conpute

Lisa Cooper & Family (Cooper's Auto Service)

Costco Oshawa (Ritson Road)

Janet Dowson

Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority

North Oshawa Lions Club

Ontario Power Generation

2022 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Canadian Automotive Museum
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA)
City of Oshawa
The Costume People (Patty Davis)
Durham District School Board
Durham College
Durham Region Area Archives Group
Durham Storytellers
Durham's yogi community
Fleming College, Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management program
Friends of the Second Marsh
Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority
Heritage Oshawa
Holodomor National Awareness Tour
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations
Ontario Genealogy Society: Durham Region Chapter
Ontario Regiment Museum
Oshawa Firefighters Association
Oshawa Garden Club
Oshawa Public Libraries
Oshawa Senior Community Centres
Oshawa Union Cemetery
Parkwood National Historic Site
Eric Sangwine
The Robert McLaughlin Gallery
Trent University Durham
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 2022 awards were as follows:

Eastdale CVI Margo Charles
GL Roberts CVI Charlene Shoriwa (Kudakwashe Shoriwa)
Maxwell Heights Secondary School..... Malcolm Vardon
Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School ... Rebecca Chamberlain
Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School Josephine Lack
RS McLaughlin CVI Trisha Hackett



Visitor Hosts Sarah Paiva and Adam Arko at the City of Oshawa Bright and Merry Market, November 2022

FINANCIAL REPORT

SOCIETY INCOME & EXPENSES

The Society's income comes from membership dues and donations. Expenses in 2022 were based on honorariums for speakers at monthly meetings, meeting facilities, a Remembrance Day wreath, and the Oshawa Historical Society award, recognizing high school students for achievements in history.

Total Income	\$5,076
Total Expenses	\$1,416

The Society maintains certain fund balances that are restricted in how they may be used. As of December 31, 2022, the balances of these funds were as follows:

Special Gifts and Bequests	\$7,739
Henry House Endowment Fund	\$3,311
Volunteer Award (Brick Fund)	\$1,236

In 2022, the Oshawa Historical Society received financial support for museum operations and special projects through grants from the City of Oshawa, Digital Museums of Canada (administered by the Canadian Museum of History), the Government of Ontario, and the Government of Canada. Employment grants were received from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs.

The full 2022 Financial Statements, completed by Deloitte LLP, are 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 2022 Board of Directors consisted of seven members elected annually at the Annual Meeting by the Oshawa Historical Society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

Marg Wilkinson—President

Christopher Locke—Vice President

Michael Leonard—Treasurer

Janet Dowson—Director-at-Large

Dr. Helen Haines—Director-at-Large

Doug Lavis—Director-at-Large

David Tonkin—Director-at-Large

MUSEUM STAFF 2022

Laura Suchan—Executive Director*

Jennifer Weymark—Archivist

Melissa Cole—Curator

Jillian Passmore—Visitor Experience Co-ordinator

Lisa Terech—Community Engagement

William Fiddler—Maintenance

*Laura Suchan retired as Executive Director in December 2022;
Kat Akerfeldt began as Executive Director in January 2023.

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.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS 2023 / 2024



June–September 2023

A Place to Grow: A Travelling Exhibit from the Royal Botanical Gardens

A Place to Grow highlights the history of gardening in a Canadian context, from agricultural crops that shaped Ontario’s economic development to ornamental plants that influenced our social history. Its bright graphics feature images from the mail-order catalogues of Ontario-based seed houses from the 1850s to the 1950s.

July–October 2023

Hope and Healing Canada—Outdoor Installation at Robinson House

Métis encaustic sculptor Tracey-Mae Chambers will create a temporary large-scale art project outside the home of a settler residence during the summer of 2023.

Making a powerful statement on the impact of colonization, Chambers asks visitors to consider how our society can remain hopeful in the face of global unrest.

These temporary installations across Canada are made using crochet, knit, and woven red yarns. The ongoing body of work is used to illustrate connections between Indigenous, Inuit, and Métis peoples with Canadians, while also addressing the decolonization of public spaces.



September 2023–April 2024

Be Prepared: Guiding and Scouting in Oshawa

Girl Guides of Canada is the largest organization for girls and women in Canada. Guiding began in Canada in 1910, and the 1st Oshawa Company formed in 1911. The Girl Guides Association started as an offshoot of the Boy Scouts, founded in 1907 by Robert Baden-Powell.

Archival photographs, uniforms and private collections will form the exhibit highlighting the vibrant history Guiding and Scouting has brought to the Oshawa community.

May 2024–April 2025

Oshawa at 100: Untold Stories of our Community

These ‘untold stories’ will not be found in your average history book, but they should be. This exhibit will feature the stories that our current local history books left out, stories of dynamic people, landmark events, and celebrating our vibrant and diverse community.





125 March St.
 Weston N/c
 Jan. 4/16

Dear Sister

just a word of welcome into the family, and I hope you will be very happy in your married life. I am quite sure you have got a good husband in my brother, I know he was always a nice, steady lad at home. It is a bit hard luck having to be parted from each other so soon, but he says he is trying to get his transfer

this he will probably be with you again, and by the time he has finished his training I hope this wretched war will be over. I think you are wise to keep your work on, quite a number of girls here are doing the same. I wish I could have made your personal acquaintance but as that is impossible at present, the next best thing is to have your photo. Perhaps you will send me one if you have any to spare



OSHAWA

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

— Collections. Spaces. People. —

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www.oshawamuseum.org

www.oshawahistoricalsociety.org

