



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Information, Heritage and Seniors Committee  
**From:** Jana Burns, Wellington Place Administrator  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
**Subject:** **WCMA Update**

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### General Update

Due to the recent closure of the WCMA in accordance with public health restrictions, the WCMA will revert to virtual sessions, at home craft deliveries and phone and virtual appointments for research and donations, until we reopen January 26. We have also rescheduled all meetings and events to conform with the temporary closure. We are developing radio advertisements encouraging use of our already popular trails, tobogganing hill and visits to our chickens. Our promotion will inform the public of two exciting new exhibits, Feathers and Fossils dinosaur exhibit and For Old Time Sake, Senator Black's clocks exhibit. Staff are taking advantage of the closure to change these galleries while we are closed to the public, so that the exhibits will be installed and ready for the public as soon as we reopen.

In December maintenance staff installed a new large screen television in the Nicholas Keith meeting room. Keyless fob systems were also installed in the three staff entry doors.

### Museum Gift Shop

We have conducted a review of our gift shop in terms of items displayed, popularity, relevance, cost and turnover and have both an interim and final plan for the shop. The plan was informed by a survey conducted last year, allowing patrons to provide us with feedback of the gift shop. In the interim starting November, we introduced local food items such as honey and maple syrup, which sold out to international travelers. We also now sell Elora Coffee Roasters' coffee featuring our building on the label, of which 16 of 20 bags have sold in less than one month.

### Christmas Market at the WCMA

We were pleased to have been able to host our first Christmas Market for the public last December. In total we had 1,200 visitors on the Friday and 800 on the Saturday. We received a lot of positive feedback from our 60 vendors as well as attendees. We were also happy to support many local businesses and build relationships with local entrepreneurs. Santa, the reindeer, live music, sleigh rides and the number of vendors were very well received. Given the size of the event and the desire to make the event better in 2022, we will have a debrief this week. We are grateful to our volunteers and will be seeking feedback from them as well as the vendors that participated.







### Programming

In addition to organizing a large scale Christmas Market in December, programming staff hosted five in-person school programmes to a total of 70 students prior to the provincial measures in December, where after four school programmes were cancelled. In addition to school groups, five virtual programmes were hosted for various groups in Wellington County to an audience of 250 persons.

Wasting no time, programming staff this week have developed Museum On Your Doorstep crafts beginning Friday January 7, Dinosaur Feet! 75 crafts, where half were sold out in less than 20 minutes.





# FEATHERS AND FOSSILS

January 15  
to March 20



## Wellington County Museum and Archives

is located on Wellington Road 18 Between Fergus and Elora

T 519.846.0916 X 5221 - Toll Free 1.800.663.0750 X 5221 [www.wellington.ca/museum](http://www.wellington.ca/museum)

We are excited to host **Feathers and Fossils**, a travelling exhibit from Canada's Dinosaur Park ready for the public upon our re-opening. The exhibit will feature life-size dinosaurs, including two animatronic models, alongside authentic and replica fossils from the Middle Jurassic to the Late Cretaceous epochs.

The latest exhibit in our Wellington County Collects series is titled **For Old Time Sake**, featuring the clock collection of Senator Rob Black. This exhibit explores timekeeping, the complex inner workings of antique clocks, and the fascinating history clocks that inspire Senator Black to collect.

## For Old Time Sake The Clock Collection of Senator Rob Black



### A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

located on Wellington Road 18 between Fergus and Elora  
T 519.846.0916 x 5225 | Toll Free 1.800.663.0750 x 5225  
[www.wellington.ca/museum](http://www.wellington.ca/museum)

January 22 to May 22

## Summary of 2021 Curatorial Donations

Our mandate is to collect, preserve, research, interpret and exhibit artifacts and archival records that reflect and document the settlement and development of Wellington County. Objects are received by the Curatorial division, whereas items on paper (maps, photos, art or documents), or audio/visual are received by the Archives. In 2021, the WCMA received 54 curatorial donations, consisting of 147 artifacts. The donations included:

- 23 donations by first time donors
- 22 donations by repeat donors
- 8 donations from community organizations or transfers from member municipalities and County of Wellington departments, and
- 1 artifact purchase made by the WCMA.

This is the same number of donations as last year, and similar to the volume seen in 2019 (60 donations) and 2018 (55 donations). This suggests that although we saw a drop in in-person visits as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our donation levels remain unchanged.

Notable donations include:

1. Sign making kit, stool, and shoe mirror from Freeman's Shoe Store in Mount Forest, dated circa 1940-1953. Freeman's Shoe Store was a multi-generational family business established in 1922 by George Freeman. His grandson Wes Barker joined him in the store in 1930 and took it over when George died in 1937. The store was closed when Wes Barker retired in 1970.
2. Barber pole from "Larry's Family Place," a barber shop run by Larry Magnus in Elora from 1967-2020. This is a unique non-permanent barber pole that was temporarily mounted on the exterior of the building, so that it could be removed when necessary (Magnus was a tenant, not the building owner). Magnus began his apprenticeship as a barber when he was 16 years old in Brighton, Ontario. He passed his examination and opened his shop in Elora at age 20, and retired in 2020 after 53 years in business.
3. Travel typewriter used by Fergus journalist Peter Marucci. Marucci worked for the Guelph Guardian, Guelph Mercury, Toronto Telegram, Toronto Star, Guelph Tribune, and Fergus-Elora News Express.
4. Smudge kit used by members of the County of Wellington's Indigenous Advisory Committee to open the Warden's Inauguration Meeting in Council Chambers on 11 December 2020. Following the smudging ceremony was the County's first ever land acknowledgement.
5. Homemade COVID-19 lawn signs with positive messages, including "Thank You to our Front Line Workers," "Stay Strong," and "Thank You Essential Workers." These signs were made by the DeJonge and Carrie families of Fergus during the pandemic. "We made these signs to spread love and hope. During these uncertain times, we need to express solidarity and gratitude more than ever!" –Laura Carrie, Fergus.
6. Empty COVID-19 Pfizer (Comirnaty) and Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine vials from Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health. The vials were used at the Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex mass vaccination clinic between February 19 and March 2021.
7. Handmade violin with bow and case that belonged to Mary Jane Dickieson (1906-1997) who was born in Puslinch Township. The instrument was made by her neighbour, John W. Gilchrist, in 1924. Mary played the violin all her life. She married Robert Alexander Rowan

(1901-1966) in 1937 and they lived on the Rowan family farm in Orton (Lot 23, Con. 2, Erin Twp.). Mary joined the No. 9 Orchestra in Erin Township, named after School Section No. 9, where most of the members had attended school. The orchestra played locally, and on one memorable occasion they were invited to play at Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto.

8. Fur stretches and pelts from Associated Mixed Feeds Limited, a mink breeding and rancher supply business managed by Charles Millage (1925-2021) from 1967 until it closed in 1995. The business was established by Cam Richardson in the 1930s and originally called Fergus Fur Farms.
9. Date stone from S.S. No. 5 in Maryborough Township, built in 1896.
10. Laboratory coat and medical kit that belonged to Dr. Bertrand Sandwith of Drayton (1878-1958). Dr. Sandwith was born in England and immigrated to Canada at the age of 15. He studied medicine at Queen's University in Kingston, later moving to Saskatchewan. By the 1930s, Dr. Sandwith had moved to Drayton where he practiced out of his house on Main Street until his death in 1958.
11. Mourning dress that belonged to Marie (Maria) Landoni Mattaini, who made the dress in 1930 to mark the death of her father, Faustino Landoni. She wore it again when her husband, Charlie (Carolo) Mattaini died in 1947, and again in 1949 when her mother, Carolina Landoni died. In the 1950s, Marie added ivory lace to the bodice and wore the dress again at the newly formed Italian Canadian Club (ICC) in Guelph when she was feted as one of the first Italian immigrants to Wellington County. A decade later, she was once again honoured at the ICC and added a net overskirt to the dress for this final occasion.

### **WCMA and the Libraries host our very first Writer's Festival 2022!**

Our Strategic Action Plan included greater communication with the Wellington County Library, including the creation of a joint event. We are excited to present the 2022 Wellington County Writer's Festival and look forward to celebrating writers from our community!

Local writers, any kind and any age, from Wellington County or with material relevant to Wellington County are invited to apply to the first annual Wellington County Writers' Festival. Applications open Monday, January 17 and will be accepted until February 1, 2022. Participation may include opening and closing events, and one local event at a library branch.

#### **Festival Opening**

Saturday, April 23 at the Wellington County Museum and Archives

#### **Festival Closing and Summer Reading Club Launch**

Saturday, June 25 at the Hillsburgh Branch

More information to come!

[Wellington County Writers Festival - Wellington County](#)





### **Museum Sunroom**

The images below show the repairs made to our Museum sunroom this past fall. The sunroom had 12 locations where the wood was severely rotted, note the corner beam rot in the second image below. Staff spent approximately two weeks on an elevated work platform replacing the wood where needed, repairing two windows, scraping and applying fresh paint.

Museum Sunroom (south and corner beam) prior to repair and paint:



Museum Sunroom (south and east sides) following repair and paint:



## The Archives

During the 2021 year, Archives staff assisted 456 researchers who visited our Reading Room in person. Over the course of the year, 670 email requests, 309 phone calls and 122 photograph reproduction orders were answered.

Notable donations in 2021 included:

1. William Holman of Fergus, printed materials from Beatty Brothers and the Town of Fergus, 1956-1975. [A2021.1]
2. My First Nineteen: 1922-1941 Memories of Growing Up on an Ontario Livestock Farm During the Great Depression, book, written by Angus Hamilton, 2020. [A2021.2.1]
3. Memories of Drayton 1932-1939, by Angus Hamilton, 2020. [A2021.2.2]
4. Fergus lacrosse and hockey, team photographs, Fergus, ca. 1950-1969. [A2021.3]
5. Elora Cataract Trailway Association, newsletters and trail guides, Elora, 1991-2020. [A2021.4]
6. Invitation to the twentieth anniversary of the Everton Literary Society, Everton, 1922. [A2021.7]
7. The Story of One Beatty Windmill, book by Margaret Hein-Wiebe, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 2020. [A2021.10]
8. Homer Magazines, Mount Forest, 1994-2021. [A2021.12]
9. Postcard collection of Ernest Awrey, Erin Township, 1906-1917. [A2021.15]
10. Fighting for home and country: women remember World War II, 2004. [A2021.16.3]
11. Vox Scholae Fergus District High School yearbooks, Fergus, 1971, 1973-1974. [A2021.18]
12. Floral Phrases cards, drawn by Leah McLeod, Erin, 2020-2021. Covid-19 collection. [A2021.20]
13. Tax notices, Concession 3 Division D, Lots 21 and 22 Guelph Township, 1907-1952, 1957. [A2021.22]
14. Ballinafad United Church documents, Erin Township, 1939-1979.
15. The Donkey Sanctuary of Canada newsletters and mail correspondence, Puslinch Township, 2015-2018. [A2021.28]
16. Audrey (Bridge) Wilson memories of Main Street, Palmerston, ca. 2000. [A2021.29]
17. Marks, Parry, and Wilson families of Maryborough Twp., Wellington County, and Wallace Twp., Perth County, ca. 1855-2020. [A2021.31]
18. Wellington County Council minutes, 2015-2019. [A2021.35]
19. Retired Women Teachers of Ontario scrapbooks, Palmerston, 2012-2020. [A2021.50]
20. Associated Mixed Feeds Limited photographs, Nichol Twp., ca. 1970 - ca. 1995. [A2021.52]
21. Gord Brown War Commemoration and Exhibition materials and photographs; Fergus Swimming Pool and Swimming Team photographs, 1945-2018. [A2021.52]
22. White family of Fergus, COVID-19 response collage, 2021. [A2021.55]
23. Remembering Glen Christie : The history of the Village of Glen Christie, Ontario and stories from those that lived there, 2nd ed., 2021. [A2021.58]
24. 1st Creekbank-Alma Scout Troup and Robert Arndt records, photographs, and video, Alma, 1947-2003. [A2021.64]
25. Ken Danby Art Exhibit Posters, Gallery Moos Ltd., Toronto, 1974 and 1976. [A2021.65]
26. Palmerston Public School demolition photographs, ca. 1963. [A2021.67.1]
27. Mrs. Arly Roy, Eden Mills, Eramosa Township photographs, ca. 1985. [A2021.69]
28. Erin Historical Scavenger Hunt, Town of Erin, 2021. [A2021.70]
29. Portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, March 2019. [A2021.78]

30. "Corona Virus (corona - a Latin word meaning crown) -- Covid 19," poem by Stella McCabe of Mount Forest, 2020. [A2021.80]
31. Whitelaw and Mutrie family records, Guelph Township, ca. 1865-2018. [A2021.88]
32. Photograph albums of Eramosa Township residents and families, compiled by William Burns, with textual records, Eramosa Township, 1853 – 1934. [A2021.90]
33. Wellington County postcard collection, 1906-1977; Independent Order of Odd Fellows medical examination reports, Elora, 1918-1920; Beatty Bros. letter, 1960. [A2021.94]
34. Machine gun section, 153rd (Wellington) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, panoramic photograph, ca. 1915. [A2021.102]
35. COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic employee documents, 2021. [A2021.104]
36. Groves Hospital Volunteer Association jade vest photographs and history, 2014-2020. [A2021.111]
37. An address on the formation of Rifle Associations for Defensive Purposes delivered in the Town Hall, Guelph, on Wednesday Evening, the 15th of August 1866, by Dr. Howitt. [A2021.117]
38. A Chameleon from the Land of the Quagga, an Immigrant's Story, by Joan Bismillah, Fergus, 2019. [A2021.118]
39. The Nine Public Schools of Guelph Township, by the Guelph Township Public Schools Reunion Committee, 2021. [A2021.119]

Recommendation:

That the WCMA Update be received for information and forwarded to County Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Burns'.

Jana Burns  
Wellington Place Administrator