



CULTURAL SERVICES

2019 Annual Report



Cultural Services Division

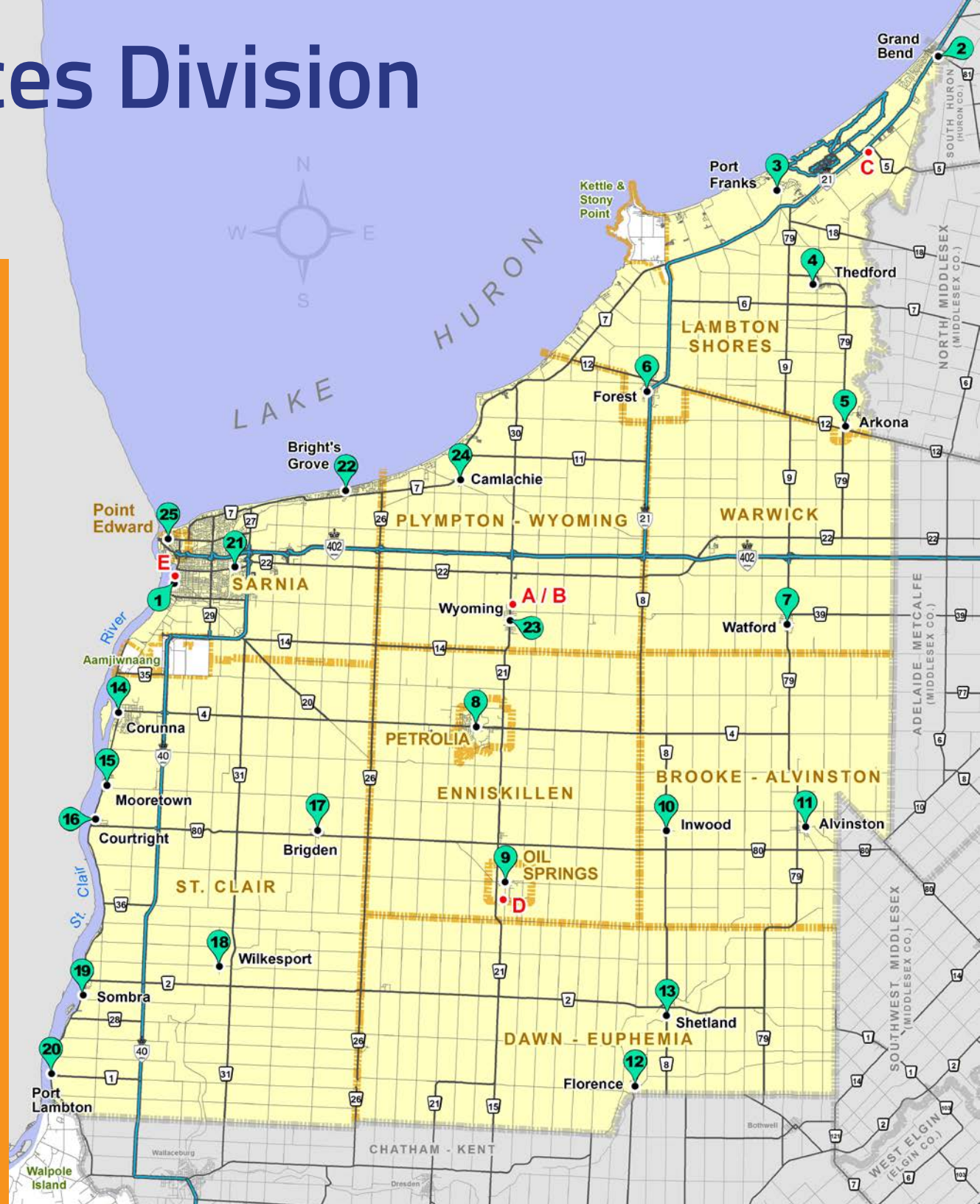
OVERVIEW MAP



Alvinston Library

ID	LOCATION	WEBSITE	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS
A	Library Headquarters	www.lclibrary.ca	519-845-3324	787 Broadway Street
B	Lambton County Archives	www.lambtonarchives.ca	519-845-5426	787 Broadway Street
C	Lambton Heritage Museum	www.heritagemuseum.ca	519-243-2800	10035 Museum Road
D	Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site	www.oilmuseum.ca	519-834-2840	2423 Kelly Road
E	Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery	www.jnaag.ca	519-336-8127	147 Lochiel Street

REGION	ID	LIBRARY LOCATION	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Region 1	1	Sarnia Library	519-337-3291	124 Christina Street S.	Sarnia
Region 2	2	Grand Bend Library	519-238-2067	15 Gill Road	Lambton Shores
	3	Port Franks Library	519-243-2820	9997 Port Franks Rd.	Lambton Shores
	4	Thedford Library	519-296-4459	16 Allen Street	Lambton Shores
	5	Arkona Library	519-828-3406	16 Smith Street	Lambton Shores
	6	Forest Library	519-786-5152	61 King Street West	Lambton Shores
	7	Watford Library	519-876-2204	5317 Nauvoo Road	Warwick
Region 3	8	Petrolia Library	519-882-0771	4200 Petrolia Line	Petrolia
	9	Oil Springs Library	519-834-2670	4596 Oil Springs Line	Oil Springs
	10	Inwood Library	519-844-2491	6504 James Street	Brooke-Alvinston
	11	Alvinston Library	519-898-2921	3251 River Street	Brooke-Alvinston
	12	Florence Library	519-692-3213	6213 Mill Street	Dawn-Euphemia
	13	Shetland Library	519-695-3330	1279 Shetland Road	Dawn-Euphemia
Region 4	14	Corunna Library	519-862-1132	417 Lyndoch Street	St. Clair
	15	Mooretown Library	519-867-2823	1166 Emily Street	St. Clair
	16	Courtright Library	519-867-2712	1533 Fourth Street	St. Clair
	17	Brigden Library	519-864-1142	1540 Duncan Street	St. Clair
	18	Wilkesport Library	519-864-4000	1349 Wilkesport Line	St. Clair
	19	Sombra Library	519-892-3711	3536 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair
	20	Port Lambton Library	519-677-5217	507 Stoddard Street	St. Clair
Region 5	21	Mallroad Library	519-542-2580	1362 Lambton Mall Rd.	Sarnia
	22	Bright's Grove Library	519-869-2351	2618 Hamilton Road	Sarnia
	23	Wyoming Library	519-845-0181	536 Niagara Street	Plympton-Wyoming
	24	Camlachie Library	519-899-2202	6745 Camlachie Road	Plympton-Wyoming
	25	Point Edward Library	519-336-3291	220 Michigan Avenue	Point Edward



Contents



Visitors explore the Lambton County Library *Story Walk* located at Canatara Park, Sarnia



Historical demonstration by Heritage Museum Worker Jeremy Robson enhance the annual Craft Sale at Lambton Heritage Museum



Parents and children fill the studio space at the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery for the popular *Family Sundays* program

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Cultural Services Division Profile



Shetland Memorial Library



Spring pole derrick display interpreting the first gusher, Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site



Southwest International Film Festival (SWIFF) Indigenous Youth Film Workshop sponsored by the County of Lambton's Creative County Grant Program

The County of Lambton Cultural Services Division's mandate is to provide leadership and support to advance cultural development for economic, social and broader community benefit in Lambton County. In support of this mandate, the Division assumes responsibilities in the areas of cultural planning and policy development, capacity building, program delivery, strategic investment and resource development.

Lambton County Library

Lambton County Library manages a network of 25 libraries and operates a mobile library service. Services offered include the ability to borrow books, audio books, magazines, audio-visual materials and more. Patrons can participate in story hours, hear from guest speakers, and access reference service and the Internet through public computer workstations. Library card holders also have access to a range of convenient eLibrary services available on any device connected to the Internet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These services include electronic books, magazines, newspapers, digital media (such as music and movies) and educational courses.

Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

The Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery (JNAAG) is a free public art gallery located in downtown Sarnia. With the support of a dedicated staff and volunteer team, the JNAAG engages the community through a wide-range of exhibitions, tours, lectures and programs for all ages. The gallery's collection is comprised of 1,200 primarily Canadian historical and contemporary works of both local and national significance. The JNAAG is a regional gallery with a national mandate, and holds the distinction of Category 'A' designation received from the Department of Canadian Heritage. As such, the gallery meets and maintains a range of strict building, operational and professional standards.



Branch Assistant Caroline Smyth leads a *Tales for Tots* program, Mall Road Library



Alexander MacKenzie interactive display, Walden & Eisenbach Collections Centre, LHM



Opening reception for *Kaleidoscope* exhibition, JNAAG, organized in partnership with the Sarnia Quilters Guild

Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site

The Oil Museum of Canada (OMC) is a designated National Historic Site, situated on the world's first commercial oil field. The ten acre site features four historic buildings with reconstructed spring-pole and three-pole derricks dominating the property. A series of jerker lines, pumping stations, storage tanks and oil wagons combine with the material in the museum collection to bring the fascinating story of the oil industry to life. The main exhibition centre, constructed in 1960, houses over 9,000 artifacts that interpret the international influence of Lambton's proud oil heritage.

Lambton County Archives

The Lambton County Archives (LCA) serves as an active genealogical and local history resource centre. The archives preserves a

growing collection of significant local material including census records, birth, marriage and death records, local newspapers, corporate records, Land Registry records and a vast historical photograph collection. The archives offers seminars and information sessions to help individuals develop their historical and genealogical research skills, as well as educate Lambton's residents about their past.

Lambton Heritage Museum

Lambton Heritage Museum (LHM) is entrusted with the care of over 25,000 historic artifacts which preserve the history of Lambton County. Situated on 30 acres, the museum maintains five historic buildings, two display buildings and one main exhibition centre. The museum is open year round, and provides picnic grounds and the 1km Woodland Heritage Trail. LHM has evolved from a passive museum site to an active experiential tourism destination.

Sarnia Library Theatre

Sarnia Library is home to the recently renovated Sarnia Library Theatre, which features special Cultural Services Division programming and also plays host to many community and private events. With a capacity of over 300 and projection, sound and lighting equipment, the theatre space is available for rent to accommodate concerts, lectures, celebrations, film screenings and more.

Creative County Grant Program

The Creative County Grant Program invests matching funds (up to 50% of the total cost) in new and innovative projects that build cultural capacity, strengthen the creative community, define Lambton's unique identity and enrich the quality of life of all residents.

Below: Cultural Services Division staff team, November 2019



Enhancing Access, Visibility & Community Engagement



Warden Bill Weber presents the new Creative County funded gateway signs that incorporate the Discoveries That Matter brand



Cultural Services Division General Manager Andrew Meyer, Warden Bill Weber, and Councillors Steve Arnold, Lonny Napper and Margaret Bird unveil the renovated LCA and Library Headquarters



LHM engaged in a professional photography partnership with Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation (SWOTC) to improve promotions

The Cultural Services Division strives to promote and enhance awareness of cultural opportunities across Lambton County, and provide access to relevant and engaging exhibitions, programming and services for residents at all phases of life.

Through a consistent and innovative approach to community engagement, the libraries, museums and gallery were successful in attracting new and diverse audiences in 2019. Thousands of residents and visitors to Lambton County came through the doors of these important community hubs, and more patrons accessed convenient online e-services from home than ever before.

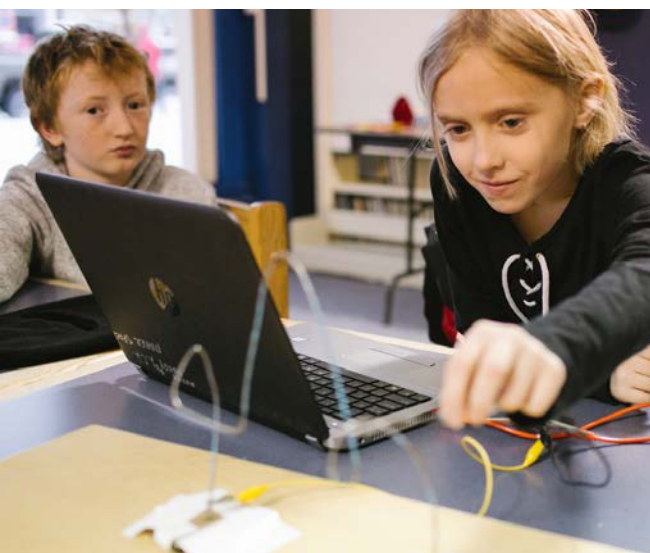
Patrons of Culture

Library circulation statistics, which provide only a partial indication of total library visitation, amounted to 641,595 items circulated from October 2018 to October 2019 across the 25 locations of the library system and mobile library service. Over 2,488 library programs were delivered for the same period, engaging 33,149 participants, while 69,815 patrons used Internet workstations, wireless Internet was accessed 427,621 times, and 41,711 queries were answered by a professional team of library staff.

Between October 2018 and October 2019, the JNAAG welcomed over 16,600 visitors who attended exhibitions, tours, and participated in one of the 377 programs coordinated for youth, adults and families.

The archives and museum sites drew 24,591 visitors between October 2018 and October 2019. LHM saw strong visitation with popular annual events like the Return of the Swans, Paint Ontario Art Exhibition & Sale (632 attendees at opening night) and the Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival (3,999 attendees) welcoming back perennial visitors. OMC saw consistent visitor numbers with regular program offerings and special events such as the Black Gold Festival in July (362 attendees) and horse and wagon tours throughout the summer months. The LCA supported 1,988 genealogical and local history requests from researchers in Lambton County, North America and across the globe.

Further, the Sarnia Library Theatre and the adjacent meeting rooms drew 21,338 visitors from October 2018 to October 2019, for a total of 738 event bookings. This intense community use is despite a period of closure for just over two months to accommodate an extensive renovation that saw new theatre seating, integration aisle lighting for accessibility, new carpet, and upgrades to house lighting and paint.



From October 2018
to October 2019, over
2,488 library programs
were delivered across
25 locations, engaging
33,149 residents
across Lambton County



Clockwise from top left: Patrons enjoy the teen area at Sarnia Library, Community Librarian Ellen Dark leads a *Tales for Tots* program at Sarnia Library, Library Technician Christine Cousins leads *Jr. Chef* Cooking Classes, Calligraphy Workshop at Port Franks Library, Mobile Library Makerspace activities with robotics *Cublets* at Port Lambton Library, *Makey Makey* Makerspace activities, Sarnia Library.



From October 2018 to
October 2019, Lambton

County welcomed
24,591 visitors

to the Oil Museum of
Canada National Historic
Site, Lambton Heritage
Museum and Lambton
County Archives



Branch Assistant Leena Bourne leads an adult painting class at Petrolia Library



Charlie Fairbank volunteers to provide tours of the James Rig, Fairbank Oil Fields, as part of Doors Open Lambton



YourTV Sarnia features Educational Program Coordinator Colleen Inglis to promote the *Canada's Waterscapes* exhibition at LHM

Media Exposure & Audience Reach

The year saw a significant level of exposure for Cultural Services through the support of local media partners. Regular promotions through radio and print advertising, museum promotional partnerships with YourTV Sarnia, Sarnia & Lambton County This Week and the Sarnia Journal, direct mail of the gallery guide and museum newsletter to members, the development of a new *Next Chapter* program guide for library users, and brochures distributed throughout the community and across the region, further contributed to the exposure.

In addition to traditional media outlets, the Division actively promoted its programs and services through online and social media channels. From October 2018 to October 2019, the gallery saw 4,980 followers on Facebook, 764 followers on Twitter, and 1,066 followers on Instagram. The archives and museums meanwhile reached 4,936 followers on Facebook (collectively), representing a 49.7% increase over the previous year. The museums also reached 1,017 followers on Twitter, and experienced 38,913 visits to the museum website in the same period. The library also increased its social media presence in 2019, with 1,515

Facebook followers (43% increase), 761 Twitter followers and significant website traffic with website views of 598,433.

Online & Electronic Services

Through varied programs and services, the Division also worked diligently to extend services beyond its facilities through museum and gallery outreach programs, the mobile library service, mobile makerspace, and a growing suite of online and library e-service offerings designed to meet the educational and cultural needs of the community.

The library's electronic circulation continues to increase year over year, with library card holders downloading or streaming more materials electronically than ever before. In total, 343,044 e-service items (digital books, newspapers, magazines, audio books, music, movies, etc.) were accessed between October 2018 and October 2019 (16,017 more than the previous 12 month period), with electronic materials accounting for approximately 34% of the total annual circulation (physical and electronic).

The statistics illustrate that downloading materials electronically is a preferred method for many library users and the electronic library continues to grow in popularity.

While the use of electronic materials continues to increase, the traditional needs of library users remain: one-on-one research assistance, obtaining materials from the physical collection, accessing wireless Internet or a computer with Internet access, and participating in a wide range of programs that serve all demographics of the community.

Doors Open Lambton County

On September 28th, the Cultural Services Division coordinated the return of the popular Doors Open Lambton event in partnership with many community partners. The event offered free admission to 14 locations and activities in the communities of Wyoming, Oil Springs, Petrolia, and Sarnia. Participants were able to explore guided and self-guided sites located throughout central Lambton County that showcase the innovation and influence of the oil industry, under the theme "The Legacy of Oil Innovation in Lambton County".

Each of the participating sites was selected based on its connection to, or role in preserving, the early oil industry in Lambton County. Special activities, tours and programs not normally accessible to the public were also arranged, attracting hundreds of visitors.

Creating & Delivering Great Experiences



Lambton County Library's mobile library service delivers materials to people living in long-term care homes throughout Lambton County

The Cultural Services Division aims to provide unique experiences that engage and inspire visitors. This is achieved through the presentation of exhibitions and interpretive displays, programs and activities, tours and events, and the appropriate use of emergent technologies to enhance the visitor experience.

Programs & Activities

Public programs enhance visitor engagement and learning, are informed by community needs and interests, and are linked to the Division's research, collections and exhibitions. Through the provision of a range of activities including tours, performances, presentations, educational programs and lectures that appeal to a broad audience, the Division successfully delivered exceptional experiences to the residents of Lambton County in 2019.

Lambton County Library delivered 2,488 programs from October 2018 to October 2019, drawing over 33,000 participants. One of these popular programs was the annual TD Summer Reading Program for youth, offering free resources to children who register to encourage literacy training over the summer break.

This year's theme was *Natural World*, engaging 1,744 children in Lambton who read a combined 13,527 books.

JNAAG offered a broad range of workshops, classes, and tours in 2019 for all ages, skill levels and interests. Programs included 77 Family Sundays and other family activities, 105 Try New Things (TNT) sessions, Random Acts of Art Workshops (RAAW) and Art Pod experiences, 13 art and ideas lectures, 74 adult workshops led by local artist instructors, and 108 tours and related activities. In total, the gallery saw over 5,531 participants in its 2019 program offerings.

The museums saw 3,106 participants in education and outreach programs including the popular Early Canadian Christmas (OMC) and Holidays @ Heritage (LHM) school group programs, PD Day activities, horse and wagon tours (OMC), and several group tours, seminars and workshops.



Adrienne Lebert, author Gary May and Jessica Bos-Landry welcome visitors to Petrolia Library as part of Doors Open Lambton County



Creative County invested \$10,000 to support the Tall Ships Festival in Sarnia, which drew over 20,000 visitors



Horse and wagon rides touring OMC and Fairbank Oil, generously sponsored by Fairbank Oil



Painting demonstrations featuring local artist, coordinated by the Grand Bend Arts Centre as part of the *Paint Ontario* exhibit, LHM



Visitors experience *Responsive Dance*, presented by Boundless Bodies Contemporary Ballet, JNAAG

Exhibitions

The staff of the museums and gallery employ innovative display methods and engaging interpretive techniques to showcase their respective collections through exhibitions, and also host a diverse mix of temporary exhibitions on loan from galleries and museums across Canada and the world.

In 2019, LHM coordinated several exhibitions in collaboration with community partners, including an art exhibit entitled *Me, You and Us* by local artist Suellen Evoy-Oozeer, and a photography exhibit in partnership with the Petrolia and Port Franks Camera Clubs entitled *Capturing the Moment: Photography in Lambton County*. LHM also hosted the Canadian Museum of Nature travelling exhibition *Canada's Waterscapes* over the summer months, drawing strong visitation. Each of these exhibitions were complimented by relevant and engaging educational programs and guest speakers, exploring exhibition themes in greater depth.

JNAAG launched 11 new exhibitions in 2019 (including ten curated in-house by staff and one touring exhibit on loan from the National Gallery of Canada). This ambitious exhibition schedule included the following:

Outsider Flying School: Diane Landry
Kaleidoscope: Sarnia Quilter's Guild
Chasing Vibrato: Rita Letendre
Photography in Canada 1960-2000 (National Gallery)
Faux Hero: Tyler Manzon
Slipstream & Siphonophora: Jenn E. Norton
Take Your Shot
Thomson's Painting
Inspirational Moments

The James Kirkpatrick exhibition *To the Unseen Future*, which was curated by JNAAG staff in 2018 and closed early in 2019, went on to be featured as a travelling exhibition at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa in 2019. The exhibition drew nearly 3,000 visitors during its run in Oshawa, raising the profile of the JNAAG across the province.

As part of the JNAAG's efforts to collaborate with other art institutions, arrangements were made to loan several works from the JNAAG permanent collection by the Group of Seven with partner galleries. Several works by artist A. Y. Jackson will be loaned to The Rooms, (St. John's, Newfoundland), and Edwin Holgate's *The Lumberjack* will be loaned as part of *Magnetic North*, an exhibition at the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt (Germany) in cooperation with the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto) and the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa).

Art & Community

The JNAAG continues to develop and deliver programming specially designed for youth living with disabilities and their care partners. The Art Pod program was sparked by a suggestion from *Pathways Health Centre for Children* in 2018 to offer a hands-on fine art program for youth. This program is offered free, once a month, and continues to grow in attendance and success. Participants explore printmaking, zine making, sculpture and drawing.

A tour and hands on program was specifically designed for *Sarnia Lambton Rebound: Expressive Arts* to expose at-risk youth to the art gallery, to teach active looking and listening and how to use fine art to express themselves in a healthy and safe manner. Program goals include increasing self-esteem and self-confidence, building friendships and learning new skills.

Twice monthly, an exhibition tour and hands-on art making activity is designed and delivered by a team of docents and instructors to participants living with early onset dementia and their care partners in partnership with *Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton*. In 2019, attendance was strong and a focus was placed on exploring photography through the *Photography in Canada* exhibition.

Developing Partnerships That Increase Community Involvement & Support



Drum ceremony for the Creative County supported mural project at Hillside School, Kettle & Stony Point



Take Your Shot teen photo contest and exhibit, coordinated by Lambton County Library in partnership with the JNAAG.

As a guiding principle of the County of Lambton Cultural Plan, the Cultural Services Division seeks to build partnerships and work collaboratively with the private, public and volunteer sectors to identify and seize shared challenges and opportunities.

Volunteerism

Volunteers make meaningful contributions in support of the Division's goal of delivering high-quality and responsive programs and services to the community. Volunteer roles also facilitate social inclusion, skills development, and a sense of community ownership.

From October 2018 through to October 2019, the Lambton Heritage Museum and Oil Museum of Canada benefited from 167 volunteers who contributed a total of 3,077 hours to the programs and services offered at the museum sites. The dedicated team of 64 enthusiastic volunteers at the JNAAG devoted 2,076 hours of their time in 2019 to enhancing the visitor experience as docents to educate visitors (and even at times entertain them through song...) and assist with program delivery.

Community Involvement

Several collaborations with community partners were pursued in 2019 to enhance the expertise of Division staff, extend the range of service delivery, and secure project funding to supplement existing resources.

Building on the success of the established community-led library model, Lambton County Library hosted 939 programs at its 25 locations, activities and events between October 2018 and October 2019 that were coordinated by outside user groups, drawing 8,327 participants.

The JNAAG continued to foster partnerships with various community organizations and institutions, including a new partnership with jobPath Employment Discovery, Community Living. The JNAAG designs an exhibition tour and hands on art activity to support jobPath's mission to develop hireable skills and teach stress management techniques for individuals in the community struggling to find employment.

JNAAG also hosted a summer co-op placement with St. Patrick's High school, serving as a studio assistant to artists for numerous summer programs. The placements expand the students' knowledge of what art is, how programming is developed and delivered, and how to work with participants of various skill levels and abilities.



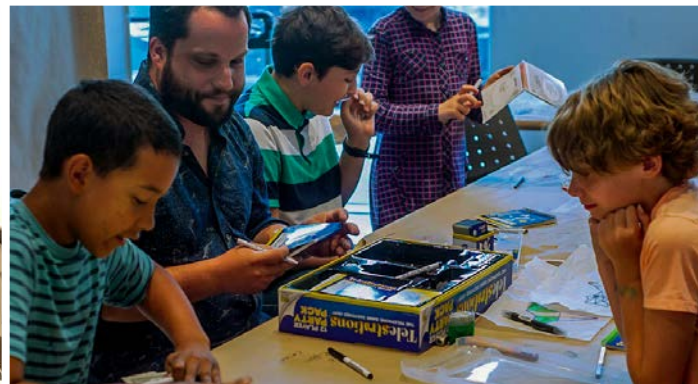
In 2019, **231** volunteers
contributed their talents and over
5,153 hours to support the
programs, exhibitions and events at the
Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery,
Oil Museum of Canada and
Lambton Heritage Museum

Clockwise from top left: Councillor Ian Veen and Warden Bill Weber join Enbridge representatives to mark the completion of the Oil & Gas Exhibit Building renovation, Dianne Moore and Janey Leonard, JNAAG volunteers, Boundless Bodies Contemporary Ballet dancers volunteer their talents for *Responsive Dance*, installation of bat boxes at the LHM site by Pinery Provincial Park staff, annual volunteer appreciation BBQ at LHM, Lakeshore Eco-Network presentation as part of the *Canada's Waterscapes* speaker series at LHM, and Community Art & Education Coordinator Anna Miccolis trains gallery docents in preparation for the *Photography in Canada* exhibition, JNAAG.



From October 2018 to October 2019, over **16,600** residents and visitors to Lambton County experienced an exhibition or participated in one of **377** programs offered at the JNAAG

Above: National Gallery of Canada travelling exhibition, *Photography in Canada 1960-2000*, JNAAG. Below (Left to right): Jessica Ruhle, Director of Education for the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, facilitates dementia based training with staff, volunteers, and Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton partners, *Second Saturday* program, and *Art Pod* program, JNAAG.





Jason Cole, Nicole Aszalos and Vanitia Campbell promote the Bear Creek Bridge historical display at Watford Library



Grand Bend Farmer's Market, now located on the grounds of LHM every Wednesday from May to October



Historical interpretive markers are installed along the 1km Woodland Heritage Trail at LHM

The museums continued to support networking and projects with Heritage Sarnia-Lambton. Collaboration with other County Divisions also proved successful, with LCA engaging in outreach at long-term care homes through historic images, and partnering with the County of Lambton Public Works Department to highlight the history of the Bear Creek Bridge, which was replaced in 2019. Other community research, exhibit and program partnerships include Enbridge (redevelopment of the Oil & Gas Exhibition at OMC), Grand Bend Community Health - Walking Group, Lambton Shores Nature Trail Committee, Paint Ontario, Grand Bend Studio Tour, Sunset Arts Gallery, the Ontario Genealogical Society, Sarnia Heritage Committee, and the Sarnia Historical Society.

Inter-departmental collaboration was also strong in 2019. Lambton County Library coordinated the *Take Your Shot* youth photography competition, which culminated in an exhibition of works at the JNAAG, and also worked with LHM to coordinate a writing competition to compliment the *Canada's Waterscapes* exhibition. Copies of unidentified photos from the LCA collection, known as *X-files*, were also distributed to libraries across Lambton to tap into the collective memory of library patrons.

Partnerships In Learning

From engaging the expertise of academics and artists, to developing opportunities for student internships, the Division fostered relationships with cultural professionals and educational institutions to build its capacity.

In 2019, the JNAAG hosted its first curatorial intern placement with Western University's School for Advanced Studies in the Arts & Humanities Experiential Learning program. The internship was 240 hours and gained the student a full university credit. The placement was focused on curatorial research and exhibition development and honed the student's research, presentation and critical thinking skills in a gallery environment. Ongoing mentorship and participation in artistic planning meetings offered insight into the process of exhibition development and how exhibitions can be complimented through program development and social media.

The gallery, archives and museums also benefited from strong financial support for summer student placements offered through the Young Canada Works (YCW) and Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) programs (\$38,497 from YCW and \$16,967 from CSJ).

New Horizons for Seniors Project

In 2019, the JNAAG was successful in securing a \$25,000 grant through the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) offered by the Ministry of Employment and Social Development.

The funding supported the development and delivery of an intensive staff and volunteer training program to support meaningful experiences at the gallery for seniors living with dementia, youth with special needs, individuals with disabilities, and provide safe spaces for at-risk teens and all visitors. The program also supported accessibility improvements at the JNAAG for seniors and people with disabilities through the purchase of appropriate furniture for public spaces.

Grand Bend Farmers' Market

In 2019, LHM supported the relocation of the popular Grand Bend Farmers' Market to the 30 acre museum property to enhance the offerings of the site. Every Wednesday from May to October, local residents and visitors can now visit the Market in its new location in the Museum parking lot, to support local farmers and purchase fresh fruit, vegetables and preserves.

Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces



Boneta Hefford, Branch Assistant - Outreach, delivers library materials to long term care homes



Thanks to a generous financial contribution from Stuart Lorrimer of Goodison Industries in 2019, LHM was able to undertake important conservation work on a 1923 Goodison traction steam engine in its collection.

The Cultural Services Division strategically manages and strengthens Lambton County's collections and associated research, developing and enhancing the important museum, gallery and library collections entrusted to the County over the past century.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

The Libraries Department began work on a large undertaking to introduce RFID to Lambton County Library. RFID involves the placement of radio frequency ID tags in materials, and is used to check materials in and out of the library simply by placing items on an RFID reader. That reader is able to electronically gather the barcode numbers of the materials programmed into the ID tags and check out or check in the associated titles on the patron record.

The implementation of RFID will improve inventory management, enhance theft prevention, reduce staff time spent handling materials, and provide the infrastructure necessary to pursue self-service options in the future.

In 2019, library staff prepared materials in 20 locations for RFID. In 2020, the balance of the library's collection will be prepared and the system will be ready for use by the summer months.

Collections Management

The Division is committed to enhancing knowledge of the collection through research, publication and collection database development.

In 2019, JNAAG staff completed the first phase of a collections audit with the support of the Michael Gibson Gallery. The audit included an appraisal of a significant portion of the permanent collection. In total, 623 works (including many of the most valuable works in the collection) were reviewed with a combined appraised value of over \$29M. Six hundred works remain to be appraised. The findings of this initial review point to the significant value of the gallery's Canadian historical and contemporary art collection.

Staff continue to digitize the collections of the museums and gallery using collections management software that provides a framework for collections organization, management of loans and condition reporting, and enhanced capabilities of sharing collections information online. In 2019 considerable resources were also dedicated



Library Technician Michelle Tamming provides training on equipment at the Makerspace in Sarnia Library



Collections Coordinator Holly Morgan cares for items in open storage at the Walden & Eisenbach Collections Centre, LHM



Collections Preparator Shelly Mallon provides Vault tours at JNAAG as part of Doors Open Lambton

to addressing the backlog of cataloguing and digitization work with electronic catalogue records created through summer student placements at LHM, and ongoing database management work at LCA, OMC and JNAAG.

Conservation Work

Several important conservation projects were undertaken in 2019 in partnership with expert services in order to preserve significant community artifacts for future generations, and make them suitable for public exhibition. Of particular importance was the conservation work supported through a generous donation made by Stuart Lorrman of Goodison Industries. Thanks to this donation, a 1923 Goodison traction steam engine that is part of the LHM collection underwent conservation to repair corrosion of the boiler. The boiler was fully restored, making this significant piece of Lambton's agricultural heritage operational once again.

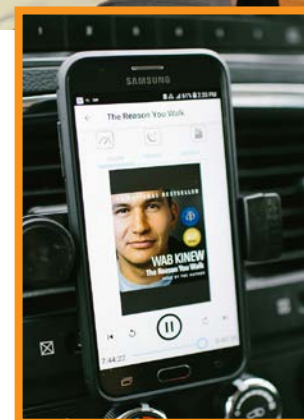
Acquisitions

In 2019, approximately 125 collections of artifacts were donated to the archives and museum sites, representing hundreds of individual archival documents, photographs and objects that serve to interpret Lambton's rich history.

The library collections also continued to evolve to respond to the needs and interest of the community, with 4,109 new Overdrive and Cloud Library titles (digital eBooks, audiobooks, streaming video and periodicals) added to the e-library collection. Further, 11,661 new titles were put in circulation in the libraries (28,890 total new items), and 3,010 interlibrary loans were handled (1,522 of which were items brought in to satisfy Lambton County Library patrons, while the balance were shared with other library systems in Ontario). Lambton County Library also subscribes to databases (i.e Pressreader, Freegal, Hoopla, Tumblebooks, RBDigital) that give patrons convenient access to millions of digital titles online.

One Book Lambton

In 2019, Lambton County Library partnered with The Book Keeper, Sarnia, to launch *One Book Lambton* - a program designed to unite people from across the County through one book, Wab Kinew's *The Reason You Walk*. As part of the launch event, residents were encouraged by the author through a personalized video message, inviting Lambton to read the book and engage in the various activities being coordinated by Lambton County Library.



Above: Community Library Supervisor Greer Macdonell (right) at the One Book Lambton launch. The goal of the program is to unite people from around Lambton County through one book. People are encouraged to read the same selected book, Wab Kinew's *The Reason You Walk*, and engage in various activities to highlight its themes.



Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Our Profile



John Summers of Halton Heritage Services delivers a presentation at the interpretive text panel writing workshop, OMC



Assistant Library Supervisor Vanitia Campbell (left) and Library Technician Danielle Bettridge (right) join Kettle & Stony Point First Nation's Education Administrator Beverly Bressette (centre) to mark First Nations Public Library Week

The Cultural Services Division endeavours to pursue opportunities that raise our profile at the provincial, national and international level, while maximizing our ability to contribute to the cultural, social and economic vitality of Lambton County.

Creative County Grant Program

Part of this commitment involves serving as a resource to cultural stakeholders in the community and administering the Creative County Grant Program. In 2019, a total of 21 projects were approved, representing an investment of \$71,880 in support of new cultural initiatives across Lambton County that contribute to the quality of life and promote a sense of cultural identity and pride. It is estimated that this funding will leverage \$295,237 in local cultural investment by applicant organizations and their respective partners in 2020. Events such as a music festival, historical murals, artist workshops, heritage publications and signage, and culinary programming were among the many supported activities. These investments recognize creativity, culture and quality of place



OMC Curator/Supervisor Erin Dee-Richard curates an outreach exhibit at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

as fundamental to building a sustainable, prosperous and diversified economy in Lambton County and providing a superior quality of life for residents.

Professional Development

For the first time in its history, the Cultural Services Division coordinated a full day training program with all staff from libraries, museums, archives and the gallery participating. Topics explored include strategic planning, customer service and team building.

Libraries increasingly serve as a social safety net for the community's most marginalized citizens, and 2019 staff training reflected this emerging role. Through a *Bridges Out of Poverty* session and online training based upon *The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness*, staff were provided with tools to build their communication skills and adopt an empathy driven approach to solving problems and preventing conflict.

In 2019, JNAAG engaged Jessica Ruhle, Director of Education for the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University to lead dementia based training program with gallery staff and volunteers. In the museums, individual staff training focused on collections management, exhibition lighting, energy sustainability and community engagement.



Library Technician Beau Driedger showcases Sarnia Library's accessible concrete entry completed by City of Sarnia

Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively

As a guiding principle, the Cultural Services Division ensures the most efficient and effective use of County resources, and strives for continuous innovation in addressing the needs of the community.

Community Needs Analysis

In 2019, the County engaged the services of a third party polling firm to conduct a survey to determine community needs and gauge public attitudes toward the cultural services offered by the Division. Probe Research Inc. gathered data from a random sample of 1,000 Lambton County residents through a telephone survey, as well as over 1,300 completed online surveys and six focus group sessions with users and non-users.

The survey revealed that residents have a high regard for the cultural amenities operated by the County, and have very positive feelings regarding how these services enrich the quality of life for residents. Overall, 90 percent of survey respondents indicated that the libraries, museums and gallery provide good value to all citizens. The data collected will inform decision-making as Council embarks on a new strategic and operational plan for Culture in 2020.

Asset Renewal

In 2019, the renovation of the 27 year old Lambton County Archives and Library Headquarters facility took place over a four month period. The renovation enhanced the facility's accessibility (universal washroom, reconstructed entrance ramp), upgraded outdated infrastructure (HVAC system, collapsed sewer drain) and renewed and modernized the space to match current workflow processes (LED lighting, flooring replacement, reconfiguration of work spaces).

Over the months of July and August, the Division also undertook a cosmetic renovation of the Sarnia Library Theatre in an effort to enhance the facility's accessibility and visitor experience. Now, visitors to the theatre will enjoy larger seats, lighted aisles, and increased spacing between rows. The ability to add up to six barrier-free seats in the theatre is also now possible. In addition to the seating changes, the renovation also resulted in a fresh coat of paint, new flooring, and the replacement of lighting fixtures inside the theatre.

Other asset renewal projects included the replacement of the aging roof at OMC, the purchase of a mobile library service vehicle to replace the 1995 bookmobile, a full septic system replacement and parking lot design at LHM.



Roof replacement at Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site



New carpet, painting, seating, integrated aisle lighting, accessible seating and house lighting installed at the Sarnia Library Theatre



Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

147 Lochiel Street
Sarnia, ON
N7T 0B4
519-336-8127
www.jnaag.ca

Lambton Heritage Museum

10035 Museum Road
Grand Bend, ON
NOM 1T0
519-243-2600
www.heritagemuseum.ca

Lambton County Library Headquarters

787 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON
NON 1T0
519-845-3324
www.lclibrary.ca

Lambton County Archives

787 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON
NON 1T0
519-845-5426
www.lambtonarchives.ca

Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site

2423 Kelly Road
Oil Springs, ON
NON 1P0
519-834-2840
www.oilmuseum.ca



BACK COVER IMAGES: Clockwise from top left - Community Living Job Path Sector workshop at the JNAAG, visitors explore the grounds at LHM during the *Fall Colour & Craft Festival*, Branch Assistant Treena Bourdage leads a PD Day LEGO program at Corunna Library, and young library patrons participate in seed library programming at Camlachie Library.