



# CULTURAL SERVICES

## 2021 Annual Report



# Cultural Services Division

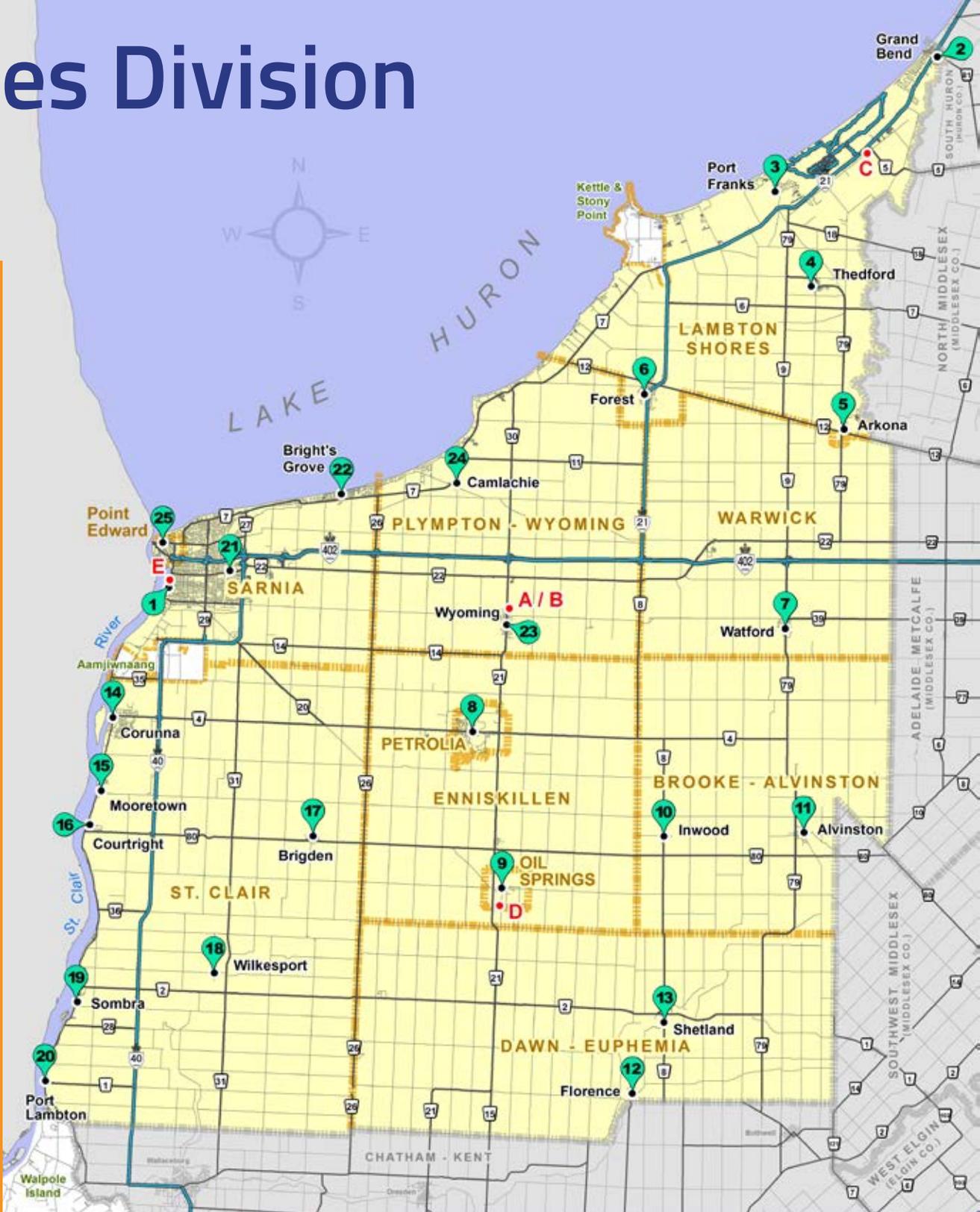
## OVERVIEW MAP



Sarnia Library and Theatre, 124 Christina Street South, Sarnia.

ID	LOCATION	WEBSITE	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS
A	Library Headquarters	<a href="http://www.lclibrary.ca">www.lclibrary.ca</a>	519-845-3324	787 Broadway Street
B	Lambton County Archives	<a href="http://www.lambtonarchives.ca">www.lambtonarchives.ca</a>	519-845-5426	787 Broadway Street
C	Lambton Heritage Museum	<a href="http://www.heritagemuseum.ca">www.heritagemuseum.ca</a>	519-243-2600	10035 Museum Road
D	Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site	<a href="http://www.oilmuseum.ca">www.oilmuseum.ca</a>	519-834-2840	2423 Kelly Road
E	Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery	<a href="http://www.jnaag.ca">www.jnaag.ca</a>	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	Theford 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
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
Region 4	13	Shetland Library	519-695-3330	1279 Shetland Road	Dawn-Euphemia
	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



Workers apply a waterproofing membrane to the foundation wall of the Oil Museum of Canada as part of extensive renovations in 2021.



Artists of Z'otz\* Collective participate in a video lecture at the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery as part of the gallery's virtual programs.



Amanda Knight, Online Marketing Coordinator, welcomes patrons back to the library, and reminds them to bring a face mask, their library card, and personal headphones for public computer use.

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# Cultural Services Division Profile



SS Greenhouses staff install the finish landscaping outside of the renovated Oil Museum of Canada facility.



Public access to libraries for curbside pickup service, in-person browsing and scheduled computer use, Wi-Fi use and academic research resumed in September at all 25 locations with COVID-19 restrictions in place.



One Book Lambton, an initiative aimed to unite people around Lambton County by reading the same book, returned for another year with the raw and affecting memoir *My Mother's Daughter* by Perdita Felicien.

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, provides courier service to all County Divisions and several partner agencies (Tourism Sarnia-Lambton and Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership), and operates a mobile library outreach service. Services offered to its over 30,000 active card holders 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.



Archivist Nicole Aszalos flips through a back file of the Sarnia Observer collection at the Lambton County Archives, Wyoming.



Sarnia Library Theatre reopened to the public following the provincial Stay at Home order, with occupancy and safety requirements in place.



View of the immersive video installation by artist Susan Dobson, featured as part of the exhibition *Focus Finder* at the JNAAG.

## 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

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 six 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 Sarnia Library Theatre, which features special Cultural Services Division programming and also plays host to many events by community organizations and cultural groups. With a capacity of over 300 and state of the art 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. In 2021, the County encouraged projects led by or in partnership with Indigenous communities.

*Below:* Warden Kevin Marriott tours the Walden & Eisenbach Collections Centre at the Lambton Heritage Museum.



# Enhancing Access, Visibility & Community Engagement



Fire Chief Jay Arns from the Petrolia & North Enniskillen Fire Department led an Online Hero Storytime about adapting to change.



Libraries partnered with Lambton Public Health to make it easier for residents to obtain consent forms and copies of vaccination receipts. Above, Community Librarian Jason Andrews provides consent forms to a patron using curbside service at Sarnia Library.



Marlene (Murphy) Dally attended a Lambton Public Health vaccination clinic, and was surprised to find herself on one of the Lambton County Archives outreach posters featuring a photograph from 1957, where she was captured receiving her flu shot at Sarnia General Hospital.

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.

In December 2020, a province-wide shutdown was announced with additional restrictions imposed to minimize transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Community access to cultural services was significantly disrupted. Based on the sector-specific restrictions, Lambton County Library locations were permitted to offer contactless curbside pickup only. All in-person appointments for public computer use, Wi-Fi access and academic research were suspended. The Sarnia Library Theatre was permitted to open for the purpose of rehearsing or performing a recorded or broadcasted performance only, with no audience access. The museums, gallery and archives were ordered closed to the public effective Saturday, December 26, 2020. During the prolonged shutdown from January through April, the Division shifted its staff resources to maintain community access to important services, while also strengthening engagement with enhanced content for online audiences.

## Library Curbside Pickup & Online Programs

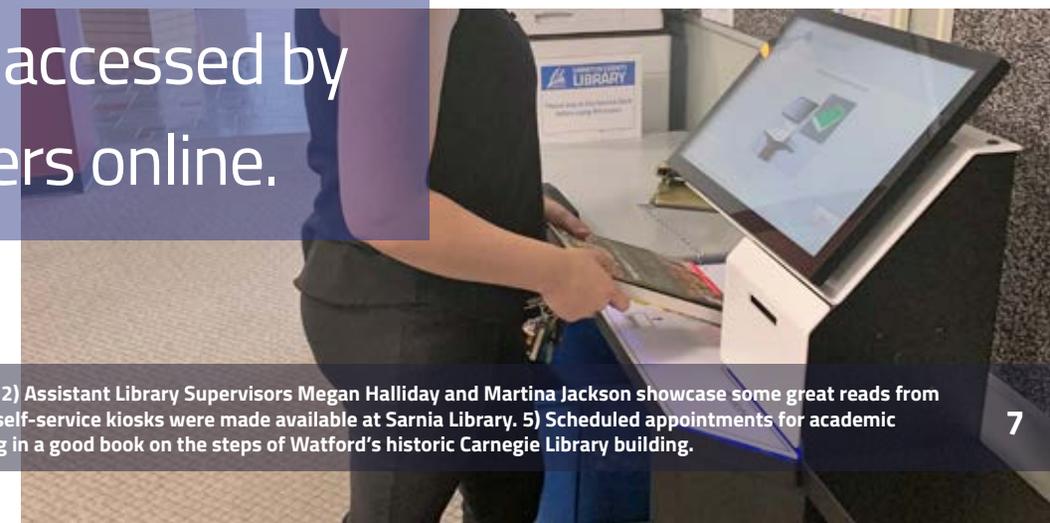
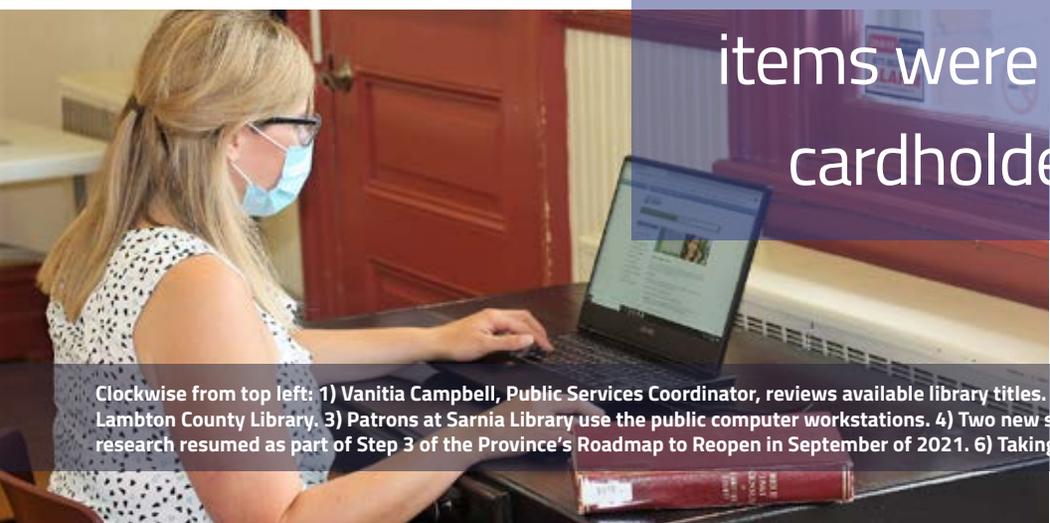
During the shutdown period from January through April, Lambton County Library continued to offer contactless curbside pickup at 16 locations, ensuring at least one curbside pickup option in each municipality across Lambton. In these four months, library staff served 3,681 unique patrons, who borrowed 50,593 items during 19,980 visits at these 16 locations. Throughout the shutdown and for the balance of 2021, Lambton County Library continued to expand virtual programming and online engagement by offering virtual Winter and Summer Reading Programs, Online Storytime and Do It Yourself activities for children and adults. In 2021, Lambton County Library staff delivered 862 virtual programs to 11,659 program participants.

## Cultural Facilities Reopen Safely

The lifting of restrictions by the Province under its Roadmap to Reopening allowed for public access and services within Lambton's libraries, theatre, museums, archives and gallery to resume starting in August, 2021. Public health and workplace safety measures continued to apply, including capacity limits, the wearing of face coverings, physical distancing, and access by scheduled appointment. The 16 library locations offering contactless curbside pickup opened for in-person browsing, Wi-Fi use and academic research, as well as public computer use by appointment.



In 2021, **244,730** physical items were loaned through in-person service and curbside pickup to **8,462** unique Lambton County Library patrons, and **420,821** e-service items were accessed by cardholders online.



Clockwise from top left: 1) Vanitia Campbell, Public Services Coordinator, reviews available library titles. 2) Assistant Library Supervisors Megan Halliday and Martina Jackson showcase some great reads from Lambton County Library. 3) Patrons at Sarnia Library use the public computer workstations. 4) Two new self-service kiosks were made available at Sarnia Library. 5) Scheduled appointments for academic research resumed as part of Step 3 of the Province's Roadmap to Reopen in September of 2021. 6) Taking in a good book on the steps of Watford's historic Carnegie Library building.



Despite pandemic restrictions and closures



for construction, JNAAG, Lambton Heritage Museum, Oil Museum of Canada, and Lambton County Archives



safely welcomed **8,753** visitors

between September and December.



Clockwise from top left: 1) Ellen Lee and her family stand in front of her ancestral home in Enniskillen, which she has researched extensively at LCA. 2) Tom Taylor and his band Taylor Made Dixie entertain visitors to Paint Ontario at LHM. 3) Visitors experience the exhibition *Facing North* by artist Jean Hay at the JNAAG. 4) Visitors inspect a Canadian Rig model at OMC. 5) North Lambton Secondary School students visit the *Nnigiwemin / We Are Going Home* exhibit at LHM. 6) Staff install the exhibit *An Abridged Sonic History of Global Conflict* by artist Lee Henderson at the JNAAG in anticipation of reopening to the public in August.



Branch Assistant Leena Bourne leads a virtual Family Storytime from Petrolia Library as part of the library's online programs.



Artist Susan Dobson and JNAAG Curator Sonya Blazek provide a virtual tour of *Focus Finder* to students of Guelph University.



Students at Northern Collegiate Institute produced three designs for an interactive display on 'Simple Machines' to be featured at OMC.

Sarnia Library Theatre also reopened for performances with live audiences in August, with capacity limits and COVID-19 restrictions in place. By the first week of September, all 25 Lambton County Library locations reopened. In 2021, the libraries supported 3,753 public computer use appointments, and circulated 244,730 physical items.

In August, LHM reopened featuring two new exhibits, *Nnigiiwemin / We Are Going Home* and the *North Lambton Quilter's Guild Show*. JNAAG reopened with two new exhibitions as well: *An Abridged Sonic History of Global Conflict* by contemporary artist Lee Henderson, and *Focus Finder* by contemporary photo-based artist Susan Dobson. In September, LHM welcomed visitors to the *Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale*, and in October, the gallery opened a third offering, with an exhibition of works by artist Jean Hay entitled *Facing North*, curated in partnership with the Thames Art Gallery.

### Vaccination Consent Forms & Receipts

In March of 2021, Lambton County Library partnered with Lambton Public Health to offer printed copies of the COVID-19 Vaccine Screening and Consent form at no cost for anyone without access to a printer. Completing this form before a scheduled

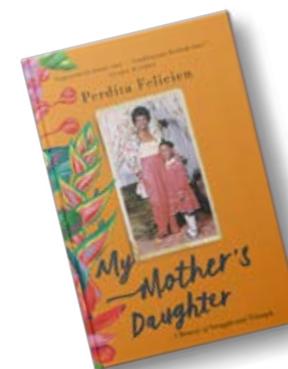
vaccine appointment helped create a faster, more efficient experience at the immunization clinic. Following the announcement of the new vaccine passport policy by the Ontario Government in September, the same support was provided to offer assistance to residents in accessing printed copies of vaccine receipts at no cost. In an effort to remove barriers to proof of vaccination, Library staff provided free technical support to members of the public trying to source their vaccination information. Between September and December, 1,946 copies of vaccination receipts were downloaded and printed by library patrons.

### Library eServices

Demand for Library eService offerings remained strong throughout the fluctuations in public access, supporting at-home education as well as the leisure and cultural needs of residents while they stayed at home as much as possible. The library's electronic circulation exceeded even 2020 usage (the highest ever), with over 420,821 e-service items (digital books, newspapers, magazines, audio books, music, movies, etc.) accessed in 2021. Electronic materials accounted for approximately 56% of the total annual circulation (physical and electronic) in 2021, providing library users with a safe alternative to in-person browsing in the face of pandemic

### One Book Lambton

One Book Lambton, an initiative aimed to unite people around Lambton County by reading the same book, returned in 2021 with a raw and affecting memoir. Lambton County Library selected *My Mother's Daughter* by author and retired world champion hurdler Perdita Felicien. *My Mother's Daughter* is a memoir about the power of a parent's love to transform their child's life. Before achieving fame and success, Perdita and her mother Catherine would experience racism, domestic abuse, and even homelessness, but Catherine's will would always pull them through. Starting in January 2022, One Book Lambton will be hosting various programs and events that explore themes of the book, culminating in an Author Talk in April where Felicien will discuss the book and her experiences as an author.



Author Perdita Felicien.

# Creating & Delivering Great Experiences



Preparators Matthew Rossoni and Tim Churchill install an interactive jerker line model as part of the new Oil Museum of Canada exhibition.



Rachell Cornell, X-Ray Technologist, participates in the Hero Storytime virtual program in July. Rachell read "Franklin Goes to the Hospital" by Paulette Bourgeois, and spoke about how she had to adapt in her job as an X-Ray Technologist as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

In response to the province-wide shutdown announced in December 2020, Division staff adapted to virtual library, museum, archives and gallery programming to make services available as much as possible from home. With the lifting of restrictions under the Provincial Roadmap to Reopening, limited in-person access to cultural facilities resumed starting in August with public health measures in place.

## Library Online Activities

Lambton County Library offered new online programs with a focus on literacy for children as part of its Winter Reading Program *Bundle Up With A Book*. The program was designed to encourage kids across Lambton County to read and participate in literacy activities throughout the winter months, with a chance to win prizes. In July and August, the popular Summer Reading

Program returned with the theme *Every Hero Has A Story*. A total of 998 participants of all ages were encouraged to recognize the hero within everyone, engage their imaginations, and create. Participants could set reading goals, and report how many books they read weekly for a chance to win prizes. The program also featured DIY activities, scavenger hunts, a weekly online photo challenge and *Online Hero Storytimes* where participants could join a local hero as they read their favourite stories and talked about their work that makes a difference to residents of Lambton County.

Library card holders looking to sharpen their skills while at home were able to access free online learning and professional development courses through platforms like Lynda and Gale Courses available on the library website. In 2021, there were 194 active LinkedIn Learning users and 902 enrollments in Gale Courses by library patrons who accessed these instructor-led tutorials to help achieve personal and professional goals.

## Museums, Gallery & Archives Programs

The museums, gallery and archives staff also maintained audiences virtually through a series of virtual programs on topics of artistic and historical interest in collaboration with Heritage Sarnia-Lambton and other community partners. These presentations were offered live via Zoom on topics such as haunting histories, calamities and criminal



A series of photographs of Lake Huron form part of the exhibition *Focus Finder* by artist Susan Dobson at the JNAAG.



The annual *Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival* drew approximately 3,500 people to LHM from October 16-17.



Public computer use by scheduled appointment resumed as part of Step 3 of the Province's Roadmap to Reopen in September of 2021.

history in Lambton, the history of photography, how to research your property, the importance of biodiversity, pollinators, and invasive species, war remembrance, the history of the Canatara cabin, and early settlement in Enniskillen. The gallery also led an *Art & Ideas* series, and continued its *Inspirational Moments* adult classes offered in partnership with the Sarnia Lambton Alzheimer Society. In total, these 37 museums, gallery and archives virtual programs and panel presentations attracted 3,083 total views (live and post event on the YouTube channel).

### Virtual Education & Live Sessions

After overwhelming interest in the "Make Art Kit" at-home fine art program (1,023 distributed in 2021), the JNAAG released a Virtual Learning Unit for the classroom in partnership with the Lambton Kent District School Board. Each Virtual Learning Unit offers a series of art based learning experiences, artist interviews, viewing exercises and a variety of hands-on art making activities made accessible online. In 2021, OMC and LHM also worked to improve educational reach, offering both live and recorded learning opportunities to educators. Museum staff offered a museum educator in the classroom through live sessions, as well as pre-recorded lessons with interactive slides, videos, and activities linked

to the Ontario curriculum. The museums saw 214 classrooms and 5,481 students engaged through live virtual learning sessions across over 20 school boards in Ontario and Alberta. For recorded learning sessions, OMC saw 3,466 school engagements with its interactive sessions, and an additional 496 with its French language sessions. For her work in initiating the virtual learning model for the Division, Christina Sydorko, Educational Program Coordinator at OMC, was awarded the Lambton County Innovation Award, and was also recognized with an Award of Excellence in Programs from the Ontario Museum Association.

### Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry Library Edition provides access to billions of historical documents and is a popular resource for people interested in researching their family histories. While this online resource is typically available only while on-site at library locations and LCA, the resource was extended in 2021 to provide at-home virtual access while cultural sites were closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From January to December, Lambton County Library supported 69,887 Ancestry Library Edition searches by patrons. The LCA also coordinated virtual workshops to help patrons build their family history research.

### Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival

Families have been coming to the Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival to shop and enjoy the fall canopy of the museum's beautiful oak forest for over thirty years. The event is LHM's largest fundraiser. After canceling the festival in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions related to public gatherings, LHM was able to proceed with the Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival from October 16-17, 2021. The two-day event featured over 70 vendors and drew approximately 3,758 visitors to the museum grounds, raising over \$20,000 in fundraising support for the museum.

### Museums, Gallery & Archives Attendance

While visitor traffic was limited due to the prolonged Stay at Home Order, LHM drew 7,476 visitors between August and December following the reopening of cultural facilities. The JNAAG welcomed over 1,024 visitors in the same period, while the LCA continued to support 503 in-person and virtual genealogical and local history requests from researchers in 2021. OMC remained closed to the public to accommodate extensive renovations, but maintained engagement virtually through virtual program offerings and regular social media updates on the status of construction.

# Developing Partnerships That Increase Community Involvement & Support



Canatara Cabin restoration committee volunteers stand with a plaque marking the build site at LHM.



Chief Jason Henry, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, leads a drum ceremony to mark the opening of *Nnigiwemin / We Are Going Home*. The exhibit examined the relationship between colonialism and the loss of land by the Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, and was co-curated by Summer Bressette and Monica Virtue with illustrations by Bridget George.

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.

## Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale

From September 3-26, LHM hosted the 25th annual Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale in partnership with the Grand Bend Art Centre. Over 200 original paintings filled the exhibition hall at the museum, bringing to life the beauty, character, and diversity of Ontario. This year featured live artist demonstrations and musical performances on the museum grounds, with social distancing precautions for visitors.

A timed-ticket entry system was also in place again this year to maintain capacity limits, with visitors booking their appointment in advance. Despite these limitations, the exhibition drew over 2,560 visitors to LHM and experienced nearly \$100,000 in art sales, with proceeds supporting arts initiatives through the Grand Bend Art Centre.

## Northern Collegiate Students Design Interactive Displays for OMC

Grade 12 Design and Technology students from Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational School developed scaled designs of interactive displays for the Oil Museum of Canada, National Historic Site. Over a three week period, the students worked to plan and prepare scale models of the interactive displays. The process consisted of developing preliminary design sketches and concepts, working drawings and a small scale model of their proposed concept. The students' work will be brought to life in the exhibition space when the museum reopens in 2022.

## Name the Bear Contest

With the sightings of a large black bear, or *mukwa*, in Lambton County during the summer of 2021, LHM launched a "Name The Bear" contest on social media, which generated over 350 contest entries with many very symbolic name suggestions. Most of the submissions were in Anishinabemowin, demonstrating appreciation and respect for the majestic animal. The winning name was "Benjamin Mawinzo", submitted by local resident Chris Harrington. The surname, "Mawinzo", roughly translates as "she/he picks berries". The idea for the naming contest came from Red George, Indigenous artist, designer, researcher, and filmmaker.

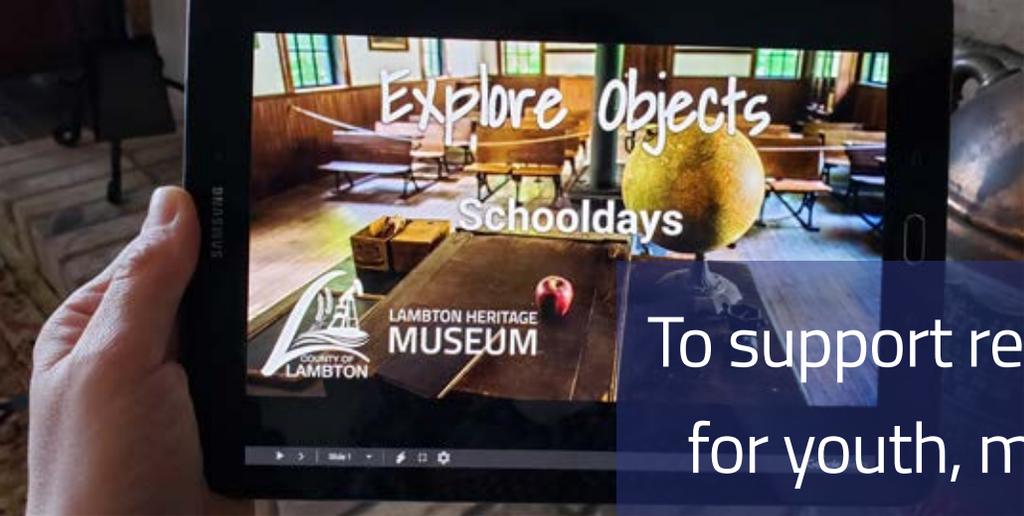


# The annual **Paint Ontario** Exhibition & Sale

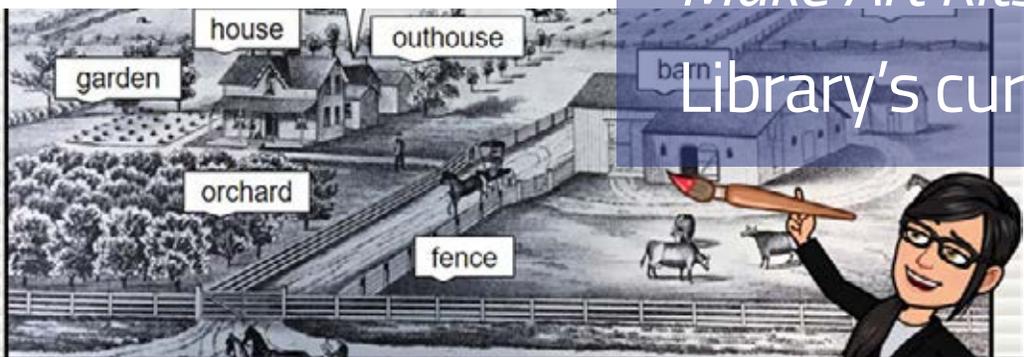
attracted over **2,560** visitors to Lambton Heritage Museum from September 3-26, and raised nearly **\$100,000** in sales to support

artists and local cultural initiatives led by the Grand Bend Arts Centre.

Clockwise from top left: 1) Artist Moumita Roychowdhury demonstrates the art of 'plein air' painting. 2) Grand prize winning artist John Lightfoot stands next to one of his two Sponsor's Choice award winning paintings. 3) Artist Red George leads a painting demonstration on September 23rd. 4) "Feeling The Spirit: Killarney" by artist Mary Anne Dente, Sponsor's Choice, Randi & Cam Ivey. 5) Live music enhanced the Paint Ontario experience. 6) Visitors tour the works on display, including the new sculpture feature.



To support remote learning for youth, museum staff engaged **5,481** students in **214** classes through live education programs, and the JNAAG distributed **1,023** *Make Art Kits* through the Library's curbside pickup.



Clockwise from top left: 1) Links to historical objects and photographs from the LHM collection are made available online through the Interactive School Days activity. 2) OMC Educational Program Coordinator Christina Sydorko is recognized with an Award of Excellence in Programs from the Ontario Museum Association. 3) Summer student staff at LHM research and develop virtual tours for the museum sites. 4) Staff demonstrate one of the JNAAG Make Art Kit projects distributed through the Lambton County Library contactless curbside pickup service. 5) Screen capture from a LHM interactive lesson, which feature interactive slides, videos, and activities tied to the Ontario curriculum. 6) Educational Program Coordinator Colleen Inglis brings the museum to the classroom virtually through live sessions at LHM.



The second floor of the JNAAG is lit up orange to mark The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation on September 30th.



Archivist Nicole Aszalos and Don Vander Kloek of the Lambton Concert Band install an exhibit on community concert bands at Sarnia Library.



Photographs of past community immunization efforts from the Archives line the pods at the Point Edward mass immunization clinic.

## Ontario Parks Pass

In 2021, Lambton County Library offered Seasonal Day-Use Permits for Ontario Parks on loan to its cardholders. The seasonal day-use permits provided borrowers with unlimited daily vehicle entry for one vehicle plus all its passengers at any Ontario Provincial Park, including the Pinery Provincial Park. Permits included a vehicle permit that could be borrowed for a period of seven days, a \$5 day-use coupon for future regular day-use and a Parks Guide. In total, Lambton County Library loaned out 561 Ontario Parks Passes between January and November 2021.

## Young Canuckstorian Project

LCA collaborated in 2021 with local historical societies and author and illustrator Mickey Maple, whose alter ego is Mike Collier, a recent Premier's Award Nominee from Lambton College. Over a six month period, the Project Team assisted young writers, deemed "Canuckstorians" to research and write scripts for 20 animated videos celebrating local community leaders from the past entitled *Hometown Heroes*. Each two minute video features animated versions of the Young Canuckstorians who share fascinating local stories. Some of the spotlighted community leaders include: Sadie Knowles, Roy Caley, Doc

Dougall, and Deo Suzuki, among others. The productions raise awareness and visibility for the historical societies, and also serve as a social studies curriculum resource for Lambton Kent District School Board.

## History of Community Concert Bands

In 2021, Lambton County Archives worked in partnership with the Lambton Concert Band to develop a new outreach exhibit, *History of Community Concert Bands in Lambton County*. The exhibit is featured in the theatre lobby exhibit space on the second floor of the Sarnia Library Theatre. The exhibit includes historical information, band artifacts, and music from many local community concert bands across Lambton County.

## Entrepreneurship 101 Seminars

Lambton County Library partnered with the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) in the fall of 2021 to provide Entrepreneurship 101 seminars that focused on the free services available to small businesses and entrepreneurs in Lambton County. The seminars promoted the diverse range of free resources available at local libraries, and connected local entrepreneurs starting their own business with the expertise of SLEP's Business Enterprise Centre.

## Save the Canatara Cabin

The "Save the Canatara Cabin" volunteer group made a commitment to raising the estimated \$100,000 required to restore the cabin when it was relocated to LHM in late 2020. To date, the volunteer group has successfully raised over \$32,000 with the support of the museum. In 2021, the group engaged an architect to prepare drawings for the rebuild of the cabin by a restoration professional. The group is hopeful that plans will be completed in early spring of 2022, with the restoration commencing later in the year, subject to the success of their fundraising efforts.

## Nnigiwemin / We are Going Home

In 2021, LHM hosted an exhibit co-curated by Summer Bressette and Monica Virtue, with illustrations by Bridget George. *Nnigiwemin / We Are Going Home* examined the relationship between colonialism and the loss of land by the Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation. A response to the 25th anniversary of the "Ipperwash Crisis" of 1995, this exhibit introduced the concept of Chi-Naakinigewin, or Natural Law as a driving force for land and water protection. Using interviews, maps, moving images, soundscapes, and wampum, it illustrated the relationship between people, land, and Anishinaabeg Nationhood.

# Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces



Student employees worked over the summer months to research and design virtual tours of OMC using a 360-degree camera.

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.

## Sharing Collections with the World

The painting *The Lumberjack (le Bucheron)* by Edwin Holgate was loaned from the JNAAG permanent collection in 2021 to be featured as part of the *Magnetic North* exhibition at the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt, Germany. Featuring some 80 paintings and 40 sketches, as well as photographs, films, and documentary material, the exhibition was organized in cooperation with the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. *Magnetic North* examines and critically reviews the works by the Group of Seven and their contemporaries.

In October, the exhibition *Magnetic North* travelled from Frankfurt Germany to the Kunsthalle Rotterdam, Netherlands and will be on display there until January 2022.

In a separate loan arrangement, the painting *Chill November* by Tom Thomson was also shared with a broader audience. In 2021-2022, *Chill November* is being featured as part of an exhibition entitled, *Tom Thomson? The Art of Authentication* organized by the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

## Museum, Gallery & Archives Online

Residents were also encouraged to visit the JNAAG, LHM, LCA and OMC online and through social media channels to discover regular features on highlights from the permanent collections and stories about the people, places and events that have shaped the fascinating history of Lambton County.

Virtual tours also facilitated access for many patrons who were unable to visit, with fully interactive 360 degree virtual tours of museums and gallery exhibits created by staff. Summer student staff at LHM were also engaged to research and develop virtual tours of the historic buildings featured on the grounds of OMC and LHM. These tours are featured online and include research on each structure as well as feature items from the collections on display, providing a record of past exhibitions so that they can be enjoyed beyond the exhibition period.

Online exhibits, heritage highlights, blog articles and educational videos also provided engaging



*The Lumberjack* by Edwin Holgate is being carefully examined by the conservator at the Art Gallery of Ontario, accompanied by Shelly Mallon, JNAAG Collections/Preparator (left). The conservator is ensuring the painting is stable enough to travel before being loaned to the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt in Germany as part of the exhibition *Magnetic North*.



Museums, Gallery & Archives Department staff install an oil wagon as part of the new exhibition at the Oil Museum of Canada.



Kyle Workman, Courier Driver/Maintenance Worker, delivers library materials in one of the courier vans with recently updated branding.



New exterior signage with Lambton County Library and municipal partner branding installed at the Alvinston Library.

content for heritage enthusiasts. The OMC Drilling Deeper video series, a collection of 15 educational episodes hosted by museum staff on the history of the oil industry, attracted 3,448 views on the museum's YouTube channel.

In 2021, the gallery produced social media content for 5,147 followers on Facebook, 766 followers on Twitter, and 1,297 followers on Instagram. The archives and museums reached over 7,849 followers on Facebook (collectively) with fascinating research, historic photographs, and regular artifact features from the collections. The museums also reached 1,079 followers on Twitter, and experienced 135,436 visits to the museum's websites in the same period.

## Library Collections Management

With increased demand on eLibrary services, the library continued to expand its electronic collections in 2021, with 6,410 new Overdrive titles and 348 new CloudLibrary titles (digital eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming video and periodicals) added to the collection. The library also continued to subscribe to databases to give the library's 30,549 active card holders convenient access to millions of titles online to pursue their areas of interest.

Lambton County Library continued to purchase new titles as part of the management of its physical collection. In 2021, 27,001 new titles (10,794 total new items) were added to the library's physical collection, that amounts to 194,738 items across 25 library locations. Traditional material circulation, the borrowing of physical items, reached 334,249 items in 2021.

In 2021, users of Lambton County Library's e-services were able to access the digital magazine collection through the Libby app, instead of the RBDigital app. By transitioning to the Libby app, users now have access to over 3,000 popular magazine titles. Using a Lambton County Library card, magazines can be downloaded for free on any device 24/7.

In an effort to promote the resources, programs and services available, Lambton County Library also increased its social media presence in 2021 to 2,543 Facebook followers, and 882 Twitter followers, and saw website traffic of 435,799 views in 2021.

## LHM Exhibit Renewal

Exhibit renewal emerged as a key overarching theme of the 2019 Community Needs Analysis, with community members and stakeholders emphasizing the importance

of updating older displays and developing more interactive and dynamic exhibits that celebrate the County's rich heritage and stories. In response to this priority, the Division engaged 17/21 Architects Inc. through a public tender process in May of 2021 to undertake a complete redesign of the permanent and temporary exhibition galleries at LHM.

These spaces have remained relatively unchanged since the last major renovation in 1990. With the support of bequest funds, secured grant support and established reserves, the renovation will revitalize the space to enhance the visitor experience and address several deficiencies identified through a recent building condition assessment.

The scope of work will include minor demolition, construction, mechanical and electrical changes to suit the new layout, replacement of exterior doors and upgrades to emergency exits, gallery lighting and exhibition displays, as well as millwork for custom display cases and accessibility improvements. The project will be ready for tender in early 2022, with anticipated completion by August, 2022 in time for LHM's fall exhibition schedule and the return of the annual Paint Ontario Exhibition & Sale.

# Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Our Profile



Indigenous historian and author David D. Plain (left) visits the *Nnigiwemin / We Are Going Home* exhibit at LHM with Ryan Lindsay.



Members of the Creative County Committee participate in a tour of the recently renovated Kineto Theatre, which received sponsor support through the County's Creative County Grant Program.



*The Lumberjack* by Edwin Holgate, on loan from the JNAAG permanent collection and featured at the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt in Germany as part of the exhibition *Magnetic North*.

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

In 2021, the Creative County Committee approved 21 projects through the Creative County Grant Program, representing an investment of \$101,965 in funding.

The Committee encouraged projects that fostered Indigenous heritage and culture, or supported local organizations with the implementation of the Calls to Action outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report. Eight of the approved projects were Indigenous-led or in partnership with neighbouring Indigenous communities.

It is estimated that this funding will leverage a total of \$515,820 in local cultural investment by applicant organizations and their respective partners in 2022, based on the total estimated project costs submitted by applicants.

## Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands

In 2021, County staff worked in consultation with David D. Plain, Indigenous historian and author from Aamjiwnaang First Nation (who worked in collaboration with Elders from the communities of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, and Walpole Island First Nation / Bkejwanong Territory) to develop a consistent Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands for use by the County.

As a result of this consultation, the following acknowledgement statement was adopted and displayed in all County facilities:

*We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.*

The statement recognizes the traditional and treaty territories of Indigenous peoples. Such acknowledgement demonstrates respect for neighbouring First Nations communities, which is essential in strengthening relationships and moving towards meaningful reconciliation.



Workers remove the 60 year old window curtain wall as part of extensive renovations at Oil Museum of Canada in 2021.

# 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.

## Oil Museum of Canada Renovations

Over the course of 2021, the County engaged A+Link Architecture Inc. and Elgin Contracting to undertake extensive renovations to the main museum exhibition building, including upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, plumbing, lighting and electrical improvements, replacement of doors and windows, reconfiguration of the floor plan, waterproofing of the foundation and site improvements. Funding for the full cost of the renovation project was achieved through prior approved reserves and secured funding through grants.

The renovation project addressed a number of building deficiencies recently identified through a building condition assessment and energy audit. The investment will support corporate asset renewal commitments, improve energy efficiency, address failing building systems at the

end of their life cycle, and better position the museum to respond to the evolving expectations of visitors. The museum will open in January 2022, with plans for a public re-opening celebration in the spring when public health guidelines allow.

## Library Facility Improvement Projects

In 2021, a new partnership with the County of Lambton's Social Services Department resulted in the development of outreach locations at the Alvinston, Corunna, Forest, Wyoming and Thedford Library locations. New private meeting spaces were created at each of these locations to allow greater access for Ontario Works clients living in rural areas of Lambton County, alleviating some challenges associated with obtaining transportation to Sarnia. These spaces will also serve as community meeting space, library programming space and areas for exam proctoring.

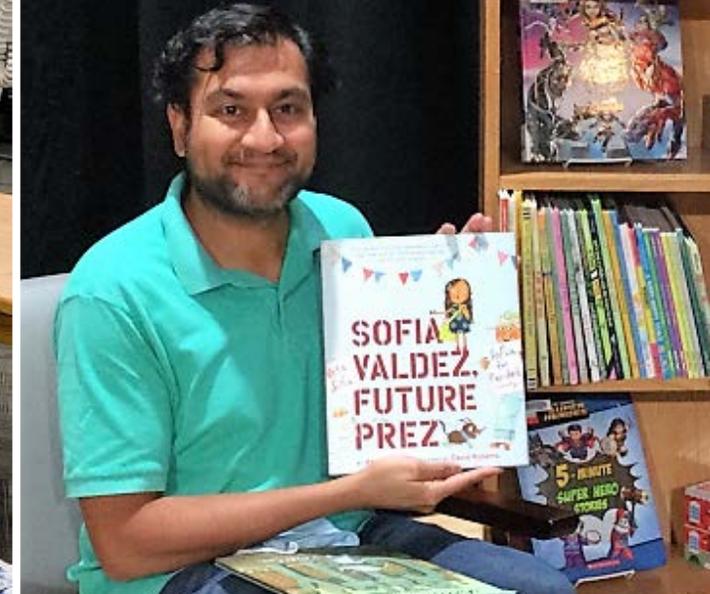
As part of these renovations, Lambton County Library arranged for new shelving units and branded signage to be installed at the Alvinston, Corunna and Forest locations. The Division also worked with the local municipalities (as building owners) to replace carpet and paint walls, and make needed accessibility and customer service improvements. The renovations will provide many benefits for library users, and will provide new opportunities for various community partners.



A new rooftop HVAC unit is lowered on to the roof of the Oil Museum of Canada as part of mechanical upgrades to the 60 year old building.



Contractors frame in a new private meeting space at the Forest Library location to support the integration of social services and provide a space for programming and community use.



### 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 - 1) An enlarged historic photograph decal is installed as part of preparations for the new Oil Museum of Canada exhibition opening in January 2022. 2) Nicole Aszalos, Archivist, prepares a collection of children's drawings that were on display at the Point Edward immunization clinic for the archives collection. 3) Dr. Sudit Ranade, Lambton's Medical Officer of Health, participates in Lambton County Library's Hero Storytime virtual program. 4) The Lambton Concert Band's "Well-tempered Five" (Greg Robins, Meghan Hawksworth, Pete Sambell, Pat Christie, and Don VanderKlok) perform outside Sarnia Library as part of the opening of the *History of Community Concert Bands in Lambton County* exhibit in October.