



CULTURAL SERVICES

2018 Annual Report



Cultural Services Division

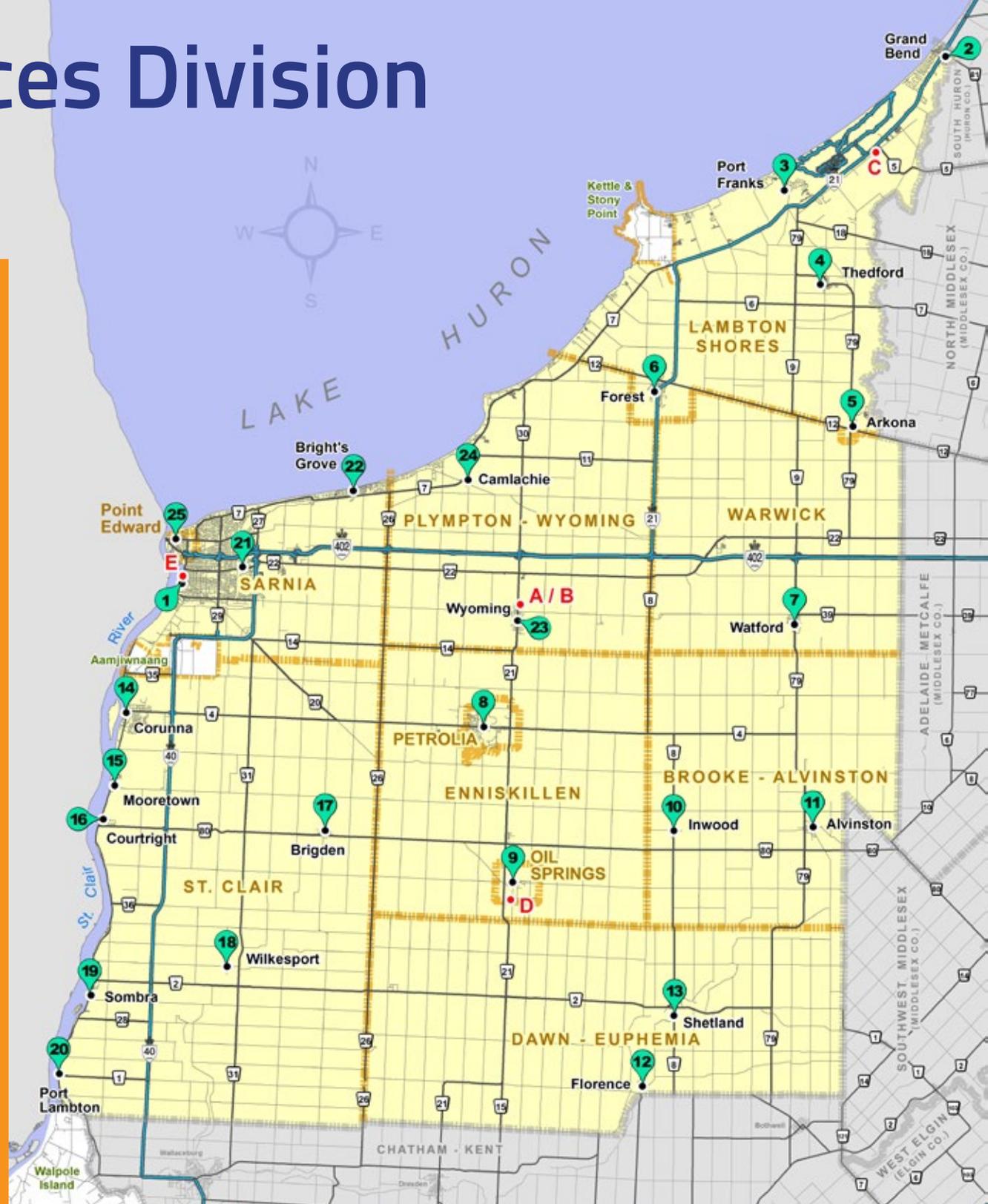
OVERVIEW MAP



Forest Library Branch

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	519-243-2600	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.jnaa.ca	519-336-8127	147 Lochiel Street

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



Contents



Video game collections at Lambton County Libraries



Halloween fun at Lambton Heritage Museum



Slow View Tour, Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

Cultural Services Division Overview Map	2
Cultural Services Division Profile	4
Enhancing Access, Visibility & Community Engagement	6
Creating & Delivering Great Experiences	10

Developing Partnerships That Increase Community Involvement & Support	12
Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces	16
Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Our Profile	18
Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively	19

Cultural Services Division Profile



New accessible service desk, Sarnia Library



Group tour at the Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site



Creative County sponsored remembrance mural being installed at the Watford Legion.

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 branch libraries, operates a bookmobile within the City of Sarnia and coordinates deposit collections in long-term care homes. Services offered in the branch libraries include books, audio books, magazines, audio-visual materials, story hours, guest speakers, reference services and Internet access. 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 1,254 primarily Canadian historical and contemporary works of both local and national significance. Through its exhibitions and outreach, programs and collection, the gallery serves the community as a public resource that provides stimulating opportunities for people to come together, exchange ideas, grow and prosper through art. 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.



Museum Curatorial Team inside the LCA vault



Walden & Eisenbach Collections Centre, LHM



Homage exhibition, 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. Located in Ontario's first designated Industrial Heritage District, and designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, the museum preserves and interprets the important history of Lambton's contributions to the worldwide oil industry. 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. These resources are used by a large cross section of both local Lambton residents and researchers from across the Province and country including genealogists, academic researchers, authors, playwrights, and business owners. 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, photographs and documents which preserve the history of Lambton County. In 2018, LHM celebrated its 40th year anniversary since opening to the public as a source of community preservation and pride. Situated on a 30 acre parcel across from the Pinery Provincial Park, the museum maintains five historic buildings, two display buildings and one main exhibition centre, as well as visitor amenities including the 1km Woodland Heritage Trail. Over its 40 year history, LHM has evolved from a collection of collections, to a key repository, safe guard and educator of Lambton's material heritage.

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 community and private events. With a capacity of over 360 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. In 2012, Lambton County Council struck the Creative County Committee (CCC), comprised of the Warden, four County Councillors and five private citizens with proven commitment to the cultural sector to oversee the implementation of the County's Cultural Plan (2011) and encourage, partner and provide financial support to activities that promote a sense of cultural identity and pride in Lambton County.

Enhancing Access, Visibility & Community Engagement



Facade improvements and new banners installed at LHM



Replacement LCA sign installed on exterior of building incorporating Discoveries That Matter brand



Historic print enlargements from the LCA collection installed at the Brooke-Alvinston municipal office as part of museum outreach efforts

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 2018. 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.

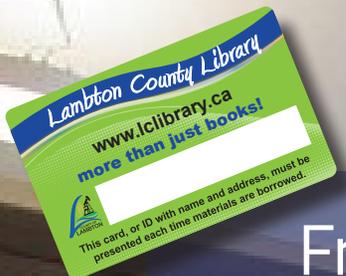
Patrons of Culture

Library circulation statistics, which provide only a partial indication of total library visitation, amounted to 701,728 items circulated from October 2017 to October 2018 across the 25 locations of the library system and bookmobile service. Over 5,200 library run programs were delivered for the same period, engaging 76,176 participants, while 70,074 patrons used Internet workstations, wireless Internet was accessed 411,148 times, and 64,528 queries were answered by a professional team of library reference staff.

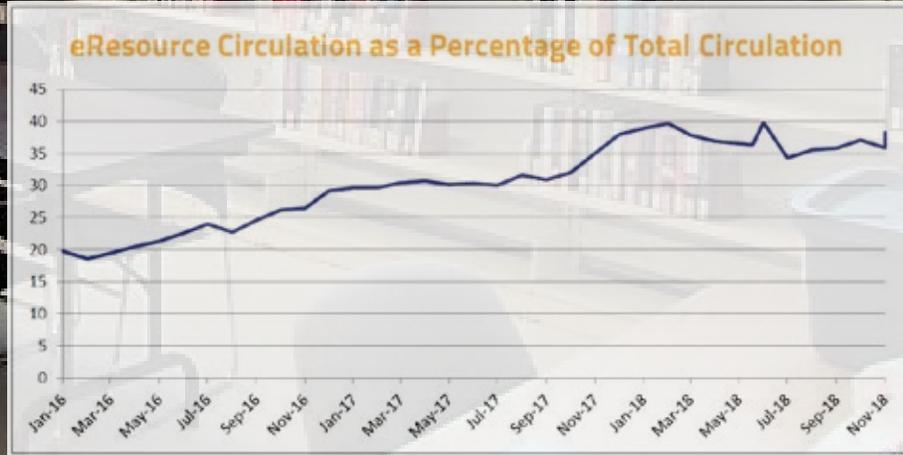
Between October 2017 and October 2018, the JNAAG welcomed over 20,000 visitors who attended exhibitions, tours, and participated in one of the 297 programs coordinated for youth, adults and families.

The archives and museum sites drew 19,118 visitors in 2018. LHM saw strong visitation despite several months of closure to accommodate a major renovation, and attracted significant attention with the grand reopening of the facility and summer exhibition celebrating its 40th anniversary. Popular annual events like the Return of the Swans, Paint Ontario Art Exhibition & Sale (2,066 attendees) and the Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival (3,999 attendees) also welcomed back perennial visitors. OMC saw consistent visitor numbers with regular program offerings and special events such as the Black Gold Festival in July and horse and wagon tours throughout the summer months. The LCA supported 1,930 genealogical and local history requests from researchers in Lambton County, and visitors from throughout Canada and the U.S.A.

Further, the Sarnia Library Theatre and the adjacent meeting rooms drew 17,451 visitors from October 2017 to October 2018, for a total of 329 event bookings organized by external user groups.



From October 2017 to October 2018, library patrons checked out **701,728** items from their local libraries and accessed an additional **327,027** electronic library items (digital books, newspapers, magazines, audio books, music, movies, etc.) through the library website, borrowing more than **1 million** items in total.



Background Image: Grand Bend Library Branch



In 2018, Lambton County welcomed
19,118 visitors
to the Oil Museum of Canada National
Historic Site, Lambton Heritage Museum
and Lambton County Archives.





Wonky Donkey Story Hour program, Lambton County Libraries



Inspirational Moments program, JNAAG



Art Pod program, JNAAG

Media Exposure & Audience Reach

The year saw a significant level of exposure for Cultural Services through the support of local media partners. The Division was featured in over 800 local radio and print media mentions over the course of 2018, with the gallery, museums and library also receiving notable regional attention through media outlets such as CBC Radio. Regular promotions through radio and print advertising, direct mail of the gallery guide and museum newsletter to members, 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. With the launch of its new website in 2018, JNAAG web and social media sites attracted 228,820 page views representing over 76,142 users in 2018. The gallery saw 4,828 followers on Facebook, 768 followers on Twitter, and 726 followers on Instagram. The archives and museums meanwhile reached 3,297 followers on Facebook and 998 on Twitter (collectively), with 14,025 Lambton County Archives blog views (up 67% from 2017) and 103,575 visits to the museum website.

The library also increased its social media presence in 2018, with 1,056 Facebook followers, 719 Twitter followers and significant website traffic with website views of 593,351.

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 library bookmobile 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, 327,027 e-service items (digital books, newspapers, magazines, audio books, music, movies, etc.) were accessed between October 2017 and October 2018 (81,012 more than the previous 12 month period), with electronic materials accounting for approximately 32% 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.

Discoveries That Matter Brand

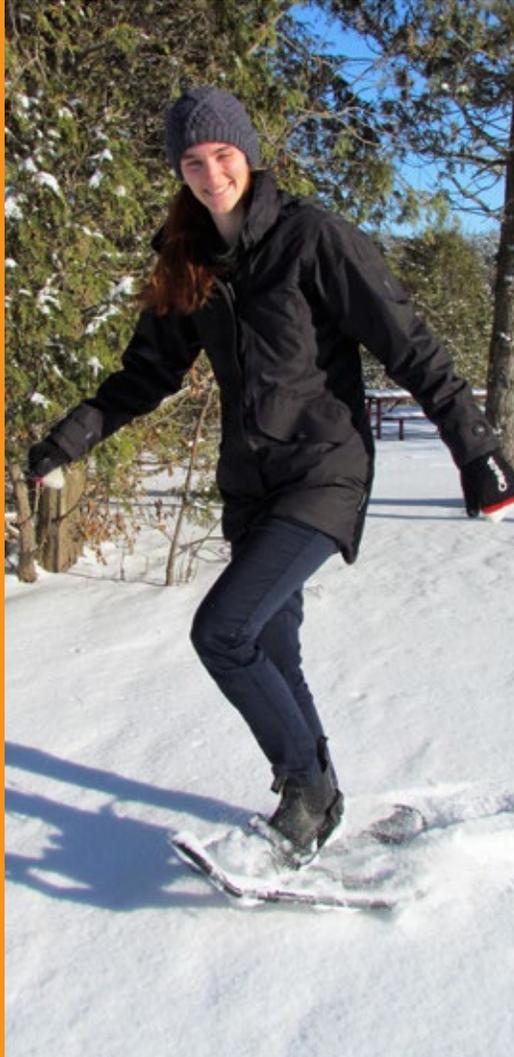
In 2018, the Creative County Committee made a commitment to develop an online cultural map and an online platform to promote cultural sites throughout Lambton County, resulting in a refreshed 'Discoveries That Matter' (www.discoveriesthatmatter.ca) brand website.

The new website is a partnership initiative with the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP), and serves as a promotional platform for culture, tourism, economic development and broader community development in Lambton County. The site includes an integrated cultural asset map, a shared community events calendar, media bank of cultural images for promotion, social media links and content related to cultural highlights in Lambton. The site will be maintained through a partnership with Cultural Services Division staff and SLEP.

Creating & Delivering Great Experiences



'Blind Date with a Book' Valentines promotion, Sarnia Library



Snowshoe lending program, Lambton County Libraries

The 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 Division 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 2018.

Lambton County Library coordinated 5,272 programs from October 2017 to October 2018, drawing over 76,000 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 in Lambton was *Explore Your Passions*, engaging 2,098 children who registered in the TD Summer Reading Program.

JNAAG offered a broad range of workshops, classes, and tours in 2018 for all ages, skill levels and interests. Programs included 53 Family Sundays and other family activities, 31 Try New Things (TNT) sessions, Random Acts of Art Workshops (RAAW) and Art Pod experiences, 19 art and ideas lectures, 23 adult workshops led by local artist instructors, and 171 tours and related activities. In total, the gallery saw over 7,000 participants in its 2018 program offerings.

At the archives and museums, 4,903 visitors engaged in programs and outreach including the popular Early Canadian Christmas school group programs at both LHM and OMC, horse and wagon tours and blacksmith demonstrations, and several group tours of the museum sites.



OMC staff dressed for the annual school Christmas programs



Horse and wagon rides at OMC, sponsored by Fairbank Oil



'Royal Tea' library program, Alvinston Library Branch



Interactive exhibit, *Full Spectrum*, JNNAAG

Exhibitions

The staff of the museums and gallery employ innovative display methods and engaging interpretive techniques to convey the wealth of 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 2018, LHM coordinated a popular 40th anniversary exhibition, exploring the history of the museum through 40 objects from the collection, and also developed a new exhibit profiling the history of Sarnia, which will be installed in early 2019 in the Sarnia Library. JNAAG launched 15 new exhibitions in 2018, including 13 curated in-house by staff and 2 touring exhibits loaned from other institutions. 2018 exhibitions at the JNAAG were as follows:

- Beside Myself: Kelly Wallace*
- Making Marks: Works on Paper*
- Un-censored: Tom Hodgson*
- Kate Wilson: Chemosphere*
- Influencing Identity: Tourism and the Group of Seven*
- Homage: Donald Stuart*
- A New View: Ray Mead*
- Look & See: Daisy Fresh*
- Look & See: Laura Kreviazuk*
- John Kissick: The Boom Bits*
- Jaime Angelopoulos*
- Full Spectrum*
- Inspirational Moments*
- To the Unseen Future: James Kirkpatrick*
- Outsider*

The exhibition *To the Unseen Future*, curated by JNAAG staff, will also be featured as a travelling exhibition at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa in 2019. As part of the JNAAG's responsibility to contribute to the knowledge base of Canadian art, two exhibition catalogues were produced in 2018: *Elusive Utopia* featuring local artist Ian McLean and *Beside Myself* featuring regional artist Kelly Wallace. Each contained original research and essays written by staff about the artist's contribution to Canadian art history.

Makerspace

In 2018, Lambton County Library continued its successful mobile makerspace programming, and permanent "Makerspace" at the Sarnia Library. The project, funded in part by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's Ontario Library Capacity Fund has drawn over 25,000 participants across the library system since its inception in June of 2016. Makerspaces are dedicated spaces filled with various technologies, offering patrons an opportunity to create content through various resources such as computers, a 3-D printer, laser-cutter, audio and visual devices, and traditional arts and crafts materials. The mobile makerspace involves rotating various pieces of makerspace technology throughout

Lambton's 24 library branches, and offering programs introducing the equipment to Lambton's residents. In 2018, a total of 661 programs incorporating tech were offered, drawing 8,999 participants. As part of cross-Division collaboration, a March Break program was also offered at LHM. A total of 235 tech training workshops were provided to library card holders, resulting in 291 patrons certified with makerspace training.

The makerspace project has been successful in introducing and engaging new, diverse audiences to library services. It has given the public access to technology that allows them to design, prototype, and manufacture items at their local library using tools that would not otherwise be accessible or affordable to the general public. It has resulted in an important community programming partnership, including the READesign program, coordinating in partnership with BrainSTEM Alliance - a network of volunteer consultants who promote education of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), leadership and entrepreneurship to youth.

Makerspace has given both students and adults opportunities to learn computer coding and programming that will enable them to thrive in an increasingly digital economy.

Developing Partnerships That Increase Community Involvement & Support



Creative County supported mural project, Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston.



Petrolia Lions partner with LHM to coordinate the food booth at the Lambton Fall Colour & Craft Festival.

As a guiding principle of the County of Lambton Cultural Plan, the 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 2017 through to October 2018, the Lambton County Library system benefitted from over 300 hours of volunteer service throughout its branches, while 119 volunteers contributed over 675 hours to the programs and services offered at the archives and museum sites. The dedicated team of 70 enthusiastic volunteers at the JNAAG devoted 2,300 hours of their time in 2018 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 2018 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 Libraries hosted 1,256 programs, activities and events between October 2017 and October 2018 that were coordinated by outside user groups, drawing 9,541 participants.

The JNAAG continued to foster partnerships with various community organizations and institutions, including the Alzheimer's Society of Sarnia Lambton through the *Inspirational Moments* program (a specialized program for people with dementia and their caregivers), the Pathways Health Centre for Children (in delivering the Art Pod program for youth with special needs and their families), the Lambton Kent School Board (in the delivery of the Specialist High Skills Major program, providing students with hands-on experience in the visual arts profession), Rebound (developing a program for at-risk teens), and the South West International Film Festival (in delivering a range of workshops and film screenings centered on the creative film industry).

In 2018, **235** volunteers
contributed their talents and over
3,275 hours to support the
programs, projects and events of our
art gallery, museums and libraries.

Above: Union Gas *Helping Hands In Action* project, OMC. Below (Left to Right): JNAAG volunteer recognition, volunteer blacksmith demonstration, OMC, volunteer-led READesign program, Sarnia Library.





From October 2017 to October 2018, over **20,000** residents and visitors to Lambton County experienced an exhibition or participated in one of **297** programs offered at the JNAAG

Above: Exhibition opening, *Composing Suspense*, JNAAG. Below (Left to right): Jewelry making program, SWIFF workshop, and school tour at the JNAAG.





Volunteer training, *To the Unseen Future: James Kirkpatrick*, JNAAG



Lambton County Library Book Sale event



Surveying the Woodland Heritage Trail with SCRCA staff, LHM

The museums and archives continued to support collaborative projects and networking with the Heritage Sarnia-Lambton organization, and worked with local museums such as the Plympton-Wyoming Museum to loan artifacts for exhibition development. Other community research, exhibit and program partnerships include Union Gas (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.

The Division also worked in partnership with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to pursue the rehabilitation of a 1km hiking trail through the forested area surrounding the Lambton Heritage Museum. The Woodland Heritage Trail, which provides year-round activity to engage new and diverse audiences to the museum, will include interpretive signage educating visitors about the history of the area, wildlife, and the native tree species of the site. Snowshoes will also be made available at the reception desk to allow visitors to hike the trail during the winter months as part of admission to the museum, in an effort to increase visitation during the off-season.

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.

The JNAAG *Art & Ideas* lecture series, featured the expertise of 19 guest speakers including local area artists, commercial gallery owners, collectors, conservators, historians, and curators who fascinated the full-house audiences with their stories and research. The gallery also played a significant role in creating internship opportunities through high school co-operative education, the University of Western Ontario Education Department (with French language tour development and delivery), and Young Canada Works positions related to curatorial research and studio assistance.

The gallery, archives and museums also benefited from strong financial support for summer student placements offered through the Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations Program (with \$21,504 of support for the JNAAG) as well as the Canada Summer Jobs Program (\$13,440 received for LHM).

StoryWalks Project

Lambton County Library partnered with the Healthy Kids Community Challenge Lambton Partners to coordinate the installation of eight new StoryWalks. StoryWalks are a unique way to integrate physical activity with literacy for both adults and children. Laminated pages of a storybook are installed on posts along a trail and as trail users stroll along the path, they can follow along with the story. To maintain interest and encourage continuous use, the stories are changed twice a year. Lambton's residents will find three of these new story walks installed in Port Franks, Sarnia, and Watford. There are five more StoryWalks that will be installed in 2019, one each in Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Corunna and Watford, and two in Lambton Shores.

Cultural Forum

As an action item of the Lambton County Cultural Plan, the Creative County Committee worked in partnership with the Sarnia Heritage Committee to host the first Cultural Forum event in September, coinciding with the provincial 'Culture Days' initiative. The workshop featured several noted historians, academics and authors, presenting on heritage advocacy and preservation.

Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces



Library courier facilitates delivery & exchange across 25 libraries

AFTER



BEFORE



Professional restoration of a portrait by Canadian indigenous artist Zachary Vincent (1815-1886). The portrait, painted in the grand European style, was donated to the LHM collection in 1997 and will be featured in an upcoming exhibition at the JNAAG.

The 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.

New Museum Collections Centre

Providing appropriate storage conditions is critical to ensuring the long-term survival of the collection. In 2018, LHM undertook a comprehensive collections storage project that saw purpose-built high density mobile storage equipment installed in the facility to provide enhanced public access and room for anticipated growth. The new Walden & Eisenbach Collections Centre (recognizing the founders of the museum collection), draws the collections from various locations within the museum building into a centralized storage solution, offering 14 double-sided high density mobile carriage rows for open artifacts, one double-sided cantilever textile rack for rolled textiles, and seven double-sided wide span shelves for furniture and large objects. These systems maximize the available space within the facility to allow for the presentation of

the entire collection in one area of the building. This system provides significant room for future collections growth, and addresses accessibility and health and safety challenges associated with previous collections management practice.

Collections Management

The Division is committed to enhancing knowledge of the collection through research, publication and collection database development. 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 2018 considerable resources were also dedicated 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 the JNAAG.

Conservation Work

Several important conservation projects were undertaken in 2018 in partnership with expert services in order to preserve significant works of art and community artifacts for future generations, and make them suitable for public exhibition.



Removal and preservation of Oil Rig Restaurant mural



Staff promotion of new library titles on social media



Cataloguing works from the JNAAG collection

A stunning portrait by Canadian indigenous artist Zachary Vincent (1815-1886), donated to the LHM collection in 1997, underwent conservation to repair damage to the surface and remove discoloured varnish before the oil painting is to be featured at an upcoming exhibition at the JNAAG. The Lambton County Archives also worked with Book & Conservation Services to complete conservation treatment on an early survey map 'Plan of Part of the Township of Sarnia', dating to 1848.

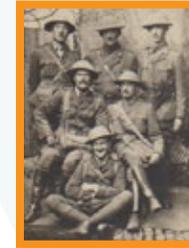
Acquisitions

In 2018, 15 art works were donated to the JNAAG collection, and an application to the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board (CCPERB) is currently being made for four of these works. The CCPERB process certifies artwork as important pieces of our Canadian Cultural Heritage, a benefit of being designated a Category 'A' gallery. JNAAG staff also embarked on phase one of a three-phase collections audit in 2018, which includes an appraisal of the collection, gap assessment, and identification of collecting priorities.

In 2018, over 100 collections of artifacts were donated to the archives and museum sites. With the centenary of the First World War and

the exposure generated by the Lambton At War and LHM 40th anniversary exhibits, several of these artifact acquisitions document Lambton's involvement in overseas conflict, while others included important objects, photographs and archival documents that serve to interpret the story of Lambton County. One notable acquisition for the museums was a complete uniform issued to Major Charles Oliver Fairbank of Petrolia. Fairbank enlisted with the 70th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force in December of 1915, and served overseas in the First World War.

The library collections also continued to evolve to respond to the needs and interest of the community, with 4,328 new Overdrive and Cloud Library titles (digital lending of eBooks, audiobooks, streaming video and periodicals) added to the e-library collection. Further, 16,098 new library titles were put in circulation in the branches, and 5,518 interlibrary loans were handled (2,853 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.



Acquisition of WWI uniform belonging to Maj. C.O. Fairbank of Petrolia, now part of the Lambton Heritage Museum collection. Above: Photo of Maj. C. O. Fairbank (second row, right) taken in Steenvoorde, France, August, 1916.



Conservation treatment completed on an 1848 survey map 'Plan of Part of the Township of Sarnia', Lambton County Archives collection.

Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Our Profile



Ontario Museum Association, Awards of Excellence Committee



Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation, Board of Directors

The 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 administrating the Creative County Grant Program. In 2018, a total of 23 projects were approved, representing an investment of \$126,325 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 \$1.47M in local cultural investment by applicant organizations and their respective partners in 2019. Events such as a concert series, heritage publications and signage, tours and events, artists workshops, documentary film productions and programming were among the many supported activities. These investments recognize creativity, culture and quality of place

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

Professional Associations

Members of the Division's management team engaged with provincial associations to advance Lambton's profile in the cultural sector, including participation on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation, Archives Association of Ontario, Ontario Museum Association Awards of Excellence Committee, and membership with the Association of Rural & Urban Public Libraries of Ontario (ARUPLO), advocating for improved and sustained funding for libraries.

In 2018, JNAAG participated in two projects with ArtsBuild Ontario, a non-profit arts service organization that supports the development and management of creative spaces such as theatres, galleries, concert halls, and museums. JNAAG participated in a one year mentorship program in which staff provided regular mentorship to the Art Gallery of Sudbury related to collections management. JNAAG also supported ArtsBuild Ontario's Strategic Initiatives grant for the Creative Space case study series. As part of this program, JNAAG will be featured as one of the successful case studies used as a reference for sustainable arts facilities in Ontario communities.



In late October, Ohio-based photographer Charles Mintz visited the Watford Library to take photos for his latest project profiling Carnegie Libraries.



Renovation of existing storage as office space, Library Headquarters

Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively

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

Division Reorganization

In 2018, the County undertook a reorganization of the Cultural Services Division structure, implementing a new model that will position the Division to meet and exceed the evolving needs and expectations of residents, while responding to strategic planning commitments and emerging local priorities.

The new model advances the strategic priorities related to culture in the following planning documents: Building A Creative Economy: A Cultural Plan for Lambton County (2011), The County of Lambton Strategic Plan (2012), Lambton County Library Strategic Capacity Plan (2013), and Lambton County Museums 2014-2018 Strategic Plan (2013), JNAAG Operational Review (2016), and the Sarnia Libraries Review completed by Lighthouse Consulting & LGA Architectural Partners (2017) in partnership with the City of Sarnia.

The reorganization was preceded by consultation with all levels of staff, and an evaluation of the service against emerging professional standards and best practices. This resulted in a complete revision of the organizational structure, including job evaluation for all positions. With the support of Human Resources staff, the new model was implemented in September. The success of the reorganization will be determined through constant evaluation of the progress made in the six strategic areas of focus that form the heading sections of this annual report.

Facility Renewal

The 2018 year saw significant progress in facility renewal, including a major renovation at LHM that resulted in updates to administrative and collections management spaces, as well as HVAC and accessibility improvements. Building Condition Assessments were also completed at LHM and OMC to inform future investment priorities. Initial improvements were made at Sarnia Library to address recommendations made in the consultant review, including a new centralized and accessible service desk, upgrades to theatre lighting to support the needs of community user groups, and changes to furnishings and layout. Minor renovations also commenced at the archives and library headquarters to enhance accessibility, achieve asset renewal, and make changes to office space to support the new service model.



Mobile shelving installed at LHM Collections Centre to maximize capacity for future collections growth



New lighting control console and LED stage lighting installed at the Sarnia Library Theatre



CULTURAL SERVICES

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

