

Date of Meeting: February 22, 2024

Report Number: A12-24

Report Subject: February 2024 Curator & Heritage Services Manager Report

Recommendation:

1. THAT the Clarington Public Library Board receive Administrative Report No. A12-24: February 2024 Curator & Heritage Services Manager Report.
2. THAT the Clarington Public Library Board approve items listed in Appendix A for deaccessioning.

Report Overview:

To provide the Board with information about operational highlights from the museums and archives and key activities in January to February 2024.

Highlights

Waverley Place Repairs

Municipal staff will be meeting with CLMA staff in early February to discuss the installation of the dehumidification systems within the historic house museum site. The site may be unavailable for tours during the installation, but every effort will be made to minimize disruptions to services.

Municipal and CLMA staff also met with an architect in January at Waverley Place to complete a walk through the site to discuss repair work required at the site. This included interior and exterior needs. The architect will be reviewing the information gleaned from the site visit and forwarding a proposal to MOC staff.

Thursdays at the Museum

A new program was launched in January at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre for the winter session. Thursdays at the Museum is a new adult program which was introduced to provide an opportunity to welcome visitors during evening hours to the SJWHC for discussions and informal chats regarding local history topics. Topics will change weekly, and will include guided tours as well as informal discussions, and interactive activities.

January 18: Archaeology Exhibit Launch. We launched our new Thursday night program on January 18th with the launch of a new in-house exhibition. There were 4 attendees for the first program. The attendees enjoyed the program and spent time looking around the

exhibit. The program consisted of a CLMA staff providing guided interpretation on the new exhibit and was followed by visitors exploring the exhibit at their leisure and having informal discussions with knowledgeable staff.

January 25: Goodyear. This program had 11 attendees with 2 repeat visitors from the previous week. The program was quite well received, and the topic of Goodyear was popular with the people who attended. Several former Goodyear employees attended as they had been made aware of the program by one of our regular visitors, also a former Goodyear employee.



Image: CLMA staff member with Goodyear artifacts on display for Thursdays at the Museum, January 25 program

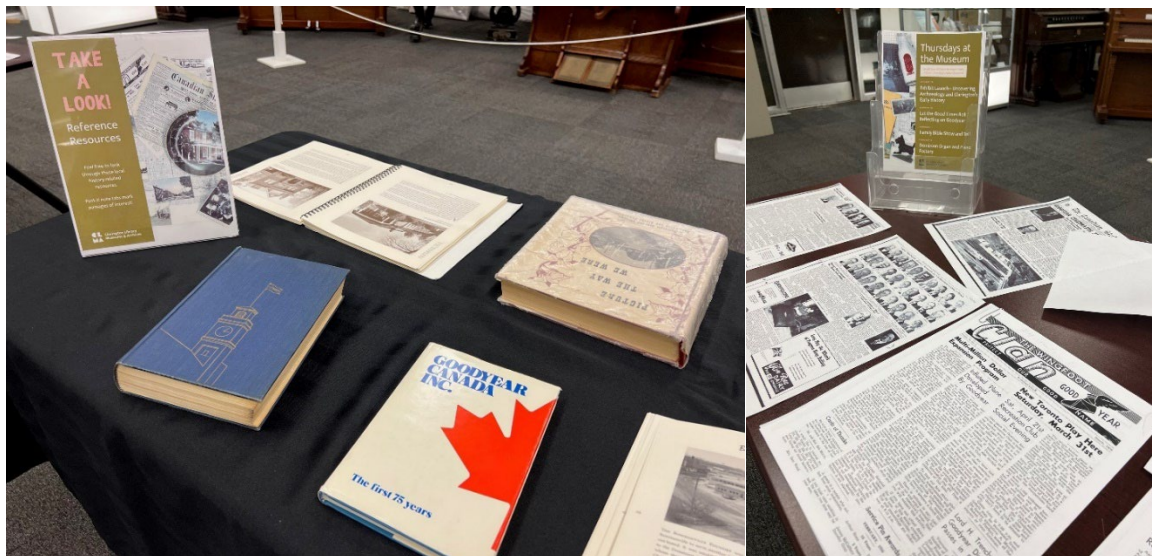


Image: Reference Collection resources relating to Goodyear, available for browsing during Thursdays at the Museum, January 25 program

Stay and Play

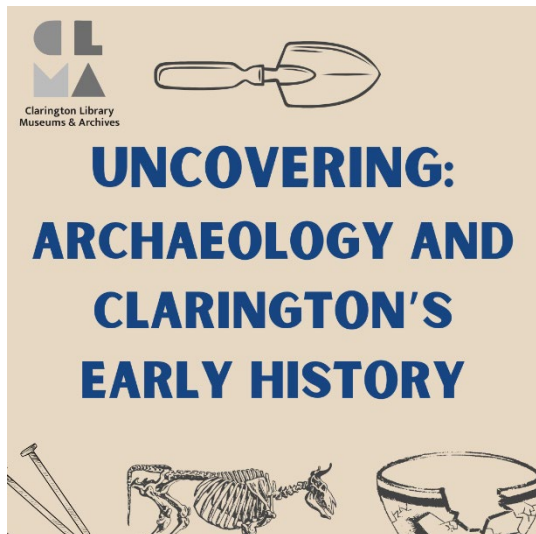
The reoccurring Stay and Play program continues to be held in the winter session every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30. We have had 52 stay and play participants in January. The Stay and Play program is a nice opportunity for families to attend at a convenient time when they can social with other families.

Group Visit: Embers, January 9, 3 adults and 13 children, 6:00-7:30pm.

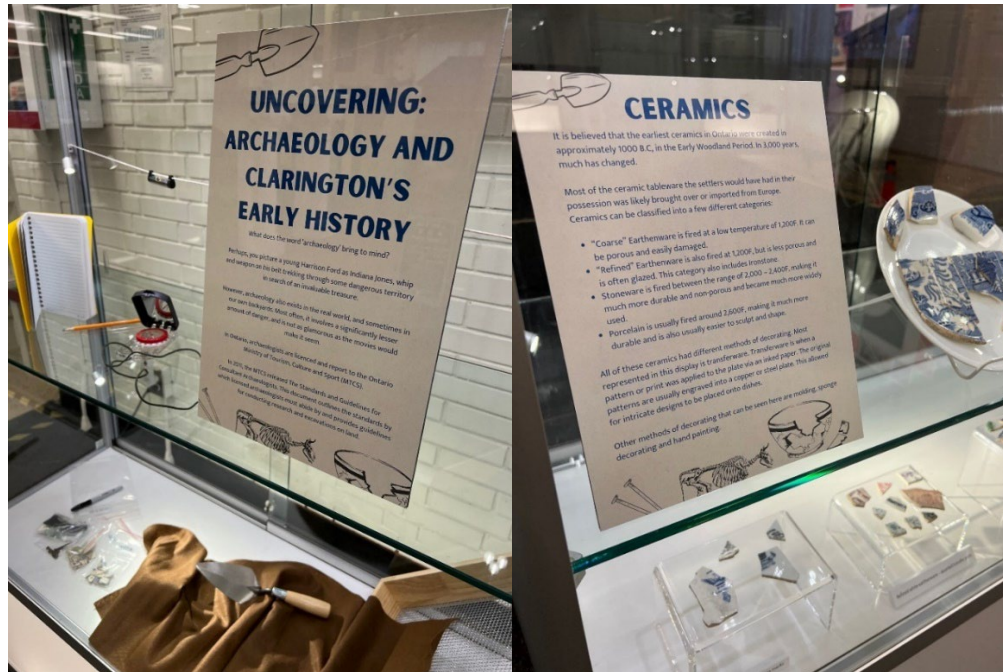
CLMA staff designed and led a program for the Embers that included a guided tour of Waverley Place house, interactive parlour games as a group, a brief tour of the "Uncovering" archaeology exhibit and viewing of the excavation video, as well as time for historical role-playing in Clarington. The Waverley Place tour was exciting for the kids, and the Museum team worked together to direct their attention and to engage kids with stories of the house's history. Parlour games were popular with the group and the visit concluded with playtime in Clarington. Group leaders and parents thanked CLMA staff for the program and expressed enthusiasm to book another visit to the Museums again.

New CLMA Exhibit: "Uncovering: Archaeology and Clarington's Early History"

CLMA is excited to announce that our newest exhibit has opened in the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre. It is called "Uncovering: Archaeology and Clarington's Early History", and focuses on historic, archaeological findings from a few homestead sites around Clarington, and provides a brief overview of how archaeology is conducted in Ontario. The artifacts include ceramics, glass, pipes and coins on display, as well as some animal bones. It is intended for a general audience and we feel it will be interesting to adults, children and families alike. Come discover the exhibit during regular operating hours, and join us for a special Archaeology program during the March Break.



Images: Uncovering: Archaeology and Clarington's Early History, a CLMA exhibition



Images: Exhibit cases featuring archaeology artifacts and interpretive panels, at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre

Digitization Project

Archival collections review and assessments by CLMA staff continued in January to create a refined list of archival material belongings from the permanent collection for conservation work. This list will be supplied to the bidding contractor with a scaled-down scope of the project work that is deemed to be the first priority for remediation, digitization and documentation based on priority to access.

Deaccessioning

Deaccessioning refers to the removal of an artifact or artifacts from the permanent collection. To maintain a growing and relevant collection that is aligned with community needs and current professional standards, it is necessary to deaccession artifacts. Deaccessioning must be undertaken in accordance with the Collections Management Policy. Appendix A outlines the items that are recommended for deaccessioning. Staff have conducted an evaluation and based on these factors; the artifacts are considered to no longer be relevant to the Museum's collection.

Approval to deaccession is required by the governing body of the museum, the Clarington Public Library Board. With this approval, the items will be formally deaccessioned from the collection and disposed following The Methods of Disposition, outlined in sections 19, 20 and 20 of the Collections Management Policy.

Deaccessioning Lists

1. Deaccession List 2024-01, attached as Appendix A.

Recommendation

That the artifacts outlined in Deaccession List 2024-01 attached to this report be approved for removal from the Museums & Archives collections.

Report Submitted by:
Heather Ridge, Curator and Manager of Heritage Services
Monika Machacek, Chief Executive Officer
February 22, 2024