

Date of Meeting: November 28, 2024

Report Number: A53-24

Report Subject: November 2024 Curator & Heritage Services Manager Report

Recommendation:

1. THAT the Clarington Public Library Board receive Administrative Report No. A53-24: November 2024 Curator & Heritage Services Manager Report; and THAT the Clarington Public Library Board approve the items listed in the Deaccession List 2024-08 (Appendix A) be approved for removal from the Museums & Archives collections.

Report Overview:

To provide the Board with information about operational highlights from the museums and archives and key activities in October and November 2024.

Facilities

Waverley Place Renovations and Restoration

Construction work continues through October and November around Waverley Place with hoarding fencing moving around the south and west sides of the building. The concrete walkway around the conservatory was replaced and a few lower hanging branches were trimmed because of moving the arbour temporarily. As well, the temporary ramp at the front of the building has been removed as the cement walkway leading to the front steps will be replaced shortly. Accessible access to the veranda will now be at the north side of the veranda with the new ramp positioned around the fountain. The walkway out to Wellington Street was replaced and the curb cutout was extended. The chimney on the north side of the house was also dismantled and re-built.



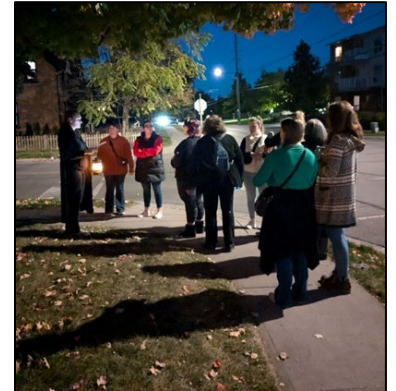
Above left: north chimney construction; above right: front path and ramp removal

Work continues by LHC Heritage Planning & Archaeology Inc., contracted by the Municipality to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Kirby Schoolhouse to evaluate the feasibility and impact of relocating the historic building to the property of the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre.

Highlights

Spirit Walks

In October, the annual haunting Spirit Walks returned, with a blended walking tour of historic Bowmanville with stories of the unexplained. Spirits Walks included a one-hour tour of the downtown area and a stop and story inside Waverley Place. The Spirit Walks were well attended and enjoyed greatly by the community members who joined us on the tours. We hosted four evenings of public tours and two private group tours including Central Public School and Autism Home Base. The group organizer sent a message of thanks:



"I just wanted to reach out and say thank you - everyone came back from the spirit walk in great very excited and wanting to share some of the stories. The host was lovely and very accommodating, I had a designated group that was supposed to go and a couple others tagged along. Thank you again for allowing us to have a safe & sensory friendly Halloween option for our members."

Programs



Paranormal Paint Night

On October 18th, staff hosted the first Paranormal Paint Night at the museum sites. The successful program included two components: a shortened version of spirit walks, followed by a creative session of painting and refreshments at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre.



Above left: artists at Paranormal Paint Night; above right: a finished painting

Remembrance Day Lecture: Camp 30: the Impact and Aftermath of WWII

On the evening of November 7th, the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre offered a special Remembrance Day themed presentation with local history enthusiast (and Board Member), Katharine Warren, from the Jury Lands Foundation. The presentation examined

Camp 30 through the lens of the wartime and the veteran's guard. The event was well attended and enjoyed the informative presentation from Katharine Warren.

Golden Tales: Chronicles of our Community

This fall, staff have been recruiting community members for the oral history project, funded by the Seniors Community Grant. In addition to an interview with an individual who is 102 years young, we will also be interviewing some members of Municipal Council.

Staff will try to connect with a variety of individuals with varied backgrounds from all villages, hamlets and urban centres around Clarington. As of November, community members from Newcastle, Bowmanville, Enniskillen, and Courtice areas have been contacted. Staff are actively looking for interested individuals from other communities who would like to participate.



Exhibits



Clarington Remembers

For the month of November, a temporary display for Remembrance Day was on display in the gallery space adjacent to the Jury Lands/Camp 30 exhibit. The exhibit showcases the journey of an individual from Clarington who participated in WWI. The display contains personal artifacts and archival photographs and has an accompanied visual component looped on the adjacent television. The temporary exhibit will also be a central component to November Group Visits who have requested Remembrance



Day themed programs.

Above left and right: displays for Remembrance Day

Clarington Fire and Emergency Services Official Open House

The most interesting request received this month was from the new inhabitants of Shaw house, Clarington Fire and Emergency Services, who had asked for archival images of the Shaw house. Unfortunately, we did not have any historic images of the house in our archives collection, but we were able to offer them historic images of fire fighting in

Clarington. We provided several images which they had printed, framed and displayed in time for their official open house on November 1.

The Shaw House was home to the widow Jane Shaw, who immigrated to Canada from England with her daughter Mary Elizabeth in 1845. The home was built around 1890 and sold to the Region of Durham in 1975. In 2018, Clarington Council designated the home, located at 156 Church Street across the street from the Bowmanville Library, a heritage property.



At left and right: images on display in the new Clarington Fire and Emergency Services headquarters.



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.

Staff have submitted the Deaccession List 2024-08 (Appendix A) to the Board seeking approval for the artifacts listed to be removed from the Museums & Archives collections.

Heather Ridge, Curator and Manager of Heritage Services
Monika Machacek, Chief Executive Officer
November 28, 2024