

**Presentation to Municipality of Arran-Elderslie Council --- December 9, 2024**

**Joan Lyon, Carolyn Hodgins and myself, Judy MacKinnon wish to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the Friends of the Treasure Chest Museum, Paisley, Ontario.**

**It has been about three years since we spoke to you last but we do appreciate your assistance in paying of the bills and answering some of our requests.**

**The Friends of the Museum have had three busy years. The year 2022 , was a slow start right after Covid so it took some time to get things going. However, we did have the luncheons and euchres which always prove successful. Volunteering at the Museum is always interesting, challenging and the rewards are the people who visit and support our various activities. As I have said before, we are a small, dedicated group of Volunteers, who are MIGHTY in time, energy, food and money donated to do the little things at the Museum to provide programmes to meet the needs of the Community of Arran-Elderslie.**

**Our summer students, in 2022, Colby Graham and Vickie Ernest greeted the visitors, cataloguing update, wrote articles for the Paisley Advocate, and set up displays. The summer students for 2024, Heather Whittle and Zoe Schriek worked for both the Museum and the Economic Development and Communication Co-ordinator so they were kept very busy. For the Museum, they set up our Face book page, with Tea Time Tuesday which they posted a teacup, with Friday, Fashion Day with the history, and Sunday eve an item from the Paisley Advocate, Tara Leader and Chesley Enterprise. At the end of the summer for all our students, we hold a luncheon for them and wished them all the best in the future. An Interesting Note: Heather did an article on Paisley cream and sugar, and milk jug. Wilda(Mrs. Alex) Lamont called to say how she enjoyed the article as she has the same jug and now she knows the history of it.**

**In 2023-2024, the Museum held their annual Luncheons and Euchres in January, February, March and April . These are always popular as it brings neighbours and friends out for good food, and afternoon of fun and laughter. Family Day in February, an afternoon of scrabble and crokinole was held. In May, the Museum opens for the Summer season with a garage sale that provides interest.**

**In June 2023, the Friends held a Rhubarb Tea and Dessert and WOW!, lots of yummy rhubarb desserts for the palate. In July a "Tapestry of Many Hands" exhibit showed the talents of pioneer women. In 2024, the exhibits were "Communications over the Years" and "Agriculture in Arran-Elderslie" showcasing artifacts from the collection.**

**In July 2023, our summer student, Nick Steeves greeted visitors, updated files from the old computer to the new laptop which was great. In August 2023 and 2024, The Museum Volunteers led by Carolyne Hodgins and Edith Beech, fed visitors at the Bruce County Heritage Association. This venture proved very successful both years despite the wet weather in 2024.**

Page 2

September 2023 and 2024, the Festival of Lost Arts was held. This featured blacksmithing, woodworking, log sawing ( a great hit), apple peeling, butter making, quilting , weaving all with local volunteers of the Community.

Speakers included, Pat Kelly who spoke on “Otto McClevis” the only OPP officer in Bruce County for a number of years. Our Speakers for Remembrance Day Program were: Brenda (Pope) De Leeuw who told of the story and plight of a young family from the Ukraine who settled in Kincardine. Quite a journey and one that we as Canadians hope to never experience. 2024, Doug Milne, son of Dr. Don and Jean Milne, gave a power point presentation on the “Relics of the Reich- then and now of Nazi Germany”.

2024 with celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> for the incorporation of Paisley, many activities took place and the volunteers at the Museum were very involved. In May, The Friends of the Treasure Chest Museum held a very successful “Fashions through the Years”. We again thank the Council and the Arena staff for allowing this big event to take place at the Paisley Curling Club and providing heat to warm it up for the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. This event attracted an audience of over 175. Great evening. A float was entered in the Paisley’s 150<sup>th</sup> parade.

Over the 2 years, we have had the writers’ group meet , podcast with students to interview seniors , answered queries and much more. The Walking Tour brochure was produced in conjunction with Paisley’s 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations with the leadership of Jess Pridham, Economic Development and Communication Co-ordinator. There are 33 locations and stories for the public to walk and see.

For The Arran-Elderslie’s 25 years celebrations , the Museum provided help to Jennifer Legge, Economic Development and Communication Co-Ordinator with photos etc. The Friends of the Museum thank Council for the honour of the Volunteer award.

The Museum keeps adding to the collection: 1902 Findlay Cookstove . ( David Findlay immigrated from Paisley, Scotland.) a gramophone with records-it is a windup and music is priceless, and the Dunblane school Bell that is mounted outside for all to see.

The Friends of the Treasure Chest Museum thank Carly Steinhoff , Manager of Facilities, Parks and Recreation, the Arena staff, Joel and Frank for their assistance as it is much appreciated.

You know we always come with a small Wish List : 1) weather stripping; 2)software computer programme for artifacts; 3) wall mount projector screen; 4) flooring for the gallery; 5) Larger hot water tank.

The collection of history and artifacts for the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie and area is one of a kind. The visitors are in complete awe of the items like: agriculture, military, crocks, glassware, train station items, period clothing , sports, and the archives. Our Archives has many items pertaining to the history of Paisley, Chesley, Elderslie, and would like to find more of Arran and Tara.

Thanks to the volunteers and students, ,our visitors compliment on how well organized and tidy the Museum is.

REMEMBER THIS WAS ONE MAN'S DREAM TO SAVE AND SHARE ---- MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR AND RECORD THE WAY OF LIFE NOW PAST.

THANK YOU AGAIN:

Eldon and Judy MacKinnon  
Carolyne Hodgins  
Brian and Edith Beech  
Ken and Carol Anderson  
Owen and Cathy Parsons

Maryse Gaudet  
Lawrence and Joan Lyon  
Dale and Sheryl Steinhoff  
Deborah MacDonald  
Peggy Patterson  
Deb Medeiros