

**FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS OF MISSISSAUGA  
MINUTES FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY MAY 10, 2021, 7PM via Zoom**

GOOD EVENING EVERYONE ON ZOOM: Meet and Greet 6:45 - 7pm

CALL TO ORDER : Liz Durdan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7 pm. She greeted and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. We had a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM ON JUNE 8, 2020 - The minutes were accepted as they had been circulated last year and posted on the FOMM website. Motion of Approval: Moved by Christine Batiuk, seconded by Wanda Hall - Carried

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - Liz Durdan, Chair, reported on the past year. This was a very challenging year to become Chairperson.

- no in person meetings, only on Zoom, no fundraising including our traditional summer musical program On the Verandah and our planned November concert by the Burlington Welsh Male Chorus.
- We received a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Mississauga for the unique art exhibit War Flowers that opened in September 2020 at the Living Arts Centre. With lockdown the exhibit was shutdown. The Museums sponsored virtual events which were well received as they portrayed the Black, Indigenous and Sikh participation in the two world wars.
- the last funds raised for school bussing by the On the Verandah Concerts were in 2019.
- Friends are now supporting the Museums on-line programming for schools. <https://culture.mississauga.ca/content/virtual-school-programs>
- Recently we received two generous grants from the Community Foundation of Mississauga for 2021. One grant is for Halloween Harvest at the Bradley and the second is for the Children and Youth Illustrated Poetry Anthology.

The Chair thanked the Board and Members of FOMM for their support this past year and hoped for a new normal early in 2022.

## FINANCIAL REPORT - Don Harrington

Don reported that it was unique financial year with a lower revenue than the previous year. Friends did not hold any fundraising events due to COVID. We spent more than we received.

The 2020 Financial Statements were compiled by: the Gardiner Professional Corporation.

The report was approved & signed at the board meeting March 8, 2021.

Motion of Approval of the Financial Report: Don Harrington moved that we adopt the report as filed, seconded by Sadaf Zuberi - Carried

\* Don Harrington also mentioned that he will be filing the necessary information about the Directors with CRA as required.

## MEMBERS RESOLUTION - Joyce Delves

Be it resolved that all contracts, acts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, and done and taken by the Board of Directors & Officers since the last Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Museums of Mississauga referred to on written resolution of the Board are hereby approved and confirmed.

Motion of Approval: Moved by June Newhouse, seconded by Joe Zammit- Carried

## ELECTIONS OF DIRECTORS - Anne Fabierkiewicz

Anne Fabierkiewicz, Past Chair, presented the slate of Directors for the 2021/2022 year.

Gail Clark	Christine Batiuk
Joyce Delves	Don Harrington
Liz Durdan	Anne Fabierkiewicz
June Newhouse	Caitlin Anderson
Sue Shanly	Wanda Hall
Sadaf Zuberi	Junaid Zuberi
Joe Zammit	Tanya Caruana

Wendy Davies volunteered to fill the remaining position on the board.

Motion of Approval: To approve the slate of Directors for the 2021/2022 year. Moved by Anne Fabierkiewicz, seconded by Sue Shanly – Carried.

MUSEUM REPORT: Lisa Abbott, Curator and Manager of the Museums of Mississauga, reported on the events of the 2020 - 2021 year. Lisa also outlined the exhibition plan for the next 4 years.

Please see attached Lisa's complete report as Addendum (a). Liz Durdan thanked Lisa for her report and expressed our support for the exciting years to come.

NEW BUSINESS: Liz Durdan will look into setting up an E-Transfer banking method in co-operation with Meridian. The Community Foundation of Mississauga has asked for this capability.

### Introduction of the Guest Speaker - Joyce Delves

Annemarie Hagan is an award - winning curator and museum professional with thirty-five years experience, twenty of them with the Museums of Mississauga. Most recently Annemarie was the Senior Curator , History at the Peel Art Gallery, Museums and Archives (PAMA) in Brampton. As Manager of the Museums of Mississauga, she oversaw the restoration of the Port Credit Log Cabin, Leslie Log House and improvements at the Bradley House. Annemarie nurtured the early development of Benares to the treasure we see today. Tonight she will share some of the stories and adventures behind the 1995 opening of Benares Historic House as a community museum.

### Guest Speaker - Annemarie Hagan

Topic: *The Making of a Museum: Stories of Benares Historic House*

Annemarie thanked Museum staff Stephanie Meeuwse and Tracy Oliveira for all their help in providing historical material for the presentation.

Annemarie led us through a detailed history the Benares Museum and the four generations of the Harris/ Sayer family members from the early years of 1835 to 1995. The presentation was accompanied by a wide, engaging selection of historic photos, maps and written works. In 1857, the Georgian Style House as re-built after a fire in the 1850's. Renovations such as the covered porch and the gingerbread porch trim occurred in the 1880's.

In 1969, the house and most of its contents were donated by the three great grandchildren of Captain Harris - Geoffrey Harris Sayers, Dora Sayers Caro and Barbara Sayers Larson to the Ontario Heritage Foundation / Trust to be established as a museum. The Heritage Trust purchased the front 3 acres of green space. Site plans were developed.

The family occupied the house until the 1970's, and also gave thousands of artifacts to the Heritage Trust. There were also archaeological digs on the property during the restoration that began in the 1990s.

The Museum opened to the public in 1995 and is owned and operated by the City of Mississauga.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

Joyce Delves thanked Annemarie for all the research work that she undertook in order to prepare this detailed history of Benares.

Liz Durdan, Chair, thanked Annemarie for sharing her memories of the work on the Museums. She thanked everyone for joining in the AGM.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Wendy Davies , seconded by June Newhouse - Carried

Next Board Meeting is Monday, June 14th, 2021 at 6pm: Minutes by Tanya Caruana

#### ADDENDUM (a)

##### **Museum Report by Lisa Abbott**

Thank you so much for being here tonight and letting me share some highlights from the past year and also a bit of a look ahead at Museums over the next few years.

Of course, one of our highlights from last year was WARFlowers. Although restrictions were tightened on us again and again, we still managed to attract over 600+ in person visitors. We were exceptionally lucky to take advantage of some new technology and create a virtual tour of the exhibition once in person tours were no longer possible. As of Dec. 31, we

had over 500+ virtual visits. The online speakers series was also extremely successful and opened up our audience base. The 5 events involved over 1000 participants from (almost) every province and territory in Canada; the recorded events are posted on the City's YouTube channel and have had over 3000 views; There were over 117K social media impressions.

This transition to virtual programming really kicked off with Blooms and Berries in the summer. This partnership with the City's Environment team was inspired by Clarkson Village's history as the strawberry capital of Ontario, the strawberry socials that were held historically in early summer and the many years that this event was held at the Museums. 7 virtual events were held and had almost 3000 participants. The events touched on Indigenous practices, cooking and baking, pollinator gardens and eco-friendly critters and a sketch night.

The Halloween Harvest was an in-person event, a very simplified harvest themed event that sold out quickly. This free event was tremendously successful in terms of participation. Additionally, we also went ahead with the Park Your Pumpkin event with tremendous support from The New Youth Council who carved 20 pumpkins for us to decorate Bradley.

And speaking of The New Youth Council ... from our original 9 members, the group has grown to over 20 grade 11 and 12 students who have come up with all kinds of things to do together as a group to make the world a better place. Over the holidays, TNYC created hundreds of holiday cards that were shared with residents of long-term health care facilities. TNYC also successfully completed an ambitious project for National Youth Arts Week where they launched a call for artwork and adjudicated and curated a virtual art exhibition from young local artists. The works were on display on our website, SaugaCulture Instagram page and were shown on the screens at Celebration Square. This ambitious group has lots of ideas and they are a constant source of inspiration.

This year's Maple Festival was a combination of in-person tours of the grounds and online content. I highly recommend the maple cornbread recipe – I make mine in a cast iron frying pan – you can't beat it. Again the in-person component of this festival sold out almost immediately. Again it was free-by-donation. It wasn't like our well-loved Maple Magic but the programming team did a fantastic job of layering programming so visitors to the site had many things to do even if they didn't score an in-person tour.

And in case you're wondering what our collections team has been up to – Stephanie and Tracy completed phase 1 of the deaccessioning project

last year and was able to put up for auction items that were duplicates or not related to the mandate of the Museums Collection. We netted \$1900 from the sale of items. This money is going back into restoring this American Empire style sofa with 'cornucopia' arm rests and flat crest rail with turned spindle top. The couch dates from 1820-1835 and originally came from Cherry Hill House owned by the Silverthorn family, early settlers in Mississauga.

The reupholstery will complement the Friends' donation of furniture that makes up the Fred Durdan collection. The couch we have now is a plain 'settle' style and doesn't match the more elegant pieces in the sitting room.

Our staff have certainly been through a lot this year and they maintain good humour and a sense of professionalism, care and kindness. I'm very grateful to them for their commitment to the Museums of Mississauga. Now to give you a quick overview of things to come.

The programming team have developed a 4 year plan for exhibitions that will take us all the way to 2024. This plan will provide the context for programming for events, outreach and education. Here are some highlights.

Museums has partnered with U of T's Masters of Museums program to present an exhibition on hair. Using artifacts from our collection – like a permanent wave machine from Karl's Hair Design in Cooksville established in 1966 – these 4 emerging curators have crafted a unique exhibition that explores personal, cultural and societal values that are expressed through hair. To get the benefit of actually installing a professional exhibition, these dedicated students will install in the Anchorage Galleries in June. The exhibit may be open to the public in June but if not – it will be made available through a virtual tour.

Our last exhibition of the year comes to us in response to a call for a Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Colour Community Curator. A team of 4 emerging Mississauga Curators are working on a project to spotlight the talent and voices of young BIPOC artists living and practising in Mississauga. Presence will provide space and a platform to communities that have often felt not reflected in traditional museum narratives. Through a series of public engagements, the project will culminate in an exhibition at the Museums and a digital experience on the screens at Celebration Square.

Looking into 2022, we will again partner with students from UTM to work on Love Stories. If you remember, we were working on this exhibition when COVID hit. We want to revisit this work and provide it as an opportunity for students to really explore concepts of love in Mississauga today – juxtaposed with love stories documented in our collection.

To What Degree comes to us from Ingenium, Canada’s Museum of Science and Innovation to ease us into a community conversation about the changing climate.

This sets the stage for We Are Resilient. This partnership with the Environment team is meant to inspire action, both small and large that will impact Mississauga’s 2050 Climate Change goal. This is a 3-year project that begins this year. Kicked off on Earth Day, residents are invited to share their stories and photographs about how climate change has affected them personally. The information collected will inform a major outdoor exhibition to be installed in a park in 2022. The following year, the exhibition will tour around the city.

Bringing us to 2023 – one of my personal favourites. We will be bringing “The Ones We Met” to the Museums. This is a travelling exhibition that tells the story of the Franklin Expedition through the eyes of the Inuit people.

And just to wrap up – looking ahead to 2024 – we are thinking about 2 exhibitions that will help us celebrate Mississauga’s semi-centennial. Mississauga has over 500 parks with over 500 names and every name tells a story. This is an opportunity to give a voice to our valuable green spaces. The second exhibition, Culture Builds Cities – will celebrate arts, culture, heritage and history as we talk to 50 people that make Mississauga diverse, unique and special. What is cultural leadership? Why is culture the most important tool to build a place where people choose to be.

So thank you Friends, for being with us on our journey, for being so very supportive as we have struggled through this last year, and for dreaming with us to make the Museums of Mississauga the best we can be.