THE MUSEUM OF ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY IS LOCATED ON THE ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, WHO TODAY INCLUDE THE HAUDENOSAUNEE, ANISHINAABE, AND MUNSEE-DELEWARE FIRST NATIONS OF THIS REGION, AS WELL AS THE MANY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO MAKE LONDON THEIR HOME

### Table of Contents

1. About Us  
2. Impact Snapshot  
3. President & Executive Director Report  
5. Lawson Chair Report  
6. Research  
7. Collections  
8. Education Programming  
9. Public Programming  
10. Events & Workshops  
11. Exhibits: Feature  
12. Exhibits: Gallery  
13. Exhibits: Virtual & Digital  
14. Marketing  
15. Our People: Board & Staff  
16. Volunteers  
17. Supporters
About Us

**Vision**
Connecting people to the stories of the human experience through time and place.

**Mission**
We share, interpret and care for the archaeological record to advance an understanding of Ontario’s heritage.

**Values**

*Discovery*
We are passionate about the past, curious about exploring how people lived and adapted to changing natural and cultural environments.

*Community*
We welcome multiple perspectives and recognize that the diversity of the human experience includes more than one voice and one way of looking at things.

*Integrity*
We are committed to responsible, open, and transparent methods of care and interpretation.

*Care*
We value and have a duty to continually earn the trust of the communities we serve.

The MOA was open for 283 days between May 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020 and wrapped up the fiscal year with three full-time regular employees, and one full-time contract. The Board thanks and sincerely appreciates the dedicated efforts of full-time, temporary and volunteer staff to develop new outdoor signage, a new Strategic Plan, to host almost 10,000 visitors, teach almost 4,000 students and pivot rapidly towards delivering our programs and content online and remotely in the days immediately following the closure of the MOA on March 14th, 2020 due to COVID-19.
Impact Snapshot

9,938 Visitors
29% From school groups

8,358 Boxes of Artifacts

3,792 Students educated

96,944 Website page views

10,321 Social media followers

3,172 Volunteer hours

9 Young people employed & trained in transferable job skills
Our 2019-20 year began last summer with much promise. We had started the process of developing a new Strategic Plan for the museum, guided by Impact Consulting and Pillar Non-Profit. The Lawson Foundation awarded us funding for the development of a virtual tour guide. We had also just been awarded a Trillium Seed Grant to develop a new Master Interpretive Plan that would provide the basis for a revitalization project for the main galleries and Lawson archaeological site. We accepted the transfer of several large collections from Archaeological Services Inc. and Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants, and we had opened our doors to the First Nations Technical Institute in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory to serve as a satellite campus from September through April. By December we had completed our Strategic Plan and announced our partnership with Lord Cultural Resources in developing our Interpretive Master Plan, and at the same time, we started to see the impact of the Ontario Teacher’s work-to-rule action on our program bookings. Then March arrived, and the museum faced an unprecedented new challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the pandemic, the MOA cancelled all events, workshops, and programming through April, the remainder of our 2019-20 fiscal year. While staff stayed home, they continued to work diligently to transition on-site services to digital and remote offerings to keep the community connected, home-bound children ‘edutained’, and to take the pressure off struggling parents and teachers. We are proud of and grateful for our Staff, who have risen to unprecedented challenges and who have remained dedicated to the strategic exercises that are re-shaping the museum. We are perhaps most excited by our continuing collaborative work with Lord Cultural Resources to design the Interpretive Master Plan, which is building now on the basis of the Concept Report delivered to the Planning Committee in May. Based on input from workshops and the many communities we serve, we are truly excited by our progress and we intend to come out of this pandemic energized with a roadmap that will guide us to a totally revitalized facility.
The MOA’s financial accounts are divided into three funds: Operating, Capital and Endowed. Combined, these funds provide an overall picture of the financial health of the museum with the total fund balances at the end of the year being $3,771,079. In 2019-20, operating expenses exceeded revenue with the deficit covered by unrestricted reserves.

**Operating Revenue**

- Private Donations: 17.6%
- Earned Income: 44.1%
- Government Sources: 38.3%

**Operating Expenses**

- Staffing: 43.7%
- Projects & Programming: 27.2%
- Collections & Research: 8.5%
- Occupancy: 20.6%
Lawson Chair Report

Last year can be divided between pre- and post-COVID. Pre-COVID foci included supporting the Strategic and Interpretive Plan development, supporting policy and operations development, investigating proposed collections donations, vetting program content, fielding general public information and object id queries, and recruiting and supporting research activities at the Museum. See page 6 for a compilation of the Research and Collaborations the Museum’s Research side met last year. Post-COVID researcher engagements have been reduced to meeting online requests for information and advice. I also generated online content to maintain the research profile of the Museum through social media. This effort led me to create a series of online research talks, and interviews with senior Ontario archaeologists.

I took the opportunity in one of these online talks to consolidate some of our current thinking about the Lawson site and 16th-century archaeology in southwestern Ontario. This topic remains an ongoing research focus, in collaboration with Bill Fox. This research will be further enhanced by a MA student starting at Western in September. She will be working on the Lawson site and help with the work to develop a Strategic Management Plan for the site.

I continue to participate in several ongoing research projects. I am currently collaborating on an international-based project entitled E-curators and digital learning in archaeology. I am working with a team from across North America on a Wenner-Gren Foundation project entitled Social Lives of Archaeological Repositories exploring repositories as sites of social relations that construct the past through its practices, policies, spaces, and human actors. These projects will allow me to situate and promote the Museum’s experiences and the research within a broader context.

Other research a comparative archaeologies of colonialism study focused in St. Kitts-Nevis, which is funded by a major SSHRC Insight research grant. I also continue to work with Christopher Watts on a research program by and for the Walpole Island First Nation. Research on the legal conception of archaeology and Indigenous heritage in Ontario, undertaken with Josh Dent, was published earlier this year in Archaeologies.

Student research I am supporting at the moment includes MA studies exploring Ontario CRM archaeology, one of which was just successfully defended. Three PhD students continue to explore the archaeology of a series of early Late Woodland site collections held here at the Museum, with one student intended to go to defence by the end of the summer. Another student is completing her MA on an Indigenous digital archaeology. Retired CRM company principal Phil Woodley is starting his research on the Middle Woodland sites he investigated over his career, while another student begins her work on collaborative archaeology and heritage in Nevis.

Dr Neal Ferris
Lawson Chair of Canadian Archaeology
Western University Anthropology/
Museum of Ontario Archaeology
Research & Collaboration

Collaboration refers to Institutional Levels working together on ongoing or one-off projects or to advance the Aims of the Museum.

Research Support refers to providing information, access to collections, data, or otherwise assisting in research level initiatives undertaken with the Museum’s assistance or through the Museum’s collections/data

10 Western Collaborations
Dept of Anthropology
Dept of History
Dept of Visual Arts
Faculty of Social Science
Faculty of Education

10 Collaborations with Other Institutions
Fanshawe College
Fleming College
Nipissing University
London Heritage Council
Ontario Archaeological Society
Ontario Clay and Glass Association
London Clay Arts Centre/Potter's Guild
Archaeological Services Inc.
Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants
D.R. Poulton & Associates

52 Researchers Supported
11 University
12 Graduate Student
5 CRM
11 Independent Researchers
3 Museum
2 Government
8 First Nations

Ontario - 45
BC - 1
Quebec - 1
Aus. - 1
U.S. - 3
U.K. - 1
South Korea - 1

7 Collections on Loans
**MOA Collections**

In 2018, Western transferred their Sustainable Archaeology facility to the MOA. Combined, the MOA Sustainable Collections facility now curates 8258 boxes of archaeological collections for long-term care. We hold these collections in trust for the People of Ontario, and facilitate access to the objects and their stories via our programming, exhibits, on-line galleries and special research and cultural requests.

**New Collections**

In April 2019, Archeological Services Inc. (ASI) transported 1926 boxes from three storage units in Toronto and Hamilton to the MOA Sustainable Collections repository. They contracted the museum to repackage the collections, for which the museum hired three part-time staff. Between June 17 and March 24, 2020, 1124 bankers boxes have been fully repackaged to MOA standards. Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) began transferring 400 boxes to the museum and D.R. Poulton also committed to depositing 200 boxes. One community donation was made of three projectile points.

**Other Collections**

The museum also houses a large ethnographic collection, artwork and books. The ethnographic and art collections are currently available on the museum’s website, via the PastPerfect portal.

**Collections Online**

In addition to art and ethnographic materials, the PastPerfect collection portal also makes public many of the museum’s donated archaeological collections.

In April 2020, the MOA’s Google Arts and Culture online collections page went online, showcasing 50 new accessions previously featured as Artifact Spotlights.

**Digitized Records**

20,000

**New Boxes**

1943

**Collections**

8407

Collections Boxes
The 2019/20 fiscal year included some challenging times for educational and public programming commencing with the Teachers and Support staff work-to-rule and strike actions starting in September 2019 and culminating in the Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020. Regarding programming, the MOA offers Ontario Curriculum-based educational programming for Elementary and Secondary students focusing on archaeological methods, historical thinking concepts, and related science and technology. Regular Programs are available as both onsite and outreach programs, in half-day and full-day formats. New programs developed for the 2019/20 year available were Soils, Rocks, and Habitats and Life Systems and Living Things.

MOA continues to participate in the London Museum School program coordinated by the London Heritage Council, which collaborates with teachers to move their classroom to a museum or heritage site for a full week of curriculum-based experiential learning. Many were cancelled as a result of strike action and Covid-19. However, four weeks were able to be hosted, one in spring of 2019 and three in fall, totalling 95 individual students between grades 3 and 8. Their numbers are represented in the overall total shown here.

As of September 2019, our programming attendance numbers were ~25% higher than the ten-year average. In January 2020, program attendance fell to average as a result of the work-to-rule and strike actions. With Covid-19 subsequently shutting down all programming from March 14 - April 30, MOA ended the year with a 25% decrease over the average in Educational Programming. The final numbers for all school programs were 2871 students and 289 teachers and chaperones hosted over 80 school programming days.
MOA offers Public Programming throughout the year to groups from private and public organizations, such as community groups, day camps, ESL programs and adult programs. MOA also delivers our popular children’s day camps, birthday parties and Special Events.

Birthday Parties
MOA offers three themed birthday parties for children ages 5-14. These are CSI, Ice Age Adventure, and Dig-it. Each party incorporates activities, crafts, and games designed for a fun learning experience. In 2019-20, MOA hosted 22 birthday parties with 250 participants.

Public Programs
In 2019-20 we delivered 37 public education programs to adult and youth groups from private and public organizations; an increase over the previous year of 46%. This was due primarily to a busier than average July and August and an outreach program with the Ontario Archaeological Society at Lake Whittaker in August. There were a total of 1108 paid camp participants and 135 unpaid leaders and chaperones.

Children's Camps
MOA’s summer programming is dominated by our children's summer day camps. The main camp is for children ages 5-9, and in 2019 camps ran for six weeks in July and August (185 campers). The camp themes for 2019 were: Exploring Our World Inside Out; Camping Adventure; Mad Science of Archaeology; Around the World in a Week; Ice Age Adventure; and Raiders of the Lost Artifact.

The 2020 March Break Camp was cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown starting March 14.
Events & Workshops

2 Events
3601 Participants

Events and workshops provide incentives for locals to visit and re-visit the MOA and provide visitors with opportunities to engage and participate in Ontario culture and heritage. Each fall, the annual Harvest Festival and PowWow draws thousands of visitors, while other smaller-scaled events such as the Maple Harvest Festival in March can draw upwards of 350 visitors in just one weekend. Due to COVID-19 this year, we were not able to host the Maple Harvest Festival, as planned.

The MOA hosts regular arts and crafts workshops such as drum-making, moccasin making, painting and pottery. Working with facilitators from First Nations and other local communities such as FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association and the London Potter’s Guild, our events and workshops keep people engaged with the MOA. Due to COVID-19, the museum had to cancel 2 sold-out moccasin making workshops that had been scheduled in March and April.

11 Workshops
1008 Participants
Exhibits

Feature Exhibits

**Lend an ear to the Past: An Archaeology of Sound**
January 2019 – February 2020
Museum of Ontario Archaeology, in collaboration with Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants and ASI Inc.

To celebrate the JUNO’s hosted by London in March 2019, and in collaboration with commercial archaeology firms ASI and TMHC, this exhibit explored the sites and sounds of Ontario’s history, brought to life from archaeological fragments of the past. From bird-bone whistles, thousands of years old, to discarded remnants from Sam the Record Man™, the display included sounds and interactive components allowing visitors to lend an ear to the artifacts, as well as 3D prints of archaeological objects displaying musical evidence from other museums around the world.

**Who Cares About the Past? Ontario Archaeology in Practice**
February 2020 - current
MOA, Dr Marie Hoffmann

A look at the contemporary practice of archaeology in Ontario, driven by Cultural Resource Management. This exhibit examines the who, where, what, why and when of contemporary archaeology, supported by archaeological finds from CRM work carried out by the museum or deposited into the repository by practicing companies. Maps and photographs give context to the growth of the archaeological industry and illustrate how artifacts travel from field to shelf through all the stages of archaeological documentation. This exhibit is intended to carry the museum forward towards a future revamp of the galleries by providing the public with a more up-to-date understanding of the discipline.
Exhibits

Temporary Exhibit

Artifact Spotlight
June 2019 – June 2020

The Artifact Spotlight was a weekly micro-exhibit series hosted on site in the gallery as well as on social media. It featured a short, interesting fact about the object(s), usually something discovered during the ongoing repackaging projects. The goal was to highlight the diversity of archaeology in Ontario.

Objects featured were uploaded to the Exhibit gallery on the museum’s Google Arts & Culture page.

New Permanent Exhibit

Lawson Village Signage
July 2019-present

Using funding provided in part by the London Community Foundation along with a private donation from Dr Chris Ellis, the Museum designed and installed new interpretive signage for the Lawson archaeological village. Featuring full translation in French and key terminology in Ojibwe and Oneida, the panels are reversible to provide seasonal interpretation for returning visitors.
**Virtual/Digital Exhibits**

**The Story of Ste. Marie II**
September 2018 - present
Curated by Nicole Aszalos, with Dr Ron Williamson and Peter Carruthers

This online exhibit was created with funding from the Virtual Museum of Canada, Community Stories Investment Program. It explores the story of the last months of the Wendat and some of their Indigenous allies, along with the Jesuits on Christian Island, based on both the Wendat oral history and the documentary and archaeological records.

**The VR Time Machine**
January 2017 - present
Museum of Ontario Archaeology

This Virtual Reality experience shares 3 unique, immersive experiences:
1) a virtual reconstruction of a 15-16th century longhouse,
2) a life-size medieval prayer bead courtesy of the Art Gallery of Ontario and
3) a virtual 'touch' table of archaeological artifacts.

**Outreach Exhibits**

**Who Cares About the Past?**
**Online Component**
Launched April, 2020

This exhibit, hosted through the Museum’s Google Arts and Culture gallery, contextualizes several of the artifacts on the Google Arts & Culture page into an exhibit designed to complement our in-house feature exhibit of the same name. It explores where and why archaeology takes place across Ontario, as well as the kinds of artifacts that are uncovered by such practices.

**Celebrate 60!**
**At Fanshawe Pioneer Village**
March-October 2019

The MOA was invited to participate in Fanshawe Pioneer Village’s landmark 60-year anniversary event by providing a display case examining Wilfred Jury’s role as the MOA’s founder. Our contribution focused on his role in promoting public archaeology through the lens of his work at Sainte Marie II. It included artifacts from his excavations at the site, one of his scrapbooks collecting news articles from the time, and photographs of him and his wife and fellow archaeologist, Elsie.
The website welcomed 44k users in 2019/20. This is 2.1% less than last year, but can be attributed to the cancellation of the Maple Harvest Festival, our second largest event of the year, and March Break camps. While US visitorship was down slightly, we saw a 3% increase in Canadian visitors. Website visits average 1.2 minutes in length and most viewers land on information pages, home activities, and the museum homepage.

While we saw a decrease in engagement on desktop devices, the past year has seen an increase in accessing the webpage via mobile devices - a trend we anticipate will continue.
Our People

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2019-20 Board Directors
Ron Williamson, President
Andrew Nelson, Vice President
Robert Thuot, Treasurer
Peter Carruthers
Jennifer Burkitt
Matthew McCarthy
Kirsty Robertson
Starr McGahey-Albert
Dana Poulton
Jonathan Rivard
Sharon Rich
Len Collins
Nancy Deleary

Ex-officio Director Appointments
Neal Ferris, Lawson Chair of Canadian Archaeology
Rhonda Bathurst, Secretary (ED)

STAFF
Core Staff
Rhonda Bathurst, Executive Director
Cindy Barrett, Administrative Officer
Katie Urban, Learning Coordinator
Heather Hatch, Collections Manager
Marie Hoffmann, Exhibit Developer
Madison Stirling, Experience Coordinator

TERM STAFF
Young Canada Works:
Ellena de Oliveira, Sr. Camp Counselor
Afreen Shabir, Education Assistant
Sarah Eaton, Interpretation Assistant
Canada Summer Jobs:
Maive Ferris, Sr. Camp Counselor
Kendall Zurowski, Education Assistant
Aidan Drake, Visitor Experience
Noah Chapman, Interpretation Assistant
Youth Opportunities Unlimited:
Molly Moorehouse, Jr. Camp Counselor
Summer Experience Program:
Mac Goodyear, Archaeological Collections Assistant
Archaeological Collections Staff:
Sonya Hauri-Thiessen
Steven Naftel
Hillary Kizyk
Curatorial Interns:
Harper Wellman, Western University Department of Visual Arts Museum and Curatorial Stream
Cooperative Education:
Anna Johnstone (Winter/Spring, Ed. Asst.)
Education Interns:
Stephanie Rigg. Nipissing University
Tim Caskey. Nipissing University
Public History Research Assistant:
Daniel Farrow
YMCA Student Exchange:
Laurence Bolduc, Jr. Camp Counselor
Western Work-Study:
Farhiya Abdalle, Education Assistant (Fall/Winter)
Brianna Todd, Education Assistant (Fall/Winter)
Maria Akhtar, Education Assistant (Fall/Winter)
Angelina Allen-Demaria, Education Assistant (Fall/Winter)
Irelynd Jess, Front Desk Receptionist (Fall/Winter)
Marley Jokinen, Front Desk Receptionist (Fall/Winter)
Austin King, Collections (Fall/Winter)
Tyler Edlinger, Collections (Fall/Winter)
Benjamin DaFoe, Library (Fall/Winter)
Ian Saya, Jr. Camp Counselor (Summer)
Reighan Crineage. Collections (Summer)
Mohamed Toman. Grounds Keeper (Summer)
MOA volunteers fulfill multiple roles, including photography, contributing to the newsletter, assisting with workshops and events, internships, and co-op placements.

Volunteers

94

Hours of Service

3,172

THANKYOU

Fariiya Abdalle
Zainab Ahmed
Yacob Alboloshi
Caleb Alcock
Rafael Balindong
Nancy Barton-Furlong
Jason Bathurst
Vince Isla Beatty
Jessica Belanger
Sarah Bentley
Ventry Bertieg
Victoria Burnet
Avery Carmichael
Tim Caskey
Rema Chalikh
Wendy Cho
Darryl Dann
Evelin Diaz
Karen Ding
Will Dijkstra
Aidan Drake
Konrad Dobniak
Justin Duquette
Nasir Duverger
Janet Ewart
Daniel Farrow

Celeste French
Chelsey Gareau
Bethany Goss
Owen Gou
Chada Hammad
Sonya Hauri-Thiessen
Brian Hill
Ife Idowu
Emma Jager
Teddy Jefferson
Eric Jin
Anna Johnstone
Chada Kablawi
Navneet Kaur
Sanjyoun Kim
Austin King
Josh Kogutek
Nhu (Emmie) Le
Sean Lee
Jewoon Lee
Ben Lesky
Carter Levac
Fernanda Lima
Kim Lundberg
Ellen Lundberg
Liam Lucas
Chinmayi Manda

Olivia Marshall
Siena Mclachlan
Ian McMackick
Ian Muhlolland
Steven Nafiel
Gene Nakonechny
Elly Naranjo
Syeda Nawal
Skyler Nguyen
Thu (Tia) Nguyen
Skyler Nguyen
Abigail Penner
Xander Penner
Nhat Minh (Mikel) Phan
Brad Phillips
Carey Platt
Nicolas Presto
Linna Qin
Jinsong Qui
Yolanda Ren
Stephanie Rigg
Safira Sarkar
Afreem Shabbir
Elis Shamoon
Sonya Siddiqui
Brayden Smith
Cindy Smythe

Hillary Stewart
Thi Phuong
Mai Thai
Coralia Tudor
Andrew Turnbull
Ananria Van Dorst
Ally Vouvalidis
April Wall
Shelby Wall
Stewart Walsh
Shelby Weaver
Fallan Weislen
Harper Weilman
Noah Wilson
Pan Yipe
Gabrielle Young
Hajar Yusif
Tara Zarrar
Tony Zylstra
The MOA benefits significantly from strong and growing community relationships. We are grateful for the financial, resource, and in-kind support from all of our funders, granting agencies, community partners, and local businesses. Our sincere thanks to the Lawson Foundation for funding to support the development of a virtual tour guide and the Ontario Trillium Fund Seed Grant for funds to support the development of a new Interpretive Plan. Many thanks this year also go to the London Community Foundation’s Endowment for Archaeological Heritage and former Board Director, Dr Christopher Ellis, for helping to fund the new village signage installed last summer.