Annual Report
2016 - 2017

Museum of Ontario Archaeology

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Our Vision

Inspiring the archaeologist in everyone through the exploration of Ontario's diverse cultural heritage

Our Mission

Through stewardship, research, and education the Museum continually strives to advance our understanding of Ontario's archaeological heritage. We bring the human past to life, make it relevant to understanding the present, and inspire an appreciation of, and respect for, Ontario's cultural diversity.

Our Values

Stewardship:

- Inspiring people to become stewards of Ontario's archaeological heritage.
- Demonstrating exemplary stewardship of the cultural resources in MOA's care.

Research:

- Creating and advancing knowledge about Ontario's archaeological heritage.
- Disseminating information as widely and as accessibly as possible.

Education:

- Providing exceptional, interactive, and engaging learning experiences.
- Sharing First Nations culture and heritage through community led programs and activities.

President's Report

What an exciting year this has been for the museum! If you have not visited recently, you will discover our new look. We have new siding along with a new roof and heating/cooling units surrounded by our repaired palisading-fencing. With these and other smaller capital improvements now behind us, we can focus on exhibit renewal and the integration of Sustainable Archaeology with the Museum within the next few years.

In this regard, the other major change this past fall, was the transition to a new Executive Director, Dr. Rhonda Bathurst. Rhonda was the former Operations Manager at Sustainable Archaeology and is thus no stranger to the opportunities (and challenges) that come with the integration of these two facilities. Rhonda has come to her new position with passion and an excellent skill set to lead our museum community into the future.

Our relationship with Western University is now centred on research and our shared mission to provide educational experiences about Ontario's archaeological past to university students, school children, and the general public. We continue to facilitate archaeological research with the world class Wilfrid Jury collection that the Museum houses. With the guidance of Rhonda and our Lawson Chair of Canadian Archaeology, Dr. Neal Ferris, we will energise new exhibits with 21st century technology, which as we witnessed this past winter, is a huge crowd pleaser. Indeed, MOA's new Virtual Archaeology exhibit provides a virtual glimpse of life in a 500 year old house structure like those that were occupied at our provincially designated Lawson site. Wearing HTC Vive 3D virtual reality goggles, the visitor can experience life inside a digitally reconstructed longhouse with hearths and smoke and all of the objects used by the house inhabitants. The display was developed by Western University PhD candidate Michael Carter using archaeological evidence and the European documentary record along with modern computer generated imagery and virtual reality production. Dr. Ferris' continued work with the rehabilitation of the Lawson village, a focus of his Western University field school, is the foundation for our effort to update the management plan for this significant archaeological site.

Our summer 2016 exhibit, *Decolonizing Frames: Questioning, Critiquing, and Celebrating Indigenous Representation,* presented Indigenous history and culture from the perspectives of 19 students in the Introduction to First Nations Studies course at Western University. The exhibit challenged traditional interpretations of Indigenous history and its portrayal in Museums and will ran until August 29th. Displays such as these are central to our efforts to not only present the complexities of past Indigenous lives but to participate in reconciling Canadian society's colonialist

President's Report, continued

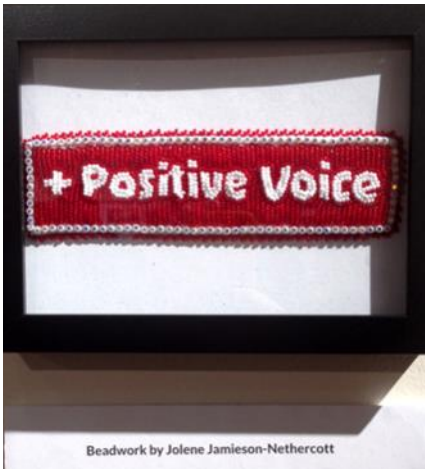
offenses and profound failure in the past to recognise and support Indigenous cultures. Our winter exhibit featured eleven urban Indigenous women from the London region who shared their stories in *Warrior Womyn: Reclaiming Our Identity*. The exhibit derived from their participation in the innovative +Positive Voices program at Nokee Kwe. We have accomplished all this while also continuing to host our regular programs, workshops, day camps and special exhibits.

Another very important event in our annual schedule is the Pow-Wow, which was a success again this past year despite some inclement weather. Alive with drumming and dancing in multi-coloured regalia, these special gatherings are a celebration of life and are intended to honour the Creator and Mother Earth. There are cultural teachings as well as crafts and food stands — make this year's celebration part of your late summer schedule.

All of this does not happen without the efforts of many. I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their ongoing commitment and volunteer service to the Museum. I also want to extend my thanks to Rhonda, our Executive Director, and to Cindy Barrett, who is the administrative and financial core to the Museum; she is also central to the success of our annual Pow-Wow. I'd also like to acknowledge Nicole Aszalos for her dedication and passion and to Katie Urban for her excellent work in the provision of learning experiences for our audiences.

Volunteers also play a crucial role in our Museum life and I thank them for their continuing service to their community. Our success is the result of the work of all of these people.

Finally, we are delighted to be part of Western University's community and we value our various research connections with the University. I would also like to thank the Province of Ontario, City of London and London Heritage Council and Heritage Canada along with the many donors and sponsors whose support enables us to provide our many programs, services, and events for the community.



Beadwork by Jolene Jamieson-Nethercott

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald F. Williamson, PhD
President

Executive Director's Report

It was an honour and privilege to have taken over the Executive Director position last fall, following the departure of Joan Kanigan after four productive years in this position. At the time of my arrival, the Museum was in the midst of a multi-phased capital infrastructure renewal project, for which Joan was instrumental in securing federal and municipal funding. This month we are delighted to see the project completed, with a fresh new face on our entrance façade, new siding and HVAC, as well as a newly resurfaced roof. What a sound foundation and fitting legacy for Joan to have left us with.

As an archaeologist, it is a pleasure to be responsible for directing a museum dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and sharing Ontario's cultural heritage, especially one with such a legacy of intellect and influence. I came to this position from Sustainable Archaeology: Western, with an aim to integrate the research and technology of SA into MOA programs to meet changing museum visitor expectations and keep up with emergent industry trends. In January, we introduced our first Virtual Reality exhibit to our permanent collections hall to significant media and public interest. The experience of 3D immersion within a digitally reconstructed 16th century 3D longhouse, highlighting an example of the innovative PhD research being conducted at Sustainable Archaeology, has broadened the Museum's exposure, and thus has contributed to our revenue generation. The success has lead us to expand our VR exhibit offerings of other research projects, and has initiated new partnerships with industries such as film and production, providing us potential new funding and programming opportunities.

With an emphasis on elevating the community profile of the Museum, there has been considerable expansion in our programming over the past year. We have implemented two new annual events, International Archaeology Day and the Maple Harvest Festival, revived our PA Day Camp program, opened three feature exhibits, revitalized some of our permanent exhibits, and we are expanding our outreach to include a traveling "suitcase" exhibit and participation in more local and regional events., including the Ontario Archaeological Association and the Canadian Archaeological Association's annual meetings. Our partnerships with Western University and Fanshawe College have also broadened, providing educational opportunities for post-secondary students in programs such as First Nations Studies, History, Anthropology, Visual Arts, the School of Advanced Studies in Arts and Humanities, Television and Broadcasting and Marketing Management.

Our Curator, Nicole Aszalos, Learning Coordinator, Katie Urban and Administrative Officer, Cindy Barrett, provide more details within this Annual Report concerning exhibits, collections, programming, and administration at the MOA over the past year. Looking forward to the next year, we will be revising and clarifying our strategic direction as we start to plan for the incorporate of Sustainable Archaeology and the revitalization of our internal galleries, now that our external infrastructure is updated and sound.

ED's Report, continued

The Museum has a dedicated Staff of Employees, interns, work-study students and other placements whose commitment to this institution is an inspiration. We are also fortunate to have an incredible team of volunteers who commit their time and efforts to activities from compiling our monthly newsletter, to cleaning up our gardens, conducting tours, maintaining our facility, to marketing our brand or welcoming guests at our front desk. The successes that we have experienced are due to the team effort of so many dedicated people, it is a true pleasure to work with each of you. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their guidance and stability, Canada Cultural Spaces, the City of London, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Western University, the London Heritage and Arts Councils, and our many generous funders, sponsors and donors for your support and commitment over the past year.

Respectfully in service,

Rhonda Bathurst
Executive Director

Lawson Chair's Report

I am coming up on my 10th anniversary as the Museum's Lawson Chair for Canadian Archaeology, and it continues to be an honour and privilege to be a part of the Museum's efforts to advance archaeology and the heritage of Ontario's and Canada's ancestors through this position.

Sustainable Archaeology – the completing of this massive undertaking to full operational mode – has been a predominant focus of my efforts since the CFI-ORF Grant was awarded in 2009. The focus this year and the focus for the upcoming year will be on facilitating the integration of this Western University research center fully into the Museum's operations and direction. Staff, members of the Museum Board, and university representatives are all working to ensure this happens in a timely, efficient, and positive way to ensure the aims, holdings and research infrastructure of the SA facility become an important component and contributor to the Museum's various programs and initiatives, and help cement the Museum as a leader in the practice, research and advancement of archaeology and the archaeological heritage in Ontario.

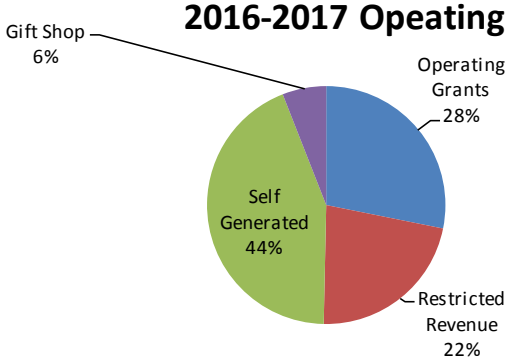
I am also working to finalize last operational components of the SA Informational Platform, the initiation of a major collection transfer to SA, and directing both multiple courses and multiple post-doctoral, graduate and undergraduate student research occurring at SA and/or on Museum collections at SA. Going forward my plan is to seek a major research grant in the next couple of years that would allow research to advance an Indigenous digital archaeology of, by and for First Nations in Ontario, which is the exact kind of research this important infrastructure is intended to enable. As always, the plan is to both generate cutting edge research findings and collaborations, and ensure this work can also be re-purposed as Museum programing and user experiences.

I have enjoyed implementing a field-school at the Lawson site over the past two years, and supporting the Museum's development of a strategic plan for the site. The Lawson site, and indeed the Terminal Woodland period (ca. AD 1400-1800) in southwestern Ontario remains an under-researched part of the archaeological past, and the Lawson site is a vital component in that story, at a pivotal moment in the human history of this region. I aim to focus research and graduate student focus on the site and its place in this wider narrative over the coming years, developing and advancing on the findings we have from the 150 or so years of archaeology that has been done here.

As I start what I hope will be a second decade of serving as the Museum's Lawson chair I look forward to the challenges and opportunities this position offers, and maybe hope for a slightly less frenetic pace to everything going forward!

Neal Ferris
Lawson Chair of Canadian Archaeology

Financial Report



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 $3,161,886.

In 2016/2017, MOA received approximately 28% of its revenues from operating grants from Western University, the City of London including the London Heritage Council, and the Province of Ontario. The remaining funds necessary to operate the museum were generated through program and service fees, fundraising efforts, project grants and gift shop sales. In 2016/2017, the Museum's operating revenues were $507,230 and expenses were $534,926 resulting in an operational deficit of $17,696.

35% of the Museum's annual operating expenses are tied to programs and service delivery. This includes the salaries necessary for these programs to operate. The Quill Box gift shop accounts for 3% of expenditures and building maintenance 17%. Non programming salaries and administration costs represent 35% of the Museum's annual expenses and support the management, marketing, and governance of the museum. This year's increased costs to operate the building were due to parking lot regrading, flooding caused by a sewer storm blockage, and consulting studies to assist in decisions regarding drainage issues.

MOA undertook a number of capital projects in 2016-17, including the installation of a new roof and HVAC system as well as new siding. Funding for these projects was partially funded by the Federal Government's Cultural Spaces Grant ($177,500) and the City of London Capital Grant ($50,000). The remaining expenses were funded by MOA ($163,685).

Our investments returns this year resulted in a positive gain of $243,929. Investment returns offset operation costs and the Lawson Chair of Canadian Archaeology.

Our annual audited financial statements by KPMG LLP are publicly available on our web site at http://archaeologymuseum.ca/about-moa/annual-report/

Note: *This report is based on preliminary 2016 information, and audited results may vary. Variances, if any, are expected to be minor. The reader should refer to the audited 2016 financial statements.*

Fundraising & Marketing

With only 28% of the Museum's annual operating revenue coming from Western University and government funding, corporate and private donations are vital to our growth and development. We continue to grow individual and corporate support through our Annual Campaign and a variety of different sponsorship opportunities.

This year we turned our Social Media targeting from building a base of followers from a broad global market to more regional and targeted markets, using the platform to promote self-generated content and MOA Special Events. In 2016, we continued to see modest but steady increases in followers, with 6,036 across all social media platforms. We also experienced a sharp increase in local media coverage which led to additional social media shares of exhibitions and events.

Our website viewership observed record numbers with 76,697 unique views compared to 45,691 in the previous year, with the most traffic registered from January-March. We attribute the increase in viewership to regularly published special interest blogs, links from our monthly newsletter, job postings and increased media exposure. Over the next year we will be experimenting with new social media features such as Facebook Live to create meaningful and engaging content for our viewers.

Human and financial resources are perpetual challenges for not-for-profits, and the MOA is no exception., but with our efforts to elevate our profile within the community and across the province, we aim to increase our resources on both of these fronts.

Supporters

Corporate, Foundations, Community, and Government Funders

Department of Canadian Heritage - Canada Cultural Spaces
Department of Canadian Heritage - Young Canada Works
Department of Canadian Heritage - Heritage Festivals Grant
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
The City of London
Western University
Canada Summer Jobs
Youth Opportunities Unlimited
Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities
Ontario Arts Council
The City of London
London Heritage Council
London Arts Council
Ontario Arts Council
Healthy Weights Connection
TD Bank
Cowan Insurance

In-Kind Donors

Sustainable Archaeology: Western; 102.3 JackFM; Subway; Domino's Pizza; The Original Cakerie; Elgie Bus Line; A.I.A.I., N'Amerind Friendship Centre; S.O.H.A.C.; Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Ctr.; In Motion; Mastermind Toys; Bark and Fitz; Bourbon Street Cajun & Creole Kitchen & Bar; A Taste of Britain; Sobeys; No Frills; Starbucks Coffee; Davey Tree Service.

Thank you to all of our 2016-2017 private donors

Educational Programming

MOA's Educational programming includes Half-day and Full-day programs, which are re designed to support and enhance the Ontario curriculum. This includes the special full-day programs *Archaeologist for a Day* and *Life in a Longhouse*. Programming has been developed to complement the Ontario Curriculum with hands-on and experiential learning that is focused on Social Studies content but is cross-curricular wherever possible. MOA programming focuses on First Nations history and culture in relation to the Lawson Archaeological site and more broadly to Ontario; as well as archaeology and its methods using the museum's collections and exhibits, whenever possible.

MOA delivered 123 education programs (Day field trips, Museum Schools, and Outreaches) to local and regional schools, during which 3,470 students and 350 teachers and chaperones participated.

To better align our prices with the comparable programs throughout London and the region, we raised our prices for the 2016/17 school year. We increased our 4 hour ,full-day programs from $8.50/student to $10/student and our Special day programs (*Life in a Longhouse* and *Archaeologist for a Day*) to $12/student.

Over the course of the 2016/17 year, we facilitated 78 in-house and outreach programs with elementary and secondary schools, which involved 2,995 students and 346 chaperones and teachers.

Educational Programming, cont.

MUSEUM
SCHOOL LONDON

MOA continues to participate in the London Museum School program coordinated by the London Heritage Council. The London Museum School program is a unique, award-winning program, which enables students to develop their writing, problem-solving and critical thinking skills by bringing classes of children into London and area museums for a full week of curriculum-based experiential learning. Teachers work with MOA staff to design a program specific to their class.

Each week-long program is consistent with five full-day one class visits and consist of both museum-led programs and teacher-planned activities and instructional time. An added outcome of Museum School is a closer relationship between museum staff and educators. Daily discussions with teachers allow for real-time evaluations for each workshop and activity, which provides invaluable constructive feedback.

This year, the London Arts Council and the London Heritage Council partnered on a project to create new opportunities for local London artists to work with regional museums. MOA have participated in the program, welcoming our sponsored Artist-in-Residence, Moses Lunham. Moses an Ojibway artist from Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, whose artwork and t-shirts we have been carrying in the Quill Box gift shop for several years. Funding from the LAC and LHC supports the development of the program, and provides a stipend for non-consumables as well as consumables. It also supports 3 hours of project delivery time at 4 Museum Schools per year for 3 years. Moses has spent one day at each of our Museum schools this spring teaching painting on rocks and canvas.

Between May 2016 and April 2017, MOA delivered six weeks of Museum School with 154 students and 14 teachers and chaperones each visiting MOA five times.

Public Programming

General Programs:

MOA offers a variety of Public Programming throughout the year to groups from private and public organizations, such as community groups, day camps, ESL groups and adult programs. MOA also delivers our popular children's day camps, birthday parties as well as other Special Events.

In 2016/17 MOA delivered 39 public tour programs to 633 participants and 85 leaders.

Summer Camp:
MOA offered nine weeks of summer camp for ages 5-9 in July and August of 2016. As well as two 3-Day Youth archaeology camps for ages 10-14. Camp themes are chosen based on four criteria: archaeology, local and First Nations history, as well as the environment. 2016 themes included: Canadian Celebration, Raiders of the Lost Artifacts, Myths & Legends, Sports & Games Around the World, Vikings!, Exploring the Underwater world, Mysteries of Egypt, 5000 Years of Music & Art, and Adventures in Science & Archaeology. Throughout the nine weeks of summer camp, there were 371 participants.

March Break:
The theme for March Break 2017 was London: Past & Present, highlighting London's history from its earliest inhabitants to the current day. A total of 39 children participated over the course of the week.

P.A. Day Camps
Between October 2016 and April 2017 MOA offered four 1-Day P.A. Day camps. These camps were themed around the season in which they fell and had 42 participants.

Birthday Parties
MOA themed birthday parties continue to be popular. In 2016/17 there were 37 parties delivered to 428 birthday children and their friends aged 4-11.

There are currently four different party themes: Ice Age Adventure, Crime Scene Investigation, Creative Minds, and Archaeology Dig-It, of which there are both indoor and outdoor versions. Each Birthday party is 2.5 hours long, which includes 1.5 hours of crafts and activities with a party animator and 1 hour in the party room.

Public Programming, continued

Workshops

The Museum offers a number of different workshop throughout the year, for children and adults alike, designed to showcase various heritage arts and crafts. This past year featured workshops in moccasin making, drum making and painting.

Attendance Summary:

Educational Programs:
3765 Students
416 Teachers/Chaperones

Public Programs:
633 Participants
85 Leaders / Chaperones

Special Events:
2567 Participants

Camps:
382 Camp Participants

Visitors:
5478 Visitors

Workshops
55 participants

Birthdays Parties:
37 Parties
428 Participants

Special Events

MOA holds several annual Special Events. each providing an opportunity to engage visitors in a variety of different experiences and activities at the Museum.

Family Fun Day is held on Family Day in February each year, celebrating winter in Ontario and highlighting First Nations sports and traditions, as well as contemporary winter activities. Most activities were planned for staying indoors, as weather can be difficult to predict, but this year we experienced record warm temperatures—and attendance to match, with over 300 visitors.

Maple Harvest Festival was revived this year after several decades in hiatus. Hosted over the weekend of March 11-12, MOA harvested our own sap from the sugar maples in our tree lot, and featured live demonstrations of First Nations' maple harvesting and processing techniques in the longhouse. A traditional maple harvesting exhibit, craft vendors, First Nations Elders as well as a couple of artifacts and representatives from the local Kinsmen added colour and education to the festivities. Despite uncooperative weather and a cold snap, we still welcomed over 300 visitors over the weekend.

International Archaeology Day is a global initiative of the Archaeological Institute of America. Held annually on the third Saturday of October each year, the event is designated as a day of celebration and education about archaeology. We participated for the first time in 2016, in conjunction with the City of London's formal announce of its review of the city's Archaeological Management Plan. The event hosted activities such as flint knapping and educational walks, as well as an identification table manned by the Ontario Archaeological Society and Board Director Chris Ellis. Over 100 visitors attended the celebration.

Special Events, continued

In 2016 we celebrated our 8th **Annual Harvest Festival and Pow Wow.** Each year we work closely with local First Nations community members and organizations to offer a competitive Pow Wow, staged over two days.. Cultural demonstrations, both traditional and contemporary, as well as craft and food vendors provided entertainment for our visitors and participants. Due to inclement weather, the dancing and some vendors were moved to a local school, who generously offered us the use of the gymnasium. Free shuttle buses from Elgie Bus Line, shuttled visitors to and from each location. Despite the weather, we welcomed over 1500 attendees. We gratefully acknowledge our Pow Wow Supporters and Sponsors, without whose support this event would not be possible.

Pow Wow Funders:
Government: Canadian Heritage, Ontario Arts Council
Corporate: TD Canada, Healthy Weights Connections

Pow Wow Supporters:
Community: Healthy Weights Connection, 102.3 JackFM, Domino's Pizza, Elgie Bus Line, A.I.A.I., N'Amerind Friendship Centre, S.O.H.A.C., Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Ctr.

Other Special Events

Throughout the year MOA also participated in London and area special events, such as Doors Open London/Culture Days, the London Heritage Council's annual Heritage Fair 150, Kids' First Day and Aboriginal Solidarity Day.

Feature Exhibits

During the 2016/2017 year, MOA worked diligently on increasing our community profile while engaging with local community organizations and schools. Our exhibitions caught the interest of local media outlets who featured MOA multiple times across television, radio, and newspaper sources. We also held three widely successful openings, each drawing a crowd of 100+ people.

The reduction of the number of temporary exhibitions from four to three resulted in a shift of focus toward the revitalization of the permanent gallery. The Curatorial Staff reimagined the *Roots of a Nation* exhibition to create a multisensory educational experience focusing on the use of local plants and the teachings of the medicine wheel. In December the old Jury Office exhibit was removed in anticipation of the Virtual Reality Longhouse which was shared on behalf of Sustainable Archaeology: Western and PhD candidate Michael Carter, whose research and effort created this exhibition. *MOA VRchaeology* opened in January 2016 and will be a permanent and evolving virtual exhibit. With a small additional fee, this popular exhibit is a popular addition to the gallery and the first of its kind in Southern Ontario.

Of the three temporary exhibitions this year, one utilized in-house research and collections. *Selections from the Collections: History, Culture, Legends* was result of a recent archiving project of MOA's permanent art collection combined with the recent donations of multiple works by Norval Morrisseau, Carl Ray, Roy Thomas, and Joshim Kakegamic. *Selections from the Collection* combined the history, culture, and legends along with present day realities in Woodland style art to encourage visitors to learn more about the artworks, artists, and traditions.

Select Student work from *Decolonizing Frames*

A collaborative effort between MOA and the First Nation Studies department at Western University over the academic year culminated with the Summer 2016 exhibition *Decolonizing Frames: Questioning, Critiquing, and Celebrating Indigenous Representation*. This exhibit featured 19 student made projects addressing issues of decolonization and representations of Indigenous Peoples. As a creative exhibit, students focused on a topic to share with the community that was meaningful to them while drawing on their cultural background and knowledge from their First Nation Studies course. This exhibition was featured by multiple local media including CBC Radio, CTV News, and London Free Press and had a highly successful opening.

Opening of *Decolonizing Frames*

Feature Exhibits, continued

MOA partnered with the Nokee Kwe South London Employment Help Centre's pilot program +Positive Voice to bring the *Warrior Womyn* exhibit to our Feature Gallery in January 2017. This innovative program works on building community connections by urban Aboriginal women through the support of sharing positive portrayals of Aboriginal women with the broader community. The participants learned new skills in social and digital media, the product of which culminated with the exhibition. This creative exhibit brought in over 200 visitors for the opening alone and positive media for both Nokee Kwe and the MOA.

In September 2016, MOA received a $10,000 grant to create an online exhibition through Virtual Museum Canada's Community Memories Program. This program is directed to museums with a staff of less than 5 people to build the institution's online profile. MOA is collaborating with Archaeological Services Inc., Jesuits of English Canada, Huron-Wendat Nation, and Sustainable Archaeology to combine both documentary and archaeological records to explore Ste. Marie II from the events leading to the site occupation through to it's dissolution.

Finally, we have been experimenting with 'pop-up' displays throughout the year that we featured both in museum and at community events. We started with a suitcase exhibit themed on how Canada 150 is a recent invention and that human history of this land stretches back to a time immemorial. Through smoking pipes, a small suitcase exhibit explores 3000 years of daily life and the meaning of pipes socially, politically, and spiritually. This exhibit has travelled to local heritage fairs, career fairs, and schools. Our first pop up exhibit in the gallery coincided with the Maple Harvest Festival and featured the tools of the trade as understood through archaeology and various ethnohistories.

Image from the Nokee Kwe *Warrior Womyn* Exhibit, 2017

Curatorial and Collections

The 2016/2017 year focused less on cataloguing new material and more on better understanding what is currently in our collections. We transferred the archaeological collection to SA, catalogued and researched our art collection, and finished re-boxing project all of the archaeological materials acquired through contract archaeology conducted by the Museum between 1978 and 2009.

MOA hosted our first conservation internship from Fleming College and learned new strategies on long term storage while developing a toolkit and resource manual for basic conservation needs. Through this internship, the museum collection also received updated condition reports and preventative conservation of objects identified at a higher risk of deterioration.

We created 2,143 new records in PastPerfect, our collection management software, a number substantially below the 5,145 records catalogued the previous year. With the majority of donations now catalogued, the goal for the coming year is to expand information in the catalogue records through research by both curatorial staff and volunteers.

Lawson Site

We continue to re-focus our management plan for the Lawson site towards one of long term care and preservation. This has been aided the last two summers through a field-school conducted at the site by Dr. Neal Ferris, the Museum's Lawson Chair of Canadian Archaeology. This Western University course was specifically designed to help support the long term management plan for the Lawson site, by mitigating previously excavated areas, cleaning them up, recording the current extent of previous excavations and exposed cultural features, and then backfilling these areas to original forest floor. In addition, geo-physical survey of the open, grassed area of the site is helping us to establish a protective buffer zone, which allows us to understand where intact areas of unexcavated site begin, ensuring that competing uses of the space do not impact on those areas.

A part of the course was also designed to have the students interact with the public and Museum staff and volunteers, and work with members of the public who were invited out to participate in the excavations during a 3-day Museum open house component of the project. This generated both a steady stream of visitors, and several positive media spots (newspaper, tv, radio) for the Museum.

Another part of the long term management plan for the Lawson site is updating the interpretive messaging of the site, its archaeology, and what is known about the inhabitants of the village at around 1500 AD. Dr. Ferris and Dr. Bathurst have been working with staff and colleagues in the archaeological community to improve our understanding of the archaeology, and ensure the stories about the site reflect both the strengths and limitations of the archaeological record, the close to 150 years of archaeology carried out on the site, and the differing understandings of the heritage of the site among various communities today. Plans for establishing a community steering committee to help guide long term management of the site are moving ahead, with the hope this will be in place in the next year.

Following in the success of a walking tour pilot project within and around the village during International Archaeology Day last fall, structured and themed walking tours are being developed this summer. These tours will be available in brochure form, but will be conducted by MOA guides when Staff are available.

Board & Staff

Museum Staff

Nicole Aszalos - *Curator*
Cindy Barrett - *Administrative Officer*
Rhonda Bathurst - *Executive Director*
Andrew Fratepietro[1] - *Membership Coordinator (Grant Funded)*
Angie Piccinin - *Volunteer Coordinator (Grant Funded)*
Katrina Urban - *Learning Coordinator*
Kylie Watson - *Visitor Experience Assistant*

[1] *From September2016 to February 2017*

Board of Directors

Ronald Williamson - *President*

Andrew Nelson - *Vice President*

Robert Thuot - *Treasurer*[1]

Peter Carruthers - *Director*

Chris Ellis - *Director*

Matthew McCarthy - *Director*

Neal Ferris
Lawson Chair of Canadian Archaeology
(Non-voting)

Kelly Riley - *Director*

Darren Meister - *Director*

Jamie Neely - *Director*

Don McLeod - *Director*

Pauline Shen[1]—*Director*

Miggs Morris - *Director*

Rhonda Bathurst
Executive Director *(Non-voting)*

[1] *Resigned November 2016*

Curatorial, Education, and Public Programming Staff

Young Canada Works
Bridget Cox - *Education Assistant*
Madison Keller - *Archaeological Interpreter*
Sarah Yull - *Historical Interpreter*

YMCA Summer Exchange Program
Marius Bonnifet - *Jr. Camp Counsellor*
Tristan Rouleau - *Jr. Camp Counsellor*

Canada Summer Jobs
Maria Sinclair - *Senior Camp Counsellor*
Leah Garnaitis - *Education Assistant*

Youth Opportunities Unlimited
Ellena De Oliviera - *Jr. Camp Counsellor*
Dominique Abbott - Jr. Camp Counsellor
Alex LaFramboise - Jr. Camp Counsellor

Staff, continued

Western University – Work Study

Curatorial Assistants
Dakota Ireland

Visitor Experience Assistants
Roger Brough
Janet Ho

Summer Education
Education Assistants
Janet Ho
Priscillia Melo
Jr. Camp Counsellors
Lisa Shales -
Hannah Rzyszczak
Marwan Ahmed
Mai Hussein
Wassim Al-Assadi
Abdelrahman Al-Halbouni

Fall/Winter Education
Education Assistants
Danyela Carswell-McCaul
Amanda Mgok
Elizabeth Jackson
Sandra Klodnicki
Alexander Ormsby
Noor Saeed Cheema

Secondary School Co-operative Education
Cameron Dacey (Winter 2017)

Western University - Visual Arts
Christie Dreise (Graduate Program)
Claude Bock (Graduate Program)
Veronica Purvis

Museum Interns
Joshua Elmer (Conservation, Fleming College)
Desiree Barber (Georgian College)
Monica Norris (Museum Management, Fleming)

Non Museum Interns
Patricia Sung (School of Education, Nippissing University)

Volunteers

Volunteers are critical to our daily operations and without the support of so many dedicated people, our programs and services would not be possible. Our entire Board are volunteers! This year we honoured five of our long-term volunteers, with 10 to 30 years of service each, at the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's Volunteer Service Awards. In September we hired a part-time Volunteer Coordinator through the Ontario Jobs Creation Program, Angie Piccinin , who as recruited twenty-three new volunteers since she started. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, effort and expertise to the Museum in 2016/17— from assisting with our educational programs, preparing our newsletters, interacting with the public, assisting with our Virtual Reality exhibit, setting up our equipment, creating & maintaining our edu-kits, helping with event setup and clean-up, maintaining fires in the longhouse, cutting wood, directing traffic, to organizing and preparing the gift shop, minding the till, patching walls, painting, or gardening—we couldn't do what we do without you! Thank you sincerely for your smiles, your support and your endless enthusiasm.

Gene Nakonechny
Darryl Dann
Christine Englot
Linda Imirie
Sara Johnson
Ira Lehtovaara
Linda Thornborrow
Brennan Vogel
Natalie Barrett
Heather Hatch
Ellena de Oliviera
Valentina Egorva
Lorelyn Giese
Tiffany Kriter
Mike Lucas
Gary Flemming
Brooke Gosden
Charles Parker
Shaun McArthur
Laurel McInnis
Taylor Walker
April Wall
Shelby Wall
Adam Masri
Alex Meglio
Carley Bruckner
Jason Bathurst
Erin Applebee
Dessa Hayes
Sabrina Wall
Mistre Alemayehu
Zsophia Agoston
Cheyanne Lepka
Rob Pihl
Mike Spence
Miggs Morris
Alison Ogilvie
Jobi Punnen

Our sincere apologies for any omission from this list

Recipients of the 2017 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. From left to right, Don McLeod, Christopher Ellis, Henriette Carson (or her late husband, Francis), Miggs Morris and Darryl Dann.