

2021 Annual Report
Uxbridge Historical Centre
Township of Uxbridge

OVERVIEW

Established in 1972, the Uxbridge Historical Centre (UHC) preserves the history and heritage of the Township of Uxbridge. Located on a 5-acre site that overlooks the beautiful Uxbridge Valley and Oak Ridges Moraine, the UHC consists of 10 buildings and more than 10,000 artifacts and 6,000 archives.

In 2021 the Uxbridge Historical Centre (UHC) triumphantly returned after being closed to visitors for a year and a half. The global COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact and change the way that the museum sector operates. However, unlike 2020, 2021 permitted the return of all permanent and temporary staff, as well as visitors later in the season. Reopening, recovery, and reimagination were the key words that guiding the 2021 UHC operations.

MISSION, VISION, VALUES



Mission

The Uxbridge Historical Centre connects today's audiences with the rich heritage of Uxbridge Township. Through the preservation and interpretation of the Township's history, we provide opportunities to explore, uncover, and experience our past.



Vision

To be a heritage leader, providing engaging programming and using innovative technology to share our history with a diverse audience. To make our Centre, on Uxbridge's historic and picturesque Quaker Hill, a top tourism and local community destination and connect with Uxbridge's past.



Values

Accessibility: Accessibility to our facility, collection, exhibits, programming, and knowledge in a visitor-friendly environment

Engagement & Collaboration: Inspiring engagement, fostering relationships, and developing meaningful partnerships

Life-Long Learning: Promoting and offering opportunities for life-long learning

Preservation: Preserving our material heritage and historical knowledge

Respect: Respect for all people, history, and our environment



OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

The Curator and Manager and Assistant Curator returned to the Uxbridge Historical Centre at the beginning of May. COVID-19 precautions, including masking, distancing, self-screening, and more remained in place throughout the 2021 season. The UHC was awarded a #SafeTravels Stamp by the World Tourism and Travel Council @WTTC for adopting health and hygiene global standardized protocols. The incumbent Curator and Manager Pat Neal retired in July 2021 and was succeeded by Jessica Lanziner, hired on as the Assistant Curator at the start of the season, with the anticipation of moving into the Curator role in the coming months. A new Assistant Curator, Robyn Pegg, was hired upon Jessica Lanziner's promotion. Four additional seasonal students were hired on and supported through the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs granting programs.

The Uxbridge Historical Centre was permitted to re-open to the public in August during Step Three of the Government of Ontario's COVID-19 recovery plan, *Roadmap to Reopen*. At this time, summer students delivered tours of *Quilts on Quaker Hill* and all other permanent displays and buildings. Due to the shortened tour season, the permanent staff extended the tours into the fall. Following the labour day weekend, tours continued to be offered on Wednesdays to Fridays until October 24th. Additional programs and events were also permitted to return in the fall of 2021.

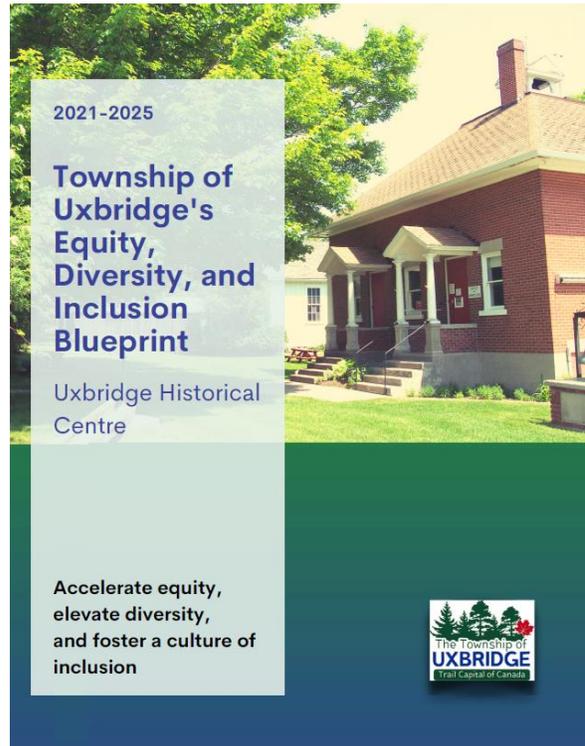


Interest in Wedding and Event rentals of the UHC buildings and grounds remained significant. Two weddings and one additional rental were hosted at the UHC over the 2021 season, all in accordance with current COVID-19 protocols. Several weddings and rentals are already booked for the 2022 season. In response to this demand, the UHC also developed new Micro-Wedding events that will launch in 2022. Partnered with local businesses and professionals in Uxbridge Township and Durham Region, these micro weddings provide an intimate and unique option for folks to celebrate their special day.

Volunteers were also able to return to the UHC in 2021. In addition to the numerous hours contributed by members of the Museum Advisory Committee and the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society, volunteers tended to gardens and assisted in building and mounting exhibitions, entering data, running special events, and countless other roles. Most of these volunteers were only able to return in September 2021. Despite the shortened season, more than 350 hours of volunteer work were recorded during the 2021 season.

UHC Staff took advantage of the modified tour season by exploring areas for growth and strategies to reach new community members. This included significant planning for future programs and events, developing new partnerships with educational institutions, as well as examining ways to improve the UHC's ability to engage the community. This work resulted in two major developments in 2021. The new [Township of Uxbridge EDI Blueprint UHC](#), a subsection of the Township's EDI Blueprint, was developed between UHC staff and the Museum Advisory Committee to guide the UHC towards accelerating equity, elevating diversity, and fostering a culture of inclusion over the next four years.

Another significant development emerged between the UHC and the University of Toronto's Master of Museum Studies program. This partnership teams four students with the UHC to develop a temporary exhibition for 2022. Over the course of 2021 and 2022, this student team will lead the development of an exhibition, from conception to installation. This partnership marks a significant advancement of the UHC's connection with the emerging museum professionals, as well as providing a very valuable opportunity for exceptional students to gain practical, hands-on experience in their sector.



EXHIBITIONS & DISPLAYS

Temporary Exhibition

Quilts on Quaker Hill (Kydd House, Lodge Hall, Fifth Line Church)

August 7 – October 24 2021



Following subsequent delays due to 2020 closure, the 2021 temporary exhibition, *Quilts on Quaker Hill* ran from August until October 24th. This exhibition featured 24 quilts from both the museum's permanent collection and loaned from the community. Displayed across three buildings and ranging from the early 1800s to 2021, the unique quilts in this exhibition help to tell the story of local quilters, their roles as community members, and their enduring commitment to the quilting craft.

The Kydd House display of *Quilts on Quaker Hill* discussed quilting origin stories, materials, and the method of quilting. In the Lodge and Fifth Line Church, the quilts were organized into pattern and thematic-based groups that explored different methods and purposes of quilting. Quilt types displayed included patchwork, log cabin, crazy, signature, and contemporary quilts. This exhibition was made possible in part by significant volunteer work from the Textile volunteer team through the 2019 and 2021 seasons.



Permanent Displays

Home in the 1900s (Gould-Carmody House)

The Gould-Carmody House is a historic home set up to the era of the early 1900s in Uxbridge Township. It features thematic displays of artifacts from Uxbridge including furniture and various implements manufactured in town. The second-floor display of bedrooms and sitting areas opened in the Gould-Carmody house this year following significant renovations. The home now features an updated permanent display of a parlour, office space, sewing room, kitchen, sitting area, and three bedrooms.

Agriculture and Transportation in Uxbridge (Implement Shed, Nesbitt Shed)

A permanent display of large agricultural and transportation equipment ranging from early 1800s to the 1970s.

A Day in the Life: Early Uxbridge (Scott Hall)

A permanent display of Uxbridge's history guides visitors through thematic explorations of significant areas of daily life in the early 1900s in Uxbridge Township. Thematic displays include Archaeology & Land History, Quaker Origins, Medicine and Doctors, Household Chores, Music, and Military Roots.



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Educational Programs, Workshops & Outreach



Educational programs, workshops, and subsequent outreach in the community were scaled down in the 2021 season due to COVID-19 restrictions. Schools were not permitted to visit the UHC on field trips. Instead, the UHC staff hosted Girl Guide units from across the region for educational programs. A total of eight groups were hosted at the UHC and they participated in programs including *Soil Secrets*, *Quilting and Weaving*, *Women's Fashion History*, *Finding my Way*, *Compass and Direction Skills*, and *Behind the Museum*.

Over the July-September season, seasonal staff designed six different take-home heritage craft kits for kids. The kits included the history of the craft, instructions, and all required materials. These kits were available on a donation basis and allowed the UHC to provide hands-on educational programming in a time when little other programs were available. In lieu of being able to open to the public at regular capacity, staff also implemented several new projects to engage with the community online. Summer students developed online campaigns to highlight artifacts and histories of Uxbridge through social media, as well as through the new UHC blog. A QR code-based exploration of agricultural equipment and items displayed on the UHC grounds was also established. Staff additionally developed and displayed information and resources for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th.

Special Events & Programs



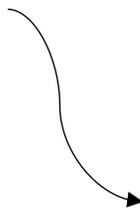
COVID-19 restrictions and Ontario's phased re-opening plan did not permit the return of the UHC's Annual *Kite Day* event or the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society's annual *Heritage Day* event in the summer of 2021. However, the move of Ontario into Phase Three of the *Roadmap to Re-Open* permitted the return of several popular fall events including a Q&A with the Georgina Paranormal Society, as well as two evenings with Medium Jessica Miller.

The UHC's 8th Annual *Fright at the Museum* also made a triumphant return on October 30th. The event featured activities across the site, including spooky stories, crafts and puzzles, a maze, scavenger hunt, bonfire, Halloween origin stories, and a Haunted House. Our thanks and appreciation go out to Canadian Tire (Uxbridge), Zehrs (Uxbridge), Tim Horton's (Uxbridge) for sponsoring this event, as well as our 20 volunteers.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION

Summer staff endeavored on a large project to assess, catalogue, and update the records for the artifacts housed in the Gould-Carmody House. A significant portion of this project focused on the second floor of the building. With assistance from redeployed staff from the Uxbridge Arena, the second floor of this building was cleaned, repaired, and repainted. This is the second year that redeployed Arena staff have assisted with these projects at the UHC and their assistance has been incredibly valuable. The 160-year-old Gould-Carmody house also received structural conservation improvements, as well as the installation of new eavestroughs. The interior of the building also received new conservation-standard blinds on all windows to further protect artifacts in the building against UV rays. This conservation project was generously supported by the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society (USHS) and we are very grateful for their support.

Artifacts stored in the second floor of this building were assessed and properly sorted into new storage areas. New bedroom displays were also set up in the repaired rooms. These displays now showcase bedrooms from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. In total, 830 artifacts from this building were assessed and their conditions, locations, and storage spaces were upgraded in the searchable UHC database. These new displays expand the permanent display space of the Gould-Carmody House approximately 50%.



Collections volunteers additionally worked on multiple collections storage and data entry projects focused on the archaeology, quilt, and archive collections. The entry of these items and information into the database allows for the UHC to better preserve and provide access to collections holdings, as well as actively utilize them for future exhibitions. These collections volunteers contributed more than a third of the total volunteer hours in the 2021 season.

STAFF & GOVERNANCE



Staff

Jessica Lanziner, Curator & Manager
Robyn Pegg, Assistant Curator

Seasonal Staff

Emma Morin, Collections Associate
Olivia Smith, Community Engagement
& Programming Associate
Evelyn Mang, Museum Interpreter
Jack Rupprecht, Museum Interpreter



University of Toronto Master of Museum Studies Interns

Alexi Fox
Elyse Richardson
Micaela Evans
Adara Reid



Museum Advisory Committee (MAC)

Chair – Rick Hannah
Vice-Chair – Gloria Eng
Secretary – Michelle Viney
Board Member – Eve-Lynn Swan
Board Member – Tim Richardson
Pam Beach – Council Representative

FUNDING SUPPORT

The Uxbridge Historical Centre is operated through the Township of Uxbridge and is a municipally operated and funded community museum. Additional funding and support comes from the fundraising arm of the UHC, the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society, as well as donations from the public. We are grateful to the additional following external funders for their generous support of our work in the 2021 season:

Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG)	\$12,136.00
Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations (YCW)	\$11,395.44
Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ)	\$9,017.00

