Fall 2025

Heritage Colchester

A non-profit organization dedicated to perserving the historical past of Colchester Centre

Heritage Colchester **195 Bagot St., Colchester, Ontario**

A note from our President...

Hello everyone, I am Monica Carruthers, President of Heritage Colchester. It is my honour and privilege to be a member of this wonderful group of people. Many of us are Colchester residents who have now become amateur historians. Every time we attend a new group, gain a new member, talk to visitors of our schoolhouse we learn more about the history of it and the village of Colchester. As you can see by our regular newsletters and updates to social media, we have begun the slow work of restoring the schoolhouse. It's a great journey to be on!

We are always looking for photos and stories of the schoolhouse and have an archive of photos that are on our Facebook page under Albums. We would love to see your photos and hear your stories. I hope you join us, as either a visitor or new member. Thank you, Monica



Photo by: Susan Hann

Fall has arrived



Photo by: Susan Hann

Executive members met with members of staff from the Town of Essex in September to discuss the installation of heat for preserving our Schoolhouse. Years of exposure to cold and humidity can damage the interior and our goal is to stop any deterioration we can. The goal is to maintain a temperature of approximately 45-50F.

We send huge thanks to the Town of Essex for this assistance.

Our Fall Social has been postponed to a date to be determined. Details and the invitation will be shared as soon as they are available.



We thank you for your patience as we continue to enhance and improve our website. Stay tuned for more improvements as this project progresses.



Fall 2025

New Members WELCOME

Do you love local history?

Do you have any skills or knowledge about heritage projects?
Would you like to join a very enthusiastic group of people who are working to share the story of SS#2, our beautiful one room schoolhouse and restore it to it's 1881 glory?
We need more hands and minds working together.
Please consider becoming a member.
Contact us at
membership.heritagecolchester@gmail.com



Summer Updates

Swift Watch 2025

Our swift watch events were very well attended by both humans and birds!
Below is the tally of swifts we recorded during the annual count at the schoolhouse. These counts happen simultaneously across Ontario on the same nights to ensure that we are not counting the same birds.

May 17 - 108, May 21 - 126, May 25 - 66, May 29 - 50, June 2 - 41

This was a very successful count! We invite you to join us next Spring for the 2026 Swiftcount. All this data is sent to Birds Ontario for an official count. To see the results for the province go to www.birdscanada.org

A Fresh New Look for Our Schoolhouse



Photo by: Sandra McKee



Photo by: Sandra McKee



Photo by: Susan Hann

Special THANK YOU to our members Gary Ayers, Sandra McKee and Susan Hann for a wonderful uplifting paint job that has brightened and beautified our schoolhouse!

We are a Registered Charity

As a registered charity we can offer tax receipts for any donations over $20.
If you are looking to make a donation in memory of a loved one, make a legacy donation, corporate donation or just looking to support our project please send an email to **heritage.colchester@gmail.com**

Colchester Village Country Markets

What a wonderful season it was!! Many new vendors, musicians, tours and information sharing, we welcomed over 1000 visitors across our four markets. Thank you all for attending our markets. Next year we are hoping to partner with some other local groups to make our markets bigger and better. If you have an idea for a collaboration, please email **heritage.colchester@gmail.com**



Photo by: Monica Carruthers

Our Schoolhouse was bustling during the markets!! We were proud to offer tours and excited to have 280 people tour the Schoolhouse and share in our community's history!! Brochures are available at all of our events, that offer self-guided historic walking tours to explore the area's heritage.

Expanded educational materials

At our August and September markets we had a display of Monarch butterfly caterpillars, chrysalis, butterfly release and seed giveaways. We plan to add native plants to the butterfly garden across the street to support more pollinators and birds. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more information about the garden.

Summer Theatre Success... We were over the moon for *Salt-Water Moon* by David French



Bringing live theatre to Colchester was a true highlight this summer! In collaboration with Associate Professor Lionel Walsh and the Inspired Acting Lab, we hosted an unforgettable production of *Salt-Water Moon* at Chirst Church over two weekends in July.

We look forward to continuing this partnership and offering more live theatre experiences to our community.

New Event at the Schoolhouse this summer - The Purple Martin Festival held July 12, 2025

This event was hosted by the Ontario Purple Martin Association in their 25th year as a non-profit group with the mandate of helping the Purple Martin to survive and thrive! The Purple Martin Festival featured engaging speakers and presentations, live bird banding demonstrations, vendor booths and fun, educational activities for children. We look forward to more events that bring our community together.