Very Successful Markets This Year!

By: Susan Hann

The Old Schoolhouse had very successful markets this year! About 1200 guests participated, exploring their options of between 25 and 30 vendors each month. Vendors included bakers, artisans, writers, local community groups and food trucks.

Additionally, new attractions this year included live music (Alex Wyatt-guitarist), for everyone's listening pleasure and free historical tours of the Schoolhouse, cemetery and Christ Church for those interested (about 15 people each tour).



Volunteers Andrew Fanta and Cindy McPhedran set up the market tent.

Vendor comments:

-"The Colchester Market is a hidden gem, at a wonderful location. There is a great vibe with vendors and volunteers" [Rita Casagrande, Baked by Rita]

- "I would like to thank Heritage Colchester for working on the restoration of the Old Schoolhouse. I felt the markets were very well run, with volunteers to help if anything was needed". [Ted Rocheleau, Butch's Best BBQ Sauce].

-"A beautiful setting and the way it was run was very professional. A good event for a great cause". [Kelly Hopkins, Kelly'sKrafts]

-"I have participated in this event for the past 2 years and this event attracts people of all types. The vendors are friendly and the great atmosphere is a surprise to everyone!". [Gwen Tygat, JJ's Hobby Box]

-"What is not to like about having a market at an historical site?". [Sharon Damm, R&S Designs]

Thanks to all of our amazing volunteers who made this happen!

Thanks to the Town of Essex for their support!

Heritage Colchester is **actively searching for new members and a Secretary!** If you would like to join a great group of community minded individuals whose vision is to restore the Colchester Schoolhouse, No.2, please check our website or Facebook page for details.

We would sincerely welcome you!



Chimney Swift Counts Note Increase

By: Randy Cyr

Following completion of chimney strengthening and repairs at the end of 2022, the annual monitoring event was again done this spring. From May 20th to June 5th five sightings were monitored, birds counted and the numbers reported to SwiftWatch Ontario. (record 108 observed in one evening!)

Come join us for next year's count and experience the spectacle as the long-abandoned chimney provides a home for this rare species every evening at dusk.

The Town of Essex also plans to relocate the Purple Martin houses from the top of the bank at Colchester Park to the schoolhouse grounds, adjacent to the Community Gardens.

Another rare and endangered species is welcomed to the community!





To our Easter Bunny and our Sponors- Thank You!

Easter Egg Hunt a Big Success!

By: Susan Hann

The Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 8 this year. Approximately 75 children attended the well organized event. Children were to register before the event, so they were put in different categories (age and disabilities). There were 4 time slots, with about 20 children for each. The children each had named bags and would search the grounds of the Old Schoolhouse and Community Garden for eggs. Prizes were handed out to the winners of each category, but nobody went without something special to take home. A colouring table was also available for children waiting their turn. Many thanks to our sponsors. As well as Laura Zakoor for undertaking this project. And of course thank you to all of the volunteers for spending your day with us, as well as the Town of Essex for your support!