

HERITAGE CORNER

New coordinator takes the helm at Moore Museum

By Bonnie Stevenson

The Moore Museum has a new coordinator. Fiona Doherty took over the role from Laurie Mason, who recently retired.

Fiona is not a newcomer to the museum. She has been a part-time/permanent museum assistant there since 2018. She brings with her a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Western University and an advanced diploma in Museum Studies from Algonquin College. But the hours she spent at the Moore Museum are something Fiona believes helped to fine tune her abilities to oversee the facility.

"I'm really grateful to Laurie," she said. "She's been a wonderful mentor, always gracious, kind and supportive. She made me believe I could take this on...It's a big responsibility but a good opportunity."

The Point Edward native remembers attending a Moore Museum Christmas craft program as a young student. "I still have the tree ornament I made here," she said. "We put it on the tree every year."

The complete halt to operations during the pandemic has been difficult for the museum staff, but Fiona says the challenge is not beyond the capabilities of the many volunteers who take on everything from daily maintenance and assistance with heritage programs, to major projects. "I like the feel of the museum," she said. "It's exciting to get back to it. We're focusing now on getting back to where we were before the pandemic."

As an example, she mentioned the resumption of work on the new train display that was started before the shutdowns occurred. The display, situated in the impressively equipped Train Room, will be the highlight of a special Train Day event this summer. And the Downriver Craft

sale is already receiving vendor applications to participate in the September event, with 51 outdoor spaces booked so far. Bookings for school programs are also being accepted.

"We're at our best when we're involved with the community," said Fiona. Although the museum is not a huge operation, Fiona is pleased with her new position and the variety of roles she will play. "The good thing about a small museum is that you get to do everything," she explained. "I want to keep up Laurie's tradition of getting involved in everything."



Above: Fiona Doherty at her new dream job.



More info in Around the Township, page 20

Read about history when it was still news

The Lambton County Library now offers ProQuest, which allows library card holders from anywhere with Internet service access to historical copies of The Windsor Star, The Globe and Mail, and The Toronto Star dating from 1844 to 2019. Full digital archives of these newspapers are now available at: lclibrary.ca/localhistory.

Model trains, dinosaurs and more at the Moore Museum

By Tom Walter, train master

Mark Sunday, July 3 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on your calendar so you won't miss the **Model Train Event** at the Moore Museum.

There's a lot of excitement surrounding the reopening of the train room, with two new layout themes being prepared for the summer of 2022. Just before the pandemic, one of the layouts was invaded by **DINOSAURS!** Now, they can be seen riding the trains, digging up fossils, and exploring the landscape. On train day, visitors young and old will be able to mingle with them at Dino Roars Park and drive the **Dino Roar** trains.

The newest layout, introduced in 2019, is still undergoing extensive redevelopment. It will feature an aerospace/aviation theme, with trains running on three levels. The theme was inspired by the product lines of the Lionel Company in the late 1950's, when they introduced a new range of clever and exciting trains. There were airplanes and space capsules on flat cars, rockets and launchers, radar and microwave installations. These toy trains and accessories capitalized on the excitement that stories of the space race and supersonic jets were creating at the time. (The rebuilding of this layout, halted during the pandemic, will still be a work in progress on July 3.)

A large roster of new engines and train cars will also be running for the first time, so **DON'T MISS TRAIN DAY!**



Newly updated Heritage St. Clair page features map showing historic plaques and storyboards situated throughout the township

Heritage St. Clair has updated its page on the St. Clair Township website, and one of the features now on view St. Clair Township's Historic Points of Interest map. This interactive map points out the locations of these colourful and educational installations and includes photographs of them so you'll be sure not to miss them. Here's a link you can use to go directly to St. Clair Township's Historical Points of Interest page:

<http://stclairtownship.ca/st-clair-townships-historical-points-of-interest/>