

# Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive (SWODA) Annual Report

For the period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022



Harvesting on Walker Farm 1910; Photograph donated by the Walkerville Times

## Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive

The home page for SWODA is: <http://swoda.uwindsor.ca>

It brings together access to SWODA Publications and SWODA Images, as well as background and supplemental materials.

### SWODA Publications

The main access point is: <http://swoda.uwindsor.ca/swoda-publications>

However, the collections can also be searched directly on: <https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/swoda>

All publications can be downloaded, or viewed online with the Bepress Viewer, from either the main SWODA website (<http://swoda.uwindsor.ca/swoda-publications>) or from Scholarship@UWindsor (<https://scholar.uwindsor.ca/swoda>).

All publications can also be viewed online or downloaded from the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>).

### Statistical Overview

Because of the difficulties in obtaining annual statistics from the Internet Archive, the usage statistics presented are now cumulative (to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022) for both platforms.

#### City of Windsor Directories

Coverage from 1888-1971; 79 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 41,852 downloads and 41,072 additional page hits

Internet Archive: 103,614 views/downloads

## Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks

A selection (212) of pre-1972 yearbooks

Scholarship@UWindsor: 105,472 downloads and 41,836 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 12,470 views/downloads

## Essex County (Ontario) Newspapers

A selection (28) to complement the [Our Ontario Community Newspapers](#) database  
Note that Le Progres and Odsiecz are also listed/cross-referenced here, but not counted in the statistics.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 2,081 downloads and 1,398 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 1,259 views/downloads

## Le Progres (Windsor)

A French language newspaper published in Windsor from 1881-1919? Online holdings: 1881-1901, but many issues are missing. The thirteen "volumes" were posted in April, 2022.

Scholarship@UWindsor: 39 downloads and 24 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 81 views/downloads

## SWODA: University of Windsor Publications

A selection of 21 publications relating to Assumption College and the University of Windsor

Scholarship@UWindsor: 2,159 downloads and 1,167 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 2,368 views/downloads

## SWODA: Windsor and Region Publications

A selection of 110 publications concerning Windsor and the surrounding region

Scholarship@UWindsor: 38,815 downloads and 16,318 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 36,310 views/downloads

### The Ambassador Yearbook

Covers the years 1939-1977; 35 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 7,572 downloads and 4,878 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 3,088 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Calendar

Covers the years 1901-1956; 42 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 2,012 download and 226 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 1,613 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Purple and White

Covers the years 1924-1959; 36 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 4,091 downloads and 1,132 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 5,296 views/downloads

### The Assumption College Review

Covers the years 1908-1910; 23 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 699 downloads and 73 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 621 views/downloads

### The Assumption High School Yearbook

Covers the years 1940-1971; 21 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 5,483 downloads and 3,171 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 1,230 views/downloads

### The Lance

Covers the years 1959-2019; 70 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 3,961 downloads and 2,337 additional page hits  
Internet Archive: 12,002 views/downloads

## The Weekly Assumption Collegian

Covers the years 1921-1922; 24 volumes

Scholarship@UWindsor: 851 downloads and 144 additional page views  
Internet Archive: 681 views/downloads

## **SWODA Images**

<http://swoda.uwindsor.ca/swoda-images>

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the database contains approximately 3,500 historical photographs, postcards, and ephemera of southwestern Ontario – primarily of Windsor and Essex County. For the period of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, SWODA Images had 67,024 users and 193,835 page views. The cumulative number of page views since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 is 1,805,860.

The Twitter account: SWODA@SWODAUWindsor started in September 2017. Generally, images with text are tweeted once a week to hashtags ThrowbackThursdays and YQG. The account currently has 360 followers and made 76,000 impressions (no. of times users saw the tweets on Twitter) between July 2021 and June 2022.

## **SWODA Annual Report 2021-2022 Descriptive Notes**

### **Collections Work Completed and Underway**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to mean that many SWODA activities are on hold, or at least delayed.

We have added a small number of items to many online collections. The following are a few examples:

Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks:

we have added 19 new volumes for a total of 212 in the collection. There is coverage for 22 different schools and the yearbooks date from the 1920s to 1971.

## Essex County (Ontario) Newspapers:

this past year, we have added coverage for 8 historical Essex County newspapers. We now have 28 newspaper titles in this collection. They are intended to complement the collection found on [Our Ontario Community Newspapers](#). They are mainly newspapers for which only a small number of issues remain.

## Le Progres (Windsor):

an important French language newspaper published in Windsor from 1881-1919? A total of 13 volumes covering 1881-1901 were posted. These volumes have many missing issues.

## St. John's Church (Sandwich, Ontario). Registers:

The registers of births, christenings, marriages, and burials cover the years 1802-1915. They are regularly used and are becoming very fragile. To reduce the physical deterioration and to improve access, we have begun digitizing them. David Hutchinson and other members of the OGS (Ontario Ancestors) were doing most of the work. To-date, books 1-19 (1802-1900) have been completed. Due to donor restrictions, they will not be made available on the Internet.

## Essex Scottish Regiment War Diaries:

These diaries, 6 volumes in total, were digitized for preservation purposes but, because of donor restrictions, will not be made available on the Internet.

## University of Windsor Calendars:

These include print undergraduate, graduate, general, and other calendars from 1956-2008. For the most part, we are working backwards in time. Only about 25% of the work has been completed so far.

## **Collections Usage**

Most of the SWODA Publications collections saw moderate increases in usage in 2021-2022. The Essex County (Ontario) High School Yearbooks were particularly well-used.

For the SWODA Images database, the numbers of users and page views were significantly reduced in 2021-2022. This may be due to the small amount of new content, or, to people having less free time after returning to work, post-pandemic. Also, due to the University of Windsor's cybersecurity problems, the SWODA Images server was down for about the last 2 weeks of June 2022; obviously, this would have negatively impacted usage statistics.

## Other Activities

**Windsor: Ontario's Gretna Green**, an online Omeka exhibit, examines the incredible marriage phenomenon in this region from about 1885-1913. Windsor and Sandwich became a haven for couples from the United States looking for quick and discrete weddings.

<http://cdigs.uwindsor.ca/omeka-s/s/windsor-ontario-gretna-green/page/home>

**Dr. Queenie Halford Shirley: A Female Pioneer in Electrical Engineering**, an online Omeka exhibit. Dr. Shirley is believed to be the first Canadian woman to hold a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. She lived in Windsor and received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1952. She also worked briefly as an engineering/physics professor at Assumption College (now the University of Windsor), before her early death.

<http://cdigs.uwindsor.ca/omeka-s/s/QueenieHalfordShirley/page/QueenieHalfordShirley>

Submitted: Katharine Ball August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022