



Committee Report

To: Warden Mitch Twolan
Members of the Museum Committee

From: Cathy McGirr
Director, Museum & Cultural Services

Date: July 2, 2020

Re: Archives Report - July 2020

Staff Recommendation:

The Archives Report - July 2020 is for information.

Background:

Share Your Story: Chronicling Community Experiences, COVID-19

On April 30, 2020, the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (BCM&CC) launched the [Chronicling Community Experiences project](#) to encourage individuals, families, businesses and organizations with a connection to Bruce County to collect and record their experiences and observations during this time, and when ready, donate them to the Museum, in whatever form is comfortable for them, such as: written stories, memories, journals, photographs, video and audio recordings.

BCM&CC has received a good response, considering that the community is continuing to adapt to evolving circumstances. Submissions include the perspectives of grade 8, grade 10 and university students, an international traveller, an entertainer, a person sharing tips for handling hair care, and people reflecting on some of the home projects they have taken on while responding to COVID-19 restrictions. BCM&CC continues to promote the project, with the hope that many more submissions will be received.

Promotional efforts designed to encourage submissions have included a variety of communication channels beginning with a media release that resulted in five articles in local print publications and radio interviews on CBC's Ontario Morning and 98 the Beach's Morning show. Newspaper print ads were run in local newspapers along with banner ads on three online news outlets. Additional efforts included the Museum's email channel and a series of social media posts focusing on what contributions could include. Bruce County Chambers and BIAs were also sent information to encourage participation by local businesses. Internal updates included an email to County employees and postings to Compass. Upcoming efforts will include the sharing of excerpts from interesting submissions received to date and a flyer to be included in Bruce County Public Library curbside pick-up packages.

As part of the project, Mayors have been invited to participate in recorded Skype interviews to discuss their experiences as municipal leaders and Bruce County Council members in responding to the challenges presented by COVID-19 throughout the County. Museum staff

will also reach out to additional members of the community, over time, to ensure that the pandemic's effect on all facets of life in the community are documented.

The Archivist has continued to develop a chronological document highlighting the major announcements made by federal, provincial, county, and municipal governments and the Grey Bruce Health Unit as they respond to the pandemic to date.

As the situation evolves, the BCM&CC will continue to explore other ways in which to document and collect information and artefacts chronicling our experiences during this time.



Reflections of our COVID-19 experiences

COVID19 Impacts

Due to the closure of the Museum, no progress has been made in relation to the ongoing Archives arranging and describing projects, nor has staff been able to add records to Online Collections. BCM&CC has been unable to accept non-digital donations during this time.

Paid research services were also halted during the closure. By the first week of July, Archives staff will again be in a position to provide paid research services, as described near the bottom of brucemuseum.ca's [Research Information](#) page. Digital images may also be purchased using the online [Photo Request Form](#).

Q2 Archives

Bruce Remembers

Work throughout this quarter has included a focus on bruceremembers.org. Staff have added or edited the records of almost 250 soldiers, including the addition of 140 digital news clippings provided by community member Jim Kelly (who has provided hundreds of cropped clippings for the site over the past few years.) Members of the community and military historians continue to send soldier information to archives staff for addition to the site. Descriptions on many of the [Town Pages](#) have been updated. [New Battalion Pages](#) are currently being created, for battalions in which at least ten Bruce County soldiers were serving. Battalion pages contain a list of Bruce County soldiers serving in each battalion. Lists of soldiers serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force and Canadian Army Medical Corps, for example, are also included.

Phone / Email Inquiries

The Archivist continued to respond to phone calls and email inquiries, engaging in 15 phone calls and answering 192 emails.

Photograph Orders

The Archives provided five digital images to the public during the second quarter.

Archival Donations

In addition to the Chronicling Community Experiences submissions mentioned above, the Archives received two other digital donations during Q2: a Lucknow Pipe Band image and a PDF family history article.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Consultation with the Information Technology Services Department occurred in relation to enhancements to the Bruce Remembers website and support for the development of the Archives Team libraries on Sharepoint.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #3 -Find creative new ways to engage our public

Element C -Make the County fully accessible to the people through access to information.

Museum Strategic Plan Alignments:

Strategic Pillar #4 - Create County-Wide Awareness

Written by: Deb Sturdevant, Archivist

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Datars Bere". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" being the most prominent.

Sandra Datars Bere
Chief Administrative Officer