



Committee Report

To: Warden Janice Jackson
Members of the Museum Committee

From: Cathy McGirr
Director, Museum & Cultural Services

Date: April 1, 2021

Re: Archives Report

Staff Recommendation:

The Archives Report is for information.

Background:

Archives Awareness Week Virtual Event, April 6, 2 PM, Facebook Live

Archives Awareness week is recognized in Ontario during the first week of April, providing an opportunity to celebrate Archives and the importance of documentary heritage. This year, the focus of Archives Awareness Week is on donating, preserving and accessing photographic images, and preserving community experiences. On April 6 at 2 PM, Archives Staff are presenting a Facebook Live session, with Q&A. This presentation will leave participants with a broader understanding of the history of photography. They will also discover why photographs from a certain period look the way they do, and how photos have been used over time. Further, information will be shared about how the Archives preserves and makes these fascinating images from across Bruce County accessible to the public.



**Archives
Awareness Week**

Photographs & Photography at the Archives:
a virtual presentation with live Q&A

April 6, 2 PM

Proudly Presented by

 **BRUCE COUNTY**
museum & cultural centre

 The Bruce County
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brucemuseum.ca

Archives Q1 Update

Researchers, Research Request and Photograph Orders to March 15

During the January and February pandemic building closure, the Archives continued to offer paid research, photograph and copy service requests for researchers, completing 17 such requests.

Archives staff have had 320 additional contacts with members of the public, similar to the number of contacts in the first quarter of 2020 before the pandemic:

- 76 phone inquiries
- 244 email inquiries

Researchers have been eager to return to the Research Room & Archives, and in the first two weeks after re-opening on March 2, 2021, 12 researchers booked appointments to visit the Research Room, which currently accommodates two researchers at a time pursuant to pandemic protocols.



Research Room & Archives

Archival Donations and Chronicling Community Experiences: COVID-19

This quarter, the Archives has received eight donations of archival material, including a book of transcribed letters written from soldiers to newspapers during the First World War, and items related to the Chronicling Community Experiences: COVID-19 collection initiative, such as poems with a pandemic theme and photographs depicting a distanced birthday celebration.

The Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre continues to encourage individuals, organizations and businesses to submit stories, photos and videos reflecting their experiences during the pandemic. This quarter, the BCM&CC also facilitated the creation of

a 15-minute video, reflecting on the past year, and featuring some of the photos, videos and written stories submitted to date. Some of the individuals who submitted written stories also participated in video interviews, portions of which were used in the video as well. This video may be used in a future exhibit and will also be available for researchers to review.

Arranging and Describing Projects

Archives staff completed the arrangement and description of former Museum renovation records, with 230 items catalogued. An additional 500 records have been added to the collections management software this quarter, as a result of the continued arranging, describing, and digitization (where appropriate) of recent donations, as well as the description work of the Archives Cataloguer Intern who has been cataloguing oversized items including tax rolls, posters, maps, plans, architectural drawings, and photographs.

Online Collections

The arranging, describing, and digitization work has resulted in an increase in the content of Online Collections, collections.bruce-museum.ca. The site currently features: 15,333 records describing archival documents, books, and photographs, with 22,317 archival images and PDF documents viewable online. Some 16,000 users have accessed the site during Q1, an increase from 7,200 during the same time period in 2020.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

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

Interdepartmental Consultation:

There was no interdepartmental consultation.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Strategic Goal 3: Find creative ways to engage our public.

Museum Strategic Plan:

Pillar 2 Building affinity across the County

Objective 2.1(c):- engaging underserved audiences - revising collecting mandate to include “recent history” and “hidden history.”

Objective 2.2(c): deepening relationships with communities - activate the Archive to drive audiences from across the County.

Report Author:

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Archivist

Departmental Approval:

Cathy McGirr
Director, Museum & Cultural Services

Approved for Submission:

Sandra Datars Bere
Chief Administrative Officer