



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Award - Ontario Historical Society Award

From: Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

Date: December 14, 2023

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

Award acceptance video clip embedded in the report.

Background:

The Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre is honoured to be the recipient of the 2022-2023 Dorothy Duncan Public History Award, by the Ontario Historical Society, for its newspaper digitization initiative. This award is presented to an outstanding public history project delivered in Ontario.

Planning for this project started in 2019 and, as one of the Museum's business plan projects in 2022, the Newspaper Digitization Project was launched and completed. The overall goal was to provide accessibility to Bruce County Historic Newspapers by digitizing the newspapers and launching a website through which the papers are made available to the public.

Over 12,000 issues (90,000 pages) of over 31 Bruce County newspaper titles may be viewed online at newspapers.brucemuseum.ca. Thousands of people have viewed the site over the past year. Museum staff have heard about the success of researchers using this resource to discover more information about family members (including colourful details not previously known), first-hand accounts of soldiers' experiences overseas and on the home front during the First World War, information about 1900s athletes, female trailblazers, and more!

The project was made possible through funding from the federal Museum Assistance Program and the Province of Ontario's Municipal Modernization Program (Intake 2).

Award acceptance video: <https://youtu.be/TzQFmOAPGCg>

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial/staffing/legal/IT considerations with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Interdepartmental consultation with the Office of the CAO regarding the project and funding have occurred.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Growth and Innovation - Strengthen County's use of technology and innovative initiatives

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Museum Strategic Plan

Pillar 2 - Building affinity across the county, Action d: Activate the archive to drive audiences from across the county.

Museum Digital Content Strategy

Goal 3 - Improve access, 1. Digitally convert collections for greater access and preservation.

Report Author:

Cathy McGirr, Director, Museum & Cultural Services

Deb Sturdevant, Archivist

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer