



# Staff Report to Council - for Information

**Title:** Museum - Archives Q1 2024 Information Report

**From:** Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

**Date:** April 4, 2024

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## Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

## Report Summary:

This report contains Q1 2024 information about the Archives.

## Background:

### Archives Awareness Week / Stories of Love and Loss: Farm Diaries

This week is Archives Awareness Week; admission to the Archives is free all week. On Saturday, April 6, at 2 p.m., Dr. Catherine A. Wilson, author, recently retired professor, and founder of the University of Guelph's Rural Diary Archive, will give a presentation about the importance of nineteenth- and twentieth- century rural diaries as a window to the past. The presentation will highlight a selection of Bruce County diarists and their stories, as well as other diaries from the University of Guelph's online Rural Diary Archive and demonstrate how to use both BCM&CC's Online Collections and the Rural Diary Archive. Behind-the Scenes tours of the Archives will be offered following the presentation.



Dr. Catharine A. Wilson, founder of University of Guelph's Rural Diary Archive, and Archivist Deb Sturdevant preparing diary digitization settings for a volunteer

## Diary Digitization Initiative

Work related to the Archives Awareness event has included a diary digitization initiative, supported by six volunteers. To date, this has resulted in the digitization of over 2,800 pages of rural and military diaries, which are available for online viewing in [BCM&CC's Online Collections](#). An article providing more information about some of the 100 diaries in the archival collection, and the 13 Bruce County residents who wrote them, was posted on BCM&CC's Stories and Artefacts webpage: [Diaries Bring History to Life](#). Many of the digitized rural diaries are being shared with University of Guelph's [Rural Diary Archive](#), whose volunteers are assisting in creating and sharing typed transcriptions of the diaries. As these transcriptions become available, download links will also be added BCM&CC's Online Collections.

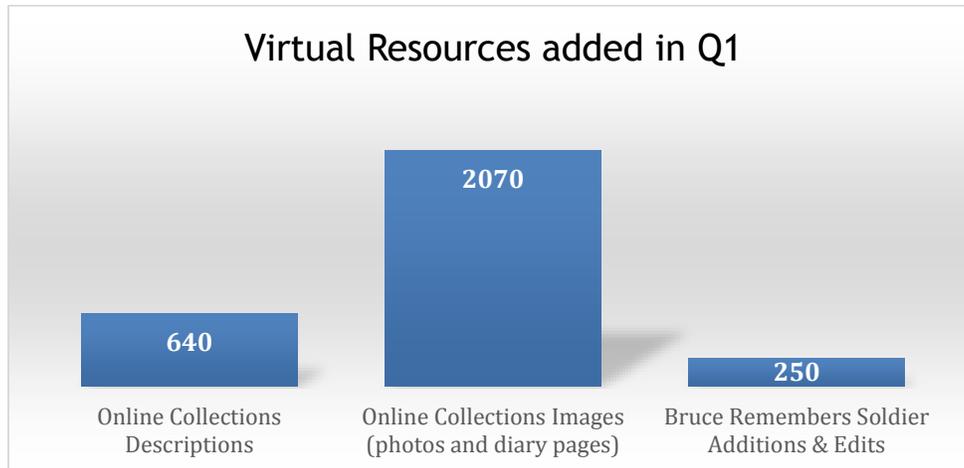
## Volunteer and Co-op Student Contributions

12 volunteers have contributed approximately 665 hours of work to Archives work in Q1, including adding 75 soldiers to Bruce Remembers, editing at least 125 other Bruce Remembers soldier records to add additional details, digitizing photographs and diaries, adding over 400 descriptions of archival records and digitized documents to the Collections Management Database, and working on inventories of the Archives' hardcopy newspaper collection.

Saugeen District Secondary School student Maria Ballard completed her placement in the Archives. From September 2023 to January 2024, she added details and clippings to almost 100 soldiers on Bruce Remembers and over 250 items to Online Collections. Another SDSS co-op student is now working with the Archives from February to June 2024.



SDSS Co-op Student Maria Ballard, holding St. Edmunds Township logging camp photograph  
A2023.068.010



	Online Collections Descriptions	Online Collections Images	Bruce Remembers Soldiers	Historic Newspaper Issues
<b>Total Virtual Resources</b>	24,599	30,524	8,074	13,129

Examples of records added to Online Collections this quarter include:

- [Walkerton & District Horticultural Society](#) administrative records and photographs
- Information about [physicians serving at the Warton hospital](#) over the years
- [Photographs and items related to various Saugeen District Secondary School reunions](#)
- Photographs reflecting Kincardine and Bruce Township farm and activities, such as those of the [Ferris and McPherson families](#).
- A collection of [Bruce Beach Cottagers' Association](#) materials
- [Dominion Plywoods, Southampton](#), photographs and research materials
- [Douglas Point Nuclear Generating Station](#) brochures and photographs

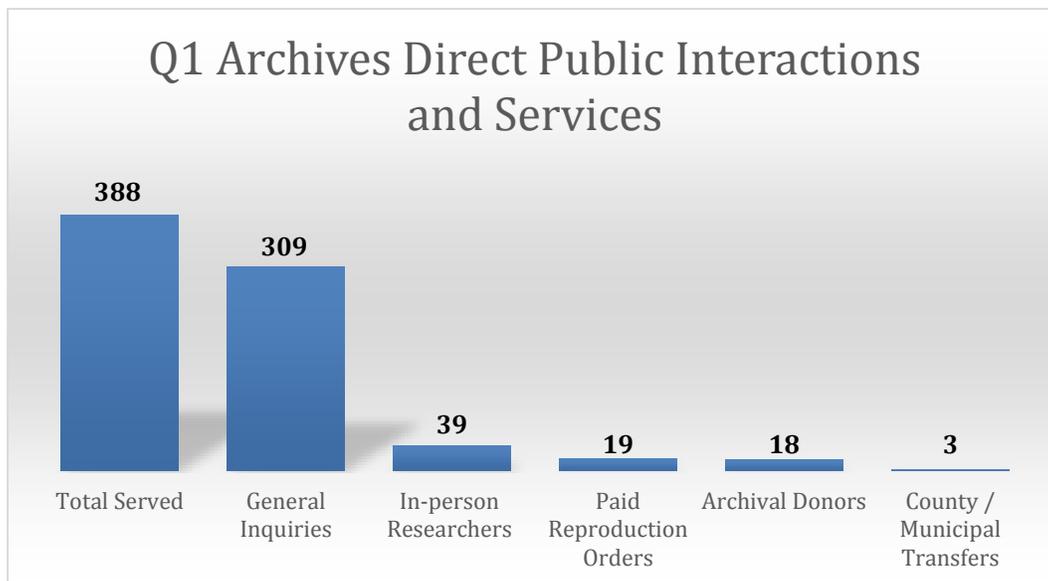


Douglas Point Nuclear Generating Station under construction 1961, A2007.060.009; Working inside Dominion Plywood, Southampton, 1950, by Jack Obright, A2013.035.013-007; Bruce Peninsula & Memorial Hospital, early 1970s, A2022.080.038

An upward trend continues in the number of people accessing the Archives' virtual resources:

Virtual Resource	Number of Users	Number of Page Views
<a href="#">Online Collections</a>	8,400 (6.5% increase)	48,000 (10% increase)
<a href="#">Bruce Remembers</a>	2,500 (15% decrease)	46,000 (9.2% increase) (Note: many of these page views related to BCM&CC volunteer editors)
<a href="#">Bruce County Historic Newspapers</a>	1,900 (9.6% increase)	33,000 (2.8% decrease)

Researchers and donors continue to connect with Archives staff directly as well:



**Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations.

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

There was no interdepartmental consultation associated with this report.

**Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:**

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

**Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:**

Strategic Pillar #2 - Building affinity across the County

Objective 2.2c - Activate the Archive to drive audiences from across the County

Objective 2.3 - Enhance digital outreach and engagement.

**Report Author:**

Deb Sturdevant, Archivist

**Departmental Approval:**

Cathy McGirr, Director, Museum & Cultural Services

**Approved for Submission:**

Sean Morphy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer