



# Staff Report to Council - for Information

**Title:** Museum - Archives Q2 Report for Information

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

**Date:** July 4, 2024

**Report Number:** MUS-2024-016

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## Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

## Report Summary:

This report contains Q2 2024 information about the Archives.

## Background:

### Volunteer and Co-op Student Contributions

Volunteers and students continue to contribute to the preservation and accessibility of the archival collection, while developing their skills and knowledge.

11 volunteers contributed 400 hours to Archives work in Q2. This work included adding and editing soldiers in [BruceRemembers.org](https://BruceRemembers.org), adding 800 descriptions of archival records and digitized photographs to [Online Collections](#), and working on inventories of the Archives' hardcopy newspaper collection.



Left: Western University Student Dani Walls holding a folder containing information about the ship Marion L. Breck from the Arthur Amos Shipwreck Research Collection in the Archives Stacks. Right: SDSS Co-op Student Michael Feit holding a diary written by Nathaniel Leeder of Saugeen Township.

Saugeen District Secondary School student Michael Feit completed his placement in the Archives. From February to June 2024, he added details and/or news clippings to 30+ soldiers on Bruce Remembers and about 125 items to Online Collections, including

inventories of land records, recently donated photographs, and Royal Canadian Legion files containing clippings about Second World War soldiers. He also assisted in digitizing diaries.

Western University’s Master of Arts, Public History intern, Dani Walls, is completing a 12-week co-op work placement in the Archives. She is working with items in the Arthur Amos Shipwreck Research Collection and has added 115 descriptive records to Online Collections to date. She is also writing articles for BCM&CC’s Stories & Artefacts web page.

## Stories & Artefacts

The [Stories & Artefacts web page](#) brings historic Bruce County business, places, and people to life and is a resource from which County residents and site visitors may learn about our communities’ development and the people who contribute to them. This quarter, Collections and Archives uploaded six articles, providing more details about the HMS General Hunter ship and businesses and people related to recently donated items. Article topics are:

- H.M.S. General Hunter
- R. Truax Son & Company Limited, Walkerton
- Dominion Plywoods Ltd., Southampton
- 160<sup>th</sup> Battalion’s mascot Teddy the bear
- Art for art’s sake (in the form of tapestries and painted plates), and
- Jessie Macpherson of Kincardine Township who became the first female superintendent of the Portage La Prairie women’s prison.

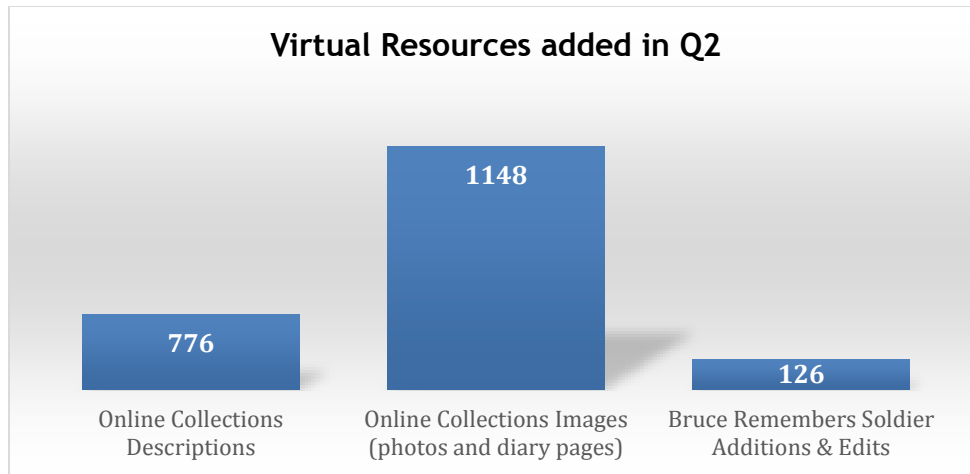
## Online Collections Home Page - Popular Search Links

Additional “Popular Searches” links have been added to the [Online Collections home page](#) to help researchers discover information about more popular resources.



Images from the Online Collections Popular Search Links web page linking to resource descriptions about court records, directories, land records, and newspapers.

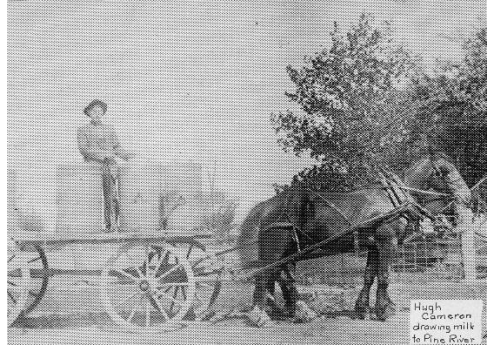
## Virtual Resource Catalogues



	Online Collections Descriptions	Online Collections Images	Bruce Remembers Soldiers	Historic Newspaper Issues
<b>Total Virtual Resources</b>	22,375	31,627	8,097	13,129

Examples of records added to Online Collections this quarter include:

- [Allenford Police Village items](#), 1919-1985, A2024.016
- [Kincardine Fire Brigade](#), 1895, glass plate negative photographs, A994.064
- [Ripley-Huron Historical Committee fonds](#), featuring historic photographs, and items gathered for use in creating historical books and planning reunions, A2007.020
- [Southampton photographs](#), including Masonic Hall and railway station images, A2024.027
- [Teeswater-area photographs](#), featuring the Grant family (in the dugout canoe featured in BCM&CC's exhibition gallery) and the 1947 winter storm, A2024.033
- [Barrow Bay and Stokes Bay images](#), around 1916, taken by the Krug family, A2014.003.K-16-01
- [Bruce Battalion in Chesley photographs](#) by the Krug family, K-16-01-16 to 20
- [Greenock and Brant Township WWII home front documents](#): Victory recipe book by Jackson's School War Workers, U.S.S. No. 8 Greenock & Elderslie, and Private J.S. Symon ration card.



L to R: Kincardine Fire Brigade, 1895, A994.064.128; Fishing at Stokes Bay, A2014.003.K-16-01-005; Hugh Cameron delivering milk to Pine River, A2007.020.015

### Users Accessing Services

An upward trend generally continues in the number of people accessing the Archives' virtual and in-person resources. Although Online Collections has a small decrease in users and views in Q2 as compared to Q1, there has been a 12.5% increase in number of users over Q2 last year.

Virtual Resource	Number of Users	Number of Page Views
<a href="#">Online Collections</a>	8,100 (4.7% decrease)	41,000 (17% decrease)
<a href="#">Bruce Remembers</a>	3,200 (34% increase) (The site had a large spike in users in mid-May; the cause is uncertain. Marathon of History magazine did provide advertising space for Bruce Remembers in its military-themed spring issue.)	37,000 (9.9% increase) (This decrease may be related to a decrease in volunteer editing views this quarter)
<a href="#">Bruce County Historic Newspapers</a>	1,900 (9.6% increase)	33,000 (2.8% decrease)

Archives staff also served 528 individuals this quarter through direct interactions, including answering 465 inquiries, assisting 39 in-person researchers, and completing 13 paid research/reproduction orders. In addition, the Archives received donations from 27i individuals this quarter. Although direct-contact services are still lower than they were before the pandemic, they have increased this year by 27% over last year's Q2.

**Re-housing and migration work**

This quarter, Archives staff continued working on re-housing donations to ensure optimal use of space: 70% of private donations have been reviewed and re-housed, as necessary. In addition, staff performed preservation work related to migrating video and audio files from 85 outdated CD and DVD discs.

**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:**

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**Departmental Approval:**

Cathy McGirr, Director, Museum & Cultural Services

**Approved for Submission:**

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer