



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Archives Q4 2024 Report

From: Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

Date: January 23, 2025

Report Number: Mus-2025-001

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

This report contains Q4 2024 information about the Archives and details of the upcoming April 2025 Archives Awareness Week event.

Background/Analysis:

YCW Intern Project Completion

Young Canada Works Archives Intern Mackenzie Pritchard completed her five-month work term in the Archives in December. In total, Mackenzie improved the organization, management, and preservation of around 1,730 historical records.



Intern Mackenzie Pritchard, holding Bruce County Federation of Agriculture Review, A2011.077

In Q4 she completed processing the Albemarle Historical Society collection as well as agricultural-themed records from several other collections. The following related record descriptions have been added to [brucemuseum.ca's Research Information page](http://brucemuseum.ca's%20Research%20Information%20page)

- Bruce County Federation of Agriculture
 - [Collection description](#)
 - [Item descriptions](#)
- Bruce County 4-H Association & Clubs (Brucedale, Burgoyne, Jackson, Malcolm, Mount Hope, Reid's Corners, Southampton, South Saugeen, Tara, Williscroft)
 - [Collection description](#)
 - [Item descriptions](#)
- United Co-operatives of Ontario (with local co-operatives Mildmay, Paisley Port Elgin, Saugeen Valley)
 - [Collection description](#)
 - [Item descriptions](#)
- Robert McLaughlin Family fonds (Elderslie Township & Chesley)
 - [Fonds description](#)
 - [Item descriptions](#)
- International Plowing Match resources
 - [2008 IPM, Teeswater](#)
 - [1993 IPM, Walkerton](#)
 - [1976 IPM, Walkerton](#)
- Albemarle Township Historical Society fonds
 - [Collection description](#)
 - [Item descriptions](#) (including over [700 photographs](#))



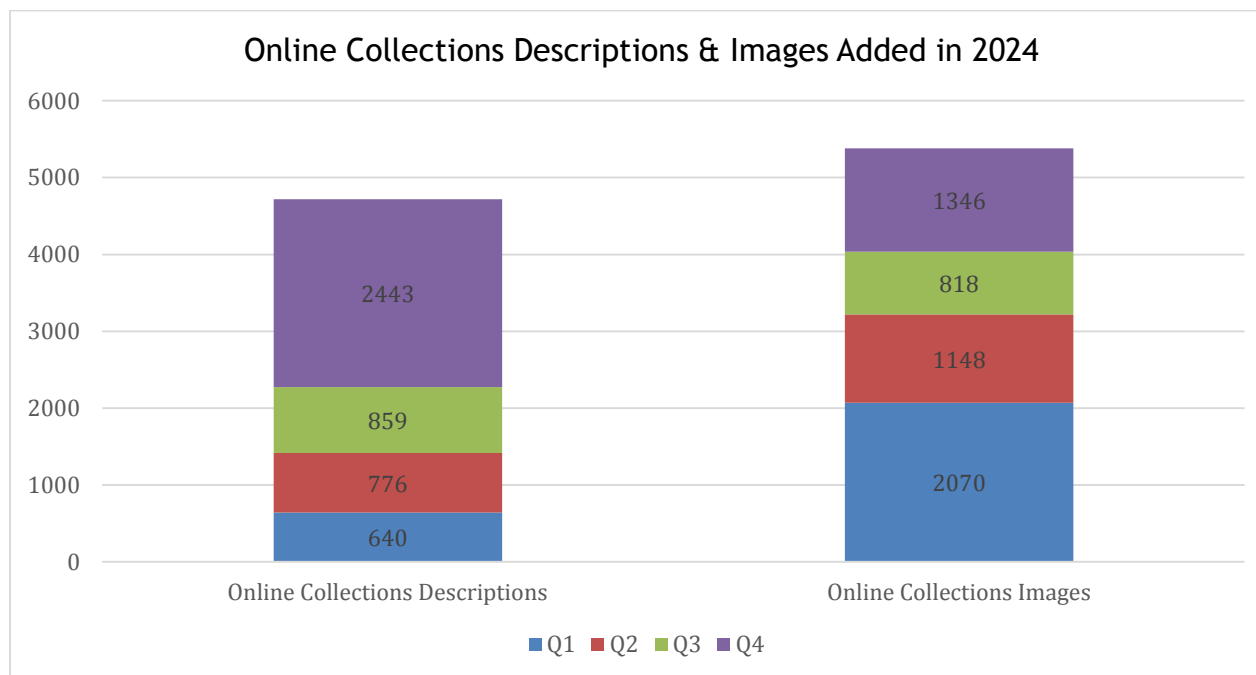
Bill Rydall, Johnny and Everett Crawford, Alvin Rydall & Harvey Hepburn with Steam Engine, A2006.196.481, part of Albemarle Township Historical Society fonds

Virtual Resources Added in Q4

Other Archives staff and volunteers also added archival record descriptions and images to Online Collections and Bruce Remembers. Fifty newspaper issues (The Teeswater News 1925-1930 and The Warton Encore Oct. 17, 1889) were added to the Bruce County Historic Newspapers website.

As of December 2024, researchers may access the following online archival resources:

Virtual Resource	Number	Percentage increase from 2023
Online Collections item descriptions (Photos, Archives, Library sections)	25,677	19%
Online Collections images (Photos, Archives, Library sections)	33,836	11%
Bruce Remembers soldier pages	8,200	2.5%
Bruce Remembers soldier pages displaying images or news clippings	2,056	5.4%
Bruce County Historic Newspaper issues	13,179	0.4%



Public Access to Archival Services

Researchers and item donors continue to connect with the Archives directly and using virtual services, with most types of interactions holding steady or increasing.

Public Interactions	Q4	2024 Total	Percentage increase from 2023
Online Collections users	8,300	34,000	13%
Bruce Remembers users	3,200	11,000	16%
Bruce County Historic Newspapers users	1,100	2,700	38%
In-person researchers	44	196	-28%
Paid research/copy orders	14	55	10%
General inquiries/browsers	411	1,761	23%
Archival item donors	29	102	-13%
County & Municipal transfers	1	6	0%

The decrease in on-site visitors is partially a result of the increase in paid research and copy service orders. More people are also accessing services from home because of the availability of more online resources, including land records (through Onland), newspapers, photographs, and diaries. The Archives continues to inform researchers of the vast number of resources available to view in-person and not online, as well as the value of discussing research goals with archives staff who are able to recommend relevant resources.

The decrease in archival item donors is due to the unusually high number of donors in 2023. The average number of donors to the Archives since 2021 is 102, the same as this year.

The 0% increase in County and Municipal transfers is consistent with the four-year average of receiving 6 transfers per year from municipalities and the County. The common practice of municipalities is to transport collections of records to the Archives every few years; it would not be expected to receive transfers from all eight municipalities each year.

Archives Awareness Week 2025



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Historical Society

2025's Archives Awareness Week will highlight BCM&CC's rich archival collection, focusing on the value of the Collection's military-themed items in reflecting the experiences of individuals, families, and communities during times of military conflict.

On Saturday April 12 at 2 p.m., Kent Kraemer will present "Bruce in Battle: Life in the 160th Bruce Battalion." Kent is a column contributor in Marathon of History magazine and founder of the 160th Battalion Facebook page which chronicled the activities of the Battalion day-by-day throughout WWI's 100-year anniversary period. He will explore the lives of Bruce County's 160th Battalion soldiers, while sharing his experiences using archival resources. Following the presentation, attendees may join in a behind-the-scenes tour of the archival storage area, and visit BCM&CC's exhibits, with a tour guide present in the military gallery. Registration will open for this event in February.

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

Strategic Goals

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

Attachments:

No attachments.