



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Archives Q1 2025 Report

From: Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum and Cultural Services

Date: May 1, 2025

Report Number: MUS-2025-011

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

This report contains Q1 2025 information about the Archives

Background/Analysis:

Archives Awareness Week, April 7 to 12

Archives Awareness Week 2025 focused on the value of BCM&CC's archival military collection which reflects the experiences of individuals, families, and communities during times of military conflict.

With the support of sponsor Bruce County Historical Society, the Archives promoted its services and resources, and it encouraged donations of Bruce County military items.

Three articles were added to BCM&CC's [Stories & Artefacts](#) web page: two related to the 160th Battalion, and a "Sharing Military Experiences" article highlighting the types of military items the Archives accepts for donation and makes accessible to the public.



Left: In the Trenches (from Col. G.W. Nelson album) A994.058.005

Centre: Vivian & Thelma Sees, A2019.078.002

Right: 160th Battalion Chesley Platoon leaving station, A2014.003.K-16-01-019

The week will culminate on April 12 in a free “sold-out” presentation “Bruce in Battle: Life in the 160th Battalion” during which Kent Kraemer will share stories about 160th Battalion soldiers and his experiences using archival resources. Those who stay for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives will learn more about the ways in which the Archives preserves our history and makes its resources available to the public.

Student Contributions

Laura Downs joined the Archives Team for an unpaid 105-hour placement as part of her Mohawk College Library Technician Program studies. She assisted in processing 490 items, including church-themed booklets and reference materials, Women’s Institute minutes and community histories, and Kincardine-area images. These item descriptions were added to Online Collections. She also wrote biographies related to recently donated materials: [Lester K. Hacking](#) (Gobles Grove resident who participated in Oliphant Regatta) and [Jack Campbell](#) (Lucknow barber and Point Clark lightkeeper).

Volunteer Contributions

# of volunteers	# of volunteer hours, Q1	Work completed includes
11	496 (equivalent of just over 1 FTE by quarter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitizing diaries and photos • Describing items in the online database • Creating inventories of hardcopy newspapers • Updating Bruce Remembers website

Virtual Resources Added

Archives staff and volunteers continued to process former and recent donations while adding descriptions and information to BCM&CC’s virtual resources.

Virtual Resource	Added in Q1	Total
Online Collections item descriptions (Photos, Archives, Library sections)	1,123 (with 1,623 images)	26,800 (with 35,463 images)
Bruce Remembers soldier pages	63	8,162
Bruce County Historic Newspaper issues	0	13,179

Highlights of records added to Online Collections this quarter include:

- Arran Township [Byers family photos](#) featuring farming scenes, Tara parades, historic automobiles, and the ferry Norisle (A2024.079)
- [Douglas Point research file](#), including notes, newspaper clippings and photographs, A2023.112.019
- [Flowerpot Island Light station logbooks](#) (A2024.083)
- [Jackson Women's Institute](#) (Brockton) minutes and Tweedsmuir community history binders
- [Lucknow business receipts](#) reflecting 1940s-era businesses, such as the Coal Co., Rae & Porteous Hardware, and Maple Leaf Aircraft Corporation Limited (A2024.086)
- Saugeen Township [Leeder family diaries](#): three more 1870s-1880s diaries were digitized and uploaded (A991.047).
- [Southampton Beacon newspaper collection](#) with Beacon [hardcopy newspaper inventory](#).
- [Teeswater Women's Institute Minutes](#), (A2024.077)
- Wiarton [IODE White Cloud Chapter records](#) (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire), including: photos, minutes, newspaper clippings, and annual reports (A2024.076).



Left: Arkwright Farm Forum float at Tara Fair - Right: Threshing at Byers Farm, Arran Township, 1940s, A20243.079.024 & 051 (a sample of Byers family photos)

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, as compared to Q1 last year.

Public Interactions	Q1
Online Collections users	8,400

Bruce Remembers users	2,700
Bruce County Historic Newspapers users	541
In-person researchers	33
Paid research/copy orders	13
General inquiries/browsers	349
Archival item donors	17
County & Municipal transfers	3

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

Attachments:

No attachments.