

MAIGazine

The Newsletter of the AAO's Municipal Archives Interest Group

Issue 13

August 2017

Please join us for the 2017 Municipal Archives Interest Group's Open House in Ottawa!

Friday September 29th, 2017
10:00 am- 4:00 pm

Please join us in the country's Capital City for our annual Open House and special tour of the City of Ottawa Archives! This has been a busy year for the City of Ottawa celebrating Canada 150, and we are excited to see what the Archives has in store for us. The day will take place at the City of Ottawa's Central Archives, the James K. Bartleman Centre, at 10 am and lunch will be provided. For more information about this year's Open House, please see page 19.

City of Ottawa Archives

Central Archives, James. K. Bartleman Centre
100 Tallwood Drive (Corner of Woodroffe)
Ottawa, ON K2G 4R7

www.ottawa.ca/archives



Please RSVP by Friday September 15th to

Gina Dewaele, MAIG Secretary-Treasurer - gdewaele@elgin.ca or call 519-631-1460 ext. 154.

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Message from the Chair – Brenda Hicock

With summer winding down it's time to present this year's issue of our MAIGazine. A big thank you to Gillian and Gina for putting it together and to all our readers who contributed articles. MAIG's annual publication is a great way to showcase your municipal archives and to keep your colleagues around the province informed.

MAIG's annual Open House was held at Simcoe County Archives last October. We were very fortunate to visit during their 50th Anniversary year and to tour the 10,000 sq. ft. expansion the archives underwent in 2012. Attendees were also treated to a tour of the Simcoe County Museum followed by lunch and our meeting. Hope to see you at our next Open House!

This year's AAO Conference at the University of Toronto saw MAIG members once again gather together for our Annual General Meeting. MAIG's AGM is an event to which I look every year as it allows me to reconnect with archivists from around the province. The roundtable discussion is always enlightening and a great time to exchange ideas and pose questions to colleagues.

With fall around the corner, it's time to start thinking about our next Open House. Don't forget to mark your calendars - this year's Open House will be held at the City of Ottawa Archives on Friday September 29th, 2017! Please see page 19 for more details. It should be an interesting and informative day, and I hope to see you all there!

MAIG Executive, 2015-2018

Brenda Hicock, Chair

Brenda.Hicock@vaughan.ca

Gillian Shaw, Vice Chair

Gillian.Shaw@vaughan.ca

Gina Dewaele,

Secretary/Treasurer

gdewaele@elgin.ca

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If you have any questions about MAIG or would like to get involved, please feel free to contact our executive.

Meet the MAIG Executive



Brenda Hicock has been Chair of MAIG since 2015, having served as Vice Chair from 2012-2015. Brenda started working for the City of Vaughan Archives in 2008 as an Archives Technician shortly after graduating with a Masters of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Western Ontario. Following a year and a half of progressive responsibility, she stepped up to the role of Archival Records Analyst. In 2015, after returning from a maternity leave, Brenda accepted the position of Acting City Archivist. Most recently, she embraced the opportunity to become Supervisor of Archives and Records Management Services (ARMS) where her role will take on a larger scope and will include overseeing the entire ARMS team. She looks forward to the exciting times ahead as she continues to learn and ARMS continues to evolve. Brenda can be contacted by email at Brenda.Hicock@vaughan.ca or by phone at 905-832-8585 ext. 8189.



Gillian Shaw is the current MAIG Vice Chair, having begun her tenure on the Executive in 2015. She holds a Master of Information degree from the University of Toronto (2011) and has experience in archives, museums, and records management for both the public and private sectors. Prior to working at the City of Vaughan Archives as an Archival Records Analyst, Gillian worked at the City of Markham (Markham Museum) and the Ministry of Health. In addition to her role as Vice Chair, she is also a member of the AAO's Professional Development Committee. Gillian can be contacted at Gillian.Shaw@vaughan.ca or by phone at 905-832-8585 ext. 8793.



Gina Dewaele has been the Secretary-Treasurer of MAIG since 2014, and will continue to be the Secretary-Treasurer for the 2015-2018 term. She holds a Masters of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Western Ontario (2002) and has been the Archivist Assistant at the Elgin County Archives since October 2002. In addition to her Secretary-Treasurer position with MAIG, she has been the Treasurer for the Southwestern Ontario Chapter since 2010, and has served on the ARCHEION Committee of the AAO. Gina can be contacted by email at gdewaele@elgin.ca or by phone at 519-631-1460 ext. 154.

Minutes from the 2016 Open House

**Minutes
Municipal Archives Interest Group
Open House Meeting
October 7, 2016
County of Simcoe Archives
(Simcoe County, Ontario)**

Executive Present:

- Brenda Hicock, Chair
- Gina Coady, Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Regrets:

- Gillian Shaw, Vice-Chair

Members Present:

- Elysia Delaurentis, Wellington County Museum and Archives
- Ann-Marie Collins, Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
- Jenna Leifso, Huron County Museum
- Laura Camilleri, Dufferin County Museum & Archives
- Liz Mayville, County of Oxford Archives
- Karin Noble, Grey Roots Museum & Archives
- Michael Molnar, Corporation of the County of Huron
- Matthew Fells, Simcoe County Archives
- Arthur McLelland, London Room
- Ellen Millar, Simcoe County Archives
- Evangeline Lee, York Region
- Iona McCraith, AAO Archives Advisor

1. Welcoming Remarks and Agenda Approval

Brenda called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Motion to approve the Agenda: Arthur McLelland

Seconded: Ellen Millar

Carried.

2. 2015 Open House Minutes

Arthur McClelland identified an error and the minutes were updated.

Motion to approve the updated minutes: Arthur McLelland

Seconded by: Ann-Marie Collins

Carried.

3. Report of the Chair

Brenda advised that the MAIG AGM was held in Thunder Bay and was well attended. Members from the AO led a discussion on the provincial acquisition strategy which was well received. She also discussed the latest edition of the MAIGazine which had been published over the summer and had some interesting submissions. Finally, Brenda advised that nominations were being accepted for the position of MAIG Secretary/Treasurer and the position would be voted upon and filled at the upcoming AGM.

4. Open House Discussion

Future locations for MAIG's Open House were discussed and the following agreed upon:

- 2017 – City of Ottawa Archives
- 2018 – Elgin County or Dufferin County Archives
- 2019- Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre

5. Other Business

Members discussed sending electronic gift forms and whether other institutions sent paper copies or used email correspondence.

6. Roundtable

- **Elysia DeLaurentis, Wellington County Museum:** Elysia discussed the museum's newspaper digitization project and the new retention By-Law that had been passed through Council. She also discussed her Summer Student's project of researching people who had been killed during the First World War.
- **Jenna Leifso, Huron County Museum:** Jenna advised that the Huron County Museum had received a World War commemoration grant and that two videos had been produced and were available on YouTube. The museum has also developed two in-gallery apps and have digitized their microfilmed newspapers.
- **Evangeline Lee, York Region:** Eva advised that the Region has run out of space for archival materials and that the collection is primarily government based. For Canada 150, the Region is working on creating a story map for heritage institutions that have existed for 150 years. She also asked if anyone in the group had a digital preservation policy that that they would be willing to share.
- **Brenda Hicock City of Vaughan Archives:** Brenda advised that there had been a revamp of her department and that Dan Zelenyj was now the Manager of Archives and Records Management Services. She also advised that a new classification schedule would be coming out in 2017.
- **Anne-Marie Collins, Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre:** Anne-Marie advised that she was overseeing the Canada 150 Project for BCMCC and that a lot of records had been transferred as of late. The Museum has been busy with events for the last year, having done an event every month. She also advised that the BCMCC launched 2 new websites over the past year and that an accommodation plan had been completed as the museum has begun to run out of space.
- **Laura Camilleri, Dufferin County Museum & Archives:** Laura advised that the Archives would be undertaking an expansion discussion shortly and that they were working on an Open Data Management project. Their "DuffStuff" website hasn't been updated, but they have been working on other projects including a collection of veterans' names and a recipe project.
- **Liz Mayville, County of Oxford Archives:** Liz advised that the Archives were now out of space and they were currently unable to accept new collections. Staff are currently trying to work on the backlog of accessions and see if they could gain any space from the building next door. The Archives is also working on a book about the cenotaphs of the county.

- **Karen Noble, Grey Roots Museum & Archives:** Karen advised that Grey Roots was undergoing renovations and had two summer students this year. The Archives is also actively GIS mapping everything that existed in 1867 and are working on Volume 14.
- **Michael Molnar, Corporation of the County of Huron:** Michael advised that Huron County had purchased Laserfiche and that they were using TOMRMS for their records classification.
- **Matthew Fells, Simcoe County Archives:** Matthew advised that he was appointed the Archivist of Simcoe County Archives in April. In this new role, he is working to beef up the Archives online presence, and working on RAD descriptions. His team has been actively working to commemorate the Archives 50th Anniversary and recently picked up records from the Great Lakes.
- **Arthur McLelland, London Room:** Library is under renovation. Will be having a gala event for the 50th anniversary. Will be opening time capsule. Received a postcard collection from Gord McDonald. Have scanned them all.
- **Ellen Millar, Simcoe County Archives:** Ellen discussed a recent accession from the Barrie Historical Archives and her role in the 50th Anniversary.
- **Iona McCraith, AAO Archives Advisor:** Iona discussed staffing changes at the AAO, and advised that Lisa Snyder has taken over from Amanda Hill as the ARCHEION Coordinator. Iona discussed recent grants and meetings with other Archivists including LAC to discuss the NADP grant. Iona also discussed the AAO's Organizational History project that is being done for the AAO's 25th Anniversary in 2018. Brian Beaven, Ellen Millar, Lutzen Rietstra, Mark Luhrman, and Iona are all working to help write the history and there will be a digital version. She also discussed the Provincial Acquisition Policy and that it would not be restricted to AAO members.
- **Gina Coady, Elgin County Archives:** Gina advised that she had been working on a partnership with the AO to borrow, digitize and publish online the AO's Thomas Talbot fonds, comprising 45 early township maps created and maintained between 1802-1849 and a lease settlement register created and maintained between 1842-1846. The project is now live on the Elgin County Archives website. She discussed recent donations to the ECA, including the contents of a time capsule from 1888. ECA took part in organizing public events in St. Thomas to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the deployment of the Elgin County-based 91st Battalion, C.E.F. to active service during WWI. Two summer students were hired over the summer to work on various digitization projects and digitized, described and published approx. 10,000 photographs and clippings from the St. Thomas Times-Journal newspaper online. An additional 28,000 records were also uploaded to "OurOntario". Funding was also received from the Ontario Genealogical Society to support a project to borrow, digitize, index and publish online a series of early township survey plans from the AO under the AO's Digitization Partnership Program. Gina also advised that the ECA will be a principal contributor to an interactive exhibition at the new Canadian History Hall at the Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau (opening July 1, 2017). The exhibit will focus on the pioneer settlement of Southwold Township in what is now Elgin County from ca. 1800-1850.

7. Adjournment

Brenda called for a motion to adjourn at 2:50pm. Gina Coady seconded the motion with no objections.

Minutes from the 2017 AGM

**Minutes
Municipal Archives Interest Group
Annual General Meeting
April 26, 2017
University of Toronto iSchool – Claude T. Bissell Building (BL 538)
(Toronto, Ontario)**

Executive Present:

- Gina Coady, Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Regrets:

- Brenda Hicock, Chair
- Gillian Shaw, Vice-Chair

Present:

- Courtney Scott, York Region
- Liz Mayville, County of Oxford Archives
- Charlotte Woodley, Region of Waterloo Archives
- Ellen Millar, Simcoe County Archives
- Paul Henry, City of Ottawa Archives
- Dana Thorne, County of Lambton Archives

1. Call to Order

Gina called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm and welcomed everyone. She introduced herself and provided regrets for Brenda and Gillian, as they were both unable to secure childcare. She asked for everyone else to introduce themselves as well.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda for the afternoon was presented.

Motion to approve the Agenda: Ellen Millar

Seconded by: Liz Mayville

Carried.

3. Approval of the 2016 AGM Minutes

There were no omissions in the 2016 AGM Minutes.

Motion to approve the Minutes: Dana Thorne

Seconded by: Charlotte Woodley

Carried.

4. Report of the Chair

Gina provided each member with a copy of the Report of the Chair (Brenda's Report).

No comments were made

5. 2016-2017 Financial Report

Members were informed that MAIG had applied for \$250 of Core Funding and were likely receive this.

The 2016-2017 Financial Report and the 2017-2018 Budget were also presented:

Financial Report 2016-2017

REVENUE

Amount previously in bank	\$734.19
Grant from AAO	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$984.19

EXPENSES

2016-2017 Meetings	\$0.00 (in kind)
2016 Open House	\$360.19 (catering)
Advertising	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$360.19

FINAL BANK BALANCE **\$624.00**

Budget 2017-2018

REVENUE

Amount previously in bank	\$624.00
Grant from AAO	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$874.00

EXPENSES

2017-2017 Meetings	\$0.00
2017 Open House	\$350.00 (catering)
Advertising	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$350.00

FINAL BANK BALANCE **\$524.00**

Motion to approve the 2016-2017 Financial Report and 2017-2018 Budget: Charlotte Woodley
Seconded by: Liz Mayville
Carried.

6. 2017 Open House

The location of the 2017 MAIG Open House was discussed, and will be taking place at the City of Ottawa Archives. The following other institutions also offered their facilities for future years:

- 2017: City of Ottawa Archives
- 2018: It was suggested the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County be contacted as a possible venue.
- 2019: Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

7. Other Business

- a) Election of New Secretary/Treasurer (2017-2020) → Gina Coady was nominated and elected to continue to be the Secretary/Treasurer of MAIG

b) Tenure of Chair and Vice-Chair (2015-2018) → The end of Brenda Hicock's term as Chair, and Gillian Shaw's term as Vice-Chair were discussed. Gillian intends to take on the role of Chair, however a new Vice-Chair will be needed in 2018. Members were asked to consider nominees for this upcoming vacancy.

8. Roundtable:

- **Dana Thorne, Lambton County Archives:** Dana advised that she recently returned from maternity leave in March, and that her archives are currently undergoing a major renovation project. SpaceSaver was currently installing manual shelving, which would more than double their current capacity. During the renovations, they were also removing carpeting and fixing the floor, and would soon have a proper working room. Paul and Liz advised Dana not to move everything out at once and Charlotte advised that when they underwent a similar renovation, they made sure to take photos of what was on each shelf to assist with future re-shelving. Dana advised that a communication plan was being developed for the public and that the Archives would remain open for the duration of the project.
- **Liz Mayville, County of Oxford Archives:** Liz advised that she was currently undergoing a needs assessment at her archives and that they have been eyeing the space next door. She also advised that their Clerk will not be replaced and that she will be the only one in the office at the end of May.
- **Gina Coady, Elgin County Archives:** Gina discussed the staffing at Elgin County and advised that a full-time, permanent Archivist Assistant, Amber Mandich, had been hired. The Archives Digitization Assistant, Tiffany Champagne has been working on many projects, including: digitizing municipal by-laws and council minutes, scanning our remaining Tweedsmuir book accessions, scanning vertical file pamphlets, and school registers acquired from the Thames Valley District School Board. Elgin county will also have 2 summer students employed with funding from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs, who will be working on describing and scanning Times-Journal prints and negatives from the 1950s-2000s. This will be a massive project and it is anticipated that the students' will produce an additional 10,000 photographs and captions accessible to researchers via the Archives' online public access database. Regarding accessions, Elgin County would soon be acquiring 33 maps from the Archives Association of Ontario in early May, documenting 22 townships and town sites spread across Elgin, Oxford, Norfolk, Middlesex, Kent, and Essex Counties, from ca 1790-1830s.
- **Ellen Millar, Simcoe County Archives:** Ellen advised that Matthew Fells is now the Archivist of the Simcoe County Archives, and that an Archival Technician job position will become available in the fall. The Archives has been working on a Blog for Canada 150, based on a monthly Simcoe County theme. They will be producing a Remembering Vimy exhibit, and are also considering how to do some digital preservation. The archives have also been looking for records transfers, as there is still space in the archives for new accessions.
- **Paul Henry, City of Ottawa Archives:** Paul advised he had just had his 5th anniversary with Ottawa and that his budget has survived over this time. The Archives have moved portfolios and are now

a part of the City Clerk's Office. Recently, archival displays have moved into the main gallery, and the History of Taverns and the History of Rock and Roll exhibitions are currently circulating. For the first time in 40 years, archives and records managers put forth a joint report to Council and are now using MINISIS. InMagic will continue to be used but only for internal research.

- **Charlotte Woodley, Region of Waterloo Archives:** The archives recently relocated and now has a nicer space for the public. They recently had a great public event in which 115 people attended, including Regional Councillors. The archives are also working to collaborate with housing and the homeless in the area.
- **Courtney Scott, York Region Archives:** Courtney advised that the archives were working towards getting more space, as people were now forced to work in the basement. The Corporate Centre was being changed over to accept archival holdings. There are currently two people in archives and major projects for the year include: Canada 150, online digital storytelling and designing a new exhibit on transportation and roads.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 PM.

Lambton County Archives: Increased Capacity, Improved Facility

Dana Thorne – Archivist, Lambton County Archives

Located in Wyoming, Ontario, the Lambton County Archives is the repository for historical documents telling the history of Lambton County. Our institution recently undertook a major renovation project to expand our storage capacity.

Our collections storage area has been full for years. We receive approximately 90 donations of new material annually, and we reached a critical point where we could not possibly house any new material. We faced the perennial archival problem: we had run out of space!

Additionally, we had a large collection of Lambton County land instruments that were stored outside our main storage area. Housed in 45 filing cabinets, these land instruments were being damaged during retrieval as they were too tall for the cabinet drawers. We were eager to move these documents into our environmentally controlled space.

Working with a moving crew from Spacesaver, Lambton County Archives staff labeled all material in the collection and supervised the move offsite. The initial moving phase took four days while over a dozen truckloads of material were transferred. It is a nerve-racking ordeal to watch movers load up and cart away your archival collection!

After the collection was moved offsite, the existing shelving was dismantled and removed. Some of the old shelving was reused in new configurations in our facility, and other excess shelving will be repurposed by local libraries.



The new look of the Lambton County Archives storage space.

While our collections storage area was completely empty, we seized the opportunity to remove the carpet and refinish the concrete. Although bringing in a separate contractor to work on the flooring tightened our timelines (and increased our headaches), it was important to take advantage of the vacant space and address an ongoing issue.

A Spacesaver crew installed two new mobile units, as well as a series of static shelves that have increased our capacity to store oversized materials. We have more than doubled our capacity by adopting the mobile system. Additionally, our former shelves were only approximately six feet tall, and the new shelves are nearly ten and a half feet tall. We are now taking advantage of the full height of our collections storage area.

The second, smaller mobile unit was installed in the aforementioned space that previously contained our land instrument collection. This room is now being used to store uncatalogued backlog and new donations, and contains workspaces where material can be processed before it is moved into the main collection.

The collection was unavailable to the public for just over four weeks as the renovations were completed. We marked the reopening of the archives with an open house that attracted over 60 visitors. By hosting behind-the-scenes tours of our new space, we gave these visitors a rare opportunity to see our collections storage area and gain a better understanding of the scope of material onsite. The renovation project was funded by the County of Lambton and the Government of Canada's Cultural Spaces Fund. We are so thrilled to be getting settled in our new space!

News from Middlesex Centre Archives

Carolynn Bart-Riedstra - Archivist and Linda Kaiser -Director, Middlesex Centre Archives

Middlesex Centre Archives (MCA) has been busy with the local Sesquicentennial Events. Already in June, volunteers created exhibits for the annual Poplar Hill Picnic. Each year the municipalities of Delaware, Komoka and Mount Brydges hold an annual picnic alternating the location of the event. This year, MCA was in the midst of the Del-Ko-Brydge celebration, which was held this year in Delaware at the Community Centre. At the same time displays were set up in Bryanston. Volunteers created exhibits for these events and talked to many people about the history of the area. The following weekend was the Sesquicentennial Celebration for Ilderton. For pictures of the events please visit our website: <http://middlesexcentrchive.ca/event-photos/> .



Visitors viewing MCA's displays in Delaware on Canada Day.

MCA was also the recipient of two grants this year. MCA gratefully acknowledges receipt and the financial support of the Government of Canada and Library Archives Canada for MCA's application to the Documentary Communities Heritage Program (DCHP). The project is for \$30,287 and includes an archivist's time to arrange, describe and publish ARCHEION descriptions for six fonds of importance to Middlesex Centre Township. Part of the funding is allotted for the restoration and stabilization of three early ledger books from the Marsh Store in Coldstream. MCA is one of eight recipients in Ontario for this year's DCHP program.

The second grant was received from the London Community Foundation for the purchase of a laptop, projector, mouse and keyboard as well as the design and creation of four signs to use at displays and events. The projector and laptop are used for presentations and talks. The laptop is also used for public access to our collection listing. This was a matching grant and we received \$2500.00 to help defray the costs.

MCA opened in the fall of 2014 and this year has already received over 100 donations. We are quickly running out of space but our collection continues to grow as more and more people visit us. We continue to have a strong contingent of volunteers who help with our public hours and our social media updates. MCA is open Wednesdays from 10-1 and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 1-4 pm.

Archives' Exhibit Looks at How a Street Has Connected Peel

Nick Moreau – Archives Reprographics, Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives

In December 2016 the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) launched the exhibit "Hurontario Street: Linking Peel". Relying extensively on the archival holdings of the Region of Peel Archives, staff from the Archives and Museum worked in partnership to tell some of the stories of this important road network.

When Peel was first surveyed, Hurontario was one of the primary north-south survey governing lines. Many communities (including what is now the cities of Mississauga, Brampton and the Town of Caledon) were therefore established along it, and it acted as a major transit and communication road. We wanted to explore the role Hurontario Street played in the growth and development of what is today Peel Region. We also wanted to illustrate how this road acts as a backbone, linking the many communities within the Region.

The Archives has mounted various exhibits in recent years using our reading room. But none of these projects broached the size and scale of "Hurontario". A focal point of the exhibit was a 50-foot-long digital aerial composite image of Hurontario Street extending some 60 km, from old Port Credit (Mississauga) to Orangeville. The composite was painstakingly stitched together digitally using more than 90 separate aerial photos that were originally taken on numerous flight paths from the mid 1960s into the early 1970s.



The 50-foot long aerial composite of Hurontario Street.

It was clear that such a large visual element like this aerial plan would not fit our modest 18-foot-long reading room wall. Fortunately, PAMA has a tailor-made exhibit space for something as unusual as a long aerial composite. The joint exhibit team was able to secure the Tunnel gallery that connects two buildings on the PAMA campus. Now the team was suddenly faced with 236 feet of available wall space to mount an exhibit.

With this new, larger venue new elements were added. The archival collection was used extensively to explore a broader range of themes relating to Hurontario Street. Elements included:

- panels discussing changes in road construction techniques as Peel grew; introducing the public to terms like "macadamization"
- two over-sized photographs of the road
- nearly 100 captioned digitized photos and documents, linked to spots on an aerial composite, made of 90 separate images stitched together, that talk about such things as Peel's brief foray into the oil industry, its zoo, a MPP who sought women's franchise with the vote, a surveying glitch that affected road alignment and other stories found in our collection
- a then and now comparative photo feature, documenting both consistency (a building that served as a hotel in the 19th century that is now a Tim Hortons) and change (a community fair in the 1950s, now home to a dumpster behind a discount grocer).



The completed exhibit "Hurontario Street: Linking Peel" (left: Exhibit Signage, right: Scale of Exhibit).

The planning and development of the exhibit seemed all consuming at various points during the process, as the scale and rhythms of a project grew larger over time. Nevertheless, the collaborative efforts of staff from the Archives and Museum paid off and the exhibit was very well received.

Since the show closed in March, we have discovered many of the smaller components can still be exhibited in other venues. Due to the nature of the installation, the exhibit is essentially modular. As a result, we recently installed the Mississauga portion of the aerial composite as part a leadership conference in that City, and at public consultations for Metrolinx's Hurontario Light Rail Transit project.

Trent Valley Archives and the Fairview School

Elwood H. Jones – Archivist, Trent Valley Archives

The Trent Valley Archives has occupied one of Selwyn's most notable heritage buildings since 1998, and is now marking its twentieth year at the corner of Carnegie and Woodland.

The main building began as the Fairview School, sometimes called "Hall's School". This was a well-built one-room school house that seems to have been the fourth of five Fairview Schools within short distances of this intersection. The earliest teacher was John Ford, teaching here in 1851. By 1948, there were two teachers every year until 1960. Then when the new school opened there were about six teachers at least each year.

The local school was often used as a Community Centre, and one of Smith Township's two bands in the 1880s was the 4th Line Band. After the 1930s, student teachers came to the school as part of the Normal School training. Music and woodworking were taught at the school and there was a rhythm band in 1937. Indoor plumbing reached the school in 1936.

In 1960, Smith Township acquired the property, and added a Council Chamber wing in 1974. Trent Valley Archives (TVA), with assistance from three supporters, acquired the property in 1998. A former school portable was added in 2009; it took about \$50,000 to move it to the site, build a firm foundation, add stairs and ramp and, with support from the Trillium foundation, install a system for controlling heat and humidity.

TVA operates in some ways as a county archives would, but its independence has permitted it to highlight the importance of letting researchers successfully access records, historical documents, photographs, newspapers and books with some degree of ease. We pursue sound archival principles of appraisal, organization and preservation. We stress the importance of historical research and genealogical research. We accept donations from people who have significant things to share and offer fair market value appraisals supported by receipts for income tax purposes.



The Trent Valley Archives showing the original school house and the Council Chambers addition.

We have an excellent website that is always improving, as well as our quarterly magazine and volunteers on social media. We publish books on a wide range of topics mainly reflecting on some of the riches of our collections. We have in-house finding aids, searchable mainly on our internal computer. We have an army of volunteers, led by an archivist and assistant archivist, to process and organize the archives. We had some forty volunteers helping to make the Peterborough Examiner archives accessible. We have control over significant parts of its rich collection of clippings, negatives, photographs and reports.

Working with partnerships, the TVA has expanded access to records of broad general importance such as censuses, street directories, and indexed land registry records. We have some significant industrial archives (DeLaval, Alfa Laval, Raybestos Manhattan, Montgomery Brothers, Trent Glass, for example). Our photographic collections include the Osborne Studio, and photos from every generation since 1860 that have been part of dozens of collections from families, individuals, and local historians. Elmir Brown and his family papers have proved very helpful, and we recently acquired the literary archives of Cathleen McCarthy, a career journalist chiefly with the Peterborough Examiner.

The genealogical holdings of the TVA are likewise impressive. We have the papers of genealogists such as the Youngs, Miller, Walter Dunford, Rosemary and Peter McConkey. These are supplemented by countless research files and by our partnership with Ancestry.com. The Archives holds over 660 archival fonds, totaling over 1,200 cubic feet, some 1 million photographic images, 1,500 reels of microfilm, 100 maps as well as atlases, and a browsing reference library of probably 5,000 volumes.

The TVA has received occasional funding from the county, the city, Ontario and federal grants. A large part of our funding comes from the membership fees and donations by nearly 300 members. Our members are also our main source for volunteers around the Fairview Heritage Centre, and also for volunteers to help in our ever-changing menu of outreach activities. We work with local taverns to mount our Pub Crawls. Little Lake Cemetery, Lang Pioneer Village and the Peterborough Theatre Guild have been partners, especially with our very successful Cemetery Pageants. Over the years, we have offered ghost tours, both downtown and in Ashburnham, heritage walks in the downtown, in the new West End and in the Avenues. We have experimented with street theatre in these and walks such as the Murder on Rue George events. Our signature bus tours have explored the local roots of Catharine Parr Traill, Robertson Davies and Peterborough's industrial past.

For about 12 years, the TVA has published some of the most interesting and important books related to our local history. Our earliest books were on mills in Peterborough county and on the Burleigh Road. The most recent has been the award-winning Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas. Our major campaigns for Champlain 400 and for the legacy of J. J. Duffus were great local successes. Currently, it is presenting a lecture series to mark Canada 150.

The Trent Valley Archives promotes the preservation of local archives, and supports efforts to create a county archives. With its wide network of friends and partners, and over twenty years of experience, it has also promoted local history, heritage and genealogy.

For more information on Trent Valley Archives visit its website, www.trentvalleyarchives.com, or drop in for a visit at 567 Carnegie Avenue, Peterborough, ON K9L 1N1 - 705-745-4404.

Vaughan Celebrates Canada 150

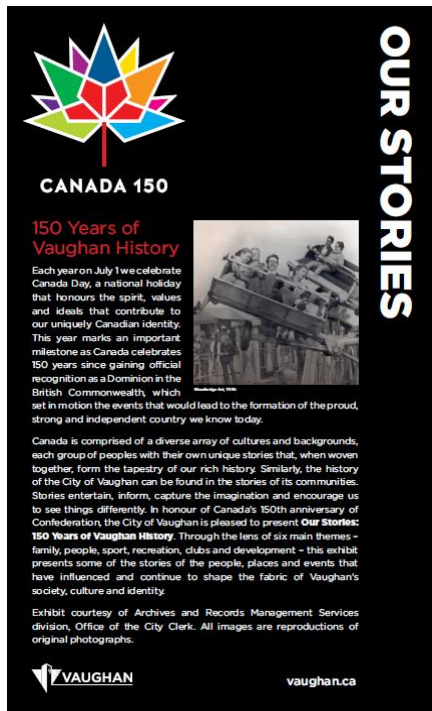
Bailey Chui – Acting Archival and Records Analyst, City of Vaughan Archives

This July 1, Canada celebrated 150 years of Confederation, the anniversary since first officially gaining recognition as a Dominion in the British Commonwealth. The City of Vaughan Archives joined other cultural and heritage institutions across the country in commemorating this historic event by creating a special exhibit entitled “Our Stories: 150 Years of Vaughan History”. Just as Canada is comprised of an array of cultures, backgrounds and unique stories, the history of Vaughan can also be found in the tales of its communities. Through this exhibit, we chose to explore some of those stories that have contributed to the formation of Vaughan’s identity.

The exhibit was a collaborative project between the City of Vaughan Archives, led by myself and Acting Supervisor Joseph Solovitch, and the City’s Art Curator Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, with planning commencing in July of 2016. The idea to feature snapshots of Vaughan’s pictorial past over the 150 years since Confederation had always been at the forefront of our minds, however it took some time before we pinpointed a format that could effectively capture the storytelling element, while also creating a visually striking presentation. We ultimately decided on a hanging art display, with photographic reproductions of archival images mounted on wood panels and arranged into 6 broad themes – families, people, social groups, recreation, sport and early development – accompanied by a text panel with information on the story behind each image. The greatest challenge we faced was narrowing down the images and deciding which ones to include in the final display. The City of Vaughan Archives is fortunate to have in its collection a large quantity of graphic material documenting various aspects of community life, and difficulties arose when determining which photographs were integral to the narrative we were trying to convey. We had originally selected around 50 photographs to feature in the exhibit, which had to be brought down to 23 due to limitations in available wall space. Additionally, questions of what images to include had implications for the stories we chose to tell (and not tell), and which events to recognize over this time period.

In the end, we selected images we felt best-reflected Vaughan’s history as a small, agrarian-based community but that also emphasized its transformation from a rural township into the vibrant city we celebrate today. Photos of pioneer families, local historic sports teams, early entrepreneurs, and development projects such as the construction of Highway 7 through the Woodbridge area were placed alongside images of contemporary athlete Andrew Wiggins, beloved community member and volunteer Janet Berton, and enduring traditions such as

Kleinburg's Binder Twine Festival and the Woodbridge Fair to highlight the changing landscape of Vaughan over the past 150 years. We are proud of the results we have achieved and believe that the images have successfully captured the chief elements of Vaughan's spirit and character.



The completed "Our Stories: 150 Years of Vaughan History" Exhibition on display at the City of Vaughan until the end of October 2017.

Like the history of Canada, the history of Vaughan can be found in a rich collection of stories that, when woven together, form the fabric of its identity. Although it is impossible to tell an entire story in one exhibit, the images pay tribute to a small but nevertheless a significant handful of people, places and events that have shaped and continue to shape Vaughan's culture and society with their own unique stories.

MAIG Wants You!

The next MAIG Annual General Meeting, which takes place at the AAO's Annual Conference, will mark the end of the Chair and Vice Chair terms for both Brenda Hicock and Gillian Shaw. Historically, the Vice Chair of MAIG will assume the position of Chair for the next Executive Term, leaving the role of Vice Chair open for nominations from the membership. Come next spring, the MAIG Executive will be seeking nominations for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair, and we hope that you may consider nominating yourself, or a colleague to fill these vacancies.

In the meantime, should you have any questions about the roles, or MAIG in general, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive for more details. Information regarding the nomination process for these positions will be made available via the AAO Website, Listserv and Social Media channels in Spring 2018, so keep your eyes peeled for this next year!

MAIG Open House Details

This year we are excited to announce that the MAIG Open House will be taking place in September in Canada's Capital City! We are very fortunate to be visiting the City of Ottawa Archives during Canada 150 and to discuss what is happening with Municipal archives across the province. Lunch will be provided, so we hope you will be able to join us.

When: Friday September 29th, 2017- 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Where: [City of Ottawa Archives - James K. Bartleman Centre](#) (100 Tallwood Drive – Ottawa, ON K2G 4R7)

Agenda: 10:00-11:45 am • Welcome and Tour of the James K. Bartleman Centre

12:00 –1:30 pm • Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 pm • MAIG Meeting

Don't forget to RSVP for this year's Open House! **Please RSVP by Friday September 15th** to: Gina Dewaele, MAIG Secretary-Treasurer: gdewaele@elgin.ca or call 519-631-1460 ext. 154.

