

MAIGazine

Issue 9

Newsletter of the Municipal Archives Interest Group

August 2013

**Please join us
at the
Municipal Archives Interest Group
OPEN HOUSE**

Friday October 4th, 2013
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
33 Victoria Street North
Southampton, ON
[Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre](#)

Join us for an information session entitled
**“In the Eye of the Storm:
Emergency Preparedness and Response for Archives”**
with Iona McCraith, AAO Archives Advisor
and
Jenna Leifso, Archives Research Assistant,
Huron County Museum & Historic Goal

RSVP by September 27, 2013 to
Liz Mayville, MAIG Secretary-Treasurer
lmayville@oxfordcounty.ca or call
1-519-539-0015 x 3071



MAIGazine Table of Contents

Message from the Chair	Page 2
City of Vaughan Archives	Page 3
Elgin County Archives	Page 4
Grey Roots Museum & Archives	Page 6
Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives	Page 7
Port Hope Archives	Page 8
Hamilton Public Library, Local History & Archives	Page 9
MAIG Open House – Meet the Presenters	Page 10
MAIG Open House – All the Details	Page 11

Message from the Chair

This year Brenda Hicock and I had the chance to attend the 2013 Archives Association of Ontario Conference in Ottawa. As in past years, we held our annual general meeting and once again this was an excellent opportunity to connect with others, exchange ideas, and talk about ways to promote our individual archives and MAIG. The conference itself was very thought provoking. I was inspired by all the speakers and proud to be part of a group so passionate and committed to the future of archives. On behalf of MAIG, thank you to everyone involved in the success of the conference. Don't forget to mark your calendars! The 2013 MAIG Open House is scheduled for Friday, October 4 at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre in beautiful Southampton.





**City of Vaughan Archives
Receives Donation from
Janet Berton
Brenda Hicock,
Archival Records Analyst
Kristin Smith,
Records & Information Analyst
City of Vaughan Clerk's Office**

The City of Vaughan Archives recently acquired the records of Janet Berton, wife of noted Canadian author and broadcaster, Pierre Berton. Consisting of 14m of textual records, 420 photographs as well as various maps and audiovisual materials, the Janet Berton fonds is a welcomed addition to the Archives.

Janet has lived in Kleinburg (in Vaughan, Ontario) for more than 60 years, and from the beginning she took an active role in the community and a keen interest in its history. As such, the fonds includes records relating to Vaughan's heritage as well as local clubs and organizations. Noteworthy items include six early twentieth century ledger books which record monetary transactions under individual accounts and hence list many of the early residents of Vaughan Township.

Janet Berton was born Janet Walker in Fernie, British Columbia in 1920. In 1938 she enrolled at the University of British Columbia. Ms. Walker was very active in campus life and she eventually became the senior editor of the Tuesday edition of the semi-weekly campus paper, the Ubysey. The Friday editor was Pierre Berton, whom she would eventually marry several years later.

Her career in journalism continued after her graduation in 1941 when she went to work for the Vancouver Daily Province. In 1946 she had to give up her career at the Province after marrying Pierre Berton, as he was a reporter for the rival Sun newspaper. In the summer of 1947, Pierre became

assistant editor at Maclean's and the couple moved to Kleinburg in 1949 where they raised eight children.

Mrs. Berton is a community-minded individual who was active in a variety of different organizations. She served on the Heritage Vaughan Committee beginning in 1981, and was a member of the executive for both the Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association (KARA) and the Kleinburg Binder Twine Festival. She was also a past president of the University Women's Club of North York, a vice-president of the University Women's Club of the Town of Vaughan, and editor of the national Chronicle of the University Women's Club of Canada. She co-edited the 60 year history and the 75 year history of the Canadian Federation of University Women.

Mrs. Berton was a founding organizer of HELP, a local information and referral service in Vaughan. She also volunteered her time to several organizations, including Dellcrest Children's Home for Disturbed Children, The Kleinburg Home and School Association, the Kleinburg United Church (of which she sat on the Board of Stewards) which included running the Explorer's Group for Girls between the ages of 8 and 11 for over twenty years. She also served on the Humber Heritage Committee and Community Heritage Ontario. In 1992, she received a Volunteer Service Award for her outstanding contributions.

With the assistance of the Archives' Young Canada Works Intern, Kristin Smith, the fonds has been arranged and described and a [finding aid](#) is available online.



**Happenings at the Elgin County Archives
Stephen Francom - Manager/Archivist
Elgin County Archives**

Completed design and implementation of a new [Elgin County Archives](#) website, which was built on a Drupal open source content management system platform and featuring responsive web design (RWD). RWD seamlessly adjusts the website display for optimal viewing on any screen, from desktop computer monitors to laptops, tablets and smart phones, eliminating or minimizing the need to resize, pan or scroll, and without compromising font size or image quality. RWD obviates the need to develop and maintain multiple versions of a website that have been customized for the various devices on which the site may be viewed. The website has also

been designed to comply with provisions of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and conforms with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA standards. Text size and website contrast are adjustable to suit users with varying visual capabilities. A keyboard can be used to navigate the website instead of a mouse when needed, and the website is compatible with screen readers. All photos on the website are described using alternative text. The website was created in partnership with Giant Goat Web Development, a Guelph, Ontario-based firm. We are currently pursuing funding to upgrade our [online public access database interface](#) to meet AODA and WCAG 2.0 standards.

Mounted an exhibit featuring the history of the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Queen's Park), January-June, 2013. The Hospital, constructed 1937-1939 and in operation since 1939, has now closed, following the opening of the new Southwest Centre for Forensic Mental Health Care, St. Thomas, on June 14, 2013.

Staff completed professional education courses and seminars on Copyright Legislation, Digital Preservation Management, Records Management, and Integrated Pest Management.

Major acquisitions:

- Large group of school registers created ca. 1860-1920 acquired by transfer from the Thames Valley District School Board in November, 2012. This is a high volume – about 25 banker's boxes – and high value collection which will be of great interest and use to one of the Archives' core patron constituencies – family historians. Digitization of these records is already about 70% complete. This acquisition was uniquely challenging in that we not only had to conclude an agreement with the donor, but also research and interpret the Ontario Education Act and rulings of the Ontario Privacy Commissioner to develop a legal framework for acquiring and providing public access to the records. Staff published an article in *Off The Record* (Fall 2012 issue) outlining this framework for the guidance of other municipal archives.
- Timken Canada LP, St. Thomas Plant records, 1946-2013 – major area industry, employer, financial contributor to community – plant is closing in 2013.

Since January, 2010 our [flickr](#) photo-sharing site has received more than 650,000 views and has become a major element in our outreach strategy.

In October 2012, we facilitated a second printing of a new history of Alma College, St. Thomas, on behalf of the Alma College International Alumnae Association. The book, *All the Girls Have Gone: Alma College, the latter years*, by award-winning author Susan Butlin, was originally published in May 2011 and sold out its first printing.

Received funding under Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions and Canada Summer Jobs programs to employ two students in the summer 2013. They worked on digitizing, describing and publishing online a large collection of publication photographs from the local newspaper, *St. Thomas Times-Journal*, ca. 1950-1985.

Hired one part-time digitization assistant to work on digitizing and publishing online additional Elgin County Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History Books and other core documents from our collections.

Total digital content published to date: approximately 100,000 photographs and 25,000 + pages of textual records.



Northern Terminus:
The African Canadian History Journal
Celebrates Volume 10!
Karin Noble, Archivist
Grey Roots Museum & Archives



The editorial committee of *Northern Terminus* marked its tenth volume in 2013. The impetus for the first Journal, published in 2002, was the Grey County Black History Event. The organizing committee, formed by representation from the Bruce and Grey Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the Durham and District Chamber of Commerce and the Grey County Archives, were pleased with the learning and sharing energy of the Black History Event, but desired a project that would provide more long-standing documentation. Since that beginning, the purpose of the Journal has broadened:

The goal of this annual Journal is provide readers with information about the historical Black community of Grey County. Although the focus is on historical events and people within Grey County, the wider regional, provincial, national and international contexts that shaped Black history and presence in Grey County are also of interest to the Journal. Through essays, interviews and reviews, the journal highlights the work of organizations, historians and published authors. The Journal is launched annually.

The Journal relies on the support of volunteer submissions and we sincerely appreciate the contributions that we have received over the years in the areas of writing, photography and editing. Naomi Norquay, a professor of Education at York University inspired by the property she owns on the historical Old Durham Road, and I form the Journal Committee. Greta Kennedy, Art Harvey and Ruth Cathcart are past Journal Committee members. Volume 10 was launched at the Grey County Black History Event, organized by the Owen Sound Emancipation Festival, at Grey Roots Museum & Archives on Saturday February 23, 2013. Volume 11 is slated for release at the next Grey County Black History Event on April 12, 2014. To learn more about this event and the Journal, please visit our [website](#).



**Renovations in Progress at Lennox and Addington
Shelley Respondek, Archivist
Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives**

The Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives is currently closed for a \$5 million renovation project due to be completed and reopened in August 2014. The new north wing will house an expanded reading room and archives storage vaults, museum storage, staff room and scanning room. The north east courtyard of the old jail is also being retrofitted and will become the new multipurpose room for the museum. Additional improvements include a new front foyer and some changes to the museum galleries. During the closure of the museum and archives, staff are located in temporary office space adjacent to the County Court House building. Please feel free to contact us by [email](#) or by calling 613-354-3027. You can also visit our [website](#).



Filming "Our Memories: Downtown Port Hope"
Erin Walsh, Archivist
Port Hope Archives

*We cannot live only for ourselves.
A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men. -- Herman Melville*



Walton Street, Port Hope ca. 1940

Several years ago the Port Hope Archives was generously gifted with a digital camcorder. Initially, we were unsure of what to do with the donation, but soon enough we were struck with the idea to document stories of the town.

After a lot of brainstorming and planning, in March 2013 staff and volunteers began a special new project: "Our Memories: Downtown Port Hope."

The goals of the project are: To gather first-hand accounts of historic Port Hope businesses in the downtown core; document individual memories of downtown events/buildings; create a visual document highlighting the vibrant past and present of Port Hope's Downtown area; share memories to the world online – and in the archives -- for future generations.

To-date we have interviewed 17 Port Hope residents, young and old, current and past business owners, long-time citizens, and even a municipal councillor!

The original videos range in length from 15-90 minutes and have been totally dependent on how chatty the interviewee was feeling that day. The lengthier interviews (3 so far) have been cut down to shorter clips that are being periodically uploaded to our new [YouTube Channel](#).

It is our hope that these memories of downtown Port Hope will create a vivid portrait of how our picturesque main street has changed (or stayed the same!) over time.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact us by [email](#) or by calling 905-885-1673.



Walton Street, Port Hope 1936 and ca. 1940



**Laura Lamb, Archives Technician
Hamilton Public Library, Local History & Archives**

Here in [Local History & Archives](#), we are making lots of changes to re-brand our image and developing projects that will enable us to promote our collections within our online and neighbourhood communities. We are able to accomplish this under the guidance of our new Manager, Jen Gal, who is working with everyone to create fresh ideas and new opportunities. It also helps that during the past year we have added one part-time Archives Technician, one full-time Digitization Technician, one part-time Information Clerk, and soon we will have a second part-time Digitization Clerk. Including myself, our staff compliment also includes a part-time Cataloguing Librarian and a full-time Archivist.

In response to the increasing interest in obtaining high resolution copies of our historical images, we are now offering a reproduction service that allows customers to purchase our images. We are also creating a 2014 calendar and a beautiful cloth bag, also available for purchase.

Our staff are working together to create outreach programs on two popular topics: researching your family history and researching the history of your house. Many of our branches have expressed interest and we already have several programs booked for 2013 and even 2014. Staff from the Local History & Archives Department participated in the June, 2013 Art Crawl. For this popular event, our Archivist, Margaret Houghton, created a walking tour where she talked about the history of many historical buildings, interesting people and long-gone businesses that once thrived along James Street North. It was a huge success with over 120 attendees! All the images shown during the walk can be viewed on our [Flickr](#) page. And that is just the beginning!



Meet this year's MAIG Open House Presenters!

Iona McCraith is the AAO Archives Advisor (since May 2013) and since 1999 has maintained a private practice as a preservation consultant and archival materials conservator. Previously Iona worked for the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa and on their Mobile Conservation Lab Program (1982-1983); as Senior Conservator, City of Toronto Archives (1983-1991); as Head Conservator, Archives of Ontario (1991-1999) and as AAO Preservation Consultant (1999-2013). From 1999 – 2005 she also was an instructor in the Collections Conservation and Management Program at Fleming College, Peterborough and prior to that taught *Care of Collections* in the Archival Management Certificate Program at George Brown College, Toronto for several years.

Iona McCraith holds a BA from York University and an Applied Arts Diploma in Museum Technology, specializing in conservation from Algonquin College. She also holds certificates in *Preventive Care of Historic Photographs* from

the Getty Conservation Institute and in *Preventive Conservation* from the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property.

Iona is also Chair of the Canadian Council of Archives Preservation Committee and a member of the Society of American Archivists Technical Sub-committee on Archival Facilities.

Jenna Leifso is the Archives Research Assistant at the Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol in Goderich where she is currently managing the Henderson Digitization Project. Previously, she was the Archives Assistant at the Stratford Festival Archives. Jenna is a graduate of the Public History Program at Western University. As a side note to her presentation, in 2011 Goderich was struck by a F3 tornado, which severely damaged the historic downtown and homes in the surrounding area.



Don't forget to RSVP!!!!

Municipal Archives Interest Group (MAIG) Open House

October 4th, 2013

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
33 Victoria Street North, Southampton, ON
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

The afternoon will include the yearly MAIG meeting to discuss what is happening with Municipal archives across the province and those attending are welcome to tour the Museum and Archives afterwards.

Lunch will be provided at \$20/person.

If you plan to attend,
please **RSVP** to Liz Mayville,
Secretary-Treasurer by September 27

If you have any questions about the MAIG (Municipal Archives Interest Group) or would like to get involved, please feel free to contact our executive:

Laura Lamb – Chair llamb@hpl.ca

Brenda Hicock – Vice-Chair Brenda.Hicock@vaughan.ca

Liz Mayville – Secretary-Treasurer lmayville@oxfordcounty.ca