

MAIGazine

A Newsletter of the AAO's Municipal Archives Interest Group

Issue 16

September 2020

**Staying
connected,
staying
current**



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Message from the Chair

On behalf of the MAIG Executive, I am pleased to present the 16th edition of the *MAIGazine*, during this unprecedented time. For many of us, 2020 began with a rocky start and has seen significant changes to the service delivery and operation of our Municipal Archives. Despite these new challenges, I have been impressed with the response by our industry and the numerous resources that have been shared over the past few months. If you haven't had a chance, I encourage you to take a look at the great [COVID-19 Resources](#) that our Archives Advisor, Iona McCraith, has kindly compiled on the AAO's website.

Even in such an unprecedented year, MAIG has seen some positive results in our initiatives to date. Throughout the 2019-2020 Term, the MAIG Executive worked on several new initiatives aimed to help strengthen our communication amongst municipal archivists. Specifically, through the creation of a dedicated MAIG Listserv, the revitalization of our AAO webpage and working with members to address industry needs, we continue to see increased information sharing online and greater attendance at MAIG events. The Executive was also able to work with the Institutional Development Committee to create a COVID-19 Survey, to gauge the early impacts of the pandemic on our industry. Details about this survey can be found in this *MAIGazine* Issue (page 11) and on our [website](#).

For the 2020-2021 Term, the Executive has set two main goals; to develop and finalize the MAIG Industry Survey, and to begin drafting Terms of Reference for the MAIG Executive. We hope that these initiatives will help to promote collaboration and strengthen our Ontario municipal archives.

As we continue to work through this "new normal" of pandemic life, the Executive and I hope that you will all stay healthy and safe, and reach out to MAIG and our members if we can be of any assistance in providing information, guidance or support. I am always happy to hear from my colleagues, so if you have any news, comments or concerns, please feel free to [contact me!](#)

Stay healthy and safe,

~ Gillian

MAIG Executive, 2020-2021

Gillian Shaw, Chair

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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



Gillian Shaw is the Chair of MAIG, having begun her tenure on the Executive in 2015 as Vice Chair. She holds a Master of Information degree from the University of Toronto (2011) and is currently pursuing the Certified Records Manager (CRM) designation. Gillian has been the Archival Records Analyst at the City of Vaughan Archives for the past six years, 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, Gillian worked at the City of Markham as an Archivist for the Markham Museum and provided records management support at the Ministry of Health. Should you have any news, suggestions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact Gillian at gillian.shaw@vaughan.ca or by phone at 905-832-8585 ext. 8793.



Megan Lockhart was elected to the MAIG Executive in 2018, sitting as Vice Chair for the 2018-2021 term. She holds a Fine Arts Diploma in Cultural Resource Management and a Professional Specialization Certificate in Collections Management from the University of Victoria (2017). Since March 2018, Megan has worked as the Archives Technician at the Oxford County Archives. Prior to her current position, she occupied various roles at the St. Marys Museum & Archives including Curatorial Assistant, Archives Assistant and Digitization Project Coordinator and has previous experience in the education field. Megan can be contacted at mlockhart@oxfordcounty.ca or by phone at 519-539-9800 ext. 3070.



Gina Dewaele has been the Secretary-Treasurer of MAIG since 2014, and will continue to be the Secretary-Treasurer for the 2020-2023 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 2019 Open House

**Minutes
Municipal Archives Interest Group
Open House Meeting
September 18th, 2019
Stratford-Perth Archives
(Stratford, Ontario)**

Executive Present:

- Gillian Shaw, Chair (via video conference)
- Megan Lockhart, Vice-Chair
- Gina Dewaele, Secretary-Treasurer

Members Present:

- Laura Camilleri, Dufferin Museum
- Connie Sutherland, Western University Archives & Special Collections
- Jillian Clair, City of London
- Kisun Kim, City of London
- Joshua Klar, Norfolk County
- Deb Sturdevant, Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
- Heather Callaghan, Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
- Jennifer Georgiou, Wellington County Museum & Archives
- Tom Belton, Western Libraries
- Evangeline Lee, York Region
- Anna Hendry, Glencoe & District Historical Society
- Mary Simpson, Glencoe & District Historical Society
- Charlotte Woodley, Region of Waterloo Archives
- Matt Roth, Region of Waterloo Archives
- Betty Jo Belton, Archivist, County of Perth Archives
- Arthur McClelland, London Public Library

2. Welcoming Remarks and Agenda Approval

Megan called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Motion to approve the Agenda: Joshua Klar

Seconded by: Jillian Clair

Carried.

3. 2018 Open House Minutes

The group moved to approve the Minutes as presented.

Motion to approve: Laura Camilleri

Seconded by: Kisun Kim

Carried.

4. Report of the Chair

Gillian reported that over the past year, the MAIG Executive has worked on several new initiatives aimed to help strengthen communication with municipal archivists.

The Annual General Meeting took place in May of 2019, and was well attended by members. As always, members took part in a roundtable discussion and provided suggestions and constructive feedback in support of their colleagues. The MAIG Executive also proposed a new initiative - an industry survey, specifically focused on key performance and operational statistics of municipal archives - which was approved and is currently in the preliminary stage of development.

MAIG's annual newsletter, the *MAIGazine*, was published at the end of August and featured submissions focusing on the theme of innovation and risk taking in archives. The successes and challenges of several archival projects, workshops and exhibitions were shared within these articles and the Executive thanked those who contributed to the 2019 newsletter.

5. Open House Discussion

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

- 2020 – City of Vaughan Archives
- 2021 – Oxford County
- 2022 – Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre: Deb Sturdevant said that if anyone else is willing to volunteer their institution, that would be good!

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Roundtable

- **Betty Jo Belton, Cindy Sinko, Ellen Thomas, Shireen Sasani and Leslie Belland:** Currently participating in the Women's Institute initiative to digitize Tweedsmuir histories. Generally that has gone well for us but Betty Jo was curious about other archives' experiences with this project. The archives are currently updating their disaster response plan and looking for recommendations from other members for that project. The Stratford-Perth Archives turns 50 in 2022, and plans are underway for this celebration.
- **Mary Simpson and Anna Hendry:** Now that the collection is settled and housed at The Archives at 178 McKellar Street, Glencoe, it is time to devise a cataloguing system. Some sections of the archives were catalogued by Fred McGill, several years ago. Ken and Sharon Beecroft have established the initial procedure for accepting incoming materials and assigning accession numbers. We are working with a manual system to begin with.
- **Megan Lockhart:** The Oxford County Archives currently has a co-op student who will be working until January, 2020 and is the third co-op placement this year. The student is working on arranging and describing our Edwin Bennett fonds (Bennett was a local history enthusiast and a veteran of the Second World War). The collection contains records relating to Bennett's involvement in Operation Jubilee in Dieppe, his time as a P.O.W. and his work with S.H.A.E.F. along with other material.

We have recently obtained Adobe Photoshop and will be using the program to restore images in our collection, specifically images from a collection of glass plate negatives that are damaged. The negatives feature photos of the Patteson family of Eastwood from the 1880s and 1890s. The program will also be used to create promotional material. We plan on increasing our digitization efforts in 2020 and as a result have been developing a digitization standards and procedures document for the county archives and libraries to be used as a guideline for future projects.

Our educational programming was revised this past summer. Our high school history programming now includes a program which has students critically analyze our records pertaining to the First and Second World Wars. Students will be comparing media accounts to personal accounts of the wars and discussing the differences they find. We also have students study examples of published propaganda. A new program at the Oxford County Archives is our "Archiving at Home" workshop. The workshop has been hosted at county libraries and we teach participants the basics of preserving historical records, how they should be stored, how to clean records and basic repair.

A local man named Bruce Flowers recently passed away and a large sum of money was donated from his estate for the restoration of the County Gaol. The County will be unveiling a plaque and holding a reception in his honour for family members to attend. The archives is putting together an exhibit on the history of the gaol for the reception. It will be displayed in the foyer of the Oxford County Administration Building (OCAB) from October to the end of November.

- **Gina Dewaele:** Our Archives Intern, Carrie Logtenberg, started with us in early September. This position was made possible by financial assistance from the Government of Canada through the Young Canada Works at Building Careers in Heritage Program, as well as the County of Elgin. She is working on digitizing our earliest Elgin County and St. Thomas newspapers, up to the First World War years, and posting them online, for the public to view. This project has also been financially supported with a donation from the Elgin County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. We anticipate this project to be completed by early Spring 2020.

We completed a shelving expansion in the former exhibit area of the Elgin County Museum around 10 months ago. The museum moved into the new Elgin County Heritage Centre last year. The museum still maintains some staff and storage in their former space, though, but we appreciate the new space, and it should give us storage space for the next 5-7 years. The new shelving consists of 12 bays and can accommodate just over a thousand bankers boxes, or just over a thousand cubic feet of records. We have begun to fill up the shelves in recent months.

Our Archivist Assistant, Amber Mandich, left for maternity leave around 5 months ago, and her replacement, Marie Frise, has been working hard on our accession backlog and assisting with researchers and our special events and Green Screen program.

We recently facilitated a video and audio recording of a group of Alma College alumni, who provided narration for a 16 mm silent film depicting an Alma College May Day ceremony and graduation that was held in the Alma College amphitheatre in 1948 and 1949. We were

assisted by a PhD candidate who specializes in film studies and interviewing people in order to provide voice-overs to films.

Two very large accessions that we will start processing this year are: the Don Cosens Collection, which will be approx. 100 boxes of unique photographs, postcards and local history publications from a historian who recently passed away. The other accession is the Stollery Collection, which are approximately 100 boxes of negatives from a St. Thomas studio that also acted as the official photographer for the St. Thomas Times-Journal for the pre-1950s time period.

To this day, we have almost 8 million views on Flickr, 2900 followers on Facebook, almost 1700 followers on Twitter, and over 1000 followers on Instagram.

- **Laura Camilleri:** Currently has a large backlog at her facility and is working on a preliminary inventory and deaccessioning. Staff needs to start a formal deaccessioning project and have been undertaking an "Archivist on the Road" project. Staff have also worked with the Archives of Ontario to bring back the Amaranth Township records.
- **Connie Sutherland:** Attending as a resident.
- **Jillian Clair and Kisun Kim:** The City of London hired an intern in hopes to start an official archive. We are currently organizing and inventorying the records the City of London holds. A lot of progress has been made so far (installing new shelving units, etc.) and people are becoming more aware of the importance of having archives. They are located in City Hall.
- **Joshua Klar:** Installation of the high-density storage system and static shelving units for the new archives storage room will be completed by the end of October. We will begin the process of transferring archival records from the County in the next few months. Comprehensive inventory of the current archival collection has been progressing well. Our volunteer team continues to assist us with projects such as digitization of our photograph collection and developing new indexes for the reading room. Our glass plate negative digitization project is progressing well, to date we have over 1000 negatives digitized and accessioned. In September we had our first Norfolk County Genealogy Symposium at the museum and archives, it was a successful event that brought a lot of awareness to the archives and its collection. We plan to run the event again next year. Working to create an Archives' establishment by-law.
- **Deb Sturdevant and Heather Callaghan:** We continue to have 1 Archivist and 2 Archival Assistants working full-time. One change over the past year is a decision to close over the lunch hour on Saturdays due to an inability to maintain sufficient volunteer lunch coverage. On Saturdays, we are open 10 to Noon and 1 to 4:30.

Over the past few years, we have experienced many technical issues related to our Bruce Remembers (bruceremembers.org) site, featuring all people with a connection to Bruce County who have engaged in military service. Those issues are almost resolved and Archives staff have been devoting time to making edits and additions to that site. We continue to use PastPerfect Online (www.collections.bruce-museum.on.ca) to provide information about resources available at the Archives, and to upload images and some digital content. Archives

staff provide the Museum's Marketing Coordinator with suggestions for bi-weekly Facebook and/or Instagram posts. The artefact/archival document related posts generate comments and interaction on the Museum's Facebook page.

In prior years, we have generated a backlog of items not described in our database each year. Starting in 2018, we are committed to ensuring that all current donations are fully catalogued by the end of Q1 the following year. In addition to processing the current transfers/donations, Archives staff are reviewing contents of boxes that have been in storage without proper identification and/or accessioning. Contents that meet the Archives' collecting mandate are being processed and made available to researchers; other content is moving through the deaccessioning process and being offered to other institutions as appropriate. Archival Assistants are continuing to clean and care for records that were contaminated by mould prior to donation to the Archives, with a current focus on materials transferred by municipalities.

An Accommodation Plan and Feasibility Studies were completed in 2016 and 2017, including a recommendation for expansion. The Archives storage area will be full within the next couple of years. Property has been purchased next to the Museum for an expansion, and the process of working towards that goal is slowly proceeding.

- **Jennifer Georgiou:** Trying to improve social media. Have started scanning eight local newspapers and have created a soldier database. Megan Lockhart mentioned that she has to get permission in advance to post social media, and has to post through the County's Facebook page. Deb Sturdevant mentioned that she has to plan social media posts a week ahead.
- **Tom Belton:** Robin Keirstead has retired as University Archivist and Tom has taken over as Head, Archives and Special Collections. In terms of municipal records, Western's position hasn't changed in that we support the creation of municipal archives in SW Ontario and respect their acquisition mandates. We have not collected municipal or other related public records for many years.
- **Evangeline Lee:** York Region Archives are working towards getting a storage space renovated for the for current collection and future growth, trying to find a suitable space to expand our services to include reference services on an appointment basis, infancy of developing a digital preservation program and welcome any resources
- **Charlotte Woodley and Matt Roth:** Staff have acquired software to manage our digital assets. Are working on an oral history project. Will be getting two YCW interns soon. On the horizon is a Regional Review.
- **Gillian Shaw:** The City of Vaughan Archives are finalizing their annual Remembrance Day Ceremony and event, which continues to get larger each year. Staff are working to standardize and update existing Finding Aids and archival records and include more listings on ARCHEION. The Archives is also working with the Records Management team to help devise an ECRM system, which will eventually be rolled out City wide.

- **Arthur McLelland:** These are exciting times for the Ivey Family London Room. In the spring of 2018, the London Free Press library was transferred to the London Room. Once the London Free Press was sold to Sun Media in 1997, the library was concerned about the future of the newspaper's library where a librarian, four full-time and three part-time library assistants in the newsroom filed, indexed and sorted the stories and photographs that appeared in the morning and evening editions of The Free Press. Every day, Free Press library staff cut out as many as six copies of the same story, then filed the clippings under different keywords and categories so they could be found easily later on. Staff indexed newspaper articles and photos by name and subject by hand from the mid-1950s to 1994.

London Public Library received a grant from the Kline Family of Innovative Interfaces Inc for digitization. It was decided that the Seaborn Collection of 48 volumes of historical materials and photographs in the London Room would be digitized. On July 1, 2019, Mark Richardson, history librarian at the library, began the one-year project.

As well, in the last year, London Room staff have continued to index various materials including the Old Boys' Reunion souvenir books, the PUC annual reports and view books for London. The memory lab continues to grow in popularity. The lab allows patrons to convert negatives, photographs slides, sound cassettes, VHS tapes into a digital format via a usb drive. There is no charge for this service.

8. Adjournment

Megan called for a motion to adjourn at 2:37 pm. Laura Camilleri seconded the motion with no objections.

Results from the 2020 Virtual AGM

Municipal Archives Interest Group Annual General Meeting Results April 29th, 2020

Executive Present:

- Gillian Shaw, Chair
- Megan Lockhart, Vice-Chair
- Gina Dewaele, Secretary-Treasurer

Special Note: As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the AAO's AGM, and subsequent Special Interest Group AGMs were conducted virtually this year. A total of 14 MAIG Members participated in the online 2020 MAIG AGM, which was open for online participation between April 22nd through April 29th, 2020.

1. Motion to Approve the MAIG 2019 AGM Minutes

14 Votes: 10 Yay; 4 Abstain; 0 Nay

Carried.

2. Motion to Approve the MAIG 2019-2020 Annual Report
14 Votes: 14 Yay; 0 Abstain; 0 Nay
Carried.

3. Motion to Adopt the MAIG 2020-2021 Financials and Budget
14 Votes: 14 Yay; 0 Abstain; 0 Nay
Carried.

4. Motion to Elect Gina Dewaele as Secretary-Treasurer of MAIG for 2020-2023 Term
14 Votes: 13 Yay; 1 Abstain; 0 Nay
Carried.

ADDENDUM ITEMS:

Financial Report 2019-2020

REVENUE	
Amount previously in bank	\$645.77
Grant from AAO	\$228.23
TOTAL	\$874.00
EXPENSES	
2018-2019 Meetings	\$0.00 (in kind)
2018 Open House	\$348.04 (catering)
Advertising	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$348.04
FINAL BANK BALANCE	\$525.96

Budget 2020-2021

REVENUE	
Amount previously in bank	\$525.96
Grant from AAO	\$100 *requested*
TOTAL	\$625.96
EXPENSES	
2020-2021 Meetings	\$0.00 (in kind)
2020 Open House	\$0.00 (cancelled)
Online Communications/Survey	<u>\$100.00</u>
TOTAL	\$100.00
FINAL BANK BALANCE	\$525.96

Impacts to Ontario Archives due to COVID-19 : An AAO Institutional Development Committee and MAIG Survey

MAIG Executive

In response to an overwhelming request for comparative information during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MAIG Executive and the Institutional Development Committee (IDC), created an industry survey to determine the early impacts of the coronavirus to Ontario Archives. This survey ran the course of a week at the beginning of May, and saw over 45 Institutional Members from throughout Ontario participate. Of all the responses received, 17 represented Municipal or Government Archives, and these responses helped to provide a better idea of the initial response to the pandemic from an Ontario Municipal Archive perspective.

Although many Archives have returned to a “new normal” in regards to service delivery and operational hours, at the beginning of the pandemic, many archival institutions operated virtually and adapted their overall services. Some Archives were forced to reduce service altogether, and in some cases lay-off staff or redeploy them to other non-archival duties. Overall, the results from this survey showed an array of different operating decisions and styles and the adaptable nature of various institutions to remain relevant and top of mind while physically closed.

As a result of numerous requests for qualitative and comparable data at the early stages of the pandemic, survey responses from Municipal and/or Government Archives were made public to MAIG members via the AAO’s website: <https://www.aao-archivists.ca/maig>. Members reported that the data provided by other institutions helped to ensure that their own service delivery was inline with that of other similarly sized Municipal Archives, and that the information helped to justify their own “work from home” projects. Ultimately, it is clear that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the state of Municipal Archives across Ontario, and we encourage all of our members to view the results from the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Over the next few months, MAIG is hoping to conduct another COVID-19 specific industry survey to gauge the ongoing effects of the pandemic on our industry. This survey will focus on recovery efforts and how service delivery is being restored despite the ongoing pandemic. Once again, results for Municipal/Government archives will be made available on the MAIG website, and we hope that members will continue to participate in this forthcoming survey.



[Please click here for a direct link to the Municipal/Government Archives COVID-19 Survey results](#)

IDC is Moving Online for Its Institutional Issues Symposium

Sean Smith - Senior Archivist, The Archives of Ontario and member of the AAO's Institutional Development Committee

Since 2015, the AAO's Institutional Development Committee's Institutional Issues Symposium has been hosted at the Archives of Ontario. The opportunity to meet in person in an informal setting has provided for a free-flowing conversation loosely anchored around a small number of topics of common interest to archives and archivists from across the province. The IDC Symposium has always been about sharing successes and challenges alike, not to mention generating ideas to move the profession forward. If there has been one limitation to the symposium, though, it has been that the requirement for physical attendance has inhibited the ability for it to truly bring in voices from all areas of the province.

That is about to change.

This year's symposium, to be held on October 22nd, will be an online affair and will be open to archivists in pajamas, track suits, collared shirts and underwear or however they wish to present themselves from the waist up regardless of where they are in the province. The IDC hopes that this year's symposium will bring in new voices and perspectives to what should be a truly timely and interesting conversation. Just be kind to the symposium organizers as we shift gears from passing a mic around a room, Phil Donohue-style, to whatever the comparable analogy is for Zoom.

It is no secret that this year has been unprecedented for archives and archivists across the province. Hopefully, the IDC symposium will provide us with a unique opportunity for an open and wide-ranging conversation about our experiences during COVID-19. There is a lot for us to share and explore with questions ranging from "how did we do?" and "what are you proud of?" to "how are we doing?" and the fundamental question of what this experience means for the future of our profession. What has permanently changed for the profession and what must change to ensure we remain accessible and relevant when and if this ever happens again?

The IDC looks forward to learning from the perspectives and experiences of municipal archives and archivists, considering that they were among some of the first to return to the workplace. Please keep your eye on the AAO listserv for registration information.

In addition, the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others have magnified conversations related to policy brutality, abuse and discrimination against Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC). Their deaths have also brought into focus the far-reaching nature of inequality in all facets of society, including the archival profession. This year's symposium will also provide time for participants to unpack the [AAO's anti-racism statement](#) and to start looking constructively at what we, as a profession, can do to activate it in our day-to-day work. It is hard to imagine that any institution has yet to start questioning their practices, past or present, and what indeed they plan to do to start some process of reconciliation.

Elgin County Archives Update

Gina Dewaele - Assistant Archivist, Elgin County Archives

The Elgin County Archives have been busy this year with a number of projects and outreach initiatives:

1. *Newspaper Digitization*

In partnership with the Elgin County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the Elgin County Archives has scanned and digitized over 250 years of microfilm newspaper issues. These newspapers represent a key resource for information on the unique documentary history of Elgin County. Our priority was to scan the earliest newspaper issues in our collection.

These historical newspapers are:

- *Weekly Dispatch* (1853-1876)
- *The Home Journal/Canadian Home Journal* (1859-1877)
- *Aylmer Enterprise* (1869-1870)
- *Aylmer Express* (1881-1948)
- *Aylmer Saturday Night* (1914)
- *Aylmer Sun* (1890-1914)
- *East Elgin Tribune* (1915-1916)
- *Dutton Enterprise* (1881-1889)
- *Dutton Advance* (1890-1949)
- *Rodney Chronicle* (1885)
- *Rodney Mercury* (1887-1918)
- *West Lorne Sun* (1902-1918)

These newspapers are focused on specific areas within Elgin County and contain information about local events, business advertisements, birth and marriage announcements, obituaries and much more, dating back as far as 1853.

Some of the earliest newspapers, such as the *Weekly Dispatch* and *The Home Journal*, were based in St. Thomas, but contain sections which relate to Elgin County, and are particularly valuable since there were no other newspapers at that time which contained information on Elgin County people and events.

2. *Stollery Studio fonds*

We have begun to process the photographic negatives of the Stollery Studio. The Stollery Studio, operated by Jack Stollery, was in operation in St. Thomas from approximately 1946 to 1973. It was also one of the official photographers for the St. Thomas Times-Journal. There are approximately 100,000 negatives in the collection, and they document important events and organizations, businesses and buildings, as well as portraits.

3. Don Cosens Collection

In 2018, we acquired the collection of Don Cosens, a Local Historian and Collector. He passed away on March 15, 2019, in his 84th year. He was born in St. Thomas on April 4, 1935. He worked at the Elgin County Registry Office as Senior Deputy Registrar for 31 years. Don was interested in history and genealogy all of his life and belonged to several local and worldwide organizations in these fields. He was Past President of the Elgin Historical Society and Elgin County Genealogical Society and Member and Advisor to the Elgin County Museum and Archives.

His collection consists of approximately 30 boxes of original photographs, scrapbooks, postcards, advertisements, fire insurance plans, business records, land records and directories. We have begun processing his collection in the last couple of months.

4. Alma College film

In January 2019, we acquired a 1948 16 mm silent film depicting an Alma College May Day ceremony and graduation that was held in the Alma College amphitheatre. It is rare to see a colour film of Alma College from such an early date. In August 2019, we held a meeting with four alumni of Alma College, to record an oral history discussion with them while watching the film. We have been assisted by a PhD candidate who specializes in film studies and interviewing people. We have completed a detailed transcription of the interviews, and the PhD candidate will soon be adding the content to her "Gatherings" website for the University of Toronto, Centre for Drama, Theatre and the Performing Arts.

5. Green Screen

Since 2017, the Elgin County Archives has been redeveloping our outreach strategy to increase our presence in the local community and to ensure that we are delivering on our mission to serve as a total community resource.

In October 2017, we launched *Time Travel with Elgin County Archives*, an outreach program that uses green screen technology to photograph participants and superimpose them into historical photographs to make it appear as if they are traveling back in time. The Green Screen events were held at local libraries, community events, schools and long-term care homes. We received the 2019 AAO Institutional Award for this program. To date, we have held 22 Green Screen programs with approximately 1100 participants.

6. Workshops

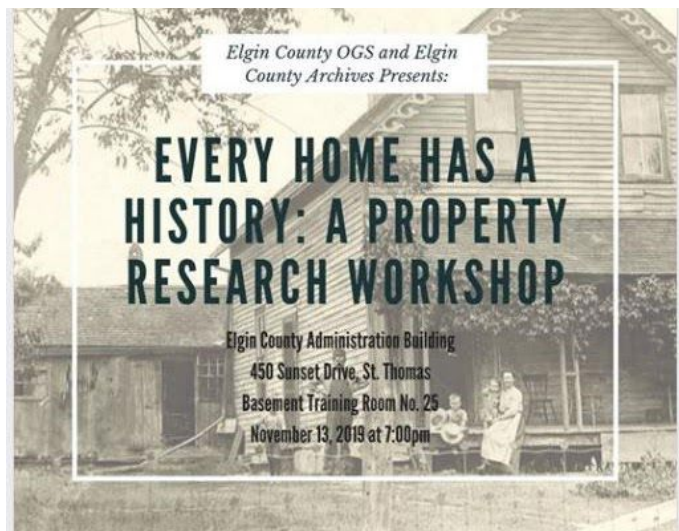
We have also recognized the need for the public to become more aware of research tools and resources, both in the archives and online, in the areas of Genealogy and Property History. In September 2018, we began to deliver Genealogy and Property History workshops at local libraries and at community organization meetings. These workshops have allowed us to increase awareness about the archives in general, and about the resources and services we

offer. To date, we have delivered 14 workshops to our library branches and to community groups.



PRESENTED BY
Elgin County Archives

JANUARY 15, 2019
DUTTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Examples of promotional materials for the Elgin County Archive Workshops

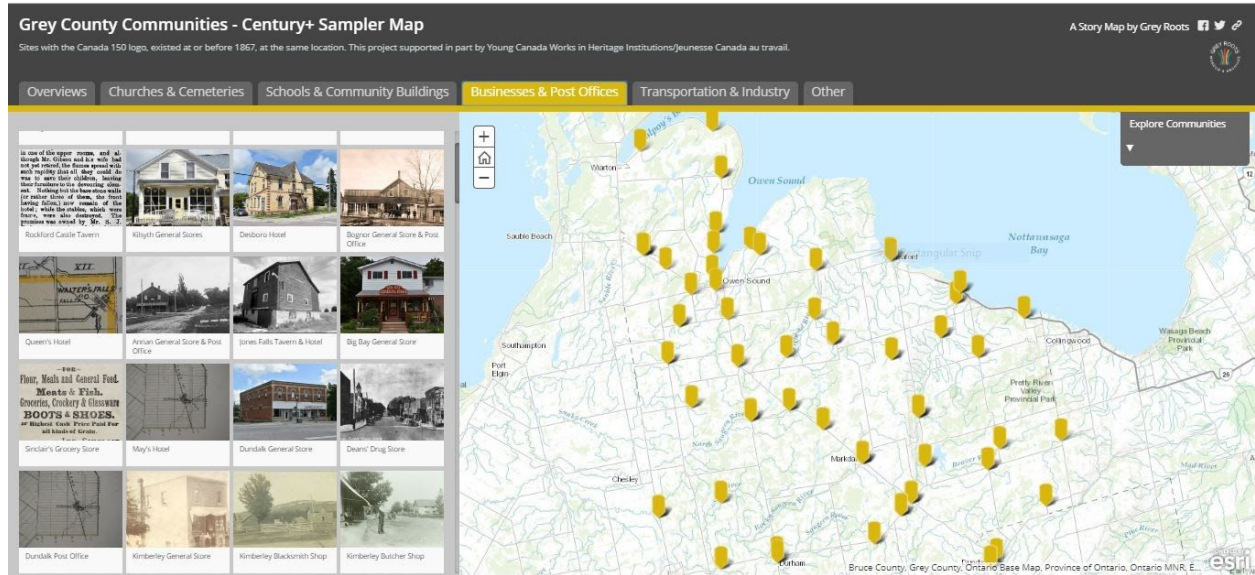
7. Social Media

To date, we have almost 9 million views on Flickr, 4200 followers on Facebook, 1700 followers on Twitter, and after 2 years of being on Instagram, we have almost 1300 followers.

New Online Resource: Grey County Communities - Century+ Sampler Map

Karin Noble – Archivist, Grey Roots Museum & Archives

This new GIS mapping project, the [Grey County Communities - Century+ Sampler Map](#), highlights a selection of century+ locations within larger "blue sign" communities, those recognized in the Grey County Official Plan. This project was supported in part by *Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions/Jeunesse Canada au travail* and its scope is to provide historic samples from all around the County, rather than being an exhaustive documentation. This map was made possible with the assistance of Grey County GIS/IT staff, Archives staff and volunteers.



A Screenshot of the Grey County Communities Century+ Sampler Map

The Century+ Sampler Map is a sister project to [Grey County Historic Communities](#) GIS mapping launched in 2016, which features historic communities from around the County, those marked by brown signs on County Roads. Communities chosen for this project were established, but never grew, and are not recognized as settlement areas in the County's Official Plan. To be considered, communities had to meet two or more of the following criteria: general store, mill, blacksmith shop, school, post office, church or other religious meeting house, general store, cemetery / cenotaph, community centre, structure housing a fraternal organization (i.e. Orange Lodge, Masons, Knights of Columbus), or hotel / tavern. To view either project, please visit greyroots.com and click on “Grey County Historic Community GIS Mapping Projects”, or type “mapping” in the search at bottom right on the homepage and click on the first result.

New Challenges and Opportunities at the Oxford County Archives

Liz Dommasch – Archivist, Oxford County Archives

When I was first asked to contribute something to the *MAIGazine* my first thought was: what would I write about? Like many, the staff at the Oxford County Archives have been working from home since March and, as of now, there are no plans to go back to the Archives on a regular basis any time soon. I spend my days working out of my kitchen, drinking too much coffee, and spending way more time interacting with my dog than with researchers.



Liz's dog, and current co-worker, Albert.

However, like many now faced with the challenges of working from home, we have adapted. Staff are able to communicate on a daily basis through email, phone calls and text messages and have been able to answer research queries received by phone and email with relative ease. Staff have also been able to focus on backlog and neglected projects and have been able to tap into our creative sides in order to develop new and innovative ways to stay connected with the community we serve. We added new content to our website that includes printable activity pages for children, and we took inspiration from York University Archives and Collections (thanks Julia!) and created virtual puzzles using images from our photograph and postcard collections. Our Archives Technician Megan has also been working hard to create new online educational programming for students and has posted an interactive [Pioneer Life Story](#) that explores the challenges of everyday life in the 1850s.

In June we developed an online exhibit entitled [Spanish Flu: Food for Thought](#); the exhibit delves into the history of the Spanish Flu, and more specifically, the culinary history of the event which spanned from 1918-1920. The exhibit includes a menu that can be printed and we have encouraged the public to try making some of the recipes at home and then share their results with us on social media. Archives staff also attempted to make some of the recipes and shared our creations on the Archives' Instagram page. This fall we will also be debuting a new online exhibit on the history of the County Gaol, as well as an exhibit on the "history of facial hair" in honor of Movember, which I'm super excited about.



Paradise Pudding, made by Liz, one of the recipes featured in the Oxford County Archives' online exhibit "Spanish Flu: Food For Thought".

In July, we created a new [blog](#), where we've been discussing what staff have been up to, as well as sharing fascinating stories related to our collections. Megan has also been working hard to create new and interesting social media content, including several videos related to our "Memories from the Vault" programme and archival tips and tricks. We are planning on putting these videos and others up on a new Youtube page shortly.

Finally we've partnered with the Woodstock Museum to collect community stories and archival records related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been successful up to this point. This never-ending March break has been surreal and the future is a bit unsure, but I'm happy that we have been able to stay safe and healthy. Although the situation isn't ideal, and I miss physically being in the archives on a regular basis, it has been great to take this time to develop new outreach activities, programs and exhibits, that we wouldn't have necessarily had time for before. We'd love to hear what everyone else has been up to, and would be open to some cross County partnerships down the road if anyone is interested in working on something together! Stay safe and sane!

2020 MAIG Open House Cancelled

Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the MAIG Executive, in consultation with the AAO Board, have decided to cancel the 2020 Open House Meeting. We are currently looking at alternative options to allow for members to check-in and provide updates, however our physical meeting has been cancelled. We thank our members for their understanding and will provide more updates as they become available. Stay safe out there!