

2020 Archives Report

Surprisingly, it was a busy December 2019 to mid-March 2020. The Collection Committee met in January 2020. During this period we received and accessioned 75 donations. From one donor we received:

- correspondence, newspaper clippings, tapes regarding the Friends to Save the Buenavista-on-the-Rideau facility
- correspondence, newspaper clippings, write-up in the Ottawa Magazine on the Wolford and Area Residential Association in their attempt to successfully stop the building of a chemical waste recycling plant in Merrickville
- correspondence, architectural drawings, fund-raising brief, operating budget, Board of Directors, play script and several coloured posters for the renovations and establishment of the Merrickville Century Theatre

Additional donations this period included 28 pieces of correspondence, ledgers (dating back to 1890) financial statements, a cashbook and an 1895 bible from the Ladies of Knox United. We also received roller skates, glove and sock stretchers, 2 pre-WWII Watchorn blankets, a red and green child's sled with a blanket, letter and envelope from Delhi and Bombay, India addressed to Watchorn & Co. Ltd., 2 metal frames from the Alloy Foundry and a 6-page eulogy for Ray Lannin and a fire insurance policy from the British North & Mercantile Insurance Co. to Mrs. Mary Magee for the period 1897 to 1900.

Prior to the closing of the Rideau Depot for renovations, they returned approx. 12 loaned items to the Society. Half were already in the system. The information was updated and photographs were taken. The other half, not in PastPerfect, have been accessioned and photographs taken.

Due to Covid-19 and the closing of the Blockhouse this year, we were unable to set up a temporary exhibit on the top two industries in Merrickville (Watchorn Woolen Mills and Percival Plow and Stove Co.) . We were also unable to complete the main floor Blockhouse inventory. Both items are on the schedule for 2021.

Other actions taken earlier this year (1) we acquired additional shelving for the Archives to accommodate our increasing artifact collection and (2) we received several garbage bags of books that were originally stored in the Blockhouse upstairs room (now the McLean Room) and then a member's garage. Ann Martin and Jeff Murray went through these mouldy books and selected the ones that were still in good condition. These books were updated in PastPerfect and placed in the freezer for the next year. The books, not salvageable, have been destroyed as per the MDHS's disposal procedures.

During the summer, I reviewed all the artifacts recorded in PastPerfect, sorted by box number, to ascertain what information is missing and how many need photographs and updated condition reports. This update will be completed early 2021.

Nancy Warr
Archives
November 30, 2020

