

## **Preserving Historical Treasures**

Dale Clifford, Peterborough Examiner

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Peterborough's Henry Desbarbieux had quite the story to tell...or show.

He brought several items of interest with him to the Trent Valley Archives as part of Family Day activities Monday.

The theme of the day was encouraging members of the public to bring in photos, letters, newspapers, maps, whatever they had, and have TVA members appraise them or offer advice on how to preserve them.

"It could be anything they found in the attic," said Heather Aiton-Landry, TVA assistant archivist, with a smile.

"Preserving what you find is important for future generations and says a lot about what we are about. It can be important for research. You find your ancestors, you learn a lot about yourself."

Desbarbieux brought in family-owned material which he discovered, including newspapers from the mid-1930s, a framed picture from 1943 of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon MacKenzie King, thought to be taken somewhere in Quebec, a print of the Gettysburg Address delivered by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and a map of Ontario from 1926.

"I brought them in to see if they were real or fake and how to preserve them," said Desbarbieux.

"I think it is important to preserve history like this for future generations who want to see it. My parents collected it and kept it to preserve it. I want to do the same."

Organizers estimated about 40 people came out for the afternoon, mostly in the 40-60 age group.

Other items of interest were family war albums, Bibles, postcards, and other maps from the 1800s.

The next big event on the local calendar is Archives Week in April.