



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Museum & Archives Advisory Committee

From: Susan Neale, Museum Director

Meeting Date: February 7, 2019

Subject: Report MAAC19-006
Archives: Preservation and Access to Collections

Purpose

A report to advise Committee that the Archivist and the Preventive Conservation Officer will make a presentation regarding the steps undertaken to provide public access to the archival collection, which is held in trust at the Peterborough Museum & Archives.

Recommendation

That the Museum & Archives Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report MAAC19-006, dated February 7, 2019, of the Museum Director, as follows:

That the presentation by the Archivist and the Preventive Conservation Officer regarding the steps undertaken to provide public access to the archival collection be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

Peterborough Museum & Archives - Archival Collection

The Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) archival collection comprises nearly 3,000 linear feet of archival documents and over 600,000 photographic negatives, including the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images (Appendix A).

In 1996, the federal government approved the designation of the PMA as a “Category A Collecting Institution” under the terms of the Canadian Cultural Property Export/Import Act. The Canadian Cultural Property of Outstanding Significance and National Importance held in the PMA archival collection are:

1. Frederick Lewis Roy Diaries;
2. Parks Studio *fonds*;
3. Catharine Parr Traill Herbarium.

For more information, refer to www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca

Preservation of Archival Collections

The PMA strives to implement best practices in collection care and management, in an effort to ensure long term preservation and public access.

Primary resources are:

1. Canadian Conservation Institute <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute.html>
2. Gatineau Preservation Centre, Library and Archives Canada <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/about-us/events/Pages/2017/pcg-welcomes-you.aspx>

Access to Archival Collections

Archival materials typically require stabilization, treatment, and/or interpretation to support safe public access. While digitization is a useful and cost-effective tool facilitating global access to archival resources, the behind-the-scenes preparation of archival materials remains the same. For examples, early cursive writing may require transcription and glass plate negatives may require cleaning.

Summary

The Peterborough Museum & Archives ensures long term preservation and public access to its archival collection through the implementation of best practices in collection care and management.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:

Appendix A – “From Light, Lens and Heart: the Enduring Legacy of the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images”, Jim Leonard, PHS Occasional Paper (2002)