**President’s Report**

**AGM February 6th, 2016**

As I reflected on the activities of the past year I realized that it would take a lot longer than the time allotted today to share everything we as an organization have accomplished so I have just chosen a few highlights for my report.

In 2015, we had presence at 13 events within the community and the surrounding area. Outreach and creating awareness is an important part of our annual activities and this could not be accomplished this past year without the dedication of John Smith, as well as our Consulting Archivist Laurie Dougherty, and volunteers Debbie Miller, Joanne Hanna and Co-op Student Emily Croft.

At last year’s AGM, Brian Gilhuly, one of our current volunteers gave a presentation on Arnprior in the Railway Age. We also held two additional presentations in 2015. Dave Forsyth spoke about the Arnprior Marble Era and Kurt Johnson gave a talk on local WW2 Soldiers buried in a Holland Cemetery. Patrick’s Family History Group is still meeting once a month and hosts various topics and guest speakers throughout the year.

We provided Crime Stoppers with images for their fundraising calendar. Eleven of the images used in the calendar were from the Archives’ holdings. John Smith actively sold these calendars in which $5.00 from each of his sales was donated back to the Archives.

We had condensate lines and new dehumidifiers installed in the Vault to help maintain the correct humidity levels needed for our holdings. This also eliminated the manual emptying of the dehumidifiers which would tend to fill up over a weekend or holidays and shut off.

Our Archivist, Laurie Dougherty attended an Emergency Response & Salvage workshop and is now working on developing a new Disaster Recovery Plan for the Archives.

We have also been actively trying to update our online presence as this has become a valuable resource for those researching from other parts of the country and all over the world. Our Facebook page currently has a constant following and we are now able to accept donations online, with the donor receiving a charitable receipt immediately. I am also happy to announce that we were fortunate at the end of last year to receive funding to improve our online presence and expand what can be provided through the internet.  I would like to acknowledge the Government of Canada’s support for our Online Digital Expansion Project through their Documentary Heritage Communities Program.  This phase will be completed by March 31st and we are now applying for further funding to allow us to digitize documents, such as our newspaper collection and maps, and have them available on the internet.

At present, we currently have over 30 volunteers. These volunteers give freely of their time and are the mainstay of our organization. In the past 5 years, they have given the Archives almost 12,000 hours of service. Our volunteers are our most valuable asset and I would like to thank each and every one of them for everything they do.

I would like to thank our Archivist Laurie Dougherty and our Office Administrator Diane Bresson for their dedication and hard work in managing the day to day operations of the Archives.

I would also like to thank the Town of Arnprior and the Township of McNab/Braeside for their ongoing support each year as well as everyone in the community and beyond who have shown their support by utilizing our services and contributing to the Archives.

Finally, I would just like to say it has been my honour to serve as President on the Board of Management for the past year and I look forward to the year ahead.

Thank you