The past year at the Archives was busy, productive and successful. In 2017, I completely revised our Emergency Preparedness Plan which should guide the organization through any future disaster. Our biggest challenge in terms of emergency response will be finding funding for restoration services if we face a serious event such as a fire or flood.

Early in 2017, the Archives of Ontario agreed to de-accession and transfer The McLachlin Bros papers, Charles Macnamara collection and the Township of McNab papers to the AMBA. As we already held the majority of records for each of these historic collections, it was a very welcome decision. Clients no longer have to travel to two places to conduct research. I would like to extend our appreciation to the Archives of Ontario for initiating the discussion and making this significant acquisition possible. You are invited to view a display of this new material in the archives after the meeting.

We were also extremely fortunate to receive funding from the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society late in 2017 to digitize a portion of our newspaper holdings and make them available on our website. This is an exciting development for family history researchers and anyone who wants to look at the early history of the area to 1937.

And finally, in 2017 we received $7,000.00 in funding from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport through the Ontario 150 Community Celebration Program to create **150 Years of Living off the Land.** The exhibit explores the connection between what McNab settlers produced in the early days in the Township and what local producers are making today.

We interviewed 7 families who are selling maple syrup, honey, alpaca wool products, beef and vegetables. We wanted to hear about challenges and rewards of very large to very small scale producers.

WEBSITE DEMONSTRATION:

On Canada Day, we successfully launched the exhibit with a display at the farmer`s market in McNab/Braeside.

* AMBA Main page – [www.adarchives.org](http://www.adarchives.org) or google Arnprior Archives – scroll down
* Here you see the Project Team of Ella Hartwick, Laurie Dougherty, Matt Regan and Dianne Brearley.
* Below that in the What`s New Section is a short description and a link to the exhibit.
* Alternatively, you can open the Exhibits Page from the main page and choose it from the four that are presently offered.
* An overview of the project is presented on the main page.
* The exhibit presents oral history recordings (short clips) and transcripts so that if you wish to read more about a particular business or family experience, you may do so. Some of the archival images that link the present to the past were provided by the participants while others were taken from the collection of the AMBA. Complete oral history interviews are available for research at the Arnprior McNab/Braeside Archives as well as many other records that document the early history of the township.
* This exhibit is only a small, random sample of farms and businesses that currently exist in McNab/Braeside.
* View the Exhibit Gallery links you to the Table of Contents
* 7 families were interviewed: Luke Sheldrick of Terramor Farms, Kevin Rosien of Rosien Farm, Shannon Cassidy Rouleau of Ballintotas Alpacas, Douglas MacLaren of Lochwinnoch, Jim and Jane McGregor of McGregor’s Produce, and the Murray Family of White Lake
* In addition, we created four theme pages to explore the history of Inns & Taverns, Century Farms, Cheese Factories and the Immigrant Experience in McNab Township.
* The Thank you page features reflections on the project by each of the team members.
* Let’s look at a couple of pages:
* Terramor Farm
* Cheese Factories
* This project will not be expanded upon unless we find funding but small additions or corrections to the existing pages can be done.

Questions????

Today we celebrate 25 years of service to the public. Congratulations to everyone who has served on the Board of Management, volunteered or donated funds or collection material over the years. You have made our small community Archives an outstanding success!

The Archives has always operated as an independent organization with a mandate to acquire, preserve and make available historically significant records of Arnprior and McNab/Braeside. I believe that part of the success of the organization can be attributed to its well defined mandate and by following established archival practices since 1993. The decision to hire a part-time archivist to guide the Board and volunteers has also contributed to the success of this organization.

We are the only Archives in Renfrew County that operates a dedicated reading room where clients are assisted by trained research assistants led by a professional archivist.

You may be surprised to learn that Renfrew County is the only county in Ontario that does not have a County level archives. Our guest speaker John Roberts will talk about the unique challenges that small archives face and the drive to create a Provincial Archives Strategy to help clarify institutional collecting mandates.

The other key to our success is the tremendous support of our volunteers. Volunteers offer dedication, flexibility, and a willingness to learn. I have tried hard to assign activities that match the skills and interests of each individual. This has been a constant challenge over my 15 years as Consulting Archivist, but one that I have found personally rewarding. I have worked with so many wonderful people but I would like to mention a special few: Stan Horrall, Janet Clancy, Art McLean and Peter Hessel.

My association with the archives goes back to 1996. I met Peter Hessel and he insisted that I could contribute to the archives by indexing The Arnprior Story by Leo Lavoie. After helping at a bake sale and producing a video about the archives at Cogeco, I joined the Board of Management right around the time that my son Coleman was born, almost 21 years ago. I remember one Board meeting when he was crying so much, I had to leave. At this time Enid was the President. She visited me at home and assured me that the archives would still be there when the timing was better for me to continue. Thank you Enid!

One of the highlights of my career was receiving a $15,000.00 Ontario Trillium Grant in 2000 which allowed us to expand the vault and create an outreach kit on the Lumbering History of the Ottawa Valley. That was the year we also moved the Renfrew County Land Records from Pembroke – before we had an elevator!!!! Thank goodness we had John Smith who knew a thing or two about driving large trucks and moving filing cabinets. Thank you John!

My favourite year was 2003 when I processed the Charles Macnamara collection and created an exhibit about Macnamara’s work for the Canadian Heritage Information Network. We used the $3000.00 grant we received from CHIN for creating the exhibit to purchase our Epson Scanner which I use almost every day.

Recent accomplishments include receiving a $63,000.00 grant from the Department of Heritage to improve our website. I am starting to see the impact that this has made in terms of increased number of clients who are ordering material using our new e-transfer account. I credit Irene Robillard for her constant attention to detail and guidance in making that project a success. Thank you Irene!

So, as I contemplate retiring from my position in May, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Management, my administrative assistant Diane Bresson and volunteers for your ongoing support – It has been an honour, a pleasure and a privilege to work with you all. Thank you