

**President's Annual 2019 Report**  
**Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives – AGM Feb. 8, 2020**

2019 was another very busy year at the Archives and much has been accomplished. I will only cover some of the highlights here.

1. Operating budget – 2019 saw us operating at a profit - the first time in a number of years. The two municipalities, Arnprior and McNab/Braeside, both have increased their yearly grants to us, which has allowed us to continue our current level of service, with having an archivist 3 days per week. For the previous 6 years, this level of service was covered by the Moir Legacy Fund, a generous estate bequest, but that has nearly come to an end.
2. Projects - We successfully received all grants we applied for last year. This totalled about \$70,000 for 2019. This has allowed us to:
  - a. Digitize many more records
  - b. Purchase camera, scanner and other equipment to allow us to digitize items ourselves in the future.
  - c. As Emma has shown, it will also give an updated website with new facilities, such as zooming in on maps to see detail, a blog, and maps showing places of interest.
  - d. A virtual exhibit of Gillies Mill and Braeside is being created as you will see shortly. Thank you to Laurie Dougherty for agreeing to return to the Archives to create this exhibit.
  - e. Catherine Orr, a trained archivist, worked with us in the summer. She concentrated primarily on creating an inventory of the inactive records at the Township office. And she is currently volunteering here in her spare time.
3. Digitizing WI Records - We also had about 5,000 pages of WI collections digitized through the Women's Institute organization. This is approximately another \$5,000 worth of digitizing and we thank them for that. The records will be viewable on the WI virtual archives in the next year or so.
4. Purchases - In our vault area, a dehumidifier needed to be replaced. As well, a new shelving row was purchased to expand our space a bit. This was thanks to a generous donation.
5. Bylaws - At the board level, our bylaws are under review once again. Thanks to Barry Risk for taking on this project.
6. Outreach –
  - a. We continue to have displays at events – about 12 a year. This is thanks primarily to the efforts of John Smith, with Debbie Miller and others helping out.
  - b. Our online outreach has also expanded.

- i. There are about 600 visitors to our website each month – from all around the world.
- ii. Facebook has nearly 1,000 followers with one post reaching 4,000 people within a week.

And what does our future hold?

1. Space – Storage space continues to be an issue as the inactive McNab/Braeside Municipal records are heading our way very shortly. A small storage area at the Kenwood Centre has just been rented for the overflow – we received the key last week. We are now about to prepare the space with shelving, etc and move less-used collections there. If you know of anyone with spare metal shelving, please let us know. Thanks to Art Turnewitsch and Ian Cameron for taking the lead on this project.
2. Grants - We will not be applying for nearly as many grants as last year, as we give ourselves a break from the hectic pace. But we will be applying for a summer employee, as well as more digitizing of our newspapers.
3. Archivist Time – Somehow funding needs to be found to increase our archivist time to 4 days/week; even 5, if possible. At the moment, Emma has not had time to keep up with the current workload and there is now a backlog of processing incoming collections.
4. Strategic Plan – We will be updating the strategic plan this year, as the current one ends in 2020 and we have achieved most of our goals.

I am sure we will be able to face these challenges and those we do not yet know. As we move forward I do know:

- Our volunteer base is strong and they are our most valuable asset.
- Emma, our Archivist, and Diane, our Administrator, are doing a fabulous job, regardless of what we throw at them.
- The two municipalities, Arnprior and McNab/Braeside, continue to provide strong support and we thank them for that.
- The community has also shown their support by entrusting their documents to our Archives, giving donations, and using our services.

Thank you.

Irene Robillard  
President