



Community Archives

of Belleville and Hastings County

For Immediate Release

April 7, 2016

BELLEVILLE – Today, partners and supporters of the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County came together in the John M. Parrott Art Gallery to celebrate the official opening of the new Community Archives location inside the Belleville Public Library.



The City of Belleville, the County of Hastings and the Hastings County Historical Society formed a partnership in 2010 to establish a joint archives facility to house the historical materials of each of the three organizations. The new 5,000-square-foot accessible space within the Belleville Public Library has climate-controlled storage areas packed with high-density mobile shelving to provide plenty of room to store future donations of significant local collections.

Construction of the new Community Archives began in May 2015 and the project is now complete. The facility was made possible thanks to contributions of \$500,000 from the City of Belleville, \$300,000 from the County of Hastings through the federal Gas Tax Fund, \$268,000 raised by the Hastings County Historical Society and \$200,000 from the County of Hastings. Ongoing operating costs will be shared between the City of Belleville and the County of Hastings.



Quotes

“In Budget 2016, the Government of Canada has committed to working with provinces, territories and municipalities to ensure they receive the support they need to build strong and vibrant communities. I am proud of the work achieved on this important project to help preserve the history of Belleville and Hastings County. Thanks to the federal Gas Tax Fund, municipalities are able to prioritize their infrastructure investments in order to develop projects that best meet the needs of their communities.”

Neil Ellis, Member of Parliament for Bay of Quinte

“The City of Belleville is proud of its partnership with Hastings County and the Hastings County Historical Society in bringing this important project in the City’s downtown core to completion. The addition of the Community Archives to the Belleville Public Library and John M. Parrott Art Gallery will complement the cultural and historical hub in the heart of Belleville.”

Taso Christopher, Mayor of the City of Belleville

“The County of Hastings is delighted to see the completion of the construction of the Community Archives, a symbol of the value the County and the City place on taking care of their history and on working together for the benefit of residents of Hastings and Belleville.”

Rick Phillips, Warden of the County of Hastings

“I would like to commend the efforts of all three partner organizations. The Historical Society has been collecting materials for nearly sixty years and is delighted to witness the safe transfer of its archival collections to the new facility.”

Richard Hughes, President of the Hastings County Historical Society

“In 2016, on behalf of the Government of Canada, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario will administer \$617 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund to invest in local infrastructure. The flexibility of this long-term funding agreement helps municipal governments set and achieve local priorities. The County of Hastings’ investment in cultural and heritage infrastructure is a great example of how the Fund can be used to meet local needs.”

Gary McNamara, AMO President

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