

## **St. Paul's Anglican Church Archives**

### ***Please provide details of the matter to which you wish to speak:***

St. Paul's Anglican Church holds a significant place in the history and community of the City of Kawartha Lakes and its predecessor community of Lindsay. In the 1990s, we established an archive that is available for not just for the church but for the community at large. Through the use of the Documentary Heritage Community Program federal grant we have organized and described 21 feet of records pertaining to St. Paul's presence and work in the community.

This year the DHCP grants were only given to 31 out of 159 were allocated funds and the St. Paul's Church Archives was not one of the lucky recipients. In order to facilitate the continuance of this project we require additional support from the City. The Church provides a continuity of history in the city and these records are a part of its history

### ***What action are you hoping will result from your presentation/deputation?***

St. Paul's Anglican Church requires city support to be able to continue its vital mission of supporting the history and culture of the CKL. It is our hope that Council will commit to supporting St. Paul's efforts to ensure that its rich archival resource – one that complements existing repositories in Kawartha Lakes, and adds to our area's collective cultural and social heritage – will be maintained and shared with the community.

### **What are we doing?**

Under the auspices of a DHCP grant, St. Paul's was able to hire an archivist in 2024 and begin the process of bringing order to its large and historically-significant collection of archival records. For many years, this collection had been maintained on an *ad hoc* basis by well-intentioned volunteers working with minimal resources. Best practices were either nonexistent or inconsistently followed, resulting in a situation where records were at risk of damage or loss. Descriptions were incomplete or minimal, resulting in the church underestimating the full extent of what was in its collection.

Since the spring of 2024 and continuing into 2025, considerable progress has been made:

- 21 feet of records have been rehoused in accordance with best practices
- Descriptions are being written in accordance with standards set by the Canadian Council of Archives to be able to be included on the provincial, federal, and international archival databases
- Digitization of collection for access
- Identification of records pertaining to First Nations communities for matters of repatriation and sharing

### **What does the collection consist of?**

Although it is housed in a church building, the archival collection maintained by St. Paul's is not strictly speaking a "religious archive" comprised of old Bibles and prayer books. Rather, its collection reflects

In collaboration with other community groups, St. Paul's has also played host to special ecumenical services commemorating significant events in the life of the nation. These have included local memorial services for monarchs (e.g. Queen Victoria and Edward VII, in 1901 and 1910, respectively); a special service of Canadian music to celebrate the new millennium (1999); and services to commemorate local contributions to the First World War (2017 and 2018, respectively). The collection includes a number of records from these events, which offer a glimpse into how our community understood – and created opportunities for – commemoration and remembrance.

### **Commercial History**

The archival collection housed at St. Paul's Church offers a window into this community's commercial and economic past. Records created by local businesses contracted to provide goods and services to St. Paul's over the past 140 years form a considerable part of the collection, as do records created by well-known Canadian companies. Many (if not most) of these businesses have long since ceased to exist, and the records they created in their sometimes decades-long relationship with St. Paul's complement records that may exist in other repositories throughout the municipality.

### **Why can't these records be sent to other local repositories?**

In the event that the church closed or is unable to maintain its archival records, specific policies have been developed by the Anglican Diocese of Toronto to ensure that records are safely transferred to the diocesan archives. This means that records pertaining to the former residents of the City of Kawartha Lakes and Lindsay in particular will be removed from our community as Diocesan policy requires that the records of St. Paul's such as the baptism, burial, and marriage registers will be sent to the Diocesan archives, and will thus never be repatriated.

### **What are some long-term goals for the archives?**

As of 2025, more than 90% of the records in St. Paul's collection have been rehoused – and more records continue to be created and donated. Our next priority is to digitize these records with the aim of making them accessible to audiences within and outside the parish.

By making these records available to an international community at a time when interest in archival repositories programs such *Who Do You Think You Are* and *Ghosting*, we can contribute to the appeal of the Kawartha Lakes as a venue for this type of research.

Statistics recorded by Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in 2020-2021 suggest that "Canadians increasingly access Canada's documentary heritage," and that "Canadians are more aware of their documentary heritage."<sup>1</sup> St. Paul's seeks to leverage this public enthusiasm for archival heritage and raise awareness about its collection through not only online databases, but eventually social media, podcasts, pop-up displays, and other means of expression.

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1 <https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/corporate/transparency/reports-publications/departmental-results-reports/2020-21-drr/Pages/2020-2021-departmental-results-report.aspx>

May 27, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write in support of the archives at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Lindsay.

As a graduate of the Museum Management and Curatorship program at Fleming College and a member of the Kawartha Lakes Municipal Heritage Committee, I have a deep appreciation for history and the importance of archival preservation.

Community archives hold a unique and invaluable role, particularly those housed in churches. Church archives often contain records that extend far beyond the congregation, offering insight into the broader history of the community.

These collections are essential resources for genealogists, researchers, and anyone interested in the development of local institutions, buildings, and the city as a whole. The public deserves access to these wonderful materials. Without proper preservation and organization, countless stories of people, places, and events could be lost or forgotten.

Like museums and libraries, archives serve everyone. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a rich archival resource at St. Paul's.

I encourage you to visit St. Paul's to see the impressive work that has already been done, as well as to understand the ongoing efforts required to preserve and maintain the archives for current and future generations to access and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Katie Virag-Cavanagh

May 26, 2025



To Whom It May Concern;

It is an honour for me to write a letter in support of a unique community project, headed by St. Paul's Anglican Church. The project is one to which they have already given outstanding voluntary leadership, and now both require and invite additional support from a broader community to complete the project. I refer to their archival project which recognizes the importance of the preservation not just of church history but of community history as well.

St. Paul's has given leadership in the community to several initiatives which extend beyond their church walls, enriching the community as a whole. Many who attended their excellent program honouring the area nurses who served in the First World War were the beneficiaries of their service commitment which has extended over many years. Indeed, the very fact that they have preserved a large volume of archival material already bears testimony to this commitment. However, we are aware of the huge volunteer involvement that such activities require and when valuable material is dependent on voluntarism, conservation issues arise, putting valuable material at risk with the potential of being lost forever.

The Church is appreciative of the increasing recognition by the City over recent years to effective consolidation and safe storage of historical material that exists in our community. To that end, St. Paul's Anglican Church seeks to build on both its initial project previously undertaken (in 2024), and invites the City's valued financial commitment to ensure effective completion of the archival project.

Sincerely,

Valmay Barkey

The Mayor and Council  
City of Kawartha Lakes  
May 25, 2025

Re: A request from St. Paul's Anglican Church for funds to complete it's archival project.

Please consider this letter as one of support for the request from St. Paul's Anglican Church for funds to complete the process of cataloguing and digitizing its archival materials.

The records of St. Paul's are, in reality, the records of an integral part of the history of Lindsay for St. Paul's has been not only a significant religious institution in this community for a very long time; it has, as well, been a major contributor to the social, cultural, and economic fabric that made Lindsay a community. The cataloguing and preservation of these records are significant processes, not so much for the Church today, but for the on-going historical record-keeping of the Town – a task which has devolved to the City of Kawartha Lakes since the Town has ceased to exist legally, although not emotionally. St. Paul's has already played a significant role in this historical record-keeping process by taking advantage of a grant from the Federal Government – Documentary Heritage Communities Program. A certified archivist working with dedicated volunteers has completed a substantial portion of the task and all that remains is for them to "bring it home". The request before you is for sufficient funds to do just that for the grant-funding has ended and will not be renewed by the Federal Government.

In this day of disappearing churches you might well ask why Council should concern itself with preserving church records. The reality is, as mentioned earlier, that these records are only partly institutional. They are mainly community records and anyone interested in an accurate history of Lindsay must have access to church records. Churches have played foundational roles in Lindsay's development and the state of the Town's current nature. By granting this request, Council will, in fact, be recognizing that it is willing to play a complementary role in ensuring the completeness of and accessibility to important relevant historical materials of the Town and its successor, The City of Kawartha Lakes.

I am flattered to have been asked to write this letter of support and I congratulate those who have, for so very long, been involved in this archival project. These individuals have been dedicated in their approach, have met many challenges and have managed to achieve much. I trust that the members of Council will recognize the importance of these efforts on behalf of our community and assist the group in "bringing it home" by providing the \$24,000 needed to do so.

M.J. Radiff



Please note that a signed hard copy of this letter is available from its author upon request.