

Sudbury Community Archives:

A Partnership Between Sudbury District Archives Interest Group (SDAIG)

and The City of Greater Sudbury

Preamble

The Sudbury District Archives Interest Group is a volunteer group of like-minded citizens, representing a cross section of the community. It advocates, promotes and supports the Community Archives of the City of Greater Sudbury. SDAIG is an advisory group, independent of, but partnering with the City to promote Sudbury's Community Archives.

The Sudbury District Archives Interest Group is a registered non-profit charity with letters patent from October 2005. The incorporated organization's stated purpose is to support the development and use of a Community Archives in Sudbury.

Origins

Members of the Sudbury Genealogical Society became concerned about the state and intended destruction of some Land Records from the Sudbury region while the majority was to be moved out of the region. To preserve those records and to assure continued public access the group lobbied numerous institutions and began to advocate a community archive.

Simultaneously the Greater Sudbury Public Library Board underscored the need to collect, preserve and make available the documentary heritage of the region by having an archive (Henderson Report, November 2004)

Historical milestones

Since its inception four year ago the Sudbury District Archives Interest Group has achieved important milestones towards its objective of creating a Community Archives including the following highlights:

1. The Sudbury District Archives Interest Group has over one hundred members representing a social cross-section of the community. It has mounted displays at public events and made presentations to many local groups to illustrate why a public archives is essential for Sudbury. It has demonstrated the need to locate, recover, store, organize and make accessible the documentary heritage of greater Sudbury.
2. The Sudbury District Archives Interest Group suggested that Xstrata donate to the City a fine large facility and was successful in having this done. The facility is the former administrative building known as the Edison Building in Falconbridge. Xstrata also paid for basic renovations.

3. By 2007 the Sudbury District Archives Interest Group had been able, in cooperation with city staff, to convince some City Councilors to support these efforts. This eventually led to City Council approving a plan to hire an archivist and to establish an archive with an ongoing and increasing budget (\$170, 000 by 2010) for operations.

4. The Sudbury District Archives Interest Group continues to extend the long list of documentary (traditional and electronic) materials which individuals, businesses and various institutions hold and which are slowly being gathered to be placed in the archives, where they will be preserved, organized, cataloged and made accessible.

5. The Sudbury District Archives Interest Group has begun the process of fund raising to make the archives into an educational as well as a conservatory institution by creating an Archives Establishment Fund.

6. At present the Sudbury District Archives Interest Group is defining more precisely its partnership and relationship with the City for the mutual benefit of obtaining large donations to underwrite the cost of re-configuring the building to meet the needs of a facility envisioned as a community archives. The Sudbury District Archives Interest Group seeks to have teaching rooms, a reception foyer with exhibit space (with themed exhibitions), reading rooms as well as educational programs including publication of documents (probably by scanned copies on the internet). The intention is to have a building in which public access to historical sources is facilitated and open in 2011.