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Glengarry County Archives Celebrates Official Opening



ALEXANDRIA, June 17, 2022 – Wednesday night the Glengarry County Archives celebrated its official opening, despite having been quietly open since July of 2020. However, with regulations changing due to COVID-19 the Archivist, Allan MacDonald wanted to wait until the new location could be honored properly.

The Glengarry County Archives are the largest archives in Eastern Ontario, housing over 300 collections covering every aspect of Glengarry’s past from the pioneer period to the present. Such a large collection required a special location, which is why its new home at 28 Kenyon St E, in Alexandria is perfect, as it is the oldest building in Alexandria with a rich history of its own.

Mayor of North Glengarry, Jamie MacDonald said, “It is great to see both North and South Glengarry working together on such a great initiative for our area, history is so important, and we need to be more conscious of how we can preserve our heritage here in Glengarry. We would have never been able to accomplish this without the help of our community and the generosity of the donors.”

Established in 2013, the Glengarry County Archives opened to the public in September of 2014 and was located at Glengarry District Highschool. In 2019 North Glengarry and South Glengarry Townships purchased Macdonell House, renovations began in January of 2020 and by early July of that same year most of the work was completed. Allan MacDonald is the County Archivist, with many years of experience at the Archives of Ontario, he has carefully built up the collection and continues to reach out to local families for more important historical content to add.

“Much appreciation goes out to those who made this day possible and to the approximately 300 people who came through our doors. We were pleased to have the opportunity to share ‘who we are and what we are about’ with our community,” stated Mayor of South Glengarry, Lyle Warden.

The Glengarry County Archives is open to visitors by appointment, and if you have anything you believe may belong at the Archives, please contact Allan MacDonald at 613-360-9818, with their new home there is decades of room to grow.

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Natalie Charette, Economic Development and Communications Officer, Township of North Glengarry
ecdev@northglengarry.ca / T. 613-363-0819 / www.northglengarry.ca

Michelle O’Shaughnessy, Communications Coordinator/Executive Assistant, Township of South Glengarry
moshaughnessy@southglengarry.com / T. 613-347-1166 / www.southglengarry.com