



## CDP: Notes from the Field

### News and Stories from Phase One of the Community Digitization Project

*Our three Digitization Facilitators have started working with the Haldimand County, South River and Petawawa & Head, Clara & Maria partnerships. Here are Stephanie Cann, Krista McCracken and Morgan Peachey-Dupon's first Notes from the Field.*

### Haldimand County WWI Project

by Stephanie Cann



Let me introduce you to Haldimand County, south of Hamilton and east of Welland nestled just atop Lake Erie. A digitization project of this nature has never occurred here, not surprising as the county is only eight years old. This project is especially exciting because of the collection's historical nature. The material, including postcards, letters, medals and uniforms, is from the 114th

battalion from World War I. Also known as the Brock Rangers, this battalion included two well-documented aboriginal companies: a definite rarity in WWI. This project is going to bring the community a huge step closer to promoting this unique collection for the centennial of the armistice in digital form, bringing the material into the 21st century.

The collection is spread out between two libraries and two museums. The museums house the majority of the collection. The Haldimand County Museum in Cayuga is a handsome log cabin, right across from where I am boarding but I will be working in the equally handsome Edinburgh Square Museum & Cultural Centre in Caledonia for the majority of the project. The building being the original court house and



#### Notes from the Field

[Haldimand County](#)

[South River](#)

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The Community Digitization Program is being implemented in partnership with SOLS and OLS-N, as part of the \$15-million investment by the Ontario Ministry of Culture in public libraries.

The CDP brings together expertise, staff, and technology to enable 30 selected public libraries and 19 other community organizations to build their knowledge base and implement continuing digitization programs in their communities. Over

jail offers ample space to set up equipment and work through all the material.



Before we can get anything started with the actual digitizing, we must prepare policies for the partners and background documentation for the Digital Assistant, who will be hired near the end of October. This background work will provide a stable base for establishing a sustainable digitization program in the county. We should be able to move forward with digitizing in November and soon after offer this exciting collection to historians, students and curious parties from all over the world via Our Ontario. Click [here](#) for more of Stephanie's pictures...

## South River "Near North" Project

by Krista McCracken

Lumbering, steamboats, railways, agriculture, hockey, women's institutes, and local heritage galore! These are just a few of the topics to be digitized by the South River partnership.

Contributors to the project include:

South River - Machar Union PL, Sunridge-Strong Union Public Library, Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library, Perry Township Public Library, Kearney & Area Public Library, Magnetawan Public Library, and Whitestone-Hagerman Memorial Public Library. These libraries are located in the Parry Sound District of Ontario, and in an area commonly known as the Almaguin Highlands.



I recently relocated to the Almaguin area and I am looking forward to working with the great collections held by these libraries which are mainly photos, textual documents, and scrapbooks. These local history collections are currently used by local researchers, as well as researchers from as far away as Europe and Australia. Through digitization, these valuable community resources will be more accessible to the public.

As the leaves begin to change, planning, organization, and development of a sustainable digitization program have begun. We expect to hire two digitization



the next 2 years, participant libraries from Northern and Southern Ontario will plan and implement projects to digitize local history collections for display online.

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assistants by the end of October, and for them to begin working with collections by the start of November. Everyone involved in the South River CDP is enthusiastic and looking forward to the challenges of this great project. Click [here](#) for more of Krista's pictures...



## Petawawa and Head, Clara & Maria Local History



by Morgan Peachey-Dupon

I'm very excited about being the representative for the East Border region. I am familiar with the region because I grew up here and now have the opportunity to come back and work in this beautiful part of the Province.

I will be working with two Libraries, the Petawawa Public Library and Head, Clara and Maria Public Library.

Each of these sites has a unique collection that represents their respective communities. Head, Clara and Maria Public Library have an excellent collection of video interviews with local seniors who tell of community life and landmarks. Also, the collection tells of the building of the Hydro dam and how it affected the land and the people who lived there. There is also a very nice collection of photographs representing early days in the area.



Petawawa Public Library has a strong collection of local history. It has a great collection of early assessment rolls which will be more accessible to the public and people who are researching their genealogy through this digitization project. Petawawa Public Library has some very interesting maps and other material about the early days in Petawawa.



Both libraries are very excited and very enthusiastic about being able to share their collections with people in their communities as well as new audiences near and far. We

are preparing to hire two digitization assistants, one for each library who should be in place by November; once the assistants start the project will really take off.

I would like to thank everyone at the Petawawa and Head, Clara and Maria Libraries who have made me feel welcome

in their communities.

## CDP Partnerships



For a complete list of CDP partners, click [here](#)



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