

Yukon Archives

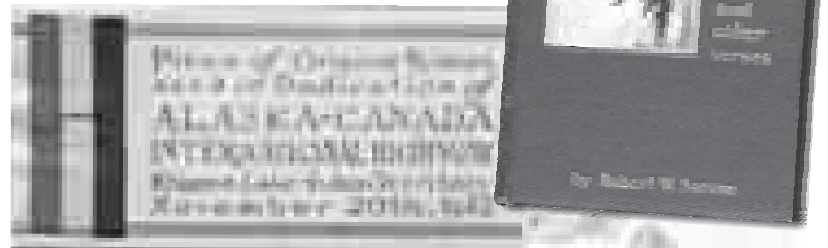
Yukon Archives (www.yukonarchives.ca) is located in Whitehorse, the capital of Yukon. It has a mandate to acquire, preserve, and provide access to Yukon's documentary heritage. The Archives opened in 1972 and is one of thirteen provincial and territorial archives across Canada funded by their governments to care for the archival holdings of their citizens.

Yukon Archives preserves and makes accessible original records that shed light on almost every part of the Yukon experience, including the Klondike Gold Rush, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yukon First Nations history and culture, land, river and air transportation, geography and geology, politics and government, and much more. These unique and irreplaceable records include photographs and moving images, diaries, letters, and manuscripts, books, periodicals, maps, plans, atlases, sound recordings, and government records. The tremendous collections of Yukon Archives are constantly growing through the addition of new materials acquired through donations, purchases and government record transfer. Access to descriptions about the archival material is available at http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives_descriptivedatabase.html.

The Yukon Archives differs somewhat from most provincial or territorial archives in Canada by the fact that it contains a large published library collection in addition to the original archival material. Yukon is large in geographical size but small in population and so the drafters of the *Archives Act* in 1971 wanted ensure that published material written by and about Yukon was collected and preserved in Yukon Archives. The Archives also fills the role of Legislative Library for Yukon. Access to the catalogue records for the published holdings is available at <http://www.pac.gov.yk.ca/>. Recently the Archives mounted a website containing scans of published books and ephemera and it is located at <http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/>.

Each year we receive visits from professors, students, authors, film-makers, genealogists and others who come to Yukon Archives to either start or to continue working on their Yukon related research projects. Of great interest to many are the two periods of great upheaval and change whereby thousands of people from around the world descended on Yukon – the Klondike Gold Rush starting with the discovery of gold on Bonanza Creek in 1896 and the construction of the Alaska Highway and Canol Pipeline Project starting in 1941. The Archives has created websites to document and animate these and other events and they can be viewed at http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives_exhibits.html.

A topic of increasing research interest is the study of the land claims process in Yukon. Scholars are starting to examine the published and archival material available at the Archives which document the beginnings of the process from the 1902 letter by



Chief Jim Boss to the Government of Canada through to the signed land claims agreements.

What services does Yukon Archives provide to the Public?

- Open for reference and research from Tuesday through Saturday including evening hours on Friday
- Records in all media and formats are available for consultation in the Yukon Archives reference and research rooms
- Hard copy displays on historical topics are on exhibit at YA and are available for borrowing by community organizations
- A number of virtual exhibits on various topics are available at www.yukonarchives.ca
- Staff provide one hour of research for non-Yukon residents and three hours of research for Yukon residents who live in communities outside of Whitehorse
- Reproductions of textual records, photographs, maps, and other records are provided at a nominal cost. (Copyright and other restrictions may apply in some cases)
- Interlibrary loans from other institutions
- Yukon Archives engages in community outreach activities including rotating exhibits in the Hougén Heritage Gallery in downtown Whitehorse; tours for Yukon College classes, schools and other groups; partnerships with local organizations to increase awareness of Yukon history; and interviews with local media.

In 2012, Yukon Archives celebrated its 40th anniversary and as part of the celebrations, a commemorative book was published, *For the Record: Yukon Archives, 1972 – 2012*. This publication is available at no charge, either in pdf format on www.yukonarchives.ca or in hard-copy by request at yukon.archives@gov.yk.ca