



ARCHIVAL UPDATE

January 2013

As we start a new year and another new beginning for the Historical Society Archives we thought that perhaps our members would be interested in knowing just what is happening with their archives. As you know we are now located in the Burritt's Rapids Community Hall, lower level, with approximately 1200 square feet of space in a one room area. Although we did move in August of 2012, we are still in the process of organizing and setting up the artifacts.

We have acquired a great deal of material over the years, in the form of books, newspapers, documents, photographs, clothing, household and industrial pieces. Some of which are exhibited and the fragile sensitive and valuable items are safely stored in acid free folders and boxes.

Documentation, CD's and now USB Flash Drives of the activities of the Society are presently in boxes, binders, filing cabinets, and on book shelves, all of which have to be sorted, catalogued, indexed and found a suitable location within the archives. In the foreseeable future we expect indexed copies of these to be accessible to the general public.



Archival Boxes



Artifacts

During the months ahead, we would like to show you a few of the items we have in the archives, such as this lovely family bible. Dating back to 1875, this bible was donated by Horst Pfaff of Cassleman Ontario in 1975. The inscription inside reads, Allan McDonald, Chichester, Quebec. It is a Holy Catholic Bible and the first 128 pages are the History of the Holy Catholic Bible. There are 789 pages of the Scriptures and 235 pages of the New Testament. It was published by J. W. Lyon, Guelph, Ontario, and is leather bound, with gold inscription, measuring 31.5 x 25 x 9 centimetres. This is a bible that would have been placed in a prominent and easy accessible location in the home, as it isn't exactly one that you would carry around with you.



Nor is this rather sinister looking object, which is called a Flax Hakle. It was donated by Miss. Caroline Buchanan of Kemptville in July 1974. It is 62 centimetres wide, 10.8 depth and 1.7 high. Our records describe it as wooden with many spikes sticking out along the middle. It does have a hole at the top of one end as thought it might have been hung up. My question is what was it used for? Perhaps one of you would have the answer and could let us know, we will print the answer in the next issue.



Just a request in passing: the Archives are looking for a couple of legal size filing cabinets. We have some longer documents that should be stored in hanging file folders. However the only cabinets we have available are standard size and should not be used for documents of a legal size which should not be folded. If someone has a legal size cabinet they would like to donate it will be appreciated and put to good use. If you can help, just let us know and we will be by in a flash to pick it up. (or them, if you can spare more than one.)