

OLD TOWN TORONTO

Heritage Landscape and Resources Guide

Archival Repositories and Libraries

Physical Collections: Primary and Secondary Sources at Archival Repositories and Libraries

Not surprisingly, the principal collections of materials on the Old Town are housed by the City of Toronto Archives and the Toronto Public Library's Toronto Reference Library. These institutions continue to add to their holdings, especially as private collections are donated. For example, the Larry Becker Collection, a large collection bequeathed to the archives in 1999, is still being processed. Both the Archives and TPL are places where municipal and public records may be accessed.

The Old Town researcher should not, however, discount the numerous smaller archives belonging to various cultural organizations and business across the city. Any of these may house little-known records related to the Old Town, although often their holdings are not indexed online. As yet, there appears to be no comprehensive listing of Toronto archives. The closest approximation to it results from searching the Ontario Historical Society's Heritage Directory database for the GTA and then for "Toronto".

Organizations with histories firmly rooted in the Old Town are the most likely to house relevant materials. (A good example would be the Archives and Museum at St. James Cathedral.) Because of the city's prominence in Canada's history, larger archives such as the Archives of Ontario and Library and Archives Canada can also be fruitful research sources.

Repositories are making increasing efforts to digitize important documents and images. As such projects advance, it is worth checking online catalogues frequently for new digitization projects, exhibits, and scanned items. Section 4 gives some examples of these resources.

Source:

Thompson, Samantha PhD., Survey of Research Resources on Toronto's Old Town, for the Citizens for the Old Town, Toronto, Canada, , 2014

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