History

The City of Winnipeg Archives was born on February 9, 1874 when Council instructed A. M. Brown – named City Clerk earlier that day – to “obtain a cupboard to contain the Corporation papers.” The following year, Council authorized Brown to get “two or more tin or steel iron boxes to hold papers and documents for the year 1874.” Since that time, the “Corporation papers” have grown into a collection of nearly 20,000 linear feet of records and includes material from all amalgamated municipalities and the Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg.

R. M. of Charleswood
R. M. of Fort Garry
R. M. of North Kildonan
R. M. of Old Kildonan
Town of Tuxedo
City of East Kildonan
City of West Kildonan
City of St. Vital
City of Transcona
City of St. Boniface
City of St. James-Assiniboia
City of Winnipeg

Holdings

Historians, journalists, students, genealogists, legal researchers, business people, civic staff, elected city officials and the general public make use of the Archives to locate information about the physical growth and development of the City of Winnipeg; significant events in the City’s past; decisions and policies of City Council, civic departments and agencies; the history of civic functions and programs; the history of residential and commercial buildings and properties; biographies of Winnipeg citizens, primarily mayors, aldermen and councillors and other city officials.
Material available for consultation includes:

- Records of civic government from 1874.
- Records of civic departments.
- Tax rolls and assessment records.
- Municipal manuals and other civic publications.
- The City of Winnipeg Charter (and revisions).
- Council minutes and by-laws.
- Voter’s lists.
- Nomination papers and records of civic elections.
- Henderson Directories.
- Fire Insurance Atlases and other cartographic materials.
- Building, plumbing and electrical permits.

Information becomes knowledge through a flash of insight, through reasoning, reflection and learning that spans generations

(Ian Wilson, National Archivist of Canada)

When to come to the Archives

The Archives Research Room is open 8:30-4:30, Monday to Friday, except for statutory holidays. Please call for an appointment, so that we can better meet your needs.

Where to find the Archives

380 William Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3A 0J1
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e-mail: archives@winnipeg.ca