



Milo Library Archives



Bringing the history of Milo and area to Albertans, the Milo Library Archives project was recognized with an Honourable Mention award in the Heritage Awareness category during the AHRF Heritage Awards, Oct. 14. Joanne Monner of the Milo Library accepts the award from AHRF Board Chair Laurel Halladay and Director Robert Gaetz.

The following is the acceptance speech Joanne gave.

“First off I would like to thank the Alberta Historical Foundation for recognizing the Milo Library Archives in the Heritage Awareness category.

Milo is a Village of approximately 120 people with a surrounding community of about 400. After many years and several projects, experience has taught us that successfully achieving community goals relies heavily on two factors: partnerships and volunteers.

First, partnerships.

The Milo Lions Club partnered with us to create the Milo Lions Archivist Fellowship. Since 2011, they have funded the employment of a qualified summer student working in our archive. They also sponsored the training that was necessary for us to become a member of the Archives Society of Alberta. This training opened the door to further partnership with the Archives Society of Alberta, as well as a wider network of archives across the province.

The Access to Holdings grants sponsored by the Alberta Heritage Foundation that we have received for the last 3 years allowed us to hire a contract archivist (Roberta Kerr) for 10 weeks each year. Our Archives On-line Access Project is the result of those partnerships, as well as additional support from the Milo and District Agricultural Society for materials and supplies.

The Milo Library Board has supported the vision of a digital archive for our community since the inception of this project in 2011. It is a project that will serve to create linkages for our community around the world, being a searchable archive from anywhere online access is available.

The second factor to our success is our volunteers.

Countless volunteer hours have been put into the Milo Library Archives from inception.

To date we have over 9850 documents, 130 items and 840 photographs processed in our collection. This doesn't happen without volunteer help. It happens when a community hub such as a library is leveraged to organize volunteers around the creation of an archive. Our volunteers know that they are contributing to the creation of an important historical resource for our community, a resource that can then serve as our collective memory.

Experience has taught us that rural Alberta can not only survive but thrive, regardless of the size of one's community. We believe our project demonstrates that partnerships between government and civil society can realize great returns for a community and, in this case, Albertans.

While many communities document their local history, creating a local archive that abides by accepted archival practices and is accessible online is bit like running a marathon. To this end, toward finishing the marathon, we are truly thankful for the recognition of the Alberta Historical Foundation.”