

Research Guide 205  
Ontario Land Records Index

Last Updated: February 2023

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Smith, Bruce, Keswick Farm, circa 2002,  
Government of Ontario Art Collection, Acc.. 100214 (gift from the artist)

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## **In this guide**

This guide provides information on the Ontario Land Records Index.

The Ontario Land Records Index provides a reference to documents about individuals who:

- were authorized to locate on a piece of Crown Land (they did not always become the owner)
- leased or purchased land from the Canada Company
- were parts of groups of immigrants from Ireland whom Peter Robinson helped get land in the Peterborough area
- were offered land after 1901 for service during Fenian Raids (1860s) or the Boer War (1899 to 1902).

The Index covers the period from the 1780's to the 1920's. It is arranged into two sets of microfiches, arranged alphabetically:

- by person's NAME
- by TOWNSHIP, TOWN or CITY, then by concession and lot number

\*Please note: this guide contains links to information found in our online Microfilm Interloan Catalogue. On our website, this catalogue is found under "Access Our Collections". If you are using a print copy of this guide, go to page 4 for more information on how to find this information.

## **Where do I find the Ontario Land Records Index and the records it indexes?**

You can view Ontario Land Records Index in our reading room. It is located in two binders, one for each set of microfiche. You can also view the records it indexes, on microfilm. You do not need to order the Index or the microfilm in advance.

You can also borrow the Index and the microfilm (except for microfilm of Peter Robinson records) through libraries that offer interloan services. Some Ontario public libraries have a copy of the index.

## **What do I need to get started?**

You need a name or a location, and an approximate date.

## **How do I use the Index?**

The document “How to Use the Ontario Land Records Index” contains the following:

- a list of the microfiche
- examples of entries in the Index
- an explanation of the codes found in the Index
- lists of microfilm for records indexed on the microfiche

You will find this document: in the Reading Room in the binders that contain the microfiche; and on our Research Guides and Tools webpage under “Land Records”.

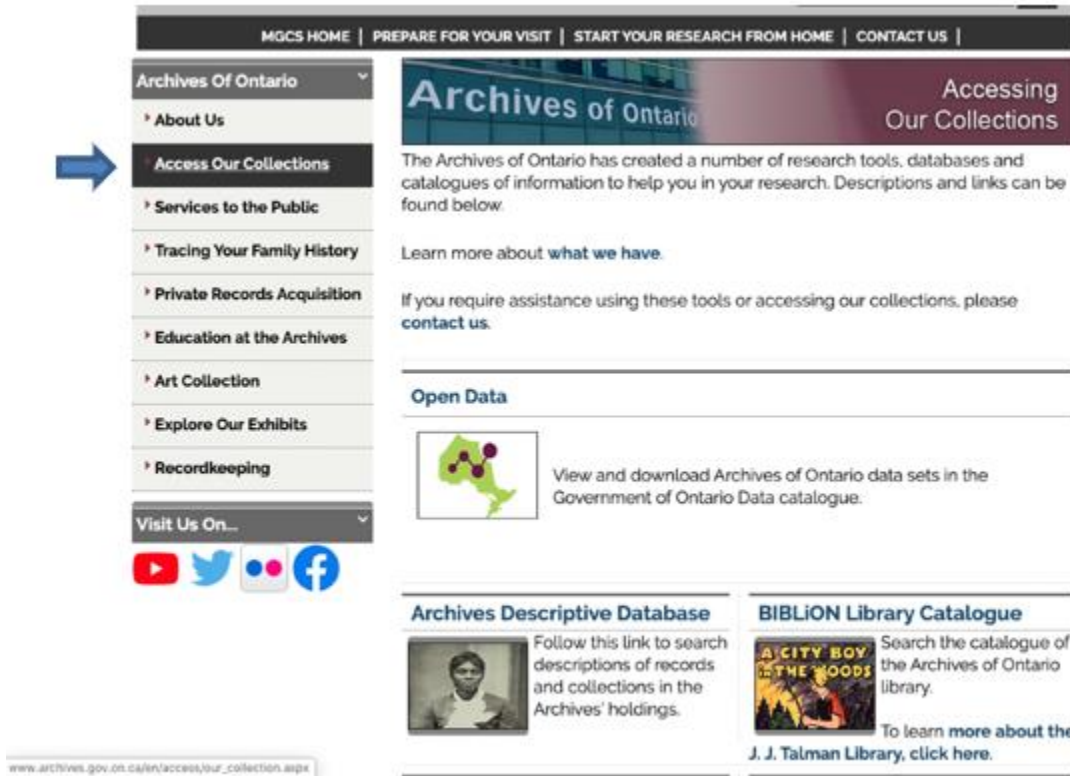
## **Are there related records?**

See the guides below for more information about records indexed on the microfiche, and other land records. On our website, you will find the “Research Guides and Tools” page under “Access Our Collections”.

- [click here to view research guide 215, Early Land Records, from the 1780s to the 1850s](#)
- [click here to view research guide 225, Crown Land Records](#)
- [click here to view research guide 231, Finding Land Registration Records](#)









# How do I get online information about the Ontario Land Records Index?

1. On our website's main page, click on "Access our Collections", as shown in the image below:



2. Scroll down and click on "Microfilm Interloan Catalogue":



<p><b>Archives Descriptive Database</b></p>  <p>Follow this link to search descriptions of records and collections in the Archives holdings.</p>	<p><b>BIBLION Library Catalogue</b></p>  <p>Search the catalogue of the Archives of Ontario library. To learn more about the J. J. Talman Library, click here.</p>
<p><b>Black and White Aerial Forestry Photographs</b></p>  <p>This interface serves as an index to the Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) aerial photography collection (RG 1-429-7).</p>	<p><b>The Changing Shape of Ontario</b></p>  <p>A Guide to Boundaries, Names and Regional Governments as they have evolved over time.</p>
<p><b>Digital Records Online</b></p>  <p>View actual 'born-digital' archival records from government and private donors that have been acquired by the Archives of Ontario.</p>	<p><b>Government of Ontario Art Collection Database</b></p>  <p>Explore a wide range of images of fine art collected over the last 150 years.</p>
<p><b>Immigration Records</b></p>  <p>This database is an index to the four volumes of assisted immigration registers created by the Toronto Emigrant Office between 1865 and 1883.</p>	<p><b>Microfilm Interloan Catalogue</b></p>  <p>The Microfilm Interloan Service allows you to borrow microfilmed archival records through a library or another institution belonging to the interlibrary loan network.</p>

3. Scroll down and click on Ontario Land Records Index on Microfiche”:

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**What Microfilm is Available on Interloan?**

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**Government Records**

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**Vital Statistics (Birth, Marriage & Death Records)**

Vital statistics are records pertaining to births, marriages and deaths within the province of Ontario. The Archives holds a significant number of these records. Births ranging from 1869-1917 are available on microfilm, as are marriages ca. 1801-1932, although there are many gaps in pre-1869 marriage records. Death records available on microfilm range from 1869-1942. Click on the link above for information on accessing these records on microfilm or online.

**Court Records**

The Archives has extensive records from courts around the province. These records deal with everything from minor criminal charges to district administration to wills and probate.

**Municipal Records**

This microfilm contains records created or collected by local government while performing their duties. Primarily created between 1845 and 1900, these records include: assessment and collector's rolls; local census records (pre-1851); voters lists and poll books; and local Town and Township council records.

**Crown Lands Records**

This microfilm contains documents relating to the grant, sale or lease of Crown Lands. Most of these records originated in the Office of the Surveyor General or the Crown Lands Department. Land patent indexes created by Provincial Secretary's Official Documents section are also included here, as are the records of the **First and Second Heir and Devisee Commission (1805-1911)**, which heard and ruled on claims to land made by the heirs, devisees, and assignees of original nominees for land.

➔ **Ontario Land Records Index on Microfiche (1780-1920)** provides access to Crown Land records and some land-related material found in the Canada Company and Peter Robinson funds. Also, please see **Research Guide 205: Using the Ontario Land Records Index ca. 1780-ca. 1920 - [Word, PDF]**.

**Records Of The Department Of Immigration (RG 11)**

This microfilm contains the surviving records of the Immigration Branch of the Ontario Department of

## Contact us

Although unable to do your research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. You may telephone or write to them by mail or email or — best of all — visit the Archives of Ontario.

**Telephone: 416-327-1600 Toll free (Ontario): 1-800-668-9933**

**Email:** [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](#). The e-mail address is [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca)

**Address: Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5**

## Website

Visit our website for information about our collections and our services, our online exhibits and education programs, and links to our social media accounts. [Click here to visit our website](#). The website is [www.archives.gov.on.ca/](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/)

## Customer Service and Research Guides

Our guides contain information about our services, freelance researchers available to do research for you, and some of most popular records. [Click here to view our guides](#). To find the “Research Guides and Tools” on our website, click on “Access our Collections”.

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This information is provided as a public service. Last update is shown at the beginning of this guide. Readers should where possible verify the information before acting on it.