This research guide provides:

- an overview of our collections and how to get more information about them
- a list of records in the Archives of Ontario collection and related records that are accessible at other Ontario government offices.

The Archives of Ontario has four groups of records. They are:

- Ontario government records
- Private sector records (records of individuals, business and organisations)
- Picture images
- Sound and moving images.

GETTING STARTED

For up-to-date information about our collections and services, click here to access the Archives of Ontario’s website. Our website has the following databases:

_In the “Accessing our Collection” section:_

Archives Descriptive Database (ADD) that includes descriptions of Ontario Government Records and Private Sector Records. Click here to access the Archives Descriptive Database.

BiBLION Library Catalogue that includes library materials. Click here to access the BiBLION Library catalogue.

Visual Database that includes images of selected items from our collections (photographs, documentary art, maps and architectural records). Click here to access the Visual Database.

Government of Ontario Arts Collection Database includes images of works of art owned by the Government of Ontario, most of them on display in various government buildings. Click here to access the Government of Ontario Art Collection Database.
Table 1, at the end of this guide, has information on where to look for the following commonly requested records:

- Corporations Files
- Crown Land Records
- Divorce Files
- Estate Files, including Wills
- Land Registry Records
- Partnership / Sole Proprietorship Registrations
- Vital Statistics.

THE RECORDS

Ontario Government Records

The Archives' Ontario government records date from the 18\textsuperscript{th} to the 21\textsuperscript{st} century. Current and past Ontario governments and their predecessors created most of these records. These records provide:

- a description of the evolution of provincial administration
- a record of the interaction between the government and its citizens
- documentation on political and legal decisions
- key evidence of the rights and responsibilities of Ontarians.

You can view and use them in the Archives' Reading Room. Many records are on microfilm and you can ask your local library to arrange an interlibrary loan.

Private Sector Records

The Archives has the records of over 2600 private individuals, businesses, clubs and associations, and labour and political organizations.

You can view and use them in the Archives' Reading Room. Many records are on microfilm and you can ask your local library to arrange an interlibrary loan.

Special Collections

The Archives' special collections include photographs, documentary art, architectural drawings and maps. Both private individuals and the government of Ontario created and collected these documents. They date from the 16\textsuperscript{th} to the 21\textsuperscript{st} century.

You can view and use them in the Archives' Reading Room. Click here to access some special collections that are accessible online using our Visual Database. Please see the “Getting Started” section, above.

Sound and Moving Images

The sound and moving images collection includes audio and video recordings and motion picture film material. Both private individuals and the government of
Ontario created this material. The collection dates from the 1920s to the 21st century.

**Archives of Ontario Library**

The Archives of Ontario Library is a non-circulating research and reference collection of approximately 70,000 items, relating primarily to the history of Ontario.

You can view and use the library collection in the Archives' Reading Room.

**Government of Ontario Arts Collection**

The Archives of Ontario is responsible for the Government of Ontario Arts Collection. The Collection was established in 1855 as an educational resource. It now includes more than 2500 works of arts of all types, most of which are on display at the Legislative Building (Queen's Park, Toronto) and at government buildings across the province.

**MAKING CONTACT**

**Ready and Willing**

Although unable to do your research for you, our reference staff 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.

**Contact us**

Telephone: 416-327-1600 Toll free (Ontario): 1-800-668-9933  
Fax: 416-327-1999  
Email: [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](mailto:archives@toronto.ca)  
Address: Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

**Website**

For information about the Archives’ holdings, as well as access to research guides and other customer service materials available through the Archives of Ontario. [Click here to visit the Archives of Ontario’s website](http://archives.gov.on.ca).

**Customer Service and Research Guides**

The Archives of Ontario has published a series of in-depth research guides on a variety of specific topics. For more information, please see “Research Guides and Tools” under “Accessing our Collection” on the home page of the Archives website.
This document may contain references to electronic links that can be activated only by using the PDF version found on the Archives of Ontario website.

This information is provided as a public service. Although we endeavour to ensure that the information is as current and accurate as possible, errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information. Readers should where possible verify the information before acting on it.
### Table 1 Locations of Commonly-Requested Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Record</th>
<th>Available at the Archives of Ontario</th>
<th>Available Only at Other Government Offices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vital Statistics</strong></td>
<td>The Archives holds indexes and registrations of: Births, ca. 1830-1917 (predominantly 1869-1917, also, a small number of delayed registrations for pre-1869 births) Marriages, ca. 1801-1937 (predominantly 1869-1936) Deaths, 1869-1947</td>
<td>The Office of the Registrar General holds indexes and registrations of: Births, 1918-present Marriages, 1938-present Deaths, 1948-present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Click here to access Research Guide 202: Vital Statistics Records](#) for more information, including how to contact the Office of the Registrar General.

[Click here to access Research Guide 210: Finding Divorce Files in Ontario](#) and [click here to access Research Guide 211: Finding York County Divorce Files](#) for more information, including how to contact local Courthouses and the Office of the Law Clerk.
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<tr>
<td>Estate Files (including Wills)</td>
<td>The Archives holds: Estate Files for most of Ontario, ca.1793-1976 (except Prince Edward County for which we only have up to 1930, and some other counties).</td>
<td>The local Courthouses hold: Estate Files, 1977-present</td>
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<td>Note: The Prince Edward County Archives in Picton holds original estate files for Prince Edward County up to 1969.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Click here to access Research Guide 206: How To Find A Will in Court Records for more information, including how to contact local Courthouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership/ Sole-Proprietorship Registrations</td>
<td>The Archives holds: Registrations for all of Ontario, 1855-1991 (predominantly 1870-1991), except for Thunder Bay District, pre-1973 For details, click here to search the Archives Descriptive Database for series RG 55-17 (for pre-1973 records) or RG 55-16 (for 1973-1991 records), or click here to access Research Guide 218: Partnership and Benevolent Society Register Records.</td>
<td>The Companies and Personal Property Security Branch, Ministry of Government Services (Service Ontario) holds: Registrations, 1992-present Contact: Companies and Personal Property Security Branch, Ministry of Government Services (Service Ontario) 393 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Suite 200 Toronto, ON, M5G 2M2 Phone: 416-314-8880 The Thunder Bay Land Registry Office holds Registrations, pre-1973 Contact: Thunder Bay Land Registry Office 189 Red River Road, Suite 201 Thunder Bay ON P7B 1A2 Tel: (807) 343-7436 Fax: (807) 343-7439</td>
</tr>
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<td>Type of Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations Files</td>
<td>The Archives holds: Corporation Files and Charter Books for companies which were defunct as of 1907, Corporation files of companies that went defunct between 1907 and 1978, with Corporations File Numbers TC1 to TC3155, TC3221, and TC21293 to TC 23885. Part of some corporation files for corporations that were created between 1907 and the early 1970's and were still active as of 1978. Charter Books, 1907-1971. (Note: Use the more complete corporation files from the Companies and Personal Property Security Branch, Ministry of Government Services, rather than the Charter Books). For details, <a href="#">click here to access Research Guide 217: Corporation Records of the Government of Ontario.</a></td>
<td>The Companies and Personal Property Security Branch, Ministry of Government Services (Service Ontario) holds: Corporations Files of companies existing in or created after 1978 (exception for parts of some files for companies created between 1907 and the early 1970's) Corporations Files of companies that went defunct between 1907 and 1978 with file number TC3156 to TC3220, TC3222 to TC21292, and above TC23885. Contact: Companies and Personal Property Security Branch, Ministry of Government Services (Service Ontario) 393 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Suite 200 Toronto, ON, M5G 2M2 Phone: 416-314-8880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankruptcy files</td>
<td>The Archives holds bankruptcy files for bankruptcies up to 1989, and some bankruptcies, 1989-1995. For more information, <a href="#">click here to access Research Guide 229, Finding Bankruptcy Records.</a></td>
<td>The courts hold records for some bankruptcies for 1990-1995, and all bankruptcies from 1996 to present. For information on how to access these records, <a href="#">click here to access the Website of the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcies.</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Land Records</td>
<td>The Archives holds extensive Crown land records, including those relating to the granting of Crown land to private citizens. Commonly requested records include:</td>
<td>The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources: issues copies of patents has a large quantity of Crown land survey diaries, field notes and reports, in addition to the ones at the Archives.</td>
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</tbody>
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2. [click here to access Research Guide 229, Finding Bankruptcy Records.](#)
<table>
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| Ontario Land Records Index, ca.1780-ca.1920  
Land petitions  
Land patent indexes  
Patent plans, [178]-1977  
Township papers, ca.1783-ca.1870 | For copies of patents, contact:  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Regional Operations Division  
Integration Branch  
Program Services Section  
Lands Business Unit  
5th Floor, South Tower  
300 Water Street  
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7  
Phone: 1-888-551-5552  
Fax: 705-755-2181  
[Click here to access the Website of the Land Business Unit]  
[Click here to e-mail the Land Business Unit] |
| For more information on using these and other Crown land records for genealogical research, [click here to access Research Guide 215: From Grant to Patent: A Guide to Early Land Settlement Records, ca.1790 to ca.1850.](#) | For information on survey diaries, field notes and reports, contact:  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Corporate Management and Information Division  
Mapping and Information Resources Branch  
Office of the Surveyor General  
Crown Land Surveys  
2nd Floor, North Tower  
300 Water Street  
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7  
Phone: 705-755-2100  
Fax: 705-755-2149  
[Click here to e-mail Crown Land Surveys](#) |

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| **Land Registry Offices Records** | The records of Land Registry Offices (LROs) document transactions relating to privately owned land. The Archives holds the following LRO records: Original Records  
- instruments and deeds up to 1867  
- copybooks up to 1955 (many have been placed on long-term loan with local repositories)  
- some post-1867 instruments and deeds, where the copybooks are missing  
Microfilm Copies  
- copybooks, abstract indexes, and alphabetical indexes,  
ca.1795-ca.1960, predominantly to ca.1880  
Original records are closed for conservation reasons. Microfilm only can be used. For more information, click here to access Research Guide 231: Finding land registration records. | Land Registry Offices (LROs):  
LROs are responsible for maintaining a complete set of land registry records.  
In cases where the LRO has transferred original records to the Archives or to a local institution, the LRO should have copies of those records on microfilm.  
LRO addresses and phone numbers can be found in the "Blue Pages" of Telephone Directories, or the Government of Ontario website; click here to access the Government of Ontario website.  
Note: The Archives and LROs have placed some original copybooks, abstract indexes, and other documents in local archives, museums, and other repositories. |