| **Archives of Ontario** | Government of Ontario logo |
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| Pathfinder to  Death Registrations  Last Updated: August 2024 | |

This Pathfinder will guide you through the **Indexes** to the **Registration Number** andthen to the **Registration**. To find the matching microfilm reel numbers for the Indexes and the Registrations, consult the appendix listings in the ***Deaths* *Binder***for ***Inventory 80 (Records of the Office of the Registrar General)*** *o*r follow the links below. The microfilm is available in the Archives Reading Room through interlibrary loan.

Please note: Deaths are no longer microfilmed as of 1942 and can only be accessed through ancestry.ca, which holds digital birth records from 1869-1950. The microfilmed registrations are also available on ancestry.ca, website; [click here to access the ancestry.ca website](http://www.ancestry.ca). Ancestry can be accessed without a membership at the Archives of Ontario and many public libraries at [ancestryinstitution.ca](https://ancestryinstitution.ca). Registrations for 1869-1937 are also available for free (with registration) on the familysearch.org website; [click here to access the Family Search website](http://www.familysearch.org).

**Person’s Name: Death Date:**

## Step 1: When did the death occur?

| **Before July 1869** | **Between July 1869 and December 1942** | **After 1942** |
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| **Deaths were not registered**  For other possible sources:   * [click here to consult Research Guide 204 (Sources for Births, Marriages and Deaths records).](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/research_guide_204_birth_marriage_death.pdf) * Consult the “Related Records” and “Associated Materials” sections in the ***Deaths Binder***. | See: Registration Indexes   * [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Indexes to Deaths](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_di_t.aspx) or view A8in the ***Deaths Binder*** to match the year and first initial of the surname to the corresponding **MS 937** microfilm reel (index) * The reels are in the **Self Service Microfilm Area.** * If you find the name of the person, go to Step 2 below. | **1943-1950:** These records are available on the ancestry.ca website. [Click here to access ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca/)  **1951-1953:** These records are closed for digitization and will be available on <ancestry.ca> when complete. Contact us if you require a copy for legal or humanitarian purposes.  **1954-Present:** These records are located at the **Office of the Registrar General:**  189 Red River Road  P.O. Box 4600  Thunder Bay, Ontario  P7B 6L8  Phone: 416-325-8305  Toll-free in Ontario: 1-800-461-2156  [Click here to access the Service Ontario website](http://www.serviceontario.ca) |

## Step 2: Did you find the Person’s Name on the Indexes to Deaths?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| **Write down:**  **Six-Digit Registration Number** **(ignore any hyphens):**  **Two-Digit Registration year (not the death year):**  Examples of the registration number and year entry from the Indexes to Deaths**:**  Example from the 1898 Index  Example of the registration number and year from the 1898  death registration index.  Example from the 1939 Index  Example of the registration number and year from the 1932  death registration index. | **Consult Original Indexes, 1869-1911:**   * For **July**-**Dec**. **1869**, retrieve **MS 938, reel 1** * For **1870**-**1911**, [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Original Index Books to Death Registrations](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_doi_t.aspx) or view A14 in the ***Deaths***binder to identify the **MS 942**microfilm reel you need to consult   If you find the person’s name:   * Write down the **registration year**, **county or district**, **volume number or letter**, and **folio (page) number**. * [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Registrations of Deaths (listed geographically](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_dgeo1_t.aspx) or view B3 in the ***Deaths Binder*** to identify the microfilm reel matching the **Registration Year**, **volume number or letter**, and **folio number**.   If the person’s name is not on these reels, the death was probably NOT registered with the Government of Ontario. |

## Step 3: What is the Registration Number?

| **Between  0-199999** | **Between  200000-399999** | **Above 400000** |
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| Remove the “0” or “00” at the start of the Registration Number.  [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Registrations of Deaths](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_dr1_t.aspx) or view A7 in the ***Deaths Binder*** to identify the microfilm reel matching the **Registration Year** and **Registration Number**.  Look up the Registration number on the microfilm. | Remove the “2” or “3” or “4” at the start of the Registration Number.  [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Registrations of Deaths](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_dr1_t.aspx)or view A7 in the ***Deaths Binder*** to identify the microfilm reel matching the **Registration Year** and **Registration Number**.    Look up the Registration number on the microfilm. | These records are at the **Office of the Registrar General**  189 Red River Road  P.O. Box 4600  Thunder Bay, Ontario  P7B 6L8  Phone: 416-325-8305  Toll-free in Ontario: 1-800-461-2156  [Click here to access the Service Ontario website](http://www.serviceontario.ca) |