

CITY ARCHIVES HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDER

- 1979** Municipal records up to 1930 were donated to the Saskatoon office of the Provincial Archives to assist in the research for a Saskatoon history book (“Saskatoon: the first half-century”) by U of S Archivist Stan Hanson and English professor and heritage advocate Don Kerr, to be published in time for the civic centennial in 1982.
- 1985** A formal contract was signed between the City of Saskatoon and the provincial archives for it to manage our archival records, including hiring the first City Archivist, Glenda Leslie. This was the same model used by the City of Regina for its Archives.
- 1992** The City chose not to renew the contract, and the records were moved into storage in a commercial records centre. At a meeting on Oct 13, 1992, City Council approved a budget for 1993 that would include hiring a professional archivist on a half-time contract, with the archives to fall under administration of the City Clerk’s Office.
- 1993** Elizabeth Diamond, previously Acting Director at the Diefenbaker Centre, started as the new City Archivist on August 10, 1993. Space was found for the archives in the City Stores Building (the Arthur Cook Building at 88-24th Street East). Her priority was to begin moving records from the records centre to the new archive’s facility.
- 1994** Erik Anderson succeeded Liz Diamond as City of Saskatoon contract Archivist.
- 1997** Jeff O’Brien succeeded Erik Anderson. The City Archivist position was still a part-time (four days/week) contract.
- 1999** On Jan 1, 1999, the City Archivist position became a full-time, permanent position in the City Clerk’s Department.
- 2010** The Arthur Cook Building was sold, and the City Archives moved temporarily into a leased space near the Saskatoon Airport on Cardinal Crescent. That year, an Assistant Archivist position was also created.

At one time or another in this period (1994-2022) there was talk about possible permanent locations for the Archives, including the Homestead Furniture Building on First Avenue, Fire Hall No. 5 (in Sutherland), Fire Hall No. 7 (on Taylor Street), the Gathercole Building (River Landing), the new Downtown library and others, as well as between the various archival institutions in Saskatoon of a “One Big Archives” shared space concept. None of these passed the discussion stage.

- 2022** Plans by SREDA to end its lease of space on the main floor of the Civic Square East building (CSE), the erstwhile Saskatoon Post Office, in 2023, and a decision by City Clerk's to move the City Archives there.
- 2023** Planning and design of the new archive's facility. Tenders are let and construction began in late fall.
- 2024** Construction is scheduled to be complete on May 1, 2024. Preparation for the move of the City Archives and its collection began in January 2024. The Archives will close to the public on April 8 with Moving Day tentatively scheduled for May 6. The Archives is expected to re-open in its new, forever home in June 2024.