

## VITAL STATISTICS now transferred to Archives of Ontario

On Aug. 29, the Archives of Ontario finally received a transfer of vital statistics registrations from the Registrar General of Ontario. Included in this transfer were: Births 1869-1895, Marriages 1869-1910 and Deaths 1869-1920. Also included were certain related historical records-- for example, direct clergy returns for BMDs and registration of deaths for Ontario residents overseas during and immediately following WW11.

The main BMD registrations are indexed first by year, then alphabetically by name, within the year. Geographical location of the event is also given in the index.

The Archives is awaiting a legal decision on how the Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy Act (FOI/POP) will affect access to the Birth and Marriage records, however the Death records of the dates transferred will not be restricted under the Act.

Records declared open under the FOI/POP Act will be made available in three stages:

Stage 1 - Partial reference during microfilming (8-12 months from date of transfer). The Archives will provide a limited search service as soon as access rules have been determined. Don't send requests until the Archives announces that this service has begun!

Service will be limited to : a) persons requiring certified transcripts for legal or other mandatory requirements; b) Ontario residents who can provide full name, date and place of event. Researchers will be limited to 4 research requests during this period. There will be no charge for this service.

Stage 2 - After completion of the first set of microfilm, reels for all open records will be available in the Reading Room at the Archives.

Stage 3 - Film will be available for sale or loan nationally and internationally. The full set will consist of 500 to 600 reels.

For more information, write to : Public Service Section, Att'n. Vital Statistics Reference Archivist, Archives of Ontario, 77 Grenville St., Toronto, ON. M7A 2R9. You can call the Vital statistics Hotline at (416) 327-1593, for recorded updates, 24 hours a day.

BMD registrations dated later than this period are still in the custody of the Registrar General ( Births after 1895, Marriages after 1910 and Deaths after 1920). If you seek information from these later records, write to: The Office of the Registrar General, P.O. Bos 4600, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L8. Be prepared to wait - the office has recently moved to Thunder Bay and is not ( to put it mildly) up to peak efficiency. According to a revised schedule (July 15, 1991) the fee for a "genealogy search" is \$22.00.

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