**People’s Archive of Rural Ontario (PARO)**

**Hiring Research Assistants for Spring 2021**

**About PARO**

The People’s Archive of Rural Ontario (PARO) is a collaborative project between the University of Guelph and the Rural Ontario Institute ([ROI](https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/)) that aims to mobilize and amplify rural voices and stories and to contribute to the revitalization of rural Ontario. PARO takes inspiration from the rural archives of India ([PARI](https://ruralindiaonline.org/en/)) and Nova Scotia ([PARNS](https://www.parns.ca/)) with the aim of establishing a freely accessible online archive and community, where everyday people can tell everyday stories about everyday lives in and about rural Ontario.

PARO is currently engaged in collecting stories on the theme of **crisis and change**, highlighting personal and community stories of rural resilience from a broad range of sources to be produced for the archive as **text, audio, video, and/or photography.** The theme of crisis and change can be interpreted broadly and in various ways. For example, stories may engage with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic but are certainly not limited to this particular crisis as rural experiences of struggle, contention, and resilience predate and extend beyond Covid-19.

**The Role: Research Assistant**

We are currently recruiting five paid student Research Assistants to solicit, record, and produce rural stories on the theme of crisis and change for the PARO archive and website. Research Assistants will work on a 10-week contract (approximately 4 hours per week, flexible) with the PARO editorial team to follow a story (one’s own idea or following an assigned lead) from inception to the final editorial stages. Stories may be produced for the archive in written, audio, video, and/or photographic methods depending on the interest and expertise of the Research Assistant and the preferences of the storyteller(s).

Research Assistants will receive training from the PARO team and build skills in research ethics, oral history methods, and journalistic editing. There will be opportunities for Research Assistants to extend their contracts if interested in producing multiple stories with PARO after the initial contract.

Tasks for the position include but are not limited to:

- soliciting a story (or following a story lead) on crisis and change in a rural context

- documenting a story via interviews/oral history narratives or written methods

- working with the editorial team in editing and producing stories for the archive

**About You**

Interested candidates must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate study program at the University of Guelph and have an interest in storytelling and listening to/ valuing the lived experiences of others. Prior experience in interviewing and content editing (writing, audio/podcasting, videography, or photojournalism) are considered an asset.

The position will enhance the Research Assistants’ skills in interviewing, ethical research, and editing/producing content (written, audio, video, photography).

**To Apply**

Please submit the following:

- Up-to-date CV

- A short statement of interest (not exceeding 250 words) describing relevant experience and your interest in PARO.

-Writing sample (or a sample of your audio, video, or photographic work)

Please email your application to: [paro@uoguelph.ca](mailto:paro@uoguelph.ca) with the subject heading “Application for Research Assistant” by **March 26.**