



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SHAMIN MALMAS, PRESIDENT

Thank you to everyone who took time to attend the AGM and Institutional Forum held in Edmonton last May. Member feedback and input at these meetings is crucial to ensuring the Archives Society of Alberta continues to offer programs, services, and workshops that meet the needs of our institutional, associate and individual members.

The ASA Board was sad to say goodbye to Judy Kovacs (Secretary) after many years of service and Melissa McCarthy (Vice-President) due to health issues. The ASA thanks Judy for her many years of dedication to the Board and wishes Melissa a speedy recovery.

I would also like to extend a formal welcome our new board members Sara King (Secretary) and Meribeth Plenert (Vice-President). The new Board has already had one meeting and I look forward to another exciting year.

As many members know Library and Archives Canada announced a new grant program offering financial assistance to archives

across the country. The Documentary Heritage Community Program (DCHP) aims to increase access to and awareness of Canada's local documentary institutions and their holdings; and also aims to increase the capacity of local documentary heritage institutions to better sustain and preserve Canada's documentary heritage. Unfortunately the eligibility criteria for the DCHP are very limited and many of the ASA institutional members are unable to apply directly for funding. With this in mind, the ASA Board has submitted an application that, if accepted, will benefit all ASA institutional members.

Last but not least, the ASA Board is happy with the Archives Week Launch. Our theme this year was

Alberta for Sale and it focused on the records of Alberta businesses held in repositories across the Province.

Our launch event, organized by the Communications Committee, is a film night that was held at The Metro Cinema in Edmonton on October 3 at 7:00 pm. The films selected included archival footage of commercials that were produced by various businesses and municipalities in Alberta ca. 1950-1990. ASA Institutional members can receive a copy of the films and we encourage those that are not able to attend the launch event in Edmonton to host their own film night to celebrate Archives week.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

The summer was full of site visits for institutional reviews, member requests and non-member requests. In July, I drove down to Sylvan Lake to meet the Board of the Sylvan Lake and District Archives. They had general questions about their archives. After Sylvan Lake, I drove down to Okotoks to talk with a woman about the archives for Christ the Redeemer Roman Catholic School Board. The woman was volunteering for a short while for the summer. She had a small percentage of their archives that she wanted to make accessible so I spent half a day with her creating an arrangement plan for the records she was working with and showing her very basic data elements to include in her description.



The following week, I went north, and far north to Grande Prairie and Peace River. It is interesting how both of these archives serve as almost a county archives for their areas. Grande Prairie is experiencing some change as Leslie Gordon is soon taking maternity leave and Mary Nutting, the Executive Director is cutting back on her hours. I then drove to Peace River, which is actually quite a long drive from Grande Prairie. I visited the provincial site, Historic Dunvegan, on my way as I really needed a break from driving. They have some interesting buildings on their site from the mission and fort.

I spent about half a day visiting with Peace River Museum, Archives and MacKenzie Centre. They have a new person working in the archives, Carson Murphy. I met with him and their Executive Director and we discussed several questions that they had. We also discussed the issue of having difficulties to find trained people to work in remote communities such as Peace River.

The week after, I visited with Lac LaBiche Mission Historical Society, an ASA Associate member. I got a little lost on the way, but eventually found the National Historic site. We discussed what materials were and were not archival, as well as what the benefits of full ASA membership are. I hope they pursue full membership.

Besides the site visits, I was busy in the early fall with applying for a DHCP grant, the Managing Electronic Records workshop, preparing for an ASA Board meeting, supervising the Flood Advisory Programme, seeking a new Database and Administrative Assistant and planning for and implementing our annual Archives Week. We are also at the early stages of conference planning for the spring, looking at training for AOR, updating and creating policies, and gearing up for the onslaught of events that happen in the late winter and early spring 2016. Have a wonderful fall! I certainly enjoy fall as it is my time to get prepared for our busy spring at ASA.

"ENTERTAIN FIRST, EDUCATE SECOND"

VINO VIPULANANTHARADJAH, ARCHIVIST, MUSEE HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Association of Canadian Archivists' 40th annual conference took place in Regina, SK from June 11-13, 2015. With the theme of "Perspectives on the Archival Horizon", the conference looked at various topics such as community archives, social justice, outreach, digital preservation, technology, social media, and changes within the archival profession through seminar sessions with panelists, poster presentations, case studies, exhibits, and keynote speakers. I am always excited to attend the conference so that I can see what my fellow colleagues in Canada and around the world are up to. And it's not just archivists, but I am also interested in hearing from individuals outside our realm, who have come to become users and huge supporters of archives.

The conference began with opening speaker, Gail Bowen, author of the Joanne Kilbourn murder mysteries, which are set in Saskatchewan. Bowen, an avid user of archives, has her archival records and manuscripts held at the University of Regina Archives. This also inspired her to set a murder in the Archives in her novel, *Burying Ariel*. One of the tips she gave was that archivists should visit English classes and writing classes to get more writers aware of the archives for their research. I found this aspect of the outreach archivist to be a driving point for almost all of the sessions I attended at the conference.

Other highlights from the conference included a session with staff of the National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NRCTR). The NRCTR, located at the University of Manitoba, has a mandate of archiving as complete an historical record as possible of the Indian Residential School (IRS) system and legacy. They are on their way to digitizing close to 4 million records. They are concerned with making sure there is access to records, and at the same time respect privacy of individuals. We were shown a preview of the website that they are about to launch that will host most of the digitized records. It really will leave a lasting legacy for those looking into the history of the IRS. This was definitely one of the sessions I was looking forward to. As someone who deals with a lot of requests dealing with Aboriginal families in St. Albert, I felt it was pertinent to see the development of the NRCTR and how it can come to be a useful centre for all across Canada.

Another major theme at this conference was the use of social media going on in archives. This is an aspect that I have been trying to broaden at our museum and so it was interesting to see the different media outlets archivists are using to various degrees of success. Presenters showed various examples of how they used their archival holdings on things like Flickr, Facebook, Tumblr, blogs, Twitter, and YouTube in order to bring more attention to the archives. Simon Fraser University

created a website to talk about the Komagata Maru incident of 1914 where migrants on a ship from British India were turned away from Vancouver. SFU was successful in their mandate to engage the public by building partnerships, such as with the government of India, and working with the Indian Canadian community to share a variety of different types records in order to bring light to this tragic event in Canadian history.

Despite the usage of new media, something that resonated with me was the message from Jeff O'Brien at the City of Saskatoon Archives. He talked about his experience of building public awareness of the archives through traditional media forms, such as television, radio, and newspapers. He has hosted programs on TV and written articles for the local newspaper. His message is that the traditional media is not dead yet, and it already has a built in audience for archivists to reach. His secret for building awareness is that people like stories and humour, and thus we should "entertain first, educate second". And he is a strong proponent that archivists must do this, not someone else. I believe the point here is that once we can get people through the door, they will see the multitude of uses for the archives.

There were also a series of sessions on community outreach that I attended. Excellent case studies were presented where archivists actively went out to reach different audiences. Jennifer Weymark of Oshawa Community Museum partnered with a high school to incorporate archival materials into their curriculum to teach about World War I. Rachel Beattie at Media Commons of the University of Toronto used their holdings from a television production company to develop a trivia night session based on the TV show, *Degrassi*. All of the presenters clearly illustrated that a lot of time and effort goes into outreach, but it is something that can result in some very positive exposure and usage of the archives. A tip that I learned, you may not want to hold your major events in the winter where cold nights could scare people away. And a message to all archivists, brush up on your cursive writing, or at least how to read it. Since a lot of the younger generations are no longer being taught cursive writing, there will be difficulty in reading older documents in archives. So there may be a lot of work needed in transcribing documents.

It was another informative conference put together by the ACA. It was great to see some old friends and colleagues and see the progress archivists are making in their never ending efforts to bring awareness to the archives. I was happy to see that there are some very positive people working in our profession that is a horizon with many different perspectives.

IAML/IMS CONFERENCE 2015

BONNIE WOELK, ARCHIVIST, ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

I attended a joint conference of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) and the International Musicology Society in New York City from June 21-26. "Music Research in the Digital Age" focused on music resources available in digital form, and the connections between archives, libraries, and music research.

I needed to attend the conference because professional development opportunities focusing on music archives are not offered very frequently in Canada, and my professional responsibilities have expanded to include the acquisition and processing of fonds related to music. The conference helped me learn more about music primary sources and current music research that uses these sources. Topics included online access to music archives descriptions around the world through indexes such as ArchiveGrid and WorldCat, and digitization projects aimed at preserving audio records

and making them more widely available. Of particular interest to the archivists at my institution were two papers on incorporating print and digital primary sources into music archives literacy training for students, part of our professional responsibilities. I presented a paper on primary sources available in digital form related to the study of Canadian hymnody; it was well received and resulted in a number of contacts with music researchers and colleagues responsible for music archives.

I also attended IAML's Membership Committee, of which I am a member. The committee rewrote the official web page promoting the value of IAML membership for individuals and institutions associated with music archives and libraries. I suggested means by which IAML could become better known to the Canadian archival community.

CHALLENGES, OBLIGATIONS, OR IMPERATIVES?

RENE GEORGOPALIS, ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

This August, I attended an archives conference in Dublin, Ireland, organized by the Archives and Records Association of UK and Ireland (ARA). It was the first non-Canadian archives conference that I have ever attended. The theme was "Challenges, Obligations, or Imperatives? The Moral and Legal Role of the Record Keeper Today." Because of the theme of moral imperatives, the issue of the archivist as an activist came up many times throughout the conference, but there were other talks addressing legal issues, general projects archivists have undertaken, digital preservation and various other topics. Interestingly, sessions for archivists and conservators were offered at this conference.

The professional association, ARA, is set-up differently from the Canadian associations. ARA represents both institutions and individual archivists, and then regional associations also exist but they are all under the aegis of ARA. ARA has an archival accreditation program for archival institutions, but this program is quite new. It is similar to ASA's institutional membership except the accreditation by ARA is done at a much higher level - it would be like CCA having an accreditation program. Additionally, they offer a registration program for individual archivists. After an archivist finishes his or her graduate degree in archival studies, he/she may complete various criteria, such as professional



A street in Dublin

development and participating in associations, in order to be a registered archivist. Many job postings in the UK and Ireland require that an archivist is registered through ARA and the program allows for individual archivists to meet their individual professional goals. I found the way that the associations operate interesting, since I too work for an association. Their system of associations seems much more connected than the Canadian associations which are more independent from one another rather than under one aegis.



Margaret Procter's session at the ARA conference

In addition to learning about how the ARA association functioned, the conference talks were very good as well. My favorite talk during the conference was given by Margaret Procter who is currently a professor at the University of Liverpool. She discussed our current trend in archives in which we label the archivist as an activist. She discussed other trends in time when the archivist was the historian, bureaucrat or genealogist and she argued that these different contexts of our role confuse the public as to what we do. She argued that

we need to be clear with the public that the archivist's role is to provide a "human need to safeguard and provide evidence of our rights." The idea of rights is historically contingent. She then argued that when we are advocating for our profession, we need to show our inherent value in these human rights.

Other talks that interested me included the keynote who compared two case studies - one of the Belfast oral histories project kept at Boston College and the other a Mississippi oral project about the activities of the KKK. The talk looked at the record keeper's obligation and confidentiality and how the law can access restricted records as well as the archivist's role in facilitating justice.

The National Archives of Scotland discussed how they are about to undergo its first national inquiry into residential schools in Scotland. I found this initiative interesting as we are just finishing up with the TRC in Canada. It seems like all the commonwealth nations are having some sort of inquiry into residential schools at relatively the same time.

I really enjoyed Dublin and the conference that I attended. It was a nice fresh perspective to see what else is happening in the archival world outside of Canada and I found that some of the discussions in Canada are similar to discussions in Ireland and the UK.

ALBERTA ON RECORD UPDATE

MARYNA CHERNYAVSKA, DATABASE & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

In the end of August, 2015, the Archives Society of Alberta re-opened its archival database, *Alberta on Record* (AOR), for its institutional members. After several significant improvements to the application and a thorough clean up of the data, ASA members can now add new archival descriptions, update records, and upload digital objects.

Alberta on Record is a provincial archival database and an access point to the numerous archival collections in Alberta. AOR is based on AtoM - a web-based open source application, now in its 2.2 version, developed by Artefactual with support from the International Council of Archives. Although ICA is not collaborating with Artefactual on this project any more, AtoM is widely used by many governmental, university and other archives in Canada and abroad including Canadian Council of Archives. The CCA is going to launch their database shortly. It will include archival descriptions from all provincial databases, including AOR.

To help members work with AOR, we revised the AOR Manual and added links to many resources that will be useful for those who are just starting to work with AOR as well as for the seasoned users. Have a look at the Appendix and watch short videos to refresh your skills browsing and searching AtoM. Learn ins and outs of

AtoM watching an hour long webinar by Artefactual. Dive deeper into the subject and learn the intricacies of batch upload, csv/xml import and other AOR features in the AtoM new wiki. The AOR Manual is available on our website at archivesalberta.org/doc/AOR_manual.pdf. We will be adding new educational resources to the Appendix as they become available.

The ASA will be offering AOR training in the near future. The date and location will be announced to the ASA members. Meanwhile it is imperative that the members are familiar with the AOR Manual, as it contains details specific to AOR. I am always ready to answers any questions you may have. Please email your questions to archives.database@gmail.com.

And yet more positive changes are on the way. The Archives Society of Alberta decided to upgrade the hosting plan for AOR. In the near future, *Alberta on Record* will reside on its own dedicated server that will provide more flexibility, additional features and improve the database performance.

The ASA is proud to provide *Alberta on Record* to its members, and access to the wealth of archival materials in the province to thousands of its visitors.

LIGHTS, CAMERA ... ACTION!

AMANDA OLIVER, LEAD ARCHIVIST, EMILY TURGEON-BRUNET, LEAD CONSERVATOR

The Lead Team of the Flood Advisory Programme spent June collaborating with Edmonton based film production company, Back Road Productions. They wrote and filmed six how-to video guides for the Flood Assistance webpage. They worked with Producer and Director, Dylan Rhys Howard, and Cinematographer, Christina Ienna to create easy-to-follow, and visually interesting videos. The topics of the how-to video guides include: How to Complete Mylar Encapsulation, How to Remove Mould from Paper Records, How to Handle Wet Paper, How to Pack Wet Records, How to Humidify and Flatten Records, and How to Dry Wet Records. All of the videos are under 5 minutes in length.

The filming took place in a 1950s themed science classroom at the Edmonton Public Schools Archives & Museum located at 10425 99th Ave. NW. The science classroom provided the perfect filming space for the Lead Team's educational videos. The Lead Team would like to thank the Edmonton Public School Archives & Museum staff for their generosity and support.



From left: Christina Ienna and Emily Turgeon-Brunet, filming: Mylar Encapsulation

The Lead Team learned that in addition to preparing the scripts and purchasing the necessary supplies, there are many factors that need to be considered when filming how-to videos. A lot of work goes into preparing the set, such as ensuring that lighting is evenly diffused, microphones do not pick up static or extraneous noise, and the set is organized in such a way that the final product does not have continuity errors. Large amounts of equipment were needed to achieve different angles, such as a jib, used for taking overhead shots of the supplies. To achieve consistent lighting the windows were covered using blinds that were attached to tripods. This allowed for easy set-up and take-down and also eliminated the need to attach anything to the walls, ceilings, or windows themselves.

It was a fun to test the waters of acting, but the Lead Team has decided they prefer to write disaster plans, site assessments and complete conservation treatments instead. They invite you to take a look at their webpage and blog as they continue to add new resources!



Amanda Oliver, filming: How to Pack Wet Records

REPORT ON ARCHIVES WEEK 2015

RENE GEORGOPALIS, ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA



This year, Archives Week was from October 3 - 9 and we launched the week with a film night entitled *Alberta for Sale*. The film night was held at the Metro Cinema, or Garneau Theatre, in Edmonton and we had our largest Archives Week launch attendance with 86 people in the audience. For the first time, a politician gave greetings at the event - MLA Feehan of Edmonton-Rutherford came in the place of our Minister of Culture and Tourism, David Eggen. The film night consisted of commercials from Alberta to fit our theme this year of advertising in Alberta. The commercials ranged in date from the 1950s to the 1990s and it seemed that the commercials were enjoyed by those who attended as there was much laughter in the audience. The event

was a success and ASA would like to thank all of its members who helped to make Archives Week happen this year. We hope that we reached out to new people in the public who may not have known much about archives.

The calendars have been mailed out to Alberta's politicians and to our institutional members, and will soon be sent to our individual members. We have already received positive feedback on the calendars from some MLAs, so thanks again to all those members who submitted images for the calendar. In the next issue of our newsletter, we shall report on the events at various archives during the week.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Lesser Slave Lake Archives Indian Regional Council, Treaty and Aboriginal Right's Research archives, has a new archivist, Edward Coltof. Leslie Gordon, Archivist at South Peace Regional Archives and former ASA Institutional Member-at-Large is expecting a baby this month. Perhaps she will already have welcomed her baby into the world by the time the newsletter is published. Lastly, Meribeth Plenert was married in August. Congratulations!

The Archives Society of Alberta News is published quarterly by the ASA. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to:

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Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the Archives Society of Alberta News, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Please note:

Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.

If you are interested to learn more about advertising opportunities, please direct all inquiries to info@archivesalberta.org

NEWSLETTER

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The views expressed in the Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta.

ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2015 – 2016

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