



## ASA CONFERENCE - BANFF 2010

Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor

Amidst the soaring peaks that surround Banff, a group of archivists and librarians will gather to discuss the touchy subjects of independence, evolving identities, and convergence as well as their impact on both professions and the institutions in which they work.



From May 13-16, the Archives Society of Alberta will hold its biennial conference at the Max Bell Pavilion at the Banff Centre. Taking its theme from Terry Cook's keynote address, "The War of Independence Reconsidered: Librarians and Archivists – Past, Present and Future," the conference seeks to explore the commonalities and differences between the professions in light of the current trend toward convergence of libraries, archives and museums. In addition to the keynote address, other sessions will explore convergence from the perspective of institutions which are converged or are beginning the process. Additional sessions will explore topics of common interest to librarians and archivists,

including employment opportunities, outreach strategies, and even personality types.

The sessions that are not directly related to the conference theme are no less compelling. Presentations include the process of establishing institutional archival programs, the different means of obtaining archival education in Canada and abroad, innovative grant-funded projects in Alberta with outreach components, and a firsthand account of volunteering with the recovery in the aftermath of the collapse of the Cologne Archives.

The ASA thanks all those who submitted conference speech proposals as well as 2010 Program Committee members Karen Buckley, Linda Fraser, Lorraine Mychajlunow, Leslie Pearson and Apollonia Steele for crafting a thought-provoking program. The ASA also acknowledges the generous financial support of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation as well as the Government of Canada through Library and Archives Canada, and administered by the Canadian Council of Archives.

See you all in Banff!

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The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.

# FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor

A friend recently loaned me *Honore Jaxon: Prairie Visionary*, Donald Smith's compelling 2007 biography of the man who served as secretary to Louis Riel, an early Chicago union leader, and a life-long advocate for social justice for the Metis people. One of the most striking aspects of the book is the image on the cover showing the ninety-year old Jaxon after his eviction from his New York apartment shortly before his death in 1952, surrounded by the tons of newspapers, magazines and miscellaneous papers that he had collected compulsively over the years in an effort to create an archives of the Indian peoples of North America. Aside from few boxes sent to a local newspaper, the remainder was sold for scrap paper or sent to a New York City dump as having no value.

The image of Jaxon and his collection, combined with knowledge of Jaxon's life and the fate of the materials, is enough to make any archivist cringe and cry out about the loss of sources that would certainly provide new interpretations on key questions in Canadian history. Smith's biography makes it clear that Jaxon had lost significant amounts of material in two fires decades before, so the quality of the archival materials lost in 1952 and their connection to his earlier life and activities is in doubt, especially considering his mental decline in later years.

Still, one can't help but wonder what would have happened if Jaxon had donated or sold his collection, even in later life, to an archival institution. Smith notes that Jaxon had met Katherine Hughes, Alberta's first Provincial Archivist, during a visit to Edmonton in 1909, but her role, like many archivists in this era, was more as a collector of stories than of primary source materials. Still, Jaxon saw the need to preserve stories, even if the role of established archives in doing so was not clear. One would think that someone like Arthur Doughty, the ever-acquisitive Dominion Archivist of Canada, would have been interested in Jaxon's material given its national significance. However, the focus and interests of that era's archivists may have been drawn to documentation of "important" imperial events prior to the Northwest Resistance and to records acquired from more traditional, less subversive records creators of interest to historians using archives at that time. The loss of Jaxon's material was simply before its time, archivally speaking. Admittedly, Jaxon the anarchist did not trust authority and likely would not have donated willingly to a government archives, preferring to create his own in one of his many grand plans that did not come to fruition. Also, one gleans from Smith's biography that Jaxon would have been a difficult donor at best to any archives, especially in his later years.

How does Jaxon's story inform archivists today? With television programs like *Hoarders* and the lasting cultural impact of hoarding stories like that of New York's Collyer brothers of the 1940s, compulsive collectors and hoarders are much more prominent and common than once thought. While archivists may have dealt with hoarders more than they'd like to admit, there is always that chance that, behind tons of useless material, there may be an Honore Jaxon, whose record of activities and accomplishments uniquely inform society's documentary heritage and demand a place in the archives. Hopefully, we can seek out these people before stories like Jaxon's occur again in the present day and haunt archivists of the future.

# UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON ARCHIVES

At its November 2009 meeting in Malta, the International Conference on the Round Table on Archives (CITRA) approved in principle the Universal Declaration on Archives.

The origin of the Universal Declaration on Archives has a significant Canadian connection. In 2007, the Association des archivistes du Québec (AAQ) presented the Quebec Declaration on Archives to the CITRA annual meeting in Quebec. Citing this declaration as a model, the meeting resolved that the Society of Professional Associations (SPA), a section within the International Council on Archives (ICA), would prepare a Universal Declaration on Archives in consultation with the AAQ and eight other groups for endorsement by the ICA.

The aim of the Declaration is to secure global acceptance and understanding of archives and the essential role they play in supporting human rights, establishing collective memory and underpinning accountable and transparent administrative actions.

For further information about the Declaration, please contact Ms. Claude Roberto, Secretary General of the Bureau of Canadian Archivists, at [clauderoberto@gov.ab.ca](mailto:clauderoberto@gov.ab.ca).

## AFROG CELEBRATES MILESTONE

A grassroots archives group in Edmonton recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> – well, its 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, that is.

The Archivists of Faith and Religious Organizations Group (AFROG) began meeting on a regular basis approximately three years ago to explore issues of common interest to archivists working with churches, religious communities, and local faith organizations. Using the Association of Canadian Archivists' Special Interest Section on Religious Archives as its model, representatives from local Catholic, Lutheran, Jewish, Anglican, Moravian, Presbyterian and United Church archives have attended meetings in order to share information and provide support to each other, most of whom work alone within larger organizations.

Congratulations AFROG, and may your example inspire other groups!



Photograph caption: AFROG 25<sup>th</sup> meeting group photograph. Back row, left to right: Rev. Raymond Glen, Presbyterian Church; Debbie Shocter, JAHSENA; Jane Samson, Anglican Church; Mabel Soloman, Catholic Women's League; Helen Scarlett, Edmonton Catholic Schools. Front row, left to right: Diane Lamoureux, Missionary Oblates, Grandin Archives; Eloi DeGrâce, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

# ICA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGM2009-14

Malta / 20 November 2009

## UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON ARCHIVES

Archives record decisions, actions and memories. Archives are a unique and irreplaceable heritage passed from one generation to another. Archives are managed from creation to preserve their value and meaning. They are authoritative sources of information underpinning accountable and transparent administrative actions. They play an essential role in the development of societies by safeguarding and contributing to individual and community memory. Open access to archives enriches our knowledge of human society, promotes democracy, protects citizens' rights and enhances the quality of life.

### To this effect, we recognize

- **the unique quality** of archives as authentic sources of administrative, cultural and intellectual activities and as a reflection of the evolution of societies;
- **the vital necessity** of archives for supporting business efficiency, accountability and transparency, for protecting citizens rights, for establishing individual and collective memory, for understanding the past, and for documenting the present to guide future actions;
- **the diversity** of archives in recording every area of human activity;
- **the multiplicity of formats** in which archives are created including paper, electronic, audio visual and other types;
- **the role of archivists** as trained professionals with initial and continuing education, serving their societies by supporting the creation of records and by selecting, maintaining and making these records available for use;
- **the collective responsibility** of all – citizens, public administrators and decision-makers, owners or holders of public or private archives, and archivists and other information specialists – in the management of archives.

### We therefore undertake to work together in order that

- appropriate national archival policies and laws are adopted and enforced;
- the management of archives is valued and carried out competently by all bodies, private or public, which create and use archives in the course of conducting their business;
- adequate resources are allocated to support the proper management of archives, including the employment of trained professionals;
- archives are managed and preserved in ways that ensure their authenticity, reliability, integrity, and usability;
- archives are made accessible to everyone, while respecting the pertinent laws and rights of the individuals, creators, owners and users;
- archives are used to contribute to the promotion of responsible citizenship.

International Council on Archives (ICA) General Assembly

Malta,

November 2009

# ALBERTA HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION

## 2010 HERITAGE AWARDS

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation is seeking nominations for the 2010 Heritage Awards in recognition of significant contributions towards the protection, preservation and promotion of heritage in the province. The deadline for nominations is **June 1, 2010**.

“Alberta’s heritage belongs to all of us” states Carolee Pollock, the Chair of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. “However, preserving and promoting our legacy requires a local commitment and that is what the Heritage Awards celebrate.”

Awards are presented to projects in **Heritage Conservation** and **Heritage Awareness**. Municipalities are recognized with the **Municipal Heritage Preservation Award** whereas individuals can be nominated for the **Outstanding Achievement Award**.

Previous Award winners include Clearwater County, the Nordegg Historical Society, the Town of Athabasca and architect Lorne Simpson.

For more information on the Awards, including the nomination form and guidelines, please check the Foundation’s website at [www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf](http://www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf) or contact the Program Coordinator at (780) 431-2305 (toll-free dial 310-0000).

## Heritage Awards Program

The **ALBERTA HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION** is soliciting nominations for its 2010 Heritage Awards Program. These heritage awards recognize and celebrate outstanding accomplishments and projects by individuals, organizations, corporations and municipalities in the protection, preservation and promotion of heritage in the province.

AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

**Heritage Conservation Award**, for excellence in the preservation/restoration/rehabilitation of a historic structure or site having local, regional or provincial significance.

**Heritage Awareness Award**, for outstanding contributions to local, regional or provincial history through:

- innovative projects which educate, interpret and promote public awareness of Alberta history
- excellence in research, writing or publishing

**Municipal Heritage Preservation Award**, recognizes a municipal government for exemplary commitment to heritage conservation through identification, protection and promotion of municipal historic resources.

**Outstanding Achievement Award**, for an individual whose long term leadership and contribution to the preservation and presentation of Alberta history has been exemplary.

**The Nomination must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2010.**

The Nomination Form and detailed guidelines can be obtained at:

**Heritage Awards**  
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation  
8820-112 Street, Edmonton, AB  
T6G 2P8

ph: 780-431-2305  
or online at:  
[www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf](http://www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf)



**Government of Alberta** ■

# REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA'S 2010 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Banff Centre from May 13-16, 2010.



Mark your calendars! The ASA biennial conference takes place from May 13-16, 2010 at the Banff Centre. The theme, "The War of Independence Reconsidered: Librarians and Archivists -- Past, Present and Future" will explore themes of professional identity, convergence, and other current issues facing the province's archival community.

Featuring a keynote speech by noted archival theorist Terry Cook, the conference includes presentations by Librarian and Archivist of Canada Dr. Daniel Caron, University of Calgary Vice Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources) Tom Hickerson, and archivists from around the province on a variety of topics. The conference also features preconference workshops, including grants writing, an overview of copyright issues, and audiovisual preservation and digitization.



The conference brochure (which includes registration form) and conference travel grant form are available on the ASA website on the AGM/Conference section of the "About the ASA" tab. Contact the ASA office by phone at 780-424-2697 or by email at [mgourlie@shaw.ca](mailto:mgourlie@shaw.ca) if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

# PEOPLE AND PLACES

ASA Member Services Manager Carrie Herrick married Daniel Fitzgerald in Edmonton on February 20, 2010. All the best to Carrie and Daniel!

ASA Systems Administrator Janet McMaster is leaving the ASA as of March 31, 2010. Having worked for the ASA since 2002, Janet was instrumental in the development of the Archives Network of Alberta databases, from their move to servers in Alberta to their expansion through the creation of the Alberta Insight and Alberta InWord databases of digital archival documents. Thanks Janet!

The Association of Canadian Archivists conference, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: The Next Generation of Canadian Archivists," will take place from June 9-12 in Halifax. With a keynote address by Librarian and Archivist of Canada Dr. Daniel J. Caron, the conference features a roster of national and international speakers addressing the latest developments in appraisal, description, outreach, electronic records and archival theory. Pre-conference workshops on social media and digital preservation will take place on June 8.

## **W. Brian Speirs retires as Provincial Archivist of Nova Scotia**

*Margaret Campbell, Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management*

Brian Speirs retired as Provincial Archivist of Nova Scotia on October 7, 2009, after a long and distinguished career in archives, which culminated in a remarkably productive decade of leading organizational and technological change at Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management.

Brian began his career in 1969 as a government records archivist at the Archives of Ontario. He served as Yukon Territorial Archivist, 1972-1976; Assistant Provincial Archivist of Alberta, 1976-1984; Provincial Archivist of Alberta, 1985-1991; and University Archivist at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, 1991-1997; before being appointed to the position of Provincial Archivist of Nova Scotia in 1997. He was noted for being an innovative and pragmatic manager, with a talent for promoting and sustaining archives and records management, a flair for financial management and securing funding from external sources, considerable skill in redesigning the use of archival spaces to improve cost effectiveness, and an ability to foster achievement and bring out the best in his staff.

An active contributor to the Canadian archival community, Brian served as chair of the CCA and its Planning and Priorities Committee; assistant director of the National Archival Appraisal Board; and chair of the National, Provincial and Territorial Archivists Conference, and its representative on the CCA. Since 1997, Brian has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the archival community in Nova Scotia; largely through his efforts, the provincial government increased its support for the Council of Nova

Scotia Archives, including setting up the Provincial Archival Development Program funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. He also shared his considerable professional knowledge by teaching, having lectured in a variety of archives and records management courses and programs in Alberta, Nova Scotia and at the University of the West Indies.

As Executive Director of Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, Brian also made a valuable contribution to the overall operation of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. In her departmental email message announcing Brian's retirement, Deputy Minister Kelliann Dean credited him with having been instrumental in establishing NSARM as one of the finest archival institutions in Canada.

She described him as "a valued colleague and friend to many," who was "well-respected at NSARM, at TCH and within the Nova Scotia government for his leadership and sage advice" and known for his "collegial approach, jovial nature, and concern for staff." Those who worked closely with Brian at NSARM during the past decade would also add that working life with Brian was never dull!

Having devoted forty years of working life to archives, Brian has decided to close that chapter and begin a completely new one; he and his wife and friend Jan have already begun to make travel plans and to enjoy the pleasures of a well earned retirement. Bon voyage Brian!

*(source ACA Bulletin January 2010)*

SUBMISSIONS,  
QUESTIONS AND  
SUGGESTIONS

The **Archives Society of Alberta News** is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o:

Archives Society of Alberta  
PO Box 4067  
South Edmonton Post Office  
Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8

Editor contact information:

Telephone: (780) 424-2697  
Fax: (780) 425-1679  
Email: mgourlie@shaw.ca

Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor 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.**

The views expressed in the Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta or its Editor. The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.



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ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION 2010 – 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Institution or Individual)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Province

\_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code

Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Voting Delegate (Associate / Institutional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members)

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Please Check**

- Archives Employee . . . . . \$50.00
- Students, Volunteers, Seniors. . . . . \$25.00
- Associate Institutional Member . . . . . \$75.00
- Institutional Member (membership fee is based on the archives operating budget. Please contact the ASA for further information)
- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

Please make cheque or money order payable to the **Archives Society of Alberta** and mail to:

Archives Society of Alberta  
PO Box 4067  
South Edmonton Post Office  
Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8