

In June 2013, 25% of the province of Alberta experienced severe overland flooding. In response to the flooding the Archives Society of Alberta (ASA), a not-for-profit professional association, organized the Flood Advisory Programme. This program is funded by Alberta Culture & Tourism, and has been carried out by the Lead Team since September 2014.

The Lead Team, composed of a Lead Conservator and Lead Archivist, have taken a broad approach to disaster recovery, remediation and preparedness.

Disaster recovery and remediation work has included performing conservation treatment, preventive conservation, and assisting members with intellectual control.

Disaster preparedness has included completing risk assessments, developing disaster plans and disaster response kits, editing existing disaster plans, purchasing environmental monitors, and archival grade rehousing supplies.

## THE FLOOD ADVISORY PROGRAMME

The Archives Society of Alberta would like to thank Alberta Culture and Tourism for the funding and support that allowed this program to be possible.



Executive Director, Rene Georgopolis  
Acting Executive Director, Meribeth Plenert

Lead Team:  
Lead Archivist, Amanda Oliver  
Lead Conservator, Emily Turgeon-Brunet

Contractors:  
Archivist, Christa Baxter  
Archivist, Kate Heikkila  
Book Conservator Lisa Isley  
Archivist, Carey Isaak  
Archivist, Michelle Parsons  
Paper Conservator, Jayme Vallieres

Additional space and supplies were generously provided by the Provincial Archives of Alberta, City of Edmonton Archives, and Glenbow Museum

Contact:  
Emily Turgeon-Brunet  
Lead Conservator  
[emilytb@archivesalberta.org](mailto:emilytb@archivesalberta.org)  
(780) 243-5294

For more information:  
[www.archivesalberta.org/programs-and-services/flood-assistance/](http://www.archivesalberta.org/programs-and-services/flood-assistance/)

## FLOOD ADVISORY PROGRAMME

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY

archives  
SOCIETY OF ALBERTA



# SITE ASSESSMENTS

The Lead Team completed 42 site assessments of ASA Institutional Members. Thirteen of these members are located on a flood plain, flood fringe, or high water table. From each site assessment, reports were written with custom proposed work plans.

*Example work plan:*

- Hire Archivist
- Hire Conservator
- Treat flood damaged archival material
- Regain intellectual control of damaged items
- Rehouse in archival standard materials
- Purchase map cabinet and fireproof cabinets
- Purchase data logger and water sensors
- Write disaster plan
- Purchase disaster response supplies and staff safety equipment to create kit

**41 work plans have been executed by the Lead Team - all work plans are funded through the program**

# CONTRACTORS

Seven contract positions were created to assist archives that required hands-on assistance with disaster remediation and preparedness. Archivists, a paper conservator and a book conservator were hired to assist with intellectual control, digitization, conservation treatment, and rehousing.

**39 697 km were travelled to complete 41 work plans**

# CONSERVATION

The archival collection of the Museum of the Highwood, located in High River, Alberta, was flooded in June 2013. The collection remained under water for 11 days. Only 20% of the archival collection was deemed salvageable by an external restoration company and was put into cold storage for two years prior to the initiation of the Flood Advisory Programme. The Lead Conservator, the contract Book Conservator and the contract Paper Conservator completed treatment on the 2194 frozen items.

**96% of the flood damaged, frozen archival material was salvaged through conservation treatment**

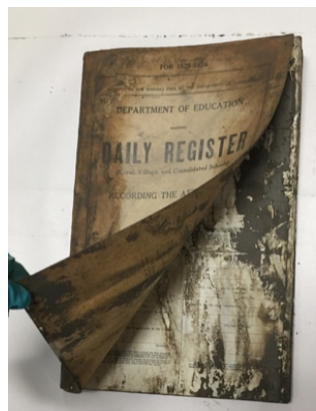


Photo credits: Clockwise: Jayme Vallieres, Lisa Isley, Yesan Ham, treatment of ambrotype by Emily Turgeon-Brunet

# RESOURCES

## WEBPAGE

The Flood Advisory Programme webpage, maintained through the ASA website, offers numerous free resources including six how-to videos: **Handling Wet Paper, Packing Wet Records, Drying Wet Records, Mould Removal, Humidifying and Flattening Paper Records, and Encapsulation**

Downloadable PDFs are also available. Topics include staff training scenarios, extreme weather alerts, preparing for digitization and cold storage, digital preservation resources, recommended disaster response supplies, emergency resources, and archival supply retailers

**All of the how-to videos are under 5 minutes long**

## MOBILE APP

The Flood Advisory Programme mobile app will be launched in September 2016. The app is aimed to assist all levels of ASA membership with disaster preparedness by providing a platform for Archivists across the province to request hands-on assistance. The app also provides a mapping service with emergency contacts.

## WORKSHOP

The Flood Advisory Programme has partnered with the ASA Education Committee to offer a Disaster Preparedness Workshop in September 2016 that focuses on Business Continuity Planning, Disaster Psychology and Handling Wet Records.