



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SHAMIN MALMAS, PRESIDENT

I hope that you all enjoyed our beautiful autumn, what a treat! Since this is my first contribution to the ASA newsletter I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

Currently I am the Archivist and Records Manager at for the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, a position I have held for the past three years since graduating from the Dual Master of Library and Information Studies and Master of Archival Studies program at The University of British Columbia.

Since moving to Edmonton I have made an effort to be involved in local, provincial and national archival organizations, and when I am not busy with archival work you can find me singing in choir, knitting at my local cafe, or riding my bike in the river valley (at least until the snow falls).

It has been a busy few months as I settle into my new position as ASA President. There have been a variety of personnel changes in the past few months. In early September the ASA welcomed two new staff members, Amanda Oliver, Lead Archivist, and Emily Turgeon-Brunet, Lead Conservator, who are working

on the Flood Advisory Programme. We are still searching for a Database and Administrative Assistant to assist Rene in the management of the provincial database (www.albertaonrecord.ca), oversee website content (www.archivesalberta.org) and communicate with ASA members. And, finally, as many of you know, Donna Tywoniuk-Harbeck resigned as ASA Vice-President. The board will fill the position of Vice-President at our next meeting. The board would like to thank Donna for her hard work and contribution to the ASA.

Archives week has come and gone. A variety of events were held across the Province including our launch event at Heritage Park in Calgary. The board would like to extend a big thank you to the members of the Archives Week Planning Committee for putting together the event. Our two guest speakers Susan Reckseidler and Harry Sanders were engaging, and their talks

on ghost stories and unexplained occurrences at Heritage Park and buildings in Calgary were educational and intriguing. The ASA Archives Week virtual exhibit is live and members should have received their "Creepy Alberta" calendars in the mail! Thank you again to the Communication Committee for their work selecting the images and preparing the Calendar. I am looking forward to hanging my calendar in the Archives Office at the Archdiocese!

The next ASA event is our upcoming workshop "Managing Electronic Records" will take place at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Jeremy Heil, Digital and Private Records Archivist at Queen's University Archives will be the instructor. The hands-on workshop is sure to provide insight and inspiration to what, and I am sure many members will agree, is a daunting task ahead of information professionals.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

The ASA is undergoing interesting new developments. With funding from Alberta Culture and Tourism for flood recovery, we have hired two new staff members for two years. This staff is the Lead Team for our Flood Advisory Programme and include an archivist and a conservator.



They have already been reaching out to our institutional members and have completed the site assessments for archives that were most heavily impacted by flooding in 2013. From these site assessments, additional contract staff will be hired to complete the flood recovery work as recommended by our Lead Team. I believe the ASA has never had so many staff so it is an exciting time. Please read about the Lead Team's work thus far in this newsletter.

We are also re-organizing our permanent Secretariat. Rather than having contract and very part-time staff we have decided to combine the positions to have a permanent part-time staff member who works during office hours. We feel that this change will better support our members. This fall we are in the process of hiring so stay tuned as our new staff member should be announced this winter. The new position has been given the title Database and Administrative Assistant.

I have been busy preparing for all these staffing changes. But despite the administrative side of my position, advising has also been busy at the ASA. We are in the process of doing our Institutional Reviews for about 13 institutional members. We also have new organizations that are interested in membership so I have been working with them. I am pleased to announce that our newest institutional member is the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum whose application was accepted this fall.

Over the summer and early fall, I visited Hanna, Onoway, Donnelly and several archives in Calgary for advising and/or reviews. As winter approaches, the site visits lessen and I will focus on the upcoming grant announcements. Please remember that I am available to discuss your grant applications. I am always open to commenting on your applications. Happy fall and good luck to those archives that plan on applying for grants!

FLOOD ADVISORY PROGRAM

AMANDA OLIVER & EMILY TURGEON-BRUNET, ASA FLOOD PROGRAM

In June 2013, Alberta experienced severe flooding throughout the province. Although many of our institutional members were not affected, some members were negatively impacted by the flooding and others require help with disaster preparedness. Alberta Culture has allocated \$1 million to the Archives Society of Alberta for emergency funding relief in response to the damaged caused by these floods and to prepare for future emergencies.

A Lead Archivist and Lead Conservator started work in September 2014 as Team Leads for the Flood Advisory Programme. Their tasks include conducting site assessments, managing additional teams of archivists and conservators, providing educational opportunities regarding disaster plans and remediation, among others.

The Lead Archivist and Lead Conservator will be conducting site assessments of all ASA institutional members over the next two years (2014-2016). Site assessments of the ASA's most negatively affected members have been completed and recovery work will begin as soon as possible. Following this work, the Lead Team will prioritize institutional members located on floodplains and ensure disaster plans and kits are implemented and available. The Lead Team will be providing supplies and educational opportunities to support disaster preparedness throughout the ASA. These services will also be offered to all ASA members once the prioritized institutions' needs have been met.

In addition to providing individual site assessments and disaster plans for institutional members, the Lead Team will be developing resource lists, and brief guides on disaster planning and recovery. These resources will be made available on the ASA website and will cover topics such as digitization, digital preservation, and basic conservation treatment, such as mould removal.

Amanda Oliver is the Lead Archivist for the Archives Society of Alberta's Flood Advisory Programme. She holds a Master in Library and Information Science with a specialization in archives from McGill University and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English Literature from Wilfrid Laurier University. She has held positions at a variety of archival institutions, such as Library and Archives Canada, Moose Jaw Public Library Archives, and Western University Archives.

Emily Turgeon-Brunet is the Lead Conservator for the Archives Society of Alberta's Flood Advisory Programme. She completed her Master of Art Conservation, specializing in paper conservation, and her Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours, minor in Art History, at Queen's University. Previously, she has held positions at Library and Archives Canada Preservation Centre, and the Royal BC Museum. She spends her time preserving the integrity of paper artifacts so future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy them. This is done through careful preservation practice and conservation treatment.

We are available to answer questions regarding disaster preparedness and remediation and our contact information is available on the ASA website. We are looking forward to working with you!



Amanda Oliver, Lead Archivist



Emily Turgeon-Brunet, Lead Conservator

ACA CONFERENCE LEADS ME TO THE DEFINITION OF ARCHIVES

VINO VIPULANANTHARAJAH, ARCHIVIST AT MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM

I recently attended the Association of Canadian Archivists' annual conference in Victoria, BC from June 26-28, 2014. The conference was titled "Archivatopia". The conference invited archivists from Canada and around the world to look at the ideal future for archives and how we can go about making this future a reality.

It's always neat for me to hear experiences of other archivists. I often get my motivation to try new things in the archives after hearing what others have done. There was some fascinating discussion about what the future holds for the archives, particularly in the digital realm, and how we can go about meeting new challenges. It was also nice to have people outside the archives field speak, in order to get an outsider's perspective of the archives.

There were many highlights for me from this conference. Geoffrey Yeo went against traditional thinking with his assertion that original order and provenance should not be the primary means of records aggregation. He suggested that we should shift to a mobile item-level paradigm going towards the future. Raegan Swanson and Lisa Petawabano from the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute in Quebec spoke about their experience of conducting workshops with the Cree communities there for the conservation of objects. I have always been interested in First Nations culture and I work with materials related to the Métis, so I was looking forward to this session. Copyright is something on the forefront for many archivists due to recent changes in the Canada Copyright Act, so it was interesting to hear Rachel Beattie's experience working with orphan films. It was heartbreaking to hear archivist David Mawhinney's experience of trying to work with the Mt. Allison University Alumni, who were completely devastated with the university's decision to tear down the beloved Memorial Library in 2011. The library was initially built as a memorial for students killed in the First World War. This experience showed a particular case of the challenges that archives may face in our efforts to collaborate more with our donors and users.

My favourite moment from the conference was a story told in a session called "Looking Toward the Future: Aboriginal Archives in Canada and the United States". One of the panellists at this session was Sherry Lawson, Administrator of Heritage Services with the Chippewas of Rama First Nation near Orillia, Ontario.

Sherry spoke from her experience as the daughter of an Algonquian mother and Ojibway father, who is now trying to look after archival materials from her community. She addressed a question I have had a long time. How do you define an archives? Is it a building? Are they records? It is always hard to explain to someone from the public who has no idea about archives. And I have always found the textbook definition of archives to be too mechanical for someone outside of our realm to understand.

But then Sherry talked about asking her grandmother if there was any word for archives in their culture. Unsurprisingly, she was laughed at before being told no. But, her grandmother did come to a word that she felt was close to what archives should mean. Sherry didn't say the aboriginal word, but gave us the translation of archives, so here it is: "Hold onto our stories until our grandchildren are ready to hear them". When I heard this, I just went "yeah, that's it". That's exactly it. It encompasses everything an archives is about.

So the next time someone asks what's an archives, I hope people find this aboriginal definition to be more meaningful. Thanks Sherry! And thanks to the ACA for putting on a great conference that had a lot to think about.

CCI EMERGENCY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

JOANNE JOHNSON , ATTENDEE

The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) held a two day workshop titled Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Cultural Institutions in Calgary at the U of C Taylor Family Digital Library on July 17 & 18, 2014. Hosted by the University of Calgary Archives, this workshop was organized in partnership with the ASA and the Alberta Museums Association. There were attendees from both Associations and from many locations across the province.

The core objectives of the workshop were to give everyone attending a chance to work with the many tools provided and to be able to modify these tools into a tailored emergency response plan when they returned to their organizations.

Irene Karsten from the CCI in Ottawa was our engaging facilitator and assisting was Evelyn Ayre.

A blank Emergency Response Manual and a DVD template with reference materials were included in our packages and during the two day workshop we saw how we could easily change the many options within this manual in order to quickly develop our own basic emergency response plan.

Through some guided scenarios that we all participated in, we could see how one of the most important tasks ahead was to return to our organizations and form an Emergency Response Team. A more difficult task will be identifying and measuring potential hazards and integrating all these options into our individual manuals.

The exercises gave us a chance to experiment with several emergency scenarios and then we heard some eye-opening examples from many of our members sharing their experiences with the 2013 flood, break-ins and how even small emergencies impacted their organizations.

Irene also demonstrated several salvage techniques and outlined the basic procedures for handling, cleaning and stabilizing damaged collections. Seeing how to interpret the salvage action chart using actual artifacts was invaluable.

I came away from this workshop with a much better understanding of how our organization could respond to a disaster. We really appreciate the many assessment tools and charts that were shared with us.



Images courtesy of the Alberta Museums Association

ARCHIVES WEEK 2014

RENE GEORGOPALIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR, ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

ASA's Archives Week was celebrated the week of October 5 – 11, 2014. The theme was "Creepy Alberta" which invoked the strange, eerie and unusual from Alberta's archives.

We launched the week in Calgary at Heritage Park at an event called "Buildings with a Past?" The Interpretation Manager from Heritage Park, Susan Reckseidler, spoke about the ghost tour program at the park, how archives are used to interpret the park and the ghost stories that interpreters acquired over the years. The main speaker was Harry Sanders who discussed mysteries regarding various heritage buildings in Calgary and how his research dispelled or did not resolve some of these mysteries. ASA provided the public with information on archives in and around Calgary and sold calendars at the event. The committee members who helped plan the event in Calgary included Bonnie Woelk, Karly Sawatzky and Jennifer Willard. We appreciate the time our volunteers take to make such events possible.

In addition to the launch event, ASA produced a calendar and web exhibit. The web exhibit can be visited on our website at this link: <http://archivesalberta.org/2014-exhibit/>. The theme was a success as we received much positive feedback from our members, politicians, other archives councils and staff at various government departments. ASA would like to thank the Communications committee, consisting of Judy Kovacs, Melissa McCarthy, Paula Aurini-Onderwater, Braden Cannon and Karen Simonson for choosing the calendar images and directing the themes for Archives Week.

Several archives held events in celebration of the week around the "Creepy Alberta" theme. Most notably, the City of Edmonton Archives had an exhibit featuring the history of Halloween in Edmonton, "Tonight's the Night." This exhibit received publicity on CKUA, <http://www.ckua.com/artbeat-oct-26-nov-1/> and on Breakfast Television, Edmonton. There were other exhibits, a film night and sharing of stories at other archives throughout the province. For Archives Week 2014, six institutional members held events. ASA would like to encourage more of its institutions to participate in Archives Week next year. Archives Week is a great opportunity to promote your archives and seek publicity. ASA thanks all those institutions that held events to celebrate the week!



Attendees at the 2014 Archives Launch held at Heritage Park in Calgary



FILM NIGHT 2014

TERRY O'RIORDAN, PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA

On Saturday, 27 September, the Provincial Archives of Alberta held its 29th annual film night. The purpose of this event has been to feature some of the unique, interesting, and esoteric audiovisual materials from our holdings.

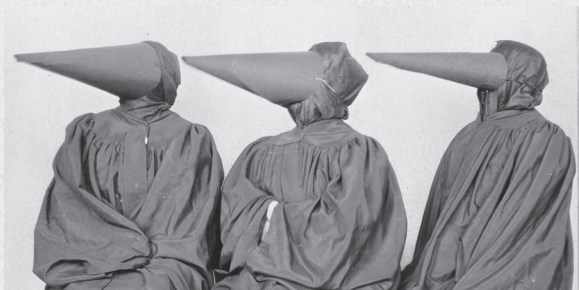
Since 2009 film night has been a team effort, with the 2014 team including Susan Stanton, Jaclyn Landry, Edward Vanvliet, Braden Cannon, and I. Susan, Jaclyn, and Edward all worked on communications and promotion, while Braden curated the films, and I took care of the production elements of film duplication, permissions, and projection.

This year's theme focused on aboriginal perspectives, and Braden selected films that were from the point of view of aboriginal film makers – telling their stories through their own context. The films included a home movie, a historical/music piece, a film on elders, and two documentaries (one on seeking identity and the other on repatriation). All of the films came from the PAA's audiovisual holdings, and included some NFB content that came to the PAA through private donation.

After a couple of years of experimentation and where our crowds for film night weren't to our expectation, it was very nice to have about 150 people attend this year.

No doubt, the theme of the event stirred up added interest, which brought in the extra crowds. We're moving film night back to spring, so the team is back to work pulling together content, communications, and computers to bring another collection of films to Metro Cinema.

While aboriginal stories were the primary focus for the evening, we also used this event to highlight the recent acquisition of the Gil Cardinal fonds. Cardinal is a film/video director, writer, and producer of Métis descent based in Edmonton, Alberta. Central to this year's film night was Cardinal's *Foster Child*, a documentary about his search for his birth family. The film depicts Cardinal's discovery of his Métis heritage as it occurred and established him as a major voice in Canadian documentary filmmaking. We also featured *Totem: The Return of the G'psgolox Pole* as our second Cardinal documentary. The film traces the journey of the Haisla people to reclaim the G'psgolox totem pole that went missing from their British Columbia village in 1929. This is a very valuable acquisition for the PAA, and we were very pleased to be able to feature it this year.



Cover for ASA 2015 Calendar

Accession # 0061.0083

Alexandra High School concert - cast of "We Three Crows" (1918).

George & Eva Davison collection

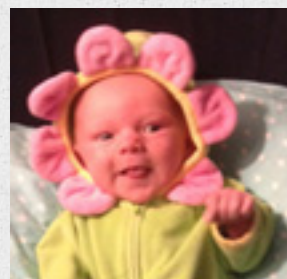
PEOPLE AND PLACES

Diane Lamoureux has left the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Archives and now works part-time for the Sisters of Providence Archives.

The Archives Society of Alberta is pleased to hire Maryna Chernyavskaya in the new position of Database & Administrative Assistant. She will begin on December 1st and be a welcome addition to the ASA family.



There have been a number of babies of archivists and support staff who work at the PAA that were born in early fall. Jaclyn Landry gave birth to Jaime Lauren, Braden Cannon also had a baby, Theda Oriane and Robin Wallace, Reference Archivist, gave birth to Ezra. Congratulations to all of the families!



Theda
Oriane
Cannon

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 Suite 407, 10408-124 Street Edmonton, AB T5N 1R5

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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.



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ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014 – 2015

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