



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Debby Shocter, President

It has only been a few months and already it has been a busy season at the ASA. We started the fall off right with a fabulous evening at City Hall in celebration of Archives Week.

To celebrate this year's calendar and online exhibition, we staged an archival fashion show! "Looking Good Alberta," the theme of this year's calendar and the brainchild of our Communications Committee, provided the inspiration for this amazing and inspirational event. I hope you have all had a chance to see the wonderful exhibit on our website put together by Chris Heazell, I think it is one of our best ever. And I hope you have all received your calendars and had a chance to distribute them.

Thanks to Rene Georgopolis for coming up with the idea for the fashion show, and thanks to the U of A, Government of Alberta and Theatre Garage for lending items for the show, to all the models, and to her friend Tressa Heckbert for organizing the show. Professor Beverly LeMire gave a very interesting talk to start things off, and we had a great attendance, including some of Alberta's Vintage Roses, who showed up dressed to the

nines in all their vintage glory. It was an evening to remember.

Speaking of new websites, have you had a chance to look at our brand-new re-designed website? It is new for Fall as well, and we are very pleased with it. Thanks to all who gave their input on the design, and thanks to El Designo for designing it and getting it up and running. We on the Board are all very pleased that it is no longer bouncy!

Speaking of new, we have a couple of new faces on our team too! We unfortunately had to say goodbye to Carrie Lunde, who had to leave her position as Database Administrator because of other commitments, and we had to say goodbye to our Treasurer Angela Fornelli, who took a job in Dawson City, Yukon! We will miss you both, and thank you for your service; however, we get to say hello to an old friend, Janet McMaster, who has taken on the task of being our new Database



Administrator, and we look forward to working with her again. We have also welcomed back Gemma Zarillo, our bookkeeper, who will be attending once again to our books and keeping them nice and tidy for us once more. This is a big relief, as we have had a rough time with this lately.

We also look forward to working with Philip Pye of the Esplanade Archives as our new Institutional Member-at-Large, and to Wendy Dyck, who will take over as Treasurer. We are excited about having a male Board member again!

We also met with the Royal Society of Canada's Expert Panel on the Status and Future of Canada's

contents

- 2 Conference 2014 - Save the Date
- 3 Executive Director/Archives Advisor's Report
- 5 Archives Week Thank You
Archives Week Launch Review

- 6 Planning and Designing Archival Exhibits / Flooding in High River
- 7 Archives Institute 2013 / People and Places

archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President — 2013 - 2014

Debby Shoctor

Vice President

Donna Tywoniuk-Harbeck

Secretary

Judy Kovacs

Treasurer

Wendy Dyck

Institutional Member-at-Large

Philip Pye

Individual Member-at-Large

Jennifer Willard

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Grants

Leslie Pearson

Education

Susan Stanton

Communications

Terry O'Riordan

ANA

Elizabeth Walker

NEWSLETTER

Advertising, Design and Layout

Ericka Chemko

ASA STAFF

Executive Director/Archives Advisor

Rene Georgopolis

Member Services Manager

Ericka Chemko

Financial Coordinator

Gemma Zarrillo

Database Administrator

Janet McMaster



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

Libraries and Archives, and gave them our opinion on what they could do to help us, which is mainly to re-institute some sort of Federal funding program to replace the NADP. Many archivists were in attendance at that meeting, and it was good to see such a good turnout.

The Board also took advantage of the services of Alberta Culture and had a Community Development Officer, Kim Ghostkeeper, help us formulate a Strategic Plan, which will help us chart our course into the future. We all met at my office one Saturday and spent all day doing a SWOT analysis and other fun stuff, which you will see the results of shortly.

I myself have been busy on the Premier's Council on Arts and Culture, trying to represent Archives and keep our voice heard and our presence felt. We had our first meeting in late September, and I have been chairing a subcommittee on Youth and Community Engagement, which met in November. The committee as a whole will be meeting again in January in Calgary and we hope to have some concrete recommendations for the Premier by March. Ericka Chemko and I have also been involved in the Edmonton Heritage Council's Heritage Network initiative and I hope that those of you in Edmonton will get involved and attend some of their events.

We had a successful exhibits workshop in Calgary, and an Institutional Forum there, which I know Rene, Ericka and Wendy did an excellent job with, although I was unable to attend myself.

In conclusion, I would again like to thank our excellent staff, particularly Rene Georgopolis, our tireless Archives Advisor, Erika Chemko, our indefatigable Membership Services Manager, Janet McMaster, our new/former Database Administrator and Gemma Zarrillo, who has rejoined us as our bookkeeper and has made us feel confident with our finances once more. Without these people and our hard-working Board, including Jen Willard, Wendy Dyck, Judy Kovacs, Donna Tywoniuk-Harbeck, Angela Fornelli and now Philip Pye, we would not function as well as we are. I really appreciate all your efforts, time and hard work. I would also like to thank the chairs of our subcommittees, who also spend countless hours volunteering to keep this organization going: Terry O'Riordan, Elizabeth Walker, Susan Stanton and Linda Fraser.

**Facing Risks, Taking Risks
Turning Archival Threats
into Opportunities**

SAVE THE DATE ASA 2014 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

**May 22 – 24, 2014
Jasper AB**

Executive Director/Archives Advisor's Report

Rene Georgopolis, Executive Director/Archives Advisor



Many things have been happening here at the ASA since I last wrote. The ASA now has a new website with a sleek look. We hope the members find it easier to locate items on the new website.

Also, Carrie Lunde our Database Administrator left us for a professional development opportunity and we hired Janet McMaster in her place. Janet used to work at the ASA three years ago so she is familiar with many ASA members.

I realize that many of you are eager to get your descriptions uploaded to the database. We have been working on some issues and hope it is easier to use in the coming weeks. Once Janet is settled, you will be receiving updates as well as training dates which many members have been anticipating.

In this newsletter you will receive details on other activities such as the Archives Institute from May, Archives Week and our exciting launch with a fashion show, and a report from the Fall workshop. I also hope you are planning to come to Jasper for our upcoming conference in the Spring. The newsletter also updates you on the floods in Alberta and how very few archives ended up being affected.

On top of all of the events at the ASA, I was busy with site visits. Over the summer, I visited a few archives in Calgary. I went on a day trip to Slave Lake and saw their two archives. I also went on a 4-day trip to Southern Alberta where I visited 7 archives. This year, the ASA has done Institutional reviews for the southern area of the province, so I was working on the reviews as well as advising potential new institutional members. Here is a quick overview of my trip.

Day 1: Medicine Hat - September 3, 2013

In Medicine Hat, I had a tour of the Esplanade Archives. If you ever get a chance to go to Medicine Hat, I recommend you make an appointment with Philip Pype, the archivist, as their facility is quite lovely. They have a gorgeous reading room that very well could be the envy of many archives.



The Esplanade

Day 2: Lethbridge - September 4, 2013

After leaving Medicine Hat in the morning, I travelled to Lethbridge. I visited the University of Lethbridge for the first time that morning and had lunch with Archivist Mike Perry.



View of University of Lethbridge from across the valley at the GALT

After lunch, I met with Archivist Andriy Chernevych at the GALT Archives. This building is quite beautiful with an excellent view of the valley. Also, the weather was quite hot that day at 38C, which was so nice.

Day 3: Blood Reserve and Pincher Creek - September 5, 2013

In the morning I made my way to the Blood Reserve of the Kainai Nation. Red Crow Community College has been working on establishing their archives and I was there to help them determine what their needs are. They will be working on turning an old bathroom from a residential school into an archives storage space. If you ever used ASA's Online Resource, Seeing with New Eyes, you may be familiar with this community.



Red Crow Community College on the Blood Reserve

Day 4: Fort MacLeod and Claresholm - September 6, 2013

From Pincher Creek, I made my way back to Edmonton with two site visits on the way. The Fort Museum in Fort Macleod had some questions and gave me a tour of their fort. Fort Macleod is a really neat town with many historical buildings. The town of Claresholm was seeking advice as they had archival holdings in both their museum and library. From Claresholm, I travelled home.



Fort Museum, Fort Macleod

Advising is definitely a satisfying job as I love supporting archives. It is through this program that important records spread throughout the province are cared for. It struck me on this journey that there are potentially important archives in any town, village or hamlet throughout the province. The advisory program connects these many places with professional assistance. I just hope that all the places with archival records know that such services exist.

Archives Week Launch – Thank You

This year's Archives Week launch featured a fashion show of clothing inspired by the vaults of Alberta's archives. The ASA wanted to show the public just one of the many ways that archives can be used. Our event was a success with approximately 75 people in attendance. Archivists who attended included Michael Gourlie, Jane Bowe McCarthy, Robin Wallace and Kim Christie-Milley. The ASA would like to thank the following in making this year's archives week launch a success.

Edmonton Sub-Committee for the Communications Committee

Elizabeth Walker

Shamin Malmas

Vino Vipulanantharajah

Paula Aurini-Onderwater

Sponsors

Department of Human Ecology, U of A

Theatre Garage

Alberta Culture

Debby Shoctor, JAHSENA

Sessa Wearables

Beverly Lemire, U of A

City of Edmonton

Musee Heritage Museum

Archives Week Event Review

Laurie Callsen



The Archives Society of Alberta had a stylish launch last month with their fashion show, inspired by the collections at Alberta archives, at City Hall.

Before the show got underway, Professor Beverly Lemire provided incredibly interesting insights into the many ways fashion archives can be used for other research. It was wonderful to see so many historically accurate costumes on display, and to get a chance to talk with folks from the archives society to learn that they have sewing and knitting patterns in their collection.

In my opinion, the only downside was that the show was too short! I would have loved to see a wider range of clothing, from casual everyday wear to formal fabulousness. I hope that the ASA's archive week launch is the first of many historical fashion events to grace the catwalks of this city.

Laurie Callsen is an Edmonton fashion blogger dedicated to living a life inspired by the 1940s. Connect with her at Retro-Reporter.com.



PLANNING AND DESIGNING ARCHIVAL EXHIBITS

Alison Freake, Workshop Participant

The ASA's Fall Professional Development workshop on Planning and Designing Archival Exhibits was delivered on September 27-28th at the University of Calgary. Curator Joanne White and designer Kevin Zak shared their experiences and the practicalities of exhibit planning through demonstrations, examples, and exercises.

Day one focused on the expectations and needs of the audience, public trust, and development of the storyline, labels and text. Artifact selection and display included a practical session on construction of custom mounts and the creative use of pre-made mounts.

Day two concentrated on the production of the exhibit, and considerations of space planning, graphics, lighting, and exhibit cases. A final group exercise on exhibit planning allowed the participants to put into practice some of the concepts discussed earlier and to evaluate and compare the results from each group.

Creating exhibits involves some degree of interpretation, which may be a step outside the usual archival role of providing access to information with a minimum of bias. However, we can also assume that our audience may view an exhibit critically, and encouraging an active role for the audience will only enhance the visitor experience. As a conservator, I am generally focused on the use of original objects in exhibits, so this workshop was a valuable opportunity to look at the bigger picture: how archival materials can be used in exhibits, not only as source material, but as part of the visual presentation.

FLOODING IN HIGH RIVER

Irene Kerr, Executive Director



Storage Room
Before the Flood



Storage Room
After the Flood



Books After the
Flood

On June 20, 2013, a major flood severely damaged the collection of the Museum of the Highwood. We did not know the state of the museum or the collection as absolutely no one was allowed into town. For eleven agonizing days we waited.

Once allowed back in, we were relieved to find the main floor of the museum was untouched, and all of the artifacts, archival materials and photographs were unaffected. However, the basement of the station and the off-site storage facility had both flooded to the ceilings. The objects stored in those spaces (which had never before flooded) suffered varying degrees of damage, particularly after sitting in toxic, wet, muddy environments.

The immediate task was to remove everything from the spaces, triage it, clean it and repack it and store it in a sea can if it was in stable condition or move it into a freezer truck for later treatment. Everything that was damaged beyond restoration was disposed of.

We were so grateful to have assistance with this process from Canadian Conservation Institute staff, volunteers from the Alberta Archives and Museum community and Belfor Restoration. It took seven days to remove everything from the spaces.

Preliminary estimates are that 80% of the artifacts were destroyed. The loss to the archival collection and was significant, but much less severe. There is a long road ahead, restoring what was kept, and creating an inventory of what is gone.

The museum re-opened on September 14, 2013.

ARCHIVES INSTITUTE 2013

The ASA held its annual Archives Institute in Calgary, at the University of Calgary from May 6 - 11. The Institute is a 6-day introduction to archival work. The 6 days is filled with lectures, hands-on activities and tours of archives. This year, the students toured the University of Calgary's archives and conservation lab. We had a total of 17 students attend, 15 of whom were from within Alberta and one student attended from Vancouver as well as another student from Regina.

The topics covered in the Institute include acquisition, appraisal, arrangement, description, reference, and preservation. This year's instructors included the Archives Advisor as the main instructor, and a number of archivists in Calgary, as well as Alison Freake, the conservator at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

2013 Archives Institute Participants



From left to right, back row: Victor Pratt, Ilya Khineyko, Szymon Bamburak, Anne Phillips, Patricia Greber, Grant Grams
Middle row: Melanie Schulze, Cassandra Cummings, Yvonne Slemko, Bonita Bjornson, Marie Péron, Arlene Carr, Monica Duguid
Front row: Marielle Gaudet, Annette Scott, Krystyna Halliwell, Adeline Panamaroff

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Former ASA Board member and archivist at South Peace Regional Archives, Leslie Pearson, now Leslie Gordon was married this Spring.

This fall, archivist Bonnie Woelk who works at the University of Calgary was also married.

Angela Fornelli left the City of Wetaskiwin Archives for the Dawson City Museum in Yukon.

Melissa McCarthy, former Archives Advisor for New Brunswick has joined the team as an archivist at the City of Edmonton Archives.

Michelle Parsons, archivist in Calgary, gave birth to her second child, John Charles Francis, in July.

archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

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

Editor contact information:
Telephone: (780) 424-2697
Fax: (780) 425-1679
Email: info@archivesalberta.org

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.

ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2013 – 2014

Name (Institution or Individual) _____

Address _____

City _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ - _____

Business Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Fax (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Voting Delegate (Associate) _____

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 (Please contact the ASA for further information)
- ☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

Credit Card Type: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Credit Card No. _____

Expiry _____ CVC Number _____

Card holder name (please print) _____

Signature _____

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

Archives Society of Alberta
Suite 407, 10408-124 Street
Edmonton, AB T5N 1R5