Welcome to the Archives Society of Alberta’s Fall newsletter! This issue is devoted to celebrating the work of the Flood Advisory Programme and I would like to extend my thanks to all our members who have submitted content for this newsletter. The ASA continues to be thankful to Alberta Culture and Tourism for providing funding to assist with the proper care of archival collections impacted by the 2013 floods in Alberta. Over the course of this project, this funding has enabled the hiring of our Flood Advisory Programme’s Lead Team members, the hiring of multiple contractors working on-site with affected materials, the production of educational materials, site specific resources for many Institutional Members, countless site visits, the development of disaster plans, and many more projects.

I continue to be impressed by the quantity and quality of the work completed by this project. The Flood Advisory Programme will end in early 2017 and, while there are still a few projects to be completed, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to all the staff, contractors, volunteers, and members who have worked on this project. Alberta archivists are resilient and I know that this project has not only prepared us for disaster but it has also strengthened us as a community of professionals.

The Board is also happy to announce that we have finished our ASA Policy Review process. It has been a long but worthy process. Watch the website for additional information about the work of the Board and our Committees.
FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR
MERIBETH PLENERT, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & ARCHIVES ADVISOR

The Flood Advisory Programme is an incredible opportunity for the ASA, Archives and Alberta’s Documentary Heritage. Working with Alberta Culture, we have created a programme that has assisted members with recovery from the 2013 floods, and helped prepare all of the institutional members to better face the natural disasters that could come.

The project has made Alberta’s documentary heritage more protected and accessible than ever before. In this newsletter, archives across the Province will talk about equipment, furniture, intellectual control projects, and digitization of fragile records all made possible through this programme. All of these projects and purchases will limit damage to our history in disasters of both the magnitude of the Calgary floods and the more common issues of building leaks and heavy rains. It is also wonderful to hear of many disaster plans being updated and written for archives. Plans such as these often seem like such a hindrance to create when times are good, but become vital when everything is going wrong. I would like to extend my thanks to Alberta Culture for providing this funding which made this project possible.

In this issue, we are also highlighting an important anniversary of one of our members, and I’m sure everyone will take the opportunity to congratulate the University of Calgary upon reaching 50 years. I hope that the history of Alberta and its documentary heritage will last until many more monumental anniversaries and occasions, despite whatever challenges nature throws our way.
LETTER FROM THE LEAD CONSERVATOR

EMILY TURGEON-BRUNET, LEAD CONSERVATOR, FLOOD ADVISORY PROGRAMME

Over the past two and a half years I have had the pleasure to work on the Flood Advisory Programme as the Lead Conservator. This opportunity allowed me to work with the Lead Archivist, Amanda Oliver, for eighteen months traveling around the province completing site assessments and developing work plans to assist the Archives Society of Alberta’s institutional members with flood remediation and disaster preparedness. Traveling around the province was an amazing experience where I was able to see beautiful Alberta scenery, while learning more about Alberta’s heritage. I have enjoyed working with archivists, archives assistants, collections managers, and conservators while assisting with preparing the staff and their collections for disasters.

The program’s first objective was to assist institutional members whose collection materials were directly affected by the floods of June 2013. Within my first two weeks at ASA I travelled to the Museum of the Highwood in High River, and the Fort McMurray Historical Society to perform site assessments and develop a work plan in response to their flood damaged archival materials. Amanda and I worked with contract conservators and archivists to perform conservation treatment and establish intellectual control of the affected items.

The second objective was to assess and assist institutional members whose facilities were flooded. Following these assessments we visited archives on flood plains, flood fringes, and high water tables. It was discovered that flooding and major leaks are a likely threat posed to most of ASA’s institutional members. Work plans were created and completed for each member in response to concerns highlighted during the assessments. Work plans consisted of purchasing archival grade housing, disaster response supplies, fireproof cabinets, coated metal shelving units, freezers, and water sensors.

The third objective was to create resources and educational opportunities that would assist all levels of ASA’s membership beyond the completion of the Flood Advisory Programme. Amanda and I took over a page on the ASA website and devoted it to emergency preparedness and response resources, and have been updating the ASA blog twice a month with short posts on other emergency topics. We also created six instructional how-to videos on topics such as handling wet paper, and drying wet records. In September 2016, I worked with ASA’s Acting Executive Director, Meribeth Plenert, to offer the Flood Advisory Programme’s Disaster Preparedness Workshop. This two-day workshop, available to all levels of ASA membership, featured presentations on business continuity planning, disaster psychology, and handling wet records. Over the past few months I have been adding content to the Loan Program, which will be launching in the upcoming months. Please view page 7 to read more about the Loan Program.

I would like to say thank you to all of the wonderful people that I have met while traveling around Alberta. It has been a pleasure working with you. This program has been a very rewarding experience and has given me numerous learning opportunities of which would be impossible to list here. I would like to extend my thanks to the ASA membership for such a warm welcome, and I hope that the assistance provided to you through the Flood Advisory Programme will continue to benefit your collections.

Best wishes,
Emily
Museum of the Highwood, photographs by Yesan Ham

Photo (Top left): Before treatment, ambrotypes in wooden box.

Photo (Top right): After treatment, ambrotypes in new housing. Treatment by Emily Turgeon-Brunet.

Photo (Bottom left): After treatment, ambrotype. Treatment by Emily Turgeon-Brunet.

Photo: Lead Conservator, Emily Turgeon-Brunet (left), and Lead Archivist, Amanda Oliver (right), at the AIC & CAC joint conference, May 2016. Taken by Erin Kraus.
On June 20, 2013 High River was hit by major flooding. The collection of the Museum of the Highwood was heavily damaged and, as access was denied for 11 days, the objects sat in water and mud without intervention. Fortunately, approximately 80% of the archival collection was stored on the main floor of the museum and received no direct damage. Unfortunately, the oversized materials, including photographs, maps, large books and printed materials and glass plate negatives were in an offsite storage area that was flooded to the ceiling. Negatives, slides, recorded oral histories and media stored in the basement of the museum were damaged beyond repair and were disposed of.

After access was granted, the archival materials deemed salvageable were bagged and frozen for possible future remediation. These all went into a freezer truck where they remained for more than a year.

In January 2014, the Alberta Government announced flood funding for affected heritage institutions and resources. The Alberta Museums Association and Archives Society of Alberta received $6 million to administer to those affected by the flooding.

The ASA struck a committee to decide how to proceed with distribution of the flood funds. Rather than cash grants, it was decided that the ASA would provide experts to assess the situation, make recommendations and provide restoration and conservation services. A lead archivist and lead conservator were hired in September 2014.

They made site visits and met with museum staff and then compiled an assessment report and proposed work plan for the recovery of the damaged archival materials. In December 2014, a contract book conservator and archivist were hired, and in August 2015 a contract paper conservator was hired to assist with conservation treatment and intellectual control.

Over the next few months, we received regular reports on the progress being made. The archivist worked at the museum on several occasions and helped us to make excellent progress in the organization and fonds-level descriptions in our archives, a task still not completed after a 2010 fire.

All of the materials were returned to the museum by the end of 2015. Not everything was a candidate for restoration or repair. More than 100 of the photographs were beyond saving. Everything came back restored as best as it could be and rehoused according to proper archival standards. It was then documented and integrated back into the collection.

I was grateful for the professionalism, compassion and skill of the ASA Director and Flood Advisory Programme’s Lead Team. It was a blessing to not have to worry about the details of this aspect of our recovery on top of everything else. I also appreciate that many other archives were able to benefit from this funding even if they were not affected by this disaster. Because of this funding, excellent progress has been made in the areas of disaster planning and prevention in Alberta archives.
The Fort McMurray Heritage Society appreciates the aid received from the Archives Society of Alberta - Flood Advisory Programme. Emily and Amanda supported our staff in the aftermath of the 2013 flood by assessing our situation and providing advice throughout our recovery efforts.

When the ASA Flood Advisory team arrived at Heritage Village (formerly Heritage Park) we were still in the process of returning our archives to their original condition. In our flood recovery efforts, our staff time was divided between our archival and artifacts collections. We are grateful for the extra supplies that we received from ASA, since a considerable amount of our own supplies were used during the flood and in the subsequent clean up. We were fortunate to have an experienced Archivist (contracted by ASA for 6 months) arrive on site to deal with the large collection of documental materials that we had stored in the basement of a historic building. At the time we made the decision to store these items in this space, the basement was dry, clean and relatively safe. Although the staff and volunteers tried their best to move the materials to higher levels, we ran out of time and had to evacuate the site. The flood waters had no mercy and entered the basement, causing significant damage to the archives and other valuable items. Having the Archivist on site enabled our staff to concentrate on other key areas of our clean up, restoration and rebuilding. Currently, we are in the process of moving this collection to the main archival storage.

Our staff also had the opportunity to attend a course offered by ASA on Disaster Preparedness. This course was very informative; the hands-on instruction on how to deal with wet paper was especially helpful for our organization’s needs.

Finally, the opportunity to work with the ASA Flood Advisory Programme and have access to an experienced team was a positive experience for our organization. During these challenging times, knowing that we could reach out to ASA whenever we felt overwhelmed or uncertain was reassuring. We are extremely grateful for the many ways ASA supported us with supplies and resources. As a remote northern community we often feel isolated, and never more so than during the natural disasters of the flood and the wildfires. We also experienced the generous support of the archival and museum communities. Overall the Flood Advisory Programme has allowed our organization to move forward; we are now in better position than we were before the devastating flood of 2013.
The Flood Advisory Programme is launching a Loan Program, which is a library of tools, equipment, and books that can be borrowed for free. Borrowing from the Loan Program is open to all ASA institutional members in good standing. The Lead Conservator has developed a handbook with summaries of the books and instructions on the use and care of the tools and equipment. This handbook will be made available on ASA’s website within the upcoming months.

The Loan Program will be housed at two locations: the Provincial Archives of Alberta and Milo Library Archives. Institutional members will be able to borrow items by either picking them up from one of the locations or organizing shipment of the items. All items will be shipped in custom packaging to ensure their security and condition.

Items chosen for the Loan Program may be borrowed for one month, or longer at the discretion of ASA’s Executive Director.

There are sixteen books and journals available for loan. Tools and equipment offered by the Loan Program include:

1) 4 ELSEC 765 Environmental Monitors
2) 8 Linear Polarizers (for identifying negatives)
3) Corner Rounder
4) EPSON Perfection V800 Photo Scanner
5) Dustless Technologies Wet/Dry HEPA Vacuum
6) Photo Documentation Target

An announcement will be made on the listserv when the Loan Program has officially launched and items are available for borrowing. Please contact the Lead Conservator for questions regarding the program at this time.
The Sylvan Lake & District Archives greatly appreciates the ongoing assistance of the ASA, particularly with regards to the benefits provided by the Flood Advisory Programme. Amanda Oliver and Emily Turgeon-Brunet paid us a visit on September 29, 2015. After their comprehensive review of our facility, we received their site assessment, key recommendations and a proposed work plan to assist our board members and volunteers. The four month timeline of activities allowed us to work with the programme facilitators and achieve results beyond our wildest imaginings.

The rehousing supplies provided through the programme have transformed our storage area into a model of well-preserved and properly stored artifacts, photographs and textual records. The UV filters purchased for the windows and the overhead lighting will ensure our display materials do not suffer from further light degradation. The map cabinet that they ordered for us has allowed us to properly store our original maps and survey documents. The wall display now houses photographic reproductions of the original maps that are now properly stored.

Equally, if not more important than the physical storage improvements, the Archives are now in a much better position to deal with a potentially damaging situation, and grateful for the assistance provided by Amanda and Emily in identifying preservation material requirements and in writing our disaster plan. In addition, we are housed in the Municipal Government Building and have access to the Town of Sylvan Lake resources to assist us with disaster preparedness.

We have enclosed some before and after photographs of our reference and storage area(s).

Now we have reproductions in our displays, originals are properly stored and put away. And our accessions are now properly housed in acid free boxes and separated according to contents.

We are very pleased with the progress we have made as an Archives, and indebted, as always, to the ASA for providing us with access to such wonderful resources as Amanda and Emily. Our thanks as well to Alberta Culture and Tourism for their support of the Flood Advisory Programme.
LESSER SLAVE LAKE INDIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL - TREATY ABORIGINAL RIGHTS RESEARCH PROGRAM

The LSLIRC-TARR Program wishes to thank the ASA for their assistance via the Flood Advisory Programme, and the Government of Alberta for providing the funding to support this program.

The Flood Advisory Programme assisted LSLIRC-TARR Archives with rehousing, new shelving units, fireproof cabinets, a fireproof tarp, disaster response supplies and hired a contract archivist for five months to assist with the rehousing and intellectual control of their collection.

Photo (Above): A corner of one of the collection storage spaces before assistance from the Flood Advisory Programme.

Photos (Top right & Bottom right): The collection storage space after new, coated metal shelving was installed.
MILO LIBRARY ARCHIVES

JOANNE MONNER, ARCHIVIST

The Flood Advisory Programme has been a real godsend for Milo Library Archives. As we have only volunteer staff except for the contract archivist for 10 weeks a year, coming up with a disaster plan was a monumental task that didn’t even get off the ground. Thanks to Emily Turgeon-Brunet and Amanda Oliver from the Flood Advisory Programme for a site visit to assess our situation and our space. From that assessment we were provided with a complete disaster kit, several archival supplies, 6 metal shelving units and a large map drawer. As we have little to no budget, all of this would have been impossible to purchase without major fundraising. It could have taken us years to get our Archives in the condition it is in today.

WATER, MOULD, BUGS, AND TERRIBLE PUNS:
THE CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES AND THE ASA FLOOD ADVISORY PROGRAMME

TIM O’GRADY, ARCHIVIST

When I offered a blurb for the upcoming ASA newsletter on the City of Edmonton Archives’ experience with the Flood Advisory Programme, I figured 250-300 words would be fairly simple. So wrong! The truth is that the Flood Advisory Programme, and its impact on us, deserves far more than only a few hundred words.

When the Programme began, we had the honour of providing space to Emily and Amanda to do their work. Not only did that mean we got to see their happy faces every day (unless they were out on one of their many site visits), but I think we got more than our fair share of their help, as I was never shy to ask for it!

Like any member Archives, we received a site evaluation, which identified a number of areas we need to work on. We were also provided with a package of disaster response supplies, some of which we have already had to use.

The Programme’s staff was there when we had a minor disaster, helping us dry the material, and providing assistance in finding a conservator to hire who could clean the documents. They were there when we started our integrated pest management program, providing advice and supplies. They were able to provide a solution when our ancient water sensors no longer seemed viable. Even when Emily and Amanda moved out of our facility, they were there.

The Programme was instrumental in the latest Disaster Preparedness workshop, and through the extremely generous financial assistance provided by the ASA, I was able to attend on behalf of my institution.

Most recently, Emily visited our site with one of the ASA’s latest toys - an ELSEC monitor. We toured the vaults and public areas measuring UV and lux levels, the results of which have been quite “illuminating”.

This is all without mentioning the how-to videos, website content, and new app. Suffice it to say, our experience with the Flood Advisory Programme has been excellent, and it is a testament to the skill and hard work of its staff, and the dedication shown by those individuals who make the ASA such a strong organization.
CITY OF WETASKIWIN ARCHIVES
RACHEL KNUDSEN, ARCHIVIST

The City of Wetaskiwin Archives received assistance through the ASA Flood Advisory Programme in the fall of 2015. As is the case with many archival institutions, we had not been able to process several items in our collection due to staffing and funding issues. Part of an important negative collection had been sitting on the shelf since 1997, and it was in danger of being permanently damaged due to degradation.

Through the Flood Advisory Programme we were able to process and digitize almost 5,000 of these negatives with the assistance of a contract archivist. Armed with new equipment, supplies and a disaster plan, our archives are now more prepared to meet a potential disaster. The ASA Flood Advisory Programme has also increased access to our holdings which were in danger of being lost, and this has been invaluable to us.

Photo (Left): Frost-free freezers from the Flood Advisory Programme
Photo (Right): Negatives rehoused in cold storage

JEWISH ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON AND NORTHERN ALBERTA
COLLEEN PAULL, ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST

Emily Turgeon-Brunet and Amanda Oliver met with then archivist Paul Gifford at the end of October last year and finished their assessment of our Archives this January. When the ASA’s Flood Advisory Programme sent the extremely thorough “Flood Bin” (it’s far too large to be called a “kit”) their note asked if they could assist any way with other supplies.

As a very small archives with limited funds any offer of help is jumped on and I contacted Emily to see what that offer meant. After much back and forth and patient explanation by Emily, I sent a list of various media stored in various (non archival) containers (ie: reel to reel films, cassette tapes, DVDs of Oral Histories) with no idea what the result could possibly be. I felt that if JAHSENA received anything at all, it would be a blessing. Emily made no promises but said she would look into it.

Time passed, I didn’t dwell on it and left everything in Emily’s more than capable hands.

At the end of March a delivery man came asking for a spot to put some boxes. He asked to borrow a dolly and eyed me quizzically when I pointed to a corner. He kind of shrugged and left to start bringing up the boxes; box after box; eight in all of these huge boxes! All from the Archives Society of Alberta!

I can’t begin to describe how grateful and overwhelm- ed the Board of JAHSENA and I were by this extremely generous gesture. This has given us the opportunity to store our precious treasures properly enabling future generations to also enjoy them.

Thank you to Emily Turgeon-Brunet, Amanda Oliver and the Flood Advisory Programme for their hard work and generosity. Another special thank you goes to Emily for listening and campaigning on behalf of JAHSENA.
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.
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS, AND ARCHIVAL RECORDS ARE CENTRE STAGE
LISA ATKINSON, ARCHIVIST

The University of Calgary is holding a year-long celebration to mark 50 years as an independent university. Celebrations of this milestone anniversary began in April with the launch of the University’s 50th anniversary website (http://www.ucalgarycelebrates.ca), a homecoming weekend for alumni, and a retrospective archival exhibition, and will continue until spring 2017 with community engagement showcases, exhibitions of art and archival collections, conferences, and other events.

Established on 1 April 1966, the University has roots that date back to the forming of the Calgary Normal School in 1905. In 1945 the Calgary Normal School became the Calgary Branch of the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Education when the Alberta government reorganized post-secondary education to accommodate the increased demand created by soldiers returning home at the end of the Second World War. The breadth and length of programs offered in Calgary increased gradually between 1945 and 1966, driven all the while by a strong local demand for an autonomous university in the city.

The University Archives holds textual records and photographs that document the pre-autonomy period of the University’s history, as well as the past 50 years which are being celebrated in 2016. While its holdings have been in high demand during the celebrations, the Archives has been preparing for the anniversary since 2014 by developing criteria, surveying and selecting records for digitization; meeting with colleagues to clarify copyright, metadata and digitization requirements; and providing research support for the writing of a history of the University. With the aid of an internal grant a researcher and digitization technician was hired and over 45,000 pages of university records scanned and uploaded to an online digital collection (http://contentdm.ucalgary.ca/cdm/landingpage/collection/uc50). Included are photographs, campus newspapers, yearbooks, annual reports, convocation booklets, reports, pamphlets, Fact Books and other items.

In addition to the digital collection, the University Archives has created its own 50th anniversary website which features 50 stories about noteworthy events in the university’s history - one for each of the university’s 50 years. Presidential installations, new building openings, the first student pub which featured 3 beers for $1, and the impact of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games on the university campus are just a few of the events featured in the Celebrating 50 Years site (http://asc.ucalgary.ca/celebrating50). Many articles have been picked up by University Communications and included in the University’s 50th anniversary website or in the UToday campus digital newsletter.

Photo: Lieutenant Governor Grant MacEwan installs Dr. Harold Armstrong as President and Vice-Chancellor, 1966. University of Calgary Archives, 82.011_01.37_1.
The University Library has partnered with the Archives in the celebrations by highlighting and providing a link on the front page of its highly visible website to a different story each week throughout the year in a ‘50 years in 50 weeks’ approach. In addition, the Library has dedicated one of its large-screen media walls to celebrating the 50th anniversary and the Archives’ image collection: each week a selection of images from a year in the university’s history rolls across the media wall, while a segment of the wall includes notes on world events in that year. The exposure our collections have had has been enormous!

Campus units, alumni groups, and the university’s communications team are all heavily using the digital collection created for the 50th anniversary, but are also finding value in the collections created a decade ago for the University of Calgary’s 40th anniversary. In 2006 the Archives created a virtual exhibit telling the story of the university’s pre-autonomy years from 1905-1966. The Road to Autonomy exhibit (http://contentdm.ucalgary.ca/cdm/about/collection/roads) is accompanied by a digital collection (http://contentdm.ucalgary.ca/cdm/landingpage/collection/roads) which houses approximately 2500 pages of digitized archival documents and images from the University Archives’ holdings relevant to this period. The records provide evidence of the activities and educational institutions which pre-date the founding of the University and of local individuals and organizations actively involved in pursuing the goal of an autonomous institution. In addition, the 40 Years of Autonomy digital collection (http://contentdm.ucalgary.ca/cdm/landingpage/collection/arctime) highlights significant events that occurred on campus during each year of the university’s first 40 years, placing them in context with contemporaneous events in Canada and around the world, and illustrating them with images from the University Archives’ photographic collection.

The University of Calgary’s 50th anniversary has focused the lens on the institution’s history and hence on its archival records, resulting in the Archives being provided with generous resources to digitize our holdings and make them more broadly available. It has been gratifying to see the interest that the community has shown in the treasures the Archives holds, and as the University increases in age it is expected that this respect for its past will be sustained into the future.

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: meribethp@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 #3 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 2017-2018

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 No. ____________________________________________ CVV No. _________

Expiry ___________ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐

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