On behalf of the ASA, I would like to thank Past President Shamin Malmas who faithfully and passionately served the organization over the last four years! Most recently, Shamin’s leadership has helped the ASA navigate through the difficult times of organizational change, the rapid staff expansion and several large and logistically challenging initiatives. But the list of items accomplished is rather impressive: the Flood Advisory Programme and the Audio Visual Preservation Project were successfully wrapped up on top of regular educational workshops, newsletters, grants and outreach projects!

Currently, with Rene returning to the office, we finally have a more stable situation and are ready to plan for the future. At the board level, we’re excited to welcome Jason Nisenson as Treasurer and Carson Murphy as Individual Member-at-Large. The new board boasts gender parity and greater geographical diversity -- from Peace River Country to Southern Alberta. The July board meeting presented the opportunity to get to know each other and start exploring future directions. Thanks to Rene for organizing an in-depth orientation session and getting us all on the same page.

The most pressing items are the strategic planning (the current four year plan is expiring at the end of 2018) and the needs assessment process. We hope to put things in motion this fall with the help of a government facilitator. On the policy front, we are looking at developing an HR Policy and harmonizing the terms of reference for the committees. We also need to hire an accounting firm to conduct an audit -- to make sure the ASA finances are in order.

In the larger context, funding questions continue to be a concern. Will there be further cuts to the funding distributed through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation? Can we sustain the current level of service in the future? In any case, we need to continue the tradition of continuous dialogue with the Foundation and the elected officials in order voice the ASA’s position on critical issues. My impromptu introduction to Minister of Culture Ricardo Miranda (thanks, Shamin) at the Edmonton ACA Conference certainly helped reestablish the connection.

Let’s get the work started!
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COLUMN
RENE GEORGOPALIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

The Archives Society of Alberta’s Board of Directors has been thinking about ASA’s role in communications as well as whether or not we are meeting the needs of our members within our capacity. I am enjoying seeing the board examine the direction of the ASA and asking questions that shape our future services.

This fall, I have an anniversary of being at the ASA for 6 years. Wow, 6 years, how did that happen so quickly!?! And in those 6 years, I have been confused about the many platforms ASA uses to communicate with our members and other groups. In fact, it was never made clear who our audience is. We have a Facebook group, this newsletter, a blog, a website and now a Twitter account and Youtube channel. My previous boards have never defined who it is that I am to communicate with or the purpose of all these tools. I am looking forward to the development of a communications plan so that my time is not wasted on unnecessary tools and that we are being as effective as we can to audiences we actually want to communicate to. We are aiming to clarify these issues by the end of this fiscal year, so as an ASA member, you can expect to see changes in 2019-2020. The ASA Board will also be looking at creating a new Strategic Plan in 2019-2020 which is exciting as well. This internal reflection is so important.

Also, for 2019-2020, we will be having a conference in Banff, which I am really looking forward to. The deadline for conference proposal submissions is fast approaching, so be sure to get yours in! The conference title is “Mind the Gap: Digital Evanescence, Cultural Diversity and the Archival Challenge of Social Memory”. It should be an exciting theme and I look forward to having archivists gather in the beautiful Rockies once again. More details on our conference can be found here: http://archivesalberta.org/professional-development/conference/.
In mid-June I had the good fortune to attend the CCI workshop on the care and handling of photographic materials, held in Banff. This was made possible, in part, through a professional development travel assistance grant from the ASA. I was one of 19 archives and information professionals to spend two full days learning about photographic materials: their types and properties, storage requirements, preventative conservation, and emergency salvage.

Through the workshop I learned what I was doing well at my institution, including preventative conservation methods like proper housing, safekeeping from pests and pollutants, and limiting the handling of the material through the creation of access copies. I also learned about some of the things that we need to work on - particularly the environmental condition in which we store our chromographic and digital prints.

This workshop was a great opportunity to meet with staff from CCI and to network with colleagues from across Alberta. There were a couple of familiar faces, but the majority of those in attendance were people I hadn’t yet met. The professional connections that come out of workshops always pay dividends in the future.

The course reinvigorated me and got me excited about working with the photographs in our collection. I learned some new techniques for creating different types of enclosures, and I’m eagerly anticipating my first forays into flattening rolled panoramic prints. Although the course was packed with great information, it was really just the tip of the iceberg. Luckily I was provided with a massive amount of resources to continue learning.

Photo credit: Mount Norquay chairlift – two chairs, 1950 / Lloyd Harmon, photographer / Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies / Lloyd Harmon fonds (V108/II/NA-1934)
ACDPS AND THE CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES
ELIZABETH WALKER

After several years of working to build an integrated and sustainable digital preservation and online access system, the City of Edmonton Archives has joined ACDPS - the Archives Canada Digital Preservation Service. We now have a new database and online catalogue as well as processing software and preservation storage for digital material!

A bit about ACDPS

It's pronounced Ack-Dips, perhaps a nod to the scariness of digital preservation as well as the OAIS Standard. It's a co-operative between Archives Canada and Artefactual Systems Inc. They have created a collective repository for individual archives to securely store digital records and also have an instance of their own database and online catalogue.

Archives Canada: the public face of the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) which is an arm’s length agency of the Federal Government (Heritage Canada). Archives Canada includes a national database of Canadian archives and their collections. Like the ASA’s Alberta on Record this database is also based on AtoM software.

Artefactual Systems Inc.: the British Columbia based creators of the software AtoM and Archivematica. AtoM (Access to Memory) is a RAD compliant database and online catalogue. Archivematica is OAIS Standard based processing software that creates Archival Information Packages (AIPs) for storage in the digital repository. AIPs include the digital records being preserved (including preservation copies if applicable) and metadata (for example, descriptive for resource discovery and technical to help keep the material accessible over time). It can also prepare Dissemination Information Packages (DIPs) and send them directly into AtoM (for example, item level images for inclusion in the online catalogue).
ACDPS at the City of Edmonton Archives

We were interested in both AtoM and Archivematica and, after working closely with the City of Edmonton’s IT and Corporate Procurement departments, the software was certified for use at the City. This was a journey in and of itself and along the way Artefactual was christened Triple-A as it’s so easy to confuse the names!

Our main hurdle was funding as we needed a onetime sum for set up and migration from our current database as well as an increase to the Archives’ operating budget to maintain the software and storage going forward. This is where we had several setbacks and this is why ACDPS is perfect for us. Because it's a co-op, costs are shared which brought the final price down so that we are able to fund it from the Archives’ budget instead of relying on corporate funding.

As well as relative affordability, there are many advantages to ACDPS. Both CCA and Artefactual are Canadian organizations of long standing with good reputations. If I have to put the City's records in third party hands they are ones I'm comfortable with.

The storage is cloud and mirrored between two providers, both located in Canada (in the east but sufficiently far apart if disaster should occur). This is the model the UK Parliamentary Archives uses, by having two providers that mirror your data you are covered if one company disappears (bankrupt, changed business model, whatever).

There is an exit plan in place if everything goes south. It would be awful but they have promised in the service agreement to help us get our data out if we have to.

In addition, we did an in-depth FOIP and Privacy Impact Assessment with the Office of the City Clerk and ACDPS met the City's criteria and passed their assessment.
ACDPS AND THE CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES (CONT.)

ELIZABETH WALKER

As with anything, there are a couple of potential drawbacks with the co-operative that aren’t present if we were to go it alone. For example, while there is great technical support by Artefactual, we don’t have command line access which limits some of the things we can do ourselves.

Also, there are multiple organizations and trust is involved. For example, the service agreements with the cloud providers are with the CCA and we have to trust that they are tight agreements.

If it all goes south, promises aside, we might have trouble getting our data out. This risk is balanced by the risk of continuing to try and set up our own system. And, in the meantime our digital records would not be processed or managed properly.

AtoM

The migration of the data from our previous database was as interesting as these things usually are. That is to say there was a lot of work and unexpected issues and not everything worked perfectly. But all in all it went relatively smoothly and I am deeply grateful to all my colleagues for their help and Meribeth Plenert and Wilbert Ng for going above and beyond. I’ll be sharing more about our migration project another time.

We had a soft launch of our instance of AtoM at the end of July, you can find it at: http://cityarchives.edmonton.ca/. We are having a formal launch at Edmonton’s City Hall on Thursday, October 4 from 3:30 for 4:30 and all are welcome!

With this new initiative at the City of Edmonton Archives, we have high hopes for our online future and for the long term preservation and continued accessibility of digital material in our care.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Lisa Atkinson, an archivist at the University of Calgary and previous ASA board member has retired. Gina Payzant has left the Town of Athabasca Archives. Best of luck on your future endeavors!

There have been some new hires in the province. Leanne Templeton has joined to United Church of Canada, Alberta and Northwest Conference Archives and Christina Lust has joined the Sylvan Lake Archives. Welcome!

Brenda McCafferty from the Legal Archives Society of Alberta has gone to the UK for one year for studies, so for this year, we can welcome Kelly Turner who will be covering Brenda’s leave.
On Oct. 22, 2018, the two Franciscan Provinces, Christ the King Province of western Canada and Province St-Joseph of eastern Canada, joined together to form one Canadian Franciscan Province, Holy Spirit Province Saint-Esprit. The joining of two previously separate Provinces also means that two physically and intellectually separate archives are now one. With this union of archives comes changes and new challenges as the archives of Christ the King Province of western Canada becomes part of the Franciscans of Canada archives.

On the ground level, archives administration and tasks are not greatly changed or affected. However, I am concerned about working out larger issues such as access policies, intellectual arrangement, records collection policies, just to name a few, with my new colleague in the east. The transition will be a slow process, but I hope to share more as it progresses. Thank you to everyone in our archives community who were so generous with their thoughts and resources whenever I reached out for advice!

The Franciscans of Canada Archives (West) is located in Edmonton, Alberta. Its mission is to preserve the documentary and intellectual heritage of the Franciscans in the western Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The archives contains records of the Provincial administration of the past Christ the King Province of western Canada, as well as personal records of individual friars in the Province. The archives is made available to members of the Order and to researchers. For research requests, please contact the archivist at 780-476-2338 or library.archives@franciscanfriars.ca.
## ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2018 – 2019

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**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. ____________________________________________

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