



FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

Rene Georgopolis, Executive Director/Archives Advisor



Spring 2014 has been a very busy time for the Archives Advisor. Usually, the Spring is busy at the Archives Society of Alberta, but this Spring has probably been busier than most as we have had an additional project with our flood funding from Alberta Culture.

The Archives Institute was a success. This Institute was the second time that I was the main instructor and I felt it went very smoothly. The Institute is quite popular at the ASA as we had to turn six people away since the room was too small to accommodate all the people who were interested in attending. Seventeen people attended and their photograph is in this issue of the ASA Newsletter. We had an intelligent and enthusiastic group of students. They asked challenging questions and were very keen. The attendees came from locations across the prairies and they had various backgrounds including museums, libraries, records management, management and archives support staff. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching this group.

Additionally this Spring, I have organized and put on my very first conference with help from Ericka Chemko. Her advice and assistance in

planning the conference was a large factor in the success of the conference as she had experience from organizing conferences in previous jobs. Jasper was such a beautiful location for our conference and I think that everyone appreciated the fresh mountain air as well as the beauty of the location. We organized a hike and had approximately eight people in attendance -- the hikers explored the Maligne Canyon. The hike was an opportunity to network and get a break from the sessions. We also enjoyed our pre-conference workshop and opening reception at the beautiful location of Pyramid Lake resort. It was a joy to have Heather MacNeil come from Toronto to share her knowledge of privacy legislation and privacy matters with ASA members.

Furthermore, Laura Millar discussed the issue of risk in archives which is a timely topic as

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

many of us are feeling that there are risks in our profession. She was our opening keynote, then, she offered a short workshop on assessing risk and lastly, she closed the conference with a plenary on solutions to these risks. Conference attendees shared what they felt was a risk at their archives via Twitter and by posting to a bulletin board. Laura Millar responded to these concerns during the closing plenary and offered us new ways of looking at these matters and possible solutions.

At the conference, we also had our annual general meeting and Spring Institutional Forum.

And as was stated in the conference title, Taking Risks, Facing Risks: Turning Archival Threats into Opportunities, the ASA is undergoing such a time. The floods that happened in Alberta, June 2013, devastated some of ASA's institutional members. Some archival holdings were unrecoverable post-flood, some are in a state of stress and some survived. Luckily, the opportunity that has come from the flood is funding of \$1,000,000 from Alberta Culture. Some of our institutional members have learned a lot from experiencing such a disaster. With this funding, we will be able to help recover those sites that were heavily hit, offer temporary employment to archivists and conservators and learn how to better store our collections and prepare for potential future disasters.

Alison Freake, the Provincial Archives of Alberta's conservator and I have visited the most heavily hit sites. Each site experienced the floods in a different way and each site has unique issues. ASA has formed a Flood Advisory committee, Alison is one of the members, and with this committee we have created a plan on how to assist sites that were affected and prepare our members for future potential disasters. Our new Lead Team of a conservator and archivist will be starting their jobs this summer and will assess all the sites that were heavily hit as well as those sites that sit on a flood plain and help either recover the site and/or prepare for future risks. The ASA is excited to be given this opportunity. As for our institutional members, the Lead Team will be contacting you in the coming year. If you have any questions about this project, feel free to contact me.

In other ASA news, I look forward to all the site visits I have planned for this summer. I will be travelling to Donnelly and Edson. I will also be conducting institutional reviews for archival institutions south of Edmonton and up to and including Calgary.

I presented at the ACA conference in June in Victoria, BC on the future of Archives Advisors in Canada post-NADP elimination. Nearly every province and territory was represented at this roundtable and there were some good and interesting discussions on what to do in our post-NADP world and how to still get advice out to archival institutions in Canada that are in need. In addition to this presentation, a number of Alberta archivists attended the ACA conference. Attendees included Marilyn Campbell, Elizabeth Walker, Kathryn Ivany, Michael Gourlie, Leslie Latta, Susan Walker, Mary Nutting, Linda Fraser, Vito Vipulanantharajah, Philip Pype, Shamin Malmas, Bryan Corbett and James Franks.

Finally, Debby Shocter, ASA's President for 5 years, has just left her position this year. She also has left her position as archivist for the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta and has taken on a new opportunity as Chief Executive Officer for the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. It feels strange to have her nearly leave the community, but she is still involved in other groups in the heritage sector. I have enjoyed working with Debby over the past two years and will miss her but I also look forward to working with a new president.

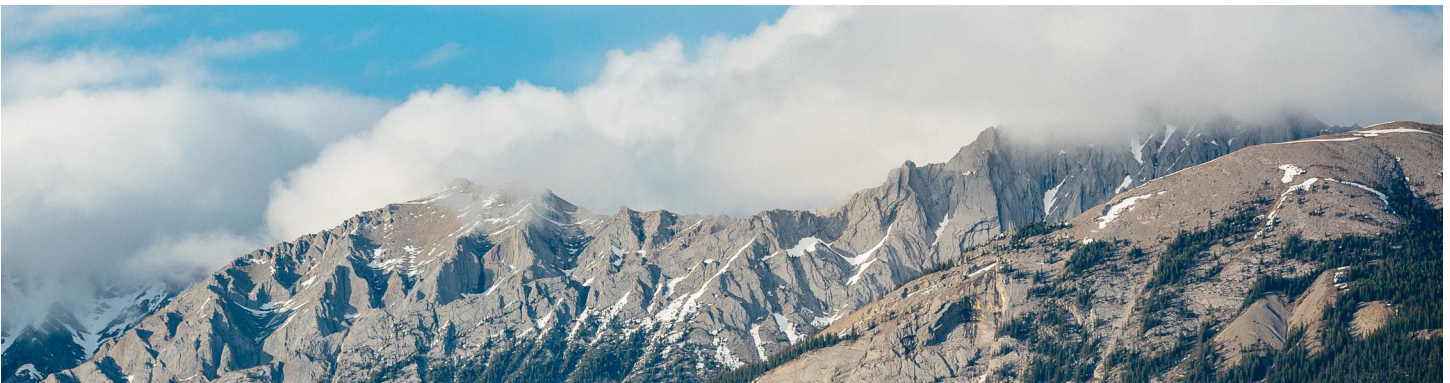
Archives Institute Participants



Back row, L to R: Kathleen Levesque, Alice Solyma, Korey Dyck, Angie Friesen, Shirley Klyne, Maryna Chernyavska, Patrick Arès-Pilon, Tim Janewski, Shannon Cherkowski, Ellen Corea.

Middle row, L to R: Kate Woltmann, Jill Crawley-Low, Kathy Blasko, Lyndsey Lisitza.

Front Row, L to R: Deidre Farah, Alicia Odeen, Jaclyn Landry.



Archives Institute Report

Maryna Chernyavska University of Alberta

I've learned about the Archives Institute a few years ago, and my immediate reaction after I had read the description was: "That's exactly what we need!"

As the preceding archivists at the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives at the University of Alberta, I had folklore training, but no professional archival or other information field expertise. Circumstances didn't allow me to participate in the AI until this year, but every day of studying reconfirmed the right decision I made with generous support of our curator to pursue this highly efficient and valuable educational opportunity.

I should confess that I received more than I expected. Checking the syllabus before coming to class, I was looking forward to some of the classes, and was less interested in others. As it turned out, the program is designed so well that the topics

provide a holistic approach to archival science and answer most of the questions the students have. Theoretical classes, practical exercises and hands-on training were balanced perfectly for those who had some experience working at an archives, but no formal training.

And what is also important, Archives Institute builds a community. A community of people working at archives, people passionate about archives, those who are open to share their knowledge and skills to help each other and promote the significant work we do.

A big thank you to the Archives Society of Alberta for this wonderful learning experience!

ASA BURSARY RECIPIENT

Submitted by Coralee Louko



I am currently in my final semester of the dual Masters of Archival Studies and Masters of Library and Information Studies program at UBC in Vancouver. Last summer I applied for the ASA Tuition Support Program, and I am extremely thankful for the financial assistance. As I look back over all the hard work I have put into the last three years or so, I am pleased with the valuable skills I have learned, the issues I have encountered, and the many wonderful people in the archival profession that I have met and worked with – in Alberta as well as BC. out the most are the archival professionals who have volunteered their time and expertise as mentors (both officially and off-the books), and have dramatically enriched my education. I look forward to finishing my studies here in April and returning home to Calgary.

Several are ASA members, and as such, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ASA for the many contributions made toward my As much as I miss sunny Alberta, I value the time spent in studying diplomatics and digital preservation with Luciana Duranti, in taking courses on topics such as personal and non-textual archives, in doing work experience projects, and in volunteering with the UBC chapter of the ACA to organize our yearly international symposia. But what stands out the most are the archival professionals who have volunteered their time and expertise as mentors (both officially and off-the books), and have dramatically enriched my education. Several are ASA members, and as such, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ASA for the many contributions made toward my education. I look forward to finishing my studies here in April and returning home to Calgary.

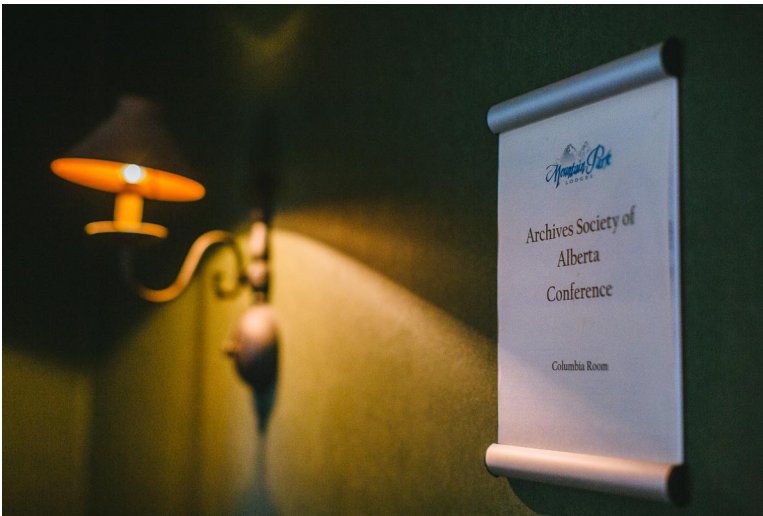
ASA Conference 2014 in Pictures

May 22-24, 2014 - Jasper, AB

Facing Risks, Taking Risks: Turning Archival Threats into Opportunities

"The ASA Conferences are always well planned with excellent speakers and timely themes"







Pre-Conference Workshop (Privacy and Archives)

Submitted by Marilyn Campbell, Hinton Municipal Library and Archives

It was my pleasure to be in attendance at the ASA Pre-Conference Workshop on May 22, 2014 at Pyramid Lake Resort facilitated by Heather MacNeil, Professor in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, where she teaches courses in the areas of Archival Theory and Practice and History of Record Keeping.

The fact that Professor MacNeil kept my attention throughout the day, despite me having a window seat affording a view of Pyramid Lake and the mountains gracing its horizon, attests both to the content of the material she presented and her delivery style; her ability to keep the attendees' attention. Through lively discussion and interactive group activities, we were introduced to the legal, ethical, and practical issues we as archival staff need to consider when administering access to records containing personal information. This has been such a complex issue for me but she was able to pull out the essence of what is important for us to think about as we provide access to our records. This discussion covered both Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Personal Information Protection Act. As an archives dealing with both municipal government records and personal records, I appreciated the inclusive presentation.

She also introduced the considerations needed by archival staff in setting up policies in regards to use by researchers to protect the ethical and private use of records in our collections.

For me personally, this workshop was totally stimulating and thought provoking. Professor MacNeil kept us engaged, was open to questions and gave us time to apply the concepts in practical group sessions. I came away feeling I was empowered to face issues that may arise from the use of our records and the mindfulness with which I must move forward in the archives with respect to Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act and Personal Information Protection Act. It was an extremely valuable workshop.



ASA Bursaries & Awards

The ASA would like to announce that for the new fiscal year, 2014-2015, there have been some changes to our bursaries. We would also like to remind our members about our awards. The ASA has discontinued its Archival Practicum Support program which covered the travel costs for those pursuing a practicum in an Alberta archival institution. In its place, the ASA will be offering two bursaries to support higher education in archival studies.

BURSARY PROGRAM

To provide an incentive for promising Alberta students or professionals to obtain graduate education in archival studies. The bursary is to be used for tuition, books, and other related expenses.

Amount: \$1,500 available to two ASA members per membership year (total \$3,000).

Conditions:

a) Eligibility:

Applicants must be current ASA individual members who are resident Albertans (or those whose permanent address is in Alberta) accepted as a full-time first or second year student in a graduate program of archival studies or equivalent.

b) Criteria for selection:

- i) Academic and/or professional merit.
- ii) Potential for contributing to Alberta's archival community.
- iii) Preference will be given to first-time applicants.

c) Payment:

Applications should be received no later than July 30. Grants will be awarded before the end of September.

d) Payment Schedule:

Grants will be paid in two installments:

- i) One-half of the amount at the beginning of the first semester of the academic year, and
- ii) One-half of the amount at the beginning of the second semester, pending submission of proof of continuing enrolment in the program.

TUITION SUPPORT PROGRAM

To assist with tuition and other costs incurred in completing a course or courses at a post-secondary institution in the fields of archives administration or records management. The grant may be used and other expenses incurred in attending courses in archive administration or records management.

Amount: \$500.00 available per membership year. A maximum of \$250.00 per course will be paid.

Conditions:

a) Eligibility:

- i) applicants must be current asa individual Members who are resident albertans (or Those whose permanent address is in Alberta).
- ii) applicants must be currently enrolled in an Appropriate course at a post-secondary Institution; or applicants have thirty (30) days After completion of the course to submit Applications for funding.
- lii) applications will be accepted from Students who wish to attend out-of-province Institutions, or who have completed courses At out-of-province institutions, within thirty (30) Days of completing the course.

b) Criteria for selection:

- i) Preference will be given to those applicants who wish to attend, or who have completed courses at institutions in Alberta.

- ii) Preference will be given to those applicants who are currently employed in archives or records management.

c) Payment Schedule:

- i) Grant payments will be made after completion of the course.
- ii) No single applicant will receive more than one grant per year.



AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ARCHIVAL PRACTICE

The Archives Society of Alberta (ASA) Award for Outstanding Archival practice recognizes the exceptional contributions of institutions and individuals to archival work in Alberta. The ASA Board will adjudicate and present the Award based on suggestions received from the community.

Applicants must be a member of the ASA and the AMA.

Categories include:

Acquisition: acquisition of records significant to a community, region, or Alberta.

Accessibility: projects that make records available, either through creation of a paper-based finding aid to significant records or the development of online access to archival records.

Awareness: projects that highlight an institutions' archival program, or the integration and use of archival records in exhibits that highlight their unique qualities.

Achievement: in volunteerism, fundraising, or other activities with an impact on archival practice.

Award recipients will be presented with their Award at the AMA Awards celebration held as part of the 2014 Annual Conference in Calgary, Alberta.



ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA SLIS SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded annually to a full- or part-time master's student in the MLIS program of the School of Library and Information Studies on the basis of superior academic achievement in the SLIS course that focuses on archives. If the archives-focused course is not offered in a particular year, the award shall be given to a student who demonstrates professional promise in the field of archives and demonstrates superior academic achievement in one or more MLIS courses that focus on the following areas: Records Management, History of the Book, or Preservation.

Eligible students will be considered automatically by the School. No formal application is necessary.

All nominations or application can be submitted to Rene Georgopolis, ASA Executive Director/Archives Advisor, at reneg@archivesalberta.org. The applications can be found at this link: http://184.154.168.45/~archives/doc/grant_2013.pdf.



PEOPLE AND PLACES

Debby Shoctor has a new job as Chief Executive Officer for the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. The position of archivist at the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta is currently vacant.

Wendy Dyck, former archivist of Peace River Museum and Archives and current Treasurer of the ASA, was married on June 14.

We are saddened that Timothy Atherton, former archivist of Musée Héritage Museum in St. Albert, passed away February 2014.

Diane Lamoureux is working as part-time archivist for the Sisters of Providence Archives in addition to her position as archivist for the Missionary Oblates at Mary Immaculate Archives.



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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:

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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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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

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Expiry _____ CVC _____ ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

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