Once again, the ASA is in a period of transition. Rene is back from leave and has resumed the role of Executive Director and Archives Advisor. Over the past few weeks she has been getting re-acquainted with the ASA and catching up on all our activities from 2016-2017.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my thanks to Meribeth for taking on the Acting Executive Director and Archives Advisor role. Completing the Flood Program, DHCP Project, and managing the day-to-day activities of the ASA was no small task. While the year was not without its challenges, I believe that we have all grown personally and professionally from the experiences managing these large grants. Going forward we will have a much clearer idea of our capacity as an association when we have the opportunity to take on similar projects in the future.

We held our spring workshop on Copyright at the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre in Edmonton. The workshop was a great opportunity for archivists to learn about the many changes to the Copyright Act over time and to learn about how these changes impact Archives. I certainly have a better understanding of why the rules around photographs are so tricky! Once again, the Education Committee organized an important opportunity for learning and professional development. Stay tuned for details of the fall workshop.

Melissa McCarthy and I represented the ASA at an Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (AHRF) meeting in Calgary. As many members will know, AHRF is our funding body. In addition to providing valuable information to AHRF about the ongoing work of the ASA, the meeting was an opportunity to hear updates from the other Provincial Heritage Organizations and learn about the work they are doing. Our presentation focused on how the events, activities, grants and other programs that the ASA manages support our goals and strategic plan. Melissa and I had a great time in Calgary, although it was somewhat rushed as we needed to be back in Edmonton for the AGM the next day!

I was lucky enough to have funding to attend the Association of Canadian Archivist Conference in Ottawa earlier in June. The theme of the conference was “Archives Disrupted” and many of the panels and papers addressed archival identity. Emily Lonie has written a wonderful review of the conference on her blog (http://www.thingsimfondsof.com/aca-2017/) which is well worth a read. ACA will be held in Edmonton in June 2018 and I hope that Alberta archivists are well represented at the conference!
A RETURN TO THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR
RENE GEORGOPALIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & ARCHIVES ADVISOR

After one year of leave, I have returned to work, at least part-time for now! Taking the year off was wonderful as I had time to focus on my family and now I am back and refreshed, but more busy than ever before! I would like to announce to you all that I am slowly working my way up to full-time and the ASA office should be running as usual come October. I will miss driving around the province and doing site visits this summer, but feel free to schedule a distant (from Edmonton) site visit with me for spring or summer 2018.

Upon my return, I have been busy discovering what has happened at ASA last year, settling back into work, writing year end reports and preparing and implementing the AGM and Institutional Forum. I think our Spring AGM went smoothly and it was lovely to have Meribeth there to fill you all in on what happened in my position over the past year. We have also been incredibly busy with the Archives Institute at an unusual time this year, in June, and doing preparatory work for Archives Week in the fall.

I have met my new Administrative Assistant, Jia Jia, and I think we will work well together. I really am looking forward to it. It is strange returning to an office without the “large” staff that ASA had with the Flood Advisory Programme and the Audiovisual Preservation and Access Strategy project. I really miss having Amanda and Emily around and I had just started Deborah on her work so it is strange to return with the project completed. Everything is truly back to the usual ASA grind as we currently have no special projects.

In the coming year, we are going to be working on getting some feedback for public relations needs in order to steer the direction of the Communication committee and Board of Directors. We have some planning to do with the ACA on what next year’s ACA and ASA combined conference will look like. I am very excited to have the ACA conference here in Alberta. I really hope that many ASA members are planning to attend that conference and perhaps help out on the ACA host committee. We will also be publishing our first issue of Fonds d’Archives, how exciting!

Other than that, I look forward to visiting the members I have not seen yet since my return, and there are a few new archivists in the province whom I need to meet. I have missed hearing your news and updates from your archival institutions and trying to support you to the best of my abilities. See you soon.
THE HISTORY OF THE PEACE RIVER IN 150 OBJECTS

SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

The South Peace Regional Archives (SPRA) has created a display for Canada’s 150 as part of a larger project sponsored by the Spirit of the Peace Museum Network (SOTP). Carson Murphy, Archivist with the Peace River Museum and Archives, received a Community Canada 150 grant to organize, “The History of the Peace River in 150 Objects”.

Twenty-six museums and archives in northwestern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia are participating in the project. The 150 objects on display across this area covers archaeological items from 9,000 BCE to modern paleontology discoveries in 2015. This includes the ten documents from the collections at the SPRA that are currently on display in the Grande Prairie Museum. Those documents are: 1820 Will of John Davis; 1834 HBC Fur Trade Ledger from Fort Dunvegan; 1879 Travel Map of George Dawson; 1901 Working Copy of the Census; O. H. Johnson’s Diary, 1908; Tuffill Family Album 1915-1950; Lake Saskatoon Journal, 1917; 1920 Grande Prairie Board of Trade Booklet; Hermit Lake Scroll; 1949 Five Mile Creek School Yearbook.

As much as the 150 Objects project is about history and is about celebrating Canada’s 150, we were also looking for ways to help increase an awareness of archives and what archives do and why we do what we do. It always seems like such a mystery to people. At the same time, we recognized that Canada’s 150 is not a celebratory event for many. The descendants of settlers and immigrants have a troubled past and present with the Indigenous citizens of this country. We wanted to create a display that would highlight the value of documentary heritage, tell the story of individual people and families who are the foundations of our present, and remain respectful of the fact that many successes came at great cost to those not receiving the benefits. This seemed like a tall order for a relatively small display but tall orders seem to be one of the things that archives do.

In the end, we focused on what we see as one of our most important duties as archivists: advocacy. Certainly, acquisition, preservation, and accessibility are our primary tasks. We need to have a record to advocate for. But if no one knows about archives or appreciates their value, all the work we do may well be in vain. The records will remain unused, facilities will be continually short-changed, and staff will remain under-supported. None of those situations contributes to our primary tasks. Keeping advocacy to the forefront, we created a tiered display that focuses on the documents themselves and how we use them to write history.

The display can be experienced in layers - the static display, featuring the original documents in a protective enclosure, provides the overarching narrative about the role of documents in understanding history. Each document is accompanied with a brief text about how it came to SPRA and the research value of the document. Throughout the Grande Prairie Museum (we are in the back portion of their building) copies that visitors can view, and handle in some cases, provide more context about each document’s creation and use.
At the suggestion of the Museum, we also created a scavenger hunt and are planning to be part of their Heritage Hunters programs Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The archivist will dress in period costume and work as an on-site interpreter, giving impromptu tours and explanations about the documents and the people behind them. We hope to engage the visiting public in casual discussions about these documents in particular and documents and archives in general.

We also plan to blog about each item in fuller detail. Researching this exhibit has led to some interesting questions about the documents and the people involved. We hope that following up these threads and posting about them will not only provide interesting stories but help people develop a better understanding of why archives are so important. Articles for our newsletter are planned, as well as presentations at the Grande Prairie Library.

In order to build on this work and feedback from our public discussions, we will spend the summer developing a school package for various grade levels. We hope to students learn about the value of the documents they create in their daily lives and the importance of their own personal archives. The goal, ultimately, is to take the mystery out of archives. Our hope is that if we can reach out to the younger generation, then when they are older and need to go to an archive, it won’t seem quite so intimidating. Research for whatever reason - a school project, finding an ancestor, proving their existence, taking the government to task - will feel like the natural thing to do. And it should feel that way.

Image (Left): 1832 Hudson’s Bay Fur Trade Ledger, South Peace Regional Archives

Image (Right): 1917 April 20 Lake Saskatoon Journal, South Peace Regional Archives
We do tell some stories. Stories are a necessary part of knowing. Knowing about the people who created the documents and the people who were affected by the documents can help us understand the power or the fragility of the documents in our care.

The 1820 will of John Davis with its codicil and probate documents are interesting on their own. They tell us something about John Davis. But they don’t tell us that his wife was Métis, or that his children were Métis. They don’t tell us that he was a Chief Factor and a Master with the HBC, an important position. They don’t tell us why his two sons, John and William, are stated as beneficiaries only if Davis’s wife and other children and possible grandchildren are deceased. And while the codicil and the probate documents let us know there was concern about how John’s financial legacy was going to be managed for his wife and children’s benefit, and that thirty years after his death, his estate still was not settled, they don’t tell us why.

So in order to understand the document and its full meaning, we need to know that generally, only the well-to-do wrote wills during this era. We need to understand something of how British Estate Law worked. We need to know that many HBC men married “in the custom of the country” and that the lack of a legal marriage certificate may have meant Nancy and her children had to fight tooth and nail to gain access to John’s estate. Having access to those stories provides greater context and understanding about the document.
The History of the Peace River in 150 Objects (Cont.)

Ultimately, this display project has become a very large, continuing work in progress. Very much like an archives. And the documents we care for. Even though they remain static and unchanged, beyond the changes that time will ultimately render, their meaning and value changes for each generation. This is one of the reasons why original documents are so important and why it is important for people to see them. As much as documents shed light on the past, people continually breathe life into old documents. That is a message we hope to communicate with this display and the work we continue to do with this rich and valuable resource.

For more information about the SOTP 150 project and all the items, you can check out their website at www.spiritofthepeace.ca.

Brochures can be found at visitor centres along Highway 43 and all Spirit of the Peace participating museums or if additional copies are desired they can phone Carson Murphy at the Peace River Museum, Archives and Mackenzie Centre 780-624-4261.

For upcoming blogs and newsletter articles related to the South Peace Regional display items, check out our website at www.southpeacearchives.org.

Image (Left): 1939-1945 World War II poster, South Peace Regional Archives

Image (Top): 1959 Hand-written yearbook, South Peace Regional Archives
UNDERSTANDING COPYRIGHT FOR ARCHIVISTS WORKSHOP

ELIZABETH WALKER, CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES

On May 12, the ASA held a day long copyright workshop in Edmonton with twenty participants from across Alberta in attendance. The workshop, Understanding Copyright for Archivists, was led by Dr. Nancy Marrelli, Senior Advisor on Copyright to the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) Board of Directors.

Copyright is a balance between competing rights: the rights of copyright owners to control and benefit from use of their original material and the rights of users to use and build upon the work of others, with the idea that such use is for the public good and important for society to grow and innovate. As Nancy pointed out, archives are smack in the middle of this balance: as holders of copyright, users of copyrighted material (in exhibits for example), and facilitators for users of copyrighted material within our holdings.

The intent of the workshop was not to have an exhaustive study of the legislation or a prescriptive list of what to do, but rather to give participants the skills to interpret copyright and fit it to their particular context and situation. Nancy did caution though that she was not providing legal advice and it was important to be able to determine when professional advice is needed.

We started with a brief history up to the most recent changes in 2016 and then an overview of what copyright is and what it is not. We went over the seven categories of what is protected, which fall into two divisions - works and other subject matter (which can be thought of as adaptations of original works). The former consists of literary, artistic, dramatic and musical works and the latter performances, sound recordings and communication signals (including the internet).

We then discussed the qualities required in order to be covered by copyright: originality (the expression of the idea rather than the idea itself), fixed form and nationality (in terms of where the activity happens and whether international agreements are in place, location determines what copyright applies).

From there we went on to rights under copyright. There are two types: economic rights and moral rights. Economic rights rest with the copyright owner, which may or may not be the creator. Moral rights belong to the creator and cannot be transferred although agreements not to exercise moral rights are possible. Both types begin at creation, are tied to the life of the creator and expire at the same time. Terms of protection are generally Life + 50 although there are specific exceptions for photographs and some sound recordings (too many and varied to go into in this brief recap!).

Nancy went over twelve basic principles, for example:

#1 The Copyright Act and Copyright Jurisprudence: there is more to consider than the Act. We must also consider how the Courts have interpreted the Act as well as decisions of the Copyright Board.

#3 Physical Ownership and Ownership of Intellectual Property Rights are Separate Issues

#12 Donor Restrictions vs. Copyright Restrictions: donor agreements can supercede copyright but copyright cannot be extended.
We went over user rights specific to libraries, archives, and museums. Educational uses also apply and Nancy shared a resource on this topic that can be useful for archivists.

Archives can make copies for preservation purposes, either to provide an access copy to protect the original or to create a new preservation copy if the original is beyond use or is in an obsolete format. Although there is a contradiction in the Act in this regard because this migration may be contrary to the stricture against breaking digital locks.

When providing copies for research and private study (Fair Dealing) there are very specific conditions. Nancy recommends keeping relevant sections of the Act on hand for reference and/or to give to users as necessary. They are 30.2 (1), 30.2 (2), 30.2 (3), 30.2 (4). And if your institution allows self copying, it is recommended that a copyright notice is prominently posted. Regarding creating copies of unpublished works (correspondence, etc.), archives need to inform donors that material within the holdings can be copied under specific conditions. There should be something stating this in donor agreements.

Finally, we had an interesting discussion on risk management and how to assess your institution’s risk tolerance as well as strategies to avoid, reduce or deal with risk.

My main takeaways from the workshop are:

- Copyright is situationally specific, to determine consult the Act, related court cases and decisions by the Copyright Board
- If in doubt, seek professional (legal) advice
- Analyze your institution’s context, determine risk tolerance, and how copyright is addressed in signage, policy and procedures
- Fair Dealing has very specific conditions for use. Have a copy of relevant sections on hand to provide to researchers when discussing copying
- Make sure your donor agreement clearly informs donors that material in the archives may be copied under certain conditions
- It’s important to keep up to date on copyright, through training but also by paying attention to changes to the Act or through related court cases. When major changes happen the CCA produces Bulletins in response, generally in collaboration with legal advice

The workshop was informative and inspiring and instilled in me a greater confidence in dealing with copyright matters. Thank you to the ASA and the Education Committee for this workshop, and thank you to Nancy Marrelli for making a potentially dry topic interesting.

The Copyright Act is to be revisited every five years and the next review is at the end of 2017. It is important for archival voices to be part of this discussion and I encourage both individual archivists and institutions to participate.
Thanks to an Access to Holdings Grant from the Archives Society of Alberta, the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum & Archives has been able to process the Willy Pfisterer fonds. Willy Pfisterer was the Alpine Specialist for Jasper, Waterton, Glacier, Revelstoke, Kluane and Nahanni National Parks, and a pioneer in developing mountain rescue techniques in the mountain parks. Pfisterer raised his family in Jasper and had strong roots in this mountain.

In 2016, the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum & Archives was pleased to hold a book launch for 50% of Mountaineering is Uphill, a new book about Pfisterer’s life written by his daughter Susi. Susi and her daughters, Sophie and Teslin, read excerpts from the book to a packed room.

The Willy Pfisterer fonds can be viewed on Alberta on Record here: https://albertaonrecord.ca/willy-pfisterer-fonds

Congrats to Susanna “Susi” Pfisterer for being shortlisted in the Alberta Readers’ Choice Award.

You can vote for her book, 50 Percent of Mountaineering is Uphill, at the Edmonton Public Library website (www.epl.ca/ARCAvote) from July 4th until August 15th!
LAKE MCGREGOR MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO HOLDINGS GRANT PROJECT

JOANNE MONNER, MILO LIBRARY ARCHIVES

Lake McGregor was officially declared a park area in 1953, and the Lake McGregor Memorial Park Association was formed in June of that year by a group of Milo-area citizens who wanted to build a memorial to those who gave their lives in the two world wars. A part undertaking of the Milo Recreation Society, the first president was V.J. Bertrand, and the first secretary, C. L. Johnson. Membership in the Association was set at $1 per family per year. For many years the Association accepted donations of wheat for sale, with the proceeds going to support its activities.

The Milo United Farmers of Alberta contributed $1700 as a starting fund, and local volunteer labour created a park on several acres of prairie grass, extending from the west side of Lake McGregor to the irrigation canal. 400 small trees were ordered from the Department of Agriculture in April 1954. Landscaping of the park continued over the years, with 5000 caragana shrubs planted in the early 1960’s, along with 300 poplar trees and 100 elms.

A race meet was proposed in the spring of 1955, and the Sports Day that was held that June laid the groundwork for what was to become a mainstay of Lake McGregor Memorial Park Association funding for almost 20 years. Race Meet activities prompted the construction of many of the Parks buildings and facilities, and in 1961, it was decided that the Annual Race Meet would be best-handled by a committee separate from the Park Board.

A camp kitchen was built in 1957, and a dock in 1959. The provincial Department of Highways built a second kitchen in 1960, and 1961 saw the addition of a main gate and a golf course, which was leased to and operated by a separate organization, the Lake McGregor Golf Club. Funding from the County of Vulcan facilitated the upgrading of playgrounds and toilets, and the Park was available for use for gymkhana’s and other events.

The Lake McGregor Memorial Park Association was often in touch with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, particularly regarding issues of lake front access, and as early as 1962, there were discussions about turning the area over to the provincial government for re-designation as a Provincial Park. This issue was revisited many times over the years, particularly as the popularity of the area grew and supervision became of greater concern, but it wasn’t until 1985 that Lake McGregor Park was turned over to the provincial government, and the Lake McGregor Memorial Park Association was officially disbanded.

The Lake McGregor Memorial Park Association fonds description is available through the Archives Society of Alberta website at: http://www.albertaonrecord.ca/lake-mcgregor-memorial-park-association-fonds
The Musée Héritage Museum Archives has a number of records from significant sports events and sports associations in St. Albert that needed appraisal, arrangement and description. With the Access to Holdings grant, we were able to process the records of five fonds that are now available in Alberta on Record: the 1994 Alberta Winter Games, St. Albert Olympic Torch and Celebration Committee, St. Albert Minor Baseball Association, St. Albert Comets Hockey Club, and the 1979 Alberta Summer Games.

St. Albert has a thriving sports and recreational culture. The records and memories of sporting events and associations have tremendous significance to the local community. The processing of these records gave local sports organizations and historians access to their history and will hopefully encourage other similar organizations to share their history and records with the archives.

There were also fantastic outreach opportunities with these records. In addition to posting photographs and interesting finds on our Facebook page, we also featured the St. Albert Comets Hockey Club on the Musée Héritage Museum’s blog. This blog post led a local reporter to interview Vino and myself about the sports records project and an article in the St. Albert Gazette: Archives 1 - Dusty closet 0.
Over the last year, we have had some new archivists in the province. These include Peter Houston who is working at Mount Royal University, Josephine Sallis who has joined South Peace Regional Archives, Kelli Anne MacNeil who is at Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council, Treaty and Rights Research, and Lea de la Paz who is now the Archivist for the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. Welcome to the community!

We also have updates from the ASA Secretariat, present and past. Our Archives Advisor, now has a one year old boy! Our past Flood Advisory Programme staff are employed in Ontario. Emily is working as a Preventive Conservation Specialist for Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate at Parks Canada and Amanda is currently on contract with the University of Western Ontario. Both previous Flood Lead Team staff are closer to home. Additionally, our former Member Services Manager, Ericka Chemko, has as new job at the Banff Centre.

Mary Nutting, the Executive Director of South Peace Regional Archives, is retiring at the end of the month. Mary has been a part of South Peace Regional Archives since its inception, having helped research and write the report that led to the development of the Archives. Stepping into the gap is Alyssa Currie from Dawson Creek. Alyssa brings with her experience from Library and Archives Canada and the Dawson Creek Archives. We wish Mary the best of luck and welcome Alyssa!

Finally, former University of Calgary archivist and former ASA President (2000-2004) has been made a member of the Order of University of Calgary. Congratulations!
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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