



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SHAMIN MALMAS, PRESIDENT

It is finally spring again! With our AGM and the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) conference right around the corner this will be another fun spring for many Alberta archivists. For those unable to attend ACA, the ASA will be offering a fall workshop in

September and is already planning our next conference which will take place in Banff in the spring of 2019. Stay tuned for more information from the ASA office about these events.

As I come to the end of my second term as President I am reminded of the enormous undertakings of this association since I was first elected in 2014. We successfully completed two large grant projects (The Flood Advisory Programme & Documentary Heritage Communities (Program)), we organized several workshops, held an extremely successful conference, gained new institutional and individual members, launched a journal, saw an increase in committee participation and hosted a variety of events in conjunction with Archives Week aimed at raising the profile of archives and archivists.

I am extremely happy to report that at our AGM we will have an election for President. Both Andrew Chernevych and Valla McLean have put their names forward for this role. I believe that elections are one way that a community demonstrates engagement so I am thrilled that two individuals from our community have stepped forward to take on this responsibility.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Sara King (VP), Angie Friesen (Secretary), Karen Buckley (Treasurer), Melissa McCarthy (Institutional Member-at-Large) and Elizabeth Walker (Individual Member-at-Large) for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to express my gratitude to Rene and the staff of the ASA who have supported the activities of the board and our members this past year.

I hope to see as many of you as possible in Edmonton at the AGM and ACA conference.

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

Recently, the City of Wetaskiwin Archives has been on shaky ground. Their building went up for sale without a plan in place by Wetaskiwin City Council for the archives. After some negative publicity about the City, it appears that the Archives may be on safer ground, but certainty of its continuance is yet to be seen. Over the past few years working at the ASA, I have witnessed how quickly circumstances can change for an archives. A member institution that seems very stable can quickly become unsupported and even close down. Over the past three years or so, I have seen three members close their archives. I have also seen archivists leave archival institutions when they feel their work environment becomes toxic and those institutions' stability is at question. I have seen an institution close their archives as it wanted that space to store puppets for public programming.



Some days working in this field can be incredibly disheartening. How can puppets be more important than archives? It seems like our profession gets overshadowed by other institutions in the GLAM sector. Archives are just unnoticed somehow. We are not used as much, we do not have a large degree of public programming and when archives are placed in a museum or library, our voice can be overpowered by that other sector. The general public does not understand what we do or the importance of our work.

Perhaps we have work to do with regards to outreach and the sustainability of our organizations. How do we prevent these closures? Are these closures always negative? With one of the closures, the archival records were sent to another institution which was ecstatic to receive archives. This enthusiasm for working with archives seems to be something that wanes after some of us in the profession feel defeated by circumstances like budget cuts, and unsupportive management. But perhaps that enthusiasm is what our profession needs, to keep us breathing and to inspire our funders and decision makers. The work we do is indeed important and the passion for the records we work with is what keeps us in this field. We are lucky that way, in that we work with really interesting materials and we serve our communities and organizations in such important ways even if our communities and organizations may not understand, until they need a record.

CANDIDATES FOR ASA PRESIDENT

AT THE JUNE 6 AGM, WE HAVE TWO INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR ASA PRESIDENT. PLEASE READ THEIR INFORMATION BELOW. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AGM!

ANDREW CHERNEVYCH



The Archives Society of Alberta is the bedrock of the archival community in this province. It's the key source of support, training and leadership; it serves as a forum and bonds us together. I've been involved with the ASA for about thirteen years and has used many of the services. I also had the privilege to serve on the Alberta on Record (then ANA) and Grants committees and contribute to various ASA initiatives over years. This experience gave me a deep appreciation of the value the ASA has to offer.

At the Galt Museum & Archives - I've been with the organization for seven years - I am responsible for preservation and management of historical records of communities of Southwest Alberta, which includes the Kainai Nation (Blood Reserve) and the Piikani Nation. Beside my work at the Galt, I'm involved with the Centre of Oral History & Tradition at the University of Lethbridge and occasionally teach at the Department of History.

My passion is the realm reference service and archival outreach. I love helping people find records and engage the community through public programs, archival exhibits and social media. I also feel compelled to give support to smaller institutions in the area and connect them to the ASA. I believe in the power of outreach and its transformative role. Archives that are engaged, visible and offer tangible value to the community are much more likely to have a sustainable future. I believe the ASA can help archivists and their institutions in this regard.

VALLA MCLEAN



I am the University Archivist and Classics, History and Philosophy librarian at MacEwan University. I graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts in History a Master of Library and Information Studies and a Master of Archival Studies. I also recently completed a post-master's certificate in Digital Archives and Records Management from San Jose State University's School of Information. My research interests include archival outreach and advocacy, web archiving and digital preservation.

I am honoured to run for the position of President, Archives Society of Alberta. I have been on many governance committees over the last fourteen years, including MacEwan University's Academic Governance Council, Faculty Association Executive, Vice-Chair of Library Faculty Council and the Steering Committee of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries Digital Stewardship Network. As a member of these and many other committees, I have gained a tremendous deal of experience in strategic planning, writing concise reports and collaborating with a diverse group of stakeholders.

CANDIDATES FOR ASA PRESIDENT (CONT.)

In 2013 I was asked to develop an archives for MacEwan University. Planning an archives space, writing policies and procedures, working with records coordinators and processing records has been both challenging and rewarding. As the first and only archivist at MacEwan University, I have learned to be an advocate for archives and communicate effectively with senior administrators or those who think an archives is just a place where people put old stuff! I think my expertise and skill set is well suited for the role of President of the Archives Society of Alberta as we look to implement a communications strategy and get working on a new strategic plan.

The Archives Institute, workshops, conference and the numerous programs and services offered by the Archives Society of Alberta is impressive, we have much to be proud of. If elected I would like to continue the excellent work done by ASA Board of Directors, the various committees and the Executive Director/Archives Advisor. I have served twice on the ASA Conference Program Committee. Running for president is a great way to further my involvement in the archives community.

ARCHIVES INSTITUTE PARTICIPANTS, 2018

BACK ROW, L-R:

SANDY HOYE, DAN MIRAU, MYLES HEGION, CAROLINE LOEWEN, CANDICE LAYCRAFT, JESSICA SMALLMAN, MICHAEL CHASSE, AND ANDREW HENNAN.



FRONT ROW, L-R:

LINDSAY CHISHOLM, BARBARA CLOVER, IRENE LAWTON, LINDSAY STOKALKO, PAMELA STEWART, CASSANDRA SALES, JACLYN KLUKACH, NICOLE ENSING, JOANNA MUNHOLLAND, AND SADE DUNN.

ARCHIVES INSTITUTE 2018

JOANNA MULLHOLLAND

I was recently lucky enough to be a part of the Archives Society of Alberta's 2018 Archives Institute, hosted at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Eighteen of us spent six full days studying together under the tutelage of a variety of knowledgeable and engaging speakers. The course covered everything from Acquisition to Arranging, Rules for Archival Description to Reference, along with many other skills needed to work successfully with archives. We had lectures, activities, and the necessary coffee and pastries every day.

One interesting aspect was the variety of people taking the course. There were people who work at universities, people who work at libraries, people just starting out and people working in established institutions, yet all of us worked with archives in some capacity. It was great to learn from my peers sitting around the table with me; we can always learn from each other.



Something I appreciated immensely during the course was that all of the instructors were willing to answer my questions. I ask a lot of questions, which I sometimes fear irritates instructors. But I never felt that my questions were unwelcome or unworthy of being answered. As a student, that is a huge part of creating an atmosphere where people feel comfortable learning.



So, thank you Rene and the ASA for your fabulous work and instructive lectures, and to our other awesome presenters, for together putting on an immensely informative, engaging, and enjoyable week!"

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ARCHIVES FINDS A NEW HOME

KRISTA JAMIESON

For nearly 24 years, the University of Alberta Archives (UAA) was located approximately 10 km east of main campus at the Book and Record Depository (BARD). In October 2017 after a multi-year planning and building process, the UAA undertook its journey to a new permanent home located on the University's South Campus at 115th A Street (near the Saville Community Sports Centre). Boasting over 45,000 square feet, the Research & Collections Resource Facility (RCRF) is a secure, state of the art, high-density storage facility housing archival materials, over 3 million library volumes, and a digitization suite.



Initial phases of planning began in 2013-14, with the comprehensive drafting and design of the building occurring in 2015-16. Teams made up of archivists, librarians, architects, designers, engineers, and contractors took part in the planning process. During this time, the UAA assessed existing holdings and future planning needs for expansion space, environmental controls, accession processing, research facilitation, and ongoing security. The UAA's holdings comprise over 6,500 acquisitions totalling over 9.7 linear kilometres. Given the volume of material to be moved, UAA staff carefully planned where different media types would get shelved in the new facility. They would need to be labelled, reboxed, inventoried, and wrapped for safe transport; further, all accessions would need to be moved and re-shelved in sequential order. This was done by sequentially numbering containers based on media type using colour-coded labels for easy identification and ordering.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ARCHIVES FINDS A NEW HOME (CONT.)

University of Alberta Supply Management Services was contracted to physically load the materials onto purpose-designed and built carts which were then transported to the RCRF. Once on-site the boxes were shelved in the main collections area onto 30-foot high density racking. Shelf heights were optimized to optimize the space with adjustable shelf heights for standard and odd sized boxes. In addition, the main shelving area comprises approximately 400 vertical storage slots for framed items including watercolours and photographs. The collections area is kept at 18 degrees Celcius and a relative humidity (RH) of 35% for long-term preservation.

As a complement to the collections area, the RCRF contains a purpose-built 30' x 60' Cold Room to house and optimally preserve photographs and audio-visual materials. The average temperature in the Cold Room is consistently maintained at 5 degrees



Celsius and 40% RH. A walk-in freezer (approximately 9' x 9') is also available for storage of any archival or library materials subjected to contaminants, mold infections and/or damage from water; items placed in the freezer would await conservation decisions and procedures. The freezer temperature is

maintained at a constant -14 degrees Celsius. A smaller Quarantine Room outfitted with Viking Cabinets has also been designed into the building where materials can be isolated while they await further inspection and assessment.

Archives staff have a secure processing area that accommodates three workstations, a scanning station, and a large surface to work with materials. The processing area includes accession files, reference files, historical publications of the University and hard-copy finding aids. The RCRF also includes a Multipurpose Room and a supervised Reading Room (available for use on scheduled weekdays by appointment). The RCRF Multipurpose Room offers a boardroom style space for meetings, seminars, and teaching that can seat up to 24 people, offering a 90" screen for presentations. The Reading Room offers a bright and spacious area for

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ARCHIVES FINDS A NEW HOME (CONT.)

researchers to work, with four motorized sit-stand tables and a scanner for researchers to make digital reproduction of archival materials. The Multipurpose Room and Reading Room share a feature wall with built-in decorative fireplaces. The conscientious archivist need not fret about this feature, however, as the electric fireplaces emanate no heat and the artificial flames are sealed behind immovable glass. The fireplaces are welcoming (especially in winter), and they perfectly complement the serene view of South Campus from the Reading Room and Multipurpose Room.

The RCRF offers access to archival materials from 9am - 4pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays by appointment. The University of Alberta Libraries is currently in the process of finalizing its move of several million library volumes into the facility with a projected completion date in late April. Stay tuned for information about a spring Open House for the community to come tour the building.

For further information about the UAA, please visit the homepage @ <https://www.library.ualberta.ca/archives>

PEOPLE AND PLACES

This spring we have had a couple members retire: Marion Thompson from the Sylvan Lake and District Archives as well as Ida Beltran from the Alberta Teacher's Association. Both are graduates from ASA's Archives Institute. Enjoy retirement!

HERITAGE AWARDS 2018 *Alberta Historical Resources Foundation*

The **Alberta Historical Resources Foundation** is soliciting nominations for **Heritage Awards 2018**. These awards honor and celebrate the contributions of Albertans (individuals, organizations) to the protection, preservation and promotion of Alberta's heritage.

The **Heritage Conservation Award** recognizes projects that demonstrate excellence in:

- the conservation of Provincial or Municipal Historic Resources; or
- the identification, protection and management of historic places; or
- the protection and management of palaeontological and archaeological resources.

The **Heritage Awareness Award** recognizes research, publications or public engagement projects that have deepened our understanding and promoted greater awareness of Alberta's heritage.

The **Outstanding Achievement Award** recognizes an individual's exemplary long-term leadership and contribution to the preservation and presentation of Alberta's history.

The **Indigenous Heritage Award** recognizes projects that demonstrate excellence in identifying, protecting and promoting Alberta's rich Indigenous heritage through research, publication, and/or collaboration or public engagement with Indigenous individuals or communities.

The **Youth Heritage Award** recognizes the volunteer contributions of students to the preservation and presentation of Alberta's heritage, at any point in the course of their studies between elementary and high school.

Nominations will be accepted between
March 15 and July 15, 2018

Submit nominations to:

Heritage Awards
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
8820-112 Street
Edmonton AB T6G 2P8

Guidelines and nomination forms are available at:
www.alberta.ca/heritage-awards.aspx.

For more information, contact
Program Coordinator at **780-431-2305**.



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SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

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 2018 – 2019

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. _____

Expiry _____ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐

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

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