In June 2013, 25% of the province of Alberta experienced severe overland flooding. In response to the flooding the Archives Society of Alberta (ASA), a not-for-profit professional association, organized the Flood Advisory Programme. This program is funded by Alberta Culture & Tourism, and has been carried out by the Lead Team since September 2014.

The Lead Team, composed of the Lead Conservator and Lead Archivist, have taken a broad approach to disaster recovery, remediation and preparedness.

Disaster recovery and remediation work has included performing conservation treatment, preventive conservation, and assisting members with intellectual control.

Disaster preparedness has included completing risk assessments, developing disaster plans and disaster response kits, editing existing disaster plans, and purchasing environmental monitors and archival grade rehousing supplies.

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.

Executive Director, Rene Georgopalis
Acting Executive Director, Meribeth Plenert

Lead Team:
Lead Archivist, Amanda Oliver
Lead Conservator, Emily Turgeon-Brunet

Contractors:
Archivist, Christa Baxter
Archivist, Kate Heikkila
Book Conservator, Lisa Isley
 Archivist, Carey Isaak
Archivist, Michelle Parsons
Paper Conservator, Jayme Vallieres

Additional space and supplies were generously provided by the Provincial Archives of Alberta, City of Edmonton Archives, and Glenbow Museum

Contact:
Emily Turgeon-Brunet
Lead Conservator
emilytb@archivesalberta.org
(780) 243-5294

For more information:
www.archivesalberta.org/programs-and-services/flood-assistance/

Photo credit: 1939 flood in High River, The Museum of the Highwood; photo documentation by Yesan Ham
Online Resources

The Flood Advisory Programme has maintained a webpage that can be found on the Archives Society of Alberta’s website. The webpage provides numerous custom resources developed in response to emergencies and disasters across the province of Alberta. These resources can be accessed online or downloaded as a PDF. Resources include: Staff Training Scenarios, Caring for Smoke Damaged Paper, Retailers for Archival Supplies, Extreme Weather Alerts, Emergency Response Resources, Disaster Response Kit List, Digital Preservation Resources, and Preparing for Digitization Guide.

Webpage: http://archivesalberta.org/programs-and-services/flood-assistance/

Blog: https://archivesalberta.wordpress.com/

How-to Videos

Also found among the resources on the Flood Advisory Programme webpage are six how-to videos aimed to assist archivists, and those who work in the heritage field, with disaster recovery techniques for their archival holdings. Topics covered include: Handling Wet Paper, Packing Wet Records, Drying Wet Records, Mould Removal, Humidifying and Flattening Paper Records, and Encapsulation.

All of the how-to videos are under 5 minutes long.

Photo credit: How-To Video Stills Featuring the Lead Team, Amanda Oliver and Emily Turgeon-Brunet

Loan Program

The Loan Program was developed to provide ASA members with a library of supplies, equipment, and books that can be borrowed from the Archives Society of Alberta. The supplies were chosen by The Lead Team of the Flood Advisory Programme to provide ASA members with the tools necessary to complete rehousing, digitization, mould removal and exhibit displays.

At this time, there is a collection of useful conservation and preservation books that can be borrowed, as well as the following tools and equipment: Dustless Technologies Wet Dry HEPA vacuum, an EPSON Perfection V800 Photo Scanner, a Corner Rounder, ELSEC 765 Environmental Monitors, and Linear Polarizers.

Photo credit: Loan Program Items, Emily Turgeon-Brunet