For most people, summer is a time for enjoying picnics, taking holidays, and spending time outside in the sun (when it’s not hailing or pouring rain, that is). While members of Alberta’s archival community will also enjoy these summertime activities, summer is also the season for archivists to help inexperienced tourist researchers, supervise summer students and their projects, and scramble to cover for vacationing co-workers.

Hopefully, the summer issue of the ASA Newsletter offers a distraction from the often busy summer work schedule. It contains a summary of the recent 25th anniversary conference, project reports, and the usual notices of upcoming events. The fall issue, with annual reports and other articles, is already in the works.

So take a break from the crowded reference room, find a quiet spot in the shade, and get caught up with your colleagues.

Michael Gourlie
Executive Director/Archives Advisor

See other pictures from conference inside!

Hotel Selkirk in Fort Edmonton Park during the Archives Society of Alberta’s June Conference
ASA WEBSITE HAS A “NEW LOOK”

On July 13, 2006, the ASA launched its new and improved web site at http://www.archivesalberta.org/. “The facelift to the Archives Society of Alberta’s web site comes at an opportune time,” said Garth Clarke, President of the ASA. “Over the past five years the web site had grown in an uncontrolled manner to accommodate changing demands. Unfortunately it had become very difficult for users to navigate through the large number of web pages presented to them in no logical order. The ASA sought out professional web design help from Ground Level Design. The new site’s look and feel provides a more modern user experience.”

The new web site provides better access to the ASA’s many services and resources such as its advisory services, education programs, membership services and the various online archival catalogues and digital databases.

Announcements were sent out on arcan-l, asa-l, and archives-bc. Feedback about the web site has been received from across Canada, and the comments have been numerous and positive. Our new website has been characterized as “awesome”, “fabulous”, “great” and “good design – easy to navigate.” The following comments were included in an e-mail about the new site:

“This site looks fabulous… I have just spent the last hour on the site, but clearly one could spend days. Thanks for sending me the link. I am going to pass it on to my son’s girlfriend, who is a teacher.”

Some excellent suggestions for improvements to the site have also been received.

Part of the web site redesign involved adding a content management system to the site, which allows the web master to make rapid changes to ensure the site has timely content. The content management system also provides access to an improved set of web statistics. When the site was launched on July 13th, there were a total of 863 “hits” that day, which set a new daily record. For the month of July, there have been over 5700 hits to the site.

ASA Webmaster
Janet McMaster
ASA WEBSITE HAS A “NEW LOOK”

ASA Webmaster
Janet McMaster at the murder mystery banquet, June 9, 2006
As final revisions are made to the ASA’s latest project, “Seeing With New Eyes-A Journey through Blackfoot Knowledge,” the ASA can point to a series of attractive and pedagogically-sound educational resources at several grade levels that bring the riches of archival institutions to classrooms across Canada. While the work on designing the sites is complete, the work of reaching out to Alberta’s teachers is an ongoing process.

There will be several initiatives to promote the use of the ASA’s online learning objects in the months to come. Ads for “Letters from the Trunk” and “Prairie Populism” have appeared in the Alberta Teacher’s Association (ATA) Magazine. In late August, I will be presenting a session at the Alberta Social Studies Summer Institute, a curriculum orientation meeting for social studies teachers teaching in Grades 5, 8, and 10. The Institute will also provide an opportunity to discuss all past projects and distribute promotional items to an influential audience. A second presentation will take place at the ATA Social Studies Council in October, a venue to reach social studies teachers at all grade levels in the province. Finally, a joint presentation with one of the designers of the “Seeing with New Eyes” site is scheduled for the symposium of the Alberta Online Consortium, bringing that site (and possibly the others) to the attention of the online learning community throughout North America.

Other opportunities may present themselves throughout the year as other teacher conferences are announced. If members hear of a promotional opportunity in which the ASA should take part, please email me at mgourlie@connect.ab.ca. If members want to undertake their own presentations about the projects, the ASA can provide promotional bookmarks, Prairie Populist CDs, and various posters as giveaways. By promoting these projects as widely as possible, the archival community will achieve the goal of creating a higher public profile for its institutions and their unique role in society.

Archives and You!

September 25 – 26, 2006
Calgary Chamber of Commerce

Conference features:
- Luncheon with a keynote speaker
- Individual consultations and interactive roundtable discussions with archivists from across Canada
- Dynamic plenaries and concurrent workshops
- Plus, guided site visits to help you discover the treasures in Alberta’s many archival institutions!

Who should attend
- Geneologists, Researchers, Teachers, Librarians, Historians, Students, Volunteers
- Curators and Interpreters for museums, historical sites and parks
- Other individuals interested in archives

For more information e-mail conference@archivescanada.ca or visit www.archivesconference.ca
2006 ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

A twenty-fifth anniversary is a milestone for anyone. For an organization, it represents a time to reflect on past accomplishments and look forward to future endeavours. For the ASA, it provided a perfect opportunity to hold an anniversary conference along with the Society’s twenty-fifth annual general meeting to celebrate a quarter century of innovation and accomplishment.

The conference began on June 8 with the daylong workshop, “Introduction to Managing Digital Records for Long-Term Preservation,” presented by Lori Nordland of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. An overflow crowd examined the various strategies for preserving digital records. Following the workshop, the conference’s opening reception took place in the exhibit area at the Provincial Archives. Members representing all eras of the ASA’s history came together to share wine, birthday cake and memories of the provincial archival community. Don Bourdon, one of the ASA’s first presidents and an invaluable contributor to many of the ASA’s initiatives over the years, spoke on the ASA’s history as well as the acronyms that make the community unique.

As the conference moved to its main venue at Fort Edmonton Park on June 9, the weather was drizzling, but the opening keynote speech of the conference was quite a jolt. University of Alberta’s Dr. Ted Bishop, nominee for a Governor-General’s Literary Award for Riding with Rilke: On Motorcycles and Books, spoke about the “archival jolts” he has experienced during his years as a researcher. Punctuated with drama, humour, and insights into the work of archivists, Dr. Bishop provided a pitch-perfect opening to the conference that delegates were commenting on throughout the weekend.

Delegates on a tour of Fort Edmonton Park

After the keynote address, participants attended one of two streams of presentations. One presentation focussed on the use of archival records in the classroom setting, including a discussion of holding a teacher’s in-service. Another session discussed the use of archival records in the creation of heritage inventories and the restoration of buildings. After a lunch break that featured tours of the historic buildings at Fort Edmonton Park, presentations continued with a roundtable discussion on electronic records and the challenges they pose for archival institutions. The concurrent presentation focussed on the use of movies to raise public awareness about the role of archives, including a showing of the Jewish Archives’ documentary From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered as well as clips from the Provincial Archives’ film night. The day’s sessions ended with enough time for participants to look around the park.
The evening banquet took place at the Hotel Selkirk, a recreated 1920s hotel located within Fort Edmonton Park. The evening also featured an unusual twist – a period murder mystery presented by a local theatre company. During the hors d’oeuvres and throughout the meal, the actors interacted with the conference goers, dropping clues as well as red herrings. Miraculously, the mystery was solved by dessert and coffee, with the murderer revealed as a conference delegate who had volunteered to take part in the play! Oddly enough, it was her co-workers who guessed correctly that she had done the nefarious deed.

The final day of the conference on June 10 dawned bright and sunny. The morning began with the Spring Institutional Forum, which included a discussion of the National Archival Development Program (NADP) as well as the need to reaffirm the qualifications of the ASA’s institutional members to ensure that they still meet the basic criteria. Immediately following the Forum, the annual general meeting took place, with discussion of the year’s business as well as the financial statements. In addition to the electing board members, the assembled ASA members awarded honorary membership to three notable members of the archival community – Don Bourdon, Michael Dawe, and Jo-Ann Munn Gafuik – for their contributions to the growth and evolution of the ASA over the years.

The conference sessions continued with an examination of the issues faced by faith-based and religious archival institutions as they adapt to changing secular and spiritual needs. Concurrently, three experienced archivists (Carolyn Hill, Michael Dawe, and Don Bourdon) shared their accumulated knowledge of how archival programs can adapt and thrive in different and shifting corporate structures and cultures. The conference’s final session focussed on the NADP, with Ian Forsyth, Vice-Chair of the Canadian Council of Archives, and Marianne McLean of Library and Archives Canada providing up-to-date statistics and information about the outcome of this year’s adjudications. ASA president Garth Clarke provided the conference’s concluding remarks, concluding a hectic three days of discussion, celebration and fellowship.

Here’s to the next twenty-five years!
To open the 25th anniversary conference, the ASA was fortunate enough to have Dr. Ted Bishop of the University of Alberta, an expert on the works of Virginia and Leonard Woolf, as the conference’s keynote speaker. A nominee for the Governor-General’s Literary Awards for Riding with Rilke: On Motorcycles and Books, Dr. Bishop shared his views on archives, research, and the critical role that archivists play in the research process. Below is an excerpt from his book describing what Dr. Bishop calls the “archival jolt,” a selection that may also suggest a reason why archivists refer to researchers as “users.”

“Fifteen years ago, I had been working in the British Library’s Manuscript Room, sifting through the Virginia Woolf manuscripts. The hoary clerks, with tufts of hair coming out of their ears and noses, had with bad grace been bringing me what I needed. The windows were open, and we could hear traffic noise from across the parking lot: an unobtrusive drone that glided in on the warm June air and drew you gently toward sleep. You weren’t even aware at what point you stopped reading, when critical reflection turned to daydreaming, when your eyes slipped out of focus and let the print blur, and your measured breathing took on that hoarse quality just shy of a snore.

My eyes fell shut. They just dropped down like the metal shutters on a Paris shop at the end of the day. Bam. I forced them open. I felt like I was doing bicep curls with my eyelids. I got them up, licked my middle finger, and swabbed saliva on my eyelids, the old cross-country driver’s trick. It gives you about ten seconds, better than nothing, and helps break the rhythm of the heaviness. I slumped forward, elbows on the table, thumb and forefinger on either side of my face, my thumbs at my cheekbones pushing down, my forefingers at the edge of my eyebrows pushing up, stretching the skin, using the pain to keep my eyes open. Was this really reading? I wondered.

I opened up the next manila envelope and slid out a single sheet. It was handwritten and my eyes winced after the sojourn in typescript. Still, it was only a single page and it was well spaced. I would be out of here soon. I found myself reading a letter I had read in print dozens of times before. Anybody who works on Woolf practically knows it by heart, it’s reprinted so often. It begins:

Dearest, I want to tell you that you have given me complete happiness. No one could have done more than you have done. Please believe that. But I know that I shall never get over this: and I am wasting your life. It is this madness …

I felt a physical shock. I was holding Virginia Woolf’s suicide note. I lost any bodily sense, felt I was spinning into a vortex, a connection that collapsed the intervening decades. This note wasn’t a record of an event – this was the event itself. This writing. And it was not for me. I had walked in on something unbearably personal. It probably took less than thirty seconds to read the letter, and in that interval I had been blasted back to March 1941 and staggered up to the present, time roaring in my ears, and no one had noticed. The other readers in the room were still nodding away.

I placed it on the reading stand, wiped my fingers, which turned out to be cold and dry, and turned the sheet over. There Leonard had written in green ink the date: “11/5/41.” This details set off an unexpected aftershock. I realized I seldom thought of him, of how he had had to wait twenty-one days before the body was found. Three long weeks, answering questions from The Times, taking calls from friends. Then a group of teenagers, throwing rocks at a log in the river, found it was not a log at all and dragged what was once Virginia Woolf ashore.
The coroner misquoted the suicide note, and so did the newspapers. Leonard had to issue corrections, and at the cremation, which he went to alone, they played the wrong music. He went home that night and played the “Cavatina” from Beethoven’s String Quartet in B-flat, op. 130 to himself on the gramophone. A few days later, he carefully dated the note I had in front of me. I remembered none of the scholarly discussion about the dating. I only saw the pain and the attempt to bring order by dating and noting the circumstances of the letter.

I decided to call it a day. I put the letter back in the manila envelope, wound the string around the roundel at the top, and took everything back to the desk. I retrieved my bookbag and umbrella from the coat-check kiosk and walked out into the brilliant sunshine. I had no interest in biographical readings of Woolf, so the note was of no use to me. Or so I thought. What I didn’t know was that I had just become an archive junkie.”


Riding with Rilke: On Motorcycles and Books is now available in paperback at most bookstores. The ASA has few copies available for sale – please contact the office if you want to obtain a copy.

NEW ASA TREASURER

Glynys Hohmann is an archivist who works at the City of Edmonton Archives. She has a Master of Arts in Canadian History and began her career in archives in 2001 when she was hired at the City of Edmonton Archives to research place names of Edmonton for the book, Naming Edmonton. Since that time, she has completed several projects for the City of Edmonton Archives including digitizing the artwork of Ella May Walker and rehousing the City of Edmonton Archives large format photographs. She currently holds a permanent position at the City of Edmonton Archives. Recently, Glynys assisted the Archives Society of Alberta’s 2006 Conference Committee in planning its successful conference at Fort Edmonton Park.

AGM HIGHLIGHTS

- Election of Garth Clarke (President) and Karen Buckley (Individual Member-at-Large) to second terms.
- Election of Glynys Hohmann as Treasurer.
- Debut of revised ASA website
- Presentation and approval of financial statements, including the final audit of the ASA’s Centennial Legacies Program grant
- Don Bourdon, Michael Dawe, and Jo-Ann Munn Gafuik awarded ASA honourary memberships
- Presentation of the draft ASA strategic plan – feedback requested by August 31
RECORDS OF FORMER ALBERTA PREMIERS NOW AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY ARCHIVES

Lisa Atkinson, Archival Program Manager
University of Calgary Archives

The University of Calgary Archives was fortunate enough to receive grants for projects under both the CCA Control of Holdings and the ASA Access to Holdings programs during the 2005-06 funding year. Both of these projects have now been completed and we are pleased to announce that the records are available to interested researchers.

An exciting project involving the arrangement and description of two fonds which contain papers created and collected by former Alberta premiers William Aberhart and Ernest Manning was funded through the CCA’s Control of Holdings program.

William “Bible Bill” Aberhart was born in Ontario, studied at the Hamilton Normal School and was granted his BA from Queen’s University in 1911. In 1910 he moved to Calgary, Alberta where Aberhart later became principal of Crescent Heights High School, 1915-1935. He ran popular bible classes, and in 1925 began his Sunday afternoon radio broadcasts, called the “Back to the Bible Hour”. In 1927 Aberhart opened the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute, and two years later founded the Bible Institute Baptist Church. In 1932 he became interested in the monetary ideas of Major C.H. Douglas, who espoused state supervision of credit and dividend payments to citizens. He founded the Social Credit League, and in 1935 became the premier of Alberta when Social Credit swept the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) government from power. The government was unable to implement Aberhart’s proposed reforms because the legislation was disallowed by the federal government. Aberhart died in office in 1943.

Ernest C. Manning has the distinction of being the longest serving Premier of Alberta. Born in Saskatchewan, Manning enrolled as a student at the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute in 1927 after hearing William Aberhart’s radio broadcasts. The first graduate of the Institute, he became a member of the teaching staff and was later named Executive Secretary. In 1930, Manning began speaking on the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute’s radio broadcasts with Aberhart. After Aberhart’s death Manning continued the broadcasts, which were eventually transmitted on over ninety radio stations across Canada. Manning was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in 1935 as a member of the Social Credit Party, serving as Provincial Secretary and Minister of Trade and Industry from 1935-1943. In 1936 Manning married Muriel Preston, who was the pianist at the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute. After Aberhart’s death in 1943 Manning became Leader of the Party and Premier, a post he held for 25 years. During his tenure he also held various cabinet positions, including Provincial Treasurer, Minister of Mines and Minerals and Attorney General. Manning resigned as Premier and from the Alberta Legislature in 1968. He was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1970 where he served until 1983.

The records in these fonds date from the 1930s to 1990 and include political speeches, sermons and radio broadcasts by Aberhart and Ernest Manning, and personal letters written by Aberhart to his niece. The file lists for these records are available on the Archives’ website via the “Private Papers” page located at http://www.ucalgary.ca/archives/researchholdings.html. Descriptions of the papers have also been uploaded to the Archives Network of Alberta and Archives Canada online databases. Personal letters and photographs in the Aberhart fonds have been digitized and added to Alberta InWord and Alberta Insight. This project was made possible by financial assistance from the Government of Canada through the National Archives of Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

Under an Access to Holdings grant the University Archives arranged and described the records of the Native Centre, a student support centre at the University of Calgary. The Indian Student University Program (ISUP – which later became the Native Centre) was a program dedicated to assisting native students in obtaining a university education. Established in 1972 as a collaborative project between the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary and the Department of Indian Affairs, ISUP began receiving non-matriculated native students in the fall of that year.
The stated objectives of the program were to (1) assist native people to become qualified teachers; (2) to provide natives with the opportunity to develop their own university courses; and (3) to assist natives in obtaining a university education.

Given the demand at the time for native instructors, the program’s first phase concentrated on teacher education with the expectation that once the students had completed their B.Ed. programs they would return to their communities to teach there and act as positive role models for younger generations. In 1976 ISUP became Native Student Services, and focus slowly moved away from the teacher education program towards all faculties on campus. The Native Centre, as it is now called, offers a variety of programs to promote the University of Calgary to native youth, to orient students to and support them in their academic studies, and to organize cultural ceremonies and gatherings.

A total of 5.5 metres of records were appraised, arranged and described under the project. The fonds level description has been added to the Archives Network of Alberta and Archives Canada online databases. A file level finding aid is available in the reading room for use by researchers – electronic copies are available on request. Records digitized from this fonds for the Prairie Populism project are available in Alberta InWord. This project has been supported by a grant from Alberta Lotteries through the Archives Society of Alberta.
PEOPLE AND PLACES

- Three new honourary members were added to the membership roll at the Archives Society of Alberta’s 25th annual general meeting: Don Bourdon, Michael Dawe, and Jo-Ann Munn Gafuik. For details about their contributions to Alberta’s archival community, visit the honourary members page of the ASA website.

- Formerly the Digital Archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, Lori Nordland will take up the position of Corporate Records & Information Management Analyst with the Alberta Ministry of Environment, effective August 14.

- Kirsten Olson is leaving the Legal Archives Society of Alberta, effective August 1, for a new position at the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

- After a period of time with the Sisters of Providence in Edmonton, Karen Simonson is working for the Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society to continue the RAD redescription project at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, an initiative that began as part of the ASA’s Centennial Legacy project.

ARCHIVES WEEK 2006 - REMINDER

This year’s Archives Week (October 1-7, 2006) will feature the theme “In Defense of Alberta.” Institutional members are encouraged to submit images or written passages that illustrate defensive and/or protectionist actions taken by Albertans. Defense could take many forms, including celebrating the famous “rat patrol,” protesting regarding natural resources or railway rates, winning a Canadian sports championship, or acting as moral guardians of a community. Submissions could even take the form of defending Alberta from its own, possibly unfounded, reputation of being protectionist and defensive - the theme is open to many interesting interpretations. Watch the ASA website on October 2 for the launch of the new exhibit!

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING IN AN ARCHIVAL SETTING

Tj Lewis and Glynys Hohmann

When you think back to the school field trips that you went on as a child, or those your children went on, what do you remember? Today, teachers are continually looking at new ways to engage children in learning – whether it is by visiting a zoo, a museum, a swimming pool or other interactive activity. For most classrooms learning about history, a teacher will usually plan a trip to a museum. Archives are not typically thought about and certainly not visited. In fact, many students can complete an undergraduate degree without ever setting foot in an archives. For the past few years, the City of Edmonton Archives has been attempting to change this by making archives more accessible and interesting for young students. To this end, the City of Edmonton Archives offers a variety of program opportunities for students in grades 2 to 6 as well as programs directed towards teachers.

Recent changes to the Alberta social studies curriculum have teachers looking for new ways to teach students about history. The new curriculum for grades 2 to 6 places a greater emphasis on primary documents. As a result, archives can play a very important role in providing the teachers with these records. The City of Edmonton Archives has responded to these changes in two ways: first, it educates teachers about archives and archival resources at “Teacher Open Houses,” and second, it provides school programs that encourage students to interact with archival documents.

Interaction is one of the keys to a successful school program. For most archives researchers, there is a purpose to their visit - they are researching a specific topic. For children, however, this type of investigation is a challenge. How can students research topics when they are still learning the fundamentals of literacy? How can the archives be exciting and interactive for children?
At the City of Edmonton Archives, archivists attempt to remedy these difficulties by providing students with tours of the City of Edmonton Archives and by having them participate in a hands-on program. During the tour, students learn how archival materials are housed, how researchers make use of them, and how archivists help to preserve them. Students are encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions. Archivists show the students archival documents, like photographs or scrapbooks, to which they can relate.

After the tour, archivists ask the students to create a scrapbook. Younger students cut and paste images into a specially designed workbook and answer questions about the photographs. Photographs are an excellent tool for young students to learn about the past without having to read a great deal. Students who have a greater ability to read are introduced to archival documents. To make the program more enjoyable though, they also cut and paste photographs into a workbook. For older students, such as grade 6, archivists have students read historical information from archival documents or newspaper clippings and then debate them with one another.

In creating school programs at your own archives, remember:

- Be creative! Be interactive!
- Encourage students to create history.
- Form partnerships with other organizations.
- Talk to teachers.
- Review! Review!

For more information on school programs, please visit our website, www.edmonton.ca/archives.

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**Alberta’s Information Management Conference 2006**

The Government of Alberta, in partnership with ARMA Edmonton Chapter, is proud to present “Managing Information Assets in the Public Sector: Laying the Foundation; Positioning for the Future Conference 2006,” a two-day conference to be held on October 12-13, 2006 at the Mayfield Inn and Suites in Edmonton, Alberta.

This exciting conference has been specially designed for anyone involved in information management, records management, web development, information architecture, information technology, libraries, archives, freedom of information and protection of privacy, knowledge management, security and the many other disciplines that manage information in the public sector.

**Take Advantage of the Early Bird Price ($395) until September 15th**

Choose from a selection of outstanding speakers from across Canada and the United States who will share their extensive knowledge on the latest information management trends, issues, strategies and solutions.

Register Online at [www armaedmonton com](http://www armaedmonton com)

Conference Program and Speaker Information at [www imgov ab ca](http://www imgov ab ca)
The Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter 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 ASA Newsletter, Issues #2, 3 and 4. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as DOC or TXT files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Submission deadlines are:
September 30th Issue #2 - Winter
January 15th Issue #3 - Spring
April 30th Issue #4 - Summer

*Issue #1 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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