This year presents the ASA and the archival community with both challenges and opportunities, including those from provincial, federal and internal sources.

Provincially, the preservation of documentary heritage is not yet a priority within Premier Stelmach’s new government. Its focus is on what citizens want: improvements in the basic quality of life and infrastructure services. While increases in ASA’s provincial grant seems unlikely, there will be the opportunity for ASA to influence new decision makers. ASA can champion the role of archives and archivists in managing the deluge of paper and electronic records resulting from new programs and services initiated by provincial and municipal administrations.

Federally, the funding uncertainties inherent with a minority federal government may continue. In the event of a federal election, the ASA must get the message out to candidates that preservation of the past is critical to our collective future. With the new NADP working well, the archival community must be diligent in its support of CCA and LAC, or we hazard losing what little funding is now available.

Within our archival community, some institutional members are facing internal assessments of and changes within their archival programs. Some archivists have moved on to new positions or, like me, into an allied field. Others contemplate retirement. With its mandate to support Alberta’s archival community, the ASA can support member institutions dealing with issues of change. The ASA itself can cope with these changes by creating alliances with other information management professions as well as attracting new members from those drawn by the extended provincial economic boom.

New ideas and a commitment to improving the quality of our profession will provide the ASA a renewed vigor in its mission to preserve Alberta’s documentary heritage.
Many users of archival material want to be able to quickly access lower levels of description (i.e. series and item levels). Within our Archives Network of Alberta (ANA) database of fonds level descriptions, there are a variety of ways to incorporate links to lower levels.

1. Parent/child relationships

We have recently activated the “Part of” and “Contains” fields, which allow institutions to show the parent/child relationships between fonds and sous-fonds. To see an example, go into our ANA database at: http://asalive.archivesalberta.org:8080/access/asa/archaa/, and search under the “Alberta Music Festival Association fonds”. Once you obtain the search result from the Provincial Archives of Alberta, click on the dot next to the Alberta Music Festival Association fonds. If you scroll down to the bottom of the description, you will see a “Contains” field that gives the links to the three sous-fonds descriptions (the Calgary, Edmonton, and Lethbridge branches). Links are also built into the sous-fonds descriptions using the “Part of” field which take the user back to the fonds level description. These fields are available for use by all of our institutional members.

2. Links to scanned photographs and documents

If you have contributed scanned material to Alberta InSight or Alberta InWord, these links will show up at the bottom of a description; i.e. “View photographs attached to the entry” or “View documents attached to the entry”. These links are added automatically by our system, and they take the user directly to the relevant material in either Alberta InSight or Alberta InWord. Unfortunately, these links do not show up in either the Canadian Northwest Archival Network (CaNWAN) or the national database of fonds level descriptions, Archives Canada.

Some institutions have incorporated additional links from their fonds level descriptions using the “Online Finding Aids” field. The advantage of adding links in this field is that the links are exported and thus will show up when searching in both the regional and national databases. To see some examples of this, go into our ANA database at: http://asalive.archivesalberta.org:8080/access/asa/archaa/, and search under “Miles, Hanlan family fonds” or “James Brady fonds” from the Glenbow Archives. From the fonds level description, click on the “On-line Finding Aid” field. Scroll down to the series descriptions within the on-line finding aid and click on any of the “View Now” links. Links have been added that take the user directly to the Glenbow’s on-line photograph database, as well as to Alberta InSight and Alberta InWord. Searching either of these descriptions in CaNWAN (http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/icaul.html) or Archives Canada (http://www.archivescanada.ca/) will yield the same results.

While there is additional work involved by the institution in creating on-line finding aids and adding the links, it is very beneficial for our users to be able to access the various levels of on-line material in the easiest way possible from as many different places as possible.

If you would like more information about adding links, or have any questions about our databases, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at jmcmast@shaw.ca, or by phone at (403) 236-3406.
AWARENESS
Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor

There are a couple of items in this issue of the newsletter that are excellent examples of archival awareness. Whether it is an article and editorial in the local newspaper extolling the virtues of a community archival program or the announcement of a major acquisition, these activities represent the successful culmination of the efforts of an archival institution to raise its profile in a specific community.

Although many archival institutions can point to successes such as these, the issues of public awareness and effective advocacy seem perennial ones for the archival community. Objective 2 of the new National Archival Development Program to “increase awareness and broaden use of Canada’s archival heritage” gives new priority to these types of initiatives. Certainly, the recent Canadian Heritage digitization programs focusing on providing access to Canada’s archival heritage, particularly through educational resources, have promoted outreach to build awareness in new audiences. The idea that greater awareness of archives will lead to greater support is a powerful motivating force, particularly for institutions of all sizes facing stagnant or decreasing budgets.

These new directions encouraging awareness activities prompt a couple of thoughts. First, the creation of these programs almost implies that archivists previously were not actively pursuing awareness activities. Clearly, that is not the case, as numerous articles over the years, including the ones noted above, illustrate the successes achieved by individual archival institutions. Yet, there seems to be a sense that archivists are not making this part of their work or are not doing it well enough. I recall attending a session on public awareness where the phrase “You have to learn to market yourself, dearie” almost caused an archivist of many years’ experience to spontaneously combust in frustration. One could argue that if budgets were larger, then archivists could have been more creative in their awareness activities, but that additional funding may have gone to “core” activities instead of a more balanced distribution of resources to a number of initiatives, including awareness. While recent projects involving archival resources and students indicate that the archival community has not exhausted all awareness avenues, most institutions know their communities and have made ongoing efforts to engage them over the years.

However, this thought leads to another insight. If archival institutions have been reasonably successful in their awareness initiatives over time, why don’t most people know what an archivist is, or what role archival institutions play in society? Various national and provincial archival associations have existed for many years, yet their efforts at increasing public awareness seem to have made little progress. Perhaps, as one archival colleague noted, after all these years, people are as aware and as supportive of the archives as can be expected, especially given other priorities in society. But it might also be the approach taken by the various levels within the Canadian archival system. The one-on-one approach between individual archivists and their researchers works at that level, but increasing awareness at national and provincial levels will require different tactics and different budgets in order to have an impact. What these tactics and budgets will look like is hard to determine, but they are beyond the resources of any one organization. Awareness activities at those levels will require unprecedented coordination, resources, and effort to have the impact necessary to raise public awareness of the role of archives and their importance in society.

Until that coordination, resource and effort presents itself, individual archivists can be satisfied that, with every satisfied researcher or new contact, they are continuing to do their part to make archives more relevant to their community. It is up to the other components of the Canadian archival system to step up to the plate and do their part, whatever that part may be, to make archives relevant to Canadians.
One of Dr. Rhonda Hinther’s first assignments as the new Curator of Western Canadian History at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, was to recreate or relocate a rural school from western Canada to the Canada Hall. During her research for the project she stumbled on information about the pockets of black settlement in Alberta and Saskatchewan. She was so intrigued that she decided to feature a rural black school in the Canada Hall. Amber Valley, 13 miles east of Athabasca, having been the largest of these communities, became her focus.

She contacted Marilyn Mol at the Athabasca Archives in June, 2006 to introduce herself and announce her arrival in a few days for some initial research. At the same time the archives was contacted by a professor from the University of Alberta with a research grant to write a book on settlement and racialization in Alberta. I was able to combine these visits at a meeting set up, through the Amber Valley Community Hall Association, with former students of the local school, named Toles School. Any information collected and interviews conducted will be shared by the Museum, the professor and the Athabasca Archives. The local press attended this meeting. Later, Marilyn Mol was asked to be an advisor for the school recreation project.

Filmmaker Deanna Bowen also visited the Athabasca Archives this summer for background information about the history of this area. She is a descendant of Amber Valley settlers and is making a documentary about black immigration to the prairies. She is helping Dr. Hinther in her research.

Dr. Hinther spent a week in the Athabasca area in late October. Anne Newlands, senior interpretive planner from the museum, was here for 2 days. The Athabasca Archives hosted an evening meeting for interested groups to meet Rhonda and Anne, watch a DVD on the museum, and enjoy wine and cheese. 25 people attended. CFRN CTV-Edmonton filmed Dr. Hinther in the Athabasca Archives and in the Amber Valley area for an evening newscast. The local radio station, CKBA, interviewed her. Dr. Hinther attended Amber Valley’s Chicken Supper fundraiser. This was filmed by Blais MacMullin of Athabasca University.

The Toles School display is expected to open in December, 2008.
TECHNOLOGY MEETS HISTORY: 
USING HIGH-TECH PRESENCE TO INDELIBLY ETCH OUR PAST

by Herald Tribune Editorial Staff


The South Peace Regional Archives may deal with yesteryear, but that doesn’t mean the equipment it uses to restore and preserve history needs to be that old. And in a high-tech world, any computer, colour printer or scanner that’s much older than two or three years is out-of-date.

That puts the archives, based at the Grande Prairie museum, in a bind in its efforts to properly document this area’s past, especially when the job is increasing by leaps and bounds.

Archival records are not just those that detail the history of the region prior to the first wave of settlers in the early 1900s. The people and places of the South Peace pre-date early settlement by at least 70 years, going back into the 1830s (and, of course, it must be remembered that explorer Alexander Mackenzie used the Peace River in the 1790s en route to the Pacific Ocean – the first European to cross the continent north of Mexico). Most local residents probably think that the archives is primarily concerned with the photos and stories of the settlement period from about 1906 until the 1930s. That era is the focus of a raft of local history books written over the last few decades; books that captured the individual family stories of pioneers who trekked north via the Athabasca or Edson Trails and of those who came via rail when steel first arrived in Grande Prairie in 1916.

But history is only as old as yesterday. While those early times are important for laying the archival foundation of the South Peace and while documents and family records from that period continue to be provided to the archives even today, there is the need to also preserve more recent history; photographs and documents from more recent times – the 1940s, ’50s, ’60s and even the ’70s, a heartbeat in time but still an era whose records and recollections are held by a declining number of the people who lived it, breathed it and created it.

The regional archives’ case is not lost on local government. The County of Grande Prairie and the Greenview Municipal District have both voted to help fund the body’s base operating budget for next year, to the amounts of $29.500 and $24.600 respectively. The City of Grande Prairie has been approached for $44,235, but has yet to make a decision, although it is inconceivable that it would be rejected.

It is key, as county Reeve Everett McDonald pointed out recently, that regional archives be housed regionally, not in Edmonton, and that is increasingly the case because of the efforts of the archival body. And the documentation is not only important for local residents, many of whom can trace their family trees back to, or beyond, 1900, but for researchers around the world who are increasingly requesting material. Head archivist Mary Nutting put it most succinctly: “It’s when we know our past that we can move into the future.”

February 27, 2007 marked the first University of Calgary Archives Day. Noted archival theorist Dr. Terry Cook presented the first W.F.M Stewart Lecture, “The Past is a Foreign Country,” a discussion of the links between archival and historical practice. Archives Day also marked the launch of Make No Small Plans: The University of Calgary at Forty, a new history of the university written by Dr. Tony Rasporich. Featuring early photographs of buildings, faculty and student events, Dr. Rasporich’s presentation struck a chord with many in the audience. With the University Chancellor as well as several members of the founding faculty among the numerous guests, the University’s Archives Day was an unqualified success.
UPGRADES DISCUSSED FOR REGIONAL ARCHIVES
by Derek Logan, Herald Tribune Staff

Preserving history is high tech and the South Peace Regional Archives is in need of an upgrade.
“Our computer needs to be updated, we don’t have a colour printer, and our scanner is dying,” said Mary Nutting, archivist for the community organization. Not only that, managing thousands of historical documents and photos - some dating as far back as 1832 - is a lot of work for the three full-time staff at the archives, Nutting included, even though its principal computer photo software specialist isn’t being paid a full-time wage.

“We’re trying to increase funding so all three staff can work full-time,” said Nutting. Fortunately, many municipalities are willing to provide a helping hand in funding parts of the archive’s $98,300 operating budget for 2007.
On Monday, the County of Grande Prairie agreed to fund about a third of next year’s operating base budget, or $29,490. As well, the Greenview Municipal District council agreed to fund $24,575, or one-quarter of the base budget, at its Oct. 11 meeting.

As of yet, the City of Grande Prairie - the archive’s biggest funding partner - has yet to review and pass a motion whether to fund 45 per cent - or $44,235 - of the archive’s base budget.
Still, many municipal leaders recognize the important role South Peace Regional Archives plays in region. County Reeve Everett McDonald said funding the archives preserves many important historical records of the Peace Country in the region.

“In the past, before we had our own archives, they were all housed in Edmonton,” he explained. “We questioned why we had send all of our archives to Edmonton when maybe we could have the opportunity to keep them in our own community.”

Nutting said the archives also fill a special for need families and organizations wishing to preserve their histories.

“Because we didn’t have archives up here, people tended to hang onto their artifacts rather than let them go to Edmonton or Calgary and so now we’re really benefiting from that.”

At the same time, the work at the archives is gathering international interest and its services are in growing demand since it launched its own website.
“We get requests around the world for our archival material because there is so much presence on the (Internet) now,” said Nutting.

“We feel like we are telling the history of the South Peace to the entire world,” she said. “We need to know what happened in our area in the past. It’s when we know our past we can move into the future.”

ASA-I - Did you know that asa-I is a listserv for Alberta’s archival community to post announcements of interest, including job postings, exhibit openings, questions about archival practice, launches of online and other projects, and other archives-related news. It’s simple to subscribe, just go to: http://www.mailman.srv.ualberta.ca/mailman/listinfo/asa-I for subscription information.
FALL INSTITUTIONAL FORUM

The ASA fall Institutional Forum took place on Friday, November 3 at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Representatives of fifteen institutional members from across the province attended the meeting to hear about a variety of issues concerning Alberta’s archival community. Christina Nichols, Executive Director of the Canadian Council of Archives, also attended the meeting to discuss the latest developments with the National Archival Development Program as well as awareness initiatives that archival institutions can undertake to improve their visibility and profile.

The issues discussed included:

- The ASA presented draft documents regarding an institutional membership review, designed to ensure that institutional members who met the criteria established ten years ago are still able to meet the criteria. The final “reconfirmation” documents will be mailed out as part of the regular membership renewal process in 2007.

- The terms, conditions, application forms and scoring sheets for the ASA’s Access to Holdings program and the CCA / LAC National Archival Development Program were presented to members and discussed as a group.

- Representatives of Alberta Community Development presented a master plan for acquisition and preservation of heritage resources through the province.

- Members discussed issues surrounding policies and fee structures for reproducing photographs and other archival services.

- Sharry Watson of the CCA’s Canadian Committee on Archival Description discussed proposed changes in RAD.

Debby Shoctor, Institutional Member-at-Large, brought any issues arising from the Forum to the ASA Board meeting the following day for discussion and further follow-up, where needed.

The next Institutional Forum will take place in conjunction with the ASA’s Annual General Meeting.

POSTCARD RESEARCH

Postcards are both documents and artefacts. Important to the history of communication, they are also informative on many levels because of the images of an era, a location, work, leisure, sports, fashion, politics, art and much more. Their brief messages describe everyday life and special occasions. We are writing a book on Calgary postcards between the 1880s and WWII and are searching for collections with cards either posted or not, sent from Calgary with Calgary images, mailed to someone in Calgary, or kept in a private postcard collection (in their historic album or early cards gathered more recently.) Even if you have just one or two interesting ones, we’d like the opportunity to look at them.

If you have or know of a collection of early Calgary postcards that we might examine please contact either Trudy Cowan, cowant@shaw.ca or Jennifer Cook Bobrovitz, jbobrov@shaw.ca
2006 ASA ARCHIVES INSTITUTE

For the first time, the ASA’s Archives Institute was held in the fall from October 23-28, 2006. The change did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants, who traveled from across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba for the intensive, basic fundamental archival education offered by the Institute.

Held in the high-tech boardroom at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, the Institute featured presentations and in-class exercises on basic archival principles from the Archives Advisor and a variety of guest speakers drawn from the PAA staff. This year’s repository tour highlighted a number of features unique to the PAA, such as the conservation and media labs, with a healthy dose of “you won’t find this at every archives, but….” The ASA thanks the Provincial Archives of Alberta and its staff for graciously providing the facilities for the 2006 Institute.

Preliminary planning is underway for the 2007 Archives Institute, tentatively scheduled to take place in Calgary in late spring. Watch the ASA website and the asa-l listserv for further details.

Back Row:
Brenda Mansfield, Michael Gourlie, David Ridley,
Jonathan Davidson, John Yewman, Bill Brese,
Carol Light, Karly Sawatzky

Front Row:
Cecilia Bahsler, Kathy Mallet, Bev Wright, Tannis
Young, Jenny Smyth, Darlene Briere, Dr. Patricia
Roome, Patricia Arcand

Left to Right:
Karen Simonson, Laurette Miller, Michael
Gourlie, Anna Gibson and Alison Freake
The Provincial Archives of Alberta is pleased to announce the publication of its newest book, *An Administrative History of the Government of Alberta, 1905-2005*. This reference handbook outlines the establishment or dissolution of hundreds of ministries, departments, boards and commissions, and details the transfer of responsibilities within the Government of Alberta from its inception to 2005.

The Provincial Archives of Alberta serves as the permanent repository of records of enduring value of the Government of Alberta. This book is the result of years of research using the holdings of the Provincial Archives, and it serves as a fitting reminder of the importance of government records to the history of the province.

The foundations for the text are the descriptive finding aids developed by archivists at the Provincial Archives over the past number of years. There is information in the book not found elsewhere, including a fold-out time line that provides a graphical reference to the establishment and dissolution of the bodies of government detailed in the book. Each organization presented in this hardcover book is accompanied by a list of chief officers and their years of service. There are over seventy photographs, an index, and a detailed table of contents for ready reference.

This publication allows those interested in the history of the province to have, in one helpful resource, a detailed description of the changes to legislated functions and responsibilities within government administration.

Please visit our website at http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/paa or contact Justin McLeod at 780-415-4867 for purchasing information.

Tom Anderson
Provincial Archives of Alberta

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**Association of Canadian Archivists**

It is our pleasure to announce the launch of *e-Archivaria*. You can find it at: http://www.archivists.ca/publications/e-Archivaria.aspx

*Archivaria*, the journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA), is devoted to the scholarly investigation of archives in Canada and internationally. It has been published biannually since 1975.

The full collection of *Archivaria* issues, #1 to #61, is now accessible on the Web in digital format as PDF files. The great majority of the collection is open and freely available to the archival community and public. The most recent issues will be retained in a Reserved Collection, for ACA members and *Archivaria* subscribers. As new issues are published, further issues will become freely accessible.

Warm thanks are due to *Archivaria*’s authors, who almost without exception generously agreed to participate; to members of the *Archivaria* Editorial Board, who first conceived, defined and recommended this project; to ACA Executive members, past and present, who supported it enthusiastically; to staff at SFU Library, who contributed both technical expertise and infrastructure; and staff at the ACA Office, who undertook the arduous task of locating authors for rights clearance.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to two individuals whose contributions were absolutely instrumental in achieving *e-Archivaria*, Duncan Grant, ACA Executive Director; and Cathy Bailey, *Archivaria* Editorial Board representative on this project.

We encourage you all to take full advantage of this rich archival resource.

Scott Goodine, President, Association of Canadian Archivists
Ruth McIntosh, General Editor, *Archivaria*
ASA honourary member Don Bourdon has left the Archives, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies to become the Manager of Access Services for the British Columbia Archives in Victoria.

Formerly with the Red Deer and District Archives, ASA President Garth Clarke is now the Senior Records Officer for Alberta Children’s Services.

The City of Edmonton Archives (and Kim Christie-Milley in particular) are featured in the short film, Margaret Martin Built a House, shown at the Edmonton International Film Festival.

Produced by the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, the documentary “From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered” was shown on Edmonton’s Global TV in December 2006.

Scott Goodine of the Provincial Archives of Alberta was elected president of the Association of Canadian Archivists in June after serving a successful term as Secretary-Treasurer. Linda Fraser of the Canadian Architectural Archives has served as ACA Vice President since 2004.

Judy Kovacs completed the Certified Records Manager program with ARMA International.

Dennis Hyduk of the Provincial Archives of Alberta retires after 32 years with the archives.

Karen Simonson, Retro-Description Archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, has left to take a position with Library and Archives Canada.

This illustration by Marlena Wyman was presented to Don Bourdon and Margery Hadley at their farewell celebration.

New Provincial Archivist Appointed for Saskatchewan
Don Herperger – 8th Provincial Archivist

Saskatchewan Archives Board has announced the appointment of a new Provincial Archivist for Saskatchewan. Don Herperger is the province’s eighth provincial archivist, following in the footsteps of his professional predecessors, Trevor Powell, Ian E. Wilson (now Librarian and Archivist for Canada), Doug Bocking (Acting Provincial Archivist), Allan Turner, John Archer, Lewis H. Thomas, and the first Provincial Archivist, George W. Simpson.

Herperger has worked in Saskatchewan Archives since 1978 and has worked as a staff archivist, director and acting provincial archivist.

(Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists, The Archives Re-Past, No. 2, 2006)
Imperial Oil Archives are now at Glenbow.

On February 9, 2006, Imperial Oil Limited announced a major corporate gift to the Glenbow Museum.

The contribution consists of Imperial Oil's extensive corporate archives amassed at its Toronto headquarters for many years, a $1.2 million dollar endowment for the ongoing care, maintenance and access of the archival material, as well as a $500,000 gift towards Glenbow's new permanent Mavericks gallery on the history of southern Alberta scheduled to open in February 2007.

“In February 1947, Glenbow Museum's founder Eric Harvie came into his fortune when Imperial Oil discovered oil in Leduc – on the land to which Mr. Harvie held the mineral rights to – and marking the beginning of Western Canada's great oil development,” says Michael P. Robinson, Glenbow's president and chief executive officer. “It's very apt that nearly 60 years later, Glenbow welcome Imperial Oil's important archival materials and their significant financial contribution to help us to continue to share the stories of southern Alberta's history.”

“We're thrilled to support Albertans by making this contribution to Glenbow Museum, a cornerstone of Calgary's cultural, educational, and historical community,” explains Tim J. Hearn, Imperial Oil's chair, president and chief executive officer. “As we establish a new presence with our company's headquarters in Calgary, it's important for us to contribute to this city's economic and social development.”

The Archives donation consists of approximately 2,000 feet of textual records, photographs, films, training manuals and videos, corporate advertising, corporate documents and publications spanning the entire history of the company from the 1880s to the present day. These very significant material track the development of Imperial Oil which has been a leading member of the petroleum industry for more than a century and is today one of Canada's largest corporations. Imperial Oil is also Canada's largest integrated oil company.

Glenbow's Archives is Canada's largest non-governmental archives supporting over 40,000 research queries from historians, academics, students, historians, writers and the media each year.

Doug Cass and Tonia Fanella featured with donation
Name (Institution or Individual) 
_________________________________________________________________________________
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City _____________________________________________________________________________
Province __________________________________________________________________________
Postal Code __________________________________________________________________________
Telephone __________________________________________________________________________
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Voting Delegate (Associate / Institutional) _____________________________________________

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Type of Membership - Please Check

0 Archives Employee $40.00
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0 Institutional Member (membership fee is based on the archives operating budget. Please contact the ASA for further information)

0 Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

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

Archives Society of Alberta
P.O. Box 4067, South Edmonton P.O.
Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8