

NEWSLETTER

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2008 AGM & conference
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FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR: *DIVERSITY IN ALBERTA'S DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE*

Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor

For any archivist who has written an application for the federal National Archival Development Program (NADP), the phrase “increasing representation of aboriginal and under-represented ethno-cultural groups” is immediately familiar as one of the core objectives of that program. This objective addresses the ideal that the holdings of an archival institution should reflect the community which that archival institution represents – that people should be able to “see themselves” in their community’s archives. The census data for Alberta provides an interesting insight into what this objective could mean for the province’s archival community.

Although data from the 2006 census of Canada on this subject is not yet available, according to the 2001 census, the top ten ethnicities reported by residents of Alberta were Canadian, English, German, Scottish, Irish, French, Ukrainian, Dutch, Aboriginal, and Polish. Some of the smaller ethnic communities include Greek, Croatian, Czechoslovakian, Korean and Jamaican. This list is complicated by the fact that responses such as “Scottish-Canadian” are counted as both Scottish and Canadian, but the ranking does provide clear indications of which ethnic groups predominate in Alberta at this time. This data is constantly in flux, as illustrated by the recent Statistics Canada announcement that the population of aboriginal peoples in Alberta has grown significantly in the past five years, rising twenty per cent. Additional changes will result from continuing immigration driven by Alberta’s growing economy.

From a province-wide perspective, assessing how well or how poorly represented a particular ethnicity is in Alberta’s archival institutions can be somewhat difficult. Typing the word “German” into the Archives Network of Alberta database produces almost 250 results, including those of people

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

who visited or studied Germany but were not of German origin or descent. Even using the First Nations topic heading directs you not only to records created by aboriginal peoples but also records created about aboriginal peoples by missionaries, Indian agents, and others. Databases do not and likely can never point researchers in the direction of every letter or photograph containing useful information about a particular community. There is also the question of the quality of the records. Does merely having a donor of a particular ethnicity improve the documentation of that ethnic group, or should the records themselves provide a well-documented window into that particular ethnic community? It is likely that there are gaps in every archival institution's documentation of the ethnic communities within its acquisition mandate, but archival institutions can assess what those gaps are and recognize opportunities to close them through innovative acquisitions and outreach to specific communities, hopefully attracting new users and supporters in the process.

Whether pertaining to records related to ethnic groups, women, specific industries or specific social trends, acquisitions and the question of representation in archival holdings are one of the most challenging aspects of working in archives because of their impact on resources, users, and the perception of the archival institution as a relevant community resource. While no archival institution can be all things to all users, knowing one's community and holdings will help archivists understand the gaps in specific areas and understand what they are able to do about them.

ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA AGM NOTICE

Saturday, May 24, 2008
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Waskasoo "A", Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta

THE FUTURE OF MONETARY APPRAISAL IN CANADA

Linda Fraser, *Canadian Architectural Archives*

The National Archival Appraisal Board (NAAB) held a national conference called *The Future of Monetary Appraisal in Canada* in Ottawa last October. This two day conference was the first on Canadian monetary appraisal of archival collections since 1985 and it drew over 170 archivists and other professionals from across Canada. The conference was sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Library and Archives Canada, and the Canadian Council of Archives.

The two days were filled with plenary sessions and concurrent appraisal sessions and thematic workshops. All issues related to monetary appraisal were covered as they relate to the archival institution, the external monetary appraisers or NAAB, and the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, and Canada Revenue Agency. Three streams of concurrent sessions and workshops allowed attendees to pick and chose. Appraisal of documents sessions were specific to a wide variety of records and included photographs, diaries and commonplace books, autographs and ALSs, political papers, film and audiovisual, large literary, digital, books and newspapers, and architectural.

Plenary sessions began each day and were also held over the lunch hours. The included presentations from Ian Wilson, as well as Marcel Caya, David Silcox and John Moldenhauer who examined monetary appraisal from the perspectives of NAAB, an auctioneer at Sotheby's and a bookseller respectively.

Carman Carroll's session on Appraisal Assumptions was very well attended and contained valuable information related to the work of monetary appraisal. Described as a partnership between donors, archival institutions, appraisers, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board (CCPERB), the process of monetary appraisal includes roles and responsibilities that are specific to each partner. Carroll broke his talk into four broad categories that describe the process: description of the records; significance of the records; justification of the value, and fair market value.

Marcel Caya spoke specifically on monetary appraisal reports and the importance of justifications for determined values, why justification is necessary and how to justify.

Andrew Roger and Brock Silversides spoke on the monetary appraisal of photographs and five possible approaches to evaluating photographic records. Of particular interest was the list they provided of "hot" photography subjects in Canada which include railways, workers, aboriginals, and notable buildings.

From a personal perspective, the section on the appraisal of architectural records give by John Moldenhauer and David Russell was valuable. This session outlined what the institution should do to prepare for appraisers, what type of records should be retained for monetary appraisal, the physical requirements needed for appraising this media, possible justifications, and appraisal approaches

In addition to the sessions, this conference allowed participants an opportunity to *Ask the Experts* on the evening of the first day and offered a tour of the Gatineau Preservation Centre after the sessions on day two.

The Future of Monetary Appraisal in Canada was a very worthwhile conference to attend. There was some talk of presenting this conference at the regional levels and if that occurs, I would recommend attendance. The papers and proceedings of the conference are going to be posted on the NAAB website at <http://www.naab.ca/>.

OTTO'S CACHE: ANOTHER LOOK AT ONE OF JASPER'S OLDEST OUTFITTING COMPANY

Meghan Power, Jasper-Yellowhead Museum & Archives

In 1909, three brothers arrived at Fitzhugh (Jasper), a sparsely populated town, inhabited primarily by Grand Trunk Pacific (GTP) Railway laborers working furiously to lay track that would open up Northern Alberta and British Columbia to tourists and entrepreneurs. The Otto brothers, (Jack, Closson, and Bruce) a cross breed of adventurers and entrepreneurs, saw Fitzhugh as an ideal location to cater to those looking to experience the wild Canadian Rockies and perhaps bag a few trophies. The brothers had come to Fitzhugh from Field and Golden, British Columbia where they already had a well-established reputation as guides and outfitters.

In 1911, when Mary Schaffer returned to Chaba Imne (Maligne Lake) with a group that was interested in recording scientific features of the region, she requested the help of her old friends, the Otto brothers, to act as outfitter and guide. In order to ensure that the group would have an easier time reaching their destination, Jack guided the group through the often-treacherous terrain and made sure that the group was comfortable at camp. He also assisted in the transportation of lumber that would be made into a river style boat to explore the lake. Meanwhile, Closson and Bruce were sent ahead to cut a trail, which was unexpectedly covered in several feet of snow. This did not discourage the industrious duo. They carved two shovels from a couple of large spruce trees and dug out a trail, leaving the hand hewn shovels to mark the trail head.

It was this type of backcountry survival skill that made the Ottos the first choice of many adventurers. Another well-known client of the Otto brothers was James Oliver Curwood, an author whose novels paid homage to the wild Canadian landscape. Curwood's tales told of bears, wild mountain men, and plucky women who dared to trade the safety of civilized society for the unruly, rustic wilds of nature. Curwood even immortalized Bruce Otto in one of his most well known novels, *The Grizzly King*. The Otto brothers also outfitted for Sherlock Holmes author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, during his highly publicized promotional tour, sponsored by the Grand Trunk Pacific (GTP) to help bring attention to newly completed stretches of track.

Another party, also sponsored by the GTP Railway, in hopes of drumming up publicity for the region, as an exclusive tourist destination, was a group headed by Dr.

Charles Doolittle Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Walcott had visited Jasper Park before to study fossils embedded in shale rock. This time, he hired Closson Otto to guide the group through the park and across the provincial boundary into the Mount Robson region.

Thanks to funding through the ASA Access to Holdings Grant program, funding was received to process, arrange, and describe some of the archive backlog. Included in this backlog were two boxes of photographs that had been donated by a now deceased niece of the Otto brothers and it was within these boxes that a small envelope containing eight forgotten photographs of Walcott's party and their activities was rediscovered. There was a note with each photograph that gave names, locations and other pieces of interesting information, each one typed by Dr. Walcott, himself. The detective inside me was immediately intrigued and I was interested in finding more information about Walcott's visit to Alberta.

My search led me to numerous on-line databases, including that of the Smithsonian Institute (<http://www.si.edu/>). The site allows access to numerous articles and scientific dissertations, which shed some light on the work being done by Walcott and his colleagues during their visits to the Canadian Rockies. Eventually, the trail led me back to the archives' research library, to the ever-resourceful *Canadian Alpine Journal*. I managed to locate a volume that contained a couple of articles written about Walcott's visit and his hope to classify new species of flora and fauna:

The expedition was made possible through the co-operation of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, which contributed handsomely towards the expenses... Subsequent co-operation and financial assistance by the British Columbia, Alberta and Dominion Governments made it possible to enlarge the scope of the expedition, and an investigation of the fauna, flora, and geology was added to the topographical work first planned. An attempt was made to interest Canadian scientists in the expedition, but without



success, so the matter was submitted to Dr. Charles Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, who collaborated most heartily...

(Canadian Alpine Journal (1912), vol. 4., p. 3)

Along with his son, Sydney, his personal assistant and excellent marksman Harry Blagden, colleague Dr. I. F. Burgen, a packer identified as Arthur Brown (possibly provided by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway) and Closson Otto (outfitter), the group set about collecting various specimen. The party had been given special permission from the Chief Superintendent of Dominion Parks, Mr. Howard Douglas, and the Chief Game guardian for the Province of Alberta: "to secure specimens of game and other animals and birds for scientific purposes..." (*Canadian Alpine Journal (1912), vol. 4, p. 3*).

However, the most interesting information would not be found through the usual avenues, but arrived at the archives in the hands of a most generous and enthusiastic patron: unaware of the serendipitous nature of his visit, he presented me with a rather tattered looking album, which to my surprise, was filled with professional photographs taken during the Walcott's visit in 1912 (the same date that appeared in the notes I had from Walcott). The album documented the group's extended travels from Winnipeg, along the Grand Trunk line through to Jasper, then later to Tete Jaune Cache, and eventually ending at Prince Rupert; a part of the story that had not been included with the photographs that Walcott had sent Otto. Walcott's photographs have since been processed, described and digitized and are now accessible on the Alberta Society of Archives, Alberta InSight database and thanks to continued financial support from the ASA, researchers now have another piece to the puzzle that is Alberta's history.

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Glenbow is pleased to announce that the inventory of the records of the United Mine Workers of America, District 18 is now complete. It can be viewed at <http://www.glenbow.org/collections/search/findingAids/archhtm/umwa.cfm>.

These records, transferred to Glenbow by District 18 in several accessions from 1970 to 1996 totaling 72 metres, comprise one of Glenbow's largest and most complex fonds. They should be particularly valuable for the study of labour history in Canada's three westernmost provinces, and for genealogical research.

District 18 originated in 1903 in Fernie, B.C. and soon established itself as a militant and successful force in the coal mining industry. Its members were in the forefront of radical labour politics in Canada, flirting with the One Big Union concept in 1919 and breaking with the UMWA International to form a Communist union in the 1920s and 1930s. The history of District 18, and its relationships with employers, other unions, and the UMWA International are documented in the minutes, proceedings, and correspondence in Series 3 to 11. Records of negotiations, conciliations, arbitrations, strikes, lawsuits, certification drives and raids are in Series 15. Records of Local Unions are in Series 19, and there are particularly rich local records from Canmore, Carbondale, Coleman, Drinnan, Drumheller, East Coulee, Edmonton, Fernie, Hillcrest, Hinton, Lethbridge, Luscar, Nordegg, Robb, Rosedale, Three Hills, and Western Monarch.

Coal mine workers, because they sometimes lived transient lives and were often members of low-status immigrant groups, can be problematic for genealogical research. Records of genealogical significance include membership records in Series 13 and Series 19. Welfare and Retirement Fund case files in Series 27 include employment histories, medical histories, and proof-of-age documents of many long-time members who retired or became disabled between 1948 and 1987. Mine operators' employment records are in Series 26.

Jim Bowman
Archivist, Glenbow Museum

ANADATABASES/CINEMAGE TRAINING SESSION

- Have you or someone else in your archival institution wanted to contribute material to the ANA, Alberta InSight or Alberta InWord databases but hesitated because you weren't sure how to do it?
- Have you attended one of the Cinemage training sessions in the past but haven't been able to regularly use the databases, so feel that a refresher would be helpful?
- Are you a regular contributor to the ANA databases, but would like to obtain more advanced information like printing customized reports or setting up a filtered view?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above – or have other questions about our databases — you may be interested in an upcoming workshop to be held in Red Deer on **Thursday, May 22nd**, from **1:00 – 5:00 p.m.** as part of the ASA Conference. The session will begin with a basic primer about how institutional members add/update material in the ANA, Alberta InSight, and Alberta InWord databases. There should be sufficient time after that for reviewing some of the advanced features of the Cinemage system, as well as answering specific questions from participants. All participants will receive an updated version of the *ANA Databases Reference Manual*.

Additional information about the conference, as well as the conference registration form, are available on the ASA's web site at: http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=123

If you have any questions about the upcoming workshop, please do not hesitate to contact me, either by e-mail at jmcmast@shaw.ca, or by phone at (403) 236-3406.

Janet McMaster, System Administrator, Archives Network of Alberta

PEOPLE & PLACES

In November 2007, the Hon. Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada, appointed **Elizabeth Denham** as Assistant Privacy Commissioner in the Office of the Privacy Commissioner. She was most recently Director of Research, Analysis and Stakeholder Relations with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner. On secondment from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta, she had been the Director, Private Sector, responsible for the enforcement of Alberta's new *Personal Information Protection Act*. From 2001 to 2003, Ms. Denham ran her own privacy policy consulting business, with clients in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ottawa. Working with the Calgary Health Region from 1997-2001, she held the positions of Information and Privacy Coordinator and Director, Legal and Regulatory Affairs.

Members of the Canadian Council of Archives recently elected Provincial Archivist of Alberta **Leslie Latta-Guthrie** as the Council's incoming Vice-Chair. Congratulations Leslie!

New Aboriginal Archives Booklet

With the support of the Canadian Council of Archives and the Canadian Church Historical Society of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) published its new *Aboriginal Archives Guide* in December 2007. This initiative of the ACA's Special Interest Section on Aboriginal Archives addresses such topics as the written record and oral tradition, establishing an archival programme, and rights and obligations affecting access to archives.

Copies are available as a PDF on the ACA website or in hardcopy (in limited numbers) from the ACA office for \$2.00. In addition, the ASA office has a limited number of copies available for distribution to members. Please contact the office by email at mgourlie@shaw.ca or by phone at 780-424-2697 if you are interested in receiving a copy.

Mark Your Calendar

May 5-11, 2008	ASA Archives Institute, Edmonton
May 22-24, 2008	ASA Conference and Annual General Meeting, Red Deer
June 12-14, 2008	Association of Canadian Archivists Conference and Annual General Meeting, Fredericton

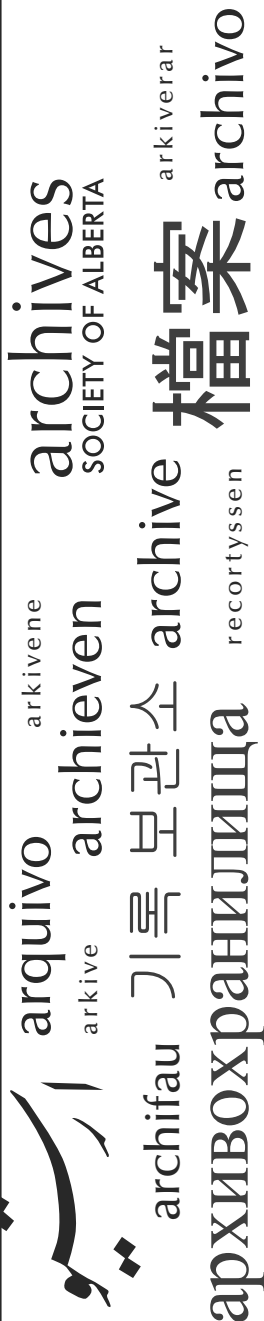
Since closing CIRC: Crozier Information Resources Consulting Ltd., Jean Crozier has been busy writing. Her book, *No Corner Boys Here* received the maximum grant from AHRC, due in part to the strong historical context within which the story of an immigrant Welsh family, the Thurston's of Irma, Alberta, was set. *No Corner Boys Here* details the story of a family who first immigrated from England to Wales, then the youngest son brought his family to Irma, Alberta. The story describes British class structures and immigration, farming and teaching, and war and depression in the context of twentieth century British and Alberta history. For more information, visit www.NoCornerBoysHere.com.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

The Archives Society of Alberta can now accept VISA and MasterCard credit card payments. Watch for this new additional payment option on membership, educational and other ASA registration forms.

Foundations of Change: Archives in a Diverse World

Archives Society of Alberta Conference, Red Deer Lodge, Red Deer
May 22 - 24, 2008



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Full registration includes the following:

Thursday, May 22

- An evening reception at Westerner Park in the Lookout Room

Friday, May 23 at the Red Deer Lodge

- Keynote Address with Dr. Bill Baergen
- Morning refreshment break
- Sessions
- Networking lunch
- Sessions
- Afternoon refreshments
- A choice of a hay ride or a heritage walking tour
- Banquet and entertainment

Saturday, May 24 at the Red Deer Lodge

- Breakfast
- Sessions
- AGM / Lunch

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS / ACTIVITIES

Tour of the Red Deer Archives

Thursday, May 22, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (tour every half-hour)

Privacy Workshop presented by Eileen Hendy, Service Alberta

Thursday, May 22, 2008
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Snell Gallery, Red Deer Public Library

Cinimage Workshop for ASA Institutional Members presented by Janet McMaster, ASA

Thursday, May 22, 2008
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Golden Circle Senior Resource Centre

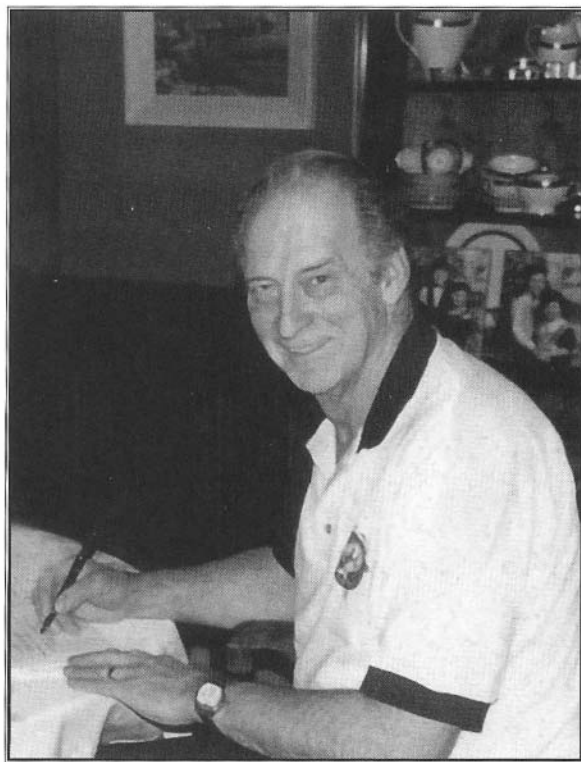
LOOKING FOR ACCOMODATION?

<http://www.reddeerlodge.ca>

Individuals need to book their own reservations prior to Tuesday, April 22, 2008. To make reservations, please call the Red Deer Lodge reservation department at 403-346-8841 or toll free 1-800-661-1657 and ask for the specified group name block of Archives Society of Alberta.

www.archivesalberta.org

Conference Keynote



WILLIAM PETER BAERGEN was born at Irma, Alberta, and raised on farms at Irma and Vauxhall. After graduate degrees in education and history at the University of Alberta, Bill earned a PhD at the University of Oregon in 1982. He has taught history and English at the high school and college levels, and has administrative experience as a principal in Whitecourt, superintendent in Stettler, board chairman of the Clearview School Division, and president of the Central Alberta Historical Society. In addition to letters to the editor, Bill has written curriculum on Canadian history for Alberta Education and published *The Ku Klux Klan in Central Alberta*. With Dr. David C. Jones, he co-edited *West of the Blindman: Observations of a Half Century*. In 2003, he received one of two Annual Awards from the Historical Society of Alberta for his outstanding contribution to Alberta history. He is one of seven commissioners for the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission. Bill and his wife, Donna, live in Stettler, where they raised their three children.

**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
MAY 23, 2008**

Cinemage Workshop for ASA Institutional Members

For those members who have never contributed descriptions or scanned images to the ASA's databases, or just need a refresher, this workshop will provide you with the knowledge to start making the holdings of your archives more accessible to researchers around the world.

Presenter: Janet McMaster, Archives Society of Alberta

Limit: 6 participants (please use conference registration form to register)

Alberta's Access and Privacy Legislation (FOIP and PIPA)

This half-day workshop will provide information on both the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Personal Information Protection Act* with the focus being on the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. The session will cover:

- which Act applies to what archival institution
- what information and records each Act applies to or not
- how each Act applies to the collection, use and disclosure of information, including personal information
- how the Acts apply to researchers, depending on whether they are individuals or organizations
- when are research agreements required

Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and discuss their concerns of what and how information, including personal information can be collected, and how it can be used or disclosed by archival institutions.

Presenter: Eileen Hendy, Manager, Access, Privacy and Security, Service Alberta

Limit: 20 participants (please use conference registration form to register)

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City / Province: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Phone (Daytime): _____
 E-mail : _____
 Affiliate Organization: _____

- My organization/I am a member of ASA
- I do not want my information listed in the ASA Conference Delegate List
- I do not authorize the ASA to use photographs that may be taken at conference events in their publications or for promotional purposes.

REGISTRATION FEES

	Early Bird until April 11, 2008	After April 11, 2008	
Member Full Registration:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00	\$ _____
Non-Member Full Registration:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275.00	\$ _____

Full registration includes all conference activities as listed.

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION

Member \$60.00 Non-Member \$70.00 \$ _____
 Check Day: Friday Saturday
One-day registrations include all sessions, refreshment breaks, and events for that day except the Friday Banquet. Events may include: Opening Morning Refreshments, An evening at the Westerner Centre, Networking Lunch, Breakfast, and tours.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

- Tour of Red Deer Archives**
 (no cost)
- Cinimage Workshop for ASA Institutional Members**
 (no cost for Institutional members)
- Privacy Workshop**
Member: \$50.00 Non-Member \$60.00 \$ _____

FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

- Hay Ride**
 (no cost)
- Heritage Walking Tour**
 (no cost)

NEED GUEST TICKETS?

Are you bringing guests? These events are included with registration.
 Note: Only check if you need extra guest tickets

- An Evening at Westerner Park in the Lookout Room*
Thursday, May 22: _____ tickets at \$15.00 each \$ _____
- Networking Lunch*
Friday, May 23: _____ tickets at \$25.00 each \$ _____
- Banquet with entertainment*
Friday, May 23: _____ tickets at \$69.00 each \$ _____
- Networking Lunch*
Saturday, May 24: _____ tickets at \$25.00 each \$ _____

- LUNCHEON ALTERNATIVES**
- Vegetarian Option
 - Special Dietary Needs
- Please specify Special Dietary Needs: _____

TOTAL FEES SUBMITTED: \$ _____ (Payable to Archives Society of Alberta)

Please check one: Cheque Money Order Visa MasterCard
 Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____
 Card Holder Name (please print): _____
 Signature: _____

- PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**
- Full payment must accompany registration
 - A separate form is required for each registration

CANCELLATION POLICY

Refund requests will be accepted until May 9, 2008. A \$35 cancellation fee will be applied.

Archives Society of Alberta, P.O. Box 4067, South Edmonton Post Office, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4S8
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SUBMISSIONS? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

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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Editor contact information:
Telephone: (780) 424-2697
Fax: (780) 425-1679
Email: jlnordland@yahoo.ca

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 Word 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.

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



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Name (Institution or Individual)

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Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members)

Type of Membership - Please Check

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- Students, Volunteers, Seniors \$20.00
- Associate Institutional Member \$60.00
- Institutional Member (membership fee is based on the archives operating budget. Please contact the ASA for further information)
- 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:

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