

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

VALLA MCLEAN, PRESIDENT



Autumn is my favourite time of year for many different reasons; one reason is that it always feels like a time for reflection on the year that was and a time to dream about what opportunities and experiences might await me in a new year. And what a year it was! I am reminded of the title of Shelly Sweeney's keynote address at the Archives Society of Alberta biennial conference in May, *Living and Working Through Challenging Times*. The conference brought us all together in the Zoom universe in part to share in each other's successes in making our services and records available to our patrons during a pandemic. I was also fortunate to attend the Association of Canadian Archivists 2021 Virtual conference in June. During the many and varied sessions, I took detailed notes in the hopes of "home improvement" including ways to challenge some standard archival principles and practices.

The Board has met a couple of times since my last newsletter. We have thrown our support behind the hiring of an advocacy consultant. Many thanks to the Advocacy and Outreach Committee members for embarking on this challenging but essential work. I believe all ASA members will benefit from the work that comes out of the committee. The ASA membership has agreed the ASA website needs some sprucing up! Stay tuned for a new and improved experience when interacting with the ASA online. The ASA financial statements were reviewed and approved, and we are in good standing. Thanks to Kathryn Ivany and Jennifer Willard for taking the time to review the book-keeping and accounting procedures of the ASA. I want to welcome to the board office Ashwini Gadtoula as the Administrative Assistant and Sonia Philips as the Financial Coordinator while Kelsey is on maternity leave.

CONTENTS

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

3 REMINDER: ASA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT GRANT

3 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT INTRODUCTION

4 ARCHIVES FEATURE: ESPLANADES ARCHIVES, MEDICINE
HAT

6 PEOPLE AND PLACES

7 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ARCHIVES ADVISOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President — 2020 - 2021

Valla McLean

Vice President

Erin Hoar

Secretary

Melissa McCarthy

Treasurer

Jason Nisenson

Institutional Member-at-Large

Peter Houston

Individual Member-at-Large

Jordan Roy

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education

Marissa Fraser

Nominations and Awards

Philip Pye

Advocacy and Outreach

VACANT

Alberta on Record

Vino Vipulanantharajah

NEWSLETTER

Advertising, Design and Layout

Ashwini Gadtoula

ASA STAFF

Executive Director/Archives Advisor

Rene Georgopolis

Administrative Assistant

Ashwini Gadtoula

Financial Coordinator

Sonia Phillips

Database Administrator

Maryna Chernyavska

Conference Coordinator

Ericka Chemko



The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Government of Alberta.

Last Spring, ASA held its first virtual conference. The change of how we delivered the conference was a challenge and I missed seeing everyone in person, but I am happy that we were able to offer the conference. Conferences can be so important to share ideas and network with each other. We had concurrent sessions and the conference took place over one day. Our keynote was Shelley Sweeney who gave us some insight on the profession and its challenges over the years and how they were overcome. I would like to thank all of the people who presented at our conference and made it a success. Although the conference was online we maintained the same number of delegates that we have for an in-person conference.



I personally attended the ACA conference in June online and learned so much and was feeling more invigorated about my work. Feeling inspired by my work has been challenging during this pandemic as I feel, as I am sure most of you do, that I have been in survival mode. So, I thank the ACA for putting on such a good conference and giving me a little inspiration. The Conference theme was Home Improvement and many of the speakers addressed issues of inclusivity in archival institutions. The presentations were about re-examining how archives operate and how to make them more inclusive for the diversity of the public that archives serve.

This fall, I have been focusing on education offerings at ASA. We are offering our second online Archives Institute. This time we have 19 people registered with 4 international participants, 4 Canadian participants from outside of Alberta and 11 participants from Alberta. It is the first time we have had international participants in this course. Additionally, we have a workshop that will be offered in November, entitled Making Videos for Education and Instruction and we are planning a workshop in March about Describing Electronic Records. Being able to offer workshops is something I hope is beneficial for the archival community here in Alberta. Please remember that as an ASA member, you are able to enroll two weeks prior to non-members.

In this fall issue of the ASA newsletter, we are trying something new and featuring archives from around the province. I hope you enjoy our first archives feature, the Esplanade Archives in Medicine Hat!

REMINDER: ASA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT GRANT

ASA would like to remind its Individual members to apply for the Professional Development Support Grant if you have not done so already. Each Individual member can access \$100 towards registration of any archives professional development opportunity. If you are interested, you will need to apply for preapproval two week prior to the offering. For application forms and more information, please visit our website: <https://archivesalberta.org/programs-and-services/grants-education/grants-professional-development-support>.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT INTRODUCTION

ASHWINI GADTOULA

My name is Ashwini Gadtoula and I was hired as the Administrative Assistant for the Archives Society of Alberta this summer. I am in my final year of a Political Science and International Studies undergraduate degree. As I prepared for my interview on the night of May 13th, 2021, I was on the ASA website looking through the newsletters to get a feel for ongoing projects within the society. Now, a very quick summer later, here I am making the newsletter itself to be published on the website



Despite a lack of an archives background, I am very grateful for the opportunity to work at ASA. The importance of archives cannot be understated. The ability of archives to tell stories, provide evidence about individuals and institutions and reinforce our overall understanding of different societal, cultural and institutional constructs is significant. I pride myself in the knowledge that I get to work for an institution that carries out such important work. As the Administrative Assistant, I aid Rene, our Executive Director in administrative tasks. I am responsible for membership communication and database, logistics of any events hosted by the ASA, workshop/learning event materials and any additional help required by my Executive Director. I must say, although not officially on the list, one of the favourite parts of my job is getting to occasionally water the plants in our office.

Through my job at ASA, I have had the opportunity to grow my communication and decision-making skills. Rene also encouraged me to do the training I required to gain fluency in programs like Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. I cannot thank Rene enough for the kindness, understanding and support she continues to lend me. Her passion for archival work is contagious and her commitment to providing the best services possible through the ASA so that important work of archives preservation continues is commendable. I am only able to do the work I do through her guidance and leadership. Thank you so much Rene!

I hope I will eventually be able to meet every member of the ASA board, volunteers and staff. The pandemic has distanced us, but I hope to put a face to the names that I see as I prepare these newsletters someday.

ARCHIVES FEATURE: ESPLANADE ARCHIVES, MEDICINE HAT

PHILIP PYPE, ARCHIVIST

1. What is your position and how long have you been working at the archives?

I have been Archivist with the Esplanade Archives, City of Medicine Hat, for 18 years. I was part of the transitioning of the Archives from the old museum site to the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre in 2005.



2. What types of records do you acquire at your archives?

The Esplanade Archives is a total archives. We work with the community in



acquiring records from numerous organizations, individuals, and families while preserving the records of the City of Medicine Hat as their corporate memory institution.

3. What is the physical extent of your site's holdings?

Our holding include approximately 1000 linear metres of records, consisting of manuscripts, photos, and audio-visual recordings. We are striving to better handle our digital holdings that, at this point, are predominately photographs and audio-visual.

4. What do you think is the biggest challenge at your archives currently?

Like every archives program, we are always in need of more human resources. With limited staffing and a vibrant core of volunteers we are able to accomplish a lot, but we often are pulled towards content creation; curating exhibits, working with film production, supplying online content etc. Although these pursuits are very beneficial and fulfilling, they can draw our limited resources away from our core archival practices of acquisition, preservation, and access to primary records.

5. Which project at your site do you feel most proud of?

We are proud of our Acetate Negative Degradation project. In 2019 we discovered vinegar syndrome in thousands of acetate negatives from the 1950s within the Gainsboro Studio fonds. During partial shutdowns due to COVID-19 we were able to hire an intern through Young Canada Works, collaborate as a team to test throughout the fonds of 200,000 images, digitize approximately 8000 images, and get 2400 frozen. This project is on-going.

ARCHIVES FEATURE: ESPLANADE ARCHIVES, MEDICINE HAT (CONT.)

PHILIP PYPE,

6. What is your favorite item in the holdings?

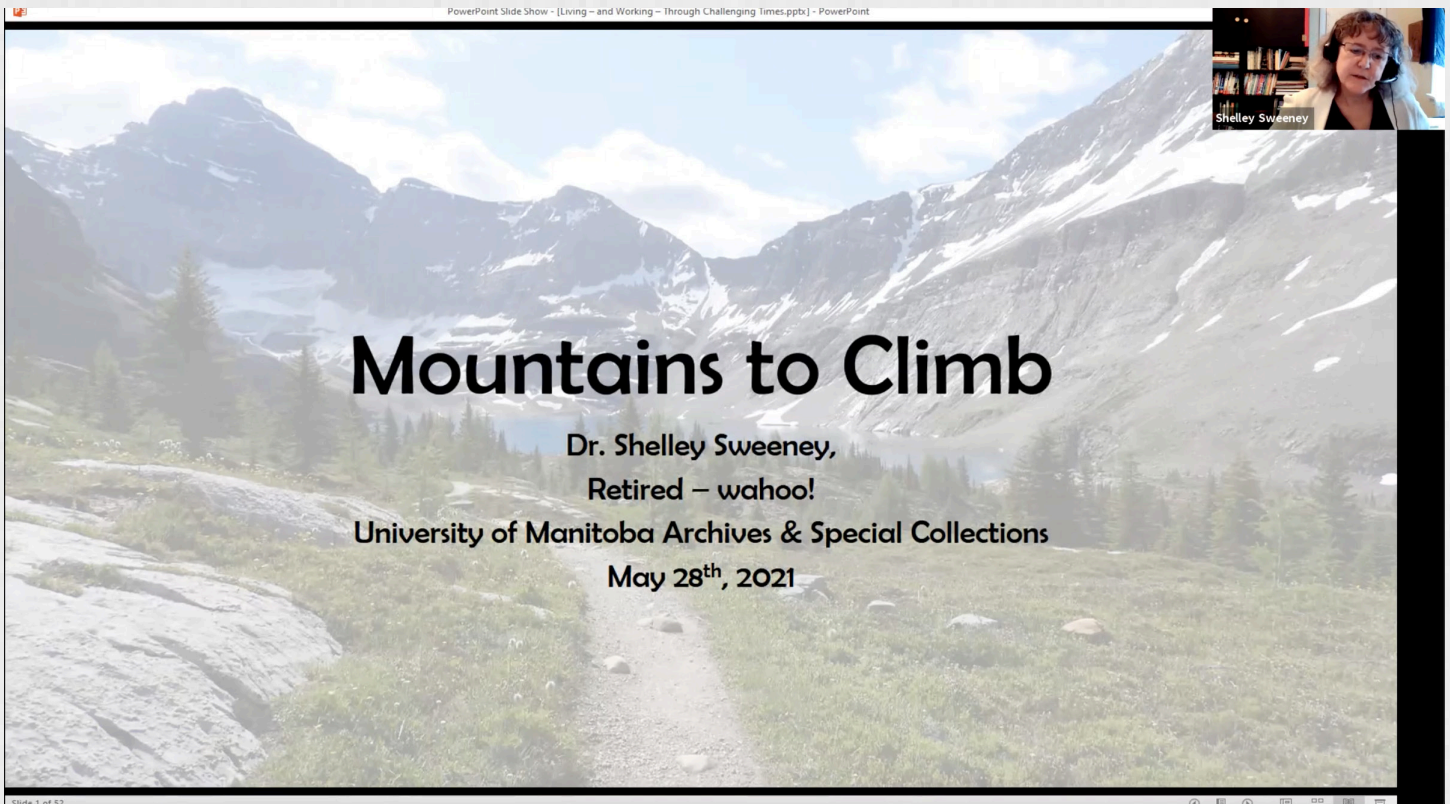
My favourite item in our holdings is our 4 metre long original 1912 panorama of Medicine Hat. In 2005 we applied to the Canadian Conservation Institute to get it restored. Recognizing this image of Medicine Hat as significantly unique and of national significance, the CCI cleaned, repaired and framed it. This image fascinates every visitor who we tour through our vaults.



PEOPLE AND PLACES

ASA member, Alyssa Hyduk, who worked at the Banff Centre has started a new job as University Archivist at the University of Regina. Congratulations Alyssa on your new position!

Another ASA member has landed a new job. Alyssa Currie, who was the Executive Director of the South Peace Regional Archives has moved onto the Tse'k'wa Heritage Society in BC as their Executive Director. Congratulations!



Screenshot of the keynote presentation, ASA Conference, May 28, 2021

The Archives Society of Alberta News is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o:

Archives Society of Alberta
Suite 216-10440 108 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5H 3Z9

Editor contact information:

Telephone: (780) 424-2697
Email: reneg@archivesalberta.org

Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor to the Archives Society of Alberta News, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Please note:

Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.

The views expressed in the Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta or its Editor.



The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Government of Alberta.

ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2021 – 2022

Name (Institution or Individual)

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone (_____) _____ - _____

Business Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Fax (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Voting Delegate (Associate)

Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members)

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Please Check

- Archives Employee \$60.00
- Students, Volunteers, Seniors \$30.00
- Associate Institutional Member \$90.00
- Institutional Member (Please contact the ASA for further information)
- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

Credit Card No. _____

Expiry _____ Visa MasterCard

Card holder name (please print) _____

Signature _____

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

Archives Society of Alberta
Prince of Wales Armouries and Heritage Centre
216-10440 108 Ave NW
Edmonton AB T5H 3Z9
Canada