



## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**VALLA MCLEAN, PRESIDENT**

By the time this newsletter lands in your inbox, I hope the worst of our prairie winter is behind us! Here's a summary of a couple of things I've been involved with over the last few months:

On January 26th, the Archives Society of Alberta Board of Directors approved performance evaluation criteria for the ASA Executive Director/Archives Advisor. The ASA's Executive Director Compensation Policy states a salary increase is based on a satisfactory annual performance review. If you know the parameters, it's much easier to be part of a job evaluation on both sides of the table, so I thought it was essential to formalize a format and process for the review.

I want to thank the many people who volunteer their time and share their expertise by sitting on the Archives Society of Alberta Board of Directors and various committees. Your contributions are vital to the success of the Archives Society of Alberta. This is my last term as President of the ASA. I will not be seeking reelection, but I hope you consider putting your name forward. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the roles and responsibilities of the position. In consultation with the Executive Director and the other Board members, one of the things I plan to do before I leave is to propose a business plan for the ASA for 2022-2023. With these goals in place, the next Board of Directors should be able to step boldly into the future.

## **CONTENTS**

**2 FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR**

**3 SAFEGUARDING OUR HERITAGE**

**4 ARCHIVES FEATURE: PEACE RIVER MUSEUM,  
ARCHIVES, AND MACKENZINE CENTRE**

**5 BURSARY RECIPIENT**

**5 PEOPLE AND PLACES**

**6 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President — 2021 - 2022**

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 Pype

**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.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS

Well, it has nearly been two years now that our member sites have been operating differently due to the pandemic and we still are not operating at “normal.” I do miss advising - I have still been advising but only from the office. I miss visiting archives and talking to members. Because I haven’t been doing site visits for a long time now, I am feeling a little disconnected despite trying to connect with sites virtually. There will be a lot of catching up to do once it is safer to travel.



As for ASA news, this fall, we completed our second virtual offering of the Archives Institute. We also hosted a workshop on Making Videos for Education and Instruction. The one instructor had a background in film so her input on how to film effectively was quite useful. I hope that those of you who had the opportunity to attend that workshop enjoyed it.

January is the time at ASA when things start getting busier again. We have a workshop coming up -- Describing Electronic Records: A Hands-On Workshop -- which will be offered on March 4 and registration filled up very quickly. At the time of writing this article, 30 people are registered and 7 people are on the waitlist. The instructors are both Digital Archivists at post-secondary institutions in the US, so I am very interested in how they do this work.

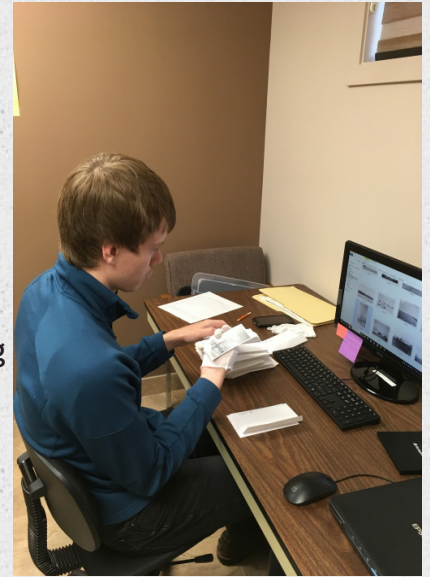
As part of pandemic catch-up, we have more institutional member reviews than usual scheduled for the summer. To support that process, we offered a session on institutional membership reviews. I hope those of you who attended found it helpful. I am always available to answer any questions about institutional membership criteria.

ASA is working on a couple extra projects - we are looking at a website refresh and we are hiring a consultant to support us with advocacy work. These projects are going to be great and I anticipate the results will be a benefit to the membership. Additionally, year-end is coming, so we have been planning for the 2022-23 fiscal year and making plans for the AGM and Spring Institutional Forum. Save the date for May 27 for the AGM and Forum! We have yet to decide if we can meet in person, if it will be a virtual AGM or some sort of hybrid event. The membership year also begins again so expect to receive your membership renewal notices on March 1.

# SAFEGUARDING OUR HERITAGE

SHANNON DOIRON

Earlier this year, the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan uploaded over 3,000 photos to its website pertaining to life at the Indian Residential Schools (IRS) operated by the Catholic Church in northwestern Alberta. This was the culmination of a massive digitization project that was begun back in 2019 with the intention of allowing the public a glimpse into the lives of those who attended the schools. The undertaking of this task was made possible by the awarding of a grant from the Documentary Heritage Communities Program offered by Library and Archives Canada. It is the hope of the Archdiocese, in helping to make these photos more accessible, to use this project as a means of moving forward toward the goal of reconciliation.



I had begun working as the Archdiocesan archivist back in March of 2018, having previously been employed as the Archives Advisor for the Council of Archives New Brunswick (CANB) in Fredericton. It was over a year later, at the start of May 2019, that I began work on describing, in both English and French, the nearly 6,000 photos from the IRS which operated within the boundaries of what is now the Archdiocese. These were located in Assumption (now Chateh), Desmarais-Wabasca, Fort Vermilion, Grouard, Jousard and Sturgeon Lake. The idea for the project first came about when Archbishop Gerard Pettipas attended the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's seven national events, where photographs were always very popular. The opportunity to apply for funding gave this idea real potential.

In addition to going through and describing the photos, I also supervised the digitization of the photos which was done by two students who were hired for a three-month period. They were



Patrick Davis and Emily Elsenheimer, both from Grande Prairie. They worked with us from May to July 2019. They were responsible for completing the bulk of the digitization, helping with matching up the photo negatives that were available with the photographic prints, and providing descriptions of the images. When it came to describing and dating the photos, some already had this information provided, while for others, estimates had to be made.

With the photos now uploaded, requests are being accepted from members of the public for high quality copies. The link to the galleries is: <https://archgm.ca/irs-photo-galleries/> The majority of these photos had already been sent off to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission prior to the start of the project. If people are looking for more information on certain pictures, or if they want to know whether there are images relating to specific individuals, they should contact the Archdiocese at 780-532-9766 and ask to speak with me, or send an email to [archives.agm@outlook.com](mailto:archives.agm@outlook.com)

# ARCHIVES FEATURE: PEACE RIVER MUSEUM, ARCHIVES, AND MACKENZIE CENTRE

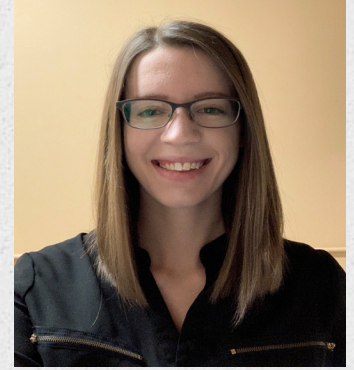
EMILY HARRIS

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

I have been the Archivist at the Peace River Museum, Archives and Mackenzie Centre since April of 2020.

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

We acquire records from numerous organizations, businesses, families, and individuals within Alberta's Northwest peace region. Our collection area includes the Town of Peace River, the M.D. of Peace No. 135, the M.D. of Fairview No. 136, Clear Hills County, County of Northern Lights, and Northern Sunrise County.



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

Our holdings include approximately 250 linear metres of records. These include textual, photographic, and audio-visual records with the first two making up most of our holdings.

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

As I'm sure most archives can agree, storage is always an issue. Our onsite storage is pushing its capacity and with no room to grow, we have spent the last few years trying to secure more archival storage space. As we are a facility run under the Town of Peace River, we have worked together with the municipality to find a solution. The result is a large room at another Town facility currently being converted into a storage space. Later in 2022, once renovations to the room are complete, archival quality shelving is set to be installed after which I will spend my time transferring our records over to the new offsite storage. We are excited for what the space will provide us, mainly the ability to accept larger acquisitions that would not have been possible with our current sized storage.

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

In 2018, the previous Archivist along with a few summer students undertook the sorting and organizing of records into their respective fonds, this was done both physically and digitally in the collections database. Previously the way in which the records had been organized and stored was typically by accession number and/or date of acquisition, more in line with the way museums manage their collections. As we have been a museum longer than an official archive this was understandable but no longer the best approach. This project was a culmination of a few years of work and was a major step in adapting our archival processes to fit with the provincial and national standard.



## 6) What is your favorite item in the holdings?

My favourite item in our holdings is a panoramic photograph of 1916 Peace River before our transportation significant train bridge over the Peace River was complete in 1918. Older photographs like these provide us with valuable historical information and insight into past building locations and changes our town has faced over its last 100+ years.

---

## BURSARY RECIPIENT

---

Kira Vandermeulen (she/her) grew up in Red Deer, Alberta on the traditional territory of the Tsuu T'ina, Blackfoot, and Stoney Nakoda peoples. A lifelong lover of history, reading, fine arts, and organization, she completed an undergraduate degree in music at the University of Lethbridge before embarking on graduate studies at UBC's Vancouver campus on Musqueam traditional territory. She is currently beginning her second year of the First Nations Curriculum Concentration Master of Library Information Studies and Archival Studies. She has recently worked at University of Calgary Libraries and Cultural Resources and is newly involved at the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, assisting with collections and records management. Kira became a member of the ASA in the first year of her graduate degree and is incredibly grateful for the organization's support in pursuing her education.



---

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

---

There were recently two retirements at the City of Edmonton Archives - Paula Aurini-Onderwater and Kim Christie-Millie have recently left. Another member, Joanne Monner also recently retired from the Milo Library Archives. Congratulations and we hope you enjoy your next adventures!

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  
Prince of Wales Armouries and Heritage Centre  
216-10440 108 Ave NW  
Edmonton, AB T5H 3Z9

Editor contact information:

Telephone: (780) 424-2697

Email: [reneg@archivesalberta.org](mailto: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