

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

PHILIP PYPE, PRESIDENT



The Archives Society of Alberta has been a constant support for Alberta archives for over 40 years! The ASA continues a tradition of archivists working together as we adapt in healthy, productive ways of moving forward.

The ASA is guided by committees of our peers. I commend these volunteers who give their time, knowledge, and emotional energy to being responsive to the needs of the archivists, institutions, and people of Alberta.

My favourite part of any board meeting is the reports from our various committees as they address the needs of our membership, investigate new opportunities, and identify trends and challenges.

Some quick highlights: the Conference Program Committee is making sure our upcoming biennial gathering will, as always, be full of great events and learning opportunities; the Advocacy and Outreach Committee has been engaging with our membership in developing sustainable methods of advocacy and communication; the Education Committee continually presents a breadth of learning opportunities that cover technical as well as human skills and tools to aid us in evolving with our environment. These, and other committees, make the ASA the dynamic organization that it is. In this short report I can't fully cover all committees and the amazing work they are doing, but this information is available through the ASA website (there is a website committee by the way, working towards a new site).

If you are interested in volunteering for a committee, contact the ASA at reneg@archivesalberta.org.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS

The winter is the beginning of ASA's busiest time of year, especially those years in which we offer a conference – and this year is one of those. We have been working on a number of things. Preparing for membership renewal has been a task this year as we are working to improve our communications for new and renewing members. Our team also works hard to ensure that the membership renewal



process is ready to go. Conference planning involves some extra steps this year as we will be hosting our first hybrid conference and we are very cognizant during the planning that both virtual and in-person delegates have a good experience. This time of year also involves preparing for our financial/reporting year to end and preparing for a new financial year to begin. The beginning of the new year is typically marked at our AGM. In addition to the usual business that this time of year brings the ASA, we are getting towards the finish line of our new website as well as working on rolling out an advocacy toolkit for our members.

Additionally, I have been working on grants in the hopes of hiring a couple of extra staff to support the work that ASA does. Let's hope that I am successful in these efforts.

On top of this work, Canadian Heritage is looking at renewing their Museum Policy and ASA has been invited to some of these meetings. For this winter newsletter, I would like to discuss the Museum Policy briefly. When I was first invited to one of these meetings, I wondered what an archival association had to do with museums. I soon learned that according to Canadian Heritage, the term "museum" encompasses all heritage organizations including the archival profession. The policy was last updated in 1990 and it governs all the programming offered to archives and archivists at the federal level via Canadian Heritage. While the consultations are currently happening, it is important for archives to have a strong presence and voice so that the policy adequately reflects our needs. The consultations are exploring the following areas: 1) the role of museums (read archives) in society; 2) resilience and sustainability

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR (CONT'D)

RENE GEORGOPALIS

in the museum (read archives) sector; 3) advancing reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people; 4) embracing equity, diversity and inclusion; and 5) preservation and access as core museum (read archives) functions. For more information, you can visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/renewal-museum-policy.html>. Note that other documentation is on the ACA website, including a summary of Canadian Heritage's survey findings: <https://www.archivists.ca/Latest-News-Announcements/13063862>.

ASA is planning to write a letter to Canadian Heritage regarding the status of Alberta's archives with regard to these areas. Similar letters are being drafted by other Canadian archival associations. It is so important for the archival community to have a strong voice in these consultations. The policy affects grant programs such as Young Canada Works and the Documentary Heritage Communities Program. If you are invited to a session on the Museum Policy, I strongly suggest that you attend and raise the voice of our profession.



Compassion Fatigue Workshop

Megan Hunter, BKin, BEd, MSc Health Promotion (Candidate)

Thursday, May 25, 2023

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Compassion fatigue, also called “the cost of caring,” can be experienced by people working in environments where there is a high chance of exposure to secondary trauma. These individuals are at risk of potential mental health challenges, relationship problems and the inability to perform work responsibilities.

This workshop will cover the following topics:

- Understanding symptoms and effects of compassion fatigue and fatigue risk factors
- Recognizing personal and systemic barriers to receiving help
- Managing daily perceived threats and stress in more effective ways
- Creating a self-care plan to improve workplace mental health

Cost: \$60 (ASA member); \$75 (non-member)

Registration deadline: May 8, 2023

EDUCATED REEL: SILVER SCREENINGS

RENE GEORGOPALIS

The University of Alberta Archives hosted a film night on a cold night, December 6, 2022 at the Metro Cinema in Edmonton. The archives found silent film reels in their vaults and had these films digitized. The films were from 1911, 1913, and 1914. Associate Professor of English and Film Studies, Liz Czach, provided the archives with context for each film prior to the film being played. The films were accompanied by a live organ performance. Over 100 people were in attendance at this event. The films were fun and engaging at it was a successful outreach event for the U of A Archives.



If you are interested in viewing these films, they are online at the links below:

[Le charme des fleurs](#)

[The Honor of the Law](#)

[Le Remplaçant](#)

FEATURED: SYLVAN LAKE & DISTRICT ARCHIVES

CHRISTINA LUST

1) WHAT IS YOUR POSITION AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING AT THE ARCHIVES?

I have been working at the Sylvan Lake & District Archives since 2018 as the Office Manager – this spring, it will be 5 years.

As we are a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization, there are a number of volunteers who also work in the archives. There are a few that have volunteered for the Archives for over 20 years who bring a wealth of knowledge about the community and the organization. We have one volunteer who has been actively involved with the Archives since its inception 38 years ago.

2) WHAT TYPES OF RECORDS DO YOU ACQUIRE AT YOUR ARCHIVES?

Records we primarily acquire are photographs, documents and maps. We have a limited number of tapes, DVDs, and some small artifacts.

3) WHAT IS THE PHYSICAL EXTENT OF YOUR SITE'S HOLDINGS?

In our digital database, we have over 8,000 records and over 12,000 images. Our climate-controlled storage area is approximately 24' x 12'. We also have maps stored in special map cabinets. The public area has many resources and materials that have been collected and catalogued, including a carousel with over 90 binders of information and 24' of bookshelves.

4) WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE AT YOUR ARCHIVES CURRENTLY?

Volunteer recruitment is a major challenge as a number of the current volunteers have been with the Archives for many years and are scaling back on their involvement. There is a need for an influx of younger volunteers.

Public awareness is also a challenge as we are only open two afternoons per week. Since appointing a volunteer to post regularly to Facebook, our presence in the community has improved considerably. There is a fair amount of engagement by the public. A number of interesting conversations have occurred among individuals who grew up in Sylvan Lake or spent their summers here.

5) WHICH PROJECT AT YOUR SITE DO YOU FEEL MOST PROUD OF?

The organization is proud of the fact that it has introduced the rich history of Sylvan Lake to the community. This has been accomplished in a number of ways: a number of historical markers have been installed throughout the community, the archives was an integral source of information for the Sylvan Lake Centennial Celebration in 2013 and the Centennial Celebration of the Lakeview Cemetery in 2021.

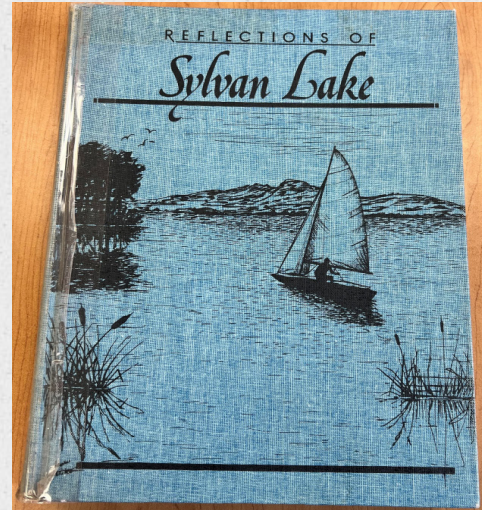
The most recent accomplishment is bringing the Sylvan Lake & District Archives collection into the hands of the public through a search engine and discovery interface. It allows the public to search our database. The website can be found at <https://archives.sylvanlake.ca/>

6) WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITEM IN THE HOLDINGS?

A most valued resource that we have in our collection is the history book that was published in 1984 by the Sylvan Lake Historical Society (prior to the establishment of the Sylvan Lake & District Archives). It includes the history of the many aspects of the Sylvan Lake community as well as an extensive collection of family histories. We lovingly call it the “blue book”. It is used frequently to assist with public enquiries and research.



Carole Rowland, Christina Lust (Office Manager), and Inez Gathercole



PEOPLE AND PLACES

RENE GEORGOPALIS

Regina Landwehr who worked at the University of Calgary Archives retired in December 2022. The Jewish Archives Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta hired a new archivist, Carly Heffner. Congratulations to both.

The City of Wetaskiwin Archives, a former member of ASA, is moving its collection to the local museum.

ASA CONFERENCE

CARE FOR PEOPLE IN THE ARCHIVES

MAY 25-27, 2023

<https://archivesalberta.org/professional-development/conference>

archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

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:

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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.



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ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (Institution or Individual)

Address

City

Province

PostalCode

Telephone

Business Phone

Fax

E-mail address

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

Cardholder 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
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