

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: REPRESENTATION

PHILIP PYPE



Three years ago I was elected President of the Archives Society of Alberta. This was a role I accepted with excitement, and some anxiety. I have been a great believer in the Society from my first volunteer experiences in the field over two decades ago, to my current roles in the archives community. The ASA has supported me professionally, emotionally, and socially.

Although challenges have been real, much of my trepidation has been unfounded. As I head into my final year in the President role, the ASA is making fantastic progress, due to a strong base of staff and volunteers from across Alberta.

The strengths of the ASA are many. Acquiring excellent office space has allowed the organization to raise its profile, contract staff funded by grants and partnerships, and be a gathering place. The work occurred before my time in the chair, but I know that this was due to a decade of persistence.

The ASA has been present in processes of Truth and Reconciliation as the ASA has struggled with the complexity of hurt and healing. These conversations started before the TRC Calls to Action were produced. Tangible activities are happening: the ASA has been conducting assessments of Indigenous community need, developing and providing educational opportunities, and building strong relationships. None of this could have happened without a dedicated secretariat with a vision and an archives community that has kept the need for reconciliation at the forefront.

Alberta on Record continues to grow. Our Union List remains one of the key outward-facing archival resources for many of our members and sets a standard nationally. This and other communication technologies make the records held by our institutions on behalf of Albertans more accessible.

Planning for the future seems to be constant. The Board has been working diligently to update policies, bylaws, and procedures, allowing the ASA to adapt to new realities. I have learned a lot about governance in the past three

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

years from very astute, experienced individuals. These processes allow us to address developments directly in front of us as well as strive towards goals to benefit the archives community and Albertans.

Most of all, I am thankful for every time I am on the phone, read and respond to an e-mail, or hear the reports from the ASA's committees. The archives community is bursting with talent, creativity, and dedication.

The ASA will continue to evolve, meeting challenges and opportunities. My final year will be an exciting one. I look forward to working with my fellow directors, volunteers, the ASA staff, keeping the connections I have made through the years, and making new ones.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

RENE GEORGOPALIS

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In January, the ASA hosted a Canadian Conservation Institute Care and Handling of Photographic Materials workshop. The instructors included Marie-Lou Beauchamp, Conservator of Photographs and Archival Documents as well as Christine McNair, Book Conservator at the CCI. When they were here, they conducted site visits at three of our member archives. Their



workshop was very informative and included fun activities like removing ink from photographic surfaces and using magnification to understand what photographic process was used to produce a photo. They showed how to properly care for photographic materials depending on the process used to create a photograph (see more about this workshop on page 4, below).

In February, we learned that our budget remains the same as it was last year with no increase to our operational funding. We were cut significantly in 2020 and have yet to get that funding restored. The ASA Board of Directors and staff worked on some strategic planning for 2025-2030, the results of which will be presented at our upcoming AGM. We discussed our reduced operational funding and possibilities with increasing our capacity as well as what our focus should be over the next five years.

In March, I conducted site visits in Red Deer and Calgary and gave a presentation at the National Advisory Committee on Missing Children and

Unmarked Graves gathering. This event is the last one as the federal government has decided to end their funding. If you are interested in reading an advocacy letter, it can be found on the [ACA site](#). The committee provided important support to communities who were searching for missing children.

Lastly, more site visits continued in April, but this time in the Rocky Mountains. During these visits, we conducted conference planning as well. We hope that our members will find our return to the Rockies valuable and we are looking forward to developing the program for the conference.

Upcoming, we have our AGM, AOR workshop, and institutional forum in Edmonton at the ASA office. The staff of the ASA are very excited to host these events, as it is always a great way to connect with the archival community of Alberta and hear of what events are happening across the province. We hope to see many of you there!



*Red Deer*



*Rene Georgopolis at Bow Falls, Banff*

JOIN US FOR THE ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA'S AGM & GATHERING

MAY 30, 2025

EDMONTON, AB

[archivesalberta.org](http://archivesalberta.org)

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# CCI CARE AND HANDLING OF PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS WORKSHOP

MARISSA FRASER

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In January 2025 the ASA had the opportunity to host a Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) workshop on the Care and Handling of Photographic materials. The workshop took place in person over the course of two days at the ASA office. It was taught by Marie-Lou Beauchamp, CCI Conservator of Photographs and Archival Documents, and Christine McNair, CCI Book Conservator.

The workshop began by giving participants an overview of the history of photographs and photographic materials and the ways in which they were produced over time. The instructors also came with a wide range of examples, allowing participants to see and identify the various photographs for themselves. Through understanding and being able to



properly identify the type of photographic material, archivists can better care for, handle, and describe the records. We were also given an introduction to the care of book binding, which could also be applied to photo albums and scrapbooks (again the instructors had a range of physical examples). The second day of the workshop included a hands-on conservation exercise, where we were given different tools and solutions to restore and care for damaged photographic materials. This included removing ink, markers, different types of tape, and repairing folds. Participants also built enclosures for photographs and were provided with different examples.

Overall the two day workshop was filled with valuable and applicable information that could be used by archives.

*CCI Workshop materials*

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## FEATURED: RED DEER ARCHIVES

JILLIAN STANIEC

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

My position is Archives Coordinator, and I've been at the Red Deer archives since 2011. The Red Deer Archives is staffed by a group of four (including myself), four volunteers, and soon a summer student for 16 weeks. We're part of the Information Management Services section of the I&TS department at the City of Red Deer and celebrated our 60th anniversary last year.

2) *What types of records does your organization acquire?*

The Red Deer archives holds both City of Red Deer corporate records and community records for Red Deer and surrounding communities that don't have their own archives. Most of our collection are physical records. This includes textual records such as Council Minutes and Agendas, photographs from several photography studios, audio and video recordings such as the local television station and oral histories, and maps, plans, and drawings from city orthophotography and architecture firms.



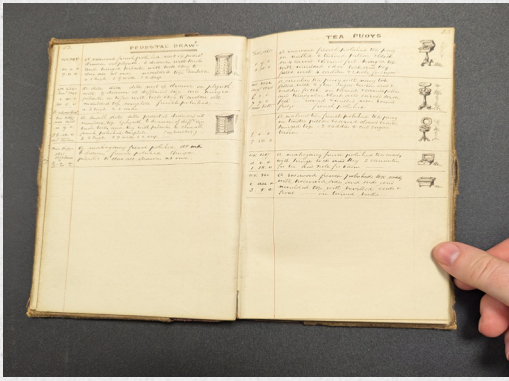
*Staff of the Red Deer Archives*

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

We have approximately 2 kilometers of textual records, 250,000 photographs, 10,000 drawings and maps, and about 5000 video and audio cassettes and reels. We have been relisting and rehousing a lot of our older records, which constantly changes these estimated totals. We also have about 70 TB of digital or digitized records.

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

We have a few big challenges right now, but they primarily come down to internal and external understanding of our role and where we see ourselves now and in the future. It's a municipal election year and with a lot of scrutiny on public services, we feel especially vulnerable to requests for service changes. At the same time, there are amazing opportunities for increased roles in the city's long term digital strategies as we move to SharePoint and working increasingly with electronic records, and as Red Deer begins preliminary work toward an Indigenous Cultural Centre.



*The Banting book*

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

I am quite proud of our Preservica build. Although it has some challenges, having a digital preservation system with public access and quality downloads has really helped establish our expertise in managing born-digital and digitized records. We're currently getting training on the latest interface which will help with receiving digital records from both our City systems as part of the disposition process and from the community organizations and individuals.

6) What is your favorite item in the holdings?

One of my favourite items in the holdings is what we call the Banting book. It's one of the older items in our collection: this small book with tiny, detailed drawings and descriptions of furniture was made as a catalogue by William Banting for Banting & Sons in England. You can view a PDF of the book here:

<https://buff.ly/6ZTEAFD>

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## NEW PROVINCIAL ARCHIVIST: HEATHER INNES

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The Provincial Archives of Alberta is pleased to announce that Heather Innes has begun her role as the new Provincial Archivist. On January 20, after twenty-five years in the legal profession, Heather fulfilled her familial destiny by joining her mother and maternal grandmother (both librarians) in the GLAM sector. Heather recalls that before heading to law school, her mother bookmarked a suggestion: she should consider becoming a librarian. However, young Heather closed the book on that idea, preferring to write the LSAT instead. But as her law career unfolded, Heather couldn't resist the call number of research, and began working on her MLIS part-time, all while juggling her career and raising young children. During her twenty-year stint at Alberta Justice, Heather had the opportunity to serve on the Alberta Records Management Committee and learn a lot about information management in the public sector. The catalog cards fell into place when "the best job in Government" became available and Heather took the leap.



*Heather Innes, Provincial Archivist*

A warm welcome to our new Provincial Archivist - Heather Innes.

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## WHY ALBERTA ON RECORD?

JIA JIA YONG

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Alberta On Record is an online database where archives across Alberta can connect, share, and increase the visibility of their archival collections. Free for all ASA institutional members, AOR brings together archival descriptions from various archives into one province-wide database, which allows researchers and archivists to search for relevant materials across multiple institutions. AOR is built on Access to Memory (AtoM), an open-source archival software hosted by Artefactual. Data in AOR is regularly backed up by Artefactual and Artefactual also provides additional technical support when needed.



We encourage all ASA Institutional Members to be an active part of Alberta on Record!



### Benefits:

- Free for ASA Institutional Members
- Connects archival descriptions across Alberta
- Increases access and discoverability of archival collections
- Training and technical support available for all users

If you have any questions about getting started in AOR or contributing descriptions, please contact the ASA's database administrator Jia Jia at [database@archivesalberta.org](mailto:database@archivesalberta.org)

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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

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Please send announcements of retirements, newly-hired staff, or any other personnel changes to [admin@archivesalberta.org](mailto:admin@archivesalberta.org) to have them included in this section.

The Archives Society of Alberta News is published 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:  
admin@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. Submissions are preferred in electronic format: as Word files for textual submissions or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

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

## ASA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (Institution or Individual) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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