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Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists

President's Message Fall 2015

The governance year begins on the date of the Annual General Meeting. This year we welcome 3 new members: Dana Turgeon with the City of Regina Archives, is our Institutional Member-at-Large; Stevie Rae Horn with the University of Saskatchewan Archives & Special Collections, is our Individual Member-at-Large; and Tammy Donahue Buziak with the City of North Battleford Historic Archives, is a Member-at-Large. They join our 5 continuing members: Alan Porter, Tim Novak, Jeremy Mohr, Ken Dahl, and Donald Johnson.

The SCAA is one of 5 SaskCulture-funded organizations to pilot the development of Diversity Planning and its integration in strategic planning. Diversity is to be a part of the operation and funding of all SaskCulture-funded organizations. We are just completing our Diversity Plan and Strategic Plan for the 2016-2019 period. These plans will be posted on the Council website, and we encourage our members to examine them.

Diversity promises to be an important aspect to the SCAA and its members. It will affect the way we operate, the way we interact, and the way we serve. Criteria for our funding and yours will change as a result. Please read about this initiative on our website and the referenced SaskCulture document.

A subcommittee has been struck to review and revise the Council's Policies and Procedures. The SCAA is unique amongst provincial archival associations, and in order to continue to be a leader these revisions will assist our staff and board in the execution of their duties.

The call for Project Proposals for the Institutional Grants Program has gone out. The support provided to its members is also unique. I'm certain SaskCulture is as pleased as we are to assist our members in their efforts to serve their communities. Be sure to read the call on our website.

Winter is on its way, but that also means that Archives Week is coming soon. Throughout the province we have had excellent events and exhibits during Archives Week. Planning has begun in most institutions and we should remind you that some support is available. Whether or not your organization has held an Archives Week event, the website and the newsletter provide details of these events and ideas for yours.

As always, I encourage you all to visit the SCAA website, read the e-updates and newsletters, and to talk to us about how we might better serve you.

~ Donald Johnson



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The Secret is Out! – The George Shepherd Library Online

By Warren Clubb, Research/Library Coordinator, Western Development Museum



Warren Clubb shows off the WDM's Eaton's catalogue collection on CTV Saskatoon Morning Live on November 13, 2014.

The catalogue of the George Shepherd Library of the WDM can now be searched online.

Wdm.ca/library will take you to the Library webpage where you will find the link to the online Library catalogue. Our Library contains a great collection of reference material - Saskatchewan history, house plans, agricultural machinery, fashion, tools, price lists, paint chips, car repair and many other subjects. Now, thanks to new software, we are able to offer online public access to our catalogue records.

If your search turns up something interesting, your next step is to register to use the Library. You will find the registration form on the Library webpage or on the online Library catalogue page. Registration creates your own account that will enable you to save searches and request material. The Library is non-circulating so if you want to use material you have to visit us in the WDM Curatorial Centre at 2935 Lorne Avenue in Saskatoon. Our hours are 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday. If you cannot visit, you can send us an inquiry (by email, phone, mail or fax) and we will try to answer your question.

Our new software is Library Solution Version Two (LS2) from The Library Corporation. Conversion of our catalogue records to this software is complete, including editing the records before we went online. We have over 10,000 items catalogued and we are adding more from our holdings of uncatalogued material. We have a backlog because the WDM has been collecting printed material since the late 1940s and has had Library cataloguers for only a portion of that time.

You can keep up to date with the items we are adding by subscribing to our Recently Catalogued RSS feed to receive notification of recently catalogued items. You can also have your own RSS feed for any searches that you have saved for your particular area of interest.

Making material available to users is one of the Library's goals. The online catalogue is a way of reaching this goal. Try it and see what we have.

Photo 1: WDM-CC-2014-CTV Morning Live_Nov 13.jpg **Credit:** WDM Photo, Kerry Lubchenko

A HISTORICAL GEM IN OUR COMMUNITY

*By Tammy Donahue Buziak, Archivist
City of North Battleford Historic Archives*

North Battleford's Carnegie Library was built in 1916 and was officially opened on March 1, 1917. As one of our city's oldest buildings, the original library was built entirely from a \$15,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation in New York. The March 18, 1917 edition of the North Battleford News speaks of "that famous philanthropic captain of industry, Andrew Carnegie" who provided funds to build 125 libraries in Canadian cities.

Most were located in Ontario, and North Battleford's library was one of the last to be built from these funds. It is the last Carnegie building left in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The grant was provided on the condition that the city "support the library at a cost of not less than that of \$1,500 a year and provide a suitable site for the building." Credit must be given to Mayor Walker of that time for his untiring efforts on behalf of the library.

Plans began as early as 1914 but it was not until considerable correspondence had taken place between City Hall and the Carnegie foundation that the final blueprints were approved and the library took its shape on the corner of what was then known as Main Street and First Avenue.

The first year of operation was a busy one. One-fifth of the city's population of 5,000 were registered as library borrowers. The book stock, as noted, consisted of 1,400 titles, most of which were obtained as donations by interested citizens who attended a variety of book showers and teas to stock the shelves.

It was Andrew Carnegie's philosophy that the library not only provide books, but also be a neutral territory in which community groups could meet and discuss ideas that would benefit themselves and enhance community life. Thus the basement of the library was originally composed of an auditorium and several smaller rooms used for a variety of public functions.



The Allan Sapp Gallery Today

After many years of service as a library, the City of North Battleford spent \$760,000 to renovate the building and on May 6, 1989 the building official opened as the Allan Sapp Gallery. It was officially designated as a Provincial Heritage Property under The Heritage Property Act, November 27, 1991. City of North Battleford Bylaw No. 1363.

Forest Fires in Northern Saskatchewan

By Cameron Hart,
Archives Advisor

The summer of 2015 saw a number of extreme forest fires hit the northern part of the province, with smoke blanketing the plains as far south as the Dakotas. Evacuations were put into effect, with hundreds of people migrating to larger, more southern centres all across the province.

On June 29, during the thick of the fires, the Archives Advisor sent Graham Guest, the Archival Historian at the Northern Saskatchewan Archives in La Ronge, an email asking if there was anything that could be helped with. Graham responded in the positive, updating us on the situation as he and his colleagues dealt with the forest fires and potential evacuation. He reassured us that things were well in-hand at that point in time.

The Pakkisimon Nuye?áh Library System (PNLS) building, in which the archives are housed, is physically located in Air Ronge, south of La Ronge. The threat was from the north of La Ronge. The building was ordered closed and secured that day. As the SCAA held their 2010 AGM in La Ronge, some of you visited the building at that time, so you will recall its secure and sturdy construction. Also you may recall its location far from the tree line.

The Saskatchewan and national archival communities expressed thoughts of safety for Graham and his colleagues as they dealt with the forest fires and evacuations.

Upon their return and settling back in after several weeks of being evacuated, Graham again sent us an email:



Hi, Cam,

Thank you very much for your concern and that of SCAA for our situation during the forest fire problems. As you will know we did not lose any homes here, but many people lost their cabins. And PNLs and the Archives came through untouched. Many thanks to the fire fighters, army personnel, and volunteers! Suzanne and I took our camper to Prince Albert and camped on our daughter's front lawn.

The only sad thing for us personally is the total loss of the beautiful Nemeiben Lake campground – each year we book a site for the whole summer and I commute in to work three days a week – the campground is now a black wasteland and closed for the season. But, of course, the situation around here could have been very much worse.

*Best wishes,
Graham*

The ACA Conference : Perspectives on the Archival Horizon

From a Poster Presenter

By Stevie Horn

University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections

This year, a new format was introduced for the poster session at the ACA. Normally a small selection of posters would be shown in the vendors' hall on one of the conference days, with individuals stopping by to view the posters and ask questions between sessions. At Regina's *Perspectives on the Archival Horizon*, however, the poster session took a much more active role in the conference. During a forty five minute "lightning session," each poster presenter (or group of presenters) were allotted five minutes to explain their work, allowing them to share the gist of what was on their poster before the poster itself was released for close examination by the conference attendees.



Photograph by Cameron Hart

There were two major benefits to showing the posters in this way. First, the forty-five minute session necessitated calling for more posters than typically had been shown, in order to create a dynamic, varied, and full session. This was marvellously achieved, with topics including preservation, digitization, the portrayal of archivists in movies, human rights and archives, Lululemon athletic wear and much more. Second, providing a

preview of the posters through the lightning session talks gave conference-goers an idea of what was on the posters before reading them, which whetted their appetites, and gave them an opportunity to frame questions in advance. The format also gave those wanting to dip their toe into conference presentation a valuable opportunity to do so.

From the Host Team Chair

By Jeremy Mohr

Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan

It was my great pleasure to be the host team chair for the 2015 ACA conference here in Regina. It was such a wonderful time showing off all our city had to offer for colleagues from across the country and from further afield. With the historic Hotel Saskatchewan as the location of the conference, delegates were in the prime entertainment spot in the city.

Apart from providing some advice on meals and coffee breaks at the hotel, the committee's activities took place mostly in the evenings after conference sessions were complete. We started things off with an opening reception held at the Mackenzie Art Gallery where delegates could catch up with colleagues and friends or enjoy the art gallery's collection. In the following days we had 30 people sign up for some fine prairie fare with a pitchfork fondue at the Lady Slipper Courtyard followed by storyteller Vincent Murphy's "Can you say Saskatchewan." Other delegates attended a free showing of "On the Trail of the Far Fur Country" at the Regina Public Library where the filmmaker and a Hudson's Bay Company archivist were on hand to answer questions. The following day saw the only poor weather of the conference causing the annual ballgame to be rained out part way through and ending in a tie game between east and west. The weather had less effect on the

two walking tours which still went ahead, with Dana Turgeon of the city archives tracing the path of destruction of the Regina cyclone, and Dr. Bill Brennan leading delegates on the route of the On to Ottawa Trekkers and the Regina Riot.

We really had a great time showing off Regina to everyone. I would like to again thank all the members of the host committee, Lenora Toth, Trina Gillis, Curt Campbell, and Crista Bradley for all their help, and all the volunteers for their assistance during events. My only regret was that between running the events and clean up there was much less time to socialize with colleagues over a pint to end the day, but I guess that's what future conferences are for!

In Pictures: Archives Week in Regina, 2015!

*By Mark Vajcner
University of Regina Archives
Photos by Sandy Doran*

Archives Week 2015 was a resounding success. One of the Regina events was readings from the collection of the Saskatchewan Archives. Held February 4 at Bushwacker Brewpub it featured Gail Bowen, Jean Freeman, Alex Deighton and Steve Wolfson as readers. The readings provided a glimpse of the Weyburn Metal Hospital in the 1920s and 1930s. Frank Korvemaker served as Master of Ceremonies. Here are some pictures from that event.



Always a good gathering where cake is involved



Frank Korvemaker



Steve Wolfson



Alex Deighton



Jean Freeman

In Pictures: Archives Week in Saskatoon, 2015!

By Cameron Hart

Archives Week 2015 in Saskatoon was celebrated with a reader event held at The Bassment lounge by several SCAA members. One of the Saskatoon events featured readings from local celebrities, John Gormley; Blain Favel; Vanese Ferguson; Donna Birkmaier and James “Dr. Booze” Romanow. The items they read from were selected from archival collections in Saskatchewan.

Master of Ceremonies was, City of Saskatoon Archivist, Jeff O’Brien

Archives Week 2015 was also observed by SCAA having displays at the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon as well as the SUMA convention, both attended by the SCAA Archives Advisor, Cameron Hart



Heritage Festival at the WDM



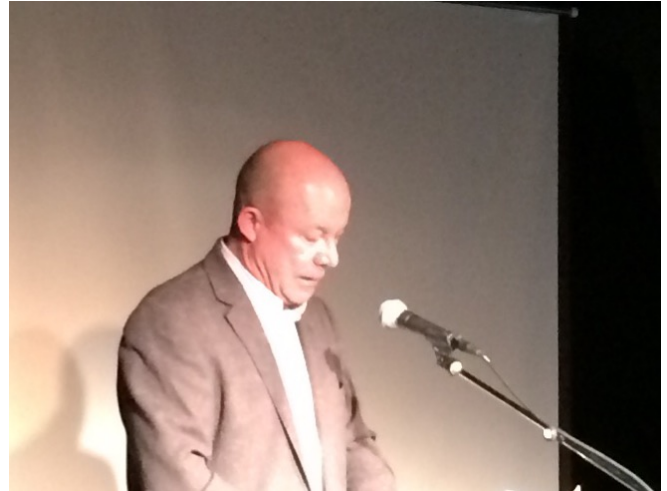
SCAA Table at heritage festival



Setting up at The Bassment



James "Dr. Booze" Romanow at reader event



John Gormley at reader event



Donna Birkmaier at reader event



Vanese Ferguson at reader event

The SCAA's new Diversity Initiative

By Ken Dahl

City of Saskatoon Archives

In 2014-15, the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists was chosen as one of five organizations to take part in SaskCulture's Diversity Pilot Project. SaskCulture states very clearly in their Strategic Plan that its aim is to ensure that "cultural opportunities are inclusive, responsive and reflective of the changing face of the province", and the groups that it funds must "...re-assess, re-think and re-vamp to ensure they offer the most inclusive programs and services – engaging increasingly diverse members, participants, volunteers and audiences". It was hinted that future funding could be contingent upon adopting these ideals – that got our attention!

So, to this end, over the past year, members of the SCAA Executive have been meeting with a consultant to, first of all, understand what diversity means to us, and secondly, investigate ways to bring about a more diverse SCAA. We were advised that SaskCulture was primarily focusing on two groups; First Nations/Metis, as well as new Canadians, but, as we all know, there are many other groups and communities in the province that would be appropriate in any discussion about diversity. For more information on the SaskCulture, Strategic Plan, 2015-2019, go to http://www.saskculture.ca/content/generic_atoms/titlefilecaption-files/SaskCulture2015_SP_web.pdf.

In recent years, the grants component of the SCAA has been very well subscribed, and members have come to rely on these funds for many projects. This was one area where the Executive felt that the Council could possibly "nudge" our members into coming up with projects that would fall under this diversity umbrella. The Executive discussed how the term diversity applies to archives and our members; we believe that it could apply to both users/researchers, as well as holdings. Proposals that focused on bringing about greater inclusion in the community, or projects related to individuals or groups that are relevant to those of a diverse culture would be regarded favourably by the Grants Committee.

The idea of diversity and inclusivity is a product of our changing society in Saskatchewan. The SCAA, in an effort to be relevant and accessible to all the people in the province, is hoping to incorporate these ideals into our day-to-day operations. Look for future diversity initiatives including training opportunities and workshops to be announced over the coming year. One of our main goals is to bring the history of the province to as many people as possible. The diversity ideal may be one of our most effective tools to do this.

About the Newsletter

Outside the box is the newsletter of the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists (SCAA). It is usually published twice a year, in the Spring and Autumn.

Fall 2015 Edition Contributors:

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Newsletter Submissions

Do you have something you'd like to share? Are there some new materials or a new exhibit at your archives?

Contact Cameron Hart (http://scaa.sk.ca/services/archives_advisor.html) for details on submissions as well as dates and deadlines for upcoming issues. We would be happy to work with you in developing an article, preparing pictures for the newsletter, or discussing other ideas you may have.

Join the SCAA

Memberships in the SCAA are available for individuals and institutions.

The benefits of membership can be found on the SCAA website:

<http://scaa.sk.ca/membership/benefits.html>

Also on the website are instructions and forms:

<http://scaa.sk.ca/membership/how-to-join.html>

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In addition to the Newsletter, there is a monthly *e-Update* e-mail list. The form on online subscription can be found at:
<http://scaa.sk.ca/publicawareness/archival-news-list.html>

