

THE SCAA-SCOOP

DECEMBER, 2002, VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

(THE NO-LONGER-GENERIC NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION)

Happy New Year!

...may your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, triglycerides, your cholesterol and your mortgage interest rate not rise...

You Named It!

The SCAA-SCOOP

Yes, it was a grinding decision but it's done. Thanks to all who sent in your suggestions! True to our promise, an acid-free prize has been sent off to The Winner who prefers to remain anonymous—a case of Roloids! Don't forget to send your news our way. Newsletters will be quarterly.

TOP STORY:



Queen's Jubilee Medal Awarded to Trevor Powell

This award recognizes Trevor Powell's public and community service, his long-term contributions to the Canadian and Saskatchewan archival communities and his leadership of the Saskatchewan Archives since his appointment as Provincial Archivist in 1986.

These medals have been specially struck to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign as Queen of Canada. The Medal is awarded to Canadian citizens who have made an outstanding and exemplary contribution to the community or to Canada as a whole. It is part of the Canadian Honours System established in 1967.

The medal carries the current Canadian effigy of The Queen on one side. The other side features the design of a stylized maple leaf with CANADA at the bottom and the years 1952 and 2002 on the left and right of the Royal Cypher and Crown. The Medal is worn suspended from a broad royal blue ribbon, with red outer stripes, double white stripe and a red central stripe.

This Medal was presented in Regina on Friday afternoon, November 15, 2002 by the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock.

The archives community joins in congratulating you, Trevor!

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A Tribute to Liz Diamond

Our friend and colleague Elizabeth Diamond lost her long battle with cancer on 14 December 2002.

Liz trained at the Bodleian Library at Oxford and began her working life there. Moving with her biologist husband Tony, Liz worked variously in Kenya, the Sechelles, and Jamaica. In these tropical climes Liz sometimes faced daunting challenges of molding and deteriorating paper, incomplete record-keeping, and lack of funds for proper archival care. She was able to meet these challenges with vigor. She was also able to provide support to numerous archivists she met along the way, either through direct contact as a workplace colleague or through articles in *Archivaria*, workshops, and participation in professional associations. Active support for her colleagues was something Liz continued throughout her career.

A stint at the National Archives of Canada's Manuscript Division was followed by work at the Diefenbaker Centre in Saskatoon, where she became Acting Head. Liz left the Centre to become the City of Saskatoon Archivist. After a time, she and Tony decided to head out to New Brunswick where Liz initially worked as a records manager, both in Fredericton and on Prince Edward Island. The siren call of archives, however, lured Liz to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick where she worked on the institution's RAD descriptions and was in charge of ensuring New Brunswick's CAIN entries were RAD compliant.

Liz has always been dedicated to the profession, and a thoughtful and interested promoter of archival science and education. After working with Francophone colleagues in Quebec during her stint with the Display Committee for the ICA, she championed having the ACA meet jointly with members of the AAQ. The ACA most recently has benefited from her work as Chair of the ACA Publications Committee. Liz has always been an outstanding cheerleader at ACA Baseball games, even after she had to defect to the East. Liz contributed to *Her-story: The Canadian Women's Calendar*, and the Saskatoon Women's Calendar Collective valued her long-standing membership and contributions, kept up even after Liz moved to the East Coast.

Colleagues will miss Liz's keen wit and humour and owe her thanks for her dedication and passion for archives. It was always a joy to be in her company.

- Shelley Sweeney and Cheryl Avery

Retiring.....Bon Voyage.....

- *Ruth Millar Retires from Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room*

It won't be the same up there without the invigorating help of the Local History Room Supervisor, Ruth Millar, who retired from the collection on Saskatoon's past that she oversaw—60,000 photographs, scrapbooks, pamphlets, memoirs, rare books. Ruth is on to pursuing her many interests, including writing, and we wish her the best. Her historical debuts on television were always so fun! She shall be missed by the SCAA, where she has always played an active role.

- *Pauline Ford Retires from R.C. Diocese of Prince Albert Archives*

After nearly 10 years in the saddle Pauline Ford finished her work, which had begun with a major rehousing project, a big photo backlog, a complete inventory of parish registers and property locations, and finally, the computerization of the records of baptism, marriage and burial. The most gratifying part of her job? Talking to people in the archival community who were "unfailingly helpful to a rank amateur." Her special thanks are extended to Bishop Morand, Fr. Ghislain Gaudet and the help of Helene Gaudet over the years.

-AN SCAA WORKSHOP-

“RAFTING ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION”

with Jeff O’Brien, City of Saskatoon Archivist

At the Moose Jaw Temple Gardens Mineral Spa

February 7-8, 2003

Cost: \$25/person

Nothing dry about archives ... join us for a swim through archival arrangement and description!

- Basic archiving
- Arrangement and description (according to RAD)
- group sharing—archival joys, woes, suggestions.

Friday evening—Archives’ flotilla, swim and socialize

Saturday—workshop in the Hospitality Suite, Spa

(workshop will run from 9-3)

Call the Moose Jaw Temple Gardens Spa at 1-800-718-7727 re rooms.

There may be some professional development fund monies available to defray workshop costs of travel and accommodation, actual figures dependent on number of applicants. More information from Outreach.

SIGN UP FOR THE EXTRAS!

- **TOUR OF MOOSE JAW’S HISTORIC LIBRARY BLDG. AND ARCHIVES**

- *TUNNEL TOUR*
3:30
(WE WON’T LEAVE THE TUNNELS WITHOUT YOU...)

Registration Form: mail to 2506 Woodward Ave., Saskatoon, S7J 2E5 by Jan. 20

Name _____

Institution _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Registration Fee (\$25) _____ enclosed or will pay on arrival _____

(please make cheque payable to the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists)

Tunnel Tour? _____ Library Tour? _____ Go with the group for lunch Sat? _____

AN ARCHIVIST'S NIGHTMARE—but help is on the way

In response to the massive flooding last summer in central Europe with resulting damage to archival collections, the North East Document Conservation Centre, well-known throughout North America for its work, sent conservator to investigate damage. Here follows her report -

I spent the week of November second visiting cultural institutions in the City of Prague. The purpose of the visit was to inspect flood-damaged materials, to discuss salvage and recovery methods and to provide suggestions regarding short- and long-term solutions to preserve and conserve paper-based materials damaged by the flooding in August 2002.

The Municipal Library and the Architectural Archives of the Technical Museum were among the collections holding institutions hardest hit in central Prague. The ground floor of the Municipal Library was flooded by ground water; performance halls in the building were flooded with up to 9 meters of water. These two halls are venues for musical and theatrical performances that provide significant income to the institution. They are already in the process of being renovated following the flood. Two branch libraries were completely devastated. One of these housed the Library's rare book and print collection as well as the conservation workshop. All of the circulating and general reference materials, library furnishings and technical equipment from these two branches were lost. Damage to one building is so severe that it will be demolished. Virtually all of the rare books and prints were salvaged. Materials were rinsed in clean water, packed into crates and frozen. They are currently housed in a freezer warehouse at minus 25°Celsius along with flood damaged materials from at least three other institutions located in Prague. A few tools, a sewing frame and a board shear were salvaged from the conservation workshop.

At this time, drying and disinfection are of primary concern. Drying methods under consideration include vacuum-freeze drying, heated air drying; disinfection methods under consideration include use of a pre-existing ethylene oxide chamber at the National Archives and possible use of gamma radiation. Disinfection was made of gamma radiation and hops has already been used. Drying methods under consideration do not specialize in drying their services and are being considered. There are several vacuum-freeze dry units available. Some have very small capacities that small advisory committee preservation officers will recommend and make non-binding recom-



ending materials are of periods being tested include vacuum drying and vacuum pack dry- under consideration include oxide chamber at the National use of microwaves. No mention of gamma radiation. Drying using sawdust or hops has already been considered. Czech firms that books and paper have offered considered. There are several in Europe, some of which may eventually be used. A committee consisting of conservators and preservation officers will view results from the tests and make recommendations.

The feasibility of establishing one central treatment facility is also being discussed. Possibilities include an empty "clean" building in Moravia and a Dutch suggestion to create a modular facility that could be transported to different sites following other disasters. Treatment at individual facilities is also being considered.

The Municipal Library currently employs two book and paper conservators. The National Library is providing space and equipment located at the depository in Hostivar to these conservators. The conservators are drying individual volumes using two vacuum-packing machines that belong to the National Library's well-equipped lab. They currently have one to two thousand bags, and I believe that a few thousand more may be on the way, thanks to Blue Cross of Great Britain and Ireland. Two part-time assistants are due to begin working with the conservators shortly. This is a slow, labor intensive drying technique. Its current virtues are that it provides a sense of movement for the institution since it was a readily available technology and that it is a very gentle drying technique. Rare books in the Municipal Library's collection are almost always in original, unaltered bindings and manipulation of the bindings as they dry may aid in saving both text blocks and binding structures. Many materials belonging to the Architectural Archives of the Technical Museum were housed in an old barracks located very near the river. The river overflowed its bank where the barracks was located, and flood damage to the collections is severe. Collections include many original architectural drawings in a variety of media on cloth and paper as well as blueprints, photographs, documents, glass plate negatives and a large collection of wooden, plaster, and paper architectural models. Some paper models were completely lost. Work is by Czech and European architects; many of the drawings for competitions are unique and of unrealized designs. Some materials have been reformatted over the years; others have not.

The sole conservator for the Museum is working in a small space in the basement of the Museum. She is washing and flattening material as she thaws small groups of plans and drawings. Both institutions are moving small groups of frozen materials from the warehouse freezer to chest freezers at their facilities for drying and treatment. Goals for both institutions include drying and disinfecting all salvaged materials. Conservators and administrators assume that many materials will not be fully conserved and expect that boxing and reformatting may be the extent to which the majority of collections may be preserved. Everyone is also well aware that the preservation and conservation efforts will continue for many years.

CAIN FACTS AND FIGURES by Cheryl Avery

One year and one month since its launch, *The Canadian Archival Information Network* has received over 4 million visitors – with an increase in use from 4,639 visits per day from its launch in October 2001 to over 13,000 visits a day in November 2002.

396 of 716 CCA member institutions (55%) have submitted fonds-level records (not including the National Archives and the National Library). There are currently nearly 50,000 fonds-level records in the database, from every province and territory. Canadian archives have contributed over 206,336 digitized images, found in 208 ‘virtual exhibits’ and photograph databases, to the site.

90 separate institutions (not including councils or associations) received grants between 2000-2002 – but fonds-level contributions from over 300 additional institutions indicates the CAIN Co-ordinator and Outreach projects have been extremely effective in ensuring participation. Initial figures from these institutions suggest that 34 % of all fonds are now described on CAIN; and 44 % of all fonds that are processed and RAD-compliant are on CAIN

All types of archival institutions have successfully applied for project funding for fonds-level descriptions or digitization, with University/College archives or special collections departments the most active (29.1%), followed by historic societies/museums (20.8%), associations and councils (14%), provincial archives (11.6%), municipal and religious archives (10% each), and others (4%).

Conservation Assessments in Saskatchewan Archives this year: Jane Dalley, a freelance conservator who has moved to Regina from Winnipeg, has undertaken five conservation assessments in our archives—more in the spring issue!

PHONESIA (fo nee' zhuh) n. The affliction of dialing a phone number and forgetting whom you were calling just as they answer.

TELECRASTINATION (tel e kras tin ay' shun) n. The act of always letting the phone ring at least twice before you pick it up, even when you're only 6 inches away.

SAIN NEWS

PROVINCIAL PHOTO DATABASE UP AND RUNNING ON SCAA WEBSITE

Photographs are now listed on SAIN at <http://scaa.usask.ca/sain> and can be searched using keywords, by repository, etc. Thanks to the efforts of the Saskatchewan Council of Archives and Archivists and its marauding database expert, Cameron Hart, four institutions have their major photo databases linked in a RAD description format on SAIN: University of Saskatchewan Archives, the Saskatoon Public Library History Room, the Diefenbaker Canada Centre and the City of Saskatoon Archives. The total number of images described are about 14,000.

As Cameron describes it, first the Rules for Archival Description were used to determine a set of required elements of a description for a photograph at the item level. Then 50 samples were taken from each of the participant institutions to further determine key information that needed citing. Realizing that each institution had databases varying in form from MARC tags to Inmagic, a standard for SAIN photograph descriptions was arrived at.

The Provincial Photo Database is a **descriptive base**, but the potential exists to include scanned photographs, with potential for virtual exhibits and all types of research use.

This represents a great opportunity for those of us wondering how best to describe and scan photographs and to link our resources, ensuring that we do things the same and that the links can actually be made!

Cam is prepared to visit your archives and work with you and yours—if you want to find out more about the Database, please call him at **978-9758** or write him at **mac231@yahoo.com**.

SAB GETS ENTRIES UP ON SAIN

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD entries are steadily swelling the ranks of SAIN descriptions, providing ready and steady access to the holdings of both locations of Saskatchewan Archives. At present 75 entries have been listed and more are in the wings. Go to “Advanced Search,” fonds or collections to find.

meet a member....

ALEX YOUNCK SCHOOL MUSEUM

It's called a delightful and fully-operational one-room school house, and a visit to the Alex Youck School Museum confirms both! Located at the J.A. Burnett Education Centre in Regina, the hands-on museum and home of school archival documents invites you to re-live our rich educational heritage. I know it took me right back to the old days of our school, Wysla #4106.

School classes and adult groups come often, are invited to don vintage clothing, to practice their writing with quill and ink, and to hear stories told by Alex Youck and his energetic group of volunteers. Classics abound in the school library corner and the water crock looks inviting.

*No time to
get old!
Alex Youck
inspires
with stories
of real
school days*



Meeting Alex Youck is an invigorating experience. He exudes love of everything pedagogical, and for all the students he has had over the years. He began his teaching career at Bournville School District, near Southey in 1943, and in 1988 was still teaching through the Indian Federated College on six reservations. In 1994 his lifetime collection of school artefacts found a home in the establishment of the Alex Youck School Museum, a thriving spot ever since.

There are things on EVERY wall to look at, in both rooms, besides chemistry and physics equipment, old Alexandra Readers, cast iron desks, an old organ and a wooden record player! The archival materials are held separately, mainly consisting of school histories, WWII honor rolls and photographs, as well as the records of the Museum itself.

For more info. call Alex Youck, School Museum Director, (306) 352-6800 or visit the Museum at 1600 4th Avenue, Regina.



SASKATCHEWAN COUNCIL FOR
ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVISTS

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

<http://scaa.usask.ca>

CAIN T-SHIRTS!

**YES, WE HAVE HAD A FEW
WINNERS...T-SHIRTS ARE
WENDING THEIR WAY TO:**

ROSETOWN ARCHIVES

AND

MOOSE JAW ARCHIVES

**BE AMONG THE FIRST TO
WRITE A CAIN ENTRY FOR
YOUR ARCHIVES. AND YE
MAY BE AWAILED OF ONE
OF THESE COLLECTIBLES**

*Yes...there is LIFE after
GRANTS SEASON!*

*Here's hoping our good
flurry of Sask apps do well
in all categories.*

CBC Features Archives in 3-Part Series

"In the Stalin Archives"

***Texture, nuance and complexity**, these are the three elements that new finds in archives add to the known world of history. This was the conclusion drawn by **CBC Ideas** in its 3-part series on archives of the former USSR.*

Hosted by Dr. Robert Johnson of the Slavic Studies Department of the University of Toronto, the programmes were a mix of interviews and narrative. Each programme held a key image to trigger the listener's imagination: the first had the dramatic opening of an archives door; the second, a prison cell in Magadan filled with archives and the third, a statue of CHEKA head, Felix Dzherzhinsky, before which someone had placed a dead rat.

Main topics were the storage of records in the far-northern, ex-Gulag post of Magadan, access to the records by Westerners and Russian scholars and interpreting the documents in the light of what was previously known by historians. e.g. the Cold War. Arrangement and description were frequently touched upon, but not conservation conditions, which would have been interesting. From an archival viewpoint, the series did much to present archives as exciting and focal places of history, not just flat citations in someone's bibliography.

ARARCHIVAL BLOOPERS AND RIFLEXIONS

A LETTER ARRIVES AT THE ARCHIVES STATING..."I WANT TO SUE THE ARCHIVES"... STRIKES A NOTE OF TERROR, UNTIL THE NICE LADY CALLS A WEEK LATER, EXPLAINING SHE WANTS "TO USE" THE ARCHIVES, AND HAS JUST NOTICED THE TYPO IN HER LETTER....

WAS WALLACE STEGNER'S TOWN DUMP IN "WOLF WILLOW" AN ARCHIVES OR NOT?