



# The Archives Re-Past

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**April  
2008**

## President's Message

It continues to be a busy time for the Council. Several activities relate to ongoing outreach efforts. The third annual Archives Week was celebrated in February with events taking place almost every day of the week. The film night has been the longest-lasting tradition, but I venture to suggest the celebrity reading event will join it. Thanks to all involved for making the week such a success. In the meantime Executive Director/Archives Advisor, Carey Isaak, along with SAIN Archivist Cameron Hart, presented a Basic Archives Workshop in Prince Albert, attracting a group of almost 40 people – many from outside the archival community. We hope to make this an annual offering, around the province. We have also been working with the Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fair, among other things offering prizes for the students who make the best use of archival sources.

I hope many of you are planning to attend the Archives and You conference, May 24 in Regina. While primarily aimed at users of archives, there will be sessions of interest to those working in archives as well, so have a look at the program. Remember professional development subsidies are available to Council members.

Please join us at the SCAA Annual General Meeting – Friday, May 23, (even if you don't attend Archives and You!) at the University of Regina Archives. This is a chance not only for the Executive to report on activities from the past year, but for members to bring their ideas, comments and concerns, as well as meeting colleagues both familiar and new. Among other items, we will be considering constitutional amendments to improve continuity on the Executive (overlapping terms), update our committee structure, and adjust how finances are handled now that we have a full-time office. Full details will be sent with the AGM package before the end of April. Watch for details about a social event on Friday evening – details are being finalized as we go to press.

Tim Hutchinson, President

# Celebrating Archives Week 2008

For many of us, Archives Week is a focal point for public awareness activities. This year was certainly no exception: we increased the number and type of events offered in previous years, and several prominent figures outside the archival community helped make these events memorable. At the risk of neglecting to mention some, here are a few of the events/activities which occurred during Archives Week this year.

Articles appeared in *The Northerner* and the Humboldt paper. Exhibits were developed in Humboldt, Yorkton and at the University of Regina. Television and radio features or interviews promoted archives in Lloydminster, Saskatoon, and Regina, in addition to a province-wide CBC radio call-in show.

A series of events highlighted the Northern Saskatchewan Archives' considerable digitization work over the past 10 months, the Humboldt archives' photograph

collection; the film holdings of the Saskatchewan Archives' Board; and resources for genealogical research.

Collections from across the province were highlighted in two "celebrity reading" events.

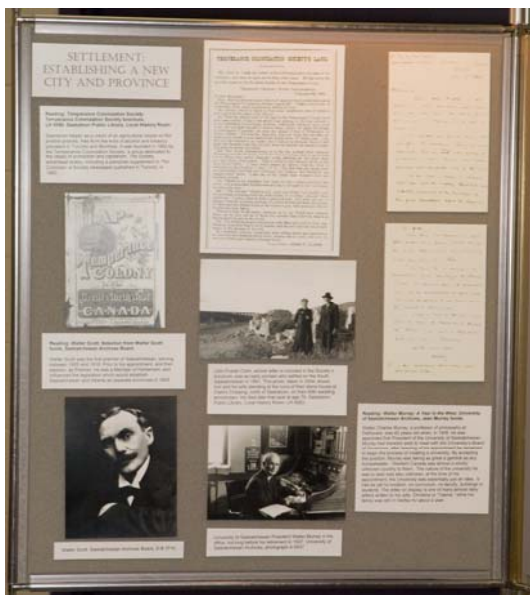


Photo by Luke Sather, from left to right: Rob MacDonald, Brenda Baker, Yann Martel, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor Gordon Barnhart, Don Kerr, and the Honourable Allan Blakeney.

Lloydminster archives volunteers met the public in the Lloydminster Mall and Co-op Market Place.

The SCAA, Local History Room, City of Saskatoon Archives, Saskatchewan Archives Board and University of Saskatchewan Archives were all available to

answer questions at the Saskatoon Heritage Fair. Promotional materials in the form of posters, bookmarks, buttons and postcards – beautifully designed by Luke Sather -- were available for distribution in every community. But we're not done yet.



Cam Hart put together an excellent resource to provide member institutions with ideas, addresses and key messages to help publicize their activities. "Loud and Clear: Raising Archival Awareness in Saskatchewan" was sent to all SCAA members and is available on the Council website. On Purpose Leadership followed in late November with a workshop on generating public

awareness and creating media attention.

Jennifer Hoesgen, in particular, has been extremely active in helping prepare for the Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fairs.

Four short films based on archival letters are currently in the final stages of production and Coteau Books has expressed interest in publishing a series of books based on Saskatchewan's archival collections. We will begin work on the first of these this spring, if our funding request is approved. A directory of SCAA member institutions, designed to raise awareness about archives throughout the province, will also be available soon.

Finally, the Canadian Council of Archives is holding its national conference, "Archives & You," in Regina May 24-25. Ian Wilson, Doug Cuthand, and Lynda Haverstock are among the speakers. Topics have been designed to be of interest to our colleagues in other cultural organizations, First Nations communities, and genealogists.

## Thanks so much ...

Archivists have always known the value of their collections; increasingly, we're finding new, innovative and interesting ways of telling others. Sincere thanks to everyone who has put so much time, energy, and creativity into SCAA public awareness activities.

Shirley Abrams; Jocelyn Ayers; Jen Baetz; Bernadine Baier; Bryan Bance; Crista Bradley; Nadine Charabin; Christine Charmbury; Ken Dahl; Dorothea Funk; Dorothea Funk; Judith Gidluck; Trina Gillis; Richard Hall; Cam Hart; Margaret Hendry; Don Herperger; Jennifer Hoesgen; Catherine Holmes; Tim Hutchinson; Carey Isaak; Dana Jacobs; Ron Jaremko; Carol Johner; Linda Kenyon; Frank Korvemaker; Elaine Kozakavich; Bryan McCabe; Terry McGarry; Susan Millen; Tim Novak; Jeff O'Brien; Gordon Pepper; Therese Lefebvre Prince; Cory Rainville; Paula Rein; Stephen Roth; Luke Sather; Mary Ellen Schnitzler; Cari Schwartz; Ted Sheard; Kathy Snider; Diane St. Denis; KB Sterling; Sue Stinson; Kathy

Szalasznj; Gwen Thomson; Lenora Toth; Bill Wagner; Bonnie Wagner; John Yewman; Zenon Zuzak. Our apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted.

Last but certainly not least, thanks to all our "celebrity readers," who so generously and ably helped make our two reading events such a success:

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, Gordon Barnhart; the Honourable Christine Tell; the Honourable Allan Blakeney; Brenda Baker, Fred Clipsham, Tex Emery, Paul McCorriston and Brodie Moninger; Jennifer Gibson; Don Kerr; Rob MacDonald; Gursh Madhur; Yann Martel; and Ruth Smillie.

Cheryl Avery, Chair  
Public Awareness Committee

## Mark's Aussie Adventure

# Perth: Archives in Western Australia

*Currently on leave from his position at the University of Regina, Mark Vajcner is studying towards a PhD with Edith Cowan University. This past autumn he spent three months touring and working in Australia.*



Perth Skyline, Photo by Mark Vajcner

Perth is the capital of the massive state of Western Australia. Almost four times the size of Saskatchewan and extending over a third of the continent's land mass, this most western of the Australian states spans a range of climatic zones from the tropics in

the north to temperate regions in the south. Perth, with a population of one and a half million (two of every three Western Australians lives in Perth), is regarded as the world's most remote city of its size.

Despite this isolation, Perth is a modern and vibrant city. The time I spent in Perth studying at Edith Cowan University gave me plenty of time to explore the city and its surroundings. I quickly discovered that Perth is home to some of the best beaches in Australia. While City Beach, Cottesloe, and Scarborough are not as well known as Sydney's Bondi or Manly, their sand and surf is just as amazing.

Perth is also home to an impressive city park and botanical garden that highlights local plant species, many of which are found nowhere else on earth. Perth sits in the Swan River valley, which is home to a growing wine industry. But beaches and booze weren't the only way I chose to occupy my free time. Perth is also home to an array of archival resources.

The National Archives of Australia has a branch office in Perth that houses many unique government records. This includes ship manifests for ocean liners that arrived in Perth during most of the 20th century. After the Second World War, Perth was a

major point of entry for European immigrants. Those ships that stopped at Perth, but didn't disembark their passengers, were still required to file manifests thus the Archives branch is an incredibly important source for Australian genealogists. A State Records Office houses the government records of Western Australia and a smaller City Archives does so for municipal records.



Definitely not a Saskatchewan road sign

Perth is also home to the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library. This library honors the contribution of Australia's wartime prime minister and international statesmen, John Curtin. Prime Minister from 1941 until his death in 1945, Curtin transcended party differences for the sake of national unity, led his country's substantial war effort, and laid the foundations for a post-war welfare state. Housed in the Library of Curtin University,

the Prime Ministerial Library includes photographs, documents and oral histories relating to John Curtin.

Virtually all of the collection is available on-line at

<http://john.curtin.edu.au/>.

In addition to maintaining and collecting archival resources, the Prime Ministerial Library also serves as a research institute for Australian history of the war period.

## Working Towards a PhD in Archives

Archival digitization projects have had a tendency to be selective and to remove records from their context. Long standing archival principles have established that records have value in groups. The record's ability to serve as evidence depends on its interrelationship to other documents and the removal from this context has negative effects on the researcher. While researchers are dependent on the soundness of archival records, most archival research is not based on a

method that considers *provenance*, origins, and context carefully. Researchers may not be aware of the loss of context that is rampant with digitized archival materials but the corresponding loss of evidential and research value does affect their work.

This is a problem that has fascinated me for a number of years. So much so, that I decided to do some graduate-level research with it.

Edith Cowan University is where I decided to pursue my studies. Edith Cowan is home to Dr. Joanna Sassoon, a well-known expert in the affects of digitization, and I'm studying with her and Dr. Karen Anderson of Mid Sweden University. The time zones involved make scheduling internet telephone conference calls a challenge but working digitally seems somehow very appropriate to a thesis focusing on the impact of the digital world on archives.

While I spent three months in Australia working intensively with both Dr. Sassoon and Dr. Anderson, the remaining writing process can be undertaken from Saskatchewan. In Australia, as in many British-based university systems, higher degrees are not awarded for class work but for the writing of a detailed thesis. My final research aim is to identify the components necessary in building a digitization project model that is both true to archival principles and that is also an effective resource for researchers.

The SCAA would like to welcome new members and thank them for their support.

**Institutional Members:**

Ursuline Sisters of Prelate  
Order of St. Benedict (St.Peter's Abbey, Muenster, SK)  
Western Christian College, Regina, SK

**Individual Members:**

Jillian Staniec, Saskatoon



## Basic Archives Workshop in Prince Albert, SK

The SCAA held a 'Basic Archives Workshop' in Prince Albert on Friday, March 14. The all-day workshop was very well attended with 36 individuals attending from all across the province.



Photo by Cameron Hart

Led by SCAA Executive Director/Archives Advisor, Carey Isaak, the workshop touched on many topics and issues facing those individuals and institutions just getting their feet wet in the archival profession: What are your archives' purpose and goals? How do you go about developing an Archives Policy? Acquiring material: where do you get it? Where can you get equipment and supplies? Where does the money come from and where does it go? An introduction to fundamental archival activities such as appraisal and

accessioning, arrangement and description, reference and access and preservation and conservation also produced some lively discussion.

The positive response to the workshop has led the SCAA to consider offering this kind of workshop on an annual basis (at different centres outside of Regina and Saskatoon) in the years to come. It provides a good starting point for new members to the SCAA and offers a chance for existing members to update their professional development and 'talk shop' with those facing similar issues. If the SCAA membership sees a benefit to having this kind of workshop offered on a regular basis, let the SCAA Executive or office staff in Regina know what you think.

The SCAA would like to sincerely thank Jamie Benson and all the members of the Prince Albert Historical Society for their assistance in making the workshop such a success.



Photo by Cameron Hart

Workshop Attendees:

Cameron Hart – SCAA  
 Sister Patricia Brochu – Sisters of the  
 Preservation of Mary, Prince Albert  
 Yvette Gareau – Roman Catholic Diocese  
 of Prince Albert  
 Rev. Leo Hinz – Order of St. Benedict,  
 Muenster, SK  
 Sister Marie Beliveau – Sisters of Notre-  
 Dame d’Auvergne, Ponteix, SK  
 Sister Mariette April – Sisters of Notre-  
 Dame d’Auvergne, Ponteix, SK  
 Sister Bernarda Gallinger – Sisters of St.  
 Elizabeth, Humboldt, SK  
 Sister Eleanore Hanus – Sisters of St.  
 Elizabeth, Humboldt, SK  
 Rev. Richard Meidl – Order of St.  
 Benedict, Muenster, SK  
 Walter Hluka – Prince Albert Historical  
 Society  
 Linda Kenyon – Lloydminster Regional  
 Archives

Christine Charmbury – Saskatchewan  
 Archives Board (Saskatoon office)  
 Bonnie Wagner – Saskatchewan Archives  
 Board (Saskatoon office)  
 Garry Anaquod – Saskatchewan Indian  
 Cultural Centre, Saskatoon  
 Sister Alexis Taphron – Ursuline Sisters  
 of Bruno, SK  
 Alison Doerkson, Saskatchewan  
 Teachers’ Foundation, Saskatoon  
 MacKinley Darlington – Saskatchewan  
 Teachers’ Foundation, Saskatoon  
 Lawrence DeMong – Order of St.  
 Benedict, Muenster, SK  
 Melisa Warren – Athol Murray College,  
 Wilcox, SK  
 Chad Arie – Saskatchewan Archives  
 Board (Regina office)  
 Marcella Loucks – Saskatchewan  
 Archives Board (Regina office)  
 Ken Guedo – Prince Albert Historical  
 Society

Jackie Hobbs – Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan  
Rae Benson – Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan  
Shalen Heavier – Melfort and District Museum  
Nicole Gauthier – Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre  
Celine Perillat – Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre  
Michelle Waldbillig – Melfort and District Museum  
Sister Magdalen Stengler – Ursuline Sisters of Prelate, SK

Sister Alice LeClaire – Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross, Saskatoon  
Phyllis Carleon – Prince Albert Historical Society  
Sister Donna Smith – Ursuline Sisters of Bruno, SK  
Sister Eleonore Harris – Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross, Saskatoon  
Sister Marie Raivet – Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross, Saskatoon  
Sister Hermana Blatz – Sister Angela’s Convent, Prelate, SK  
Margaret Hendry – Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

## Work Starts on Bell Barn Reconstruction



Photo by Frank Korvemaker

The round fieldstone barn at Indian Head was, until April 2, 2008, Saskatchewan's oldest still-standing agricultural stone building. That 126-year chapter has come to an end and a new one has begun for the structure known as the Bell Barn.

The first phase of the barn reconstruction started with removal of the adjacent wooden barn so that work could begin on dismantling the stone walls. Some of the salvaged wide planks, posts, and doors will be incorporated into the re-built Bell Barn which will be located on the neighboring property. The original stones will be used to reconstruct the walls, although they will need to be supplemented with more stones from nearby farmland.

The Bell Barn Society, a non-profit corporation established in 2006, plans to have the piles dug and the concrete slab in place at the new site by early summer. Work will then move to

reconstructing the walls in late summer and early autumn. The phase two plan is to have the roof in place by the summer of 2009. Phase three will see the re-constructed Bell Barn operated as a heritage and tourist site.

Built in 1882, the Bell Barn is the only major structure that remains from Major William Bell's attempt to establish one of the earliest and largest corporate farms in the West. "The large farm was the first big private construction in what is now Saskatchewan. All the other major construction at that time was done by the government or the Canadian Pacific Railway," said Frank Korvemaker, Bell Barn Society chairperson. Bell's company built more than 100 buildings in just one year, 1882, including the round stone barn *and* the large residence/office which were finished in the 4 months prior to Christmas.

Submitted by Dayle Bowman

JOHN NORTHWOOD,  
PRESIDENT.

W. R. BELL,  
MANAGER.

H. J. EBERTS,  
SEC.-TREAS.

THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY FARMING COMPANY,  
(LIMITED.)

1882

This will give you  
an idea of our round  
stable which is built  
of stone the wall  
is 16 inches thick  
14 feet high and  
63 feet in diameter  
and holds 31 horses  
figure one is manger.

2 single stalls

3 box stalls

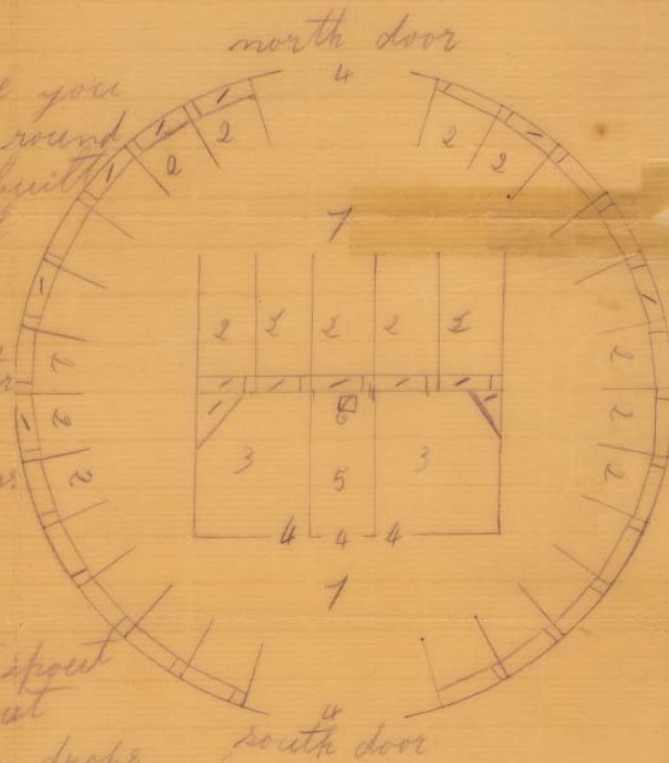
4 doors

5 passage to out spot

6 out spot

7 where the hay drops

the out bin is in the center of the hay mow  
it is 16 feet square and holds two thousand  
five hundred bushels there is room for a  
horse and sleigh to go behind the horses and haul  
out the manure



The Bell Barn Project has also benefited from an archival perspective. An 1882 letter written by Guy May to a cousin in Ontario, (letter written on Christmas Day 1882) was recently uncovered. Included with the letter was the above drawing provides the first view of the interior layout of the barn. The letter remains in the hands of the May family. Image compliments of Albert May of Regina.

# Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fair and the SCAA

Just a reminder that the SCAA is actively engaged in developing a partnership with the Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fair organization. Our role in the Youth Heritage Fair program this year is to recruit volunteers to act as judges. As a volunteer judge you will evaluate the various student projects submitted in one of the 6 communities that host a fair. Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fairs take place in late April/early May. Fifteen projects and fifteen students will be selected from the Regional Heritage Fairs here in Saskatchewan to attend the National Historical Heritage Fair in Victoria BC, July, 2008. For more detailed information about the national program visit [www.historica.ca](http://www.historica.ca).

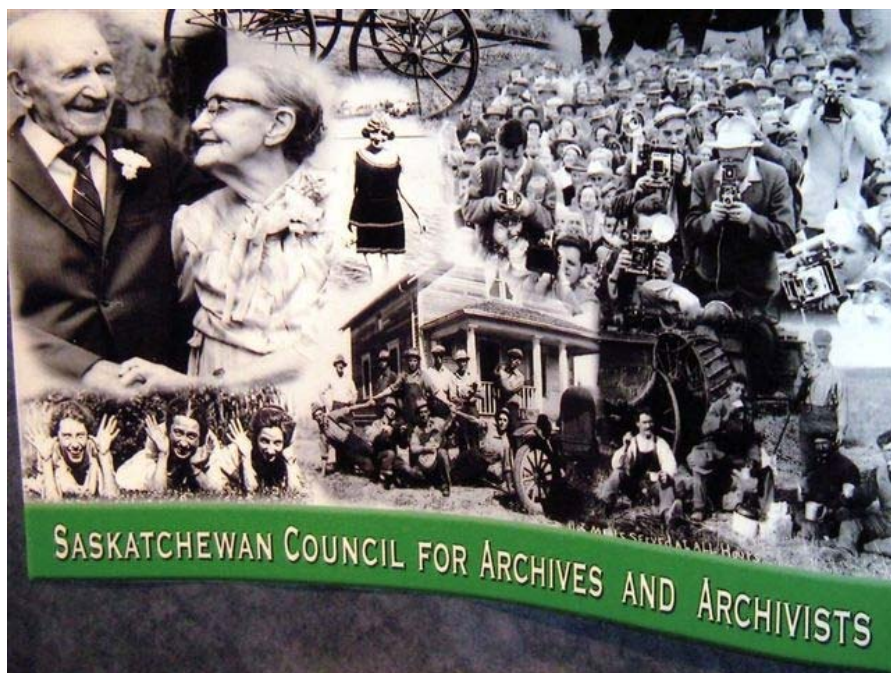


The Regional Heritage Fairs will be held in six locations:

- **Humboldt, SK – Wednesday, April 23, 2008. Humboldt Uniplex in Humboldt, SK**
- **Moose Jaw, SK – May 1st and 2nd at the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw, SK. It is open to public from 6:30 to 8:30 both days. May 1st – discounted admission \$3.00/ adult; \$2.00/ Senior and \$1.00/ Student. The awards presentation is 1:00 pm on the 2nd.**
- **Saskatoon, SK – Thursday, May 1st and Friday, May 2nd at the Nutana Curling Club, 2002 Arlington Avenue (on the corner of Taylor St and Arlington Ave) in Saskatoon, SK.**
- **Prince Albert, SK – Friday, May 2nd at the Prince Albert Arts Centre, 1010 Central Avenue in Prince Albert, SK .**
- **Regina – more information to follow.**
- **Meadow Lake – more information to follow.**

In addition, the SCAA will be offering prizes to the student(s) who make the best use of archival / original sources. The prizes will be framed reproductions of historical photographs from the area in which the student lives. Therefore we would also like to hear from those of you who would be willing to donate a copyright free image from one of the 6 communities to host Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fairs: Humboldt, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon. The SCAA will cover the cost of reproduction and framing.

Please contact the SCAA office at 780-9414 or email us [scaa@sasktel.net](mailto:scaa@sasktel.net) if you are available to volunteer or donate an image. Some members have already stepped forward to participate, but a few more volunteers would be most helpful. You will not only be supporting archives in general and your colleagues throughout the province but you will also be nurturing students in their search for knowledge and understanding about the place where they live. Building relationships with other heritage organizations also strengthens the position of archives within the provincial heritage community.





*WORKING TO PRESERVE THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE OF SASKATCHEWAN*

Saskatchewan Council for Archives & Archivists  
will be holding its

Annual General Meeting  
Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008  
University of Regina Archives

All members are encouraged to attend.

Social Gathering to follow at:  
The Lady Slipper Courtyard  
Wascana Centre  
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

