



The Archives Re-Past

March 2010

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President's Message

Welcome to the first paperless version of the SCAA newsletter!

First I need to report a change in our Executive ranks. Rob Nestor, Institutional Member-at-Large, submitted his resignation at the end of February. Rob works for the First Nations University of Canada, and has understandably found it difficult to be fully engaged with the Executive during this time of uncertainty at his institution. I'd like to thank Rob for his service and willingness to be involved, and we wish him and his colleagues all the best in the coming weeks and months. This vacancy will be filled at the AGM, for a one-year term.

Speaking of the AGM, I hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to visit La Ronge. Many thanks to our hosts at the Northern Saskatchewan Archives and Pakhisimon Nuye?ah Library System – look for an article about the Archives later in this newsletter. For those attending the workshop, remember that travel funding is available – and the cap has been increased for 2010/11, so travel to La Ronge should be affordable from anywhere in the province.

As the AGM approaches, please think about letting your name stand for a position on the Executive. I know this is a common refrain, but I'd like to use the rest of my space to talk about the changing nature of service on the Executive.

As a result of new funding for administrative support since 2007, administrative responsibilities of Executive as well as the committees have already been transferred to the SCAA Office. In the last year, we have also improved our meeting structure. With staff and




committee reports circulated in advance, there is much less time spent on administrative details, leaving time for more useful and interesting discussions. Starting this past year, the full year of meetings was scheduled in advance, with key agenda items identified. This advance planning has meant that very little business needs to be

conducted between meetings. Outside of committee involvement, it is now possible to say that for most Executive members, the time commitment for serving on the Executive can be focused on meeting preparation and attendance. This represents a tremendous improvement over the last five years or so, moving from incredibly high e-mail traffic, to occasional conference calls supplementing the e-mail discussions, to regular meetings (generally every six to eight weeks) by phone or video conference in addition to a summer in-person planning session. Travel costs to the summer planning session and phone/video conference costs associated with the regular meetings are covered by the SCAA.

At this year's AGM, two-year positions for President, Secretary, Individual Member-at-Large, Member-at-Large, and a one-year position for Institutional Member-at-Large, will be open. Of these positions, only the President really has formal, ongoing additional responsibilities. The role of the Secretary has changed substantially, with the office handling membership issues and our Executive Director taking minutes at Executive meetings. As part of a more general governance review, it has been

Continued on Page 2

recommended that we remove this position from the Executive, replacing it with a Member-at-Large position. For now, it is fair to say that this position already functions as a Member-at-Large. The Individual Member-at-Large has traditionally taken on the role of Education Chair, but this is not a formal requirement of the position. The Institutional Member-at-Large has one additional role of being the Council's representative to the Canadian Council of Archives, which means attending the CCA's Annual General Assembly in the fall.

This is also a compelling time to be involved with the Council at the Executive level. Following up on work done over the last couple of years, we are in the process of more formally restructuring our governance model to make the most effective use of both staff and volunteer resources. We are applying for a small grant to get professional help with the next step in this process, focusing on the management and governance of Archives Week. But the devil is in the details, which is where the Executive will have a crucial role to play as well as in the Council's strategic plan, which is set to expire in 2011. More generally, as an organization with core funding, the Council is still in its early days. So why not be part of shaping that development? 

-Tim Hutchinson, SCAA President

A New Era for Heritage Groups in Saskatchewan

*Submitted by Joe LeClair, Preservation Archivist,
Saskatchewan Archives*

History

For a number of years, SaskCulture has had a staff committee, the Heritage Community of Interest Advisory Committee (HCOI) made up of various individuals with a broad background in heritage from varying parts of the province. Since 1984, arts organizations have had the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance not only providing this advisory service to SaskCulture, but acting as a collective voice for the arts. Saskatchewan's heritage organizations are very active but had no umbrella to speak for heritage as a whole and to share information between them about their services, activities and resources. Meanwhile, the arts community had a 25 year head start.

SaskCulture recognized this and tasked the SaskCulture staff and the HCOI with exploring the desire for and the creation of such an organization. Consultants were contracted and broad consultations done. This led to a wider Heritage Forum in the spring of 2009. The net has been widely cast, inviting volunteers and professionals from all facets of the community – anyone who had an interest in Saskatchewan's heritage. Breakout groups were asked to discuss the issue, express if they wanted such an organization, what they wanted it to be and what they wanted from it.

The overwhelming response was yes, the community wanted something. Many ideas were put forward but the general

consensus was a very inclusive organization with a broad vision of heritage made up of both individuals and organizations. It would complement existing organizations, support their activities and give them a combined voice on broader issues.

SaskCulture recognized this desire and put the required resources on the table. The HCOI was transformed from an advisory committee of the SaskCulture staff to an interim board of what has become the Heritage Saskatchewan Alliance – or Heritage Saskatchewan.

Over the following year, consultations continued and committees were struck. The interim board and the contracted staff spent long hours hammering out a mission statement, vision and constitution to take to the heritage community for approval. Offices were rented and renovated in a heritage building in downtown Regina and staff were hired. The organization was incorporated and planning began for a 2010 Forum and inaugural AGM to approve the constitution and elect the first board.

The Forum

On February 19 and 20, members and representatives of Saskatchewan's heritage community gathered in Saskatoon at the Delta Bessborough Hotel to meet, discuss where we are and vote on our future. The weekend began on the Friday evening with an opportunity to explore the heritage trade fair, meet one another and following a meal, listen to guest speaker CBC radio personality Arthur Black.

On Saturday, the Forum "Growing Communities – Looking Forward" began with opening remarks and a blessing followed by a panel discussion on "Opening the Doors to Heritage - Making heritage accessible to help grow our communities". The topic of the afternoon session was "Building Bridges to Communities – The state of heritage legislation & programming in the 3 levels of government".

During the Luncheon, a special presentation was made to SaskCulture thanking them for their support and a continued relationship as defined by a memorandum of understanding that had been recently signed by both parties.

Between the two forum sessions, seventy one voting delegates (individual members and those representing organizations) approved the constitution and voted to select the members of the first elected board.

Heritage Saskatchewan's new Board of Directors represent a broad variety of heritage interests with varying backgrounds and contacts. The hope is that the board can bring these varying viewpoints to the table, not representing just an individual organization or field but representing heritage as a whole.

One of the first initiatives of the new organization has been the formation of four working groups:

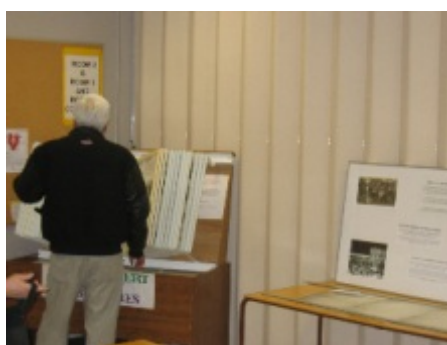
- * Conservation/Preservation
- * Public Policy and Planning
- * Data Bases
- * Public Awareness and Education

If you are interested in getting more details about these working groups, please contact the Heritage Saskatchewan office at (306) 780-9191

Biographies, membership information and further details are available on the Heritage Saskatchewan website:



[1]



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[3]

The Province Celebrates Archives Week in Saskatchewan!

Submitted by Cameron Hart, SCAA Archives Advisor

Archives Week was February 1-7, and though the larger communities of Regina and Saskatoon were able to hold several events, there still were 8 other communities that held events that spanned the week or last a day.

I went to several events and attempted to attend others. At the start of the week the Metis Nation – Saskatchewan opened their new Genealogical and Archival Research Centre at 406 Jessop Avenue in Saskatoon. Tammy Vallee noted over fifty people attended to see their new “digs.” Later in the day the Advisor attended a visit by Kathy Szalasnyj’s SIAST class to the University of Saskatchewan Archives. It was very exciting to see new folks interested in the archival field.

On the Tuesday, I drove to Rosetown and District Archives to attend their Genealogy Workshop with guest, Rae Chamberlain, of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society.^[1] The afternoon event was an open forum for guests that were able to ask specific questions to help them in their research. A group of computers was made available for searches and with several guests doing personal research on ancestors.com, were willing to open up this website to help the workshop guests with their questions. Sharon Clark with the Rosetown and District Archives estimated about thirty people attended or toured the Archives, which also was displaying photos that contained “unidentified” subjects, in the hope the guests could help in their identification.

I then returned to Saskatoon to attend the Celebrity Reader Event that evening at the

Saskatoon Public Library. It was then off to Regina the next day to take in “From the Vault: Archives on the Big Screen” the Film Night Event held at the Regina Public Library. Then back to Saskatoon for the “Night at the Roxy” their Film Night Event at the Roxy Theatre.

The Friday was then spent in Prince Albert to be present at the display created by The Bill Smiley Archives of the Prince Albert Historical Society at the J.M. Cuelenaere Library. A display of maps, photographs, and documents, was available to the public to let them discover more about the history of Prince Albert and their personal history in the city.^[2] The exhibit was open for 3 days of the week and had about thirty visitors.^[3]

There were several other events across the Province that I wish I had time to partake in. The Archives of Humboldt & District Museum and Gallery celebrated Archives Week by holding an open house as did the Northern Saskatchewan Archives in La Ronge, which was in conjunction with Pakhisimon Nuye?áh Library System’s Twentieth Anniversary Celebrations. Lloydminster Regional Archives held a well-attended fund-raiser selling tickets to “Tribute to the King - concert by Rory Allen”

Exhibits were also mounted at the City of Yorkton Archives, the Swift Current Museum and Archive and the City of North Battleford Historic Archives. In the case of North Battleford their display traveled to area malls to attract larger portions of the public to see historic photos and news clippings as well as power point presentations showing the people and places of the City.

Again I wish I was able to attend all events, but there is always Archives Week 2011!!! 🇮🇹



[1] Rae Chamberlain of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (seated at far end of photograph) addresses attendees at Rosetown and District Archives’s Genealogy Workshop. (Photo: Cameron Hart, SCAA Archives Advisor)

[2] Guest viewing display of material from the Bill Smiley Archives of the Prince Albert Historical Society, held at the Archives Week exhibit at the J.M. Cuelenaere Library. (Photo: Cameron Hart, SCAA Archives Advisor)

[3] Presenter at the Archives Week exhibit at the J.M. Cuelenaere Library. (Photo: Cameron Hart, SCAA Archives Advisor)



[2]



[5]



[6]

Archives Week Events in Regina

Submitted by May P. Chan, RAAWGG Member

The 2010 Archives Week celebrations were kicked off in Regina when local celebrity archivist Crista Bradley started her annual local media blitz on CBC Radio and TV, CTV News, CKRM radio and Access Communications. This year, Crista was assisted by a number of fellow Regina archivists who gladly shared and participated in the media spotlight, especially in the five-part archival segments that aired throughout the week on Access Communications.

Archives Week events officially began at the University of Regina Archives & Special Collections, which hosted an open house in the afternoon on Tuesday, February 2, 2010. Forty attendees were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives' "famous" storage facility,^[1] a live demo of oURspace which is the university's online repository and several displays of archival materials from the Archives' holdings.

The following night, nearly 107 attendees attended the "From the Vault: Archives on the Big Screen" event at the Regina Public Library Film Theatre.^[2] With refreshments and snacks in hand, moviegoers were warmly welcomed by Regina councilor Fred Clipsham and Regina Public Library Deputy Director Julia McKenna before they were treated to several movie premieres including the University of Regina Archives' *Spectacle, Sport and Story: Picturing the 1936 Olympics*,^[3] the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists' *A Curious Friendship* and *A Chaplain's War*, the University of

Saskatchewan Archives' *Roots in the Ground*, and finally, the Saskatchewan Archives Board's *A Prairie Romance*.^[4] Local experts such as Dean Smith (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), Bill Brennan (historian), Thomas Bedohl (historian) and Sarah Abbott (filmmaker) were on hand to help introduce and set the films in context.^[5]

Archives Week was capped off on Thursday night with the "Spotlight on the Past: Celebrity Readings from Archives in Saskatchewan" at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum Theatre. With radio personality Roger Currie as the event's Master of Ceremonies and with special appearances by writers Mary Balogh and Gail Bowen, journalists J. C. Garden and Jill Morgan, entertainer Rod McDonald and former Saskatchewan Roughrider

Scott Schultz, the 75 guests were treated to an entertaining evening of laughter, joy and sorrow.^[6]

A particular memorable moment was J.C.'s emotional reading of a soldier's war letter to his parents with nary a dry eye in sight. Once again, Access Communications was on hand to film the event. Following the readings, guests and celebrities alike were treated to a wonderful reception with refreshments and an assortment of snacks, including two different types of cake!

On behalf of the Regina Area Archives Week Working Group (RAAWWG), I would like to thank the SCAA office staff, the Regina area archivists, our celebrities, the local media and finally, our guests for making our events in Regina one of the most memorable in years. Great job everyone and see you in 2011 for the 6th annual Archives Week, February 7-13! 🇩🇪



[1] The University of Regina Archives' storage facility is the murder setting in Gail Bowen's 2000 book *Burying Ariel*.

[2] Film guests arriving at the RPL Film Theatre and momentarily sidetracked by the incredible looking Archives Week promotional postcards and bookmarks. (Photo courtesy Paula Rein, Saskatchewan Archives Board)

[3] The film is also available online <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10v6EokMEr0>

[4] *A Prairie Romance* will also be featured as part of the Saskatchewan Archives Board's 12-part film series, "Reel Stories from the Archives," which will air later this year on Access. Please stay tuned for more updates regarding this project!

[5] Film guests Thomas Bedohl, Bill Brennan, Fred Clipsham, Sarah Abbott and Dean Smith waiting in the wings before the event starts. (Photo courtesy Paula Rein, Saskatchewan Archives Board)

[6] Celebrity readers Mary Balogh, J. C. Garden, , Rod McDonald and Scott Schultz listening to their colleagues' turn at the podium. (Photo courtesy Paula Rein, Saskatchewan Archives Board)



[2]

Archives Week Events in Saskatoon

Submitted by Rob Paul, SAAG Member

The Saskatoon Area Archivists Group (SAAG) organized two exciting events to mark Archives Week 2010 in Saskatoon, and made important contributions to the Saskatoon Heritage Festival. The events kicked off with "Spotlight on the Past: Celebrity Readings from Archives in Saskatchewan", held on February 2 at the Frances Morrison Library Theatre. Master of Ceremonies (and City of Saskatoon Archivist) Jeff O'Brien reprised his role as host, introducing celebrity readers Rosalie Woloski, Lorne Calvert, Gerry Klein, Jennifer Jellicoe, Henry Woolf and Shelly Loeffler. The readings included, among others, letters from Saskatchewan residents discussing urban and rural issues of the early 20th century, reports on an agricultural fair, an explanation over a misplaced Shakespearean map, a short article on the relationship between the University of Saskatchewan and the city of Saskatoon and, new this year, beat poetry. A highlight was former Premier Lorne Calvert reading a selection of excerpts from John Diefenbaker's 1957 campaign launch speech, in which he channeled some of the Chief's speaking style and mannerisms in a virtuoso performance.^[1] 127 guests attended this year's event, a new record for the readers' event.

On February 4 the festivities shifted to the historic Roxy Theatre, one of the few remaining "movie palaces" built in the 1920s and 1930s, for "A Night at the Roxy Theatre: Archives Week Film Night."^[2] This year's movie lineup included the



[1]



[4]



[3]

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool-commissioned *This Generation: A Prairie Romance*, John Diefenbaker speaking to the nation on election night, 1957, as well as squaring off against Jean Chretien during Question Period in the House of Commons and three short documentaries from the SCAA's *Lives and Letters* series, Joseph Caldwell: *A Curious Friendship*, Edmund Oliver: *A Chaplain's War* and Alice Rendell: *A Prairie Fire*. The evening concluded with a 1983 commercial from

ParticipACTION's "Do It" series. Master of ceremonies Nadine Charabin of the Saskatchewan Archives Board kept the evening flowing smoothly and guest host and commentator, Local Historian Don Kerr, provided background and context to the films, which were enjoyed by 97 guests.

Archives Week concluded on February 7, with the Saskatoon Heritage Festival. Once again SAAG staffed its popular "Archives Pavillion," a "one stop archives and history shopping" consisting of exhibits and representatives from a number of archival institutions who were on hand to discuss their institutions and answer any questions that visitors may have regarding archives and archival practices.^{[3][4]} Visitors to the pavilion were also able to view the films from "A Night at the Roxy Theatre". The theme of this year's Heritage Festival was "From one Room School to City Collegiate." Several area Archives as well as Nutana Collegiate created material for a PowerPoint presentation which provided a historical overview of education in Saskatoon. Saskatoon SAB staff created a new exhibit featuring Saskatoon school sports and welcomed the public's help in identifying individuals in the various team photographs. The University of Saskatchewan Archives featured an exhibit about F.M. Quance and the Quance readers (also known as the nationally-used Canadian Readers). Over 40 exhibitors participated in the Festival, which also included free sleigh rides, old-time demonstrations including making rope and milking a cow, an entertainment main stage and a children's area featuring children's entertainers and activities, which were enjoyed by over 2300 visitors.

On behalf of the SAAG, I would like to thank the SCAA office staff, the Saskatoon area archivists, our celebrities, the local media and finally, our guests for making the Saskatoon events a success.

[1] Former Premier Lorne Calvert speaking at "Spotlight on the Past: Celebrity Readings from Archives in Saskatchewan." (Photo Courtesy Nadine Charabin, SAB)

[2] Venue marquee, "A Night at the Roxy Theatre: Archives Week Film Night." (Photo courtesy Jeff O'Brien, City of Saskatoon Archivist)

[3] City of Saskatoon Archivist Jeff O'Brien interpreting a map of Saskatoon to a visitor, Archives Pavillion. (Photo courtesy Nadine Charabin, SAB)

[4] SCAA Archives Advisor Cameron Hart assists visitors to the Archives Pavillion. (Photo courtesy Nadine Charabin, SAB)



Featured Archivist

As members of the Saskatchewan archival community may already know, Linda B. McIntyre was appointed the new Provincial Archivist of Saskatchewan in December 2009. She has been an Archivist with the Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB) since December 1987 and succeeds Don Herperger, who retired in December 2008.

In our new feature segment, here are 10 things about Linda she wants you to know about her.

Why did you become an archivist?

I have been fascinated always by handwritten

letters and journals and the stories that they tell from the past. Primary research materials somehow seemed more 'real' to me than the books resulting from the use of these sources. The idea that documents could survive the historical era from which they were born and continue to speak to generations that followed drew me into the profession that makes this possible. I knew I wanted to be an archivist by Grade 10 and just never changed my mind.

Where was the first archives you worked in and what did you do?

I first worked as an Archivist for the National Archives of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada) in the Economic & Communication Records and Indian Affairs Section, Government Archives Division where I answered reference enquiries and described records of the Department of Indian Affairs and the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion. Prior to this position however, I worked on contract for the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM) as a researcher-bibliographer in libraries and archives in Ottawa, Montreal and in London, England at the British Museum searching for Canadiana.

What is the biggest challenge facing archivists today?

I think the biggest challenge facing archivists is to ensure the preservation of born-digital records into the future and create awareness of this role within the general community. In a very fast-moving age it is extremely easy to abandon the documentary heritage currently being created in favour of newer technologies and means of communication. Archivists need to effectively capture this time in history and ensure that it exists in a form accessible to those who will wish to examine what defined this 'past' in years to come.

What are your priorities for the Saskatchewan Archives Board?

My priorities for Saskatchewan Archives are to re-examine our strategic plan; develop a new website that meets our access, service and communication needs;

and create awareness within government that promotes the effective allocation of human and capital resources to allow us to fulfill our mandate. This includes the development of our digital archives programme.

What is your funniest archival story (e.g. appraisal, preservation, etc.)?

Once upon a time a donor contacted me to pick up his records. When I got to his office we discussed the donation and then went to examine what needed to be transferred to the Archives. He turned to me and said, "So are you going to carry these records out or am I?" This gentleman was in his late eighties and looked frail enough that a prairie breeze would blow him over in a single gust. I was eight months pregnant and not about to go into early labour. Neither of us knew about each other's 'condition' prior to this visit. We walked up and down the hallways of the office until we found someone who could lift and move boxes with ease – a very sympathetic individual.

If you were not an archivist, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I would be teaching Canadian literature at university level or working as an editor for an academic journal.

If you were invited to a potluck, what dish(es) would you bring?

I would bring an amaretto-chocolate cheesecake guaranteed to exceed the daily recommended sugar (and chocolate) intake of all guests. If it was a Scottish potluck, I would bring haggis, fully cooked and ready-to-serve.

What books are you currently reading?

I am reading British mysteries by Susan Hill, Ian Rankin, Jacqueline Winspear and Charles Todd. My favourite period is the First World War and 1920s.

What was the last movie that you saw in the theatres?

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief. This was a quality-time initiative, not a reflection of my interest in cinema... Nonetheless, it was entertaining.

Name one thing that people don't know about you.

I have a passion for hand-hooked primitive rugs and European tapestries.

Scoring Gold – Kelsey’s First Ever Archives Course

Submitted by Kathy Szalasznjy, Instructor SIAST

The Library and Information Technology Program at SIAST, Kelsey campus has scored gold for archives in Saskatchewan!

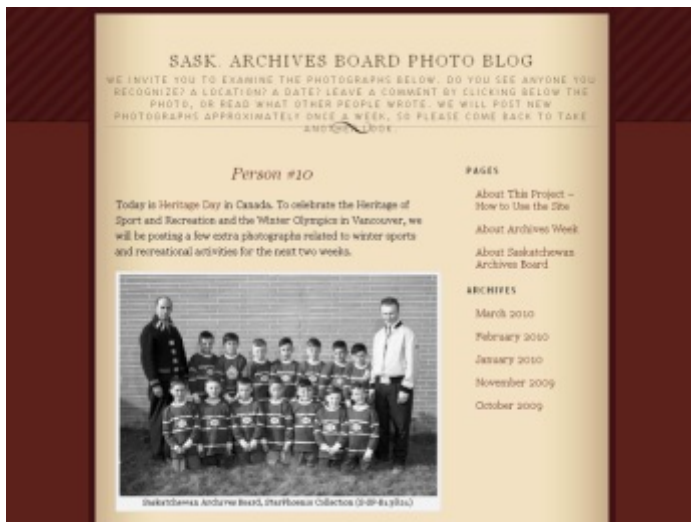
For the first time, this program includes LIB 194, a course on archives management and records management as an elective component, which means sixteen students are studying “archives and rm” weekly from January – April, 2010.

Why/How did this come about? A key player was Program Head, Marj Kennedy, who saw the need for archival training for persons working in libraries that often house local history and other valuable historical collections. Add Luke Sather, archivist, records manager and graduate of the Library Tech program who put Marj in touch with the archives community. Following curriculum approval from Kelsey’s administration, Tim Hutchinson drafted key learning outcomes for the course and Kathy Szalasznjy (a previous Outreach Archivist for the SCAA) put the curriculum together, getting input from a number of SCAA archivists. She is also teaching the current course to what she describes as a “zippy, insightful group of archivists-in-the-making, whose library background seems to bring a built-in fearlessness toward RAD.”

The course covers basic archival theory; acquisition and accessioning of archives; their appraisal and selection; arrangement, description and physical processing; preservation management; reference service and public programming; records management principles and how technological developments affect archives. It includes simulated accessioning, appraisal and RAD practice. Students have had a chance to experience archives firsthand with a tour of the Saskatchewan Archives Board (Saskatoon location), the University of Saskatchewan Special Collections and University Archives. The students also read and discuss Jeff O’Brien’s weekly archival feature in the Saskatoon Sun. They have even used latest archival supplies catalogues to develop wish-lists for would-be archives with would-be budgets (including would-be grants)!

In May, the 2nd year Lib and Info Tech students go outside Saskatoon for a 3-week practicum. While this experience has usually involved only libraries, this year some students will be placed in archives in Regina.

A heads up to archivists out there -- these students would make excellent summer workers in archives. Please let Kathy Szalasznjy (szalhome@sasktel.net) know of any summer jobs and she will encourage her LIB 194 students to apply. 🇩🇪



Saskatchewan Archives Board's Photo Blog and Archives Week

Submitted by Nadine Charabin, Chief Archivist, SAB

The sleeper hit of Archives Week 2010 from the Saskatchewan Archives Board's (SAB) perspective turned out to be our Photo Blog. Reflecting on the success of photo identification exhibits at some regional archives during Archives Week 2009, the SAB Archives Week sub-committee decided to give this concept a digital twist. The goal was to post photographs on a blog site all through Archives Week, and ask the wider public to help identify the people or places shown in the images. Using a free blogsite, Wordpress.com, RPU archivist Jillian Staniec designed an attractive blog site which looks like a website, but which has interactive capacity so that visitors can easily make comments.

Interest in SAB's photo blog exploded after Crista Bradley from the SCAA mentioned the site to reporter Dani Mario from CBC Radio on Monday, February 2nd. Thanks to the attention drawn to the blog by CBC, the mysterious lady in the photograph caught people's attention, and was dubbed the “Mona Lisa of Saskatchewan.” Media coverage was extensive in the early part of the week and continued to largely focus on the photo blog and identifying the mystery woman.

Fourteen photographs of people and locations were posted before and during Archives Week 2010. Members of the public and Archives staff made comments on the blog, and identification was made to a few of the images. The intention is to continue operating this blog over the next year, posting a new image every week, unless it becomes apparent from site statistics that people are no longer visiting. During the Olympics, the blog featured sports images.

For more information about the project and/or to help identify photos, check out the blog at www.sabphotos.wordpress.com. 🇩🇪

Northern Saskatchewan Archives

Submitted by Graham Guest, Archival Historian PNLS

It all began in the 1990s when government staff at Mistasinihk Place in La Ronge needed to clear out some old materials cluttering their filing cabinets. Mercifully, the materials were not condemned to a leaky shed on the outskirts of town!

The staff instead made an excellent choice, entrusting the materials to the kindly hospitality of Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System (PNLS), the northern library system. The collection turned out to be an archival goldmine. Produced by staff of the Department of Northern Saskatchewan (DNS) from 1972 to '83, they include 46,000 photographs, 1,000 audio and video tapes, and many print materials including the popular DNS magazine Denosa.

Several young local fellows got their start as information officers with DNS in those days, including Tom Roberts of CBC Keewatin Kountry fame. In later years, older fellows like myself were lucky enough to also travel the north taking pictures and writing articles for Denosa.

When PNLS was designing a new headquarters in 2002 they included an archives room to house these materials. I was recently retired from my information officer job having reached the then-mandatory age, but this turned out to be a serendipitous happening. PNLS was seeking someone to look after the archives, and a whole new fascinating career opened up for me!

My first experience of the world of archives was to attend an excellent SCAA Basic Archives course in Prince Albert presented by the incomparable Kathy Szalasnyj. I have since attended many more programs sponsored by SCAA, and the association has greatly helped in developing my own personal knowledge and our archives.

We have now received many more wonderful donations relating to Aboriginal and northern topics, covering 60 years of history, trapping, commercial fishing, aviation, the Island Falls dam, and 4H clubs in 12 northern communities in the 1950s and '60s. These donations bring the total number of items to over 106,500, compared with 65,000 in 2003, the first full year of operation.

Most of what we digitized for the Our Legacy website was drawn from the DNS Collection. Lois Dalby of the DNS Academic Education Branch photographed many traditional Cree activities for use in the northern curriculum, and Larry Hewitt did the same for the Dene culture.



[1]

What a goldmine to have these traditional lifestyles recorded in such detail! Lois still lives in the area, and came in to help us put it all together for the website!

Recently we have had an upsurge of interest in our historic photographs and are getting valuable feedback from local residents on the names of people and activities in the pictures. Several groups made these copies of old photographs over the years, including the historical society, the museum board, and the 1981 Heritage Committee that produced the history Our Roots, and I am gradually finding out more about their origins to correctly acknowledge the sources.

We receive many requests for research and have a steady flow of students from schools and colleges and interested northerners visiting the archives. We also get requests for displays and presentations from various organizations, which enable us to gather valuable information about the items displayed.

One request we received showed the importance of archival materials. We were able to provide photographs of students attending the La Ronge mission school in the 1930s that enabled Lac La Ronge Indian Band members to prove they were there and claim their residential school settlements. The attendance

records had been lost when the school burned down.

Funding for the archives is provided by PNLS and Saskatchewan Education, and grants from SCAA and other agencies have made possible digitizing projects and the purchase of archival storage materials. A volunteer committee also finds funding, and puts on an annual yard sale to support the archives. ■■



[2]

**For more information please contact
Graham Guest, Archival Historian,
425-6646, archives@pnls.lib.sk.ca or
Audrey Mark, Director, PNLS,
425-4525, ae.mark@pnls.lib.sk.ca**

[1] Graham Guest is assisted in identifying people in Anglican Mission School photographs by Lac La Ronge Indian Band elders Ellen Visentine of Stanley Mission (left) and Mary Venne, widow of former Chief Myles Venne, at a Residential School Reunion in September. (Photo: Gill Gracie, Aurora Communications)

[2] Lac La Ronge Indian Band members Hope and Sam Hardlotte and Ray McKay take great interest in a display of archival photographs of La Ronge during the recent Archives Week Open House. (Photo: Graham Guest)



[1]

Welcome to LaRonge

Submitted by Graham Guest, Archival Historian PNLS

You may hear that the population of La Ronge is 2,700, but that is not the whole picture. The adjacent Lac La Ronge Indian Band reserves and the village of Air Ronge bring the total nearer to 7,000.

The community sits on the shores of the resplendent Lac La Ronge, with forests to the south as far as Prince Albert and the Pre-Cambrian Shield and more forests stretching northwards to the Barren Lands. The region's beautiful lakes are ringed by rocky shores, sandy bays, and mixed forests of poplar, birch, tamarack, spruce and jackpine.

The early Cree traversed the area on their hunting migrations, and since then it has been a centre for fur trading, lumbering, commercial fishing, mining, mineral exploration, government, and some of the best tourist fishing in North America.

The present town site was selected when Cree missionary John McKay stepped onto the beach in 1905 and chose the gentle slope facing him as the site for the Anglican Mission School. It taught

local children from 1907 until 1947, giving a good start to Lac La Ronge Indian Band members, many later becoming community leaders.

Local attractions include Robertson's Trading Store, a link with the ancient fur trade, the government building Mistasinihk Place with its display of traditional Indian art and culture, the Anglican church at Stanley Mission built in the 1850s and the oldest building in Saskatchewan, rock paintings and Nistowiak Falls down-river from Stanley Mission, the Nipekamew Sand Cliffs

south of town, and the glorious opportunities for world-class canoeing, fishing, camping, skiing, and snowmobiling.

Today La Ronge boasts first-class hotels, conference facilities, and restaurants, and a scenic nine-hole golf course at Eagle Point Resort. Come and enjoy the back-to-nature life and the unlimited opportunities of the pristine northern scenery. 🇮🇵



[2]



[3]

[1] La Ronge beach where Archdeacon McKay stepped ashore 105 years ago to build the Anglican Mission School. The Anglican Church was completed in 1909 and is still in use today. (Photo: Graham Guest)

[2] The Nipekamew Sand Cliffs, a 45-minute drive southeast of La Ronge. Layers of compacted sand created 120 million years ago and have been eroded to form giant pillars rising from the river's edge. (Photo: Northern Saskatchewan Archives)

[3] An aerial view of the town on the shore of Lac La Ronge, with a few of the lake's 1,000 islands. (Photo: Graham Guest)



[1]



[2]

Introduction to Managing a Digitization Project Workshop


Submitted by May P. Chan, Treasurer SCAA

Held on March 4-5, 2010 at the Ramada Inn in Regina, the two day workshop introduced the 18 participants, who represented archives, libraries and museums from across Saskatchewan and as far away as Yukon, to the key components of managing a digitization project.^{[1][2]} As pointed out by instructors Rosaleen Hill and Kelly Stewart of the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC), the goal of the workshop was to ensure that digital objects are considered digital assets, not liabilities by going over an eight point plan for managing digitized objects:

1. **Visioning** – reviewing your institutions' mandate and thinking of the big picture as well as the long-term. Most important concept here is the notion of program management vs. project management. Digitization should be thought of as an ongoing sustainable program rather than a project that has a definite end date.
2. **Writing a policy** – a policy should convey the organization's philosophy concerning digital preservation and cover the organizations' current digital capacity and plan for the future. Elements of a digitization policy include vision, roles and responsibilities, format preservation, medium preservation, metadata and finally, intellectual property rights.
3. **Research** – regularly reading up on the digitization trends and discussions surrounding file formats, digital repository software, and preservation techniques to mitigate digital risk
4. **Conducting a self-assessment** – assessing the institution's infrastructure, staff, skills sets and budget. A handy guide is the Northeast Document Conservation Center's (NEDCC) Planning for Digital Preservation: a Self-Assessment Tool, which is freely available online www.nedcc.org/resources/digital/downloads/DigitalPreservationSelfAssessmentfinal.pdf
5. **Identifying and purchasing hardware and software** –

A brief look at some scanner recommendations as well as four types of digital repository software—Dspace, PastPerfect, ContentDM and ICA-AtoM.

6. **Identifying a preservation strategy** – your strategy should look at both bit preservation (not one bit of the file has changed over time) and functional preservation (file is still usable in the same way it was originally created). While digital migration is essential in the strategy, some new preservation concepts that are emerging are emulation (process of mimicking the software or hardware so that other processes think the original equipment/function is still available in its original form) and encapsulation (grouping together a digital object and anything else necessary to provide access to that object).
7. **Describing the assets** – using various metadata schema to enable discovery of digital assets, interoperability and preservation. While there are many metadata schema, the workshop focused on four specific schema: Dublin Core (descriptive and discovery metadata), Encoded Archival Description or EAD (structural metadata), Metadata Encoding and Technical Standard or METS (structural and technical metadata), and Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies or PREMIS (preservation metadata that is still in the conceptual stage).
8. **Storage and maintenance** – Examined the concept of a Trusted Digital Repository (TDR), whose mission is to provide reliable, long-term access to managed digital resources to its designated community, now and in the future.

For those who were unable to attend the workshop or for those who did attend and wanted additional information, Kelly and Rosaleen recommended Cornell University's free online Moving Theory Into Practice: Digital Imaging Tutorial (www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/contents.html).

[1] Graham Guest (Northern Archives), Rosaleen Hill (presenter) Kelly Stewart (presenter)(photo courtesy of Cameron Hart, SCAA Archives Advisor).

[2] Donald Johnson (U of R), Rosaleen Hill and Kelly Stewart (presenter)(photo courtesy of Cameron Hart, SCAA Archives Advisor).



Ask the Expert - Part II

Cameron Hart, SCAA Outreach Archivist

Question:

My parents have given me their trunk of memories and I am anxious to go through everything and can't bear throwing anything away. It contains lots of photos, scrapbooks, letters and even a lock of my brother's baby hair, which I bet he wishes he had back! I want to preserve these memories so I can pass it on to my children and family's generations to come. However, time to work on this can be scattered.

Where do I start?

In part 1 of this column (November 2009 issue) we began answering this question by suggesting ways to create a stable general environment and possible "micro-environments" for the differing materials. We spoke of a constant temperature of 21°C +/- 1.5° and relative humidity of 45% +/- 2% as a "happy medium" for paper-based documents. However, in the recent 2nd Edition of Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler's book *Preserving Archives & Manuscript* (2010), a constant temperature and RH of 18°C +/- 1.5° and 35% +/- 2% is cited for mixed media collections. This highlights that though the temperature and RH may differ slightly, fluctuations in them are to be avoided.

One of those "micro-environments" we spoke of, will contain your letters. As you did at first, conduct a brief inventory of what characteristics your letters have. There may be several differing forms of inks and paper to deal with at various stages of deterioration. Let us be sure the letters are flat and free of possibly damaging fasteners first though.

Letters can be stored in the original envelope they were sent in, as it was deemed to add to the informational value. For instance a letter sent home during wartime from a soldier may include the stamp of the military censor on the envelope or a note sent may include a "Return to Sender" stamp. Arguments can be made for the retention of the associated envelope, but in many cases the envelopes can be discarded.

In either case the letter may have been folded since the letter was first read and so needs to be "relaxed" and flattened. This will allow you to have access to information in the letter without "stressing" it or damaging it. When folded, the fibers of the paper are broken and over time the folding and unfolding of it will eventually break completely resulting in the loss of information. (Never use any tape or adhesives to stick them back together as this will cause more damage)

When organizing your letters you need to be aware of any fasteners used; be they staples, paperclips, rubber bands or those nasty straight pins used in offices to bind memos together (remember when stuck with a pin do not bleed on the original documents!) Though its benefits to people are debatable, the dry climate here in Saskatchewan can have its pluses. When it comes to metal fasteners this climate can be a benefit, as they will not rust as fast. Though, with some natural materials, like rubber bands or adhesive tape, it can be harmful. Just one dried-out rubber band can disintegrate into dust that can contaminate your whole collection, the adhesive on tape will also dry out, allowing the plastic to drop away leaving the dust of the dried out glue to taint the adjacent papers.

You also need to be aware of the potential for physical damage caused by these fasteners. Though they may not be rusting, are paperclips binding the paper, are the staple's sharp points puncturing the adjacent document and are the rubber bands...well just remove the rubber bands.

Replacement of some of these fasteners may be necessary to preserve any relationships between the materials, as with the kept envelopes. For this process use stainless steel paperclips with no grips, I like vinyl covered stainless paperclips for the added protection against the metal on paper. (They also come in many pretty colours!)

Once flat and free of encumbrances we can begin the process of storing them in acid-free folders and in the improved "micro-environment" of an Archival box.

Next we'll deal with those lovely, but difficult, scrapbooks....

If you have a question email Cameron at scaa.advisor@sasktel.net.

Notes from the Committees

Communications Committee

*Submitted by May P. Chan
Treasurer, SCAA*



Greetings! A slight change to our committee as our chair, Linda McIntyre, stepped down from the position last December to devote more time to her new job as the Provincial Archivist. Lucky for us, Linda is not leaving our committee and will continue to provide invaluable input in the creation and production of the e-update and newsletter. In the meantime, I have assumed the duties of the chair.

As previously mentioned, this newsletter is our first paperless edition. Going forward, future editions of the Archives Re-Issue will follow the same paperless format so make sure you update your email address with the SCAA Office when you renew your SCAA membership at the end of March. On behalf of Linda, Rob, Amanda and myself, we hope you enjoy this issue and welcome any feedback you have regarding its content and appearance. We also welcome any articles/stories you have written about your institution, holdings or staff that you wish to share with the larger archival community. Submission deadlines for upcoming newsletters are as follows:

July 5, 2010 - Summer Issue

November 1, 2010 – Fall/Winter Issue

Thank-you and enjoy!

Nominations Committee

*Submitted by Mark Vajcner,
Vice President SCAA*



JOIN THE EXECUTIVE

A Nominations Committee will soon be struck to seek volunteers for the next Executive Committee. The positions available and their general duties are listed below. Please consider putting your name forward for one of these positions. **Directors will be selected at the Annual General Meeting in June 2010.**

For further information, or to put your name forward, please contact Mark Vajcner at 585-5314 or mark.vajcner@uregina.ca.

All directors take an active role in the deliberations and activities of the Executive Committee. Jointly, they plan the activities of SCAA and direct and advise the Executive Director and Archives Advisor. The President and the Institutional Member-at-Large have specific duties:

President (2 year term) – The president presides over meetings of the Executive Committee and the Annual General Meeting. He or she also supervises the Executive Director.

Institutional Member-at-Large (1 year term) – This director,

like all others, contributes to the deliberations of the Executive Committee and engages in the activities of SCAA. He or she also represents SCAA at the General Assembly of the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA). This is an annual event held in Ottawa each October. The Institutional Member-at-Large is nominated from among the institutional representatives.

The remaining three directors have no specific duties, other than contributing to the Executive Committee. These positions are an excellent way for a new member to join the Executive Committee and to learn about SCAA. The positions are:

Secretary (2 year term) – At one time the Secretary had more specific duties. These, however, have been assumed by the Executive Director.

Individual Member-at-Large (2 year term) – The Individual Member-at-Large is nominated from among the individual members of SCAA.

Member-at-Large (2 year term) – This can be either an institutional representative or an individual member.

The Vice-President, Treasurer and one Member-at-Large are each half-way through their two-year terms. These three directors will be continuing on the Executive Committee.

Upcoming SCAA Events

E-update Submissions

are the first Friday of every month. If you would like to include something in an upcoming e-update, please email your submission to Amanda at amanda.perry@b-creativegroup.ca.

SCAA AGM

Plans are underway for the SCAA's Annual General Meeting, which will be held this year in La Ronge during the weekend of **June 18-20, 2010**. Don't forget to mark your calendars!

Remember to check the SCAA website <http://scaa.sk.ca> once all of the details are finalized.

