



# Outside the box

Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists

## President's Message 2015 January

The adjudication of proposals for the 2015 Institutional Grants has finished. The SCAA is very pleased with the number and quality of proposals. I believe this is due to the growing capacity and expertise of our members. Available funds have increased over the last few years, so more proposals can be funded.

In addition to our popular and valuable "Basic Archives" workshop, we have organized more specialized workshops: In October 2014, in association with MAS and CCI, the workshop "Storage and Reorganization" was held in Moose Jaw. Coming up in March 2015 will be the workshop "Emergency Preparedness for Flooding" to be held in Saskatoon.

Archives Week 2015 is come and gone and there were many events throughout the province. Celebrations took place in North Battleford, Humboldt, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Shaunavon, and Whitewood. The large events in Regina and Saskatoon were held in the same venues as in 2014 – The successes in 2014 have brought us back to the Bushwakker Brew Pub and the Basement. To start Archives week, the Saskatoon Heritage Festival took place on Sunday, February 1. I'm certain you, your friends and colleagues attended and enjoyed these events.

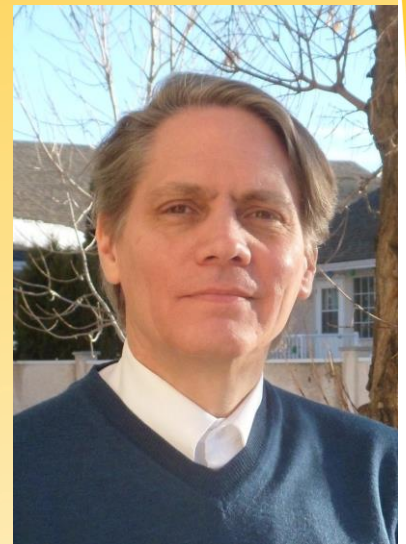
The Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) will be holding their annual conference in Regina in June of 2015. Many of our institutional and individual members are involved in the planning and will be attending the conference. 10 years ago the conference was held in Saskatoon, and 20 years ago it was held in Regina, so there are two anniversaries this year. I encourage you to attend—like the Archives Week events, it is a great opportunity to promote your archives and the fine work you do, and to meet with your peers from across the country.

If you are reading this newsletter, you will have given up permission to send you the document or a link to it. In July 2014, Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation was enacted, and since the SCAA communicates with you using e-mail and web-based channels, we needed your permission to continue to do so. While there has been extra work in becoming compliant, the legislation works to educate people about respect for their attention—something that all of us working the archives can truly appreciate.

The SCAA Executive has begun the creation of our next Strategic Plan (2015-2018). We and our funders are well satisfied with the performance of the SCAA as we adapt to changing archival practices. For this next Plan, we will also be considering Diversity. To better serve you and your institutions, we need to ensure that we and you understand the diversity of Saskatchewan's people, today and in the future.

This year's AGM will take place in Regina just before the ACA conference. The details will be posted closer to the day. With this arrangement, it is hoped the many members in town for the conference will attend the AGM.

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



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## Archives Week 2014

The province proclaimed the 9th annual Archives Week on January 31 for the week of February 2 to 8, 2014.

Archives Week is celebrated the first full week each February in honour of Edmund Oliver. Born February 8, 1881, Oliver was the first professor of history at the University of Saskatchewan and is regarded as the founder of a meaningful archival collection for the province. Archives Week has been celebrated since February 2006, and has become an annual event to recognize the provincial archival community's efforts to preserve and celebrate the province's history.

The events showcased the role that archives and archivists play in preserving and making available Saskatchewan's documentary heritage. Activities in communities across the province include celebrity reading events, film nights, open houses, exhibits and more. With record attendance at many events and new venues greeted with great enthusiasm, Archives Week 2014 was a resounding success.

*"Saskatchewan has a rich history and we owe credit to those in the archival community for helping to document and preserve that history for future generations,"*

**- Central Services Minister Nancy Heppner**



*Graham Guest, of the Northern Saskatchewan Archives, giving a tour of the stacks*



*A guest at the peruses a display created with copies from the Notre Dame Archives and Museum during their AW wine and cheese*

### Archives Week in Pictures:



*Cake from the Archives of the Humboldt & District Museum & Gallery*



*Cameron Hart, SCAA Archives Advisor, talks with a attendee at the SCAA display at the Saskatoon Heritage Festival*





*Humboldt Archives Week Photograph Display*



*2014 Saskatoon Archives Week Activity*



*More from the Notre Dame Archives and Museum wine and cheese night*



*2014 AW :LaRonge Open House Poster*



**Looking back at the Grey Cup  
1951, 1966, 1989**

*2014 Archives Week in Regina poster*

## **North Battleford Historic Archives- Archives Week Report :**

The Archives Week presentation by the City of North Battleford Historic Archives took place on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Frontier Mall from noon to 5 and on Saturday at the Co-op Mall.

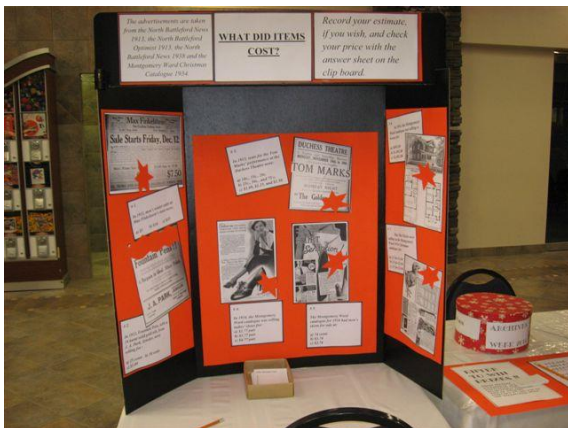
The display and power point titled "The Way We Were"- took a look at historical clothing, furniture, sports, entertainment, and leisure activities. The "Look Back at the 2013 Centennial Year" display boards were comprised of 60 photographs

## North Battleford Archives Week (cont'd)

documenting the year of celebration in our community. Approximately 500 people saw this display and 90 people entered their name into a draw for three prize bags. These prizes were comprised of a Centennial Golf Shirt, Centennial Puzzle, Centennial coin and various other centennial collector items. The winners of this draw were: Julie Imbeau, Dorothy Hogger and Joyce George. Congratulations to these winners!!!



This display was also accompanied by a board with 10 questions regarding prices of by gone years. Prices of furniture, housing, clothing and various other articles that highlighted the difference between past and present prices was a good point of discussion for many visitors at the event.



Several visitors took this opportunity to bring to the event historical photographs and documents that were donated to become part of the archival collection and we thank them for this contribution.



Thank you to SCAA and everyone who attended the City of North Battleford Archives Week 2014 event . We look forward to next year's display with a new and exciting theme.



Left to right : Larry Kulyk, Bill Wells, Leola Macdonald, Barb Sealy, Ken Sanders and Tammy Donahue Buziak – Archivist.





## Archives Week 2015!

With the SCAA entering its 15<sup>th</sup> year we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Archives Week at the beginning of February. The SCAA and communities across Saskatchewan celebrated Archives Week with celebrity Reader events, historic film nights and countless open houses and exhibits focusing on the abundant sources of Saskatchewan's history and heritage in archives. Material and highlights from this year's celebrations will be recounted in the autumn edition of the newsletter.

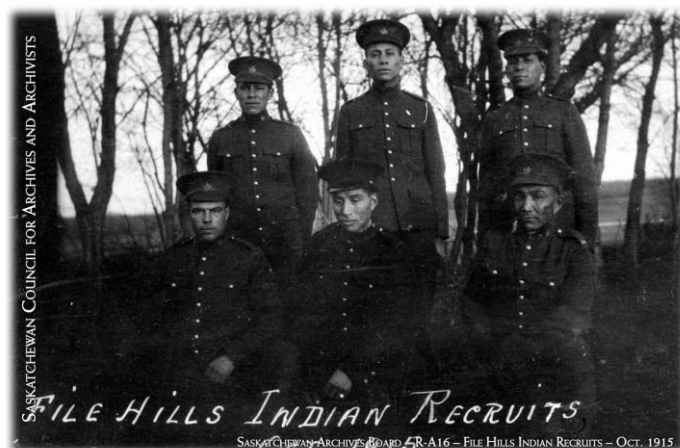
For institutions looking to brainstorm for next year's festivities, the SCAA has put together an ["Archives Week Action Guide"](#) with tips on planning events, undertaking local outreach activities that engage the local media, and encouraging individual archives and archivists to make the most of this time of celebration — their way.

To promote Archives week 2015, the SCAA again produced 4 postcards and 4 bookmarks from images submitted from their members, displayed following.

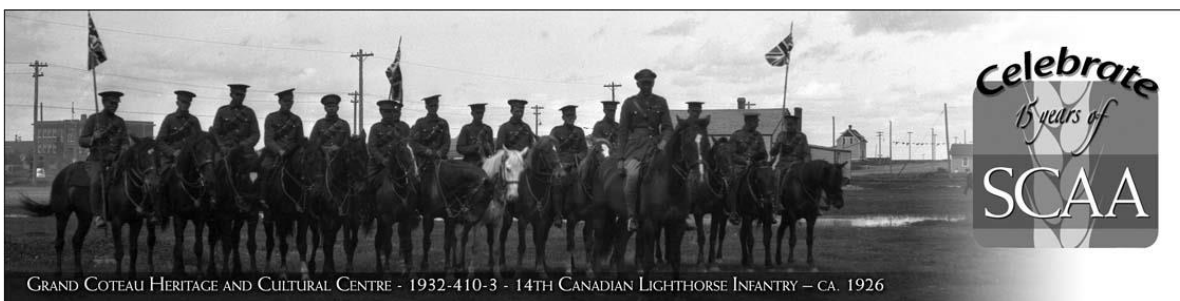
*"Historical texts, photographs, electronic records, films, audio recordings and other archival material have been key resources in the telling of our story. Ensuring this record is preserved and accessible is the responsibility of archivists across the province, and this week is dedicated to celebrating their work and the unique and irreplaceable evidence of our shared history and culture."*

- (2014) SCAA President Cheryl Avery

## 2015 Postcards and Bookmarks:



## 2015 Postcards and Bookmarks (cont'd):





## Abbott Field: The Original "Field of Dreams"

*By Terry Lumsdon*

*City of North Battleford Volunteer Committee Member*

In 1910 a parcel of land South of the CN Railway and West of what is now The Don Ross Center was the location of the Fair Grounds and Race Track. In March of 1920 a meeting was held to organize North Battleford's first Golf Course. A nine hole course perfectly located in this scenic location.



Immediately south off this field was "King Hill". In Winter the hill provided hours of entertainment;



tobogganing, skiing and a huge bonfire at the base. While "King Hill" was a Winter attraction, it was Summer when "Abbott Field" really came to life. This Field hosted many events including the "Ringling Brothers Three Ring Circus". Local Boy John Spencer recalls seeing elephants roaming the area helping set up tents for the big Show.

"Ball Park Hill" became one of Saskatchewan's finest ball parks, displaying one of the most spectacular views of the North Saskatchewan River Valley. In 1950, it became known as "Abbott Field" in Memory of Jack

Abbott, a gentleman who devoted much of his life promoting sports in North Battleford.

There were two main entrances to this remarkable field. One way of entering was to walk over the power plant ravine cooling pond walkway and up the steep wooden steps. The other was to walk under the CN overpass and up the East hill. Many of these city and rural fans may have fond memories of sitting in the shade of their cars having a picnic lunch waiting for Game 2 of a Sunday Double Header.

Recorded organ music playing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" welcomed fans as they filed in to the Ball Park. The smells of fresh popcorn and fried onions drew them in as they came to watch their beloved "Beavers".

The competition was great! . Many future Major League Baseball players were seen honing their talents playing in "Abbott Field".



Some will remember chasing a foul ball or home run ball. The dilemma they faced was to either keep the ball and have Louie Green autograph it or turn it in for five cents.

"Abbott Field" attracted a cast of colorful and entertaining characters both on and off the field. Featuring Yvonne Tiny Gould, Emile Francis' mother, although small in stature her raspy critique of the umpires kept them in check.



Umpires Moe George and Ab Bidart never shied away from a close call. The shrill laughter of Rose Lamson was unforgettable. Another avid fan, Morris Campbell, always left the crowd wanting more of his humorous remarks.

The times were changing as the Community grew and once again the ball field had to move due to the building of the new Bridge on Highway 16 completed in 1967.

The Beavers played their final game in Abbott Field on June 29, 1966. Carman Keller hit the very last home run this park in a 7 to 0 win over the Neilburg Monarchs. The closing ceremony had fan Rose Lamson being awarded the "outhouse door" by Johnny Ford and Ken Nelson.

Take a drive to the scenic Lookout at King Hill, close your eyes and imagine the roar of thousands of fans echoing thru the river valley and Coronation Park. Those Were The Days !

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## U.C.T. - CJNB Guest Night

The United Commercial Travelers of America (UCT) started in the USA January 16 1888. The local chapter, the North Battleford Council No. 645 started in January 16 1888. The local chapter, the North Battleford Council No. 645 started in January 17 1923 and the North Battleford Ladies Auxiliary formed in 1928.

Guest Nights better known as "Amateur Hours" were held in surrounding communities like Edam. Glaslyn, Hafford, Paradise Hill, Wilkie and others. The performance was broadcast over CJNB radio. Local singers, musicians had the opportunity to perform on the radio. Everyone had a radio but few had a TV and reception was poor quality at best. TV came to Saskatoon in 1954 and reliable television came years later.

On most nights about fifteen to twenty individuals or groups would perform in each community. Parents, relatives and friends would pledge money to their favorite group. The group who collected the most money during the show received a cash prize and the opportunity to perform in North Battleford at the Armory building on 702 -102 Street (Edward Street) at the "Annual Final". The Annual Finals of U.C.T. CJNB Guest Night was thought to have occurred on June 2, 1959. CJNB started broadcasting on January 28 1947, on channel 1240 and then later changed to channel 1460 in 1951.

The \$ 75 dollar first prize in 1959 was more than most people earned in a week.



*UCT – CJNB Amateur Guest Night Vehicle. Note parking meters, "Fight Cancer with your Dollars" sign on rear of vehicle, note car fender on right side.*

The program from district points was carried over telephone company long distance lines, in some locations with only one long distance line, long distance calling was postponed till after the Amateur Hour was completed. The announcer would call each group to the stage each performer would give their name, they would also be asked if they wanted to say hello to friends or relatives. One five year old girl said "I want to say hello to my

brother Fred where ever he is!" Eldon Elliott and Alex Johnson were two of the CJNB announcers who worked on these broadcasts.

UCT members who attended all shows were John Black, Charlie Matthews and Stan Rowlands. Some other members who worked on Amateur Hours, were Panos Antaniades, Lyle Abbott, John Bain, Jim Barbour, George Biggs, Jack Calvert, Alf Cashmore, Harvey Elliot, Jerry Feschuk, Al Freeman, Don Grant, Ron Hill, Bob Irwin, Jake Krause, Jack Lamon, Bill Lloyd, Hugo Martin, Ken Richardson, Ray Schell, Jack Schneider, Larry Tatchell and Ray Thompson and others.

All communities are competitive, if Mary Jo raises \$22.00, Joe Blow raises \$20.00 and Billie Beet raised \$25.00 - soon Joe's family and friends would pledge more money, This was repeated numerous times. Most programs were in a community hall, after a few visits to the community watering hole, money flowed freely to all contestants. All contestants performed several times during the evening. U.C.T. announcer would say, the program last week, had raised a couple of hundred dollars more. Soon it was not a competition between individual performers it was a competition between towns, add a little alcohol, pledges increased. Some of these shows lasted past two AM . Thousands of dollars were raised for cancer which has affected most families. Many performers had their moment of fame, performing on CJNB radio.

Past Grand Counselors from North Battleford UCT 645, T.H. Board 1934, J.W. Moffat 1940, C.H. Matthews 1959, Al Choque 1973, Herb Knoll 1984, Don Salie 2005 and John Welykochy 2008

Thanks to Don Salie and John Welykochy for the information.

*Submitted by Harvey Cashmore (City of North Battleford Historic Archives Volunteer Committee Member)*



## About the Newsletter

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

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## Newsletter Submissions

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

Contact us for details on submissions as well as dates and deadlines for upcoming issues. We would be happy to work with you in developing an article, preparing pictures for the newsletter, or discussing other ideas you may have.

## Join the SCAA

Memberships in the SCAA are available for individuals and institutions.

The benefits of membership can be found on the SCAA website:  
<http://scaa.sk.ca/membership/benefits.html>

Also on the website are instructions and forms:  
<http://scaa.sk.ca/membership/how-to-join.html>