

# AABC Newsletter

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Vancouver Art Gallery exhibition entitled "Classified Materials: Accumulations, Archives,  
Artists"

exposes the sad state of institutional archives

*Written By: Jessica Bushey*

After attending the opening of the exhibition "Classified Materials: Accumulations, Archives, Artists" at the Vancouver Art Gallery, I feel compelled to articulate my response to Geoffrey Farmer's evolving site-specific installation entitled "The Hunchback Kit." As one of forty-four artists included in the exhibition that engage in a process of acquiring, arranging, and describing growing accumulations of information in all its material forms, Farmer has chosen to explore the Vancouver Art Gallery's own practice of administrative accumulation via their institutional archives stored in the building's unfinished basement. In doing so, he provides the public with a rare opportunity to discover the conceptual and practical ramifications of acquiring and preserving evidence of the functions and actions of a prominent arts organization over the past seventy-five years. Farmer's evolving site-specific installation exemplifies the thematic exhibition by effectively bringing into question the boundaries between art, archives and ephemera.

Many of the materials that Farmer includes in his installation are borrowed from the storage area located beneath the gallery in the basement of the building, known to the VAG staff as the "catacombs." These poorly lit caverns were once used as holding cells for persons awaiting trial when the building functioned as the provincial courthouse in the early 1900's. Albeit a grim space that does not encourage one to linger, it is now home to the Vancouver Art Gallery's institutional archives along with a host of ephemera that defy classification, squirreled away for future discovery and possible use. It is Farmer's documentation of this area, exhibited as a video slide show on the gallery's second floor, in which sagging boxes, abandoned holiday decorations and clusters of aging operational jetsam invite art patrons to speculate on the integrity of the Vancouver Art Gallery Archives.

Initially Farmer selected boxes from the basement that contained actual archival documents such as the Vancouver Art Gallery's Director Files and miscellaneous Legal Dossiers. The VAG Librarian/Archivist, Cheryl Siegel quickly "rescued" these boxes and returned them to the Archives, explaining that the institutional archives cannot be disrupted for inclusion in an art installation. Her reasoning is soundly based in professional archival theory and practice that states that the duty of an archivist is to protect the intellectual and physical integrity of archival materials. Removing archival materials and rearranging them to fulfill an artistic purpose disrupts their contextual origins and destroys their authenticity, integrity and reliability as primary sources of historical documentation. [It also neglects to take into account privacy issues. — Ed.]

Working within this framework, Farmer selected materials that had gathered in the outlying areas of the archives, such as an artificial Christmas tree, obsolete office equipment wrapped in plastic, and bound books. Farmer's installation challenges viewers to reconcile these abandoned items with the reality of the VAG Archives. By drawing upon a specific site Farmer's installation enters into a dialogue with the Vancouver Art Gallery as an institution which functions within the civic sphere. In doing so Farmer opens an avenue of inquiry into the administrative and financial history of the institutional archives at the Vancouver Art Gallery. More pointedly, viewers are left to question how an arts organization of such stature could fail to properly attend to their archives.

An excellent article about the Vancouver Art Gallery Archives written by Cheryl Siegel, the VAG Librarian/Archivist, is slated for publication in 2006 by the Art Libraries Society and describes the current administrative and financial state of the institutional archives as "... the librarian is more of a volunteer archivist... there is no line in the annual budget for the care and maintenance of the archives." The article explains that the genesis of the VAG Archives and its development mirror the haphazard financial timeline of any arts organization that survives on private donations and grant-driven funding. Without a dedicated budget, the VAG Archives relies upon the work of unpaid interns from the Master of Archival Studies program in the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia to identify and arrange the archival materials and make them accessible for VAG staff and public researchers. Unfortunately the rate at which the institution produces materials far exceeds the piecemeal attempts made by graduate students and leaves no choice, but for "...departments with overflowing files to abandon boxes of inactive records in remote corners of the catacombs."

"Classified Materials: Accumulations, Archives, Artists," is an intriguing exhibition that draws upon human processes of arrangement and classification in response to an ever increasing accumulation of materials and ideas in all their varied forms. The artists selected by the VAG curatorial staff provide a wide range of artistic practices that rigorously address the common theme, and they are to be commended. The exclusion of an archivist's perspective in any of the printed materials accompanying the exhibition and in the planned lecture series, however, is a terrible oversight. Current curatorial practice encourages a pluralistic dialogue, yet this exhibition, which includes the term Archives in its title, excludes the archivist viewpoint from its discussions. Ultimately this curatorial decision (conscious or not) in conjunction with interpretations of Farmer's installation entitled "The Hunchback Kit," turns the public attention inward to expose the Vancouver Art Gallery's own inability to recognize and protect the intrinsic value within their own Archives.

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery has relied upon the efforts of volunteers, staff and board members to provide a public venue for arts and culture. As the 75th Anniversary of the Vancouver Art Gallery rounds the corner there will be an increase in demands for archival photographs and textual records that document and bring to life the activities of ground-breaking Vancouver artists such as Jack Shadbolt; the outreach programming in the 1960's that brought the artworks of Emily Carr to isolated communities in Northern British Columbia by way of a Volkswagen Bus; and the noon-hour performances that introduced the talent of Margie Gillis long before she mesmerized audiences on the world-stage.

The theme of classified materials is important enough to mount an exhibition that spans two floors of the gallery and includes more than forty artists from around the globe, yet the fact remains that the Vancouver Art Gallery Archives persist in a state of neglect. To rectify this situation funding must be added to the annual budget for the exclusive use of maintaining the archives and hiring an assistant archivist. Current inter-disciplinary initiatives in Canada, such as the "Variable Media Project" ([DOCAM](#)) spearheaded by the Daniel Langlois Foundation in Montreal, are incorporating the professional expertise of archivists, curators and artists to forge solutions for preserving new media artworks. With the advent of the digital era the domain of the archivist has been elevated from the shadows of history to the floodlights of the avant-garde. The Vancouver Art Gallery needs to act quickly and recognize the value of its own historical footprint before it's too late.

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Classified Materials: Accumulations, Archives, Artists: Vancouver Art Gallery, October 15  
2005 – January 2, 2006  
by Krisztina Laszlo

Review:

Since starting work as the archivist for the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery in 2000, I have been fascinated by how the idea of archives has worked itself into contemporary art discourse and art practice among artists, curators and cultural theorists and how these individuals interpret and define the concept of archives as place and process.<sup>1</sup> This interest in the archival and subsequently in the investigation of the manner in which societies construct and order memory, stem, in part, from the popularity of texts by Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida in the contemporary art zeitgeist. In particular, Foucault's *The Archaeology of Knowledge* and Derrida's *Archive Fever* have proved influential in their analysis and deconstruction of the way knowledge is constructed and the impulse to preserve evidence of oneself and one's cultural milieu (Derrida linked the urge to archive to the death drive in *Archive Fever*, for example). The show at the Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG), *Classified Materials: Accumulations, Archives, Artists* provides a recent example of this movement in contemporary art.

The artists represented in *Classified Materials* prove an exemplary case study to illustrate the search for meaning within the artistic milieu. According to the press release, *Classified Materials* explores a world of information overload, and how the process of organizing, assembling and ordering materials plays an increasingly vital role in all aspects of society. It further states that the exhibition explores how artists find creative ways to produce meaning through the process of collecting and classification. To achieve this goal, forty-four internationally renowned contemporary artists from Canada, the United States, Asia, Europe and the Middle East are presented to the public. Questions posed in the press release include: "How do artists classify materials that resist classification?" and "How do they determine what is significant or relevant?" One way in which these questions are answered by the curators and the artists is to use archives as both a metaphor and a literal example of the manner in which meaning is created and assigned through artistic production. The question remains, however, if this simile has any relevance for the archival community and whether these artistic interpretations of archivists, archival work and archives are based on a clear understanding of what these terms mean.

After repeated visits to the VAG to review and reflect on the work I was left with one overwhelming observation: this show fundamentally misunderstands what an archives is and what archivists do. To be fair, in the introductory panel to the exhibit the curators have stated that *Classified Materials* "does not attempt to define archiving and accumulation." If this is the case, then what relevance does the question posed above have for the archival community? If the curators decline to define what an archives is, then how can we quibble with the interpretation they provide by their choice of artists and works in the show? Interestingly, however, the introductory text goes on to say that the "exhibition sets out to consider and expand notions of archiving and accumulation within contemporary culture." This contradictory intention seems counter intuitive as, arguably, the viewer would be better able to appreciate the concepts that the artists are exploring in their work if they understood the starting point from which it is based. This, however, assumes that the artists themselves know what an archives is. *Classified Materials* proves that neither the curators nor the artists have a

firm understanding of the traditional definitions assigned to the ideas they claim to be exploring. Indeed, this misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the archives is evident throughout the exhibition and likely stem from a reading of texts by Derrida, Foucault and other postmodern philosophers by cultural theorists, art historians, and by extension the artists who investigate memory and meaning.

Particularly influential has been Derrida's book *Archive Fever*, which explores the urge to archive in terms of Freudian psychoanalysis and how memory and consciousness are proscribed and institutionalized as a way to express unconscious forces of power and knowledge.<sup>2</sup> Foucault, on the other hand, explores the conditions under which meaning is assigned and how meaning is produced to allow for claims of truth based on data produced at the time of creation and interpretation, particularly in terms of written and oral evidence. The common theme that emerges from these texts is the link between memory, the assignment of meaning within societies and the institution that maintain that evidence, namely the archives. Indeed, if one looks only at postmodern writers who explore how societies construct (or deconstruct) knowledge then the interpretation of the archives offered in *Classified Materials* makes sense. The archives becomes a metaphor to express memory and meaning and the artists sorting and classifying of information and ephemera becomes a logical extension of this one dimensional, curatorial view of the archives.<sup>3</sup>

The works shown in *Classified Materials* thus provide examples of a definition of archives based on a reading of postmodern philosophical texts. The curators include works in which artists select, classify and consolidate ephemera to stand in for cultural memory (to be either filled in by the viewer, or mediated through the artist's interpretation) and offer these art practices as representative of archival work. Steven Shearer's scrapbook like collages of found images illustrate this trend. In *Metal Archive*, Shearer has created grids of photographs depicting heavy metal memorabilia that he has collated and presented as a cohesive unit. In essence, Shearer is acting as an indexer by accumulating like images, in this case related to Heavy Metal, and presenting them together in order to make statements about a particular sub-cultural trend and the culture that produced them. The work attempts to be both anthropological and documentary in its depiction of a sociological phenomenon. By imposing order on the disparate elements of heavy metal imagery in *Metal Archive*, and in his other collage works shown in *Classified Materials*, Shearer adds value and meaning to those images. This added value is a direct result of the selection, sorting and classification engaged in by Shearer and is represented as archival in nature. Indeed, Shearer himself refers to the work as an archives assuming that a collection of images (and the process of selection) can be correctly referred to as such.

In addition, other works in *Classified Materials* draw on the process of selection, classification and documentation. Bernd and Hilla Bechers photographs documenting industrial sites and Kate Craig's video of her collection of leopard skin clothing, *Skins: Lady Brute Models Her Leopard Skin Wardrobe*, also show the artistic process of cataloguing evidence of social meaning. In the Bechers' case the goal is to document evidence of industrialization and manufacturing in Europe, including steel plants and water towers, in an era when those sites are becoming abandoned as companies move to third world economic zones. Kate Craig, by contrast, brings the urge to collect and document to a more personal level, depicting herself changing in and out of a succession of leopard printed clothing. In her choice of wardrobe, and in the moments of nudity between costume changes, Craig confronts and challenges the viewer to think about ideas of femininity. The common denominator in these, and in other works in the exhibition, is the urge to preserve memory and to imply a larger cultural and social meaning in the manner in which material evidence of those cultures are sorted and presented to the viewer.

Other artists in *Classified Materials* attempt to draw attention to different aspects of the archives. Geoffrey Farmer's series of installations, *Hunchback Kit*, depict a romanticized view of the archives as a place that is cramped, dusty and cluttered. The work consists of objects brought up from the basement of the Vancouver Art Gallery where, coincidentally, the archives are also stored, and recreated as installation works that exactly mimic the placement of the original objects *in situ*. There are dusty shelving units holding books and catalogues, file cabinets, cardboard storage boxes, miscellaneous furniture, and other debris. These works evoke a sensibility of an archives as a dusty and dirty place where objects and knowledge are stockpiled. In terms of exploiting a sense of place Farmer has succeeded in recreating an image that many people have of an archives as a location for chaos and disorder. This disorder depicted in Farmer's *Hunchback Kit*, provides a needed counterpoint to the order, classification, and indexing of cultural memory found in the rest of the exhibition, and succeeds in depicting one interpretation of the archives as a physical space.

Finally, Roy Arden's photographs should be mentioned for their misrepresentation of archival numbering and the implication that there is something sinister behind the fact that the numbers do not appear in sequential order. In the photo series *Komagatu Maru*, Arden uses archival photographs from the City of Vancouver Archives, depicting a 1914 incident involving the ship *Komagatu Maru*. The ship contained approximately 375 Indians wanting to immigrate to Canada and who were refused entry on the basis of Canada's exclusionary immigration laws that had been created to halt the influx of non-white peoples into the country. The ship sat in Vancouver's harbour for two months, and was eventually forced to return to India after allowing only a small handful of its passengers to leave the ship and enter the country. Arden's version of the incident is depicted through a selection of archival photographs on which he has copied the archives accession numbers onto the surface of each image. According to the label text accompanying the photographs, "The gaps in the number sequence signal that the 'truth' of the archives is always incomplete, changing, provisional." Had the artist, or the curators, consulted with the City of Vancouver Archives, or a professional archivist, they would have realized that there are some very practical reasons why gaps in the sequence of numbers may exist, and that none of them refer to something that may be missing or the archives attempt to impose their own interpretations on historical events. Very simply, the photographs may have come from different accessions (hence a different number would be assigned), or processed at different times, or taken by different photographers, or any number of other innocent explanations as to why the numbers appear as they do. However, archivists are aware that no archives contains all the information possible about a particular event or period in history, or that there are no limits on the way the materials in their holdings may be interpreted by those accessing the materials. Perhaps this is the larger truth that Arden was attempting to evoke in his work.

As noted in the above examples, *Classified Materials* relies on a reading of archives and collections as metaphors for memory and meaning. This interpretation manifests itself in the selection of works by the curators and the manner in which the artists included in the exhibition have responded to the challenges of contemporary culture through an artistic production that incorporates ephemera, indexing, collecting, sorting, accumulating and providing contextual affiliations among cultural objects. As archivists, however, we know that an archives is one of three things: the place where records are kept, the records made or received in the process of carrying out an activity or the institution responsible for the records and all associated activities. Neither the professional definitions nor the curatorial interpretation of the archives need to dominate over the other when an institution creates an exhibition that purports to explore the nature of archives, but a multi-dimensional view of the archives incorporating both perspectives would have provided greater depth to the exhibition. Indeed, if the curators do not want to define what an archives is, as stated in their exhibit objectives, then why limit it to one definition, albeit one that manifests itself in multiple ways in the work of the artists included in *Classified Materials*?

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1. See my article "The Fonds and Creative Licence: The Morris/Trasov Archive" in the Spring 2001 issue of this newsletter for a discussion of how one archive, created by artists, has interpreted the idea of the archive and how their definition differs from the traditional one offered by the archival profession.
  2. For an in depth discussion of Archive Fever, see Susan van Zyl, "Psychoanalysis and the Archive: Derrida's *Archive Fever*," in *Refiguring the Archive*, eds. Carolyn Hamilton, et al. (The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002, pp 39-59.
  3. Hal Foster in "Archives of Modern Art," *Design and Crime and Other Diatribes* (London: Verso, 2002) p. 65, explains that he defines the term archives "as Michel Foucault used it, to stand for 'the system that governs the appearance of statements,' that structures the particular expressions of a particular period." and that an archive simply "supplies the terms of discourse."

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## British Columbia Archival Network News

### New and Notable on the Web

#### 1) Digital Heritage Project - BC Central Coast Archives

The BC Central Coast Archives in Bella Coola has recently launched its Digital Heritage Project, incorporating historic theme pages, educational resources, and an online historical photograph database. Check it out at [www.bellacoolamuseum.ca/en/digital\\_heritage/index.php](http://www.bellacoolamuseum.ca/en/digital_heritage/index.php).

#### 2) "At Home in the Yukon" - Yukon Archives

This newest online exhibit from the Yukon Archives provides an intimate look at the lives of Yukoners over the past one hundred years. Using photographs, maps, and oral histories from their holdings, the exhibit depicts the stories of Yukon First Nations and non-First Nations people. The exhibit is accessible at [www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives/athomeintheyukon/](http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives/athomeintheyukon/).

#### 3) Yukon Archives on CaNWAN

The Yukon Archives has recently revised all of its fonds- and collection-level descriptions. These revisions, along with descriptions of newly-processed fonds and collections, have now been incorporated on the Yukon Archival Union List accessible as part of the Canadian North West Archival Network (CaNWAN). CaNWAN is available on the AABC server at [aabc.bc.ca/aabc/canwan.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/canwan.html).

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### British Columbia Archival Union List -- New Descriptions on the Database

New and revised descriptions have been recently added from 15 archival institutions in the province. For a listing of these descriptions, please consult the "New Descriptions on the BCAUL" page at [aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newbcaul.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newbcaul.html).

Archives in the province are reminded that new and revised BCAUL descriptions should be submitted to the BC Archival Network Service Program. For more information on the various ways submissions can be made, people are asked to contact Bill Purver, BCANS Coordinator, by phone (604-876-9150), by fax (604-876-9850) or by email at [bpurver@aabc.bc.ca](mailto:bpurver@aabc.bc.ca).

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## Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia -- Recent Updates

The following is information recently updated on the AABC's online directory, *A Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia* ([aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcguide.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcguide.html)):

### 1) Archives of the Diocese of Prince George

New contact name: Jo-Anne Allison , Archivist  
New phone number: (250) 964-4424

### 2) City of Coquitlam

New contact name: Terra Dickson  
New phone number: 604-927-3016  
New email address: [tdickson@coquitlam.ca](mailto:tdickson@coquitlam.ca)

### 3) Douglas College Archives

New contact name: Carole Compton-Smith  
New phone number: 604-527-5182  
New email address: [compton-smithc@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:compton-smithc@douglas.bc.ca)

### 4) Greater Vernon Museum and Archives

New contact name: Barbara Bell  
New email address: [archives@vernonmuseum.ca](mailto:archives@vernonmuseum.ca)

### 5) Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society Archives

New email address: [gog.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:gog.info@pc.gc.ca)

### 6) Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

New contact name: Sarah Shea  
New phone number: 604-443-4171  
New email address: [sarah.shea@icbc.com](mailto:sarah.shea@icbc.com)

### 7) Summerland Museum and Heritage Society

New contact name: Merlin Rosser , Curator

### 8) Simon Fraser University Archives

New email address: [britt@sfu.ca](mailto:britt@sfu.ca)

### 9) British Columbia Central Coast Archives

New web site: [www.bellacoolamuseum.ca/en/archives.php](http://www.bellacoolamuseum.ca/en/archives.php)

### 10) City of Surrey Archives

New contact name: May Chan, Reference Archivist  
New email address: [MChan@surrey.ca](mailto:MChan@surrey.ca)  
New hours of operation: Friday-Saturday, 10:00-4:00  
New web site:  
[www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/What+To+See/City+of+Surrey+Archives/default.htm](http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/What+To+See/City+of+Surrey+Archives/default.htm)

## 11) U'Mista Cultural Centre

New contact name: Andrea Sanborn

## 12) Kaatza Station Museum

New email address: [kaatzamuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:kaatzamuseum@shaw.ca)

## 13) Nelson Museum

New email address: [mail@nelsonmuseum.ca](mailto:mail@nelsonmuseum.ca)

## 14) Comox Archives and Museum

New contact name: Lynette Gallant , Archivist

New phone number: (250) 339-2885

New email address: [comoxmuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:comoxmuseum@shaw.ca)

New hours of operation: Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 pm

## 15) City of Vancouver Archives

New web address: [www.vancouver.ca/archives](http://www.vancouver.ca/archives)

## 16) United Church of Canada BC Conference Archives

New contact: Grant Bracewell , Interim Archivist

New email address: [united-archives@vst.edu](mailto:united-archives@vst.edu)

## 17) Anglican Diocese of New Westminster Archives

New contact: Melanie Wallace , Archivist

## 18) Anglican Provincial Synod of BC and Yukon Archives

New contact: Melanie Wallace , Archivist

## 19) British Columbia Teachers' Federation

New contact: David Stange

New email address: [dstange@bctf.ca](mailto:dstange@bctf.ca)

New web address: [www.bctf.ca/](http://www.bctf.ca/)

New hours of operations: Monday to Friday, 8-4

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## British Columbia Archival Network Service - Contact Information

Archives or archivists wishing to submit new information for any of the AABC's web resources, including new or revised descriptions for the *BC Archival Union List* and the online *Guide to Archival Repositories in BC*, should contact Bill Purver at the BC Archival Network Service program (Phone: 604-876-9150 ; Fax: 604-876-9850 ; Email: [bpurver@aabc.bc.ca](mailto:bpurver@aabc.bc.ca)).

For more information about the program, people are asked to consult the BC Archival Network Service homepage at [aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html).

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# AABC Newsletter

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## AABC Workshop: "Managing Electronic Records"

As a participant, I always enter a workshop full of hope and expectation that the workshop will solve all my problems and the problems of all the other participants, too. That was certainly the case on attending Jim Suderman's "Managing Electronic Records" on Monday, Feb. 20. A good representation of archivists from institutions both large and small showed up to hear sage advice from Jim Suderman, member of the Canadian research team of the InterPARES 2 Project.

His first advice was to read everything you can get your hands on including history, organizational theory, e-mail management, archival description, and newspapers. Talk to everyone as well – other archivists, business people, techies, anyone who currently stores records electronically. He shared some web site information and suggested the following as consistently good:

- [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/electronicrecords/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/electronicrecords/) (life cycle of records)
- [www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page\\_ID=20865](http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=20865) (good general information)
- [www.dma.be/david/website/eng/index2.htm](http://www.dma.be/david/website/eng/index2.htm) (preservation formats from Belgium)
- [www.interpares.org](http://www.interpares.org) (case studies)

Jim spoke at length on the Australian (state of Victoria) electronic records strategy which uses a PDF format because that standard is freely available, can be generated from many applications, has a reasonable file size and can be hyper-linked. The disadvantages are that the documents can only be read as long as the supporting application as well as the system it runs on still exists. On top of that, PDF can't be used for spreadsheets. Their strategy is available at [www.prov.vic.gov.au/vers/vers/default.htm](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/vers/vers/default.htm).

He also included the National Archives of Australia which operates with three platforms: quarantine (records are virus-checked), preservation processing (records are normalised - converted to XML), and storage in a digital repository where original, binary, and normalised copies are kept. Information on their system is available at: [www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/preservation/digital/digital\\_repository.html](http://www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/preservation/digital/digital_repository.html).

So many questions arose when it came to the subject of appraisal. Are the records authentic? Can the creator and the date of creation be verified? Can your archives support the records as they exist in their operation setting or will you have to convert them? Once converted, will they still be accessible? Will you do the conversion or will the creator? Will you need to spend additional money to hire a good technician? What about copyright issues? Has the creator arranged the records and documented that arrangement or is the material raw and undocumented? Does a duplicate exist in hard copy? If so, can you see an advantage in having an electronic copy? Can you store the records properly? Is the functionality of the record important? For example, is it enough to have the individual pages of a web site or should you actually be able to use it? What kind of systems documentation exists? For example, do you have a list of fields and their definitions for a database? Or do you have the internal structure for a relational database? Will the creator be able to give you a history of significant changes to the database over time that may or may not affect your appraisal? Overall, what extra costs in staff time, equipment, and specialized help will be involved?

Acquisition of electronic records requires the gathering of more information than the transfer of paper records. The

## SFU Bowls Away the Competition



On a cold and rainy night in December archivists from UBC and the City of Vancouver answered SFU's bowling challenge and met for the chance to lay claim to the inaugural *Doughty Cup*. After the excitement of donning "gently used" shoes and learning how to keep score the old-fashioned way by hand, twenty-two bowlers got down to business.

Each team brought their own well-honed strategy to the game – the City of Vancouver archivists relied on karma and the heavens to guide their teams formed by astrological signs; UBC (and the librarian they snuck in) played it cool and relaxed despite talking big before the game; while SFU played with intensity and flair in their dashing team uniforms.

Gutter balls and strikes were celebrated with cheers and jeers alike and many bowlers were seen displaying what could only be described as unique and original bowling styles! After two games and a tally of final scores, Ian, Paul, Lisa and Richard from SFU claimed first place and bragging rights with a team average of 395. Nancy, Barbara, and Rosaleen from the City of Vancouver came in second with 337, while Alan, Bronwen and Leslie from UBC took third place with 332 points. Upon the official publication of results, grumblings were heard from Richmond archivists who proclaimed that they could have easily taken the cup had they been able to attend.

Plans are now underway for the next event that will give UBC, Richmond, and the City of Vancouver a chance to dethrone SFU and claim a title of their own. Until then, SFU proudly displays the *Doughty Cup* in their office high atop the hill.

**Lisa Beitel**

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Luciana Duranti receives the UBC Killam Research Prize  
*by Greg Kozak*

Dr. Luciana Duranti, Professor in the Archival Studies graduate programs (MAS and PhD) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, will be honoured as one of the recipients of the UBC Killam Research Prize in March 2006. This prestigious award is made annually to prominent researchers at UBC in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

The award is given only to scholars whose research has international significance. Professor Duranti has made enormous contributions internationally to the field of Archival Studies as it addresses the challenge of the long-term preservation of the authenticity of records created and maintained in digital form. In doing so, she has initiated and led two internationally-funded research projects, InterPARES (**International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems**) I and II. She has also received funding from UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme to support the dissemination of the InterPARES Project's results in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Dr. Duranti has taught in the archival program at UBC since 1987. Prior to this, she was a Researcher-Professor in the Special School for Archivists and Librarians at the University of Rome, Italy (1982-87); served as State Archivist in the State Archives of Rome (1978-82); and was Project Archivist for the Italian National Research Council (1974-77). Professor Duranti holds a Doctorate in Arts (1973) and graduate degrees in Archival Science from the University of Rome (1975), and in Archivistics, Paleography, and Diplomatics from the School of Archivistics, Paleography and Diplomatics of the State Archives of Rome (1979).

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# AABC Newsletter

Volume 16 No. 1 Winter 2006

## 2006 ACA Institute

The ACA is delighted to announce the theme for the 2006 ACA Institute which will be held immediately before the annual conference in St John's, Newfoundland, on Monday and Tuesday, 26-27 June 2006.

The theme for the 2006 Institute is: "ARCHIVES IN THE WAKE OF HUGH TAYLOR: SHAPING ARCHIVAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY". With Taylor's passing in September 2005, it is appropriate to hold a kind of "wake" for him, to consider archives in his wake, or the legacy for our work today of Canada's premier archival thinker.

The Institute's aim is to integrate new ideas and approaches to a variety of archival tasks into an overall view of how archival programmes may be best conceived and implemented to meet the key challenges we face. The Institute will [use Taylor's ideas as a springboard for a discussion of this aim that also draws on a wide range of archival writers and experiences. These challenges affect the day-to-day work planning and service delivery of the vast majority of archives. Taylor tackled these challenges with his imaginative insights and spurred further research into them (for instance, in the areas of contextual description, macroappraisal, electronic records, and relationships with other heritage and information specialists).

In break-out groups, participants will consider the practical workplace challenges that they will have prepared and submitted in advance of the event. Each participant will receive several weeks before, covered by the registration fee, a copy of *Imagining Archives: Essays and Reflections* by Hugh A Taylor (2003, edited by Terry Cook and Gordon Dodds), as well as other material.

The ACA is fortunate to have secured as Institute leaders Terry Cook and Tom Nesmith, two of Canada's foremost archival educators who have both written and taught about Hugh Taylor's ideas. Both are professors in the two-year Archival Studies MA program at the University of Manitoba and are well known as writers and lecturers on many archival subjects, in Canada and abroad.

Institute fees have been lowered to encourage ACA Conference attendees to arrive a bit early for what promises to be a stimulating exploration of archival theory and practice. For ACA members the registration fee is \$500 (plus HST & \$10 mailing fee for participants from outside of Canada). The fee for non-ACA members is \$675 (plus HST & \$10 mailing fee for participants from outside of Canada). These fees include all course materials, two lunches, and four refreshment breaks. Maximum participation is capped at 25, so register now for this special event.

Registration forms and other information sheets for participants are available on the ACA website ([www.archivists.ca/prodev/aca\\_institute.aspx](http://www.archivists.ca/prodev/aca_institute.aspx)). If you have questions about this exciting opportunity, please contact the ACA Education Committee Chair.

We look forward to seeing you at the Institute in St. John's!

Denise Jones ([dejones@gov.mb.ca](mailto:dejones@gov.mb.ca))

Chair, ACA Education Committee  
[www.archivists.ca](http://www.archivists.ca)

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# AABC Newsletter

Honorary Patron:

*The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia*

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[aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newsletter](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newsletter)

How to join the AABC

[aabc.bc.ca/aabc/meminfo.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/meminfo.html)

The AABC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Archives Association of British Columbia. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the AABC.

Got news? Send AABC news, tips, suggestions or letters to the editor: [Jennifer Jansen](#)

Deadlines for each issue are one month prior to publication.

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Please supply all submissions in electronic format, as either .txt, WP7, WORD 97/2000/XP or via e-mail

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## AABC Education and Advisory Service

13 August 2006

After three years of service, Linda Wills stepped down from the position of Education and Advisory Archivist for the AABC at the end of July. Linda is now doing independent contract work for small archives and I wish her well in all her new adventures. I also want to thank her for passing on the records generated by the service, although it has not yet become clear to me, in my small condominium, where '2.1 m. of textual records and other material' will be stored. All teasing aside, I am humbled by the hard work that has clearly been put into this position by all former advisors: Bill Purver, Jan Turner, Patti O'Byrne, Diedre Simmons, and Linda. I hope I can follow in their enthusiastic footsteps. Seeing as I am only two weeks into this job, I thought that I would take this opportunity to tell you about myself and my work experiences.

September will mark ten years since I entered the Master of Archival Studies program at UBC. My internship was spent in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania working on the William Penn Land Survey Conservation Project. The state archives holds several thousand seventeenth century land grants, many authored by the state's founder, which had been laminated in the 1960s. The Penn Project worked to delaminate, mend, deacidify, and encapsulate as many documents as possible over a three year period. It was an incredible experience and it gave me an appreciation for the document as an artifact in addition to as a record. Needless to say, I am a huge believer in providing proper care for records and I preach the doctrine of reversibility!

When I graduated I decided to look for work outside the Lower Mainland. I headed east to Toronto where I worked, under the Young Canada Works program, at the Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives for a summer. But the west coast called me back and I have worked, since 1999, for a variety of institutions in and around Vancouver. The last five years found me working as an archivist at the New Westminster Museum and Archives, as a contract researcher for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, and spending a year in Arizona starting an archives from scratch. Most recently I had the opportunity to work at the Vancouver Office of Library and Archives Canada. I feel fortunate that I have had an opportunity to see so many different repositories and I understand the challenges that come with working in archives which have very modest funding, few staff, and limited resources.

I am very much looking forward to this position with the AABC and I am eager to start visiting archives and delivering distance education courses. "Introduction to Archival Practice" starts October 1<sup>st</sup> and I am keen to 'meet' the students. If a workshop or a site visit is of interest to you, please check the Advisory Service section of the AABC website and contact me. <http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/advisor.html>

As anyone who had Linda visit their repository in the past will know, the role of the Advisory Archivist is that of a friend and support person, not a judge or a critic. Contact me soon as I am planning for 2007 now. The Education and Advisory Service is always available for comments, suggestions, and new ideas. I would love to hear from our membership – what is it that I can do for you and your archives?

Jenn Roberts  
604-295-0299  
[jroberts@aabbc.bc.ca](mailto:jroberts@aabbc.bc.ca)

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# AABC Newsletter

Volume 16 No. 2-4 Spring-Fall 2006

## Executive Biographies

**Val Billesberger**, a graduate of the Master of Archival Studies Program, is the part-time Archivist & Records Manager at the Mission Community Archives and a consultant in field of archives administration and records management for non-profit groups and local public bodies. She has been actively involved in the AABC for the past 15 years, serving on the Grants Committee (1991-1994), Editor of the Newsletter (1992-1994) and the Regional Representative for the Fraser Valley (1994-2005). Val has also assisted with planning conferences (Local Arrangements Chair in 1998 and Program Chair 2005) and taught numerous courses and workshops for the association.

**Ramona Rose** is the Head of the Northern BC Archives & Special Collections unit at the University of Northern British Columbia. Ramona has served as the AABC Regional Representative of the Central Interior Northeast from 2001-2005. She also has served on local community heritage association boards including the Prince George Heritage Commission and the Prince George Oral History Society. Ramona has worked in archives and the heritage collections management field for over sixteen years and is looking forward to serving the AABC as the Institutional Member at Large.

**Lisa Beitel** has been working as a Special Projects Archivist at the Simon Fraser University Archives for the past 2½ years. Since graduating with a M.A.S. degree from UBC in 2001 she has worked as an Archivist at the City of Calgary Archives and as the Heritage Collections Officer at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site. She also continues to work at the Vancouver Maritime Museum, where since 1999, she has worked in school program development and programming, visitor services and interpretation, and with the museum's archives and artifact collections. She has been an active volunteer for the AABC since 2002 serving as Secretary, Individual-Member-at-Large, and Programme Chair for the 2003 Nanaimo conference.

**Richard Dancy** is Special Projects Archivist at the Simon Fraser University Archives, where he has worked since 1998 after graduating from UBC's archival program. Richard first served with the AABC in 1999 when he joined the Public Awareness, Advocacy and Legislation Committee and worked on the AABC's response to changes in access and privacy legislation.

**Lisa Codd** is the curator at the Burnaby Village Museum. She holds a Master's Degree in History from Simon Fraser University. Lisa has served the AABC on the conference committee for the past three years, and was active in the Fraser Valley Regional Group before moving to Vancouver in 2005. Lisa also serves on the Council of the BC Museums Association.

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## British Columbia Archival Network News

### New and Notable on the Web

#### 1) City of Richmond Archives -- "Richmond Schools: What's in a Name"

A new online historical resource, "[Richmond Schools - What's in a Name?](#)" traces the expansion of the Richmond school system over the past 125 years, emphasizing how and why each school was given its name, and therefore, a part of its identity. The exhibit is organized into sections corresponding to periods of growth and development within the Richmond school system and in the community itself.

#### 2) University of British Columbia Archives -- "Japanese Maps of the Tokugawa Era" Now Online

As a part of its growing online "Digital Resources" program, UBC Archives has recently mounted a stunning collection of 285 maps of Japan from the Tokugawa era. You can browse through the online collection at <http://angel.library.ubc.ca/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Ftokugawa>.

#### 3) Archives Society of Alberta - Newly-redesigned Web Site Launched

The Archives Society of Alberta recently launched its newly-redesigned web site, incorporating Association information and various online resources including the Archives Network of Alberta, Alberta InSight, and Alberta InWord. Consult the site at <http://www.archivesalberta.org>.

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### British Columbia Archival Union List -- New Descriptions on the Database

Archives in the province are reminded that new and revised BCAUL descriptions should be submitted to the BC Archival Network Service Program. For more information on the various ways submissions can be made, people are asked to contact Bill Purver, BCANS Coordinator, by phone (604-876-9150), by fax (604-876-9850) or by email at [bpurver@aabc.bc.ca](mailto:bpurver@aabc.bc.ca).

The following are new or revised descriptions recently submitted and added to the *British Columbia Archival Union List* at [aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcaul.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcaul.html):

## **British Columbia Archives:**

British Columbia Government Employees Union fonds  
John T.E. Gowlland fonds  
Pidcock family fonds

## **British Columbia Medical Association Archives:**

Dr. J.H. MacDermot fonds  
Dr. A.M. Davidson fonds  
British Columbia Anesthesiologists' Society fonds  
British Columbia Association of Laboratory Physicians fonds  
British Columbia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons fonds  
British Columbia Psychiatric Association fonds  
British Columbia Radiological Society fonds  
British Columbia Society of Internal Medicine fonds  
British Columbia Surgical Society fonds  
British Columbia Thoracic Society fonds  
Committee on Medical Economics of British Columbia fonds  
Osler Society of Vancouver fonds  
Vancouver Medical Association fonds  
Westminster Medical Association fonds  
Dr. Frank Turnbull fonds  
Dr. George Elliot Seldon fonds  
Dr. G.F. Strong fonds  
Dr. H.H. Milburn fonds  
Dr. Peter Banks fonds  
Dr. Geoffrey Robinson fonds

## **City of Richmond Archives:**

Richmond Artists Guild fonds  
Richmond United Church collection  
Richmond Summer Games Society fonds  
B.C. Blueberry Co-operative Association fonds  
FISH Richmond fonds  
Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society fonds  
Fraser Agricultural Society collection  
Richmond Lumber Company collection  
Ruth Helena Estabrooks fonds  
Steveston Ratepayers and Household Association fonds  
Boy Scouts of Richmond fonds  
Thompson family fonds  
Richmond British Columbia Centennial '71 Committee fonds  
Royal Canadian Legion, Richmond Branch No. 5 fonds  
Archie Kelly fonds  
Gordon McBurney fonds  
Lubzinski brothers and Marine Products Company collection  
Audrey Wylie photograph collection  
Richmond Community Services Advisory Council fonds  
David Hobson litigation collection  
Victorian Order of Nurses, Richmond Branch fonds  
Robert Gordon collection  
South Arm Community Association fonds  
Richmond General Hospital Society fonds  
Fraser River Pilots' Association fonds

## **City of Vancouver Archives:**

Harry Barratt fonds  
Gordon Price fonds  
Green and Huckvale Advertising Ltd. fonds

### **Cortes Island Museum and Archives:**

Cortes Island Ratepayers Association fonds  
Gilean Douglas fonds  
Regional Director of Area I (Cortes Island) fonds

### **Nanaimo Community Archives:**

Methodist Church Sunday School fonds  
Norman Barrass fonds  
William E. Bray fonds  
City of Nanaimo Pound fonds  
Arthur Hyde Chambers fonds  
Addison family fonds  
Ashlar Lodge No. 3 (Nanaimo) collection  
Nanaimo Community Archives Beban House collection  
Britannia Hotel fonds  
Canadian Federation of University Women - Nanaimo fonds  
Doreen Ketchen fonds  
Cottle family collection  
Devlin, Beck family fonds  
Dominion Express Company (Nanaimo) fonds  
Empire Day Celebration Committee fonds  
Fred Taylor collection  
Freeman family fonds  
Jack E. Work fonds  
Mayo Lumber Company collection  
Lawless family fonds  
Leighton family fonds  
Malaspina Hotel collection  
Marcia Galloway fonds  
Martha A. Kenny fonds  
Mary Hardy fonds  
Pacific Coast Militia Rangers Association (Nanaimo) fonds  
McGill, Cunningham family fonds  
Nanaimo Power and Sail Squadron fonds  
Nanaimo Ratepayers Association fonds  
Nanaimo Recreation Commission fonds  
Neck Point and Piper's Lagoon Parks collection  
Wagstaff family fonds  
Perry family collection  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Nanaimo) collection  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Nanaimo) fonds  
Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (Nanaimo Chapter) fonds  
Salute to Frank Ney Committee fonds  
Seiriol Williams fonds  
St. Andrew's United Church collection  
Thomas Nicholson fonds  
Woodman family collection  
Wallace Street Methodist Church collection  
Welch family fonds  
Beatrice Willgress fonds  
William (Bill) Drummond Loudon fonds  
William McGregor fonds

William B. Smith fonds

## **Quesnel and District Museum and Archives:**

Carson family photograph collection  
Alex and Gertrude Fraser photograph collection  
School District No. 28 (Quesnel) fonds  
Quesnel Cariboo Observer photograph collection

## **Simon Fraser University Archives:**

Student Services fonds  
Office of the Vice-President, University Services fonds  
Office of the Vice-President, Academic and Provost fonds  
Office of the Associate Vice-President, Academic fonds  
Academic Planning Services fonds  
Academic Relations Office fonds  
Institute of Public Policy Analysis fonds  
Kelowna School of Resource Management fonds  
SFU Archives Simon Fraser collection  
SFU Archives poster collection  
SFU Archives publications about SFU collection  
Press Gang Publishers fonds  
Facilities Management fonds  
University Advancement fonds  
Media and Public Relations Office fonds  
Art Gallery fonds  
Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies fonds  
Kathleen Hudson Women's Bookstore collection  
Frances Wasserlein fonds  
Candace Parker women's movement collection  
Peter Poole fonds  
SFU Archives Gordon Shrum collection  
Robert F. Harrison fonds  
W. Randle Iredale fonds  
SFU Archives apiculture (beekeeping) collection  
SFU Archives Association of University and College Employees collection  
Margaret Benston fonds  
Vivien Leong recycling collection  
Simon Fraser Student Society fonds  
John F. Ellis fonds  
Cliff Lloyd fonds  
Peak Publications Society fonds  
Teaching Support Staff Union fonds  
Working Women Unite fonds  
Association of Canadian Publishers fonds  
Non-Faculty Teachers Association fonds  
Women's Studies Association of British Columbia fonds  
Port Coquitlam Area Women's Centre fonds  
Simon Fraser University Faculty Women's Association fonds  
West Coast Line fonds  
Makara Magazine fonds  
Women's Cultural Exchange fonds  
Simon Fraser Teachers' Union fonds  
Canadian Association of Geographers, Western Division fonds  
British Columbia Honey Producers Association fonds  
British Columbia Student Federation fonds  
Faculty of Business Administration fonds  
Hugh Johnston fonds

## **Trinity Western University Archives:**

Trinity Western University audio/visual collection  
Canadian Evangelical Theological Association fonds  
Financial Services fonds  
Development fonds  
University Advancement fonds  
Institute of Aviation fonds  
Admissions Office fonds  
Faculty Association fonds  
Douglas Shantz fonds  
Richard Walters fonds  
Trinity Western University Student Association fonds  
Associated Canadian Theological Schools fonds  
Hudson's Bay Company/Langley Farm collection  
Trinity Western University maps collection

## **University of British Columbia Archives:**

Douglas T. Kenny fonds  
John B. Macdonald fonds  
Guy Palmer fonds  
Evi Whittaker fonds  
UBC subject file collection  
Player's Club Alumni fonds  
Campus Planning and Development fonds  
Wilson Duff fonds  
Robert Osborne fonds  
Department of Pathology fonds  
Stephen Straker fonds  
Elliot Weisgarber fonds  
"The Corporation" fonds  
Juda Quastel fonds  
W.H. Mathews fonds

## **University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections:**

Alan Twigg fonds  
Albert F. Reeve fonds  
Leslie D. Copan fonds  
Homer Stevens fonds  
Radio Canada International recordings collection  
Robert Laird Borden fonds  
Henry Ralston fonds  
Georges Bugnet fonds  
Alpheus Hyatt Verrill fonds  
Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform fonds

## **University of Northern British Columbia Archives:**

Mary Fallis fonds  
Noel Humphreys fonds

## **University of Victoria Archives:**

Barbara Ann Roberts fonds

## University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections:

Gray Campbell fonds  
Lawrence Durrell collection  
Henry Miller collection  
Rona Murray fonds  
Alfred Perles fonds  
Baptist Noel Turner fonds  
Cavenagh family fonds  
Cyrus Peck fonds  
Robert Seaborn fonds  
William W. Duncan fonds  
50th Regiment Gordon Highlanders of Canada fonds  
88th Regiment Victoria Fusiliers fonds

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## Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia -- Recent Updates

The following is information recently updated on the AABC's online directory, *A Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia* ([aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcguide.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcguide.html)):

### 1) Mennonite Historical Society of BC Archives

New contact: David Giesbrecht

### 2) Delta Museum and Archives

New web address: [www.corp.delta.bc.ca/EN/main/residents/museum.html](http://www.corp.delta.bc.ca/EN/main/residents/museum.html)

### 3) Kamloops Museum and Archives

New email address: [scross@kamloops.ca](mailto:scross@kamloops.ca)

New web address: [www.kamloops.ca/museum/archives.shtml](http://www.kamloops.ca/museum/archives.shtml)

### 4) City of Burnaby Archives

New email address: [archives@burnaby.ca](mailto:archives@burnaby.ca)

New web site: [www.burnaby.ca/cityhall/departments/archvs.html](http://www.burnaby.ca/cityhall/departments/archvs.html)

### 5) West Vancouver Museum and Archives

New email address: [mhardbattle@westvancouver.ca](mailto:mhardbattle@westvancouver.ca)

### 6) Providence Health Care Archives

New contact: Donna I. Humphries

New e-mail address: [dhumphries@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto:dhumphries@providencehealth.bc.ca)

New hours of operation: Monday-Tuesday (every week), Wednesday (1st and 3rd weeks only), 8-4:30; phone to make appointment

### 7) North Pacific Cannery Village Museum

New web site: [www.cannery.ca](http://www.cannery.ca)

### 8) Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society

New contact: Morag Wehrle , Heritage Collections Officer

New e-mail address: [Morag.Wehrle@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Morag.Wehrle@pc.gc.ca)

New web site: [www.pc.gc.ca/gulfofgeorgiacannery/](http://www.pc.gc.ca/gulfofgeorgiacannery/)

## 9) University of Victoria Archive

New contact: Lara Wilson , Acting University Archivist

New e-mail address: [ljwilson@uvic.ca](mailto:ljwilson@uvic.ca)

## 10) United Church of Canada BC Conference Archives

New contact: Blair Galston , Archivist

## 11) North Vancouver Museum and Archives

New address: Community History Centre, 3203 Institute Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V5K 3E5

New phone number: 604-990-3700

New email address: [MansbridgeF@dnv.org](mailto:MansbridgeF@dnv.org)

New days and hours of operation: Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00-5:00

## 12) Sechelt Community Archives

New web site: [www.secpl.scrd.bc.ca/archivesecheltlibrary.html](http://www.secpl.scrd.bc.ca/archivesecheltlibrary.html)

## 13) University of Northern B.C. Archives

New web site: [library.unbc.ca/UNBCArchives/web/default.html](http://library.unbc.ca/UNBCArchives/web/default.html)

## 14) Cumberland Museum and Archives

New email address: [cumberlandmuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:cumberlandmuseum@shaw.ca)

New web site: [cumberlandmuseum.ca](http://cumberlandmuseum.ca)

## 15) Chase and District Museum and Archives

New contact: Carryl Coles

## 16) Craig Heritage Park Museum and Archives

New email address: [parksvillemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:parksvillemuseum@shaw.ca)

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## British Columbia Archival Network Service - Contact Information

Archives or archivists wishing to submit new information for any of the AABC's web resources, including new or revised descriptions for the *BC Archival Union List* and the online *Guide to Archival Repositories in BC*, should contact Bill Purver at the BC Archival Network Service program (Phone: 604-876-9150 ; Fax: 604-876-9850 ; Email: [bpurver@aabbc.bc.ca](mailto:bpurver@aabbc.bc.ca)).

For more information about the program, people are asked to consult the BC Archival Network Service homepage at [aabbc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html](http://aabbc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html).

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# AABC Newsletter

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## Preservation and the Digital Divide

By Rosaleen Hill, AABC Conservation Coordinator

The following paper is a modified version of my paper given at the 2006 Association of Canadian Archivists Annual Conference in St. John's.

This session, Preservation and the Digital Divide, will discuss some of the opportunities as well as considerable challenges faced by archives with the advent of the digital age. Most archives in Canada are currently struggling to provide basic preservation care for their analog records let alone for the upcoming tidal wave of born digital records and digital records created as part of a digital preservation strategy.

As a preservation consultant I have had the opportunity over the last seven years of working with over 100 archives, museums and art galleries from across Western Canada – all of which have archival records. During this time I have also had the privilege of being a member of the Canadian Council of Archives Preservation Committee and have had the opportunity to review preservation grants from across Canada as part of the adjudication process. While undertaking these activities it has become apparent that many archives are ill prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that digital preservation/ migration can offer.

In 2003, the Canadian Council of Archives Preservation Committee contracted Cynthia Ball to review 95 Global Preservation Assessments completed between 1999 – 2004.[\[1\]](#) The purpose of the Ball report was to develop a picture of the current state of preservation in Canada during this period. It is not a rosy picture.

The Ball Report identified that of the 95 archives that had had a global preservation assessment in that five-year period:

- \* 60% no environmental control – which equates to no relative humidity control
- \* 67% no preservation policy – 100% no digital preservation policy
- \* 76% no written emergency plan
- \* 97% no cold storage

It is interesting to note that at the same time the Ball report was being compiled the Heritage Health Index (the first comprehensive survey ever conducted of the condition and preservation needs of all American collections held in the public institutions) was undertaken.[\[2\]](#) Additionally, in the United Kingdom, the National Preservation Office in February 2006 published “Knowing the Need – A Report on the emerging picture of preservation needs in libraries and archives in the UK”. What is intriguing to note when you read these survey reports is that only the Heritage Health Index includes digital records in their data sets.

The Heritage Health Index Summary

- \* 26% no environmental control
- \* 80% no emergency plan
- \* 68% budgeted less than \$3000 year for preservation – which is also similar to Canadian archives

The UK National Preservation Office report focuses almost exclusively on analog records and notes “ the great majority of reformatting has been by microfilming, and this remains an economical and reliable long-term form of surrogate. Digitisation has significant access benefits but a greater cost in both creation and maintenance of the digital object”.<sup>[3]</sup> The report’s summary of preservation needs does not identify any key issues relating to digital preservation.

I should note here that the Global Preservation Assessments reviewed in the Ball Report are almost exclusively completed by using either the full or an abridged version of the Conservation Assessment Guide for Archives by Jane Dalley and published by the Canadian Council of Archives in 1995. At the time this assessment tool was compiled digital records were not a significant part of an archival collection. To address this shift in records the work plan of the CCA Preservation committee for the upcoming year includes updating the Conservation Assessment Guide to include both born digital and migrated digital record sections.

So when we take the American and UK surveys into account we can confidently state that Canadian archives are not alone in the challenges they face. We are, however, truly at a cross roads in terms of how we collect, preserve and make archival records accessible – AND in how we choose to reallocate fiscal and staff resources to improve the preservation of our archival heritage.

Archives that do not have specialist media archivists or access to conservators are facing considerable challenges in the preservation of “at risk media”. “At risk” or modern media includes:

- \* Magnetic media (audio and videotape)
- \* Colour photographic media (not in cold storage)
- \* Cellulose nitrate and cellulose acetate (still and motion picture)

The vast majority of these records are housed in environments that are less than ideal and suffer from what can be generously termed “benign neglect”.

It is with “at risk’ media that the opportunities of digital reformatting and the creation of preservation master copies can be realized. If the current strategy of benign neglect continues these records will be lost. A digital preservation strategy is not without peril and cannot be entered into without considerable forethought and, in many cases, a hefty investment.

Steven Puglia in his 1999 RLG Diginews article “The Costs of Digital Imaging Projects” identified the following production figure breakdown:

- \* 1/3 the cost is digital conversion (32%)
- \* 1/3 the cost is in metadata creation (includes cataloguing, description and indexing (29%)
- \* 1/3 the cost in other activities, such as administration and quality control (39%)<sup>[4]</sup>

These ratios are daunting. Suppose a province wanted to approach the preservation of ‘at risk’ modern media strategically and, for example, identified early ¾” Umatic tape as the preservation media of choice for a particular grant cycle. Let’s suppose that that province allocated \$50,000 of their grant allocation to this province-wide preservation project. In Vancouver, the cost of migration for a one-hour ¾” Umatic tape to an MPEG2 digital file is between \$200 - \$400 per tape depending on the condition of the tape and how much time it takes to prepare the tape for a safe transfer. So, if we average the costs at \$300 per tape ONLY 165 – 170 tapes could be transferred for the \$50,000. If the total NADP grant program (approximately \$1.2 million) was devoted to a nation-wide preservation project the archival community could only transfer 4000 one-hour Umatic tapes!

Before a digital preservation project can be initiated, such as the province-wide Umatic project I just mentioned - numerous issues arise. For example, in many archives videotapes are acquired as part of a larger fond but they are never appraised as the archives did not have appropriate play back equipment at the time of acquisition. This becomes a Catch-22 as an archive is not going to invest \$200-\$400 for a tape migration unless they are sure that it will be a useful expenditure. In an attempt to assist archives in BC the AABC Preservation Service has developed a registry of institutions with a range of play back equipment that could be used by association members for appraisal or reappraisal

if needed. The AABC Preservation Tool Kit is being redeveloped to focus on “at risk” media with a new page going up shortly on Videotape Preservation: Format Identification and Condition Assessment. Because again, if the tapes have not been appraised or the tape format has not been identified during acquisition how will the archivist know what type of playback equipment will be needed for appraisal?

To this point I have focused a few challenges – and it has been a bit depressing – but there are success stories! Kim Lawson at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resource Centre in Vancouver has developed an in-house program for the migration of videotapes and audiotapes to digital format.

The City of Vancouver Archives has identified cellulose acetate still and motion picture film as a high preservation priority. To that end, the City of Vancouver Archives has installed a walk-in cold storage vault for the cellulose acetates. A scanning project was also undertaken to provide access to the cellulose acetate negatives in cold storage. Sue Bigelow, Conservator, at the City of Vancouver Archives, has written a case study of the cold storage project and it can be downloaded from the Canadian Council of Archives website.[\[5\]](#) This project is an exceptional example of improving researcher access, improving preservation by reducing handling and dramatically increasing life expectancy through cold storage.

Some archives that I have visited are quite candid in that they hope/plan to preserve their analog photographic images by the creation of digital preservation copies. I should note that none of these archives have a digital preservation policy nor do they appear to have a coherent digital preservation strategy nor funds, I suspect, for the ongoing maintenance of this digital asset. To those archives I draw their attention to the IPI Preservation Calculator[\[6\]](#).

The screenshot shows the IPI Preservation Calculator interface. On the left, there are two sliders: 'Temp °C' set to 20 (labeled 'ROOM') and '% RH' set to 50 (labeled 'MODERATE'). Below the sliders are two vertical bars with sliders, one red and one blue. On the right, there are three output boxes: 'Preservation Index (PI)' showing 44 Years, 'Natural Aging Rate' showing MODERATE, and 'Days to Mold Germination' showing No Risk. At the bottom, there is an 'Exit' button and a 'Visit the IPI Web Site' link. A footer bar contains '°F/°C', 'Use arrow keys or mouse to move sliders', and 'Visit the IPI Web Site'.

Note that at average room storage conditions there will be noticeable loss in less than 50 years. If the digital project is not undertaken to current best practice and if these archives are not able to maintain the digital preservation copies then both may be lost. For still images NARA’s Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access: Creation of Production Master Files – Raster Images – is considered by most to be best practice.[\[7\]](#)

What can we do to bridge the digital divide between have and have not archives? As a community, if we identify ‘at risk’ media as a high priority we must redirect resources toward:

\* Identify education needs and the development of workshops or other training opportunities in areas such as – media/format identification and digital project management

- \* Develop acquisition questionnaires for modern media and/ or link to other groups such as the Variable Media Group
- \* Develop web resources focusing on migration best practice and include case studies where possible
- \* Encourage ‘cooperative grant applications’ for ‘at risk’ media so that a lower cost per tape/records transfer could be negotiated

And once this utopian or dystopian world of digital preservation masters is created we have to have a way of storing vast amounts of digital information. To deal effectively with these vast quantities of digital data the Canadian archival community should explore the idea of a regional system of trusted digital repositories – or “digital deep freezes”. This approach will be of particular value to archives that cannot make the ongoing investment in the maintenance of a digital asset.

So as a conservator am I pessimistic about the digital onslaught – not at all! I have great hope for the future – we are still in the very early days of this digital world and that the potential for increased researcher access and preservation

has never been greater.

1 Ball, Cynthia. 2004. The Ball Report. Internal CCA Report.

2 Heritage Health Index. [www.heritagepreservation.org/hhi/index.html](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/hhi/index.html)

3 Walker, Alison and Julia Foster. 2006. Knowing the Need. National Preservation Office, British Library. [www.bl.uk/services/npo/publicationsnpo.html](http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/publicationsnpo.html) accessed 26 June 2006.

4 Puglia, Steven. 1999. The Costs of digital Imaging Projects, RLG Diginews, Volume 3, No. 5, October 15, 1999. accessed 26 June 2006. [www.rlg.org/legacy/preserv/diginews/diginews3-5.html#feature](http://www.rlg.org/legacy/preserv/diginews/diginews3-5.html#feature)

5 Bigelow, Sue. 2003. Cold Storage of Photographs at the City of Vancouver Archives. Ottawa: Canadian Council of Archives. [www.cdncouncilarchives.ca](http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca)

6 Image Permanence Institute Preservation Calculator.  
[www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/shtml\\_sub/dl\\_prescalc.shtml](http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/shtml_sub/dl_prescalc.shtml)

7 Puglia, Steven. Et al. 2004. Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access: Creation of Production Master Files – Raster Images. [www.archives.gov/research/arc/techguide-raster-june2004.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/techguide-raster-june2004.pdf)

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## A New Publication from the PAA



P10369 - Road to Banff, 1927

The Provincial Archives of Alberta is pleased to announce the publication of **An Administrative History of the Government of Alberta, 1905-2005**. Due for release in November 2006, this reference handbook outlines the establishment or dissolution of hundreds of ministries, departments, boards and commissions, and details the transfer of responsibilities within the Government of Alberta from its inception to the present day.

The Provincial Archives of Alberta serves as the permanent repository of records of enduring value of the Government of Alberta. This book is the result of years of research using the holdings of the Provincial Archives, and it serves as a fitting reminder of the importance of government records to the history of the province.



Pa40(1).9 - Repairs to the Dome of the Legislature Building, 1954, Edmonton

The foundations for the text are the descriptive finding aids developed by archivists at the Provincial Archives over the past number of years. There is information in the book not found elsewhere, including a fold-out time line that provides a graphical reference to the establishment and dissolution of the bodies of government detailed in the book. Each organization presented in this hardcover book is accompanied by a list of chief officers and their years of service. There are over seventy photographs, an index, and a detailed table of contents for ready reference.

This publication allows those interested in the history of the province to have, in one helpful resource, a concise, yet comprehensive description of the changes to legislated functions and responsibilities within government administration.

Please visit our website at [www.cd.gov.ab.ca/paa](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/paa) or contact Justin McLeod at 780-415-4867 for purchasing information.

Tom Anderson  
Government Records Archivist  
Provincial Archives of Alberta

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## Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) Annual Meeting

The theme of “Bridging the Sacred and the Profane” proved to be timely and relevant for the Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) Annual Meeting held in Orleans, Ontario in September 2006. Fifty-five Archivists mostly from religious communities but with growing representation from Diocesan archives, met to learn, discuss, and share ways for promoting archival resources as a gateway to our shared history.

Archives allow for and encourage conversations with the past because archival resources bring bygone eras to life. What looks like a mound of old paper is actually the key to discovering what happened long ago. Archivists make the journey into the past possible by ensuring that historical resources are protected and preserved and by accepting the responsibility for making sure that the gift of the past is accessible. This is a tall order and one that is enriched by our special call as Catholic Archivists.

Catholic Archivists are responsible for keeping Christ’s memory alive in the secular world. This duty flows from canon law, professional principles, and from our baptism into a sacred community. Catholic Archivists are part of both secular and sacred communities and our special role as Archivists is to connect those worlds. We bridge the sacred and the profane so that our religious heritage can be known, acclaimed, and cherished. This is our legacy but it is also our challenge. Insights into how to accomplish this goal and strategies for energizing weary spirits were in abundance at the CAG meeting.

The Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) is made up of Archivists committed to maintaining and promoting the archives of Catholic institutions, Diocese, and religious communities. The Group, formerly known as the Canadian Religious Conference (Ontario) Archivist Group, has recently taken on a national mandate. The Group includes members of religious communities, professional Archivists and dedicated volunteers. The Group now has over 50 members, nine of which work in Diocese or Archdiocese across Canada. The Archives of the Diocese of Prince George joined CAG in 2006.

The meeting consisted of formal presentations and informal talks, which provided food for thought about how to tell our stories and how to communicate with those who are searching for connections to their church communities. Workshops on accessibility issues, the care and handling of photo albums, a tour of the Canadian Conservation Institute and a moving address on the value of religious archives by Ian Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada all served to inform and inspire.

In his talk, Mr. Wilson harkened back to the words of Sir Arthur Doughty, National Archivist from 1860-1936 who said that archives are a gift from one generation to another. Mr. Wilson acknowledged that church records belong to the church. However, he also stressed that religious archival materials provide an authentic record of events and therefore have an invaluable role to play in documenting the social history of Canada. He also addressed some thorny issues, which directly affect our goals and more importantly which tightly constrain what we as Archivists hope to accomplish. Budgets are small, litigation is on going, and religious communities are declining in numbers. The reality of managing archives in the face of these day-to-day challenges formed the basis for many quiet conversations over

the course of the 3-day conference. The sense of kinship that grew between the participants spread optimism and purpose like a soothing balm.

Archivists don't need to be convinced that historical records are priceless. However, at the CAG meeting I learned that my responsibilities as a Catholic Archivist go beyond the doors of my own institution and that each of us has a role to play in the landscape of collective memory that shapes our church, our country and ultimately ourselves.

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**NADP Recipients for 2006**

File number	Institution	Title of project
6237-B1-0601	Archives Association of British Columbia	British Columbia Education and Advisory Service
6237-B1-0602	Archives Association of British Columbia	British Columbia Archival Preservation Service
6237-B1-0603	Archives Association of British Columbia	British Columbia Archival Network Service
6237-B1-0604	Simon Fraser University Archives & Records Management Department	SFU Archives Global Preservation Assessment
6237-B1-0605	Simon Fraser University Archives & Records Management Department	Simon Fraser Letters Conservation Treatment
6237-B1-0606	City of Vancouver Archives	Audio Digitization Module
6237-B1-0607	New Westminster Museum & Archives	Chinese Benevolent Association Records Access & Awareness Project
6237-B1-0608	City of Vancouver Archives	LD Taylor family fonds arrangement and description project - phase 1
6237-B1-0609	British Columbia Medical Association Archives	Records of Physicians & other Health Care Professionals in BC
6237-B1-0610	City of Richmond Archives	Community Records 20th Anniversary Project
6237-B1-0611	Kelowna Archives	The National Catalogue Re-description Project for the Kelowna Museum Archives
6237-B1-0612	West Vancouver Archives	Hollyburn Ridge Digital Preservation Project
6237-B1-0613	UBC Library, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Rare Books and Special Collections	Rosemary Brown Finding Aid Project

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# AABC Newsletter

Volume 17 No. 1 Winter 2007

## Editor's Message

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has helped out with the newsletter since I took over as editor this past spring. There have definitely been challenges along the way, but it's been fun too. First, I would like to thank all those who were able to contribute their articles and columns this year, for taking the time to share some of your knowledge and passion with the rest of us. I would also like to thank the members of the editorial board for their assistance, and other members of the AABC executive who helped me along the way while I tried to figure out this gig. And finally, a big thank-you to our Technical Editor Leslie Field, and to Bill Purver for his role in maintaining the AABC website. Both were a great help in answering my many questions over the past few months, and without their efforts the newsletter would not be possible.

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## AABC Education and Advisory Service

### Site visits and getting out to the regions

One of the purposes of the Education and Advisory Service is to provide advising site visits, free of charge, to archival repositories in British Columbia and to organizations and groups interested in developing an archival program. These site visits take place throughout the year, but in 2006-2007 they will be focused on the Central and North Vancouver Island area. As the Advisory Archivist, I will be travelling to Comox and heading north during the week of February 18th, 2007. If you are an AABC member, or prospective member, and you are interested in connecting with me when I am in your region, please contact me.

### What happens at a site visit?

Site visits are an opportunity for an Advisory Archivist find out what is happening in repositories across the province. Approximately 10 institutions are visited each year. The knowledge gained by the advisor helps build awareness about what resources are needed and what common issues and concerns exist across the province. Site visits also provide an opportunity for the people working in these archives to ask specific questions about collections management, archival description, digitization, or any other policies or procedures. For many smaller institutions, run with few staff members and volunteers, it is a chance to talk one-on-one with a professional who shares your passion for records and documentary heritage.

Site visits generally take one half to one full day and they are not intended to be a critique of what your archives is doing right or wrong. An Advisory Archivist will talk with you about your policies and take a look at all aspects of your operation: accessioning, arrangement and description, storage, reference, reproduction, outreach, etc. Site visits result in a report from the advisor that can help your institution to focus its priorities and make plans to improve. These reports have been used by archives to support requests for financial assistance or as supporting documentation when applying for grants.

### What about regional meetings?

Since, as Advisory Archivist, I am presently located in the Lower Mainland, I try to pair site visit trips with regional meetings. The position of Regional Representative for Central and North Vancouver Island is currently vacant. Are there any archivists in the area who would be interested in taking on this position? As explained on the AABC website, the Regional Representatives are the liaison with the Association's Executive for archives and archivists in the various regions of the province. They assist in the organization of regional meetings and help coordinate special projects of a regional nature.

Regional meetings help to create a sense of belonging in a profession which can sometimes be isolating. Knowing other archivists in your area helps foster a sense of community and encourages best practices among repositories. To develop a strong and effective archival network, we need to have involvement from archives in every area of the

province. The more professional networking that takes place, the stronger the archival community becomes. However, this networking does not happen on its own; it only occurs when individual members become involved. The Fraser Valley Region has been a model for regional groups over the last number of years. They have proven that regional meetings are a great place to share problems and gather solutions to them based on the experience of others. Kudos to current and past Fraser Valley Reps, Val Billesberger and Kelly Harms for a job well-done!

The AABC would like to see regional meetings take place at least once each year. I would be delighted to participate in a regional gathering this February in the North Island area. If anyone from this part of the province would like to help set a meeting up, please contact me soon.

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## British Columbia Archival Network News

My stint as Coordinator of the British Columbia Archival Network Service comes to an end in December 2006. My thanks to all of those who have contributed to the development of the first and most comprehensive network of its kind in Canada.

*Bill Purver*

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### British Columbia Archival Union List -- New Descriptions on the Database

For a listing of new and revised descriptions on the BC Archival Union List, people are asked to consult the "New Descriptions on the BCAUL" page at [aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newbcaul.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newbcaul.html).

Archives in the province are reminded that new and revised BCAUL descriptions should be submitted to the BC Archival Network Service Coordinator. For contact information, please consult the BC Archival Network Service homepage at [aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html).

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### Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia -- Recent Updates

The following is information recently updated on the AABC's online directory, *A Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia* ([aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcguide.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcguide.html)):

#### 1) Comox Archives and Museum

New web address: [www.comoxmuseum.ca](http://www.comoxmuseum.ca)

#### 2) Crofton House School Archives

New contact name: Erie Maestro , Archivist

#### 3) North Vancouver Museum and Archives

New contact name: Janet Turner , Archivist

New email address: [turnerj@dnv.org](mailto:turnerj@dnv.org)

#### **4) Penticton Museum and Archives**

New contact name: Peter Ord , Director/Curator

#### **5) Fort Steele Heritage Town Archives**

New web address: [www.fortsteele.ca](http://www.fortsteele.ca)

#### **6) City of Victoria Archives**

New email address: [careyp@victoria.ca](mailto:careyp@victoria.ca)

New web address: [www.victoria.ca/archives/archives.shtml](http://www.victoria.ca/archives/archives.shtml)

#### **7) British Columbia Institute of Technology Archives**

New email address: [BCIT-Archives@bcit.ca](mailto:BCIT-Archives@bcit.ca)

New web site: [www.bcit.ca/archives/](http://www.bcit.ca/archives/)

New hours of operation: Tuesday-Wednesday, 10:00-12:00, 1:00-3:00

New holdings information: Total Volume, 130 metres; Inclusive Dates, 1952-2006

#### **8) Anglican Diocese of Caledonia Archives**

New web address: [caledoniaanglican.ca](http://caledoniaanglican.ca)

#### **9) Diocese of Kamloops Archives**

New web site: [www.rcdk.org/services/archive.htm](http://www.rcdk.org/services/archive.htm)

#### **10) Diocese of Prince George Archives**

New web site: [www.pgdiocese.bc.ca](http://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca)

#### **11) CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum**

New email address: [info@navalandmilitarymuseum.org](mailto:info@navalandmilitarymuseum.org)

#### **12) Chilliwack Archives**

New contact name: Ron Denman

New email address: [cm\\_chin@dowco.com](mailto:cm_chin@dowco.com)

New web address: [chilliwack.museum.bc.ca/archives/index.htm](http://chilliwack.museum.bc.ca/archives/index.htm)

#### **13) Langley Centennial Museum**

Contact name: Paul Thistle , Curator

#### **14) Colombo Lodge Archives**

New web site: [www.colombolodge.ca](http://www.colombolodge.ca)

#### **15) Fort St. John-North Peace Museum**

New web site: [www.explorenorth.com/library/communities/canada/bl-ftstjohnmuseum.htm](http://www.explorenorth.com/library/communities/canada/bl-ftstjohnmuseum.htm)

#### **16) Historic Yale Museum**

New web address: [www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/heritage\\_branch/heritage\\_sites/yale.htm](http://www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/heritage_branch/heritage_sites/yale.htm)

## **17) Kelowna Museum**

New web address: [www.kelownamuseum.ca](http://www.kelownamuseum.ca)

## **18) North Thompson Museum**

New email address: [ntmuseum@telus.net](mailto:ntmuseum@telus.net)

New web address: [www.norththompsonmuseum.com](http://www.norththompsonmuseum.com)

## **19) Port Clements Historical Society and Museum**

New web site: [www.portclementsmuseum.org](http://www.portclementsmuseum.org)

## **20) Quesnel and District Museum and Archives**

New contact: Curator

New email address: [ihollingshead@city.quesnel.bc.ca](mailto:ihollingshead@city.quesnel.bc.ca)

## **21) St. Margaret's School Archives**

New web address: [www.stmarg.ca](http://www.stmarg.ca)

## **22) Sooke Region Museum**

New email address: [info@sookeregionmuseum.com](mailto:info@sookeregionmuseum.com)

New web address: [www.sookeregionmuseum.com](http://www.sookeregionmuseum.com)

## **23) U'Mista Cultural Centre**

New web address: [www.umista.ca](http://www.umista.ca)

## **24) Sointula Museum**

New address: P.O. Box 23, Sointula, B.C. V0N 3E0

New phone/fax number: (250) 973-6683

## **25) Revelstoke Museum and Archives**

New email address: [revelstokemuseum@telus.net](mailto:revelstokemuseum@telus.net)

## **26) Armstrong-Spallumcheen Museum and Art Gallery**

New web site: [www.asmas.ca](http://www.asmas.ca)

## **27) City of Surrey Archives**

New address: 17671-56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3S 1C9

New hours of operation: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 am to 6 pm; Friday-Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. Seasonal closure: mid-December to mid-February

## **28) Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resource Centre**

New contact name: Alissa Cherry , Archivist/Librarian

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## **British Columbia Archival Network Service - Contact Information**

Archives or archivists wishing to submit new information for any of the AABC's web resources, including new or

revised descriptions for the *BC Archival Union List* and the online *Guide to Archival Repositories in BC*, should contact the BC Archival Network Service Coordinator by email at [aabc@aabc.bc.ca](mailto:aabc@aabc.bc.ca).

For more information about the program, people are asked to consult the BC Archival Network Service homepage at [aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcans.html).

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## Community News

Catherine Yasui, recent graduate of the M.A. program in Archival Studies at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, was awarded the 2006 ARMA International Educational Foundation (AIEF) Graduate Level Scholarship.

The AIEF Graduate Level Scholarship was established to encourage the development of the international records and information management community, and is awarded annually to a full-time student of a graduate program that leads to a Masters degree or equivalent and that offers records and information management courses. The Award was presented last October in San Antonio, Texas, at the 2006 Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) International Annual Conference's Awards Event. Catherine's paper, entitled, "Now 'til Then: Adopting an IM Attitude" was selected from among a number of strong entries as being one of two winning papers that will be featured on the AIEF website ([www.armaedfoundation.org](http://www.armaedfoundation.org)).

Catherine graduated among the top students in the UBC archival studies program in 2006, and, for achieving first place standing in a course on the management of electronic records taught by Dr. Luciana Duranti, Director of the InterPARES Project, Catherine was awarded the Harold Naugler Memorial Prize in November 2006. A paper she wrote for the same course was nominated for the Society of American Archivist's 2006 Theodore Calvin Pease Award. Catherine was also a 2006 recipient of a Management of Electronic Records (MER) conference scholarship, which sponsors top scholars from across North America to attend the annual MER conference in Chicago.

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[www.interpares.org](http://www.interpares.org)

\* \* \*

The Friends of the B.C. Archives are pleased to announce that the 2006 winner of the Terry Reksten Memorial Fund award is the Quesnel and District Museum and Archives. They will be using their grant of \$700 to purchase a digital recorder in order to collect aural histories within the community.

Founded in honour of the late Terry Reksten, well known British Columbia historian, the Fund annually offers an award of \$700 to a community archives in British Columbia to assist in the endeavour of acquiring, preserving, indexing or disseminating information on archival documentary heritage of British Columbia in the broadest sense of the word. The award is administered by the Friends of the British Columbia Archives.

Applications for the 2007 award will be received until June 30, 2007. For further details on how to apply, and the eligibility criteria, please see the Friends website at <http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/friends/memorial.htm>

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[www.rbcm.gov.bc.ca](http://www.rbcm.gov.bc.ca)

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# AABC Newsletter

Honorary Patron:

*The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia*

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Newsletter homepage  
[aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newsletter](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/newsletter)

How to join the AABC  
[aabc.bc.ca/aabc/meminfo.html](http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/meminfo.html)

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Got news? Send AABC news, tips, suggestions or letters to the editor: [Jennifer Jansen](mailto:jensan@aabc.bc.ca)

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Please supply all submissions in electronic format, as either .txt, WP7, WORD 97/2000/XP or via e-mail

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## Dr. Luciana Duranti Receives Jacob Biely Prize



Dr. Duranti receiving Jacob Biely Prize from UBC President Stephen Toope

Luciana Duranti, Professor in the graduate archival programs at the University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (in the photo with UBC President Stephen Toope), has been honored with the Jacob Biely Faculty Research Prize and with the appointment to the Italian Supreme Council for Cultural Properties by the Italian government.

The Jacob Biely Prize is regarded as the UBC's premier research prize and the top honor of its type in the province. It is awarded annually to a faculty member who has conducted outstanding research in any field. Duranti is being cited for "her enormous and outstanding research contributions to the field of archival studies."

The Italy Consiglio Superiore per i Beni Culturali e Paesaggistici (Supreme Council for Cultural and Landscape Properties) is composed of the presidents of scientific committees on archives, libraries, the arts (museums, galleries, etc.), architecture and landscape (elected by the members of the respective professions) and eight eminent personalities in the world of culture directly appointed by the government.. The Council meets regularly to provide mandatory advice (binding for some matters) to the government of Italy on national programs and budgets, planning, international agreements and legislation related to cultural properties in general and the landscape.

Please direct inquiries to Randy Preston at [rpreston@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:rpreston@interchange.ubc.ca)

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities

The AABC offers training and workshops through our BCAPS and EAS programs. However, there are also some great training opportunities offered by other agencies that are relevant to the work we do. Here are a couple of courses that may be of interest to our members.

### LANGARA COLLEGE - Online course

#### LIBR 1395 Special Topics Creating and Managing Digital Collections

The key elements of managing digital collections are explored through discussion, hands-on practice, and project based activities. Topics covered include project development, selection and electronic processing of materials, copyright, description (cataloguing and metadata), electronic access and preservation.

Please contact Carol Elder at [celder@langara.bc.ca](mailto:celder@langara.bc.ca) for more information, or for non-departmental students, to arrange registration.

Carol Elder, Chair, Library & Information Technology Program Langara College, 100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Y 2Z6, Phone: 604-323-5862 Fax: 604-323-5010, [celder@langara.bc.ca](mailto:celder@langara.bc.ca)

### UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Join the Cultural Resource Management Program at the University of Victoria for the following 6-day learning opportunity hosted in Victoria, BC :

#### MANAGING ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Many museums hold archival materials including documents and photographs that require specialized care and management. This new course focuses on archives as an important component of museum collections and develops your understanding of ways in which they should be organized, managed, preserved and shared. While there is common ground between the management of artifacts and the management of archives, recognizing the distinctions is important to caring effectively for documentary materials and increasing their role in the museum environment. Regardless of the kind of institution you work in, this course strengthens your understanding of

- the nature of archival materials
- theories, principles, and practices governing archival management
- legal, administrative, and professional frameworks
- appraisal, acquisition, and accessioning of archives

- arrangement and description, including the application of archival descriptive standards
- physical processing, storage, conservation, and preservation
- reference services and access issues
- using archives to enhance exhibits, educational offerings, and outreach initiatives
- the role of archives in culture and heritage

Dates: June 18 – 23, 2007, with a preparatory assignment

Please register by: May 22 at [https://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/forms/crm/online\\_reg.aspx](https://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/forms/crm/online_reg.aspx)

Instructor: Laura Millar has been an archival, editorial, and educational consultant for over 20 years. She received her Master of Archival Studies degree from the University of British Columbia, Canada, in 1984 and her PhD in archival studies from the University of London, England, in 1996. She is the author of over 40 professional publications on a range of topics, including records and archives management; information systems; and editing, publishing, and writing. Laura has worked with international agencies such as the International Records Management Trust, the United Nations, and the World Bank, and with governments around the world,

Fee: CDN\$610 including a CDN\$60 materials fee (Canadian funds, credit and non-credit). A \$160 CDN registration deposit is required at the time of registration

#### Draft Course Outline

Monday: Understanding the jargon: an overview of archival operations

- introductions
- course overview: objectives, outline, assignments, activities
- different types of archival collections and archival institutions
- the role and duties of the archivist
- the "archival system" in Canada
- the organizational framework: legislation, policies, standards, and guidelines

Tuesday: Getting started: acquiring and accessioning archival materials

- theories, principles, and practices governing archival management
- appraisal of archival materials: appraisal for acquisition and appraisal for selection
- developing acquisition policies and procedures
- accessioning archives: legal and administrative issues

Wednesday: Balancing theory and practice: arrangement and description

- levels of arrangement
- arranging archives physically and intellectually
- levels of description
- types of finding aids
- coordinating archival and museum descriptions
- archival tour 1

Thursday: Descriptive standards: the key to information sharing

- understanding Rules for Archival Description (RAD)
- applying RAD to archival materials
- creating online descriptive tools

- contributing archival descriptions to the Canadian archival network

Friday: Making it safe, making it accessible

- physical handling and processing
- storing archives
- conservation and preservation issues
- reference policies and procedures
- archival tour 2

Saturday: Using archives: tools for fostering culture and heritage

- using archives for exhibits, education, and outreach
- the relationship between archives, museums, and intangible heritage
- the role of archives in heritage tourism, genealogy, and popular history
- forging closer ties between museums and archives
- the future of archives in an electronic age

For more information on this and other upcoming courses please contact:

Lisa Mort-Putland

Program Coordinator, Cultural Management Programs  
Continuing Studies, University of Victoria  
PO Box 3030 Stn CSC, Victoria , BC V8W 3N6

Tel: 250 721 6119

E:mail: [lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca](mailto:lmort-putland@uvcs.uvic.ca)

Cultural Resource Management Program [www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp](http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp)

Aboriginal Language Revitalization Program [www.uvcs.uvic.ca/calr](http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/calr)

Intercultural Education and Training Program [www.uvcs.uvic.ca/iet](http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/iet)

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## Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada – Records Search

Indian Residential School Resolution Canada (IRSRC) is a federal department dedicated to resolving issues arising from the legacy of Indian residential schools. IRSRC has identified some gaps in its document collections is therefore extending the scope of research to community archives in an attempt to fill these gaps. Documents sought are those containing student and/or staff names. Examples of document types include yearbooks, newsletters, quarterly returns, half-yearly returns, enrolment registers, student registers, admission and discharge documents, reunion books and prize lists that provide student and/or staff information. Photos are potentially useful, provided that they are captioned and it is known who provided the caption and when it was captioned.

IRSRC welcomes any information on relevant archival material in your collections, and any suggestions as to relevant repositories. Please note that all Federal Archives, Provincial Archives, native centres and religious archives have been considered in a separate phase of research.

For more information on IRSRC, please see: [www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca/english/index.html](http://www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca/english/index.html)

For more information on the Indian residential schools settlement process, please see: [www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca/](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca/)

Please direct comments to Alison Biely, Research Consultant, IRSRC at 604-775-9986 or [bielya@irsr-rqpi.gc.ca](mailto:bielya@irsr-rqpi.gc.ca).

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## Planning for the Future

*Lisa Codd, AABC President*

Preserving the past is a complicated business. Our clients and visitors are often drawn to museums, archives, and heritage sites to find comfort in connecting themselves to history. Families visit historic sites so parents and grandparents can share stories about the past with children. Genealogists access archives to find the documents that tell them who they are, and where they came from. While these visitors seek comfort and stability in our product, behind the scenes our organizations can be anything but comfortable and stable.

While we are busy preserving the past, who is making sure our associations, archives, museums, and historical societies are going to continue into the future? As a sector, we are facing many challenges. Funding from government is less certain, and we have seen cuts to federal programs such as the Museums Assistance Program (MAP), and student employment programs that we rely on. Volunteerism is in decline in our society, especially among the types of volunteers we rely on. Succession planning is a challenge for many organizations as the baby boomers retire and as long-serving board members and volunteers face burn-out. Our legal and administrative world is more complicated, as a variety of regulatory frameworks from firearms licensing to privacy legislation influence our museums and archives.

This past year, the Archives Association of BC has been working toward implementing strategic planning as a way to sustain our organization in the face of a changing business environment. The work has shown the value in taking the time to assess the challenges we are facing, and bring people together to find solutions. With funding from the Centre for Sustainability's Arts Partners in Organizational Development (ArtsPOD) program, we were able to work with a consultant to complete an organizational assessment. This helpful tool provides an assessment of what is working in the organization, and what is not. It helps people agree on realistic steps that can be taken to begin implementing change.

Recently, we have embarked on the next step in our journey: with additional support from ArtsPOD and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre we are undertaking a strategic plan. A strategic planning committee, made up of myself, incoming treasurer Sharon Walz, and past presidents Anthea Seles, Lara Wilson, Chris Hives, and Jane Turner have been working with consultant Rick Knowlan. The plan is being reviewed at various stages by key members, including regional representatives. The plan will help us develop concrete plans for the next three to five years, and includes a review of our mission, goals, and strategies. We are looking at all aspects of the organization, including our governance structure and services.

Most importantly, we are getting together to talk and work together on solutions that will work for the organization. Those of us in the business of preserving the past often forget that an organization is made up of people: the collections we care for and programs we offer are the by-product of strong and sustainable organizations.

More information about the ArtsPOD programs can be found at: [www.centreforsustainability.ca](http://www.centreforsustainability.ca)

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## President's Report

Lara Wilson

Dear colleagues,

Summer is here, and so comes the time to write my first president's report for the AABC Newsletter.

First, I would like to say it was a pleasure to meet so many members at this year's AABC mini-conference and AGM, held at the SFU Harbour Centre, April 15. Highlights included:

- Terry Eastwood receiving an honorary AABC membership;
- Dr. Jaqueline Gresko's keynote speech on supporting heritage preservation; and,
- Brian Bell demonstrating Alouette Canada's digitized archive and library content portal.

On behalf of the outgoing and incoming executive, thank you for attending. Thanks also to the AABC members who assisted in the organization of the event, and Simon Fraser University for providing the facilities.

This year has been very busy for the AABC Executive, and this active pace will continue. Planning is underway for next year's conference, which will be held in Victoria. As you may know, 2008 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of British Columbia's founding as a crown colony, and we hope to provide attendees with engaging sessions and activities. Stay tuned for announcements from our nascent conference committee.

A search for the AABC's Education and Advisory Service contractor is currently underway, but hopefully the position will be filled by the time you read this newsletter. The education committee and I would like to thank everyone who applied—we were overwhelmed by the number and excellent quality of the applications.

As described in Lisa Codd's AGM president's report, this spring the AABC undertook an organizational review with consultant Rick Knowlan. Key steps in the process included:

- analyzing our business environment;
- identifying our customers;
- articulating our mission; and,
- identifying core strategies required to achieve our mission.

Outcomes of this process include a three-year work plan for the executive and a trial organizational structure intended to streamline committees and centralize communication. Documents summarizing the strategic planning activities will be available on the AABC website.

Funding for this strategic planning exercise was sought from ArtsPOD, a funding programme from the Centre for Sustainability, a Vancouver-based organization whose mission is to increase the capacity and effectiveness of people and organizations engaged in British Columbia's not-for-profit sector. The AABC's strategic planning committee was comprised of Lisa Codd, Chris Hives, Anthea Seles, Jane Turner, Sharon Walz, and myself. AABC committee chairs and regional representatives were also involved in the process. On behalf of the outgoing and incoming executive, we appreciate the time and wisdom that all participants volunteered—it was an insightful and important activity.

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## President's Report continued

A major part of the strategic planning process was gathering feedback from members. The feedback was used to identify needs and interests for specific services the AABC does or could offer. More information on this feedback process will be forthcoming.

This and other executive tasks will assist the AABC in planning for 2008 and beyond. As you know, our sources of funding are you, our AABC members, the National Archival Development Programme delivered by Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives, and UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. The AABC needs to maximize these funds by providing effective and economical services to its members, and thereby supporting sponsoring institutions and patrons to the best of our ability.

I am writing this report on Canada Day, and I am recently back from the Association of Canadian Archivists conference. I reflect on our province's contributions to the archival community, through UBC's graduate educational program recently observing its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, through the development of BCAUL, through the evolution of this association, and through the community spirit of individuals working in archives across BC.

In order for the AABC to continue to support the collective archival mission, we need a strong executive committee. As you know, we have been operating without vice presidents for several years. Further to planning for our organization's future, I respectfully ask AABC members with an interest in professional leadership to consider volunteering for the position of vice president for 2008/09, and the succeeding position of president for 2009/10. At this time of renewal, it is especially important that this position is filled.

The strategic planning process has resulted in comprehensive workplans for each executive member, therefore, interested individuals will be better informed as to his or her responsibilities. For members who receive institutional support for this type of professional activity, please consider putting your name forward when the call for nominations goes out next spring. I will not deny

that it is challenging work, but it is also rewarding work that contributes to our provincial and national community.

To conclude, I want to let members know that they have a great team in their executive: Val Billesberger, Lisa Glandt, Ramona Rose, and Sharon Walz. Sincere appreciation goes out to outgoing president, Lisa Codd, and treasurer, Richard Dancy, to our volunteer committee members and regional reps, and to our contractors - Karen Blimkie (Financial Manager), Rosaleen Hill (BC Archival Preservation Service), and Janet McMaster (BC Network Services).

We can't do it without you!

Sincerely,  
Lara Wilson  
President

### NADP 2007-08 Recipients

Ramona Rose

#### **City of Vancouver Archives**

- Motion Picture Digitization Project
- LD Taylor Family fonds Arrangement and Description Phase 2

#### **Kelowna Museum and Archives**

- Naomi Griffin fonds

#### **Northern BC Archives UNBC**

- Northwood Pulp and Timber Ltd. fonds Access Phase 1
- Northwood Pulp and Timber Ltd. fonds Access Phase 2

#### **Royal BC Museum Corp. – BC Archives**

- GR0112 Pre-emption Record Preventative Conservation and Information Recovery

#### **Society of Saanich Peninsula (Sidney) Museum and Archives**

- Re-description and reformat holdings to RAD

#### **Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resource Centre**

- *Nesika* – UBCIC Access to Visual Media Project

#### **UBC Library Rare Book and Special Collections**

- Jack Shadbolt and Doris Shadbolt Finding Aid Project

# Canadian Council of Archives Update

Lara Wilson

The following is the report presented by CCA to the national, provincial and territorial archivists, the Association des archivistes du Québec, and to delegates at the "CCA Interactive" session, held at the Association of Canadian Archivists conference, Kingston, Ontario, June, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the CCA (contact information at the following links: Secretariat <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/aboutcontact.html>; Board of Directors: <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/bofd.html>)

## Highlights of the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) 2006-2007 Accomplishments

### Third Party Delivery of Financial Assistance Programs

1. National Archival Development Program (NADP): The CCA and Provincial/Territorial Councils, working closely with Library and Archives Canada (LAC), successfully implemented the program in its first year of operation, disbursing \$1.7M to successful applicants. Preparations included all documentation and procedures needed to satisfy the application, adjudication, administration, financial accounting, reporting, and audit requirements for 93 projects funded under the NADP.

The CCA achieved or made progress against 22 of 26 objectives in its Business Plan, as well as on the national strategic priorities approved by LAC for 2007-2008 project applications. In addition, a multi-year business plan was drafted. A performance measurement plan for the NADP was developed in collaboration with LAC and submitted for its approval (pending).

Based on experience managing the program during the first year, the CCA is assessing and reporting to LAC the impact of the new federal accountability framework. Impacted are the CCA's Secretariat and Board operations, as well as the associated one-time and continuing costs. This includes a review of its present and future human resource capacity and capabilities.

2. Young Canada Works (YCW) and Archival Community Digitization Program (ACDP): Working in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage and LAC, the CCA once again successfully acted as the third-party deliverer to disburse, administer, market, and report on the funding allocated to the archival community through these two federal contribution programs (YCW = \$370K and ACDP = \$459K).

### Strategic Activities Developing Archival Network Capacity and Capabilities

3. Archives Canada: The Board completed an analysis of the 2006 national survey to assess the current state of participation in the national catalogue by Archives across Canada. Results will be reported this spring. The CCA/LAC Joint Technical Workgroup on the future of the national catalogue assessed the current state of *ArchivesCanada.ca* with regard to performance, perceptions, capacity, costs; and alternative options for future development, including recommended improvements to the existing system. The future vision for the national union catalogue is:

- add multi-level description capability;
- link description to selected digitized content;
- improve the user's "search, find and get experience" by using a goggle-like approach; and,
- expose the catalogue to harvesting by other search and indexing engines.

The report will be made public this spring.

4. Preservation: The global preservation assessment tool was reviewed and updated. In future, this will help make consistent, comparable data available, and thereby facilitate setting national preservation priorities.

An online instructional module about how to fundraise for preservation activities was completed and will be launched this spring. This will support institutions and networks undertaking campaigns to raise private sector funds to preserve archival holdings.

5. Standards: Progress was made to design a Standards Database in partnership with the International Council of Archives (ICA). Work is proceeding to review current entries and normalize the indexed data. A report was completed outlining the next steps to develop guidelines for archival arrangement.

6. Rules for Archival Description (RAD): Revisions to RAD 2 for use by the community are in preparation. Assessment of a LAC-produced tool called *Concise RAD* will be undertaken when RAD 2 is made available.

7. Copyright: A photograph copyright survey for archival holdings was prepared to collect information needed to undertake effective lobbying in anticipation of proposed Copyright Act amendments.

8. Archives Advisory Services Workgroup: A national meeting of Archives Advisors was held in October 2006, which was followed by monthly teleconferences. The purpose of the meetings was to facilitate information sharing and discuss best practices for providing education, outreach, preservation and network services.

As an outcome, the Workgroup started a coordinated planning approach to:

- produce a standard annual report form to collect data about advisory services in a uniform and consistent way across Canada;
- develop a web-based toolkit containing best practice policies, procedures, guidelines, and forms to be accessible on the CCA website; and,
- explore the idea of a coordinated national Archives Day, Week or Month.

## **Strategic Activities Promoting Increased Awareness and Use of Archives**

9. Archives and You Conference 2006 (Calgary, AB) & 2007 (Halifax, NS): The CCA, in partnership with the Alberta Society of Archives, staged a well-received two-day conference in October 2006 targeting new and experienced archives users. The focus was learning about archives, how to use them, and the services available through the national archival system. Planning for the third annual conference, to be held in May 2007, began immediately following in partnership with the Council of Nova Scotia Archives.

## **Strategic Ancillary Activities with Partners**

10. National Archival Appraisal Board (NAAB): The CCA provided administrative support that helped ensure continued delivery of monetary appraisal services. These services are beneficial to donors and the archival institutions receiving the donations. A successful funding application was made to the Department of Canadian Heritage to hold a conference on the *Future of Monetary Appraisal in Canada*, as part of the overall strategy to revitalize the NAAB program. This event will be held in October 2007.

11. Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) – Alouette Canada Project: The CCA is participating on the steering and technical committees for this project. Its main goal is to create a "one place to look" web-access portal for users to find digitized heritage resources. It accomplishes this by searching across sectors, institutions, and holdings (libraries, archives, and museums). The objectives are to create this web portal and a standard toolkit that institutions can use to create the uniform metadata needed to deposit and access digital collections online. Based on the project's recent direction, the CCA is reassessing how Alouette Canada relates to and could have an impact on Archives Canada. The CCA will soon communicate its position on this matter to archival partners and Alouette Canada sponsors.

12. Library and Archives Canada – Canadian Digital Information Strategy: The CCA participated in the workshops and summit organized by LAC to develop a pan-Canadian strategy.

13. The University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival and Information Studies – InterPARES 3: The CCA accepted an invitation to participate in a proposed five-year research project for which funding is being sought from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The general goal is to design and implement practical strategies, procedures, and tools that would enable small and medium size organizations to preserve authentic records in electronic systems. This would be based on the theory developed during the first two InterPARES projects. The CCA’s role would be as a resource partner, which means it will be asked to provide regular input and feedback, help disseminate products, and promote training. If the SSHRC grant application is approved, the project will start in late 2007.

### AABC Officers and Committees, 2007-08

#### Officers

President – *Lara Wilson*  
 Vice President – *Vacant*  
 Secretary – *Lisa Glandt*  
 Treasurer – *Sharon Walz*  
 Institutional Member-at-Large – *Ramona Rose*  
 Individual Member-at-Large – *Valerie Billesberger*

#### Standing Committees

Constitution and By-laws Committee – *Vacant*  
 Education Committee – *Vacant*  
 Grants Committee – *Ramona Rose, Chair*  
 Membership Committee – *Carolyn Casenas, Chair*  
 Nominations and Elections Committee – *Erica Hernandez, Chair*

#### Ad Hoc Committees

BC Archival Preservation Service Committee – *Dorothy Lawson, Chair*  
 Finance Committee – *Sharon Walz, Chair*  
 Internet Committee – *Vacant*  
 Newsletter Editorial Board – *Jennifer Jansen, Chair*  
 Public Awareness, Advocacy, and Legislation Committee – *Anthea Seles, Chair*

### Administering the National Archival Development Programme (NADP) Impact on CCA Operations

**The federal government’s new accountability requirements now require additional financial accounting, reporting, and performance measurement activities. As a result, the CCA will need to devote more time and money to administer the \$1.7 M NADP.**

#### **Resulting effects of undertaking the accountability requirements:**

- ⊙ the Secretariat spends more time administering the contribution program;
- ⊙ the Executive Director must do operational tasks instead of supervising them;
- ⊙ the Board must do more planning and reporting activities;
- ⊙ the Board and its committees have a more demanding volunteer time commitment; and,
- ⊙ the CCA has less time to devote to other activities.

#### **The Board and Management response to these impacts:**

- ⊙ advising LAC about the situation, its effects, and the CCA response in its 2006/07 final report;
- ⊙ reviewing Secretariat capacity, capabilities and developing a human resource plan;
- ⊙ implementing zero-based budgeting and improved annual work planning process;
- ⊙ terminating funding for ICA activities;
- ⊙ limiting participation in the Alouette Canada project;
- ⊙ preparing NADP application and adjudication guidebooks; and,
- ⊙ scaling back 2007/08 Business Plan; saying “not now” to new commitments

# A Tribute to Terry Eastwood

Lisa Codd

*Speech given by George Brandak at the April 14, 2007 AABC AGM*

We are here at this early hour to present an honorary life membership to one of our founding fathers. I know he doesn't look that old, but Terry was present at an organizational meeting in the fall of 1973 and was one of thirty-six people who met in February, 1974, at the Vancouver City Archives where an Executive Committee was formed with Terry as Secretary-Treasurer to create the Association of British Columbia Archivists. Terry was the Association's first secretary-treasurer, 1974-1976; the editor of the first five issues of the ABCA Newsletter and President of the Association from 1976-1977; and President of the Association of Canadian Archivists, 1978-1979. In 1993, Terry received a twenty-year service award from AABC.

You see, Terry has had a passion for archives and its people for a very long time. For the time that I have known him, Terry has looked for solutions to the funding problems of archival institutions, large and small, and the education of archivists. For example, he served on the Special Advisory Committee on Archives appointed by the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada in 1983 to consider federal/provincial policy regarding archives and recommended the creation of a Canadian Council of Archives as well as regional bodies of institutions that occurred and what was the BC Council of Archives is now the institutional section of AABC.



George Brandak, Terry Eastwood & Lisa Codd  
(past AABC President), April 14, 2007  
Photo taken by Val Billesberger

But Terry's real love lay in teaching. He was teacher prior to beginning his archival career in the Provincial Archives of BC. He taught the public history course on archives at Simon Fraser University prior to becoming the first assistant professor to teach archives at UBC in 1981. From 1981 to the present he has taught many courses such as: Arrangement and Description of Archives, Appraisal of Archives, The History and Development of Archival Institutions and the Archival Profession, and Public Services and Programs of Archival Institutions.

Many of you in this room have been taught by Terry and learned not only from his classes, but from meetings and conversations outside the classroom. As his friends know, his 'off the cuff remarks' are his specialty. In short, Terry's contributions to the archival profession, to our association, and to those who are members of our association have been enormous. It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of AABC, I present you with an honorary life membership.

# A Warm Thank You!

AABC Executive with Jane Turner and Lara Wilson

At the April 14, 2007 AGM, we recognized those people who stepped down from various AABC committee and contract positions over the past year. Our organization has been made all the richer from the dedication, participation, and support that these individuals have given to the AABC over the years. Thank you to all from the Executive and membership!

**Kathy Bossort** served on the Executive as Institutional Member at Large/Grants Chair (2002-2004) and as a member on the Grants Committee (2004-2007).

**Terra Dickson** served for the past two years as Membership Chair (2005-2007).

**Cathy English** served as Regional Representative for the Thompson-Okanagan Region (2004-2006).

**Heather Gordon** served as both Vice President and President (2000-2002) and most recently served as Internet Committee Chair (2002-2006). Heather has always been a tireless supporter of the association, sharing her experience and assisting on new projects and initiatives.

**Melanie Hardbatt** served as Constitutions/Bylaws Chair (2005-2007).

**Susan Hart** served on numerous committees including Conference Programme (1992 & 2002); Local Arrangements Committee (2001); Education Committee (ca. 1992-1995); and most recently served as Nominations Chair (1989, 2006-2007).

**Bill Purver** served as Archives Advisor and Network Coordinator (1993-2000) and was the Coordinator of the British Columbia Archival Network Service (1994-2006). Bill developed BCAUL, the first and most comprehensive network of its kind in Canada, and has worked on both provincial and national network initiatives. He has diligently maintained the AABC website for many years and shared with us his knowledge of the Canadian archival system.

**Anthea Seles** served as Acting President and President (2004-2006), and Internet Committee Chair (Jan-April 2007). She has held many other committee positions and is currently PAAL Committee Chair, the InterPARES 3 Representative for the AABC, and a member of the Strategic Planning committee.

**Jenn Roberts** was the most recent Education Archivist from August 2006 to May 31, 2007. As well as her normal duties, Jenn has also been actively involved with the CCA Advisors Workgroup and contributed to the extensive planning process the AABC has been engaged in this past year. The AABC is indebted to Jenn for her contribution to developing the caliber of the Education and Advisory Service - our loss will definitely be a great gain for the archival community in the Yukon.

**Jane Turner** recently stepped down as Chair of the Education Committee. Jane was also Vice President and President (1999 to 2001). Jane served on the 2007 Strategic Planning Committee, and was the Chair of Institutional Standards Committee, the ad hoc committee that developed "Sustainable Archives: Self-Study Guide for Institutional Membership." Jane's service to and leadership of the association was, and remains, truly inspiring. We wish her happiness in her retirement.

**Linda Wills** has been involved with the AABC for many years including having served on the AABC Executive as President (1992-1993), Chair and member of the Education Committee (2000-2001, 2006-2007), and as the Education Archivist (2003-2006). Linda brought with her an extensive knowledge of the BC archival community; and one of her major accomplishments was successfully implementing two Distance Education courses, Introduction to Archival Practice, and Management of Photographs, both written by Jan Turner. The AABC is indebted to Linda for her dedication to the cause of furthering community archives throughout the province.

# BCAUL - New Descriptions and Databases

Janet McMaster

Archives in the province are reminded that new and revised BCAUL descriptions should be submitted to the BC Archival Network Service Program. For more information on the various ways that submissions can be made, please contact Janet McMaster, BCAUL Coordinator, by e-mail ([jmcmast@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmast@shaw.ca)) or by phone (403-236-3406).

The following are new or revised descriptions that have been recently submitted and added to the British Columbia Archival Union list at <http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcaul.html>.

## **Anglican Diocese of British Columbia Archives**

Cedar Hill Mission fonds  
Parish of Saturna Island fonds  
Saanich Deanery fonds  
Brentwood Memorial Chapel (Brentwood Bay, B.C.) fonds  
Nimpkish Deanery Chapter fonds  
St. George's Parish (Kingcome Inlet, B.C.) fonds  
St. Paul's Parish (Port Alice, B.C.) fonds  
St John Gualbert (Port McNeill, B.C.) fonds  
St. Michael's Residential School (Alert Bay, B.C.) fonds  
St. Olaf's Parish (Quatsino, B.C.) fonds  
St. Peter and St. Paul's Parish (Gold River, B.C.) fonds  
Fort Rupert Mission fonds  
Esquimalt Deanery fonds  
Church of the Holy Spirit (Victoria, B.C.) fonds  
St. Aidan's on the Hill (Ucluelet, B.C.) fonds  
Parish of Parksville fonds  
St. Mary's Parish (Nanoose, B.C.) fonds  
St. Philip's Parish (Sayward, B.C.) fonds  
Trinity Church (Port Alberni, B.C.) fonds  
Cowichan Deanery fonds  
St. Christopher's and St. Aiden's Parish (Lake Cowichan, B.C.) fonds  
Fairbridge Farm School Chaplain (Duncan, B.C.) fonds  
St. James the Apostle Parish (Nanaimo, B.C.) fonds  
St. John the Evangelist Parish (Ladysmith, B.C.) fonds  
St. Philip's-by-the-Sea (Lantzville, B.C.) fonds  
Christ Church Cathedral Trust (Victoria, B.C.) fonds

## **British Columbia Institute of Technology Archives and Special Collections**

Board of Governors fonds  
Education Council fonds  
Pacific Vocational Institute fonds

## **British Columbia Archives**

John McIlre fonds  
McIlree family fonds  
Samuel Black fonds

## **Comox Archives and Museum**

Atlee Bridges fonds  
Ron Black fonds  
Merle Bonnick fonds  
Don Corby fonds  
Rene Harding fonds  
Muriel Holmes fonds  
Phyllis Long fonds  
Richard Mackie fonds  
Mayer family fonds  
Norma Morton fonds  
North Vancouver Island Women's Institute Lazo branch fonds

## **Kelowna Museum Archives**

Arthur Ross Garrish fonds  
Associated Growers of B.C. fonds  
B.C. Shippers' Council fonds  
British Columbia Orchards Co-operative Association fonds  
C.R. Bull fonds  
Cascade Co-operative Union fonds  
Clifford Fallow fonds  
Doug Findlater fonds  
Dr. W.H. Wilde fonds  
Eldorado Arms Hotel fonds  
Endreny family fonds  
Harvey L. Topham fonds  
Hugh Rose fonds  
Interior Vegetable Market Board fonds  
Janet E.V. Graham fonds  
Kelowna Growers' Exchange fonds  
Lake Area Co-operative Growers sous-fonds  
Laurel Co-operative Union fonds  
Louis Victor Newton fonds  
Malcolm Gorrie fonds  
Mathie family fonds  
McLean and Fitzpatrick Limited fonds  
Meteorological Registers collection  
Okanagan Federated Shippers Association fonds  
Okanagan Packers Co-operative Union fonds  
Oliver Jackson Indian Museum fonds  
Peterson Brothers fonds  
Pyramid Co-operative Association fonds  
Richard Graham fonds  
Rowcliffe Canning Company Limited fonds  
Roy Eden fonds  
Summerland Co-operative Growers' Association fonds  
Ukrainian Trident Cultural Society fonds  
Vernon Fruit Union fonds  
Westbank Orchard fonds  
Whillis Harding Insurance Agencies fonds  
Winoka Co-operative Exchange fonds  
Wm Haug and Son Limited fonds

# BCAUL - New Descriptions and Databases continued

## Nanaimo Community Archives

Chase River Board of School Trustees fonds  
Hudson's Bay Company fonds  
Wellington Colliery Company Ltd. fonds  
Western Federation of Miners Enterprise Union fonds  
Nanaimo Foundry fonds  
Perry family collection  
William B. Smith fonds  
Annabel Yates collection  
Albert Hitchen collection  
Ancient Order of Foresters, No. 9203 (Nanaimo) collection  
Ancient Order of Foresters, No. 9621 (Nanaimo) collection  
Arman, Tognini family collection  
Gwendolyn Thomas fonds  
Cornelius Bryant collection  
Ernie Johnson fonds  
Francis John fonds  
Chapel of Flowers, Westwood Hirst Funeral Home fonds  
Coal Miner's Certificates of Competency collection  
Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE)  
Malaspina Chapter No. 1047  
Harry Hickling fonds  
Nanaimo Family Life Association fonds  
James Hardy fonds  
John Hofman collection  
John Oliphant collection  
John Shaw High School collection  
Rod Langley collection  
William Roper collection  
William McGirr collection  
Nanaimo Rotary Club No. 689 fonds  
Silver Leaf Temple No. 2 (Nanaimo) fonds  
Western Fuel Corporation collection

## Simon Fraser University Archives

Zoltan Kiss fonds  
Patrick McTaggart-Cowan fonds  
Mark Winston fonds  
Office of the Vice-President, Research fonds  
Columbia River Treaty collection  
W.A.C. Bennett fonds  
Halpern family fonds  
W.A.C. Bennett Library fonds  
Political Science, Anthropology and Sociology collection

## University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Olive Allen Biller Collection  
W.G. Burch fonds  
Vancouver Irish Prisoner of War Committee fonds  
British Columbia Dieticians and Nutritionists Association fonds  
Shizuye Takashima fonds  
John Crosse fonds  
Wood and English Ltd. fonds  
Maurice Rush Ltd. fonds  
Paul Robeson Memorial Concert Collection fonds  
J. Haydn Young fonds  
Lawrence Johnstone Burpee fonds

## University of British Columbia Archives

J. Alan Beesley fonds  
Lyle Creelman fonds  
Festival of the Contemporary Arts fonds  
Ken MacDonald fonds  
Phillip Edward Reid fonds  
UBC 50th Anniversary Sound Collection

## University of Victoria Archives

Neil Swainson fonds  
Ray Williston fonds  
Board of Governors fonds  
University Secretary fonds  
Archie H. Wills fonds  
Senate fonds

## Editorial Postscript

### Editor

Jennifer Jansen

### Technical Editor

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### Editorial Board

Kelly Harms

Greg Kozak

Jennifer Mohan

Got news? Send AABC news, tips, suggestions or letters to the editor:

[Jennifer Jansen](mailto:jensen@bcu.ca)

### A note from the guest editor

We've finally made it through a soggy Spring and are now in the midst of a long, hot summer. Bad for records left in the sun, but not so bad for those of us who enjoy getting outside of the archives. Yet, don't fret too much if you're not a sun worshipper—the days are now steadily growing shorter...

So in anticipation of the Fall AABC Newsletter, why not send us material on any archives-related social events you're planning? Even an article on what you're planning for next year's 'Archives Week?'

Have a relaxing summer and try to get out and enjoy the weather while you can. But leave the records at home (or use suitably opaque, buffered, cold storage-equipped Hollingers if you must)!

Greg Kozak – Guest Editor

# BC Archival Preservation Workshops

Rosaleen Hill

BCAPS offers a wide range of services including the development and delivery of preservation workshops. All workshops are designed for archivists, curators and collection managers responsible for preserving archival records. Currently we offer five core preservation workshops:

- Introduction to Archival Preservation
- Preservation of Photographic Media
- Emergency Planning for Archives
- Cold Storage for Photographic Media
- Preservation of Architectural Drawings

*Introduction to Archival Preservation* is a two-day workshop developed to introduce participants to the basics of preservation management, including environmental monitoring, storage requirements for a wide range of archival media, and selecting appropriate safe archival storage enclosures.

*Preservation of Photographic Media* is a two-day workshop designed so that participants will be able to develop an institution specific preservation strategy for their photographic media. Participants will learn how to identify cased photographs, photographic negatives and photographic prints, and how to store them to maximize their life expectancy. This workshop includes several hands-on identification sessions.

*Emergency Planning for Archives* is a two-day workshop which focuses on assessing and prioritizing archival records for emergency planning, developing an institution-specific emergency plan, using appropriate personal safety equipment, and developing triage and salvage techniques by taking part in the hands-on disaster salvage session.

*Cold Storage for Photographic Media* is a one-day workshop designed to introduce participants to the benefits of cold storage as a preservation strategy for photographic negatives and most colour photographic media. The workshop enables participants to identify media for cold storage; outlines the benefits of including cold storage as part of an institution's preservation strategy, and outlines the procedures for two low-cost cold storage options.

*Preservation of Architectural Drawings* is a one-day workshop where participants will learn to identify a range of architectural reproductions for descriptive purposes, undertake basic conservation techniques including surface cleaning, humidification and flattening and encapsulation, and assess various options for storing oversized records.

AABC members can request any preservation workshop to be held in either their institution or region. Please note that all AABC workshops are run on a cost recovery basis.

## Workshop Registration Fees

AABC Members	Non-AABC Members
One-Day Workshop \$50.00	One-Day Workshop \$100.00
Two-Day Workshop \$100.00	Two-Day Workshop \$150.00



**AABC Newsletter**  
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**President's Message**

Lara Wilson

Dear colleagues,

Fall has arrived and the days grow short, but there is much archival activity to report!

As announced on the archives-bc listserv, Kelly Stewart is the AABC's new Education and Advisory Service Contractor. Kelly takes over from Jenn Roberts, who left BC for Yukon earlier this year. Many of you know Kelly from the provincial archival scene, her years at the Chilliwack Archives, at the Sto:lo Nation, or perhaps her work as a consultant and educator. The AABC welcomes Kelly to our team of contractors—please do not hesitate to contact Kelly with your questions regarding managing archives and archival procedures.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind members that the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre's *BC History Digitization Program* is accepting project applications for 2008/09. This financial assistance program is an excellent opportunity for institutions to seek digitization support. As noted on the Barber Learning Centre website, "the focus of the program is to promote increased access to British Columbia's historical resources, including providing matching funds to undertake digitization projects that will result in free online access to our unique provincial historical material." Private or public institutions that have the preservation of historical BC materials as part of their mandate are eligible to apply. *The deadline for application is December 18, 2007.*

For more information, please visit the *BC History Digitization Program* website <http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/ps/BCDigitInfo.html>, the application form is available, and a Frequently Asked Questions section has been developed.

Ramona Rose and I have recently returned from Ottawa and the Canadian Council of Archives General Assembly and National Archival Appraisal Board Conference "The Future of Monetary Appraisal in Canada." Elsewhere in this issue, Ramona has provided you with two summary reports. The CCA is in the process of consulting with provincial and territorial councils on two matters, the impact on councils of the new National Archival Development Programme (NADP), and on the development of new national priorities for the renewal of the NADP in 2010/11. If you have any suggestions regarding this latter consultation, including new innovative ideas, as well as comments on the long-term validity of existing funding objectives, please contact any member of the AABC Executive and we will include your ideas in our response. More information about the NADP is available at the Canadian Council of Archives website: <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/NADP.html>.

Continued on the next page...

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## President's Report continued

The AABC is preparing for the 2008/09 NADP funding year, and you should too! Please see Ramona's General Assembly report and keep your eyes open for updates from the Grants Committee for information on AABC institutional member application procedures.

In addition, planning is underway for the 2008 AABC Conference "Future Evidence, Past Record" April 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Harbour Towers, Victoria, and a AABC webpage for the conference has been created. The AABC Executive encourages members to submit their ideas for papers and sessions by December 15; your participation will enrich this conference. I would like to thank our very capable conference committee, chaired by Carey Palliser, for its work so far.

Finally, there will be significant turnover in the AABC Executive at the 2008 AGM. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Institutional-Member-at-Large will be up for election. It is an important time in the evolution of the AABC and the national archival community, and these positions should not remain vacant. Please consider putting your name forward to Erica Hernandez, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee. More information about Executive roles, please visit the AABC website.

As always, I will close by thanking our contractors and volunteers for their hard work on behalf of our members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lara Wilson  
AABC President

## Archival Community Digitization Program (ACDP) An invitation to archives in BC

Fred Farrell, ACDP Steering Committee

In the coming weeks you will be receiving notice of the application process for the 2008-2009 Archival Community Digitization Program. This program is part of the Department of Canadian Heritage's (PCH) Canadian Content Online Program (CCOP), specifically the Memory Fund, and is managed by Library and Archives Canada (LAC), and administered in cooperation with the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA).

Applications must propose the development of unique, digitized online archival content focusing on the interpretation of a Canadian theme, subject or story. In addition, projects need to target either students or life-long learners and be available free of charge via the Internet for a minimum of five years. Unilingual projects are accepted but bilingual or multilingual projects are also funded. As well, all project funding must be spent by 31 March 2009.

Given its size, British Columbia is the jurisdiction that has shown the least interest in this program. Clearly there are some real and perceived barriers to applying for this funding and undertaking such projects. The application is detailed, applicants are encouraged to involve partners, the program contains elements that go beyond what some see as the traditional archival purview, and the operational and financial situations of many institutions are such that taking on such an initiative stretches strained budgets and human resources of archives, regardless of size.

Those factors aside, this program holds out the possibility of archives undertaking significant projects given their capacity, or working cooperatively where beneficial, to undertake projects that would be beyond the normal scope of their own resources. Previous projects have been funded from \$10,000 to over \$300,000. The program requires a 50% match, but that support can be in-kind.

Continued on page 10

# Archival Photograph Exhibition at MOA

Krizstina Laszlo

Seeing is Believing:  
Photographs from the Archives

1 October to 31 December 2007  
Gallery 10 @ MOA

There are more than 90,000 historic photographs in the Archives at the Museum of Anthropology. The collection is worldwide, covers a multitude of subjects, and dates from the early 1900s to the present day. This exhibit reveals only a tiny portion of this hidden gem, yet hints at the remarkable potential of this collection for scholars, researchers, and visitors.

Geographically, the collection includes images from the Northwest Coast of British Columbia, the Southwest United States, South America, and various areas of Asia, Oceania and Africa. Institutionally, the collection documents the people and events that were instrumental in the history and growth of the Museum.

## AABC's New Honorary Patron

The AABC is very pleased to announce that BC's new Lieutenant Governor, His Honour, The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC, has accepted the AABC's invitation to become our Honorary Patron.

We thank His Honour for acknowledging the AABC in this manner.

The Honourable Steven L. Point was sworn-in as British Columbia's 28th Lieutenant Governor on 1 October 2007.

# Student Interns: One Archives' Experience

Jo-Anne Allison, Archivist, Diocese of Prince George

The Archives of the Diocese of Prince George, like most religious Archives, has an overwhelming amount of work to be done with few resources at its disposal.

The problem of how to get collections sorted, arranged, and accessible in the face of manpower and funding shortages has been mitigated by an enthusiastic pool of volunteers who donated a significant number of hours to archival tasks. The past year, however, has seen these long-term volunteers moving on to other endeavors, leaving the Archives without anyone to do the million and one jobs that helped make it function.

I pursued leads in the traditional volunteer pool of seniors, yet many of those I approached were already devoting time to their own parishes. I decided to appeal to other segments of the Prince George community: high school and post-secondary students.

In the spring of 2006, I encouraged a high school student in need of work experience required for graduation from high school, to spend his spring break helping me out in the Archives. This young man shredded mountains of paper, shifted the entire Archives collection including the library, vacuumed, shredded some more, and also helped plan a display for the Diocesan Center central foyer. His two weeks proved to be such a success that I made arrangements with the Counseling Department at his high school to advertise for more students who needed to accumulate volunteer or work experience hours. A few expressed interest, but unfortunately the Ministry of Education cancelled the work experience program and without an incentive the students were not too excited about learning the ins and outs of the shredder!!!

There was also the need for more skilled help. While high school students have enthusiasm and lots of energy, many lack even basic office skills—and I needed help that wouldn't always require so much direct supervision.

Continued on next page...

## Student Interns continued

A casual conversation with a former colleague at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) Archives alerted me to a student internship program being offered by the UNBC History Department, in which students earn university credit by working on community history projects. I emailed the chair of the department to see if the types of work I had to offer would fit into the framework of their program, and almost immediately received an affirmative reply.

My proposal of what the student would do included researching and writing of short biographies of notable religious figures who served in the Diocese; indexing the Diocesan newspaper; writing a script for a traveling display; and tasks associated with constructing a database of all religious personnel who came to this area, which extended back into the 1800's. The proposal was designed to be multi-year and students would be expected to work on various components depending on their areas of expertise.

I was very pleased when the History Program Chair gave his approval to the project and especially happy when I learned that a third-year History major with a special interest in archival work would be our first intern.

What I didn't immediately realize, however, is that students undertaking an internship have the completion of academic projects as a priority—and thus cannot be asked to do those million-and-one odd jobs one might ask a regular volunteer to do. In addition, I discovered that even though students understand the academic importance of working with original documents, most do not possess practical knowledge of the challenges involved with working with archival materials. This entailed some adjustments to my expectations and required more training time than I had anticipated.

Archival materials may be fragile. They often have indecipherable handwriting and fading ink. Letters often lack specificity, and in religious archives, are often in languages other than English. This means that correspondence takes a long time to read, interpret and understand. Further, in order to be useful, these documents

must be understood within their particular historical context, which requires a substantial amount of supplementary and time-consuming research. While I had taken these factors as a given, they were a big surprise to my student intern.

The biggest impediment to my student's research was the lack of organization in the Diocesan Archives. Most documents are unorganized and materials are only roughly sorted. Only one fonds is arranged and accessible via a database and finding aid.

After discussion, my student and I decided to turn the disadvantage of few arranged records into a positive by focusing on those records we did have immediate access to. Thus, rather than writing complete biographies of individuals, she focused on particular circumstances or happenings highlighted in the letters which were arranged, and then built a "snap shot in time" for her research papers based on contextual research.

The success of the Prince George Diocesan Archives' first experience with a university student intern was due to the flexibility, patience and creativity of all those involved. As we embark on another internship, however, I need to ensure that sufficient materials are arranged so that projects can easily satisfy the academic requirements which are the priority of students in the program.

# Education and Advisory Service

Kelly Stewart, AABC Advisory Archivist

After a summer hiatus, the Education and Advisory Service (EAS) is up and running again with big plans for the fall and winter months: distance education courses, site visits, and workshops—it's going to be busy!

But first, let me introduce myself. My name is Kelly Stewart and since September 1<sup>st</sup> I've been the Advisory Archivist, a position that I'm new to but very familiar with. My first job out of the Master of Archival Studies program at UBC in 1993 was working for then-Advisor Bill Purver, compiling descriptions for a newly-created BC Archival Union List. At that time I traveled to archives in the BC Northeast, including Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and down into Barkerville, Quesnel, and Williams Lake. Little did I know, fourteen years later, that I would be planning a similar trip to the same region as Archives Advisor! Yes, the EAS has plans to visit the Central Interior, BC Northeast as well as the Thompson-Okanagan in March of 2008.

Since 1993, I've divided my time nicely between working in community archives, including the Chilliwack Museum and Archives and the New Westminster Museum and Archives, and records management, including ICBC, the Sto:lo Nation, and at various consulting gigs. I've also taught Records Management and Archival Techniques in the Library Technician Program at the University College of the Fraser Valley since 1997. Since 2001 (and the birth of my oldest daughter) I've taught these courses by distance education.

But enough about me...the EAS is currently offering *Introduction to Archival Practice* by distance education, and will offer *Managing Archival Photographs* by distance education, starting in January of 2008. In the New Year it will also present a workshop on *Metadata for Description* (date and place to be determined).

To fill the spaces in between the visits and the teaching, I am more than happy to dispense advice!!! Please feel free to call, email, write to me and I'll do my best to help you out.

Cheers,  
Kelly Stewart  
604-931-1285  
kstewart@aabc.bc.ca

## AABC Conference Announcement!

### "Future Evidence, Past Record"

24-26 April 2008

Harbour Towers, Victoria, BC

Mark these dates on your calendar and join us for:

- Informative sessions
- Networking opportunities
- Inspiring speakers
- Entertaining walking tours
- Tours of local repositories

AABC has joined with ARMA for a conference that marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia.

Choose from workshops and presentations focusing on the theme of "Future Evidence, Past Record". The schedule will include workshops on all three days, a reception at Government House on Thursday and a banquet on Friday. There will be walking tours and tours of local archives, as well as the Annual General Meeting on Saturday. Please check here again for updates.

There will be something for everyone and we look forward to seeing you there!

# Northwood Photographic Fonds Digitization Project

Erica Hernández and Ramona Rose

The *Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. Fonds*, received by the Northern BC Archives & Special Collections, U.N.B.C. in 1999, provides an extensive visual archives documenting Northwood's historical and technical operations within Prince George, Upper Fraser, Giscome, Shelley, Babine Lake, and Houston from 1963-1996. The significance of this fonds lies in its authentic provision of documentary evidence of the technological advances in equipment and processes; mill and plant construction; pulp mill operations, slash-burning practices, logging and forest harvesting practices; and the company's staff and community relations, and sponsorship activities during its time in Northern BC.



The *Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. fonds* consist primarily of photographic materials generated by, or created for, Northwood and includes: 8800+ photographic images, 2,600 slides, 6 video cassettes, 3 -16mm film reels, and 1 metre of textual records. Due to the significant extent of materials, limited funds and a small professional staff, this fonds would normally still remain largely unavailable to public viewing; however, thanks to a 2007 grant from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, the Northern BC Archives & Special Collections, U.N.B.C. was able to embark upon a large-scale digitization project this summer and fall. As a result, 2,100 colour slides from the *Northwood Pulp and Paper Ltd. fonds* have been scanned and are now publicly accessible via the Archives on-line database.



This tremendous visual resource will satisfy the research needs of academics (faculty & students) and industry professionals. For these users, it provides visual documentation of prior forestry conditions over a 35-year period that can serve as a benchmark for documenting environmental change (landscape, forests) over time. This is particularly important to those researchers conducting comparative analyses of the current environment versus previous conditions. For other users (e.g., school groups, the media, and the general public) it provides a visual documentary of natural resource extraction activity in the Central Interior, as well as an overview of the corporate activities of Northwood during its involvement in the industrial development of this region of the province.

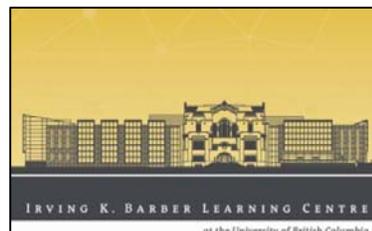


For further information or to view these images on-line please search the *Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. fonds* on the NBCA website: <http://library.unbc.ca/UNBCArchives/archDisplay/Default.aspx> and follow the directions below.

## Directions:

1. Search Page: click on Northwood Pulp and Timber Ltd. fonds
2. Fonds Detail Page: click on View Series
3. Series List Page: click on Series Title "Photographic Material"
4. Series Detail Page: click on View Items for Series Item List Page: select photograph for viewing

The Northern BC Archives & Special Collections, U.N.B.C. would like to extend a warm thank-you to the British Columbia History Digitization Program, an initiative of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the University of British Columbia, for their generosity. For more information on the Digitization Program or this Centre please visit <http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/>



# CCA General Assembly Update

Romona Rose

Ramona Rose, AABC Grants Chair, attended the CCA General Assembly held in Ottawa Oct 20-21 on behalf of the AABC. The annual assembly was attended by representatives of all provincial and territorial councils, CCA Board members, and representatives of LAC. The Assembly provides an opportunity to discuss annual activities of the CCA Secretariat, the CCA Board, and LAC.

Highlights of the Assembly included introductory greetings and a review of LAC activities from Ian Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada. Wilson spoke of the recent CBC-TV show created in partnership with LAC entitled *Who Do You Think You Are?*, a Canadian version of the BBC genealogy-based TV series. Wilson noted that it has received an overwhelmingly positive response from Canadian viewers and increased public exposure for the Canadian Genealogy Centre's new website, which features a federated search of 18 LAC nominal databases. For information on the series and link to the Canadian Genealogy Centre see <http://whodoyouthinkyouare.cbc.ca>.

Wilson also spoke of LAC's involvement with the traveling archival exhibition on the Indian Residential Schools system created with the *Legacy of Hope Foundation*. Marianne McLean of LAC later described LAC's commitment to work with the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2008 to provide advice and support to the TRC on questions of records-keeping and information management

Fred Farrell, past CCA Chair provided a summary overview of the Archival Community Development Program (ACDP), which provided over \$370,000.00 in funding to archival institutions throughout Canada to create archival digitization projects. It is expected that the funding program will be announced early next year: BC archival institutions are strongly urged to consider applications to the ACDP for those considering digitization projects. For more information on the program and its guidelines please contact Kristina Lillico at 613-943-0236 or by email ([kristina.lillico@lac-bac.gc.ca](mailto:kristina.lillico@lac-bac.gc.ca)) or see the program guidelines on the CCA website: <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/ACDP.html>

The main business of the assembly related to the activities of the National Archival Development Programme (NADP) in its efforts to increase Canadian archives' capacity to preserve and make accessible archival materials via a national archival system. In a presentation by the CCA Board Chair, Ian Forsyth, it was announced that LAC will undertake a formative evaluation of the first two years of the NADP using a Results Based Management and Accountability Framework to examine if the program is on track to meet the goals outlined in the NADP's five objectives. Ian also announced that the CCA will create a National Review and Adjudication Committee to adjudicate NADP 2008-2009 funding. It was stressed that this committee does not replace the provincial adjudication process for institutional applications to NADP, but provides a review process only. The creation of the Committee will, Ian explained, help to alleviate some of the workload of the CCA Secretariat and Board, so that efforts can be placed on other activities, including the continued development of the *Archives Canada* portal.

In his presentation, Ian summarized data accumulated on the NADP program thus far. Most NADP funding applications are received from provincial and territorial councils to assist or fully fund their advisory services. While there are no changes to the NADP objectives for the 2008-9 application process, applicants are encouraged to consider projects that relate to the following NADP objectives:

- increase awareness and broaden use of Canada's archives (2)
- increase the representation of Aboriginal peoples and under-represented ethno-cultural groups in Canada's archives (3)

Ian reiterated that successful applicants to NADP should remember that the continued success of the program depends on the receipt of hard data to documenting the success of activities undertaken in the Canadian archival system and how it has made its services and holdings more publicly accessible. Noting measurable outcomes and providing thank you letters to LAC (cc'd to CCA Secretariat) are encouraged and will assist in stressing the continued need for this funding program.

Continued on next page...

## CCA Assembly continued

Some new tools will be placed on the CCA website to assist applicants to NADP in formulating their applications. As well, it was noted that those institutions whose projects were well received, but not funded last year due to lack of sufficient funds, should consider re-applying for NADP project funding this year. It is expected that the NADP 2008-2009 application forms and guidelines will be available by 9 November on the CCA website. An announcement on the NADP institutional grants submission deadline to the AABC Grants Committee will also be made on both the AABC website and list-serv. For further information on the program see <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/NADP.html>.

## NAAB Conference Update

Ramona Rose

“The Future of Monetary Appraisal in Canada” was the theme of the National Archival Appraisal Board (NAAB) Conference, jointly organized by NAAB & the CCA Secretariat, held on 22-23 October in Ottawa—the first NAAB conference in over 10 years. The conference was attended by over 180 participants from across Canada, including archivists from institutions that use NAAB services, NAAB Board members, and independent appraisers of archival materials.

The conference had both thematic sessions and workshops. Thematic sessions covered the monetary appraisal process, stakeholders’ issues, and the certification process via the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board (CCPERB). Thematic sessions reiterated the importance of context-based archival description and the creation of comprehensive finding aids in preparation for NAAB appraisals. The sessions on digital media technology resulted in the formation of a potential checklist list of recommendations for assessing the significance (i.e., content and context) of digital media; its findings will be made available on the NAAB website.

The workshops focused on appraising archival materials including textual records, photographs, diaries, books, autographs, and architectural records. All sessions provided a forum for participants to engage in discussions on the challenges of preparing for monetary appraisal and cultural property certification of archival materials.

The conference included plenary sessions by prominent speakers from the Canadian monetary appraisal community including Marcel Caya, Director of NAAB, and David Silcox, President of Sotheby’s Canada.

A plenary session with Brock Silversides, Head of the Media Commons of the Audio Visual Library, University of Toronto, questioned the appraisal processes in place which, he argues, overlooks a qualitative analysis of records and is replaced by a quantitative (mathematical) formula to determine the fair market value of archival materials.

Carman Carroll, Special Advisor to the CCA, recommended that individual archives formulate their own institutional policy on preparing NAAB appraisals. His presentation focused on the activities required to complete a successful monetary appraisal process: description; significance; justification and fair market value as set out in an arms length process. Carroll recently completed an independent review on the future of NAAB soon to be released.

The final session of the conference provided participants the opportunity to submit questions to a group of expert appraisers and archivists. This interactive session led to commentary on the future organization structure of NAAB, of a call to archivists to consider becoming members of NAAB, and of the need for training for future prospective NAAB adjudicators. All plenary sessions were recorded and plans are underway to have them available on the NAAB website, which is presently under construction. For more information on NAAB and its activities, see: [http://www.naab.ca/index\\_e.asp](http://www.naab.ca/index_e.asp).

# Hurrah for BC newest purpose-built archives!

Melanie Wallace

The Archives of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and Provincial Synod of BC and Yukon, together with the Bob Stewart Archives (United Church) and the Vancouver School of Theology, are thrilled that they are in the last months of waiting for the opening of their new facility. The 8,000 square foot purpose-built archives is part of the Vancouver School of Theology's (VST) Iona building on the UBC campus, and has been in the plans for the last four years. In 2003, the three archives moved out of their quarters in the Iona building as it was being upgraded and refinished. The original plan was to move the archives back into the building in about 18 months—but with the complications of restoring a building over 80-years old, and construction being what it is, the timeline became longer and longer. Eventually it became clear that the archives would need its own space, and provisions were made for the new facility.

The archives facility is below ground, with the entrance and services attached to the main Iona building. It boasts over 7,000 square feet of stack space and 900 square feet of public space, including a reference area, three offices, kitchen, fully-accessible washroom, and processing area. Natural light is welcomed through two bands of skylights above the office areas. Money has been raised to track the entire stack area, and to install archival-quality static shelving, with several sets of four compact units. The archivists, Melanie Wallace (Anglican) and Blair Galston (United), and their predecessors, were involved throughout the process, giving input and feedback on everything from climate controls to lighting. The result is a building that is both welcoming and functional, with the safety of the records and the needs of researchers in mind.

The Anglican, United and VST archives house invaluable records that document the history of the church in BC and the Yukon. The archivists would like to thank the Federal Records Centre in Burnaby, City of Vancouver Archives, the parish of St. Mary's Kerrisdale, and the Missions to Seafarers for their continued support in storing the records over the years of planning and actual construction. Please set aside the evening of January 24, 2008 to join us in celebrating the grand opening of this exciting facility



## Editorial Postscript

### Note from the Editor

As many of you know, Archives Week is fast approaching—only two and a half short months away! Next issue I'd like to see submissions about what you did at your institution.

We also have a couple good local conferences to look forward to in the New Year. As you no doubt saw, one conference will be a reflection on BC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The other of note is the annual Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy conference, which usually takes place in Victoria in February. I understand this year's will be on Social Networking, which should be of great interest to those of us interested in preserving those slippery digital entities floating out there.

Keep warm (and dry!),

#### Editor

Greg Kozak

#### Technical Editor

Leslie Field

#### Editorial Board

Kelly Harms

Jennifer Mohan

Got news? Send AABC news, tips, suggestions or letters to the editor: [Greg Kozak](mailto:Greg.Kozak@AABC.ca)

Greg

# ACDP continued

...continued from page 2

Successful projects have included teachers and academics to help with the educational and interpretation components, IT contractors and students to construct web sites, and community groups to assist in the review or awareness of the project. Again, these can be hard dollar or in-kind contributions.

Institutions funded in previous years have generated significant benefits in public perception of archives that go beyond the use of the web product. These benefits have come from public reaction to the final products and from the partnerships forged through the projects. In almost every funded project there were positive, concrete spin-offs, including new acquisitions, greater recognition from sponsors and the school system, and greater involvement with archives by the general public and other sectors. These results go well beyond the substantial initial and extended use of the sites. This funding program has evolved considerably over its life. You will note that applicants now must be a member of the relevant Provincial-Territorial Council.

Currently the program is being reviewed by the Federal Government, so there is a possibility that this will be the last year of the current funding. It would be unfortunate if this funding comes to an end. Although these projects are very intensive, the program offers over one-million dollars to the archival community and individual projects can provide institutions with a significant financial boost to undertake projects of a scale rarely available to archives.

If you are interested in receiving more details some past successful recipients are available to discuss their experience with you and detailed information is available on the CCA website for the 2007-2008 program and this will be updated when the 2008-2009 documentation becomes available: <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/ACDP.html>.

Should you decide to proceed with an application, you are not on your own. Advice is available from the project coordinators before and during the stages of constructing your application, and help is available from the CCA. For further information on this program, please contact the project coordinators: Kristina Lillico at 613-943-0236 ([kristina.lillico@lac-bac.gc.ca](mailto:kristina.lillico@lac-bac.gc.ca)) or Krista Petersen at 613-995-6760 ([krista.petersen@lac-bac.gc.ca](mailto:krista.petersen@lac-bac.gc.ca)). In addition I am willing to discuss the program with any interested institutions. [fred.farrell@gnb.ca](mailto:fred.farrell@gnb.ca).

## BC History Digitization Program

In September 2006 the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the University of British Columbia announced the BC History Digitization Program. The focus of the program is to promote increased access to British Columbia's historical resources, including providing matching funds to undertake digitization projects that will result in free online access to our unique provincial historical material.

The Learning Centre serves as an education centre, library and a conduit of knowledge for lifelong learners. The British Columbia History Digitization Program demonstrates the Learning Centre's dedication to sharing knowledge and supporting education by making local information resources available to people throughout the province and beyond.

For more information, see <http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/ps/BCDigitInfo.html>.

(Introduction from the BC History Digitization Program website, Irving K Barber Learning Centre, UBC)



**AABC Newsletter**  
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**President's Message**

Lara Wilson

Dear colleagues,

As I began to write, I've a sense of déjà vu . . . didn't I just write a president's report? But I'm thinking of my yearend report for our 2008 AGM! And this is an excellent segue into the latest activities of the AABC . . .

First, I am looking forward to our 2008 conference, a joint offering with ARMA Vancouver Island, entitled "Future Evidence, Past Record." The dates are April 24 to 26 in Victoria, at the Harbour Towers Hotel. We are very pleased to announce that the opening reception is at Government House on April 24th, hosted by His Honor, The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the AABC's honorary patron. For the first time, we are using an on-line system for conference registration ([www.sporg.com](http://www.sporg.com)). The AABC sessions will consider the scope of BC's social, geographical and educational record, and how archivists are addressing a broad heritage mission. ARMA presenters will cover a variety of topics relating to the legal and evidentiary values of records, including development of records management programs, the Canadian standard for Electronic Records as Documentary Evidence, and user-friendly classification systems. A number of workshops will be held, including "Digital Output: Inkjet and Laser Printers (or, Life and Death in the Digital World)" with Rosaleen Hill (BC Archival Preservation Service), and "Metadata and Archives" with Kelly Stewart.

My thanks to the Conference Committee members, including our colleagues from ARMA VI, and to our sponsors thus far:

- British Columbia Archives/Royal British Columbia Museum <http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca>
- Monk Office Supply <http://www.monk.ca>
- PacBlue Digital Imaging <http://www.pacblue.net>
- Royal Roads University <http://www.royalroads.ca>
- Rogers Chocolates <http://www.rogerschocolates.com/>

For more information about the 2008 conference, please visit the AABC's conference webpage at <http://aabc.bc.ca>.

I am very pleased to announce that in response to an invitation to submit additional funding proposals to the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (IKBLC), the AABC has received from IKBLC \$20,000 for the upgrade of the BC Archival Union List (BCAUL) infrastructure.

Continued on next page...

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## President's Report continued

As you know, AABC contractors and volunteers pioneered the delivery of archival holdings information electronically; in 1993 the UBC Library partnered with the AABC to develop BCAUL (<http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcaul.html>). These technical upgrades are intended to enable AABC member institutions to quickly upload more detailed and up-to-date archival descriptions, and to enable Internet users to find this information faster.

The AABC is planning to use IKBLC funds to support a pilot project to test a new open-source multi-level archival description database system called ICA (International Council on Archives) Access to Memory (ICA AtoM). The designer of this software, Peter Van Garderen, President of Artefactual Systems Inc., will be discussing the ICA AtoM project and demonstrating the software at the conference, and I encourage you to attend this session. The AABC is investigating additional funding for the implementation phase of ICA AtoM/BCAUL, and will keep the membership updated. The AABC Executive is optimistic that successful implementation of this software may have a significant impact on the Canadian archival community's provision of multilevel description on-line. We are grateful to the Barber family for providing the AABC with the means to undertake this activity.

There is more good news on the financial front—at the end of February we were notified that the AABC's application for financial support had been reconsidered and approved by the Direct Access Program of the Licensing and Grants Division, BC Government Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch. We've received \$13,000 to put towards our Archival Network Services program. As you can imagine, my co-workers heard happy exclamations that day!

This brings me to an update on the Executive—Sharon Walz, our most capable Treasurer, is en route to Ontario, where she will begin a new position at the provincial archives. The Executive thanks Sharon for her excellent volunteer service on behalf of the community over the past year and we wish her all the best! Karen Blimkie (AABC Financial Manager) and I are covering Sharon's duties until Jennifer Mohan takes on the Acting-Treasurer role beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>.

This brings me to an update on the Executive—Sharon Walz, our most capable Treasurer, is en route to Ontario, where she will begin a new position at the provincial archives. The Executive thanks Sharon for her excellent volunteer service on behalf of the community over the past year and we wish her all the best! Karen Blimkie (AABC Financial Manager) and I are covering Sharon's duties until Jennifer Mohan takes on the Acting-Treasurer role beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Finally, I am very pleased to report that we have nominations for all Executive positions for 2008/09: these names will be presented and the election will take place at our AGM in April. My sincere gratitude goes out to those members who have put their names forward.

Next year is going to be an exciting one—and the AABC Executive, committees and contractors are looking forward to it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lara Wilson  
AABC President

### New Catholic Archivist Group Website

The Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) invites you to check out our brand new web site:  
[www.catholicarchivist.ca](http://www.catholicarchivist.ca)

See what this great group is about, read about what is happening in the field, check out our photos, and find out about our next conference in Edmonton in September 2008!!!

# A Sneak Peak at the 1858 Douglas Commission

Ann ten Cate, Archivist and Outreach Coordinator

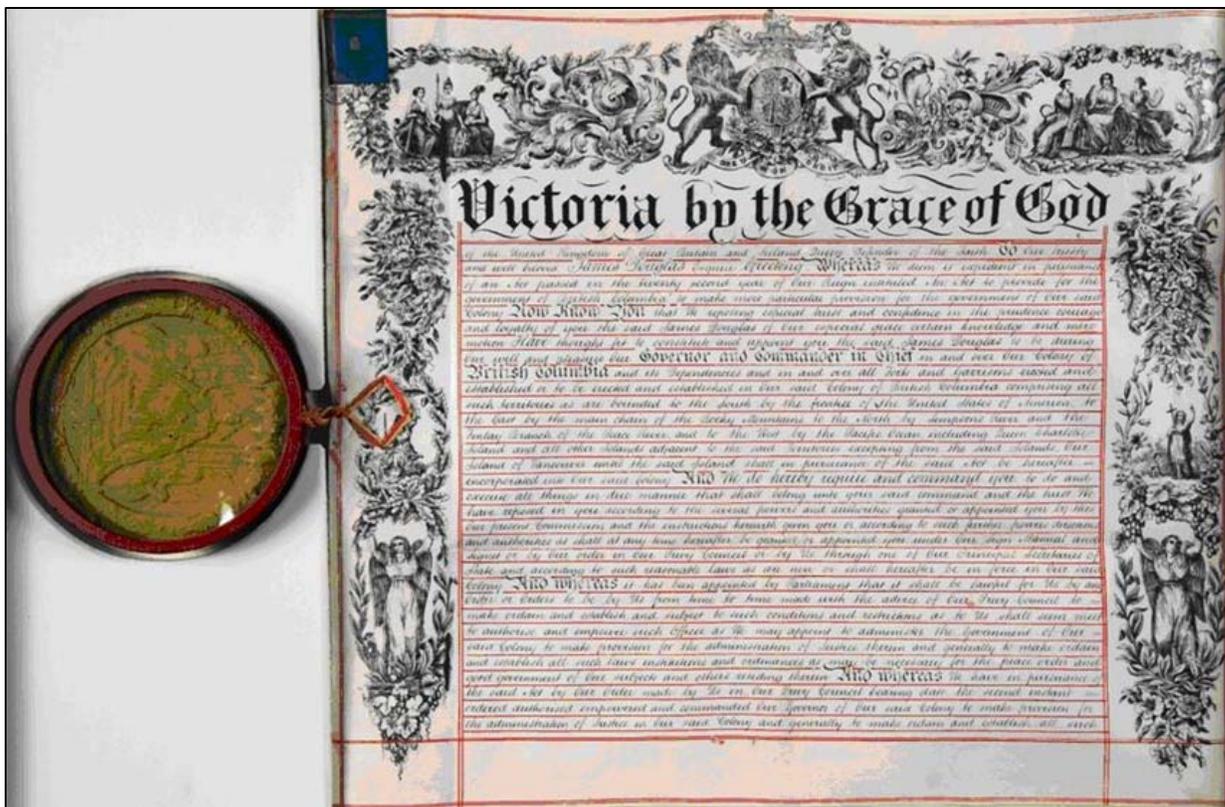
One of the most significant documents to be featured in the upcoming *Free Spirit: Stories of You, Me, and BC* exhibit at the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) will be the record known as “the Douglas Commission,” more formally known as “GR-1545, BRITISH COLUMBIA (COLONY). GOVERNOR (1858-1864: DOUGLAS).” This three-page parchment document was created in 1858, spent many decades in a brown paper bag in a vault in London (England), and was returned to British Columbia in 1953 with much pomp and ceremony. It documents the appointment of James Douglas as governor of British Columbia.

Over the last two years, archivists at the BC Archives have spent some time researching the provenance, and the diplomatics of the record, adding considerably to our knowledge about this “founding” document. It has been featured in a series of talks given by archivists at the RBCM as part of the Discover Program, displayed at a meeting of the Friends of the BC Archives on Douglas Day, and will now move into the RBCM exhibit galleries for the next nine months. A “road-trip” to Fort Langley is also under discussion for later in the BC150 celebrations.

Researching the history of this document, and preparing it for interpretive display, has been an enjoyable job for staff who rarely get to do this type of in-depth analysis. We learned a great deal about the record’s history, and how and why it was created, lost and found again. We are now full of arcane facts about the history of seals, stamp duty, and the parchment-making process!

The commission was issued by Queen Victoria to James Douglas, giving him the authority to act as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the new Colony of British Columbia. It was read aloud by Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie at Fort Langley on November 19, 1858. The Governor’s responsibilities are described in the text of the commission, and are wide-ranging, including the authority to raise armies, repel pirates, and more significantly, bring the British system of law and justice to the mainland.

The document is large and has three parchment pages with pre-printed decorative borders. The text is handwritten in ink, and the three pages are sewn together with two green silk ribbons, and wool cords that are attached to a wax pendant seal. The Royal Seal, showing Queen Victoria on her throne, is about six inches in diameter and one and a quarter inches thick—it’s in surprisingly good condition, partly because it is protected by a metal skipket.



BC Archives GR-1545

“The Douglas Commission”

## Douglas Commission continued

In addition to the wax seal, the document also has a blue paper and lead tax stamp, which showed that the appropriate duty had been paid on the parchment. The inks are a black printing ink, a red ink, and an iron gall ink, and there is some water damage and smudging. The parchment is sheep skin, which shows a degree of cockling. For preservation and display, the record has been placed in a sealed case with silica to prevent any further humidification. As our conservator, Betty Walsh, is fond of saying, the “record wants to be sheep-shape again” and we therefore must fight its natural tendencies.

Douglas considered the commission to be his personal property, and after his retirement in 1864 he was reputedly fond of bringing it out to allow his grandchildren to kiss the seal! At some point after his death in 1877, it was deposited with the London offices of the BC Land and Investment Agency, likely by Douglas’ only son, James William Douglas. It was here, in 1953, that an alert secretary, who was cleaning out the office vault, noticed the brown paper bag, investigated, and then called BC House.

Notwithstanding its irregular history of custody, and its travels back and forth across the Atlantic and Pacific, this document is in very good condition. It was an integral part of the ceremony that established the Colony of British Columbia on 19 November 1858, and the BC Archives is pleased to be able to include it in the exhibit celebrating the province’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. We hope that AABC members who are in Victoria will take the opportunity to view the original of this important BC record.

### Wanted: Editorial Board Member

The AABC Newsletter is looking for a new member for its editorial board.

If you’re interested in filling this vacancy, or have any questions about what the position entails, please contact Greg Kozak at: [gkozak@alumni.sfu.ca](mailto:gkozak@alumni.sfu.ca).

## The Terry Reksten Memorial Fund Award

Ronald Greene

Founded in honour of the late Terry Reksten, well-known British Columbia historian, the award offers an annual \$800 award to a community archives in British Columbia. The award is designed to assist the recipient in acquiring, preserving, indexing or disseminating information on archival documentary heritage of British Columbia in the broadest sense of the word. The award is administered by the Friends of the British Columbia Archives.

Eligibility Criteria are:

1. The Archives must be open to the public at least eight hours a week
2. The Archives should have three or fewer paid employees
3. No Archive is eligible to receive moneys from the fund in two consecutive years.

The award has been made annually since 2002. The 2007 winner was Hope in Shadows, Downtown Eastside Photography Context, Exhibition & Calendar. The award was used to purchase supplies and enclosures to ensure the adequate preservation of the photographs.

Applications for the 2008 grant are to be submitted by 30 June 2008. Please outline your project or need in not more than one half page and provide details of eligibility. Submit your application to:

Friends of the British Columbia Archives –  
Grant Committee  
c/o B.C. Archives  
675 Belleville Street  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8W 9W2

or by e-mail to: [ragreene@telus.net](mailto:ragreene@telus.net)

The winner will be chosen and announced in September.

The successful applicant will be required to provide notification on completion of the project, and if possible a short report for the Friends of the BC Archives Newsletter.

# The Value and Place of Databases in Archival Research: the case of the Diocese of Prince George

Jo-Anne Allison, Archivist, Diocese of Prince George

When I first accepted the position of Archivist for the Diocese of Prince George, I discovered numerous paper lists containing information about the priests and religious who served and are serving in the Diocese. I further discovered that these lists were produced from a number of electronic databases, most of which were unusable due to changes to computer hard and software.

Typically, the lists contain the names, religious name, place of residence, dates of service, and position or job in the community for all those who served in the Diocese since its creation. In the case of priests, it also included their order, the nature of their appointment, and when and where they performed marriages, baptisms and burials.

The Diocese of Prince George covers a large area, but is much smaller geographically than when priests and religious first came to minister to this area. Initially the Diocese included all of northern British Columbia and the Yukon, and was administered out of the port city of Prince Rupert. By the early 1900s, many parishes and missions had been established. Also, a number of priests served as itinerant or traveling missionaries to the camp dwellers along the railway line, to miners along the creeks, and to First Nations peoples living outside of established towns.

As is the case with many archives, my most frequently asked questions concern people: who they were, where they worked, and what they did when they lived there. Therefore, the need to preserve the data contained in these paper lists is paramount. Unfortunately, in the past no effort was made to amalgamate the various lists into one searchable system. Equally unfortunate is the fact that most of the data is stored on old-fashioned and obsolete floppy disks. While I am thankful that a previous Archivist had the foresight to make paper copies of all the materials, so no data has been lost, there is no denying that the paper lists are cumbersome, unwieldy, and time consuming to use.

The one exception to this bleak picture is the database documenting the priests, which was converted to Microsoft Access a number of years ago and has been updated and maintained over the years. This database proves just how valuable this information is for researchers.

Many of you are familiar with the *Dictionnaire Biographique des Oblats de Marie Immaculée au Canada*, which is an incredibly valuable resource given the Oblate history of the Diocese of Prince George. Prince George's priest database, however, has proven that this wonderful resource is incomplete or inaccurate as it regards certain individuals. For example, according to the *Dictionnaire*, Fr Honorius Rivet, OMI, served in Dawson City, Yukon from 1911 to 1914. Yet, our database has him in Whitehorse for the whole of 1912. Investigation of correspondence files for those years has substantiated that our database is correct. Thus, because of our database, researchers can know of Fr Rivet's contribution to Whitehorse's development!

Another example of the usefulness of the database to historical research concerns Fr Gottfried Eichelsbacher, OMI, and Fr A. Godfrey, OMI. Entries in the database were traced back to the manuscript records with the result that these two prolific priests were proven to be the same person!

Who knows what other stories will be told and what other mysteries solved when the information in the other paper lists is finally computerized and made accessible. There is no doubt that access to this information will not only complement, but will also enrich the quality of historical research about northern British Columbia and the Diocese of Prince George.

# BC Archives, Royal BC Museum, Private Records Acquisitions for 2007

David Mattison, Private Records Archivist

Accession 93-1928: Phillip Borsos fonds. The business records of Australian-born BC filmmaker Phillip Borsos (1953-1995), who shot to prominence with his first feature film, *The Grey Fox*, were acquired by the Royal BC Museum in December 2007. On lease from the executors of the Borsos Estate to the RBCM through the BC Archives since 1997, the records document the full scope of his vision beginning with his student films in the 1970s through to the last feature film he directed in the early 1990s. In addition to production files on the five feature films he directed – *The Grey Fox* (1982), *The Mean Season* (1985), *One Magic Christmas* (1985), *Bethune: The Making of a Hero* (1990) and *Far from Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog* (1995) – the fonds contain files on three of his most significant short films: *Cooperage* (1976), *Spartree* (1977), and *Nails* (1979).

*Nails* was nominated for, but did not win, the 1979 Academy Award in the Documentary (Short Subject) category. *Nails* was also recognized with a Genie Award for Outstanding Theatrical Short in 1980.

The files containing the history of how Borsos developed the story of legendary American train robber Bill Miner into the award-winning *The Grey Fox* afford many captivating glimpses into the life of a 20-something film director. One such example is correspondence between actor Paul Newman and Borsos about Newman playing Bill Miner. Rated as one of the best Canadian films of all time and awarded five Genies as well as a Golden Globe nomination, *The Grey Fox* was also elevated to Masterworks status in 2001 by the Audio-Visual Preservation Trust of Canada.

Following the critical success of *The Grey Fox* and through the rest of his career, Borsos attempted to develop other feature film properties, including John Irving's novel *The Cider House Rules*, Andreas Schroeder's novel *Dustship*, and Walter M. Miller's novel *A Canticle for Leibowitz*.

The Borsos fonds includes a large number of screenplays he was sent for review but did not

direct, including *Paris, Texas*, which starred Harry Dean Stanton – who was also considered for the part of Bill Miner –, *The Running Man*, which starred Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Top Gun*, which starred Tom Cruise and *Turner & Hooch*, which starred Tom Hanks, and *The Runaway Train*, co-written by famed Japanese director Akira Kurosawa (1910-1998) and which starred Jon Voigt. While Borsos is best known for his film directing, he also worked on a number of TV commercials.

The physical extent of the Borsos records is around 13 metres of shelf space for the paper records. In addition to film and video examples of all his film and commercial productions, the records contain photographs that illustrate aspects of his productions, as well as technical drawings and posters for some of the feature films. The fonds is arranged into the following series: Early film productions; Feature film productions; Journals; Commercials; Film development projects and financial files.

**Accessions 92-1321 and 95-2662:** Gretchen Brewin fonds. The two accessions comprising this fonds consist of textual records documenting Gretchen Brewin's career as a Member of the Legislative Assembly between the years 1991 and 2001 as a member of the New Democratic Party government representing the Victoria-Beacon Hill electoral district. She was the province's first female Deputy Speaker and served as Speaker from March 1998 to February 2000. Between February and November 2000, she served as the Minister for Children and Families. The fonds are arranged into three series: political workbooks, day timers and general office files.

**Accession 95-4056:** William Hartley accession. This accession consists of textual records documenting William Hartley's life and career as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1934 to 1998. The records contain correspondence, subject files and one photograph. As a member of the New Democratic Party, William Hartley served as a MLA for the Yale-Lillooet electoral district between 1963 and 1975. He served as Minister of Public Works between September 1972 and December 1975 under the province's first NDP government. The accession represents an addition to textual records MS-0764.

# BC Archives Acquisitions

continued

**Accession 95-4157:** Doris Stastny accession. This accession consists of one map on linen depicting Point Ellice, Victoria, ca. 1868.

**Accession 95-4219:** Norman Charles Stewart accession. This accession consists of 13 volumes of textual records, 1910-1954. The records are personal diaries or notebooks kept by Norman Charles Stewart (1885-1965), a land surveyor qualified under both the federal and provincial land survey systems. He served as the British Columbia Surveyor General between 1947 and 1950. The set of diaries are incomplete for the time range. A complete transcript prepared by the donor of all the diaries also forms part of the accession.

**Accession 95-5109:** Universities Council of British Columbia reports. This accession consists of 13 UCBC annual reports, 1974-1987, a 1986 report titled *Facing Tomorrow's Needs in Higher Education*, and a 1980 report by consultant Sir Frederick Dainton (1914-1997).

**Accession 95-5820:** Ella family accession. This accession consists of six documents and one document envelope relating to Henry Bailey Ella and his wife Martha Beeton Ella, 1840-1865. The couple settled in Metchosin in the 1850s and moved to Victoria in the 1860s. The documents are the originals for which the RBCM already holds copies for most of them.

**Accession 95-5924:** British Columbia Provincial Police records. This accession of 14 boxes from the Penticton regional office of the BC Provincial Police was transferred by the Penticton Museum and Archives, which has had custody of these records since at least 1977. The BC Archives had borrowed the records in 1981 to microfilm them (textual records GR-2753). The records represent a significant addition to the body of Provincial Police records already held by the BC Archives.

**Accession 95-6104:** Phyllis and Don Munday and Edith Wickham accession. This accession represents an addition to an existing group of records about Phyllis and Don Munday, nationally recognized mountaineers, explorers and naturalists, and their daughter Edith Wickham. The entire body of records constitutes the largest accumulation of information anywhere about this family and its accomplishments.

## UBC Archival Students Host WWU Students

Kelly McElroy

This February, the University of British Columbia chapter of the Association of Canadian Archivists hosted a group of students from Western Washington University's Archives and Records Management graduate program. An annual tradition, this visit provides students an opportunity to exchange ideas and meet future colleagues. Since UBC students drove down to Bellingham last year, this year it was our turn to show folks around our campus community.

After coffee, the visitors enjoyed a presentation on the history of the archival program at UBC's School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies by Heather MacNeil, the chair of the Masters of Archival Studies program. InterPARES project coordinator Randy Preston and Professor Francesca Marini introduced the InterPARES research project, in its current and earlier iterations.

During lunch, students got to know one another over sandwiches. After an invigorating walk around campus, the group reconvened for a demonstration of materials from Rare Books and Special Collections by George Brandak. A trip to check out the library's Automated Storage & Retrieval System pleased everyone. The day ended with a quick 'behind-the-scenes' tour at the Museum of Anthropology's digitization project, after which the WWU group had to head south to avoid Friday night traffic.

All in all, it was a lovely chance to mingle with other archival students: it was a great opportunity to see own environment with a fresh perspective. After a such a successful visit, the UBC students look forward to visiting WWU next year.

# BCAUL: New Descriptions on the Database

Janet McMaster

Archives in the province are reminded that all new and revised BC Archival Union List (BCAUL) descriptions should be submitted to the BC Archival Network Service Program. For more information on the various ways that submissions can be made, please contact Janet McMaster, BCAUL Coordinator, by e-mail ([jmcmast@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmast@shaw.ca)) or by phone (403-236-3406).

The following are new descriptions that have been recently submitted and added to the British Columbia Archival Union list at <http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcaul.html>.

## **Enderby and District Museum**

Enderby Recreation Commission fonds

Enderby Homecoming fonds

Grindrod Water System fonds

Grindrod Ukrainian Cemetery fonds

Grindrod Recreation Park fonds

Kingfisher School Board fonds

Deep Creek Pound District fonds

North Okanagan Farmers' Institute fonds

South Grindrod Drainage District fonds

St. Paul's Church fonds

Ernie Skyrme fonds

James McMahan fonds

Patrick Mowat fonds

Doris Shipmaker fonds

Robert and Joan Cowan collection

## **New Westminster Museum and Archives**

Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association, Lord of  
the Isles Camp #191 fonds

New Westminster Engineering Department fonds

Alfred W. McLeod fonds

Allison family fonds

Canadian Patriotic Fund fonds

Westminster Benevolent Society fonds

Canadian Club of New Westminster and the  
Fraser Valley fonds

Lorne Pearson collection

Chinese Old Man's Home fonds (New  
Westminster, B.C.)

Jack Leaf fonds

Public Education collection (New Westminster,  
B.C.)

Irving family collection

New Westminster Chinese Benevolent Society  
fonds

New Westminster Branch of the Chinese  
Nationalist League (Kuo Min Tang) fonds

New Westminster Parks and Recreation  
Department fonds

## **Simon Fraser University Archives**

SFU Archives student film collection

## **University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections**

E. Tilford Fenton fonds

Wood and English Ltd. fonds

Western Front Society fonds

Wigwam Inn fonds

John Smith fonds

## **University of British Columbia Archives**

Criminology Programme collection

Gordon Elliott fonds

Leslie Fournier fonds

Helen Sonthoff fonds

Watson Thomson Research Collection

Douglas Harold Copp fonds

## **University of Northern British Columbia Archives**

Northwood Pulp and Timber Ltd. fonds

## **University of Victoria Archives**

Lara Gilbert fonds

## **City of Vancouver Archives**

Pro-choice Records fonds

# Supporting BC's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Ann ten Cate, Archivist and Outreach Coordinator

One of the most significant ways that the province will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> is through the *Free Spirit* (<http://www.freespiritbc.ca/>) exhibition at the Royal BC Museum (RBCM), which opens on 13 March 2008. With the merger of the BC Archives and the RBCM in 2002, new opportunities were created for the Archives to develop and support exhibits with BC content at the Museum. *Free Spirit* is the first major history exhibit produced in-house since the amalgamation. The exhibit and curatorial team worked with staff at the BC Archives to identify relevant records within the collections. The exhibit showcases more than 400 artifacts, specimens, and documents, for example, the 1858 Douglas Commission. Since the exhibit has many different components, including an interactive website, a book, a traveling exhibit, a DVD, and a train that will carry smaller versions of some of the exhibits, the archival collections will feature prominently in the 2008 celebrations.

In addition to the Douglas Commission, the exhibit and its other components will include gold coins, banknotes, textual records, photographs, maps, films, and audio clips from the archival collections. In particular, the DVD that will be sold with the souvenir book will feature exclusive footage drawn from travelogues of the 1940s to the 1970s. Much of the material has never been put on public display or copied before.

Records curators, conservators, archivists and archives technicians were also involved with researching background, mounting the exhibit, and proofing the final texts. The exhibit demonstrates the value and significance of the records entrusted to the BC Archives care, and places them in context for the public.

Further plans for 2008 at the Archives include a lecture or symposium in November sponsored by the Friends of the BC Archives. This event will be held in connection with Douglas Day.

In addition, the Archives will also be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of R.E. Gosnell appointment as BC's first provincial archivist. Updates about our work on this will come later, after we get the *Free Spirit* exhibit opened!

# News from SLAIS

Michelle Mallette, Student Services Coordinator

The University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies welcomed 30 new students at its January 2008 student orientation. Twenty-eight are pursuing a master of library and information studies degree, and two are in the joint degree program, which will earn them both an MLIS and a Master of Archival Studies (MAS) degree. The stand-alone MAS program has a single intake, every September.

## New home for SLAIS

At the time of writing, SLAIS students, faculty and staff were preparing for the move out of our "temporary" home at TEF III and into our new facility in the south wing of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. Please check the SLAIS website ([www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca)) for information on the grand opening in March.

## SLAIS Co-op Student of the Year Award

Two SLAIS co-op students have been selected for the Student of the Year awards for 2007. Each award, one for an archival placement and one for a library placement, comes with a \$1,000 prize.

The winners are Karine Burger, for her archival work term with Library and Archives Canada in Gatineau, and Randi Robin, for her library work term at the University of Victoria's McPherson Library.

More than 50 library and archival studies students have signed up for co-op work placements in 2008, and are available for various terms and locations. For information on the program and hiring a student, visit <http://co-op.arts.ubc.ca/>.



SLAIS will be on the top floor of the south wing (right) of the Irving K Barber Learning Centre

# Notice of AABC Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 26, 2008  
10:00am to 12:00pm

Harbour Towers Hotel  
345 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1W4

## AGENDA

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2007 AGM Meeting
3. Executive Reports
  - 3.1 President
  - 3.2 Vice-President
  - 3.3 Treasurer and Finance Committee
  - 3.4 Institutional Member at Large
4. Committee and Program Annual Reports
  - 4.1 Programs Committee (Education/Internet Preservation Services)
  - 4.2 Communications Committee (Newsletter PAAL/Regional Representatives)
  - 4.3 Grants Committee
  - 4.4 Membership Committee
5. Election of Executive Committee Members
  - 5.1 Nominations Committee
6. Other Business
  - 6.1 AABC Committees - revised reporting structure
  - 6.2 2008 Archives Week
  - 6.3 2009 AGM and Conference
  - 6.4 Report from the Director, BC Archives - Gary Mitchell
7. Adjournment

### AABC Special Resolution Proxy Voting Form

You will find a copy of the *Proxy Voting Form* on the last page of this newsletter (page 11)

## Special Resolution

presented to the General Membership at the  
2008 Annual General Meeting of the  
Archives Association of British Columbia

**Date of Motion:** January 17, 2008

**Date of Vote on Motion:** April 26, 2008

**Motion:** Be it resolved to amend the existing committee structure of the Archives Association of British Columbia from the individual committees of:

- Education Committee
- Preservation Committee
- Internet Committee

Into one committee named the "Programs Committee". The Programs Committee will be made up of the following members:

- Chair of Programs Committee: AABC Vice-President
- Members of Programs Committee: Members in good standing of the association as appointed by the Executive

Discussion of motion will take place at the Annual General Meeting.

**If you are unable to attend the AGM, your vote on this motion can be included by completing the *Proxy Voting Form* included with the AGM package and sending it to:**

Lisa Glandt, AABC Secretary  
c/o Vancouver Maritime Museum  
1905 Ogden Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6J 1A3

Fax: 604-737-2621



**Archives Association of British Columbia**

*Honorary Patron: The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia*

**PROXY VOTING FORM  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*(Please complete this form, if you are unable to attend the AGM)*

Saturday April 26, 2008  
10:00am to 12:00pm

Harbour Towers Hotel  
345 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1W4

The undersigned, being a member in good standing with the Archives Association of British Columbia, hereby nominates, constitutes and appoints:

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Proxy) of (Address)

to attend, act, and vote on behalf of the undersigned at the Annual General Meeting of the Archives Association of British Columbia on Saturday April 26, 2008 Victoria, BC.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member Name (Print)

Each member present at a vote may cast no more than one proxy vote on behalf of an absent member.

Please present this proxy to the Secretary at the time of each vote.



AABC Newsletter

Volume 18 No. 2

Spring 2008

ISSN 1193-3165

President's Message

Lara Wilson

Dear colleagues,

Spring is finally here to stay (fingers crossed!) and a new year has begun for the AABC...

First of all, I am happy to report that our joint conference with ARMA Vancouver Island was a success! The conference theme "Future Evidence, Past Record" brought together approximately 130 members of the archives and records management communities over 3 days of sessions and workshops. We hope to have more on the conference in a future newsletter.

It's a testament to the good works undertaken by the BC archival community that our honorary patron, His Honour, The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, hosted the joint conference reception at Government House, on the evening of April 24th.

Those present at Government House were moved by His Honour's personal account of his family's experience with archives. AABC members carry out their work with a strong sense of responsibility for ensuring that our province's documentary heritage is preserved. Accounts, such as that told by His Honour, ground our endeavours in the experience of archives' many and varied patrons and communities.

In other developments, I am pleased to report that we have a full slate for the Executive for 2008/09....

I convey sincere thanks to Lisa Glandt (née Beitel) and Ramona Rose for their many hours of work as Secretary and Institutional Member-at-Large, respectively. My gratitude to the following AABC members for volunteering for our organization, and to their institutions for supporting this in-kind contribution to the provincial archival community:

- Vice-President - Jordana Feist portfolio: Programs Committee
Secretary - Jane Morrison portfolio: Communications (Newsletter, PAAL, Regional Reps)
Treasurer - Jennifer Mohan portfolio: Finance Committee
Institutional Member-at-Large - Shaunna Moore portfolio: Nominations and Grants Committees
Individual Member-at-Large - Valerie Billesberger portfolio: Membership and Conference Committees

As many of you may know, this summer AABC is undertaking a pilot project for the upgrade of the British Columbia Archival Union List (BCAUL), using the AtoM (International Council on Archives: Access to Memory) software. On the

...continued on the next page

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# President's Report

...continued

Friday afternoon of the conference, Peter Van Garderen of Artefactual Systems Inc. (<http://artefactual.com>), demonstrated the software to a packed conference salon. Peter is the system architect and Software Release Manager for the ICA-AtoM project, which he is managing through his New Westminster-based consulting firm, Artefactual Systems Inc.. He is a graduate of the University of British Columbia's Master of Archival Studies and Software Engineering programs, and a part-time Doctoral Candidate at the University of Amsterdam where he is researching the use of Web 2.0 technologies in archives access systems.

Some of the features of AtoM include:

- open source; free license
- fully web-based application
- multiple platform operation
- interoperability with other systems
- use of international standards
- multi-level description
- full text search indexing capability
- content harvestable by web search engines
- multi-lingual user interface and content capability.

Artefactual is developing the AtoM code and giving it back to the community as open-source software. Different phases of the software development have been funded thus far by financial contributions from: the United Arab Emirates Center for Documentation and Research; the Dutch Archiefschool Research Institute; UNESCO Information For All Programme; the French Archives Directorate; and the World Bank Library and Archives of Development.

Among the funded activities planned for the BCAUL pilot: development of an [ISAD-to-RAD](#) crosswalk, test migration of data from the current BCAUL database, remote data-entry directly into the BCAUL database via the AtoM web forms, EAD XML import of archival descriptions from an alternate system into the BCAUL database, and

development of an archival description harvesting features. Financial support for the pilot and implementation phase will be provided by the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and Library and Archives Canada, and we are grateful for this assistance. Be assured that we will keep you updated on pilot project developments, and we will seek your feedback as we move towards the implementation phase.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara Wilson  
AABC President

## Sidney Museum and Archives goes Online!

*Diane Webb, Archivist, Sidney Museum and Archives*

The Sidney Museum and Archives are pleased to announce that an updated version of their holdings has been uploaded to BCAUL.

A grant from the Canadian Council of Archives, through the National Archives Development Programme enabled a more thorough description of their holdings to be completed according to Rules for Archives Description.

Sometime ago, the Sidney Museum and Archives purchased a copy of the *INMAGIC* add-on program *Archives Online*, which is specifically designed for archival descriptions. Through the grant, volunteers at the Sidney Museum and Archives were able to participate in online tutorial sessions on how to use the program.

# BC Archival Network Service Program - Update

Janet McMaster, BCAUL Coordinator

Archives in the province are reminded that new and revised BCAUL descriptions should be submitted to the BC Archival Network Service Program. For more information on the various ways that submissions can be made, please contact Janet McMaster, BCAUL Coordinator, by e-mail ([jmcmast@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmast@shaw.ca)) or by phone (403-236-3406).

## Statistics

I am often asked about the level of usage of the AABC's web site and the BCAUL database. Statistics are gathered on a monthly basis, and quarterly and annual summaries are provided to the AABC Executive. As the following table illustrates, the statistics reflect a strong level of usage of BC's on-line resources, and the totals show significant increases of 45% - 50% over the previous year.

It is very encouraging to see that over the last year, there has been a daily average of 15,583 hits to the web site, as well as an average of 2425 database user sessions per day.

## New Entries to BCAUL

The following are new descriptions that have been recently submitted and added to the British Columbia Archival Union list at <http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/bcaul.html>.

### Kelowna Museum Archives

Conroy family fonds  
Dehart family fonds  
Dorothea Walker and Primrose Upton fonds  
Loyal Orange Lodge fonds  
Naomi Griffin fonds  
Penticton Museum collection

### University of British Columbia Archives

Alison Rice fonds  
Department of Medicine fonds  
Development Office fonds  
Paperny Films fonds  
William A. McDill fonds

## "The BCAUL Stats"

### 2006-2007

Total Requests (Hits):	3,845,601
Total Unique Visits:	777,098
Total Database Sessions:	594,822

### 2007-2008

Total Requests (Hits):	5,687,935
Total Unique Visits:	1,684,935
Total Database Sessions:	885,260

### Gross increase over one year:

Total Requests (Hits):	+1,842,334
Total Unique Visits:	+907,837
Total Database Sessions:	+290,438

# Archival Community meets to Discuss the TV Series: *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Ramona Rose

On behalf of the AABC Executive, Ramona Rose attended the March 31 meeting held in Toronto with representatives of the provincial/territorial archival community, the Canadian Council of Archives, Library and Archives Canada, and the producers of the LAC-sponsored CBC-TV genealogy series *Who Do You Think You Are?* The TV series was 13 episodes long and was filmed in archival institutions throughout the country.

At the meeting, the archival community and the TV production company discussed ways to create a fruitful working relationship if the TV series was renewed. At CCA's request, LAC agreed to support one representative from each provincial and territorial council. The meeting was attended by 33 representatives from archival organizations, provincial and territorial associations across the country, and by representatives of Barna Alper, the independent producers of the TV series. While CBC was invited, they did not send a representative.

The goal of the meeting was to use the experience gained by both the producers and the different archival institutions that collaborated in making the episodes. The discussion focused on: future best practices learned by the producers and the institutions in making the series; insights gained on the realities both face regarding mandates, staffing/time limitations; and the potential for closer collaboration between the Canadian archival community and TV/film production companies.

The meeting was organized around a discussion of three phases of TV production--planning, production, and post-production--with the executive producers, story editors, and researchers explaining the challenges of producing a genealogy-based show and the experiences gained using Canadian archives.

Challenges included:

- the massive underlying content and research required to determine a focus for each show
- the time-sensitive research required by genealogists and TV story editors

- the extent of global travel required to find family links of the featured guests
- concerns of having one person "carry content" of a show
- the limited budget and limited staffing that determined which story leads to follow

Another challenge was the CBC's mandate, which in Barna Alper's view, determined the show's themes, guests, and show's length limitation. Barna Alper noted that being only a half-hour show (22 minutes total) restricts the ability to tell genealogy-based stories; an hour-long show is really required to fully appreciate "strong story lines."

From the archival community's perspective there was general agreement that continued collaboration with TV and film production companies can be extremely beneficial in both promoting the values of archives to Canadians and to lobby federal/provincial governments for continued support.

A point of discussion continuously made was that better pre-visit communication between researcher(s) and the archivist(s) is required. Also, some participants reported that researchers did not fully explain their research queries in advance of their visits (Barna Alper noted that for some shows it was meant to be a surprise for the show's featured celebrity). Other participants reported that researchers did not take full advantage of the professional archival staff available to them.

The archival community realized that it would have been good to inform the TV/film production companies of the myriad of archival/heritage resources and networks available: TV/film production companies could benefit by using and understanding the Canadian archival community network system in order to ensure that their queries are directed to the institutions that have the primary sources needed to assist them with their productions.

...continued on page 5

# Who Do You Think You Are?

...continued

A few institutions noted that they were not fully aware of the amount of on-site production time required by the archives involved, which could be up to one or two full working days--this had a definite impact on the archives' regular researchers. It was agreed that having a production schedule in advance would be beneficial for reducing the impact on other users.

The participants agreed to create a 'first point of contact' list for each of the regions. This proactive approach would allow the television/film production companies to find the appropriate sources more quickly. Christina Nicholls, Executive Director of the Canadian Council of Archives, agreed to maintain the list. For BC, the AABC Education & Advisory Archivist Kelly Stewart will serve as the archival liaison.

Other general comments made by Barna Alper that may assist archives preparing for on-site TV/film productions included:

- Genealogists and TV/film story editors may have only 2-3 months to contact archives around the country regarding a story line, so working with an archival network is valuable
- Get a 'wish list' from the TV/film director of archival resources they might require
- Directors often rely heavily on on-line databases & film footage, so direct to those first
- TV production staff select records mostly on "how fast they can get it"
- Develop FTP sites, if possible, to send materials to production companies
- Set up interview/location releases & photograph releases before the shoot – if not, production companies may not select the sources/materials to be included on camera
- TV companies are often willing to pay 'rush fees,' if necessary, so this could be a potential source of archival revenue

Generally, individual photos are not credited on camera, but do ask for a credit if your institution provides materials. If a promotional website for the production is created, ask for a credit line/promotion on that website with your url address.

For more information on the series see:

<http://www.cbc.ca/whodoyouthinkyouare/stories/index.php>

*Postscript: On the day of the meeting, Barna Alper was still waiting to hear whether the show would be renewed. The meeting participants were later informed in April by LAC that the CBC had decided not to renew the series. While it maintained that the show did well in the ratings, its reasoning had to do with scheduling. Barna Alper is hoping the series will be picked up by another broadcaster. The production company representatives maintain that similar programmes will continue, as there is an interest in historical TV/film programming by the Canadian public.*

## Catholic Archivist Group Annual Meeting

The next Catholic Archivist Group Annual Meeting is being held in Edmonton, Alberta from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>.

Check out [www.catholicarchivist.ca](http://www.catholicarchivist.ca) for details. Conference information will be on the site by the end of May.

# AABC/ARMA VI Conference Reception Remarks

Delivered at BC's Government House, 24 April 2008

Lara Wilson, AABC President

Your Honour, Emily [Shrimpton, ARMA VI President], Archives Association of British Columbia members, ARMA Vancouver Island members, and special guests from near and far, on behalf of the AABC Executive, I thank you Sir for hosting our joint conference reception.

I can think of no better way to celebrate our conference, in our province's 150th year since Crown Colony founding, than to be invited to the ceremonial home of all British Columbians.

I would like to acknowledge the Coast Salish People on whose traditional lands we gather this evening, as well as the City of Victoria and the Province of British Columbia. I would like to thank Gary Mitchell, Provincial Archivist of British Columbia, and Ian Forsyth, Chair of the Canadian Council of Archives, for joining us. I am also very happy to welcome our other special guests:

-Marland Grove, Director, Corporate Information Management Branch, Ministry of Labour and Citizens Services

-Rob Woodland, Corporate Administrator and Director, Legislative and Regulatory Services, City of Victoria

-Sue Baptie, Member of the Board, Friends of BC Archives

-Russ Fuller, President of the Victoria Historical Society

and

-Mrs. Daphne Taylor, wife of the beloved and eminent Canadian archivist Hugh Taylor

I also convey greetings from Ms. Jan Wallace and Ms. Leonora Crema of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the University of British Columbia, who thank the AABC for the positive work the Association engages in to expand archival support for BC's communities.

Our conference theme "Future Evidence, Past Record" encompasses sessions and workshops concerning the challenges we face in our work and how we organize, select, preserve and make records accessible to our many and varied users. This collaboration between our organisations is a natural fit, as each of us strives to manage information in our care to professional standards and to make our societal memory available to those who will come after us.

All of you are at the conference and here tonight because you are active in your profession and because you are dedicated to your work. For those of you who are able to dedicate extra time to volunteer for your associations, a special thank you. Volunteering is a rich and rewarding experience, for what you give back to your community and for what you discover about yourself and your abilities. I extend my sincere thanks to the AABC volunteers who made this conference possible:

-Conference chair, Carey Pallister, City of Victoria

-Local arrangements committee chair, Caroline Duncan (Saanich Municipal Archives) and her committee members: Mickey King (Sisters of St Anne Archives), Jean Sparks (Oak Bay Archives), Valda Stefani (North Saanich), Brenda Waksel (Saint Michaels University School Archives), and Don Bourdon (BC Archives)

-Programs committee chair, Jane Morrison (University of Victoria Archives) and her team: Debra Barr (Royal Roads University Foundation), Linda Nobrega (Corporate Information Management Branch, Ministry of Labour and Citizen's Services) and Ken Oldenburger (Oldenburger Consulting and ARMA Vancouver Island).

-Finally, I would like to thank our generous conference sponsors, including the Royal British Columbia Museum/BC Archives, and our AABC funders: the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, the National Archival Development Program of Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives, and especially our institutional and individual members.

Thank you.

# News from SLAIS

Michelle Malette, SLAIS Student Coordinator

## Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

The University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival & Information Studies (SLAIS) is settling into its new facilities in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. We officially moved in February 1 opening to the public February 22. Students are delighted with the open and spacious study areas, 24 hour drop-in computer lab and state of the art instructional lab. The floor-to-ceiling windows in the lounge offer a stunning vista of Koerner Library and, behind it, a peekaboo view of the Strait of Georgia.

## Graduation

Mere weeks after the move into our new home, 64 SLAIS students bid us goodbye as they graduated and received their degrees at convocation ceremonies on Thursday, May 22. Four received a Master of Archival Studies, 49 received a Master of Library & Information Studies, 9 received the joint MAS and MLIS degrees, and 2 graduated with a Master of Arts in Children's Literature.

## Co-op Award

Two SLAIS students have been named inaugural winners of the SLAIS Co-op Student of the Year Awards. Joint MAS/MLIS student Karine Burger won the archival studies placement award for her work at Library & Archives Canada, working with 19<sup>th</sup> century documents. On the library & information studies side, MLIS student Randi Robin won for her work at the University of Victoria. Each award comes with a \$1000 prize. See the UBC Arts news item at [http://www.arts.ubc.ca/index.php?id=433&backPID=4&tt\\_news=2023](http://www.arts.ubc.ca/index.php?id=433&backPID=4&tt_news=2023). For information on hiring a SLAIS co-op student in any term, visit the UBC Arts Co-operative Education page at <http://co-op.arts.ubc.ca/>.

## Alumni Reception

SLAIS Director Edie Rasmussen and UBC Arts Co-op Director Julie Walchli welcomed about 25 alumni at a reception held during the AABC Conference in Victoria. It was an opportunity to update alumni on SLAIS happenings, inform them of the remarkable growth of the co-op program, and share a bite and a beverage with friends and colleagues.

## Faculty News

SLAIS faculty, staff and, students are sorry to say goodbye to Dr. Heather MacNeil, who has accepted a position as associate professor at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies. She begins her new position in Toronto on July 1, and is leaving many friends and colleagues behind in British Columbia. Heather joined SLAIS in 1999 and has served as chair of the Archival Studies program, as well as graduate advisor. A regular contributor to journals and conferences, Heather currently serves on the editorial board of *Archivaria*, the journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists

## Research Grant

Congratulations to Dr. Luciana Duranti, who, along with co-investigator Anthony Sheppard, has been awarded a major SSHRC (Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council) grant for a study on "Digital Records Forensics" covering 2008-2011. The grant is valued at \$120,000.

The project, based on a collaboration between SLAIS, the UBC Faculty of Law, and the Vancouver Police Department, intends to develop:

- concepts and methods allowing the archival, legal, judicial, and law enforcement professions to recognize records among all digital data objects produced by digital technologies once they have been removed from the original system
- concepts and methods for determining the authenticity of records no longer in the original system
- methods for extracting records from the system in which they are found and maintaining them over the long term so that their authenticity will not be questioned
- the theoretical and methodological content of a new discipline, called "Digital Records Forensics," resulting from an integration of Archival Diplomats, Computer Forensics, and the Law of Evidence

The ultimate goal of the research is to place this new discipline at the core of a graduate program of education for digital records forensic experts, who are specialists operating in the context of the legal and records professions or serving the public as independent professionals or as a third neutral party in case of dispute.

# The Northern BC Archives Presents: "Phase II of the Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. Fonds Access Project"

Erica Hernandez, UNBC Archives

The Northern BC Archives has completed an electronic finding aid to make accessible the photographic holdings of Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd.

Thanks to funding from the National Archival Development Program, the Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. fonds Access Project Phase I & II have been completed; a project that has enabled the creation and input of over 9000 item level photo descriptions into the Archives' on-line database. This launch concludes the Archives' public access initiative to Northwood's photographic records which were officially donated to UNBC's Northern BC Archives in 2005. The entire Northwood fonds consists of almost 14,000 photographic items (prints, slides, negatives) as well as sound & moving image recordings and textual records.

While Phase I, completed in December 2007, provided access to 3,600+ colour slide images documenting the company's industrial activities, Phase II includes an additional finding aid to 5,360 photographic print items and over 9,400 negatives from Northwood's corporate holdings that span its 35 year tenure in the Central Interior of BC. The completed finding aid will assist those researchers interested in the visual documentation of forest industry operations and developments under Northwood. This electronic resource, accessible via the Archives' web-based database, will also be made available to non-university, regional, and even international public users via two archival portal sites: the [BC Archival Union List](#) and its national counterpart [Archives Canada](#).



The Archives' electronic finding aid provides researchers with item-level descriptions of this plethora of photographic material, the existence and content of which providing visual documentation of Northwood's industry operations. The diverse historical content of these images includes, but is not limited to: pulp mill construction & expansion; Northwood's sawmills in Prince George, Giscome, Upper Fraser, Shelley & Houston; Northwood's Woods Division including technical equipment and forest-related activities (i.e. timber cruising, hand & mechanical falling, de-limbing, skidding, scaling, loading, hauling, arch trucking, helicopter logging, patch logging, and slash-burning techniques).

Other subject areas identified in these photographs include: Northwood's corporate activities; corporate portrait shots of groups and individuals; Northwood safety awards and awareness; service awards to employees; public outreach activities; employees at work; Northwood's 25th year anniversary celebrations; public presentations to sponsors; and documentation of corporate agreements with foreign investors and distributors.

The Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. fonds also contains general images of interest to a wide range of research topics relevant to Northern BC: visuals of landscapes; scenery; wildlife, and aerials of Northern BC communities including Prince George, Giscome, Shelley, Houston, and Babine Lake. To view a selection of these images (see sample below) the public is invited to the photograph exhibit Visual Retrospective which features 30 images from the Northwood fonds. The exhibit is on display at the Prince George Railway & Forestry Museum at Cottonwood Island Park, Prince George from March 18 to May 14, 2008 and will be on display at the Northern BC Archives in the summer. For more information contact the Railway Museum or view their website at <http://www.pgrfm.bc.ca/>

...continued on the next page

Continued...



Willow Canyon Nursery, Lifting seedlings, Sept 1980, Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. – A # 2001.26.1.1794

To gain electronic access to the Northwood Pulp & Timber Ltd. fonds photographic holdings go to:

<http://lib.unbc.ca/UNBCArchives/web/default.html>

From the Archives' Home Page go to the 'Search' Page to view the holdings; search the 'fonds detail' page of the Northwood Pulp and Timber fonds Ltd.

Once in the Northwood fonds go to the "View Series" Page; click on "Photographic Materials" then click "view items for series" to view the descriptions for the 8900+ photographic images.

The Northern BC Archives, UNBC wishes to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through Library and Archives Canada, administered through the LAC and the Canadian Council of Archives.

# UNBC



Library and Archives  
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives  
Canada



Canadian Council of Archives  
Conseil canadien des archives

# Canada

## Words and their meanings: The quandary and conundrum of translating records

Jo-Anne Allison, Archivist, Diocese of Prince George

The Archives of the Diocese of Prince George holds a large manuscript collection, the bulk of which is correspondence between Bishops and priests from the early days of the Diocese. Previous archivists were concerned that these materials would not be accessible to parishioners in the Diocese because most of these early documents are in the French language. About ten years ago a program was devised whereby volunteers would translate correspondence from the French language into English. Over the course of the next few years all of the French language correspondence in the fonds of the Diocese' first Bishop, Emile-Marie Bunoz, OMI was translated into English. This was a massive undertaking, involving thousands of volunteer hours.

Unfortunately, the quality of the translations was not assessed either initially or on an on-going basis. Words were often translated literally, complex meanings were simplified and spelling mistakes were uncorrected. Volunteers, while good hearted and generous did not have the translation skills required to do these letters justice. In addition to issues of grammar, spelling and composition, there were other problems. The difficulties associated with deciphering the cursive scripts of over 100 different correspondents; the fact that many priests were writing in a second or even third language making their original meanings unclear; the elaborate formal language of the era; fading ink; and references to contexts outside of the translators' experience, have all contributed to less than effective translations.

As a consequence, many of the resulting English language materials are not only difficult to understand but original meanings are confused, clouded and even lost. If researchers do not have the language skills which will allow them to check the original French documents for clarification, the priests and Bishop Bunoz may appear to be uneducated, misguided or even worse, silly.

...continued on the next page

# Translating records

Continued...

Poor translations can lead to misunderstandings of meaning as well – something which is of critical importance to those involved in historical research. A common error is the translation of the word “ignore.” It has been translated into English as ‘ignore’. This inadvertently sends the message that Bishop Buonoz’ priests rarely paid him any heed!

Some mistranslations are merely funny. For example, the use of the word ‘appliance’ instead of ‘application’ for “application”; or ‘I did not lose my time’ instead of ‘I didn’t waste my time’ for “je n’ai pas perdu mon temps”; or ‘I accuse reception of your letter’ instead of ‘I acknowledge receipt of your letter’ for “j’accuse reception de votre lettre.”

Some are more serious. The phrase “les peintres achevent la toilette de notre chapelle” was translated as ‘the painters are almost finished the chapel’s toilet.’ It is clear from the context of this sentence in the letter and indeed the text of subsequent letters that there is no toilet or w.c. in the building but rather that the original writer was referring to the completion of the chapel’s painting and decoration.

Why keep these translations? This is a challenging question and the answer is not as obvious as it seems. One cannot shred these translations without negating the selfless and long-term dedication of the volunteer translators. In a Diocese that still depends heavily on volunteers, this gift of time and effort cannot be lightly dismissed. And, while the skills of these translators may be wanting, the reality is that most of the researchers who use the Diocesan Archives are unilingual English speakers who do not possess French language skills and who cannot afford or are unwilling to pay for professional translation services.

The fact that the translations are often flawed cannot be denied, however they afford an opportunity for learning about the past which would not otherwise be possible. The question then becomes one of accessibility. If these translations allow for some level of investigation and understanding of our history; isn’t that better than nothing?

# Journeying into the Metadata Jungle

Kelly Stewart, Education and Advisory Services Coordinator

Are you thinking about embarking on a digitization project? Perhaps you want to scan your photograph holdings, voter lists, or taxation records with an eye to one day making them available on the Internet via your Archives’ website. You’re probably doing some research on types of scanners, how to properly scan photographs and at what bit depth and in what file format. Hopefully you’re giving some thought to storage and back-ups.

Have you thought about how you’re going to make the information about your digital files available? Metadata is a big deal right now because of the exponentially increasing information on the Internet and the desire of information professionals like us to make that information meaningful and easier to locate. I know that when I was working as an archivist and scanning photographic acquisitions on a regular basis I was primarily worried about the physical scanning process and not about the information I wanted to capture to accompany that scanned image.

Don’t be afraid! The good news is that, as archivists, we are metadata experts!! What is RAD, after all, but a metadata scheme to describe archival records? So, let’s take a brief tour through the metadata jungle, pointing out some new vocabulary terms along the way. With this minimal level of information you will be able to continue your journey on your own.

**Metadata** is “structured information that describes, explains, or locates and information resource so that it is easier to retrieve, use or manage” (NISO, *Understanding Metadata*). An **information resource** is any digital object, such as a .TIFF file or web page. Just like a finding aid is a link between a fonds and the researcher, so metadata is a link between the digital object and the user.

...continued on the next page

# Metadata Jungle

Continued...

There are many different types of metadata, depending on what you want to describe. These types of metadata are known as **schemes** or **schema**. Each metadata scheme contains a set of **elements** (i.e. title, date, format, etc). The definition of the elements is known as their **semantics**.

Making digital objects more accessible and useful becomes more difficult if there are many schemes (like the Tower of Babel), so **crosswalks** are created to map the elements of one scheme to another. For example, the author element in one metadata scheme could map to the creator element in another metadata scheme.

Into any language a little grammar must fall. **Syntax** rules tell how a scheme should be encoded so that the metadata is recognizable and processed by a computer program. Some schemes do not have a prescribed syntax so they are known as syntax independent.

Some of the more common metadata schemes are Dublin Core, METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard), EAD (Encoded Archival Description), TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) and MPEG-7 (for digital audio and video). Start your metadata exploration with a look at Dublin Core (<http://dublincore.org>), which is a scheme designed for simplicity.

Some database programs automatically create a Dublin Core (DC) record from the information you enter. The program has created a crosswalk for you. Beware, however, because sometimes these crosswalks are done by non-subject experts so they can be a bit crooked. Remember, you want to make sure that your scheme is as meaningful as possible so that users will be able to find the information they are seeking.

Most important, you are not alone in the metadata jungle. There are lots of us in the biggest to the smallest of institutions trying to cut a swath through the undergrowth of technical terminology. If we work together maybe we'll have some success! With that in mind, please email me if you have any questions ([kstewart@aabbc.bc.ca](mailto:kstewart@aabbc.bc.ca)).

In successive articles I'll talk a bit more about types of metadata schemes but in the meantime, for an excellent article that clearly explains metadata, go to the following website:

[www.niso.org/standards/resources/UnderstandingMetadata.pdf](http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/UnderstandingMetadata.pdf).

Good luck and happy exploring!

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## Editorial Postscript

### Note from the Editor

Thanks to all the diligent contributors to this edition of the AABC Newsletter. I'm always surprised to see how active the archival community is in BC, and further a field.

The AABC Newsletter will be taking a hiatus for the Summer, and will be published as a joint Summer/Fall edition later this year.

As a future direction, the Newsletter will try to become more theme-based. Future themes will include new perspectives on BC's Freedom of Information and Privacy landscape, how BC organizations are faring with implementing their ERDMSs, innovative approaches to archival outreach, and "green" archives, to name a few. Naturally, even if a Newsletter has a theme, "non-themed" submissions will be most welcome.

Necessarily, all themes will be announced well in advance, allowing writers plenty of time to put their sagely words to e-paper.

If you have any suggestions as to what you'd like to see in a future Newsletter, please let me know!

Greg

### Editor

Greg Kozak

### Editorial Board

Kelly Harms  
Kelly McElroy

Got news? Send AABC news, tips, suggestions or letters to the editor: [gkozak@alumni.sfu.ca](mailto:gkozak@alumni.sfu.ca)



AABC Newsletter

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President's Report

Lara Wilson, AABC President

Dear colleagues,

I hope you enjoy the AABC Newsletter on the theme of sustainability. Thanks to Greg Kozak, Kelly Harms and Kelly McElroy and contributors for their work on this issue!

Sustainability is much on the mind of archivists these days: it is a component of the 2009 Association of Canadian Archivists' conference on "Rights, Responsibilities, Trust: Archives and Public Affairs," and the Society of American Archivists' conference next August will be wholly devoted to sustainable archives.

Here in BC, the BCAUL/ICA AtoM pilot project will assist the AABC in continuing as a vital and sustainable organization, through technical upgrade to a fully web-based, open source, free, multi-level archival description software. Beta testing is underway with software developer Artefactual Systems, Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria. More information about ICA AtoM is available at ICA-AtoM.org, including information on the international and collaborative nature of the overall ICA AtoM project. The site also includes an on-line demo (refreshed hourly) and links to the ICA AtoM users discussion group.

It's important to remember that BCAUL was the first on-line database of digitized finding aids in Canada; BC blazed the trail for the Canadian Archival Information Network and other provincial and territorial networks. Once again, BC is in the position to assist the Canadian archival community realize new goals for our national network of networks. AABC

acknowledges the innovation and work of our past members and contractors for the groundbreaking work undertaken in the 1990s. We also thank today's project funders: the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre of UBC, Library and Archives Canada, and the Direct Access Grant Program of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

I would like to thank members of the BC archival community for expressing their interest in attending the "West Beyond the West" digitization symposium, which was on held December 1st and 2nd in Vancouver. The goal of this dynamic event was for practitioners and stakeholders, in the archives, library and museum sectors, to come together to learn and discuss: what initiatives are happening provincially and nationally to support digitization of local content, heritage and educational materials; what digitization strategies and priorities are emerging here in BC; and what support and coordination of our collective efforts might be needed to take digitization activities to the next level. The symposium's outcomes will be shared with the participating communities and updated on the symposium website (<http://symposium.thewestbeyondwest.ca>).

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# President's Report

Continued

Regarding the 2009 AABC conference: although we made plans to undertake a conference with the BC Library Association, due to scheduling delays we agreed with BCLA that we would not pursue a joint conference this year. We thank BCLA for their interest and look forward to working with them in the future. In the meantime, planning is underway for a workshop-centred conference (with preservation and ICA AtoM training offerings) and AGM to take place on the lower mainland. Stay tuned!

Regarding vacancies on the AABC Executive in 2009, the following positions will be open: Vice-President, Treasurer, and Individual Member at Large. You will be joining an outstanding team of executive members, committee chairs and contractors! Please contact Erica Hernandez (hernande@unbc.ca) if you would like to volunteer for AABC.

In closing, I would like to thank members of the BC archival community for all the work you do to preserve and make accessible the documentary heritage of the province for our many patrons.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2009!  
Lara Wilson  
AABC president

# Notes from the Editor

Greg Kozak, AABC Newsletter Editor

This issue of the AABC newsletter was devoted to the idea of "Archival Sustainability" – a reality that archivists deal with on a daily basis.

The recent approach to sustainability has been to view the concept as an issue of ecological living and design. That is, can we live in a way that reduces our ecological footprint in terms of our built environment and our daily behaviour? We have all seen how green has become today's "new" black, which points to the growing importance of creating environmentally sustainable systems. Yet, a narrow approach to sustainability robs us of its truly holistic and nuanced meaning. Sustainability is more than just about the environment – it's about how we live with and support our society at a more fundamental level, at all levels.

As seen in this issue of the newsletter, archives and the archival profession can embody sustainability on at least four levels: social, ecological, and economic.

In Jo-Anne Allison's article on the 2008 Catholic Archives Group meeting, we see how archives deal with shifting times and contribute to the existence of the communities they support. In Leah Pearse's article on the Chester P. Lyons fonds, we see how an archives can record the life of a pre-eminent BC environmentalist. Last, we also see the results of a recent survey gauging the success of recent SLAIS graduates – and yes, it appears an MAS degree is still a good investment!

As we look to next year, hopefully there will be a strong BC representation at the ACA conference in Calgary in May. It's only about a scenic 8-hour drive from Vancouver...and if you really want to impress the hosts, just remember to memorize the words to "Hello Calgary" on the way!

Thank you to all of you who contributed to this issue, and all the best to the Newsletter readers by way of health, happiness, and success in the New Year!

# 2009 ACA Conference

Janet McMaster, ACA Conference 2009 Host Committee

The Association of Canadian Archivists annual conference will be held in Calgary, Alberta, from May 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The conference is held in different locations throughout Canada each year, and this is the first time that it will be held in Calgary.

The theme for the conference is Rights, Responsibilities, Trust: Archives and Public Affairs. The Program Committee has been busy bringing together an interesting and thought-provoking slate of national and international speakers, developing 4 plenary and 21 concurrent sessions from among over 60 submissions received. The sessions include traditional presentations as well as panel sessions, focused debates, and round tables. Topics to be discussed include the role of archives in the search for truth and reconciliation in Canada; archives, sexuality and public policy; preserving the environmental record; accountability and archival description; the effect of access and privacy legislation on archives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; policy issues related to digitization, outreach, and advocacy; archives and human rights around the world; and the role and future of the archival profession in an environment of changing public priorities. Speakers have been invited from across Canada and from England, Australia, Scotland, the Netherlands, South Africa, the United States, Sweden, and the South Pacific.

The opening reception on May 14<sup>th</sup> will be held at the CPR Railway Pavilion, preceded by a reception for first-time attendees in the Penthouse Suite. Other social events will include the traditional baseball game, the dinner and dance on the final evening, as well as special events highlighting some of our local Alberta treasures. Two local historians will conduct walking tours of Calgary's eclectic downtown area.

All conference sessions take place at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel, conveniently located in downtown Calgary and recently voted the top Calgary hotel in the Calgary Herald's Reader Choice Awards. A special ACA group rate is available for conference delegates.

A pre-conference tour to Blackfoot Crossing is planned for Wednesday, May 13, 2008. Located only an hour away from Calgary and a designated national Heritage Site, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is a world-renowned cultural, educational and entertainment centre of historical and archaeological significance, which promotes and preserves the language, culture and traditions of the Siksika Nation.

Additional information about the conference can be found on the ACA's web site at: <http://archivists.ca>. Check this web site regularly, as new material is being added as soon as it becomes available.

Mark your calendars now for May 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and plan to attend the ACA conference in Calgary!



# The Chester P. Lyons fonds

Leah Pearse, Co-op Student, UVic Archives

Several fonds held at the University of Victoria (UVic) Archives could be discussed in this newsletter on "The Sustainable Archives."

Environmental studies records have been a focus of the University Archives collection policy in recent years and include study documentation of environmental protection and activism, biology, and the philosophy of human ecology.

Particularly relevant candidate fonds can be found in the Environmental Sciences Archives, which the University Archives helped establish in 1996 to provide access to rare environmental material documenting the scientific examination of environmental stresses. One fonds that stands out, though, is that of Chester P. Lyons.

In 2007, UVic Archives acquired the fonds of Chester Lyons (1915-1998). Lyons was one of the first employees for BC Parks and played a vital role in the reconnaissance and planning of several of the major parks in the province, including Manning, Tweedsmuir, Wells Gray and the Bowron Lakes.

So why this fonds? I am a Master of Archival Studies candidate at the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies, and I am working at UVic on co-op. The arrangement and description of the Lyons fonds is my major project for the term, but this choice is more than one of convenience: Lyons was a photographer and film maker who produced a large quantity of graphic material, as early as the 1930s, that extensively documents the natural beauty of the province. It also captures the spirit of environmental conservation that has led to the extensive park system that BC enjoys today, which is arguably the motivation behind Lyons life work.

This fonds consists of almost 5,500 slides, 1000 photographs, 500 negatives and 85 film reels. Lyons wrote many books on travel and the history of several regions of BC, including the Fraser Canyon, the Okanagan, and Vancouver Island. Other images were used in his popular field guides on trees, shrubs, and flowers found in BC and Washington. His moving images were transformed into the CBC-TV series *Klahanie: The Great Outdoors* and his documentaries traveled around North America on the Audubon lecture

series during the 1960s and 1970s. These introduced the province's natural wonders to a wider audience. As any archivist or layperson can tell you, the visual images available through photographs, slides, negatives, and moving images have a special way of bringing the past to life. They have also been the most challenging part of arranging and describing these records, but also the most educational and interesting part of my work with the University Archives.

Together, Lyons' work documents and promotes the province's ecosystems, plant and animal species, as well as many of BC's natural features and phenomena over the last century. The records held at UVic illustrate his passion for the environment and his role in sustaining it. It has been particularly inspiring, especially as someone new to the archival profession, to see how his passion was sustained over 50 years, as Lyons' work in conservation spanned from the 1930s to 1998. The finding aid for the Chester P. Lyons fonds will be available in early 2009.



Chester P. Lyons, 1959 (UVic Archives)

More Lyons fonds photographs on the next page

## The Chester P. Lyons fonds cont...



Chester P. Lyons, Garibaldi Park, 1955 (UVic Archives)



Chester P. Lyons with moose horns, 1953 (UVic Archives)

### News from SLAIS

Michelle Malette, SLAIS Student Coordinator

The School of Library, Archival & Information Studies at UBC has published the results of its graduate placement survey. The survey was conducted in the summer of 2008, and surveyed graduates from 2005, 2006 and 2007 in the Master of Archival Studies, Master of Library & Information Studies, and the Joint MAS/MLIS programs. The results are published on the SLAIS web site at [www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca). In future, the survey will be conducted annually, allowing for improved tracking of trends and changes over time.

Among the survey's highlights for MAS and MAS/MLIS graduates:

- 100% degree-related employment in first position after graduation
- 56% obtained permanent employment in first position
- 90% obtained full-time employment in first position

For those who have moved on from their first position, 62% of MAS graduates and 40% of MAS/MLIS graduates earn \$50,000 or more

For MAS graduates, primary job tasks are archival functions, including records management. For MAS/MLIS graduates, reference was listed most frequently.

86% of MAS graduates and 73% of MAS/MLIS graduates would "highly recommend" or "somewhat recommend" pursuing the same degree. Just under 10% of MAS graduates would "somewhat dissuade" pursuit of the degree; the rest of the respondents were either neutral or did not respond.

#### Hiring SLAIS Students

SLAIS's popular co-operative education program continues to gain interest from both students and employers. The program allows students in the archival studies and the library and information studies programs to obtain degree-related paid full-time employment as part of their program of study. Work placements are four months (a term) in length and on average students earn \$13,000 during the four months. Students obtain valuable

continued on next page...

# Religious Archives: Are they sustainable?

Jo-Anne Allison, Archivist, Diocese of Prince George

For the first time a meeting of the Catholic Archivist Group was held in the western part of Canada. Almost 60 Religious and Diocesan Archivists were treated to a real western welcome at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton, Alberta.

The theme, "Beyond the last frontier: the future of religious archives" encouraged us to rethink our role as religious archivists. The main topics of discussion were about the relevance of religious records, as well as the difficulties relating to their physical maintenance. Workshops focused on how religious archives are functioning now and what they might look like in the future. This is a timely and pertinent topic given the declining numbers of parishioners in Canada and the often too-small budgets allocated to diocesan archives.

How can religious archives sustain themselves? How can we as religious archivists spread the word about the value of our collections in an increasingly secular world? In separate break-out sessions, archivists for dioceses and religious congregations wrestled with these questions.

Archivists for religious congregations participated in a discussion about options for planning with Dr Claude Roberto of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Dr Roberto led participants through a process for deciding where records should be kept once a religious order can no longer care for them. Next, Diocesan archivists were challenged in a different direction. Eloi DeGrace, Archivist for the Archdiocese of Edmonton, spoke about how to energize preserving and organizing archival materials at the local parish level.

While the urge to acquire archival materials in a central place is the traditional approach, both workshops shifted the focus of attention to the importance of the records. In a fast paced and stimulating follow-up seminar on fundraising, given by Theresa Vogel of Victoria, we were challenged to reframe our thinking beyond a narrow religious perspective to view the significance of our materials within the larger historical context of the towns and cities in which we live.

Theresa Vogel's approach was marvellously illustrated by a visit to the Basilian Fathers Museum in rural Mundare, located just outside of Edmonton. In Mundare, CAG archivists were exposed to the possibilities that exist when religious archival materials are used both as a source of information and as an essential element in story-telling. The history of the Basilian Fathers is an integral part of Mundare's story – we were fascinated to observe the interplay between Ukrainian culture, brought to Alberta by immigrants, and the religious traditions of the Basilian Fathers, who came to serve this population's spiritual needs. The fusion of religious and secular enables a rich and multi-faceted recounting of this part of Alberta's history even as it opens up new avenues for a deeper understanding of the charism of the Basilian order, which continues to serve the community to the present day.

CAG 2008 had a very full agenda, but members made the most of opportunities for exchanging ideas. The lively flow of conversation on the bus and at meal times never stopped. Best of all, the Edmonton meeting was a great opportunity to meet new members and to renew treasured friendships. The ideas that we shared inspired us and reaffirmed our determination to get on with the job – our archives hold fascinating stories. There is no time to waste!

## ...News from SLAIS continued

work experience and develop a strong network of contacts while earning money to help fund their program at SLAIS. Employers benefit from highly motivated, enthusiastic graduate students studying the most recent techniques in the library, information management, and archival fields. For more information about co-op or hiring a SLAIS student, contact SLAIS student services coordinator Michelle Mallette at [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca).

# In Remembrance: Debra Barr

Susan Hart and Margaret Hutchison

**Debra Elaine Barr passed away suddenly after a six-week illness on Monday, October 13, 2008. A Celebration of Life was held for Debra at the Quarterdeck, Royal Roads University (RRU), Victoria, BC, on Monday October 20th, and attended by approximately 300 people. The following tribute was sent to arcan-L (the Canadian archives listserv) and archives bc (the British Columbia archives listserv) on October 16th. The attached photograph was taken by Debra's partner, Ian Barclay, in England during the summer of 2008, and appeared on the cover of the program for the Celebration.**

Debra was in Cougar Annie's Garden on Labour Day weekend, one of the leaders of an expedition sponsored by Royal Roads University, when she was taken seriously ill. After being airlifted to Tofino and then to Victoria, she was diagnosed with an infection to the lining of the heart. Debra had been in hospital ever since, attended by family and a few close friends, and did appear to be recovering. However on Thanksgiving weekend her blood pressure suddenly dropped, and she died Monday October 13th in the operating room during an emergency heart valve replacement operation. It was just a little before sunset.

Debra's death comes as a terrible shock and loss to all those who knew her, especially her soul-mate Ian Barclay; Ian's three sons Fraser, Malcolm, and Andrew; her mother, sisters Jan, Marna, and Cheryl, nieces Katie-Lynn and Brianne, nephew Shane, and Uncle Jim (a second father to Debra); and many, many dear friends.

Debra was always one to find significance, patterns, themes, and connections, in her extensive reading and in her very full life. It is no coincidence that she was so close to her childhood home of Tofino when she was taken ill. It is significant that she was there to educate others about this very special part of the world, on an expedition with an environmentalist theme, in company with artist Robert Bateman, biologist/activist/politician Briony Penn, and her partner Ian.



Debra Barr, 2008

Debra's role was to enlighten the group about the human and natural history of the Tofino area; anything she said would have been informed by her other life roles and interests as an archivist, genealogist (her Norwegian forebears settled in the area), birdwatcher, orienteer, and avid gardener. RRU, the expedition sponsor, was also her employer – for several years she has been the records officer and information and privacy officer there, and more recently Debra has been helping to create and curate the RRU Robert Bateman Art and Environmental Education Centre, which will house Mr. Bateman's archives and collections.

A defining role in Debra's life was as an archivist. In 1981-1983 Debra joined the first class of the very first archival studies program in Canada – the Master of Archival Studies at UBC, where she studied under Terry Eastwood and Hugh Taylor. One of Debra's first jobs after graduating was at the Anglican Diocesan Archives in Victoria (a return home, as Debra's family had moved there in her teens), and religious archives remained an abiding interest throughout her life (she guest edited *Archivaria* 30, the theme issue about religious archives, and conducted extensive research in the history of the Canadian Spiritualist movement, with various publications accomplished and planned).

Continued on next page.

# *In Remembrance: Debra Barr*

continued

Debra's next job was at the Records Management Branch, Government of British Columbia, where she worked with a few other leading lights in the Canadian archival community – Kent Haworth, Reuben Ware, and others. Debra then worked for a number of years in Toronto at the Victoria College and the University of Toronto, where various passions emerged: historical manuscripts (she arranged and described the papers of Earl Birney and Vincent Massey, among others), the concept of the fonds (her seminal and influential articles on the concepts of the fonds and provenance appeared in *Archivaria* 25 and 28, and are still well worth reading).

As a member of the Toronto Area Archivists Group, Debra helped forge the first guidelines for pre- and post-appointment archival education in Canada. In the winter of 1990/91 Debra, deep down a west-coaster, returned home to Vancouver Island, and since then has lived and worked in Victoria, where she explored other aspects of the archival profession, as a records officer and information and privacy officer, first for the Government of British Columbia, then for Royal Roads University. Privacy rights of the deceased was Debra's leading archival research interest during this period of her career.

Debra was a giving person in every possible way. She donated her time to many good causes – she was always involved in a leadership role in the archival community, not only the afore-mentioned TAAG but also the Association of Canadian Archivists, the Archives Association of BC (for which she helped plan a very successful conference in Victoria this year, jointly with ARMA Vancouver Island), and most devotedly she served on the Board of the Anglican Diocesan Archives in Victoria for many years. Debra also participated in numerous environmental groups and causes (the Victoria Orienteering Society, The Land Conservancy of BC), volunteered for the Victoria Literary Festival, and gave generously to many causes. She was very concerned about the environment and the need to preserve it. Debra always had gifts about her, little gifts of tea, herbs, flowers, and large gifts of affection.

Debra was ever one to make things grow, be it flora or fauna. She created a beautiful garden in her home with Ian, which this summer really came into its own after several years of her devotion. She worked with gardener and horticultural therapist Paul Allison to restore and research the history of the Japanese garden at RRU (they presented a session about it at the AABC conference earlier this year). When Debra travelled, she visited gardens, in France and England especially; some of us are finding memories of Debra in our cupboards, "Herbes de Provence" in her handwriting on a jar, packets of organic tea from England. Debra also cultivated fauna: budding archivists (many of us have very special memories of her mentoring role in our lives), children (nieces, nephew, step-sons – she had a wonderful story of getting all muddy rescuing Katie-Lynn from the duck pond at Beacon Hill Park), her cat Zoe, her many dear friends (she was the sort of person who remembered birthdays, and bought you a book about yurts if you fantasized about building one), and the love of her life Ian, who complemented her so perfectly and brought her great happiness.

Debra would have turned 54 on October 29. By the Greek horoscope she was a Scorpio, by the Chinese horoscope she was a horse. But really she was a golden lion, with a tawny mane, a brave, bright presence, a clear, intelligent mind, and a warm, warm heart. Memories of Debra are endless, and so, in fact, is Debra, and the fact we lost her at Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful to have had her in our lives at all.

This short tribute has been prepared by fellow MAS graduates Susan Hart and Margaret Hutchison. A full tribute to Debra will appear in an upcoming edition of *Archivaria*.

Donations in Debra Barr's memory may be made to her designated charities:

- The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, Victoria, BC
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria Branch)
- Survival Research Institute of Canada, Victoria, BC

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Jordana Feist, AABC President

A big hello and a quick introduction of myself to all of the members of the Archives Association of British Columbia. I am very honoured to be representing this fine provincial organization and the hard working, passionate people of all the archives in British Columbia. Thank you to the membership for giving me this opportunity.

I grew up in Maple Ridge and have lived and worked north and south in this awesome province before returning to Maple Ridge as museum curator in 2006. My work with our archival collections is only about 20% of my job description yet it seems the most commonly accessed, most widely loved and least known sector of community heritage. Archives come with the stereotypical dust and must, antiquated ideas of hoarders and their stacks of random papers.

The current reality for archives in BC is far from those stereotypes. We have well-ordered and clean institutions with dedicated staff. Further, we digitize and share, bringing BC history to national, international and global stages. As with the launch of BCAUL several years ago, the AABC continues to tread on the forefront, this time with the ICA AtoM/MemoryBC project. Those stereotypes are dropping away and it is because of the fantastic people who work passionately in this field.

As we look into our future, a future populated with the documents, photos and stories of our past, the AABC will continue to be

there for its members. We provide education programs (with three new offerings this year), site visits, support in operations and preservation and advocacy for all members in the larger archival community. I encourage all of you to become part of the debate, the excitement and the future of the AABC by volunteering for a committee, joining the executive, helping to make Conference 2010 as excellent as past conferences and by joining the AABC listserv where you can add your voice to the conversation.

On behalf of the membership, I want to thank our outgoing Executive, committee members and volunteers. The AABC, its members and the British Columbia archival community are thankful for the many hours you have committed to keeping the AABC a healthy and vibrant organization. Further I would like to welcome the incoming AABC Executive, committee members and volunteers—a fun and exciting year is ahead of us!

Before I sign off, I want to express a huge thank you to Lara Wilson, outgoing President and current Programs Committee member. Without her tireless—and, in many cases, self-sacrificing—work on behalf of AABC, it would not be the organization it is today. You will hear me say over and over that many hands make light work, and it is always true. In Lara's case, her hands make work fun as she challenges common perceptions of the roles we all play, encourages all people and sets a fine example of exemplary community service.

## ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM NEWS

### ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM CORPORATION'S LICENSING PROGRAM

by Kelly-Ann Turkington, Permissions Officer

The British Columbia Archives Licensing Program has been in existence since 1995 to handle the use of archival material. Photographs, film, video, sound recordings, maps and textual records are used for purposes other than research or litigation, both commercial and non-commercial. The program was established to recoup revenue from commercial use of the collections and to build awareness of the records we hold through citation/credit lines. This facilitates subsequent research access to material used, and makes people aware that preservation of archival records is a costly business.

Until 2002, as part of government, the only way the Archives could retain revenue from "commercial" use of the collections was to do it by means of a contract with an external agency administered through the Intellectual Properties Branch. The Archives received a percentage of any fees charged and copies of any products, usually books. The revenue was applied to the preservation and maintenance of the collection.

In 2003, following the integration of the BC Archives into the newly-formed Royal BC Museum Corporation and the expiration of the contract with the outside agency, a Permissions Officer position was established and a licensing agent was hired on contract. The program was also expanded to include use of images, records and information from the Museum collections. The licensing agent handled the negotiation of fees, usually on a case by case basis, for most commercial purposes. The Permissions Officer dealt with use restrictions (copyright, donor, etc.), co-ordinating and facilitating reproduction orders, all non-commercial no-fee uses, and some standard fee commercial uses.

In 2007, the Corporation decided on a new direction to recover costs and handle all licensing of its material "in-house". This meant that clients would now deal directly with the Permissions Officer to request permission to use material and to license it. A set Use Fee Schedule was established and was used to apply fees or not apply fees for specified uses (e.g. publications, documentaries, exhibits/displays, web site use, etc.). The practice of charging clients per minute for film

footage was discontinued; now they are charged a flat fee and may use the entire film footage. The feedback that we have received from clients since establishing this new process has been positive. Clients feel that the fees we apply are more reliable and the process is smoother.

Last November, we made the move towards providing clients with digital file copies of our visual and textual material. The standard format is a 300 dpi JPEG (custom formats are sometimes provided at an additional cost). Audio recordings and film footage are now available on CDs and DVDs respectively but are not available as digital files. Orders for digital copies of photographs, art works and maps have now exceeded orders for standard prints by members of the public.

The past year has been particularly busy with clients requesting material for use for British Columbia's 150th Anniversary. In 2008, we processed almost 600 client orders and permissions requests for various uses including books, calendars, exhibits, displays, film/video and newspaper articles. Over 3000 photographs alone were reproduced.

Also of note, in the past year, not only has there been an increase in requests for custom digital formats, but also an increase in requests for use of material in non-traditional formats such as streaming video and podcasts. The work is anything but routine and each request presents its own challenges.

*Please contact Kelly-Ann Turkington at (250) 387-3845 if you have any questions regarding the Royal British Columbia Museum Corporation's Licensing Program.*

## A VERY COOL ARCHIVES

by Margery Hadley and Sylvia Van Kirk

“We are the COOL Archives.” That name can be used with confidence by the official repository of the Church of Our Lord, Victoria, and the Diocese of Western Canada of the Reformed Episcopal Church. On May 2nd, 2009, a gathering from the church, archives and heritage communities celebrated the official opening of the Church of Our Lord Archives, Victoria’s newest archives and new member of the AABC.



*Dedication service, May 2, 2009  
Dick Faulks photograph*

The creation of the COOL Archives is the realization of a dream and the culmination of a process that started many years ago. A plan for an archives was presented to the Church Vestry in the late 1980s, but it was Bishop Rob Badham who took the first steps to save and make accessible our valuable documents. Frequently-consulted records were copied to ensure their protection, a fire-proof safe was purchased by the Diocese to store some of the original records, and a database was developed for the Registers of Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals.

Further progress required a designated room, and this became possible with the recent completion of the Community Ministry Centre. However, without a BC150 Heritage Leg-

acy Grant, it would have been many years before an actual Archives became a reality.

The BC150 funding awarded in January 2009 enabled the Church of Our Lord to contract the services of a professional archivist; purchase valuable archival supplies, computer equipment and shelving; furnish the physical space for reference service; acquire conservation treatment for several important items; and to scan and retire original photographs from display.

Led by the Church of Our Lord’s Heritage Coordinator, Sylvia Van Kirk, the “archives team”, including project archivist Margery Hadley and numerous volunteers, worked vigorously for three months. At the core of the project was the archival work of identifying, gathering and appraising more than twenty metres of records stored throughout the church, followed by the arrangement, description, and housing for ten-plus metres and many oversize documents.



*Julia Browne sorting financial records  
Sylvia Van Kirk photograph*

Managing the project required hours spent purchasing supplies, equipment, furnishings and services, tracking expenses, preparing reports, etc. Meanwhile, volunteers hauled, assembled, sorted, copied, framed, prepared display materials, planned and hosted events, and, on a daily basis, handled quantities of shredding, recycling and garbage. Overall . . . an extraordinary endeavour for such a short period of time!

*Continued on page 6 - COOL Archives*

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## STAFF RETIREMENTS AND APPOINTMENT

by Ian Forsyth, University Archivist

**Enid Britt, Archives Assistant, retired in 2008** after working at SFU for 38 years, starting in 1970 as a temporary employee in the Physics Department followed by appointments as a Secretary in Human Resources, Academic Advising and Education before joining the Archives in 1986. At 22 years, Enid is the longest serving member of the Archives staff and, with her leaving, we lose a valued colleague who possesses a fountain of information and experience regarding the Archives' history. Enid worked tirelessly with three university archivists to improve access and promote awareness about SFU's corporate memory. Creating and continuously improving the Archives' website as a communication tool in the Internet age was a substantial contribution in advancing the department's mandate. Very public service-oriented, she worked diligently to help students and staff as well as the general public to find the archival resources they sought. Her efforts in this regard are reflected in the many notes of appreciation she received from grateful patrons over the years. Enid also gave generously of her time every year to numerous community events including the University's United Way campaigns and convocation ceremonies. We, her colleagues in the University Archives, wish her happiness and health throughout retirement as she spends time with her two passions, grandchildren and golf.

**Frances Fournier, Archivist, retired on May 22, 2009.** Frances started the second career of her life at SFU in 1989 as a professional archivist. Before joining the University she received a B.A., M.L.S. and a doctoral degree in the history of science from UCLA, relocated to Vancouver, married John Fournier (a UBC mathematics professor), raised a family in Point Grey and, with her considerable artistic talents, became an accomplished seamstress and crafts person who creates beautifully designed and colourful hand-made quilts. In a mid-life career change, Frances returned to university, graduating with a Master of Archival Studies degree from UBC. As SFU's first professionally trained archivist, she worked diligently to preserve SFU's corporate memory by saving and making available records that tell the stories about the people, programs and events that made SFU the community

it is today. Additionally Frances developed and strengthened the University's holdings of private archives, acquiring numerous collections on the women's movement and the contributions made by women in BC society. Her knowledge and passion for our documentary heritage was generously shared through the presentations and assistance she gave to students, teaching them the relevance of archives and how to use them for academic assignments. She supported faculty in their role as teachers; aided graduate students, academic scholars and the general public as researchers; and helped administrators find archival information needed for planning and decision-making. She served her professional community in a leadership role on the Executive of the Archives Association of British Columbia. And, in a career spanning 20 years, Frances popularized our University's historical legacy and its place in the history of education and the province through a series of seven theme-based displays marking SFU's 40th anniversary. We, her colleagues in the University Archives, wish her much happiness and health throughout retirement as she begins the next phase of a wonderful life.

**Richard Dancy accepted an appointment as a full time** continuing Archivist starting May 25, 2009 in the SFU Archives and Records Management Department. Richard continues working with us following nine years of service as a recurring limited term Archivist. He will be responsible for various archival and records management functions as well as the department's IT systems.

# AABC HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

## RECIPIENT - GEORGE BRANDAK

*Presentation Speech by Terry Eastwood, AABC Annual Conference, April 2009*

We are here today to honour George Brandak. Last December, George retired after 35 years as Manuscripts Curator in Rare Books and Special Collection at the UBC Library. George is a proud native of Saskatchewan. After completing his M.A. in history at Sir Wilfred Laurier University, he worked at the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan Archives before he came to UBC. To hear him tell it, his appointment had as much to do with his knowledge of sports and ability to play poker as with his academic and professional attainments.

During his long career at UBC, George amassed an impressive body of holdings with particular strengths in BC labour, literature, politics, and business. Over the years, George has seen many changes in the profession, but his commitment to acquisition and in particular to access has never wavered. George was always ready to help researchers. He was happy to provide the personal touch, and always willing to offer contextual information not necessarily captured in the formal finding aids. He would often be seen heading off to lunch or coffee with researchers, during which he happily shared his knowledge. During his career George has also taken considerable delight in dealing with students. This is true of the instruction he provided to students at UBC and in the course he taught at SFU, and his supervision of their practical work.

George has devoted untold hours to the service of his beloved profession. He was present at the very conception of this association at a meeting, if I remember correctly, held at the Vancouver City Archives sometime in the summer of 1973. He has been a faithful member of the Association ever since. He served as its first President in 1974-75, and as Secretary-Treasurer 1978-80. George has also been a member of the Association of Canadian Archivists since its establishment in 1975. He served as ACA Director (1982/83), Vice President (1989/90) and President (1990/91), as well as on various committees.

George treats his professional colleagues as his extended family. It has always been important to him to enjoy their com-

pany as much as share their burdens. Many of our fondest memories of George are of his antics as captain of the West's team in the annual East-West baseball game at the ACA conference or his mastery of the chicken dance at the annual banquet. George has an apparently inexhaustible supply of good humour and corny jokes that have enlivened the many good times he has shared with his colleagues.

George's legacy will be passed on to the next generation of researchers and archivists in the form of the wonderful archival collection he assembled at UBC and the vibrant associations he helped bring to life. He touched the lives of many people who will not forget him. For his long and generous service to the archival cause, it is with great pleasure that I present George Michael Brandak as honorary life member of the Archives Association of British Columbia.

### BEST ARCHIVES ON THE WEB AWARDS

Congratulations to David Mattison of the British Columbia Archives (Royal British Columbia Museum) on receiving an Honorable Mention for his site, "The Fictional World of Archives, Museums & Art Galleries", in the recent Best Archives on the Web Awards. The recognition, in the category of "Most Whimsical Archives-Related Website", came from ArchivesNext, a U.S.-based blog for the archival community; a panel of distinguished judges selected winners from the list of submitted nominees. David's site documents references to archives, museums and art galleries in fictional works, and is well worth a look (<http://fictionalarchives.vox.com/>). For a complete list of the winners, visit the ArchivesNext blog at [www.archivesnext.com](http://www.archivesnext.com).

*Do you know an interesting, useful and/or unique archives-related website that you would like to share with other Archives Association members? In the spirit of the awards, we invite you to send in your suggestions of must-browse sites; e-mail them to the Newsletter Editor at [leah.pearse@gmail.com](mailto:leah.pearse@gmail.com), and be sure to include the URL and a brief summary. While there will be no judging, we hope to make this a regular feature that will serve to share valuable resources amongst AABC members.*

*Continued from page 3 - COOL Archives*

There is still work to be done and a detailed work plan will direct ongoing efforts. The COOL Archives remains a work in progress, but, importantly, the fascinating history of Church of Our Lord and the Reformed Episcopal Church can now be shared with a wider public and enrich the cultural heritage of Victoria and British Columbia.

## FASCINATING HISTORY

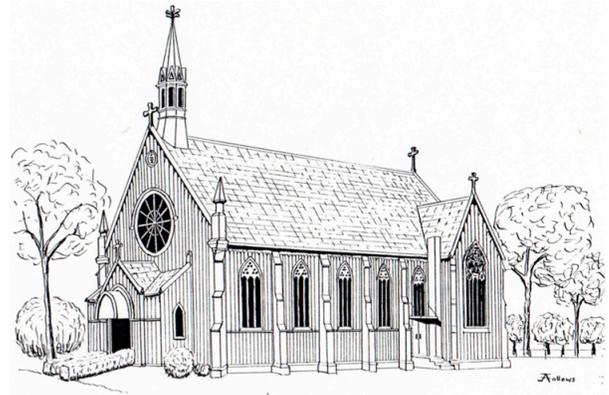
The Church of Our Lord has played an important role in the Victoria community. The Church was founded by the Reverend Edward Cridge, who had emigrated from England in 1855 to be Chaplain for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Victoria. Rev. Cridge played a major role in establishing the Anglican church in Victoria; however, in the fall of 1874, doctrinal differences between Cridge and the Anglican Church resulted in Cridge and his large following creating a new congregation and, in keeping with its evangelical principles, the new church affiliated with the Reformed Episcopal Church of America. Bishop Cridge ministered to COOL for over 30 years. He died in 1913 in his 96th year.

Many founding members of Church of Our Lord were Victoria pioneers and had strong ties to the Hudson's Bay Company. Sir James Douglas, former Governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island and the Colony of British Columbia donated both the land on Humboldt Street and the historic Appleton Organ. Other early pew holders included the families of Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken, Captain William Henry McNeill, and Chief Trader Charles Ross. The first Rector's Warden was Benjamin William Pearse, assistant colonial surveyor and prominent landowner. The first People's Warden was William John Macdonald, who became one of BC's first Senators.

The Cridges, Carrs, and other members of the congregation played a leading role in founding important social institutions which grew into the Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Cridge Centre for the Family, and the YW-YMCA. The family of artist Emily Carr began attending in 1875 and insight into the early history of COOL comes from the stories of Carr. Similarly, Church minutes and marriage, baptismal and funeral records, complete from 1874 and now in the Archives,

provide invaluable information about the network of influential congregants and families involved in the development of the Church of Our Lord and the Victoria community.

## RESTORATION AND RENOVATION



*Church of Our Lord  
Drawing by Rev. E. A. Follows, ca.1990*

Local architect John Teague's Carpenter Gothic structure is Victoria's oldest church building on its original site. Featuring a fine hammerbeam ceiling, the church at the corner of Blanshard and Humboldt Streets was constructed for \$12,000 by pioneer contractors Charles Hayward and Robert Jenkinson. At the time, the neighbourhood was rural and James Bay came up to the church's back steps when the tide was high. By the 1920s, the original Sunday School Hall was in need of replacement and plans for Cridge Memorial Hall were drawn by the noted architectural firm of Samuel McClure. A portion of the hall was completed in 1930.

*Continued on page 7 - COOL Archives*

*Continued from page 6 - COOL Archives*

Caring for this important heritage resource has been a significant activity of the Church of Our Lord for many years and “Restoration and Renovation (R&R)” created a sizeable archival record. In 1998, the Church of Our Lord was designated a National Historic Site. The 125 Restoration Millennium Project of 1999-2003 included major restoration of the sanctuary building and realization of the long-time dream of a Community Ministry Centre. The ministry centre has allowed the Church to expand its tradition of community service. The centre also now houses the COOL Archives.

Today, the Church of Our Lord is an active community ministry and prominent heritage resource in downtown Victoria. It is the leading church in the Diocese of Western Canada and Alaska and the oldest church built specifically as a Reformed Episcopal Church in North America. Restoration and renovation is ongoing. Currently restoration of the Rose Window is proceeding, thanks to funding from the Heritage Legacy Fund of British Columbia, and funding is sought for a conservation plan and further exterior and structural restoration.

## **COOL COLLECTIONS**

Drawn from storage areas and offices throughout the church buildings, the archival holdings, although initially disjointed, were found to be comprehensive and in generally good condition. Administrative records from the time of Church founding in 1874 until present are largely complete. Other records series in the Church of Our Lord fonds are: Ministry and programs, including marriage, baptism and burial records; Committees and groups; Buildings and grounds, including restoration and renovation records; and Topical files. The Archives also cares for some publications and oversees care of the numerous artefacts and art works in the church.

The Church of Our Lord fonds is described at the sub-series level with accompanying file lists. A printed finding aid is available and database access will be available in the near future. Physical processing is complete.

The records of the Reformed Episcopal Church, ca.1885-ca.2000, was the second fonds to be processed under the BC150 project. Series of this fonds are: I. General Synod

of the Reformed Episcopal Church of Canada; II. Diocese of Western Canada; III. Free Church of England; and, IV. Reformed Episcopal Church USA. The largest quantity of records pertain to St. Paul’s Reformed Episcopal Church of New Westminster, 1883 to 2002. Processing of the REC fonds is continuing.

As a project – except for the very tight timeframe – the COOL Archives Project is as close to an archivist’s dream as they come: hands-on involvement, start-to-finish; well maintained, complete and interesting holdings; gracious and trusting hosts and colleagues; ample supplies; and, an archives space NOT in the basement. As a resource, the COOL Archives contains unique evidence of Victoria’s religious and secular history, now protected and accessible.



*Margery and Sylvia in the Archives, opening day  
Don Bourdon photograph*

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## COOL ARCHIVES HIGHLIGHTS

- Registers of marriages, baptisms & funerals for Church of Our Lord, 1874-1996, and for St. Paul's REC, Westminster, beginning 1883
- Vestry and financial records, 1874-1996
- Records of Church of Our Lord groups such as Ladies' Aid, Mary & Martha Society and the Missionary Guild
- Records of St. Paul's Church, New Westminster, founded in 1883 and closed in 2002
- Letter of Mary Cridge to sister-in-law Elizabeth, written enroute to Victoria with her husband, Edward Cridge, in 1855
- Memorial from Choir of Church of Our Lord to Lady Douglas, 1877
- Records of church renovation and restoration projects, 1974-2003, including the Restoration 125 Millennium Project
- Photographic record of the Sanctuary over the years
- Records of the REC Diocese of Western Canada, including extensive correspondence of the Bishops Primus
- Poetry book of Bishop Archibald Keevil, St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal Church



Some "highlights" on display, opening day  
Don Bourdon photograph

The remarks of Bishop Charles Dorrington sum up the sentiments of opening day, and of days to come:

*"Today, as we celebrate this day where the history of over 135 years has been faithfully gathered together and archived for future generations, we are provided with a solid foundation upon which we can place our faulty steps. This building, the architectural beauty with its wonderful acoustical resonance, these accouterments such as this 182 year-old pipe organ and the beautiful stained-glass windows together with the prayers of thousands upon thousands of people that have soaked these walls are all reflected in the history of this church and of its faithful family. I want to thank Sylvia Van Kirk for all that she has done to guarantee that the written and photographed history of God's hand upon this part of Canada will still be there and available for future generations. I also want to thank the BC150 Heritage Legacy Fund and all other government agencies that have made the safeguarding of these things possible. Without this help so much would likely have been forgotten or destroyed and lost forever. Thank you all for being the keepers of our history. Let us pray together for God's continued grace and love and for the future history of this wonderful place."*

*(Excerpt from address by Bishop Charles Dorrington, May 2, 2009. Printed in The Grape Vine : Church of Our Lord newsletter, May 2009, p.6)*

A Very COOL Archives indeed!

The Church of Our Lord Archives is located in the Community Ministry Centre at 626 Blanshard Street, Victoria. The Archives is open to the public, by appointment, on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please contact Sylvia Van Kirk, Heritage Co-ordinator at: 250-383-8915 (tel), 250-383-8916 (fax), [archives@churchofourlord.org](mailto:archives@churchofourlord.org)

*Margery Hadley, archivist for the COOL project, works with archives and research clients through her business, Aevum Archives and Research Services in Victoria.*

*Dr. Sylvia Van Kirk, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, is Heritage Coordinator at the Church of Our Lord. She is a specialist in fur trade social history and the colonial period in Victoria.*

## TALES OF PLAQUES, RETIREMENTS AND MEETINGS

by Jo-Anne Allison, Archivist, Diocese of Prince George



In the fall of 2007, Ron Walsh, bus driver, boiler fixer, handyman and resident historian of the Diocesan Center building, (formerly O’Grady Catholic High School) retired from his job at the Diocesan Center. While cleaning out his office, he found a bronze plaque which commemorates the December 21st, 1957 dedication of the Father George Daly, C.Ss. R. Chapel in the Sisters of Service girls’ residential club by then-Archbishop William Duke of Vancouver.

Ron remembered participating in the dismantling of the chapel and remembered that he felt that the plaque should not be left with the rubble. Why he brought it to Prince George is lost in the mists of time; however, once the plaque resurfaced he was most anxious that it be returned to its rightful owners, if they could be found. Ron brought the plaque to me in the Archives and I set out to find out what I could about this interesting artifact.

Immediately after Ron brought the plaque to me, I contacted Sister Patricia Burke of the Sisters of Service Archives in Toronto. An exchange of emails followed and slowly we filled in the gaps in this story. The chapel was added to the girls’ residential club or house on West 11th Avenue in Vancouver in December 21st, 1957. Sister Pat told me that the chapel was quite important to the Order because it was dedicated to their co-founder, Father George Daly, C.Ss.R., and she forwarded a copy of the poem written to commemorate the occasion.

The Sisters of Service came to Vancouver in October 1929 to open a residence for immigrant women. This mission was closed in 1972. The Sisters remained in Vancouver and served in pastoral ministry until 1980.

Sister Pat was most happy to hear of Ron’s discovery and both Sister Pat and Sister Anna McNally were thrilled that I planned to repatriate the plaque if we could sort out the details. The plaque is made of bronze and weighs eight pounds, so shipping it through the mail was not an option. After some discussion we realized that I should hand over this precious artifact to the Sisters of Service at the next Catholic Archivist Group meeting in Edmonton. And on September 25th I did exactly that.

Were Sister Pat and Anna surprised that the plaque ended up in Prince George? Well, nothing surprises an Archivist but this came very close!!

### WHAT’S HAPPENING MID ISLAND?

by Netanja Waddell, Qualicum Beach Archives

Thanks to a recent federal grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, the Qualicum Beach Archives has received sufficient funds to purchase DBTexworks (INMAGIC) and acquire the services of Netanja Waddell. It’s full steam ahead with streamlining and computerizing the forever growing collection of photos and other archival material, such as numerous fonds from local pioneer families. Netanja is delighted to be working in the archival milieu after many years focusing on records management - and staying local is an added privilege. In collaboration with Diane Foster, the new Museum Curator, the QB Museum and Archives are working on the development and implementation of policies & procedures in order to restructure and update the organization to contend with the needs of a thriving community.

# BCAUL/ICA-ATOM PROJECT UPDATE

by Janet McMaster, Archival Network Coordinator

The BCAUL/ICA-AtoM project is progressing well. ICA-AtoM is a fully web-based, open source, multi-level archival description software developed on behalf of the International Council on Archives by Artefactual Systems from New Westminster, B.C. The ICA-AtoM software will replace the ACT/Cinemage software that is currently being used for BCAUL. The upgrade will also include a name change from BCAUL to MemoryBC.

The primary advantage for the AABC's institutional members is that after they have received training for the new system, they will be able to add and revise their own multi-level descriptions directly in the online database, as well as update their repository information. The other option for institutions with existing archival information systems is to add new descriptions via EAD XML import. After the new system has been launched, all new and revised descriptions will be vetted by the Archival Network Coordinator, who will then make the changes "live". Regular updates will continue to be submitted to the national database, ArchivesCanada.ca.

ICA-AtoM stands for International Council on Archives – Access to Memory. It is designed to support international standards such as General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD(G)), as well as the International Archival Authority Record for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families (ISAAR(CPF)) and the International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings (ISDIAH). Thanks to the collaboration between the AABC, Artefactual Systems, Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives, Rules for Archival Description (RAD) templates were added to ICA-AtoM. Therefore, RAD (July 2008 version) will continue to be the data content standard for the AABC's database.

The AABC, working with Artefactual Systems, has taken the opportunity of adding some new enhancements to the system to ensure consistency and improve searching capabilities. For example, subject access points have been included for the first time, based on top level B.C. Thesaurus terms, and city/town/village names from the BC Gazetteer are also incorporated for place access points. Further down the road, the system will have the ability to link digitized/digital objects.

Information sessions about the project were held at the AABC conference in Vancouver at the end of April as well as at the ACA conference in Calgary in May. The first ICA-AtoM training session was held in Vancouver on April 25, 2009 in conjunc-

tion with the AABC conference. The 25 attendees at the workshop completed a variety of tutorials that prepared them for contributing their institution's archival descriptions, authority records and repository records to the AABC's <http://MemoryBC.ca> portal, which is running the ICA-AtoM software. These information sessions and the workshop, as well as a number of other recent presentations, have generated a great deal of enthusiasm about the project, and many positive comments have been received.

The deadline for submitting descriptions to BCAUL was April 30, 2009. All new and revised descriptions that were received by the deadline have been uploaded to BCAUL, and all of the material that is in BCAUL as of May 2009 is being migrated to the new system. The new MemoryBC.ca site will be launched with a "soft launch" over the summer. Institutions who received the training in Vancouver in April will be assigned passwords in the fall to access the system so that they can add and revise their own descriptions and make any required changes to their repository information.

As per the existing process, the Archival Network Coordinator will continue to upload new and revised descriptions for institutional members who have not yet received the MemoryBC training. Please continue to send this material to Janet McMaster at [jmcmast@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmast@shaw.ca) for uploading. This service will continue on an interim basis until all AABC institutional members have received direct data-entry training or EAD XML import instructions.

The full launch of MemoryBC will take place in November 2009 in conjunction with Archives Week. Additional training sessions for AABC institutional members will take place in late November for those in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. Training in Prince George and Kelowna will take place in March or April after much of the snow has melted! Plan to set aside one day to take a RAD Refresher workshop followed by the ICA-AtoM workshop. These workshops will be offered free of charge. Notices about upcoming training sessions will be posted on the AABC's web site and on the archives-bc list serv.

If you have any questions about training, please contact Kelly Stewart, AABC Education and Advisory Archivist, at [kstewart@aabbc.bc.ca](mailto:kstewart@aabbc.bc.ca).

# NEWS FROM SLAIS

by Michelle Mallette, SLAIS Student Services Coordinator, [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca)

## SLAIS WELCOMES THREE NEW FACULTY

SLAIS has hired three new faculty members as a result of its faculty search in early 2009. Eric Meyers and Lisa Nathan will join the faculty in July 2009 and Aaron Loehrlein will arrive in January 2010.

Aaron Loehrlein is completing a joint Ph.D. in Information Science and Cognitive Science at Indiana University in Bloomington. His dissertation research is an exploration of the ways in which a person's conceptual structures influences information-seeking behaviour.

Eric Meyers is completing a Ph.D. in Information Science at the University of Washington, with the dissertation, "The Nature and Impact of Group Information Problem Solving." His research interests include youth information behaviour, information literacy, and virtual worlds.

Lisa Nathan is completing her doctoral dissertation on "Adaptation and Information Technology: An Ethnography of Values, Choice, and Tension in Two Ecovillages" in the Information School at the University of Washington. This year, she is serving as Co-Principal Investigator on the Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal Project.

## SLAIS TAKES LEAD IN RM CURRICULUM PLANNING

Two School of Library, Archival & Information Studies (SLAIS) faculty members have been funded to develop a digital recordkeeping curriculum that will be the standard for archival education in digital records.

The proposal, submitted by Dr. Luciana Duranti with Dr. Vicki Lemieux as co-applicant, was for the Development of a Curriculum in Digital Recordkeeping. It has been funded by the International Council on Archives (ICA). The curriculum will be endorsed by the ICA as the standard for archival education in digital records, translated into the five official languages of the ICA, and delivered in the 147 member countries. In announcing the funding decision, the ICA said "the Programme Commission was impressed by the quality

of your application and the relevance of your proposal."

## ADJUNCT FACULTY SOUGHT

SLAIS is actively inviting expressions of interest from archivists and records managers who are interested in teaching courses at SLAIS as adjunct faculty members. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and experience, and benefiting from the opportunity to teach students who are new to the profession, contact the Chair of the Archival Studies program at SLAIS, Dr. Luciana Duranti, at [luciana.duranti@ubc.ca](mailto:luciana.duranti@ubc.ca). Current course descriptions are available at [www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca). Specific course outlines are not required at this stage.

## MENTOR AND BE MENTORED

Experiential learning is a cornerstone of the SLAIS educational philosophy. Here is an opportunity for you to give time back to SLAIS, and benefit from hosting a student. Consider hosting a student for a professional experience, which matches skilled SLAIS students with projects in the field. Students have worked on arrangement and description, processing of full fonds, records management projects, digitizing projects, user needs analysis and more. They bring up-to-date skills, energy and enthusiasm, a commitment to learning and a desire to make a difference. You'll benefit not only from bringing a project to fruition, but from working with new professionals who are excited and well-grounded in theory and new technology. We call that reverse mentoring. For more information contact SLAIS Student Services Coordinator Michelle Mallette at [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca), or visit [www.slais.ubc.ca/COURSES/arstlibr596/](http://www.slais.ubc.ca/COURSES/arstlibr596/)

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## SIDNEY ARCHIVIST MOVES TO NEW OPPORTUNITY

by Graham Debling, President, Society of Saanich Peninsula Museums

Sidney Museum and Archives are looking for a new volunteer archivist.

Diane Foster, Archivist for Sidney Museum and Archives, is moving to Qualicum Beach to take on the role of Museum Manager after over 8 years of service here in Sidney.

Diane's first experience with Sidney's archives was a jumble of donated and collected documents, photographs and maps stacked in boxes in a storeroom at the back of the Customs House when it was located near the waterfront. Diane soon discovered the challenges ahead of her: much of the collection was in poor condition and not properly catalogued. Sidney's museum moved into renovated space in the lower level of the Old Post Office building. It became apparent fairly quickly that the new accommodation was great for the historical museum but not suitable space to provide an archival service to the public.

Archive space was created in the lower level of the Sidney Town Hall adjacent to the Arbutus Room where the Archives can still be found today. Diane moved forward with enthusiasm. Drawing on her archival experience and interest in history, Diane organized a network of volunteers under her leadership and embarked on a program to bring the Archives up to standards expected by the Archives Association of BC and compliant with the Rules for Archival Description. As individuals and organizations in the area learned about the Archives and the commitment of Diane and her volunteer team, suitable material was donated in increasing frequency adding substantially to the work of preservation, indexing and accessioning. Recently, through a grant from the Town of Sidney, microfilm copies were prepared of the early editions of the Sidney Review that had become very fragile.



*Diane Foster (second from left) with three members of her team of volunteers; (from the left) Anne Atkins, Diane, Joan Gibb and Freda Thorne*

Diane will be leaving archival holdings that are well established and growing. A diverse group uses it for a variety of reasons: about a third of users are businesses, and another third are individuals undertaking genealogical research. The remaining users are divided broadly between academic researchers, individuals researching specific buildings, and local government officers. Users of the Archives draw on the extensive collection of photographs, information files, documents, newspapers, biographical files, maps and plans, oral history transcripts and reference books.

The importance of the Archives has been well illustrated by the Museum's Historical Interpretative Signs project. Six additional information panels have been added to complement the three put in place along the sea walk in July 2008. Photos, written material from the Archives and research by Diane and the volunteers have provided a significant contribution to this project. This most recent project has identified the need to preserve additional historical records so that current and future members of our community, visitors and our children may be better served. Extensive and reliable historical records are essential to the Museum to meet their objectives of providing sound historical interpretation and presentation; both are dependent upon access to primary source historical records.

*Continued on page 13 - New Opportunity*

*Continued from page 12 - New Opportunity*

The Members and Volunteers of the Museum and Archives wish Diane well in her new venture and, along with users of the Archives, say thank you to Diane for the leadership and guidance that has established Sidney's Archives on a solid foundation. Diane's team of volunteers will continue to do their best to respond to requests and maintain operational hours. The Archives are open three days a week, Tuesday to Thursday 10:00 am - 3.30 pm. Telephone inquiries can be made at 250-656-1322 and e-mail inquiries at archives@uniserve.com. Donations of suitable archival material will continue to be accepted at either the Archives or the Museum.

Sidney Museum and Archives are looking for a volunteer archivist with archives or records management experience who is interested in taking a leading role in providing this invaluable service to the local community. For further details regarding this opportunity, please contact the Museum and Archives Executive Director, Peter Garnham, at 250-655-6355, or drop by his office in the Museum, located in the lower level, Old Post Office building, Beacon Avenue, Sidney.

*Information Contact: Peter Garnham, Executive Director, Sidney Museum and Archives, infor@sidneymuseum.ca, 250-655-6355*

## **WHERE SLAIS STUDENTS ARE GOING**

*Continued from page 11 - News From SLAIS*

Spring/Summer is a busy time for internship placements. This year, SLAIS students are doing 12-week archival internships with various municipal archives throughout the Greater Vancouver area, two at UBC and two in the United States – one with the United Nations Archives and Records Management Section in New York City, and the other at the Harvard Art Museum & Archives in Cambridge, Mass. These students gain tremendously from these experiences, which give them an opportunity to develop practical skills before they join you in the profession. Consider adding to their experience by hosting a student yourself, or hiring one

## **Note from the Editor**

We hope you have enjoyed this latest edition of the AABC newsletter, which reported on many of the archival comings and goings in the province, from Sidney and Qualicum Beach, to Prince George, Burnaby and beyond. The success of this newsletter, as always, depends on the contributions from our readers. This will hold true for our new regular feature that highlights archives-related websites based on suggestions from the archival community. This month, we featured David Mattison's award-winning site "The Fictional World of Archives, Museums & Art Galleries" and we are eager to see what other sites will be recommended in the future.

This newsletter also marks the advent of a new Newsletter Committee and would not have been possible without the support and advice of outgoing editor, Greg Kozak. Thank you, Greg, for all the wonderful work that you have done on the newsletter over the years--you have left us some big shoes to fill!

Editor - Leah Pearse

Technical Editor - Earlene Bitterman

Editorial Committee Member - Sonia Nicholson

*Got news? Send AABC news, tips, suggestions or letters to the editor, Leah Pearse (leah.pearse@gmail.com).*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear colleagues,

The theme of this edition of the AABC Newsletter addresses technology and training. Fittingly, the first item I have to report relates to a new undertaking by the AABC executive that will utilize web 2.0 technology. The executive is in the process of creating an online wiki to help gather our scattered digital records relating to our development of policies, procedures and programs over the years. Look for the wiki address in the spring. We hope everyone with AABC digital files will participate and help to bring them all together. If anyone is interested, our organizational records are currently being arranged and described and I understand this has become a bit of a social event. Anyone who would like to lend a hand can contact Jane Morrison for more information.

There have also been several other developments at AABC to convey to you here. Firstly, after many years of promising a review of institutional memberships, our membership committee is ready for the undertaking. They will be working region by region evaluating memberships and gathering information. Don't be surprised to hear from them sometime over the next two years. We suspect that it will take time to get through everyone.

The executive was sad this past month to receive a resignation from the executive of Anthea Seles. This leaves the position of Institutional Member at Large open. If anyone

is interested in the position the portfolio includes membership committee and the conference committee. In the meantime, if anyone has issues regarding conference and membership, they can direct concerns to any other member of the executive committee or myself directly.

On this note, please consider donating some of your time to the AABC. The more people who help out the less overwhelming it is for any one person. The old adage that many hands makes light work holds true into modern times. We sometimes get isolated at our desk and our work task list is so overwhelming that to consider taking on more work seems unfathomable. However, a couple hours a month can make a really meaningful difference in your provincial organization. Geographic location does not matter as much of our work is done via teleconference or by email.

As we prepare ourselves to enter yet another new year, I would like to remind everyone that donations made to the AABC are tax deductible and you would receive your tax receipt before tax season for donations made prior to December 31, 2009.

Seasons Greetings to everyone and here's hoping 2010 is a rewarding year for everyone both institutionally and individually!

Jordana Kerry  
AABC President

## WHAT HAPPENED TO CaNWAN?

by Janet McMaster, Archival Network Coordinator

The Canadian North West Archival Network (CaNWAN) was a regional network that consisted of descriptions from the British Columbia Archival Union List (BCAUL), the Archives Network of Alberta, the Yukon Archival Union List, and the Northwest Territories Archival Network. From inception, CaNWAN was hosted on servers owned by the AABC. With the recent migration of BCAUL to MemoryBC and move to a new server, the AABC was unfortunately no longer in a position to host CaNWAN. However, the Archives Society of Alberta stepped in to provide hosting services for both the Yukon Archival Union List and the Northwest Territories Archival Network. So although CaNWAN no longer exists, all of the databases that made up CaNWAN are still available.

- MemoryBC can be accessed at <http://memorybc.ca/>
- The Archives Network of Alberta (ANA) database is available from the ASA's web site at [http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V\\_ITEM\\_ID=66](http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=66)
- The Yukon Archival Union list (YAUL) can be accessed from the Yukon Council of Archives' web site at <http://www.yukoncouncilofarchives.ca/sections/yaul/yaul.html>, as well as from the ASA's Other Databases page at [http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V\\_ITEM\\_ID=67](http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=67)
- The Northwest Territories Archival Network (NWTAN) can be accessed from the ASA's Other Databases page at [http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V\\_ITEM\\_ID=67](http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=67)

In addition, please note that all of the fonds level descriptions from the above networks are available in the Canadian Archival Information Network, ArchivesCanada.ca, at <http://www.archivescanada.ca/>.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of the AABC newsletter is devoted to the issues of technology and training, two major concerns in the archival world. Technology and training often go hand in hand: as new technology becomes a part of our archival work, training must surely follow so that we can harness the potential that the innovation offers. A recent example is MemoryBC, an exciting new addition to the archival community which requires archivists to brush up on the latest Rules for Archival Description (RAD) and to train on ICA AtoM. Conveniently, AABC offers training on these two items in paired training workshops!

In fact, MemoryBC is the most discussed item in this issue, garnering mention in at least five articles, including two full length features. Several other articles address technology with subjects ranging from a new web guide at SFU, to digital preservation projects at UBC, to a featured archives website.

A huge thank you to all the contributors to this issue, both those who sent in articles early and those who took advantage of the deadline extension. Be sure to watch the listserv for the announcement of the Winter Newsletter theme and a happy holidays to all!

Editor - Leah Pearse

Editorial Committee Member - Sonia Nicholson

*As always, we'd love to hear from you! Send archival news, newsletter suggestions and any questions to the editor, Leah Pearse ([leah.pearse@gmail.com](mailto:leah.pearse@gmail.com)).*

## NEW WEB GUIDE AT SFU ARCHIVES

### HOW DID WOMEN'S RIGHTS EVOLVE AT SFU? FINDING ANSWERS IN THE ARCHIVES

by Richard Dancy, Archivist, SFU Archives

Can you use technology to create outreach tools that will appeal to both inexperienced and experienced users of archives? That was the idea behind an NADP-funded project the Simon Fraser University Archives completed earlier this year to produce an online, interactive guide to our holdings relating to the women's movement in British Columbia, one of the strengths of our collection. We wanted something geared to today's web-savvy user that would communicate the depth of our holdings, tell interesting stories from the history of the university, and explain the nature of archival materials and how to use them effectively in research -- a product that would be both informative to seasoned researchers, while tempting novices to delve further into the documents behind the pictures.

The results can be seen on our web page, How did women's rights evolve at SFU? Finding the answers in the Archives [ <http://www.sfu.ca/archives2/Brochure/brochureWomenArchives.html> ]. We took a jpg file of a poster that we had previously created as part of a series commemorating SFU's 40th anniversary in 2005. The jpg is tagged as an image map in which different parts of the poster (images and paragraphs) are links. When the user scrolls over an area, a pop-up appears which reproduces the selected image or paragraph text in a larger (more legible) size and includes a tag line that poses a question. The question may relate to the source of the image, the subject of the photo or text, or a research tip for using archives. To get the answer, the user clicks and is routed to another page containing a brief narrative that provides more context to the image or subject; indicates its source in a fonds, series, and file; identifies relevant records in various fonds that tell the story from different points of view; explains how to effectively conduct archival research; and provides links to the online finding aids (links to over 40 finding aids in total).

*Continued on page 8 - SFU's New Web Guide*

### How did women's rights evolve at SFU?

The answer is in the Archives.



**In 1965 there was just one woman, Letty Wilson, in administration at SFU. There were few women on faculty. Male students outnumbered women 62% to 38%. Women students wore long, elegant gowns to the President's Ball and the Arts Formal. They were invited to pose in swimsuits to compete for the titles of Miss SFU and Miss Clatsopian. But there were no courses about women in society, no daycare facilities, and not much awareness about equal rights issues. All that was about to change!**



**Women's Caucus rises to the challenge**

In the scorching summer of 1968, women students, staff and faculty organized the Women's Caucus. They held protests, published scathing articles, and battled for birth control and abortion, employment rights and feminist course content.

The Women's Caucus is the ancestor of today's Women's Centre Collective, which continues to work for women's rights and freedoms on campus, in Canada, and around the world.



**Beauty is redefined**

Janelle Jolley of the Women's Caucus emerged as a candidate in the 1970 Miss Canadian University contest. As the first winners were about to be announced the issue and denounced feminists that glorify women as objects.

Supporters in the audience sang "We Shall Overcome" while others laughed, or showed in agreement or scorn. The event required plenty of publicity, sparking debate and exciting awareness.



**Women's work is recognized**

Never Done: the first history of women in Canada was published in 1974 by Andrea Lebowitz and other Women's Caucus members. The rapid development of research on women in Canada kickstarted with revolutionary books like this.



**Credit is given where credit is due**

Andrea Lebowitz was a veteran of the US civil rights campaigns when she joined SFU's English Department in 1965. Maggie Benson held appointments in chemistry and computing science. Strong advocates for social justice and women's rights, they took their proposal for a Women's Studies Program to the SFU Senate in 1975.

Senators were worried that such a department would become a women's academic ghetto, without disciplinary standards.

The intensity of the debate matched the intensity of the July thunders outside. When the Senate finally agreed, it stipulated that Women's Studies professors should hold appointments in established departments like history or English. Thus SFU became the first Canadian university to create a credit Women's Studies Program.

Today Women's Studies is a full-fledged department offering undergraduate majors and M.A. and Ph.D. programs.

It builds networks with other activists to work against social and economic exploitation of women globally.



**The Child Care Centre has a tempestuous birth**

SFU was revolutionary in admitting mature students, and Chancellor Gordon Struan went on record in the Vancouver Sun that there would be "baby-sitting services". But in reality nothing of the kind was in place. In the summer of 1968, frustrated mothers staged a takeover of the University boardroom. They without a budget or a license, they set up the Family Co-op daycare in a corner of the student lounge!



**New Women's Centre offers 'sanctuary' from oppression**

The SFU Women's Centre is a legacy of the tenacity of the 1970s and 80s. The first one, a small room in the Transportation Centre opened in 1974. Today the Women's Centre is in a large building and is run by a volunteer collective and two part-time staff. It offers support and information, a library, outreach activities, and a safe space for women working and studying at the university.

**Your Archives. Your University.**

The SFU Archives has collections from the Women's Bookstore, the Childcare Society, SFSS Women's Centre, and Andrea Lebowitz. Do you have questions about feminism and activists at SFU? The answers are in the Archives.



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# MEMORYBC.CA: GATEWAY TO BC'S PAST

by Sharon Larade

MemoryBC.ca is a searchable database and portal providing access to more than 11,500 descriptions of the archival material preserved in 180 repositories throughout BC. Archival repositories preserve documents, photographs, audio-visual recordings and many other historical records created by people and organizations over time. These materials are available to the public to access, research and enjoy.

The AABC acknowledges the support of the MemoryBC pilot project partners: Simon Fraser University Archives, University of Victoria Archives, the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (UBC), Artefactual Systems, and the National Archival Development Program administered by Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *How is MemoryBC different from BCAUL?*

MemoryBC is a new database of multi-level descriptions from archival institutions in BC. All records are described at the fonds or collection level first, with links to series or items where applicable. The BC Archival Union List (BCAUL) is an older database designed with descriptions at the fonds or collection level only. MemoryBC includes all of the BCAUL data as well as new multi-level archival descriptions.

### *What happened to BCAUL?*

All of the descriptions previously in BCAUL have been migrated to MemoryBC.

### *What can I use MemoryBC.ca for?*

MemoryBC can be used to identify archival holdings that may be of interest to you, whether for serious research or simply to take a glimpse into our province's fascinating and exciting past. Digitized archival material may be available online and can be accessed by following links from MemoryBC to each archival repository's own website. Other material can be accessed by visiting the archival repository during its public access hours. This information, along with address, contact information, etc. is available at MemoryBC.ca.

### *Who runs MemoryBC.ca?*

MemoryBC.ca is managed by the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC) as part of its Network Service. In 2009, the AABC migrated the BCAUL database to the open-source software ICA-AtoM, and took the opportunity to re-brand the site as 'MemoryBC.ca'.

### *What's the difference between MemoryBC and ICA-AtoM?*

MemoryBC is the portal; ICA-AtoM is what's powering MemoryBC. ICA-AtoM is a free, open-source, web-based archival description software that is based on International Council on Archives (ICA) standards. 'AtoM' is an acronym for 'Access to Memory'. ICA-AtoM is multi-lingual and supports multi-repository collections.

### *Can I add more descriptions or detail to my MemoryBC holdings?*

There is currently a technical delay in adding new archival descriptions directly into MemoryBC; however, the database is expected to be ready for direct submissions in November 2009. In the meantime, institutions can continue to send new or revised descriptions to Janet McMaster, AABC's Archival Network Services Coordinator, at [jmcmast@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmast@shaw.ca).

### *Where can I get MemoryBC workshops and training?*

Direct submissions of new content to MemoryBC will be limited to those who have taken a MemoryBC workshop. In this hands-on three-hour workshop you will learn how to enter your institution's multi-level descriptions into ICA-AtoM for uploading to MemoryBC. Participants should have an understanding of the most recent version of the Rules for Archival Description (RAD). If your description skills are rusty, a three-hour RAD Refresher is also offered in conjunction with the ICA-AtoM workshop.

The MemoryBC Training workshops include:

- searching and browsing the database;
- creating, editing and deleting archival descriptions and authority records;
- editing institutional records; and
- adding and editing location access points.

Over the next 8 months, several workshops will be held in Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna and Prince George. Look for further announcements about MemoryBC training on the AABC's website at [www.aabc.ca](http://www.aabc.ca).

### *I've looked at MemoryBC and noted errors in my institution's archival descriptions. What can I do?*

Institutions can send revised descriptions to Janet McMaster, AABC's Archival Network Service Coordinator, at [jmcmast@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmast@shaw.ca).

## ARCHIVES ONLINE ADD-ON FROM ANDORNOT CONSULTING

by Kathy Bryce, Andornot Consulting

Andornot Consulting is currently working on an Encoded Archival Description (EAD) XML export from our Archives Online Inmagic DB/TextWorks add-on product, which can be found at [www.andornot.com/Products/Addons/ArchivesOnline](http://www.andornot.com/Products/Addons/ArchivesOnline). Our EAD export module will allow Archives Online users to contribute their descriptive records to portals such as MemoryBC.ca, which is powered by ICA-AtoM software. Batch importing of EAD XML is scheduled for implementation in the ICA-AtoM software next spring and Andornot will be participating in the testing of this feature.

Archives Online clients may continue to use the Inmagic DB/TextWorks software to describe their holdings and to add any extra non-RAD information specific to their archives. They will be able to select records to be uploaded with just the fields required for Memory BC.

Archives Online allows quick and easy creation of databases for archival descriptions and accessions and is specially suited to small- and medium-sized archives where archivists and volunteers, rather than full-time computer experts, are responsible for automation. Archives Online is designed to comply with the Canadian Rules for Archival Description (RAD) and International Standard for Archival Description (ISAD) archival standards. Descriptions of non-archival material (e.g. reference files, pamphlet files, etc.) are also easily managed. The underlying DB/TextWorks software can be used to create other databases for artifacts, council meeting minutes and reports, newsletter indexes, genealogical information etc. etc.

*Please contact us at [info@andornot.com](mailto:info@andornot.com) to receive notice when the EAD export is available, or for more information about Archives Online and Inmagic DB/TextWorks. You can also visit our website at [www.andornot.com](http://www.andornot.com).*

## TECHNOLOGY, TRAINING AND AABC'S EDUCATION & ADVISORY ARCHIVIST

by Leah Pearse, Newsletter Committee, AABC

"What scanner should I buy?," says Kelly Stewart. According to Kelly, this is the number one question that people ask when they phone her for archival advice, a service she offers as part of her work as the AABC's Education and Advisory Archivist. Other common questions pertain to copyright restrictions, arrangement issues, accessioning procedures and grant writing.

But giving advice is only one aspect of the work that Kelly does for the AABC. She also conducts site visits, where she observes and makes recommendations related to the intellectual policy work of archives. This may include how the reference room is run or an archives' technical infrastructure.

Kelly received her Masters of Archival Studies in 1994 and since then, she has worked in a variety of records management and archival settings in the province, from ICBC to the Sto:lo First Nation, New Westminster and beyond. She has been with the AABC since 2007 and since then has been running workshops, conducting site visits, advising on scanner purchases and more. If you were at the last AABC conference at UBC, you would have seen Kelly running the ICA AtoM workshop and performing other duties related to the conference coordination as a whole.

So what does Kelly recommend to learners attending her training sessions? A good night's sleep is key, but so is the willingness to ask intelligent questions. Kelly emphasizes that we are a community and workshops offer an opportunity to interact, connect, build partnerships and otherwise to be a part of that community and to help make it stronger.

*Kelly Stewart is the Coordinator of the AABC's Education and Advisory Services and can be reached via email at [kstewart@aabca.ca](mailto:kstewart@aabca.ca). One of her favorite resources is AABC's Archivist's Toolkit, accessible at <http://aabca.ca/toolkit>.*

## CELEBRATING ARCHIVES WEEK 2009!

### MEMORYBC.CA UPGRADED TO ICA-AtOM RELEASE 1.0.8

by Janine Johnston, AABC Vice President

In honour of Archives Week 2009, the Archives Association of British Columbia is pleased to announce the upgrade of MemoryBC.ca with the release of ICA-AtOM software version 1.0.8.

With release 1.0.8, the MemoryBC.ca / ICA-AtOM pilot and implementation project has reached a key milestone on the road to achieving the goals of

- improving access to BC's documentary heritage by the public via the internet;
- providing AABC member institutions with the opportunity to participate in a new multilevel, RAD-compliant provincial catalogue of archival descriptions; and
- helping to address the lack of technical, human resource and financial capacity within the archival community by participating in the development of free, open source archival software.

The highlight of ICA-AtOM release 1.0.8. is the enabling of direct data entry by AABC member institutions. AABC member institutions that receive their institutional logon and password following MemoryBC.ca training will be able to submit new and revised multilevel descriptions and repository information via the MemoryBC portal.

Information on upcoming training sessions is available on aabc.ca and announced via the archives-bc listserv. MemoryBC.ca training is paired with RAD-refresher workshops.

Other improvements added with this release include

- full-text search for persons/organizations and repositories;
- addition of 30 subject access points;
- improved access control, including the ability to set user and group permissions for viewing, editing & deleting archival descriptions, globally or on a per repository basis;
- "Draft" and "Published" status for archival descriptions, including integration with the access control module to restrict who can view and publish drafts.

In terms of future developments, a second phase of implementation is planned that will include development of policies, processes and training for uploading digitized archival records, and EAD / XML import testing for institutions working with existing in-house databases.

### BEST OF THE WEB: ARCHIVES EDITION

by Sonia Nicholson, Newsletter Committee, AABC

The buzz of social networking has made its way into the archival world. While archives-related blogs have floated around the web for some time now, a number of archival institutions and organizations have expanded their reach by publishing posts and links on social networking sites such as Twitter. This edition of Best of the Web highlights Archives\*Open, a blog and Twitter author that is "all about archivists, archives, access, community, and the Web". In keeping with our current theme of Training and Technology, the Archives\*Open site was chosen for its aim "to report on the ways archivists and other professionals in the archival field are using technology, specifically Web 2.0 and other emerging technologies, to give the community [...] improved access to archival collections." Though much of the content relates to the American archival community, the blog and Twitter posts also feature relevant articles to all interested in current debates and developments in the field. Visit the blog at <http://archivesopen.blogspot.com/>, or search for "archivesopen" on [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com).

*Do you know an interesting, useful and/or unique archives-related website that you would like to share with other Archives Association members? Send your suggestions of must-browse sites to the Newsletter Editor at [leah.pearse@gmail.com](mailto:leah.pearse@gmail.com), and be sure to include the URL and a brief summary.*

# ARCHIVES CAN HEAL OLD WOUNDS

by Blair Galston, BC Conference Archivist, The United Church of Canada

“The loss of their building at Powell Street, their place of belonging, created a scarring effect on the Japanese people of the United Church.” Approximately 500 people sat in absolute silence as the minister of the Vancouver Japanese United Church spoke these words at the general meeting of The United Church of Canada, BC Conference, in May 2009. The Conference had just delivered its Statement of Recognition and Apology (<http://www.bc.united-church.ca/AGM2009/apology.htm>) to the Japanese United Church for its unjust sale of the beautiful 1908 Methodist building that the Japanese congregation had once called home.



AGM2009/apology.htm) to the Japanese United Church for its unjust sale of the beautiful 1908 Methodist building that the Japanese congregation had once called home.

## HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

Prior to the Second World War, there had been a thriving United Church congregation at the corner of Powell Street and Jackson Avenue in Vancouver. The church had been established as a Japanese Methodist Mission in 1896 and fell within the purview of the wider church’s Board of Home Missions. As with other Methodist congregations, it joined the United Church of Canada in 1925. By 1936, the congregation had become self-supporting.

When the Government of Canada forced Japanese Canadians to leave the coast for internment camps in 1942, members of the congregation left most of their furnishings, supplies and many of their treasured personal belongings in storage in the church. When Japanese Canadians were finally permitted to return to the coast in 1949, the Powell Street congregation found their church building no longer adequately maintained for worship or congregational life. Many of their treasured belongings were “missing”. The building was being used for storage by First United Church. The Japanese congregation did not feel welcome in their own building.

The United Church Board of Home Missions sold the building in 1953 to Welfare Industries, a service society of First United Church. Within a couple of years, it was sold again to the

Japanese Buddhist Society. In neither of these sales did the Japanese congregation have any decision-making power, nor did they benefit in any direct way.

## APOLOGY: THE ROLE OF THE ARCHIVES

Although the members of the congregation lived with the fallout of these events for many decades and spent years without a church building to call their own, the United Church lost memory of the events. Were it not for repeated efforts to raise this past injustice, and an era more receptive to addressing the wrongs of our past, the story would have been forgotten. As with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) dealing with the consequences of the residential schools system, records were an important part of truth-telling, particularly after so many years had passed. Thanks to the rich holdings of the Conference Archives, the church was able to fill in the facts and context of what had led to the sale of the building, and corroborate the story. The records gave the church the confidence to respond by admitting that its former actions and attitudes were “deeply flawed and . . . tainted by the prejudices and fears of that era.”

## RECONCILIATION: HOW ARCHIVES CONTRIBUTED

Unlike the work of the TRC, the magnitude of the issue was relatively contained and reconciliation has been readily accomplished. A month after BC Conference issued its apology, a service of reconciliation between the Vancouver Japanese United Church and BC Conference took place at the current church building on Victoria Drive. As a symbol of its apology, the Conference presented a framed copy of a hand-tinted photograph from the Archives. This act of recognition, confession and apology can now heal the underlying effect of those scars,” the congregation responded.

The reception following the service included an exhibit of archival materials, giving glimpses into the congregation’s story. The display elicited many comments and memories from the congregation. It also provided the opportunity to have photographs identified and descriptions corrected so that the congregation, past and present, is now rightly honoured and its dignity is preserved.

# UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES: COPYRIGHT AND LONG-TERM PRESERVATION

by Harrison W. Inefuku, MAS & MLIS Candidate, School of Library, Archival Information Studies, UBC

University Institutional Repositories: Copyright and Long-Term Preservation is a new collaborative research project between the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law and School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Led by principal investigator Mira Sundara Rajan (Faculty of Law) and co-investigator Luciana Duranti (School of Library, Archival and Information Studies), the project utilizes cIRcle (UBC's institutional repository) as a test bed to research and analyze issues of copyright and long-term preservation for university institutional repositories.

Institutional repositories (IRs) have been developed by universities across North America and Western Europe as a method of providing access to scholarly materials produced by the university community, while preserving them over the long-term. However, the nature of IRs carries significant challenges for long-term preservation and copyright considerations. The mix of types of material (including published and unpublished works of faculty and students, and records, such as the official born digital "original" of theses and texts of exams) and digital formats present in IRs requires a preservation plan that covers everything that is housed in the IR, as well as any materials and formats the IR anticipates to acquire. Part of this preservation plan will inevitably include migration to ensure that materials remain readable and accessible even after the native file formats become obsolete. This need to migrate materials, while important for long-term preservation, raises serious issues regarding authenticity and intellectual rights, particularly moral rights.

Despite these challenges, a recent census of IRs found that 70.8% of IRs in the United States do not have a policy for licensing content. Moreover, issues of preservation and maintaining authenticity through time have not been discussed in the literature. Through investigation of copyright legislation and case law, a review of the literature and a case study with cIRcle, this research project seeks to understand the issues at the intersection between the needs of long-term

preservation for multiple formats and the implications of copyright law for published and unpublished materials. It also seeks to provide solutions.

For up-to-date information on the project, visit the website at <http://www.uir-preservation.org>. In addition to background information about the scope, purpose and methodology of the project, the website will provide a wealth of information to archivists, librarians, lawyers and others interested in issues of copyright and long-term preservation. The Resources section of the website will include Bibliographic, Case Law and Legislative Databases. As the research progresses and results are presented through publications and presentations, materials produced by the project for dissemination will be included on the Web site, as well.

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*Continued from page 3 - SFU's New Web Guide*

Did we succeed in our aims? We haven't really had enough feedback yet to know. We probably underestimated the technical demands of the project; not having the budget for a professional web designer, we relied on our own (sometimes dubious) html skills. The result was fun to produce and it gets the job done, but a more polished presentation could be imagined. In the guide, one of the answers to which users are linked is a kind of "annotated bibliography" to our finding aids in relation to women's movement archives. Our future efforts will probably move more in this direction, with "annotated bibliographies" on a number of themes (e.g. student activism on campus, BC politics and politicians, SFU architecture). Rather than embed these into "how to" interactive displays, they will be planned as more traditional, text-based documents which users can directly access on their own, as well as from links in more interactive guides.

## REPORT ON THE CCA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

by Janine Johnston, AABC Vice President

Every fall, the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) invites representatives from the national, provincial and territorial archival councils, the CCA committees, representatives from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the CCA's Board of Directors and Secretariate together for an annual general assembly in Ottawa. This meeting allows the CCA Board of Directors to report on the CCA's activities and funding programs and for each council to report on their CCA funded activities.

Janine Johnston, the AABC Vice President, represented the AABC at this year's assembly; however, several members of BC's archival community participated in the meeting. Rosaleen Hill, the AABC's Coordinator of the BC Archival Preservation Services represented the CCA's Preservation Committee in Ottawa.



Rosaleen Hill, BC Archival Preservation Services (left), and Lara Wilson, past President of AABC

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation on AABC's MemoryBC project, the initiative to upgrade the BC Archival Union List (BCAUL) to a portal providing access to multi-level archival descriptions and digitized materials housed in the repositories throughout British Columbia. MemoryBC is piloting the use of ICA-AtoM software, a free open-source multi-level archival description software product developed on behalf of the International Council on Archives by Artefactual Systems of New Westminster, BC. Lara Wilson (AABC, UVIC), Peter Van Garderen (Artefactual Systems) and Jane Morrison (UVIC) led the presentation.

Lara Wilson discussed the overall MemoryBC project and Jane Morrison reported on the University of Victoria's experience beta-testing ICA-AtoM software. Peter Van Garderen outlined the developments made to the software, noting the release of the 1.0.8 beta version in early November, which will upgrade the overall usability and allow for direct data entry by AABC

member institutions. Upgrades to the software are scheduled every six months until April 2011. Peter also discussed what Artefactual Systems is anticipating for ICA-AtoM in the future. This includes the ability for ICA-AtoM to import and export MARC records and, eventually, the ability to link descriptions to accession and research records.



Peter Van Garderen of ICA AtoM (left) and Paul Banfield, ACA

Ian Forsyth (CCA, SFU) discussed the importance of this project to the CCA and the implications it has for the archival system in Canada. The AABC's MemoryBC project is providing the CCA and LAC with a successful working example of the software and portal. The results of the ICA-AtoM project will be used to calculate the technical, human and financial resources needed to implement this system across Canada, while providing necessary data for the CCA to prepare a business case and funding request to the federal government.

The CCA has been a strong supporter of AABC's MemoryBC project and provided the funding to develop the beta module of the software.



CCA Board of Directors, Ian Forsyth speaking (All photos on this page are credited to CCA)

Continued on page 10 - CCA AGA

*Continued from page 9 - CCA AGA*

## CCA GRANTS

An important function of the CCA annual general assembly is to report on its granting programs. Below are updates on the CCA grants. More information on these funding programs is available on the AABC website at <http://www.aabc.ca/grants.html>.

## NADP

The National Archival Development Program just completed year three of five. In 2009/10, the program adjudicated, reviewed, disbursed and administered the delivery of 102 archival projects across Canada. 2010/11 NADP applications are available online now at <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/NADP.html>.

## YCW

The Young Canada Works Program funded 74 positions for summer students in 2009/09 and five internships for new graduates throughout the country. YCW has been renewed with the same funding as last year; however, due to inflation and higher necessary wages, this will mean fewer projects will be approved this year.

## ACDP

The Archival Community Digitization Program is in its final year. Sixteen projects were approved in 2008/09 and are in progress. This program is not accepting any new applications for funding. There will be community consultation around renewal of this program.

## REPATRIATION OF BEACON HILL PARK PLAN

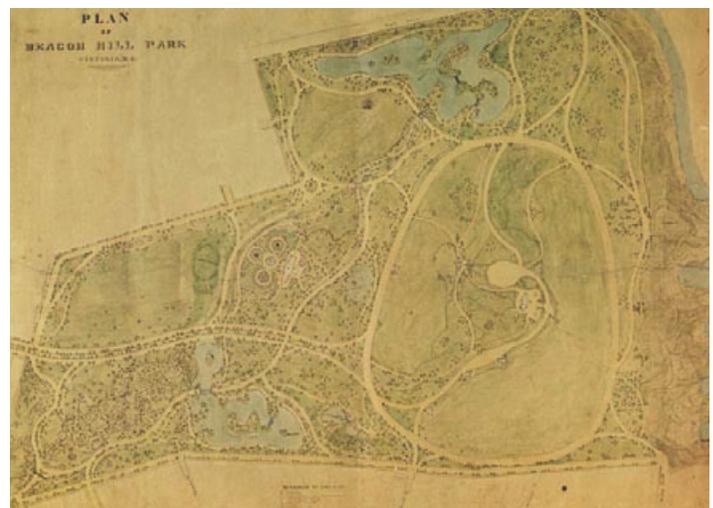
*by Trevor Livelton, Archivist, City of Victoria*

A ceremony was recently held at the City of Victoria Archives to commemorate the repatriation of the original Beacon Hill Park Plan, which was accepted by Mayor Dean Fortin from Pauline Rafferty, Chief Executive Director of the Royal BC Museum, as shown in the photograph below.



In accepting the plan, Mayor Fortin noted that “For quite a few years now BC Archives has taken a leadership role in transferring parts of its holdings to local archives around the province, so local artifacts can be closer to the people who can appreciate them most. The City of Victoria appreciates and commends this generous and public-spirited program, and the thoughtfulness and dedication of the Royal BC Museum in continuing to support it.”

The 1889 plan, a beautiful watercolour rendering, was housed at the City’s Parks Department for many years. In 1934, at a suggestion from the BC Historical Society and before the City had its own archives, the plan was turned over to the Provincial Archives for safekeeping. It remained there for 75 years, receiving the benefit of expert conservation by Provincial Archives staff.



*Further information on this event can be found in the official press release, available at: <http://www.victoria.ca/contentmanager/press/091029a.pdf>*

# IMPARTING INTERPARES PROJECT KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE USE OF AWARENESS, EDUCATION & TRAINING MODULES: PART 1

by Randy Preston, Project Coordinator, InterPARES Project

*This article is the first in a two part series reporting on activities at the InterPARES Project, which stands for International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems, based at the University of British Columbia. This section of the series gives an overview of the project before discussing module goals and audience.*

## INTRODUCTION

Having begun its research in September 2007, the InterPARES 3 Project is rapidly approaching the midway point in its 5-year mandate. As outlined in the original grant proposal, the Project's activities are articulated in three equally-weighted components: (1) a research component, which is dedicated to the development of new knowledge through short-term and long-term research activities, including general studies and case studies, which focus on the development of policy, the maintenance and preservation of existing bodies of digital records and/or the design, implementation or evaluation of recordkeeping and permanent preservation systems; (2) an education and training component, to be developed in the context of the Project's short and long-term research activities, and consisting of student research assistantships, activities credited as part of coursework, etc., and, with regard to the new knowledge developed, of the production of curricula, syllabi, course modules and teaching materials; and (3) a knowledge-mobilization component, which includes conference presentations, workshops, seminars, colloquia, policy manuals and other publications, public lectures, etc., with the aim to meet the needs of both academic and community partners.

As it regards the education and training component, one of the Project's stated objectives is to develop awareness and educational materials that can: (a) enable the staff of small archival organizations and programs to plan for and carry out digital preservation, (b) assist professional associations in promoting career development of their members, and (c) provide university programs with content and structure for university courses on digital preservation; and to identify effective delivery methods.

More specifically, guided in large part by what is learned from the case and general studies, the Project is committed, in the second half of its 5-year mandate, to developing education modules that will help facilitate dissemination of the Project's findings by enabling those findings to be: (1) incorporated into existing graduate degrees programs; (2) taught as part of workshops by professional associations (e.g., Association of Canadian Archivists); (3) developed into context-specific training kits for organizations to train their own staff; and (4) used to support the continuing education activities of universities and organizations by allowing them to incorporate the findings into their education and outreach activities in their own ways within their own organizational cultures and contexts. Collectively, these activities will form professionals who are competent not only to preserve over the long term society's documentary heritage in digital form, but also to ensure the accountability of the organizations and institutions they work for through the protection of the accuracy and authenticity of the digital information that they produce.

Ideally, the intention is to create a series of education modules that can be used and combined in different ways depending on the needs and knowledge levels of the users. This will allow users to choose which modules they want to use and where along the spectrum, from basic, introductory-level to advanced-level modules, they wish to start.

It is anticipated that the most effective and important education modules will be those for in-house training within archives, those for training practitioners via continuing education courses offered by records management and archival associations, and those for non-archivists who, despite typically having little or no formal training in records or archives management, nevertheless have to deal with records—often in the context of establishing, controlling or overseeing regulations for records creators—and who must, therefore, have some basic understanding of records management and preservation (i.e., lawyers, auditors, IT personnel, etc.).

*Continued on page 12 - InterPARES*

*Continued from page 11 - InterPARES*

## **MODULE GOALS**

The basic goal of the Project's education modules will be to sensitize the key stakeholders, throughout the chain of preservation, to the issues that they need to consider when issuing policies, guidelines and regulations related to the management of digital records, as well as helping them identify what sorts of digital record-making, recordkeeping and preservation policies, guidelines and regulations are needed.

This approach is in keeping with the findings of InterPARES 1 and 2, where it was discovered that the most effective records management environments were those in which there was some sort of overarching regulation, obligation or requirement to do things in a certain way, and an underlying framework of policies, guidelines and procedures for supporting and enforcing those regulations.

In addition to sensitizing individuals and organizations about what needs to be done, to maximize their impact and effectiveness, the modules also will need to provide clear guidance on how to go about implementing the most appropriate solutions for addressing situation-specific needs. In particular, this should include guidance on how to promote organization-wide buy-in for proposed records management and preservation solutions. This is critical because the most appropriate solutions may not necessarily coincide with what InterPARES researchers would consider to be ideal, but rather what each organization is willing to buy into and is able to implement.

## **MODULE AUDIENCES**

One of the first tasks involved in developing the education modules will be to identify exactly to which groups of individuals, practitioners, organizations, associations and university departments the modules should be targeted. It is important to understand at the outset of this process that, for those modules that are intended to target particular types of practitioner groups, organizations and professional associations, many, if not most, of these groups already provide their members with various types of continuing education resources. Consequently, a critical step in the process of identifying the most relevant audiences to which the InterPARES education modules should be targeted will involve surveying what sorts of continuing education courses and programs, in relation to digital records preservation, already are being offered by the targeted practitioner groups, associations, organizations and university departments. The main goal of this activity will be twofold: to avoid unnecessary duplication of educational resources and to efficiently leverage existing external resources. With respect to

the latter goal, the Project, for example, intends to make use of the Digital Curation Curriculum and the International Records Management Trust's (IRMT) recently developed suite of education and training materials. Although originally designed to strengthen the records management capacity of developing nations, various components of the IRMT's training materials can readily be adapted for use in other records management and preservation contexts.

As it regards the modules targeted to specific types of organizations, it may also be necessary or desirable to identify specific groups of individuals within those organizations to whom the modules, or perhaps certain components of the modules, should be targeted. For example, with respect to the awareness and training modules targeted at business organizations, it will be important to consider whether those modules will need to be able to meet the needs of members of every functional unit within an organization or whether they will be most effective if designed to focus only on certain specific individuals and/or functional units within an organization.

*Join us in the next edition of the AABC Newsletter to read more about how InterPARES imparts its knowledge. The second part of this series will include information on module 'buy-in' strategies, themes, delivery and evolution, as well as next steps for the InterPARES project and more.*

## NEWS FROM SLAIS

by Michelle Mallette, SLAIS Student Services Coordinator, [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca)

### TERRY EASTWOOD RETURNS TO SLAIS



After serving as director of the School of Library, Archival & Information Studies for six years, Professor Edie Rasmussen has stepped down, effective July 1. She is currently on a sabbatical and will return to SLAIS as part of the faculty next year. Professor Terence "Terry" Eastwood has agreed to serve as Interim Director of SLAIS from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Well known within the archival community in Canada and

throughout the world, Professor Eastwood not only chaired the Master of Archival Studies Program from 1981 to 2000 but served as Acting Director of SLAIS on two prior occasions. Although Professor Eastwood took early retirement in June 2007, he has stayed active at SLAIS by teaching on a part-time basis over the last two years.

SLAIS launches its search for a new Director in the Fall of 2009

### SLAISmatters NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

SLAIS has launched the inaugural edition of its SLAISmatters newsletter, available as PDF edition at <http://www.slais.ubc.ca/NEWS/SLAISmatters2009Summer.pdf>. The newsletter will be published twice a year – both print and electronically every summer, and electronically only every winter. Each issue will provide news and updates about our faculty, students, alumni and programs. This first issue features a farewell from outgoing director Professor Edie Rasmussen, and photos and articles about the outstanding new home for SLAIS which will also serve as a significant legacy of her leadership. There are profiles of three of our faculty members, and a short introduction to the faculty who are joining SLAIS this academic year. "We're quite proud of our newsletter, and I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it," said SLAIS Interim Director Terry Eastwood.

Please feel free to share the electronic version, and if you would like a print version mailed to you, or to subscribe to either the print or electronic version, send a request to [slais@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:slais@interchange.ubc.ca).

### MAS/MLIS STUDENT WINS ARMA SCHOLARSHIP

MAS/MLIS student Jennifer Borland has won a 2009 ARMA International Educational Foundation Graduate Scholarship. She is attending the ARMA Annual Conference in Orlando in October to accept the award, which is given to strengthen records and information management through development of the knowledge, skills, and abilities of practitioners in the field. The award was first presented in 2007. Only two or three winners are chosen each year, and SLAIS has been represented every year since the award was established.

### GRADUATE WINS NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA INTERNSHIP

Shane McCord, who graduated from SLAIS in May with a joint MAS/MLIS degree, won one of five highly competitive internships with the National Gallery of Canada. Established through the support of the TD Bank Financial Group, the internship program allows the National Gallery to offer a paid 12-week study, training and work experience opportunity to five new professionals specializing in Art Museum Education, Museum Collections Management, and Art Librarianship and Archive Practice. Shane was named one of two interns for the Art Librarianship and Archives Practice program. During his internship Shane worked on the papers of a Canadian art historian, what he called a "single huge private fonds." He is currently working at the National Gallery on a short contract position for paid employment during the school year.

*Continued on page 14 - News From SLAIS*

*Continued from page 13 - News From SLAIS*

## **MAS/MLIS STUDENT WINS SAA MOSAIC SCHOLARSHIP**

MAS/MLIS student Harrison W. Inefuku attended the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in August to accept the society's Mosaic Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to an applicant pursuing a graduate degree in archival studies who demonstrates excellent potential for scholastic and personal achievement and who manifests a commitment both to the archives profession and to advancing diversity concerns within it. Harrison also receives a one-year membership in the Society of American Archivists and registration for the Society's Annual Meeting.



*SLAIS MAS/MLIS student Harrison Inefuku accepts the SAA Mosaic Award from Petrina Jackson, Head of Instruction and Outreach at the Special Collections of the University of Virginia, who chaired the Mosaic Scholarship committee.*

## **NADP UPDATE**

*by Janine Johnston, AABC Vice President*

The 2010/2011 National Archival Development Program (NADP) application package has been made available by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA). The application deadline is December 4, 2009. The AABC website (<http://aabc.ca/grants.html>) provides information about eligibility and the application process in BC, and a link to the application and guidelines.

Please note that the AABC has identified no provincial priorities this year in order to streamline the process and simplify requirements for our members. Institutions are encouraged to start planning their projects early and to submit multiple applications under more than one of the five program objectives identified by the CCA in the NADP Guidelines. Minimal updates have been made to the Guidelines this year, all of which are highlighted in yellow throughout the document.

*If you have any questions after reviewing the available documentation, please contact the AABC Education and Advisory archivist, Kelly Stewart at [kstewart@aabc.ca](mailto:kstewart@aabc.ca) or 604-931-1285.*

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Your Website  
p. 14**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dear colleagues,

This edition of the AABC Newsletter brings us reports from around the province, from Vancouver Island to Northern British Columbia. Kudos to the archivists and archival institutions who have successfully completed their projects. For those of you still working to bring yours to fruition, we look forward to updates in the coming newsletters.

As we approach the end of our year on March 31st, we are looking ahead to an exciting year in 2010-2011. I want to thank everyone for having me as part of the Executive of the Archives Association of British Columbia for the past two years, first as Vice-President and this year as President.

I strongly encourage all AABC members to take part in the services that are made available to you through our talented contractors, the web-based Archivist's Toolkit--which you can read more about in these pages--and now MemoryBC.

As you will remember from the articles that ran in the last edition of this newsletter, Memory BC represents a continuation of the many ways in which the AABC has been leading the national and international community. If you haven't already tried it out, I strongly encourage you to do so. Each institution should take advantage of the training being offered via teleconference or

in person. Memory BC is an amazing tool to get your records to the greater community of archival users.

Finally, I would like to encourage our members to participate in more than the services and programs offered. The AABC is run by dedicated volunteers from the BC archival community. You may not have the time to sit on the Executive; however, you may have time to participate in a committee or to contribute to your newsletter. We welcome your involvement and no contribution is too small.

Jordana Kerry  
AABC President

## AABC ARCHIVIST'S TOOLKIT

by Margery Hadley, Web Administrator, AABC

The AABC Archivist's Toolkit is a long-time feature on the Archives Association of British Columbia's website. Over the past year, the Toolkit has gained new relevancy through extensive refinement and development.

First offered as advisory pages in 1995 by AABC Archives Advisor / Network Coordinator Bill Purver, the Toolkit took on its current form in 1999. As Bill recalls: "It was really a pioneering thing -- it was considered one of the first of its kind in the archival world, and got rave reviews from major archives associations around the world."

Originally intended for small and medium-sized archives in British Columbia, the Toolkit has evolved into much more. It now offers access to a wide range of on-line and published resources for archivists and archives workers at all levels. While special care is still taken to provide resources for small repositories in the BC archives community, the Toolkit site now also provides links to sophisticated on-line resources on more advanced topics. Importantly, the AABC Archivist's Toolkit is broadly accessible and archives-related sites across Canada and internationally continue to link to this valuable resource.

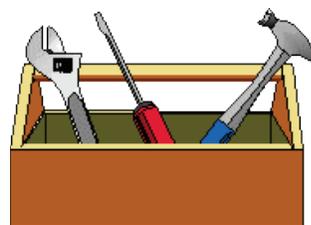
The AABC Archivists' Toolkit, found at [http://www.aabc.ca/TK\\_00\\_main\\_page.html](http://www.aabc.ca/TK_00_main_page.html), consists of ten sections: 1. Introduction to Archives; 2. Establishing an Archives; 3. Acquisition, Appraisal & Accessioning; 4. Arrangement & Description; 5. Preservation & Emergency Planning; 6. Reference & Access; 7. Automation & Digitization; 8. Electronic & Born-Digital Records; 9. Grants, Fund-raising & Projects; 10. Other Resources.

Over the past year, content pertaining to introduction to archives, emergency planning, automation, digitization, electronic and born-digital records, fund-raising, and projects has been added, and throughout the Toolkit content has been redistributed, refined and upgraded to meet the needs of today's archives profession. Other improvements include the addition of publication dates for all on-line and published resources, an extensive list of publication sources, and ample provision for feedback to facilitate updating.

The AABC Archivist's Toolkit continues to be revised and improved. Only as useful as it is current, the Toolkit depends on ongoing input from AABC members and other users. You are urged to review any section/s related to your interest and/or expertise and make suggestions for

additions, deletions, corrections or revisions. We are also very interested in receiving links to up-to-date online forms used for acquisitions, accessioning, data entry, etc., as well as links to policy statements, procedure manuals, and online reference/access services for archival repositories in British Columbia and beyond.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated! Please direct your comments to [info@aabc.ca](mailto:info@aabc.ca).



### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to all the contributors to the Winter edition of the AABC Newsletter. In these pages you will find our feature article that describes the Walt Taylor fonds at the Northern Archives and Special Collections at UNBC, written by that institution's latest appointee, Erica Hernández. Another story of note is the second installment in the latest news out of InterPARES, the important digital preservation research project out of UBC that many BC archival organizations are involved in.

I hope your mouses are ready as several online archival destinations are also discussed herein. These include AABC's Archivist's Toolbox, Surrey Museum and the City of Surrey Archives, SLAIS' new website, and, of course, our regular feature Best of the Web: Archives Edition. These articles will lead you to more links and information on archival goings-on to tide you over until the next edition of the AABC Newsletter. Happy reading!

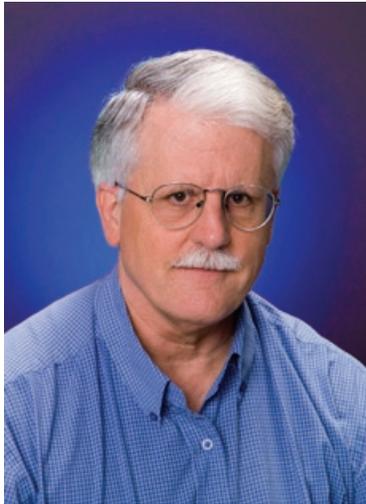
Leah Pearse, Editor

*As always, we'd love to hear from you! Send archival news, newsletter suggestions and any questions to the editor, Leah Pearse ([leah.pearse@gmail.com](mailto:leah.pearse@gmail.com)).*

## RETIREMENTS AT THE BC ARCHIVES

by Ann ten Cate, Reference Archivist, BC Archives

In December, the Archives said goodbye to two of our senior archivists, Margaret Hutchison and David Mattison, both of whom have had long careers in public service. David joined up in February of 1981, and Margaret in December of 1990.



Over the years each contributed expertise in a number of areas.

David, who has a library degree, began with the Sound and Moving Images Division, moved through the Library and Maps Division, and ended his career in the Reference Services area (wearing the Private Records Archivist hat between 2002-2008). During his time at the Archives, David did his best to introduce automation at the Archives, and bring both the staff and the institution into the 21st century. David was always the first at the Archives to use words like “YouTube”, “wiki”, “blog”, and “social media” – and was also able to explain convincingly what the heck they were and why they would be important to the future of archives. David (who was born in Hawaii) will also be fondly remembered for his colourful shirts and his willingness to share his vast knowledge and experience with all his colleagues. The email traffic full of good advice has diminished at the B.C. Archives, but David is still out there on the Internet blogging away at <http://davidmattison.wordpress.com>

Margaret Hutchison (a.k.a. Maggie the Map Maven) began her time with the provincial archives working with what was once known as the Records Management Branch as their first electronic records archivist. She was one of the earliest graduates of the UBC M.A.S. program, having gone back to school after working at the



Saskatchewan provincial archives for a number of years. In 2002, she moved to the Reference section of the Archives, also taking on the mammoth task of being the Archives’ specialist on maps. With recent reorganizations, Margaret ended her career working more directly with the collections as part of the Human History section – while still assisting with map-related inquiries. Over the years and the many reorganizations that are part of civil service life, Margaret remained a calm and dedicated archivist. She is now heading off into a well deserved retirement with plans for more garden and travel time.

# CANADIAN AUDIO-VISUAL HERITAGE

## MARTIN KNELMAN CLAIMS IT IS AT RISK, BUT IS IT TRUE?

by David Mattison

Noted Canadian film critic Martin Knelman published in his column for TheStar.com on February 15, 2010 a piece titled "Audio-visual heritage of nation at risk" (<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/article/764812--audio-visual-heritage-of-nation-at-risk>).

He's responding in part to a devastating fire at CTV's Ottawa studio on February 7, 2010 that resulted in the loss of many broadcast recordings. He also put in an extended plug for the Canadian Broadcast Museum Foundation, an organization founded in 2001 with the goal of creating a Canadian museum of broadcasting history. Knelman erroneously concluded that "The priceless legacy of our national history, as recorded over the past 80 years in our electronic media, is slipping away." He also referred to the CBC having "purged its shelves of outtakes that likely included material of historic value," while "In Victoria, a private station [CHEK-TV] discovered that news footage compiled from 1956 to 1998 had deteriorated beyond repair because of faulty storage conditions."

Outtakes are outtakes for a reason. They are expensive to maintain and preserve and, unless converted into a format suitable for public access, will have little or no use. One reason, however, why an archives acquires outtakes is because other kinds of motion picture elements from a production may not exist.

Knelman disparages Canada's financial commitment to preserving its audio-visual heritage and sums it up ONLY in terms of the Canadian Broadcast Museum Foundation's contribution:

In Canada, with minimal funding from a number of industry and government partners, the broadcasting foundation has articulated the mandate, developed a coalition and built a collection of 16,000 broadcast artifacts. But the required great leap forward can't occur until the deposit of all material at a central agency (comparable to the U.S. Library of Congress) becomes mandatory for all broadcasters. And then a substantial annual budget would be needed to build and maintain an archive.

Supporters of the broadcast museum might wonder why a human rights museum in Manitoba got funded and not a museum with a more direct link to Canada's heritage. I would also argue that Canada's broadcast heritage has been remarkably well preserved at both the provincial and national level thanks to the diligence and on-going efforts of archivists and museum curators. What is remarkable to me about Knelman's opinion piece is the great disservice it does to the archival and museum communities, since he says not one word about them or the great audio-visual broadcast treasures they have been preserving for at least the past quarter-century. Ironically, a small part of CHEK-TV's motion picture film news footage from the period of loss is preserved by the BC Archives (CHEK TV fonds).

The Library and Archives Canada is the repository of records for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, but in recent years the CBC also began digitizing and mounting some of its own audio, film, and video recordings at its CBC Digital Archives. The BC Archives once held a large body of films from CBC Vancouver, but returned those at the request of the CBC. The BC Archives still preserves hundreds if not thousands of hours of CBC and private broadcaster recordings, including off-air recordings created by private individuals. I am fairly certain other provincial archives have similar holdings.

I'm not saying that more can't be done to ensure Canada's important broadcast history remains largely intact, but let's not ignore as Knelman has the extraordinary accomplishments of Canadian archives and museums prior to and continuing in parallel with the Canadian Broadcast Museum Foundation's work.

*This article was reprinted from The Ten Thousand Year Blog (<http://digitalarchivist.wordpress.com>) with permission of the author.*

# WAGING PEACE FOR A LIVING

## THE WALT TAYLOR FONDS

by Erica Hernández, Northern BC Archives & Special Collections, UNBC

Thanks to the generous support of the National Archival Development Program, the Northern BC Archives & Special Collections is currently on the verge of completing the arrangement and description of 5.11m of textual records created by Walt Taylor – social activist, staunch environmentalist and author.

Born in the New England region of the United States in 1919, Walter (Walt) Taylor devoted a lifetime in the U.S.A. and Canada to the cultivation of peace with justice. During World War II he served in work camps as a conscientious objector to war, but ultimately went to prison for his stand against conscription. He turned away from graduate study in Physics to take a Master's degree in Human Development at the University of Chicago.

With four children in their family, he and his wife Margaret (Peggy) Taylor worked in a variety of social services, but were always seeking opportunities to encourage a fundamental movement toward peace with justice and sustainable environmental stewardship.

In the 1960s, Philadelphia Quakers sent Walt as their response to a request from the Seneca Nation of Native Americans for help in defending the oldest active treaty in American history, the Treaty of Canandaigua which had been firmly negotiated with the Seneca Nation in 1794. In spite of a great nation-wide protest, that treaty was violated by the construction of the controversial Kinzua Dam (1961-1965) on the Allegheny River which flooded 10,000 acres of land and displaced 600 Seneca families out of their traditional territory. After moving to Summerland, British Columbia during the Vietnam War, Walt continued his active interest in the concerns of First Nations peoples and even worked for the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs in the 1970s.

Beginning in 1973 and running for several years thereafter, Walt directed an innovative project called "Imagine Penticton" through which the whole community of Penticton was invited to imagine itself the way it ought to be and to join Walt and his staff in bringing this collective vision to fruition.

Taylor was also actively involved with the South Okanagan Civil Liberties Society, the South Okanagan Environmental Coalition and the Southern Interior Ecological Liaison – venues which allowed him to further his passionate advocacy for justice, peace, and environmental sustainability.

His time in the Okanagan region of B.C. also provided Walt Taylor with the opportunity to become heavily involved with the British Columbia Man and Resources Programme – a 2 year public participation programme sponsored and organized by the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers (CCREM).

In 1982 Walt and his family moved north to Smithers, B.C. where he continued to dedicate his life to grass-roots level, political, and environmental activism in the Bulkley Valley - Telkwa - Smithers area. For the next eighteen years Walt Taylor, and his wife Peggy, were actively involved with the Northwest Study Conference Society, the Skeena Round Table on Sustainable Development, the Waging Peace Society, Project Ploughshares – Smithers, the Smithers Human Rights Society, the Gitksan-Carrier Tribal Council, the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en Tribal Council, the Telkwa Educational Action Committee of Householders, and the Bulkley Valley Anti-Poverty Group to name a few, through which they promoted a wide range of social rights causes including global peace, human rights and environmental sustainability to peoples, organizations and communities throughout Northern B.C.

*Continued on page 6 - Walt Taylor Fonds*

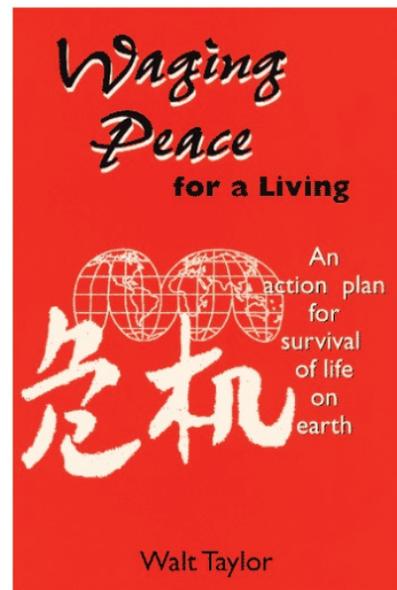
*Continued from page 5 - Walt Taylor Fonds*

The Northwest Study Conference Society (NWSCS) mentioned above was one of many organizations with which Walt and Peggy Taylor were fundamentally involved. Incorporated in 1983, the Society's primary objectives included regional economic self determination, environmental sustainability, and the promotion of social consciousness. The NWSCS brought many public interest groups together in Terrace, B.C. in 1975, 1982, and again in 1984. Each conference produced significant resolutions, expanding networks, and stronger appreciation of the benefits of cooperation among many varied but interdependent interests.

At the AGM on Feb. 14, 1987, members voted unanimously to move beyond idealistic conference resolutions and into action. The NWSCS approved the concept of "Employment Northwest" (a.k.a. Waging Peace) as their "Project Number One". On March 28, 1987 further plans were considered and an additional approach was introduced incorporating bioregional principles. By May 3, however, NWSCS members found themselves inundated by other pressures that demanded their immediate attention, such as the provincial labour legislation, and the court action taken by Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs (a.k.a. Delgamuukw v. the Queen). As a result it was determined that the Society did not have people available at that time to help develop Waging Peace into a pilot project in Northwest B.C. The Society did, however, strongly encourage Walt Taylor to continue exploring ways to revise the draft proposal into an active demonstration project in one or more Canadian communities where people could be assured of vigorous support from many other cooperating communities.

The encouragement offered by the NWSCA and the concept of the Waging Peace project ultimately lead to the incorporation of the "Waging Peace Society" (WPS) of which Walter Taylor was the founding president. Incorporated on July 26, 1993, the purpose of the WPS was to foster full employment doing all the necessary "new work" and stimulating ecological ways

of doing "old work" to keep Earth habitable and life worth living for our own and future generations. The main environmental services, or activities, provided by the WPS included the research and preparation of two tools deemed necessary for significant progress toward full employment in appropriate work for a sustainable society in the twenty-first century. These two tools included: 1) a work inventory - an inventory of necessary new work and ways of doing old work without exceeding the finite limits of the earth's capacity to regenerate its natural resources and to assimilate waste; and 2) a financial support inventory - an inventory of innovative ways to support this high priority work financially so that those who do the work can earn a living at it. It was the intention of the WPS to demonstrate the use of these tools, once developed, at the local level and then spread this application internationally. While the primary objectives of the WPS never did reach fruition, they did find manifestation in Walt Taylor's singular treatise entitled *Waging Peace for a Living: An Action Plan for Survival of Life on Earth* published by Trafford Publishing in 1999.



*Continued on page 7 - Walt Taylor Fonds*

Continued from page 6 - Walt Taylor Fonds

This well received publication continues to be a recommended resource by social activist organizations, such as Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade, Canadian Friends Service Committee, and Nonviolent Peaceforce Canada. Colman McCarthy of The Washington Post had this to say about Waging Peace in his 1999 book review:

“[...] here it is worth mentioning Walt Taylor, a Canadian in his early eighties, who has seen enough of life in North America to know that in addition to inflicting violence on each other, humans have been attacking their own life-support system – the land, air and water of the earth. The 10 chapters [...] are an unpretentious summary of the havoc. Part Ralph Nader, part Jeremy Rifkin and part Lester Brown, Taylor is a globalist who sees non-governmental organizations – from American Friends Service Committee to Worldwatch Institute – offering more hope for enlightened progress than governments and transnational corporations. Taylor makes no messianic claims for immediate salvational reforms. His is another reasoned voice, in unison with all the others here, saying that in order to have peace, we must prepare for peace.”

*The Washington Post*  
September 26, 1999; Page X8  
Section: Book World

After this publication and repeated failed attempts at establishing a Waging Peace demonstration project, Walt Taylor remained active within his local and global community: involving himself in the activities of the Skeena Round Table for a Sustainable Society; traveling to Nicaragua in 1990 to observe their historic election process which ousted the revolutionary Sandinista government from power; serving as a witness on behalf of the Smithers Human Rights Society in 1993 to the Select Standing Committee on Economic Development, Science, Labour Training, and Technology regarding the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and presenting his Waging Peace ideology to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries in 1999. After eighteen years of passionate advocacy in the Northern reaches of our province, Walt

and Peggy Taylor moved backed to the United States where they settled in Eugene, Oregon. In 2002 at the age of 83, Walt Taylor passed away, but his legacy remains. The Walt Taylor fonds, 1951-2001 will soon provide primary resource material of interest to researchers analyzing connections between environmental movements and political activism in Northern BC in the late 20th century. The finding aid for the Walt Taylor fonds will be available for viewing by the end of March 2010.

*The Northern BC Archives, UNBC wishes to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through Library and Archives Canada, administered through the LAC and the Canadian Council of Archives.*

## BEST OF THE WEB: ARCHIVES EDITION

*by Leah Pearse, Newsletter Committee, AABC*

This edition of Best of the Web highlights the Spellbound Blog, which “ talks about archives, digital humanities, cultural heritage institutions and technology.” It began in 2006 as the musings of a MLIS student studying archives, records, and information management in the U.S. and focuses on the connections between technology and archives--and the possibilities that they offer each other where they intersect. According to the tags the author uses to categorize each post, top topics include digitization, born digital records, interface design, future-proofing and much more.

Visit the blog at <http://www.spellboundblog.com/> and follow its author on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/spellboundblog>.

*Do you know an interesting, useful and/or unique archives-related website that you would like to share with other Archives Association members? Send your suggestions of must-browse sites to the Newsletter Editor at [leah.pearse@gmail.com](mailto:leah.pearse@gmail.com). Be sure to include the URL and a brief summary.*

# UVIC APPROVES SUITE OF INTEGRATED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES

by Lara Wilson, University Archivist, University of Victoria

After many months of collaborative work between UVic Archives, the University Secretary's Office and University Systems (formerly Computing and Systems Services) and consultations with faculty, staff and students, a suite of integrated information management policies was approved by the Board of Governors and became effective January 1, 2010.

These important documents align with a new functional classification system for UVic policy and procedures (inspired by the university's records classification system, the Directory of Records), superseding an older system that assigned a numeric identifier based on signing authority hierarchy. The redesign of the policy framework was an initiative begun several years ago to refine and update university policies, and to distinguish policy from procedural documents. Each university policy or procedure is assigned a four-digit reference number following the relevant two letter alpha code.

Code	Functional Classification
AC	Academic and Students
AD	Administration
BP	Buildings and Properties
ER	External Relations
FM	Financial Management
GV	Governance
HR	Human Resources
IM	Information Management
RH	Research
SS	Safety and Security

The integrated information management policies had their origins in UVic's Privacy Policy, which was developed and approved in 2008 following an assessment of the university's new information systems. This policy was a first for UVic, since aside from some privacy guidelines for specific record series, there was no high level policy on privacy and access, setting out purposes, definitions, scope and accountabilities – UVic's practice since 1994 had been to follow the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

A key participant in the overall university policy review, as well as the integrated information management project, was

the University Policy Review Officer. A new position within the University Secretary's Office, the policy review officer's expertise in policy and procedure development was critical during the writing, as well as the consultation and approval phases of the project. The integrated information management suite consists of the Records Management Policy IM7700 (new), Information Security Policy IM7800 (new), and Protection of Privacy Policy GV0235 (revised). The Records Management and Privacy Policies also have new associated procedures for: Management of University Records, Access to and Correction of Personal Information, Responding to a Privacy Incident or Privacy Breach, Management of University Surveillance Systems, Disclosure of Student Personal Information in Emergency or Compelling Circumstances, and Management of Personal Information. The introduction of these comprehensive policies and associated procedures has resulted in the rescinding of other policies, since a number of these matters are now dealt with in the new documents. Rescinded policies include the University Archives Public Access Policy and the Television Surveillance Policy. UVic Archives hopes to add new procedures in the future, including those for secure destruction and document imaging (following CAN/CGSB 72.34-2005 Electronic Records as Documentary Evidence). The approval of these policies and procedures is just a first stage in the project, as our detailed implementation plan includes forms review/revision, staff training and internal process development.

A number of individuals over the years contributed to the project's success, including Carrie Andersen (Assistant University Secretary), Jonathan Derry (Policy Officer), Julia Eastman (University Secretary), Jane Morrison (Associate University Archivist), Nancy Pye (Assistant University Secretary/Policy Officer), Mark Roman (Chief Information Officer), Bill Trott (University Privacy Officer), James Williams (consultant), Lara Wilson (University Archivist), and Erik van Wiltenburg (Systems Security Officer).

*For the complete policies and related procedures, visit the following web page at the Office of the University Secretary: <http://www.uvic.ca:8080/universitysecretary/policies/browse/classification/>*

## SURREY COLLECTIONS NOW ACCESSIBLE ONLINE

by Peter Johnson, Curator-Archivist (Heritage Collections), City of Surrey

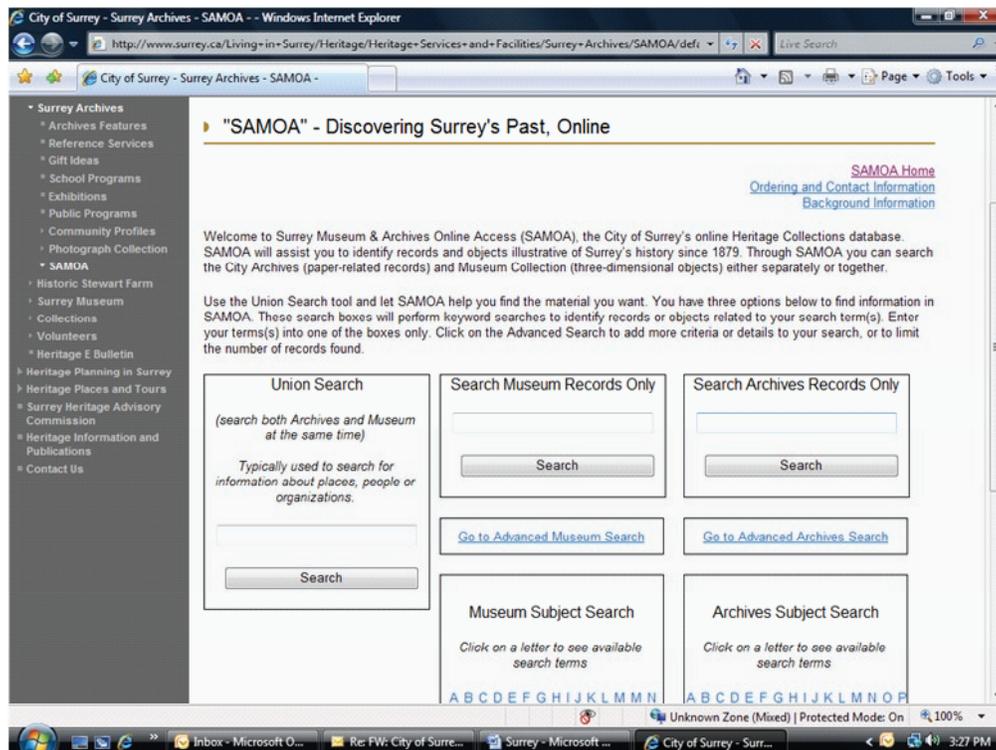
As of the afternoon of Thursday, February 4th, 2010 the collections available to the public at both Surrey Museum and the City of Surrey Archives have been searchable online. Two years' close collaboration between Minisis Inc., Collections staff, and Surrey's IT Department have produced upgraded versions of the Archives' M2A database and the Museum's M3 database for internal use, and "Surrey Archives & Museum Online Access" (SAMOA) for web searchers.

Surrey combined its Archives and Museum collections administration in one Collections Office at Cloverdale five years ago, making Peter Johnson, previously the Archivist, effectively registrar of the joint collection. The Minisis software upgrades support this amalgamation by permitting the accession of separate archival or artefact donations as well as mixed donations through the MINT (Minisis-Integrated) registration module. Initial accession records for both collections are then pushed down into M2A or M3, according to their descriptive focus, for full description by RAD or the Spectrum cataloguing standard. SAMOA enables online searching of the databases by a "Union" search of both together, or through separate

searches of the records or artefacts. Standard B.C. Thesaurus descriptors can be selected for archival searches, and Chenhall terms for the retrieval of museum items. Advanced searches in both areas combine relevant field data through Boolean logic.



(Photo credited to Dani Brown)



## IMPARTING INTERPARES PROJECT KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE USE OF AWARENESS, EDUCATION & TRAINING MODULES: PART 2

by Randy Preston, Project Coordinator, InterPARES Project

*This article is the second in a two part series reporting on activities at the InterPARES Project 3, which stands for International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems, based at the University of British Columbia. The first section of this series began with an overview of IP3, followed by details on module goals and audience. It can be found in the Fall 2009 edition of the AABC Newsletter at <http://aabc.ca/newslett.htm>. This final section of the series includes information on module 'buy-in' strategies, themes, delivery and evolution, as well as next steps for the InterPARES project.*

### MODULE BUY-IN STRATEGIES

One advantage of targeting specific individuals and functional units within an organization will be to help facilitate initial 'buy in' of the modules' guidelines and recommendations. In particular, to help improve the chances of effective buy in, it might be effective to target, perhaps with a separate module, those individuals within an organization who 'carry the stick'—that is, those individuals who possess the administrative authority and competence to issue, implement, enforce and/or audit records management policies (policy directors, auditors, etc.), as well as those individuals with the authority to designate which module-supported workshops or online courses should be made available and who in the organization should or must avail themselves of these resources.

Because digital preservation is the underlying, long-term focus of the modules, another strategy to improve organization-wide buy in could be to target those individuals in organizations who are responsible for taking the first logical steps to get the organization's records management and preservation programs off the ground—who, it is emphasized, may not necessarily be the records manager or archivist. Under this scenario, a module would be developed to provide these individuals with guidelines and tangible tools that they could use to take to each of the other key stakeholders (auditors, security and IT personnel, etc.) to help sensitize them to the issues and to help accelerate the building of partnerships between each of them.

### MODULE THEMES

The logical process of first defining potential audiences for the education modules and identifying what, if any, educational

resources already exist for those audiences, will help reveal where there are gaps and deficiencies in existing digital records management and preservation awareness and training programs and resources. Although this task of identifying the existing gaps and deficiencies, which InterPARES researchers consider to be a necessary first step in the process of identifying and selecting the specific themes around which the education modules will be based, has not yet been concluded, several tentative module ideas were identified and discussed during the May 2009 TEAM Canada plenary workshop. Underlying most of these ideas were two general themes: 'technological competence' and 'records competence.'

In relation to technological competence, one or more modules could be developed to improve technological awareness, training and expertise among archivists and records and information management (RIM) practitioners. For example, a 'geek-speak 101' module could offer basic guidance and advice to archivists and RIM practitioners on how to talk to, interface with, and effectively leverage the support of, information technology (IT) personnel within an organization. Likewise, a complementary 'RM-speak 101' module could be used to improve awareness among IT and other personnel regarding records management and preservation issues, requirements and concerns. Such a module could include, among other things, information about the key elements of a successful records management/preservation program and how those elements are (or should be) supported by an organization's IT infrastructure.

### MODULE KNOWLEDGE LEVEL & CONTENT

After identifying module audiences, surveying existing education and training resources and establishing what themes the modules should address, the next task will be to identify the most appropriate knowledge level at which to target each module, the most appropriate and effective content to include, and the most appropriate way of arranging and presenting the content so that each module meets the needs of its users

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With respect specifically to those modules targeted to business organizations, one important consideration that will need to be addressed at the outset is that many organizations do not even have a basic records program in place, let alone a digital management or preservation component. Further compounding the challenge in such situations is the likelihood of having to reach out to and sensitize personnel with little or no awareness of, or concern about, digital records management and preservation issues.

In such cases, an introductory-level training and awareness module will be required to raise awareness of the need for, and the benefits of, an effective records management program. Accordingly, this introductory-level module will need to start at the most basic level by first identifying the key issues and challenges and establishing the rationales for addressing them. As well, it should emphasize up front the importance of effective digital records management and clearly outline the benefits, including how it ties into enabling the organization to better meet its various responsibilities. The goal of this type of introductory-level module will be to 'plant the seed' for the development of a records program by first raising the awareness, among certain key individuals within the organizations, of the need for developing and implementing specific records management policies and procedures, and then encouraging these individuals to identify other important stakeholders and sensitize them to the issues. The guidelines and recommendations provided in these modules will need to be sensitive to the types of practical resource issues and constraints often faced by organizations in these situations. Only after the organization has in place some sort of records program will it be able to use and benefit from the other higher-level modules.

## **MODULE DELIVERY**

The effective dissemination of a suite of education modules that address different themes at successive levels—varying along a spectrum from basic to advanced—and that are designed to meet the needs and knowledge levels of different users, will require the development and use of different delivery strategies for different audiences. To this end, four basic module delivery options are being considered.

The first option is an 'active' approach, in which InterPARES researchers use the modules to deliver seminars, pre-conference workshops, etc. A key advantage of this approach is that the

modules are delivered by instructors who, having participated in their development, are intimately familiar with their content, focus, scope and intended audience. Another advantage is that, by participating in face-to-face delivery of the modules, the InterPARES researchers could more readily evaluate the overall impact, effectiveness and applicability of the modules in relation to their intended purposes and audiences, thus better enabling the Project to continue to refine the modules over time. The main challenge associated with this active approach is finding enough qualified and trained instructors, within the ranks of the Project's researchers, who are able to commit the time and who have access to the necessary resources required to make this a viable option. Related to this concern is the fact that in-person delivery of the modules by InterPARES researchers can only support relatively limited audience distribution and penetration, especially in relation to the other delivery options.

The second option is a 'fully passive' approach, modeled on the strategy used by the IRMT for distribution of its aforementioned suite of education and training materials. Under this option, 'self-administered' modules are made available on the Project's public Web site for individuals and organizations to download and use unmediated and without charge. The two major advantages of this approach are that it is easier to sustain over the long-term—because it does not require that the Project maintain a pool of instructors—and that it has the capacity to reach a much larger audience than does any in-person training option. As well, self-paced, downloadable modules are more convenient for most end users, offering them greater flexibility in terms of how, when and at what pace the modules are delivered.

The third option is a 'semi-passive' approach, in which more 'template-style' modules are developed in such a way that they readily can be adapted by non-InterPARES individuals, organizations and professional associations for in-person training in the context of their continuing education activities, such as at business seminars and pre-conference workshops.

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As with the fully passive approach, the modules under this approach are made available on the Project's public Web site for individuals and organizations to download and use unmediated and without charge. The two main advantages of this semi-passive approach are that, like the fully passive approach, it is easier to sustain over the long-term—again, because it does not require that the Project maintain a pool of instructors—and that it offers end users the greatest overall flexibility by allowing them to control not only how, when and at what pace the modules are delivered, but also how they are structured.

The final option involves a 'mixed' approach, which incorporates aspects of the active, fully passive and semi-passive options in an attempt to capitalize on the key strengths and advantages of all three strategies.

There is general consensus among Project researchers that, while the Project is still active, a 'mixed' approach makes the most sense and will be the most effective. However, it must be acknowledged that, over the longer term, beyond the life of the Project, the only sustainable options are the fully and semi-passive approaches. Consequently, the Project must ensure that it succeeds in developing complete 'self-administered' modules that can freely be accessed and used 'as-is' by individuals, as well as the more adaptable 'template-style' modules that readily can be personalized for continuing education training offered by non-InterPARES individuals, organizations and professional associations.

## **MODULE EVALUATION**

As it regards evaluating the effectiveness of the education modules (at least while the Project is still active), the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) and the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC), in their capacity both as resources partners of the Project and as the primary conduits of continuing professional education, respectively, in the country and in the province of British Columbia, are committed to testing the education modules and providing the Project with feedback. As well, feedback will be requested from those individuals outside of the ACA and AABC who deliver the modules on the basis of the questionnaires that they will submit to their audiences/students, and of their experience as instructors. To the extent possible, and as deemed necessary, the

feedback received will be used by Project researchers to continuously refine the modules.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Because most of the Project's case and general studies are still ongoing, the strategy at this stage is to begin developing the 'easiest' modules first. This will include modules targeted at a high level to audiences who already possess, at the very least, a basic awareness and understanding of digital records concepts and terminology, as well as an interest in the issues and concerns related to digital preservation, such as professional archival and records management associations. Once more of the case and general study findings are finalized, the focus will then shift to the 'harder,' more time-consuming, lower-level modules.

*Additional information about the InterPARES 3 Project can be found on the Project's Web site at: [http://www.interpares.org/ip3/ip3\\_index.cfm](http://www.interpares.org/ip3/ip3_index.cfm). If you have any questions or comments about the Project's education modules, or about any other aspect of the Project, please contact Randy Preston, InterPARES Project Coordinator, at [randy@interpares.org](mailto:randy@interpares.org).*

## **NORTHERN BC ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - UNBC**

### *Appointments*

Erica Hernández (MAS 2001) has recently accepted a full-time continuing appointment as Archivist, Access & Digital Initiatives starting March 15, 2010 at UNBC's Northern BC Archives & Special Collections. Erica continues working with us after four years as both part-time Assistant Archivist and part-time Contract Archivist. She will be responsible for promoting digital access to archival materials and will be involved with the development and management of an integrated records management program at the University of Northern British Columbia.

## NEWS FROM SLAIS

by Michelle Mallette, Student Services Coordinator, SLAIS, UBC ([michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca))

### NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW LOOK

The New Year brought a fresh new look to the SLAIS website at [www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca). The new modern design makes it easier for both new and regular visitors to find the information they are seeking. Prospective students have a new portal giving quick access to information on our graduate programs, admissions and application information and the opportunities students have to fund their graduate studies at SLAIS. Friends and alumni will appreciate the quick link via the Support SLAIS button right on the home page - it takes you to a section that explains how to contribute time, experience and/or financially to making sure SLAIS stays vibrant and connected. Changes to our research page give greater emphasis to the research work and projects of our award-winning faculty. It's now easier to learn more about the faculty and their work, too. Finally, new and changing photos give you a new look on every visit. See it at [www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca).

The screenshot shows the SLAIS website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for UBC News, UBC Events, UBC Directories, Search UBC, myUBC LOGIN, UBC Library, Student Services, Faculty of Graduate Studies, and Faculty of Arts. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for Prospective Students and Current Students, and a search bar. The main header features the SLAIS logo (S L A I S) and the text 'THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF LIBRARY, ARCHIVAL & INFORMATION STUDIES'. A large photo of two smiling women is displayed. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with links: Home, About SLAIS, People, Research & Teaching, Admissions, Funding & Fees, Programs, Courses, Technology, News & Announcements, and Resources. The main content area features a blue banner for 'SLAIS STUDENTS WIN TRAVEL AWARDS' with an 'APPLY NOW' button. Below this is a text block about Donald Force and Karen Taylor winning awards, followed by a 'SUPPORT SLAIS' button. Another text block titled 'Join Us In 2011 As SLAIS Celebrates 50 Years' includes details about a 50th anniversary event in April 2011, with a 'Join us on Facebook' button. A final text block titled 'SLAIS at PLA Conference 2010, Portland, OR' mentions a booth at a conference in March 2010.

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*Continued from page 13 - News From SLAIS*

## **SUMMER CO-OP STUDENTS READY FOR HIRE**

SLAIS has a number of students ready to accept co-op work placements for the summer months, May-August. Some are looking for the longer eight-month placements as well. Employers benefit from highly motivated, enthusiastic graduate level students studying the most recent techniques in the library, information management, and archival fields. If a summer position is not possible, some students are seeking employment for Fall 2010 as well. To post a job or find out more information about the SLAIS Co-op program, contact SLAIS Co-op Coordinator Anna Jubilo, MLIS, at [anna.jubilo@ubc.ca](mailto:anna.jubilo@ubc.ca), or visit the UBC Arts Co-op webpage for employers interested in hiring SLAIS students at <http://co-op.arts.ubc.ca/employers/slais-co-op/>.

## **SLAIS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBER**

SLAIS is pleased to welcome its newest faculty member, Aaron Loehrlein. Aaron's first day at SLAIS, January 4, 2010, coincided with Orientation for new students, to whom he taught his first class the very next day.

Aaron is completing his Ph.D. from Indiana University in Bloomington, in both Information Science and Cognitive Science. His dissertation is an exploration of the ways in which a person's conceptual structures influence information-seeking behavior. In addition to research, Aaron will be teaching knowledge management courses at SLAIS, including resource description and access, cataloguing and others.



## **STUDENT ACA CHAPTER HOSTS SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

Following last year's great success, the University of British Columbia Student Chapter of the Association of Canadian Archivists is again hosting a day-long International Symposium. This year's event is planned for Friday, March 12, entitled "The Preservation of the World's Memory." The Keynote will be given by a member of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program and every speech will be about the preservation of some type of documentary heritage, with a strong emphasis on the digital.

Those who did not attend last year's Symposium can learn more about it by visiting [www.slais.ubc.ca/PEOPLE/students/student-groups/aca/symposium.php](http://www.slais.ubc.ca/PEOPLE/students/student-groups/aca/symposium.php).

Confirmed speakers so far include Ken Thibodeau from NARA, Babak Hamidazeh from the Library of Congress, Tyler Walters from the Georgia Institute of Technology Library and Information Center, and archivists from Library and Archives Canada. Be sure to reserve the date for a day of learning and engagement.

## **ENGAGING IN INFORMATIVE LUNCHTIME COLLOQUIA**

SLAIS is again offering professionals the opportunity to join students, faculty and other information professionals in a series of lunchtime colloquia. These events are held at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre on the UBC Campus. Topics range from "Archivists and the Call for Justice" to "Open Access and Academic Libraries." These are informal presentations that offer participants a chance to learn about new topics, trends and issues, with a question and answer session to ensure full participation. Light refreshments will be served. For more information on times and location, visit [www.slais.ubc.ca/news/colloquia.htm](http://www.slais.ubc.ca/news/colloquia.htm).

# SHARING IN 2010

## SOCIAL NETWORKING & YOUR WEBSITE

by Jonathan Jacobsen, Andornot Consulting Inc.



Does this button look familiar? Yes, you've seen it before. Just about every website has one now.

What is it? A very quick way of letting others know about something you've found.

Imagine you've been searching and searching for a very particular resource and...you found it! Now you're excited, impatient, and you want to share the news, either by email, Twitter, Facebook page, or through any other social networking site. With just a couple clicks, you can do just that.

This particular button is provided by AddThis.com. This site aggregates hooks into a vast array of social networking sites, from Facebook to Twitter to Delicious. It also provides the ability to simply bookmark the page or email the link to a friend.

When you get your own button from AddThis.com, you can customize its appearance and the social bookmarking services offered. You can also sign up to have AddThis track usage so you know how often your resources are being shared.

These buttons are available from other sites as well, such as ShareThis.com. Alternatively, you could construct your own that provides all the same services like emailing, bookmarking, and sharing, but it's far simpler to take one of these pre-built buttons, available at no cost.

Why should you have a Share button on your website or in your online database? These have become ubiquitous on the web. More and more users are expecting a site to have the ability to quickly click a button to grab the identifying information. As links are shared, more users will become aware of your resources. Search engines rarely index deep into databases, but they do index social networking sites, providing a whole

new way for users to find and re-share your resources. This in turn may help increase your website's standing in search engine rankings, especially if you have unique or very specialized content.

A small but major caution: by default, the AddThis button shares the URL that appears in your browser's address bar. If you are using a database, make sure that this URL remains valid. For example, after searching an Inmagic WebPublisher PRO textbase, this URL contains a temporary variable. While the URL will continue to link to a record for a while, depending on the volume of searches on your site, the link will eventually expire. However, for Inmagic clients, Andornot has developed two ways around this: a permanent URL http handler and an URL rewriting technique. Both can easily be implemented on an Inmagic WebPublisher PRO textbase so that the URL that is bookmarked remains valid indefinitely.

What next? See the button in action on our Andornot Starter Kit library site (search, click through to the full record detail page, and test the button by emailing yourself details of a book), then contact us to help you add a Share button to your site.

*Andornot Consulting Inc. can be reached via email at [info@andornot.com](mailto:info@andornot.com) and by phone at 604-269-2525 or toll free at 1-866-266-2525. Please visit our website at <http://www.andornot.com>*

# AABC newsletter

ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Fall 2010

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## President's Report

Janine Johnston, *AABC President*

**W**ELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S first newsletter from the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC). For those who don't know me, I was the AABC Vice-President last year and since last April's Annual General Meeting (AGM), I have been serving as President and coordinating our association's operations alongside our amazing and hardworking Executive Committee. I was born and raised in West Vancouver, did my undergrad degree in Anthropology at Simon Fraser University, and completed my Master of Archival Studies (MAS) degree in 2006 at UBC's School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies (SLAIS). I currently work as a research consultant for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

AABC's 2010–2011 year began last April with our very successful conference, Our Digital Future, held at UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, which provided the sixty participants with interesting and informative presentations, as well as some great networking opportunities. The success of this event would not have been possible without all of the hard work from our Conference Committee Chair Jill Teasley and Conference Committee member Rebecca Pasch. At the end of the conference, we held our Annual General Meeting where the 2009–2010 Executive Committee presented reports on the AABC's activities of the previous year. These reports are available online at [http://aabc.ca/AGM\\_2010\\_pkg.pdf](http://aabc.ca/AGM_2010_pkg.pdf). Audited financial statements for the 2009–2010 year are included below in this newsletter as well. We also nominated new Executive members at the AGM, who I will now introduce.

### *Jane Morrison, Vice-President*

Jane served as the AABC's Secretary from April 2008–March 2010 when she accepted the position of Vice-President. Jane is a MAS graduate and works as the Associate Archivist (Records Management & Access) at the University of Victoria. As Vice-President, Jane chairs the Program Committee and oversees the work done through the AABC's Educational Advisory Service, the BC Archival Preservation Service and our Archival Network Services.

**Linda Nobrega, Treasurer**

Linda served as the AABC's Secretary from 2004–2006 and has held the position as Treasurer since April 2009. Linda graduated from SLAIS with a MAS degree in 2003 and has been working at her current position in Records Management Operations for the Provincial Government since 2004. As Treasurer, Linda oversees the AABC's Finance Committee and ensures proper financial accounting for the Association.

**Jennifer Pecho, Secretary**

Jennifer holds both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree in History from UBC and has recently graduated from the MAS program. Jennifer was the recipient of the Harold Naugler Memorial Prize at SLAIS for excellence in the study of electronic records. She recently started a new position as the Archivist/Records Manager and Privacy Officer for the Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver. In her role as Secretary of the AABC, Jennifer not only organizes meetings and minutes for the organization, she is also responsible for the Public Awareness, Advocacy, and Legislation (PAAL) Committee, the newsletter and our regional representatives.

**Peter Johnson, Institutional Member-at-Large**

Peter holds a MA in English and a MAS degree from SLAIS where he graduated in 1999. Peter joined the Surrey Archives in 1998 and began his current role as the Curator-Archivist of Heritage Collections when Surrey opened its new museum in 2005. Prior to immigrating to Canada, Peter was a librarian at Leeds University in the UK. As the Institutional Member-at-Large, Peter's responsibilities include reporting on the work of the Nominations and Elections Committee and chairing the Grants Committee.

**Corinne Rogers, Individual Member at Large**

Corinne is currently a PhD student at SLAIS. Corinne is a Research Assistant in UBC's Digital Records Forensics Project, a 3-year SSHRC funded project

directed by Dr. Luciana Duranti and InterPARES 3 (International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems). Corrine's role as Individual Member-at-Large includes reporting on the work of the Membership Committee and Conference Committee.

So far this year, the AABC has been working with Artefactual Systems and, together, are collaborating with Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and Anglican Diocese of New Westminster Archives to develop a tool/methodology to make it easier for BC archival institutions to import information from their databases into MemoryBC. We have received funding from the National Archival Development Program (NADP) to develop the Data Migration tool/methodology, which will be launched this spring.

The AABC Conference Committee has been busy with event planning for the AABC's 2010–2011 Conference. This year's conference coincides with SLAIS' 50th anniversary, with workshops and events taking place again at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre from April 27th–30th, 2010.

Please take this opportunity to review our financial statements from the 2009–2010 fiscal year available online at the AABC website at [http://aabc.ca/aGm\\_2010\\_pkg.pdf](http://aabc.ca/aGm_2010_pkg.pdf). You may also want to consider the Executive positions that will be opening up next April. We will be seeking a new Vice-President, Treasurer, and Individual Member-at-Large.

I'm looking forward to another successful year for the AABC. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding our association feel free to contact me at any time. ☒

# The Value of Local History Collections

Eunice Robinson, *President, Sea Island Historical Society*

**A**S AN AVID family historian, I am always looking for information and background on my ancestors. Where did they live, how did they live, why did they move from one location to another?

One of the best sources for information that helps to 'fill in the blanks', are local history collections, whose focus is on the area and region, not on the specific families. However, they do collect family information as they learn more about the district. One such Local History Collection belongs to the Sea Island Heritage Society.

Sea Island is one of the islands located at the mouth of the Fraser River, now part of the City of Richmond, British Columbia and the home of the Vancouver International Airport. For the past 15 years, a small group of dedicated former and current residents have been gathering the memories and photographs of any and all residents and workers of the Island.

Sea Island was primarily a farming community until the small fledgling Vancouver Airport was developed on the south side of the Island in the early 1930's. In the early 1940's, housing for workers of the Boeing Canada Aircraft Ltd plant was constructed and this subdivision became known as Burkeville. In the mid 1940's, another subdivision was built on the north side of the Island for returning veterans from World War II. This subdivision



Arnold sweeps up

was known as Cora Brown, and adjacent to Cora Brown, another small subdivision known as Tapp Road was built during the late 1950's.

Where did all these people come from? Why did they come to Sea Island? Where did they work? Why did they leave? What were their lives like? Who were their friends and neighbours? What activities did they enjoy? Were there schools, churches, stores, clubs and organizations?

These questions and many more are asked by the Sea Island Heritage Society researchers, as they try to compile a comprehensive history of the Island, past and present.

We have been fortunate to receive information about several of the pioneer families, such as the McDonalds and the Erskines. We have interviewed several of the servicemen and their families who moved to the Island after World War II, as well as generations of families who

came to the Island in the 1940's and are living there today. The Society has gathered information on the various employers such as airline companies that have made Sea Island their home, such as Pacific Western Airlines, Canadian Pacific Airlines and Air Canada. It has also documented the story of the Royal Canadian Air Force base that existed on the Island for many years, and, with the assistance of many other interested volunteers, collected the story of the Vancouver International Airport.

There were businesses that thrived on the Island, such as Grauer's Farm and Store. Grauer's Store was a small but comprehensive grocery store that catered to many of the Island's residents, and even had a delivery service in the 1960's. There was the BA Gas Station which was located close to the Burkeville Subdivision.

Schoolyard memories have been recalled, and written down. Sports teams, Brownies, Cubs, Girl Guides, Scouts and dances at the RCAF Forum and Teen Town, the Island had a busy social networking existence during the 1950's and 1960's.

What was life like? Recollections of party line telephones, clothes lines and laundry days, black and white televisions, as well as skating on the frozen ponds in the fields, fishing in the river, picking beans, and birthday parties have also been captured. Photographs have been donated from many families showing many of these activities, which then tickle the memories of others.

The collection includes many of the school class photographs from the Sea Island and Duncan McDonald Schools. We are working on identifying all

the students in each of the photographs.

We even have some memorabilia such as one of the old wooden swing seats from the Cora Brown park—this was donated to the Society by one of the last residents to live in the Cora Brown area after most people had moved out due to the expropriation for airport expansion. Other unique items include several copies of the Boeing Beam company newsletter that was published during the heyday of the Boeing Company. A silver tray that was presented to the Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Kordal, when she retired. Some pewter mugs given upon departure to retiring or transferred members of Royal Canadian Air Force Station Sea Island.

Our collection has already been used several times by students writing reports for school, by researchers looking up specific

information such as the MARS water bomber, by family researchers looking for those hard-to-find nuggets that make their family histories come alive. We've talked to local school classes, held Open Houses, displayed our extensive photograph and memorabilia collections, participated in several genealogy fairs and seminars, and were one of the original supporters of the Richmond Heritage Days.

Local history groups have a love of their subject and are anxious to preserve this history and memories for future generations. They are happy to share their knowledge. The Sea Island Heritage Society continues to search for anyone who ever spent any time on the Island, and document their stories.

The Sea Island Heritage Society has a website, [www.seaislandhome.org](http://www.seaislandhome.org), and we invite people to log in and check out what we have. ☒



# Saanich Archives Launches School Program

Kathleen Traynor, *Saanich Archives*

**S**AANICH ARCHIVES was delighted to host our first school program on Wednesday, February 17th. Twenty students in Division 5 walked over from Tillicum School to spend the morning learning about the Archives and Saanich history. The activities and information were greeted with great enthusiasm, and we were pleased to have such a happy and curious audience.

Students from Tillicum School looked and touched samples of old paper and photographs that emerged from our new “treasure trunk”. We talked about just how much has changed in Saanich—even how the original name ‘W’sanec’ became the more conventional ‘Saanich’. Activities included pictures of traditional First Nations sites and people, and students tried out the Chinook trade language and discovered that “Tillicum” means “the people who are friends”!

A highlight of this first program was a talk by a living treasure: Mr. Jim Askey, long-time resident of the area. Jim told stories about growing up in Saanich in the 1930’s and 1940’s, from taking the streetcar to being at school. In return, the students shared many of their stories about Saanich today.

The visit concluded with a tour of the reference room and a look at original documents and information. Students were especially fascinated by the high-tech vault, and thrilled to see old photograph albums, report cards from 1900, a 1908 teaching certificate, and a 1912 street map of Saanich up close.

This initial program was developed by Archives staff, and the format and feedback will serve as a foundation for subsequent programs. Thank you to teacher Sherri



Kathleen Traynor with Jim Askey and Sherri Neudorf, Saanich Archives, February 17, 2010

Neudorf and to the students for being a patient first audience. Special thanks to the Saanich Centennial Library, who generously allowed the use of their children’s program area.

School programs are vital for archives: they reach out to an important part of our community, young people. The Saanich Archives program is designed to focus on historical change and cultural interaction, and activities are structured to address provincial social studies curriculum goals. With school programs, the Archives can provide a broad, social-based view of history, one that teaches acceptance and respect for the multiplicity of peoples living in Saanich. A trained staff member guides students through the activities and discussion. Knowledge is taught through discussion, song, movement, and games. Conversation and questions are strongly encouraged as they look and learn.

Saanich Archives hopes to host more schools in the coming year—and can tailor this new program for different ages and groups. For more information on children’s programs at Saanich Archives, contact Kathleen Trayner at (250) 475-1775 ext. 3477. ✨

# Outreach Materials: Educating Donors About Digital Records

Cindy McLellan and Shamin Malmas, *Graduate Research Assistants, InterPARES 3 Project*

**T**HE MAIN GOAL OF INTERPARES 3 is to practically assist small and medium-sized archives in the daunting task of preserving digital records over the long term. As a community archives, InterPARES 3 research partner North Vancouver Museum & Archives (NVMA), is accountable to the North Vancouver community.

NVMA is committed to acquiring records of significance to the community. To acquire, maintain and preserve the digital records being created by individuals, families, volunteer organizations and small and medium-sized businesses in North Vancouver, NVMA must not only put in place the policies, procedures and technology, it must also begin a dialogue with donors. As the community repository of North Vancouver, NVMA has a responsibility to reach out to the community; in the digital age, educating potential donors about digital records is vital.

Through her “Family Recordkeeping” series, NVMA archivist, Janet Turner, was confronted with a desire for increased educational materials from members of various community organizations and North Vancouver families. Without a formal forum to address issues of digital records creation, appraisal and preservation, Turner felt that she was unable to adequately address these community concerns. Current educational materials that address these needs are written for experts in the field. Although comprehensive, these materials are often too complex and are not relevant to community members. Therefore, the need to create formal educational materials targeted at community audiences was realized.

To support the educational needs of NVMA, InterPARES 3 Project Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs), Shamin Malmas and Cindy McLellan,

## Community Archives e-Records Assessment

The goal of this General Study is to better provide tools for small and medium sized archives with limited resources. InterPARES 3 Graduate Research Assistants Cindy McLellan, Shamin Malmas and Anneleen van Dijk thank you for your time and feedback. The survey closed on November 22, 2010. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill it out. Results of the survey will be available in Spring 2011.

The InterPARES Project welcomes comments and feedback.

[information@interpares.org](mailto:information@interpares.org)

developed a series of four brochures addressing issues related to the creation, maintenance, preservation and potential donation to an archives of digital records. These brochures are written in layperson’s language and will be incorporated into the “Family Recordkeeping” series taught by NVMA. The four brochures are titled as follows:

1. Maintaining Your Digital Records
2. Maintaining Digital Records: The Business Edition
3. Managing E-Mail
4. Consider Donating Your Records to North Vancouver Museum and Archives

Since these brochures encourage the donation of digital records to NVMA, it became apparent that NVMA’s

Acquisition Policy needed to specifically address digital records; consequently, the GRAs also created a Digital Records Acquisition Policy to fulfill that need.

In addition, the GRAs created 'generic' versions of the products with the intent of making them available to other institutions. These versions do not contain any references to NVMA or North Vancouver and it is hoped that institutions will adopt them for their own use. It is assumed that as technology changes, these products will be revised and updated accordingly. For example, constant changes in hardware and software will affect how the steps in these brochures are implemented; therefore, it is important that archivists administering these brochures ensure that the brochures are up to date and include relevant examples (e.g., common accepted formats for preservation do not remain stable; thus, this section will need to be revised periodically).

The four generic versions of the brochures and the generic digital records acquisition policy are now posted to the public IP3 Web site at [http://www.interpares.org/ip3/ip3\\_case\\_studies.cfm#cs08](http://www.interpares.org/ip3/ip3_case_studies.cfm#cs08) (click on the Canadian

flag for Team Canada—then scroll down to Case Study 08: North Vancouver Museum & Archives). Each product is available in three formats: PDF/A, DOC and ODT. You are invited to download, share, format, and customize these as appropriate for your institution. Make them available in paper form in a blog, or on a website.

Please take advantage of these resources! Best wishes in your efforts to preserve digital records in your community!

Inspired by the work being done at NVMA, Malmas and McLellan started the Community Archives e-Records Assessment General Study. The tools created for NVMA are potentially useful to other institutions; we wanted to know if there were other creative solutions that could be shared and what exactly InterPARES could be doing to help. ✨

## News from the Friends of the B.C. Archives

*Ann ten Cate, Archivist, Royal BC Museum*

This fall, The Friends of the B.C. Archives were pleased to be able to award a grant of \$1,000 from the Terry Reksten Fund to the Chase and District Museum and Archives for their project to digitize oral history tapes, made in the 1970's, that are deteriorating. This annual grant is awarded by the Friends, upon application by June 30, to a small archives anywhere in the province. Details about the application process may be found here: [http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC\\_About\\_Archives/terry.aspx](http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC_About_Archives/terry.aspx).

This year the President of the Friends, Deidre Simmons, was able to present the cheque in person to the Manager and Archivist for the Museum, Theresa Scott.



Photo: Deidre Simmons

## News from SLAIS

Michelle Mallette, *SLAIS Student Services Coordinator*, [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca)

### SLAIS Welcomes New Director

The University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival & Information Studies welcomed Caroline Haythornthwaite as Director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) for a five-year term beginning August 16, 2010.

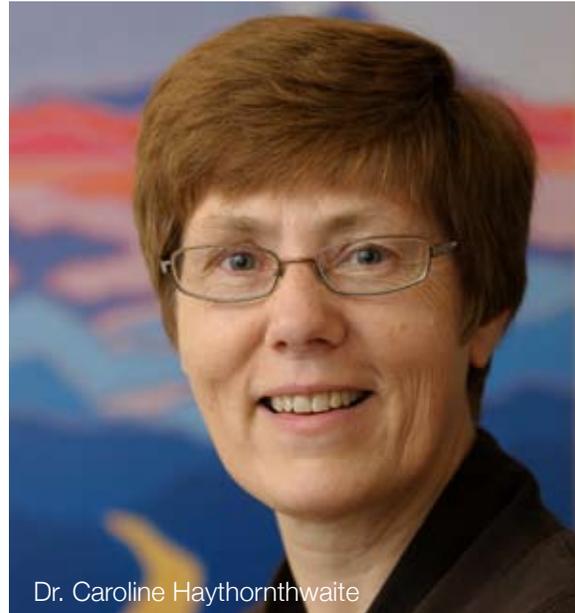
Dr. Haythornthwaite received a B.Sc. in Psychology at Trent University, followed by a M.A. in Psychology, plus both M.I.S. and Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of Toronto. Dr. Haythornthwaite was recruited from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she held the position of Professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. She spent the last year at the University of London as the 2009/2010 Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Culture and Pedagogy, where she researched, wrote and presented on Learning Networks which encompasses overlapping themes of social networks, computer networks and learning.

### SLAIS Inviting Applications for MAS and DUAL Degree Programs

Applications are now being accepted for the Master of Archival Studies and the Dual Master of Archival Studies/Master of Library & Information Studies programs, with classes beginning in September 2011. Nearly 70 SLAIS students were conferred degrees at the May 27 convocation ceremonies at UBC, and another 20 are being conferred at the November ceremonies. The 2010 graduates include 10 new Masters of Archival Studies and 10 new holders of the Dual Master of Archival Studies/Master of Library & Information Studies degrees.

### SLAIS Plans 50th Anniversary Celebration

2011 will mark the 50th anniversary of SLAIS at UBC, so be sure to save the date of our celebration: April 29-30, 2011.



Dr. Caroline Haythornthwaite

We have already begun planning a number of activities designed to encourage all to celebrate from wherever they may be. These include an open house at SLAIS where you can meet our new Director as well as current faculty and students, learn about the research being done at SLAIS and tour our stunning facilities in the state-of-the-art Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. There will also be a celebration dinner and dance, with guests including a number of honoured SLAIS alumni. Consider nominating an outstanding SLAIS Alum for this award – visit <http://www.slaisalumni.org/> and click on the link to the 50th Anniversary Distinguished Alumni nominations page. Don't delay – nominations close December 1.

For those who are unable to join us in Vancouver, the SLAIS Alumni Association has developed a Virtual Memory Wall where alumni can reconnect with friends and post memories and photos. Visit <http://slaismemorywall.wordpress.com/>. The Alumni Association is also planning a fundraising silent

auction, so consider donating an item for the auction. Watch for more details at [www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca) and [www.slaisalumni.org](http://www.slaisalumni.org) and please help spread the word about our anniversary events.

### Visiting Lecturer, Scholar at SLAIS

SLAIS faculty and students are enjoying temporary new colleagues for the term, as the School hosts two international lecturers until December. Geoffrey Yeo is a lecturer in the Department of Information Studies at the University College London in England, and Alastair Smith is a senior lecturer in the School of Information Management at Victoria University Wellington in New Zealand. Geoffrey has worked in the field of archives and records management since 1976, and is a Registered Member of the Society of Archivists. He first taught in

the UCL program in the mid-1990s, and returned in 2000. Since then he has served as the program director, and is now a part-time lecturer in records management and archival description. He is also a member of the management board of ICARUS, the International Centre for Archives and Records Management Research and User Studies. He is teaching two classes in Fall 2010, Arrangement and Description for first-year students in the archival studies program, and Advanced Management of Current Records to second-year students. Alastair is on a research and study leave, and while at SLAIS he is pursuing his research interests in guidelines for teaching effective Internet searching techniques, effectiveness of Internet search engines in finding NZ information and webometric analysis of institutional repositories. ❖

## Best of the Web: Archives Edition

Sonia Nicholson, *AABC Newsletter*

This edition of Best of the Web highlights the Newfoundland Regiment and The Great War website, hosted by The Rooms, (“Newfoundland and Labrador's largest public cultural space”). Though not from British Columbia, this website is note-worthy for a number of reasons. The site is not only clearly laid-out and user-friendly with colour-coordinated sections and numbered pages, but is also suitable for both adults and children, offering different layers of information about the First World War. Of particular interest is the “Daily Life” section, which includes not only quick-reference photographs and descriptions of food, accommodation, training and other aspects of soldier daily life, but also links to videos and additional material on each topic. The “Soldier’s Outfit” page is interactive; a diagram of a uniform has individual parts labelled, with each of these linked to a photograph of an actual artefact. The site also features a searchable database of soldiers who enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment, with links to each individual’s attestation papers. An introduction to the database outlines in detail the type of information that the documents contain. An exceptionally well-done website, and a must-see for anyone with an interest in Canadian military history.

Visit the Newfoundland Regiment and Great War site at [http://www.therooms.ca/regiment/part1\\_entering\\_the\\_great\\_war.asp](http://www.therooms.ca/regiment/part1_entering_the_great_war.asp).

*Do you know an interesting, useful and/or unique archives-related website that you would like to share with other Archives Association members? Send your suggestions of must-browse sites to the Newsletter Editor at [leah.pearse@gmail.com](mailto:leah.pearse@gmail.com). Be sure to include the URL and a brief summary.*

# October in Ottawa, or CCA Demystified!

Lara Wilson, *University Archivist, University of Victoria Archives*

**E**VERY OCTOBER, the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) holds its Annual General Assembly in Ottawa, Ontario. As 2010 marks the 25th Anniversary of the CCA, it's the perfect occasion to provide those new to the archival field an overview of the CCA and an introduction to what goes on at General Assembly.

## What is the CCA?

The CCA was created in 1985, following the publishing of *Canadian Archives*, a report by the Consultative Group on Canadian Archives. A non-profit organization, the CCA was formed to provide leadership and coordination to an emerging archival system in Canada. Five staff members, including the Executive Director, support the activities of the board and committees.

## Where is the CCA office?

The CCA is located at 130 Albert Street, Suite #501. If you find yourself in the Ottawa area, drop by for a visit! The CCA also shares office space with the Association of Canadian Archivists and the Canadian Historical Association.

## Who are the members?

The CCA membership consists of the 13 provincial and territorial archival councils, 5 volunteer elected board members (chair, vice chair, a past board member and two directors), the Bureau of Canadian Archivists, the Association des archivistes du Québec, Association of Canadian Archivists, the Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists and Library and Archives Canada. A representative each from these organizations attends General Assembly. The CCA Board may also appoint Special Advisors, who do not vote at meetings, but who assist with special projects.

## What does the CCA do?

In support of the Canadian archival community and its development, the CCA has a number of committees including archival standards, preservation, archival description, and copyright, as well as that of the archives advisors. The CCA is also a third party delivery body for federal funding programs of the Department of Canadian Heritage and Library and Archives Canada: the National Archival Development Program (NADP) and Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions. The CCA does not collect membership fees and is funded primarily through the NADP.

## What happens at General Assembly?

The CCA's General Assembly is conducted by the CCA Chair and is similar to the Annual General Meeting of the AABC. All provincial and territorial council representatives provide reports, as do committee chairs, the AAQ, LAC, ACA and BCA. There are Board of Directors and Secretariat updates, separate reports on special projects, the different funding programs and their timelines for the upcoming fiscal year, presentation of audited financials for approval and overview of the budget and election of board members. General Assembly is also an opportunity for member representatives to meet and learn about new initiatives and challenges facing archives across Canada. ✂

# News from Canadian Council of Archives

Jane Morrison, *University of Victoria Archives*

THE CANADIAN COUNCIL of Archives (CCA) held a 25th anniversary reception on Friday, October 22 in Ottawa to open this year's General Assembly. There were speeches by Ian Forsyth, outgoing CCA chair; Sean Berrigan,



Ian Forsyth  
Photo: Jane Morrison

Director General of the Strategic Office of Library and Archives Canada (on behalf of Dr. Daniel Caron); and Marion Beyea, Provincial Archivist and Director, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick and first chair of CCA.

As part of the 25th anniversary celebrations, the CCA and the Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists sponsored the creation of banners for all its members which were displayed during the afternoon of the 22nd in the lobby of Library and Archives Canada's public facility on Wellington Street. A representatives of each member was on hand to promote their association. Lara Wilson represented the AABC.

Congratulations and many thanks to the CCA, and keep an eye out for the banner at future AABC events! ❖



AABC Banner  
Photo: Jane Morrison



CCA Cake  
Photo: Jane Morrison

# Memories of World War I—The Walter Draycott Fonds

Susan Pegram, *North Vancouver Museum and Archives*

**F**ROM THE REPOSITORY of North Vancouver, a short reminiscence on the First Battle of Ypres, a conflict culminating in the Massacre of the Innocents or Kindermord, when approximately 182,360 men died in a single month of fighting. Conflict began on April 24, 1914, 86 years ago last week.

after a cramped rail journey...we proceeded in darkness to the village of Blaringham...although the Front was twenty-five miles away, rifles were always carried... the work went on; troops returning from this task [the trench-digging] woolen overcoats weighed down with rainwater and mud."



Ypres Hospital

This later letter to Draycott is from a WWI nurse, Edith M Cowan, who was at the Ypres hospital of which the postcard below was taken. She recalls Peace Day in Newcastle-on-Tyne, in September, some five years later, a celebration of the beginning of the end of the war in Austria:

*September 14, 1919*

"N/C looks just the same, still some blue boys about the town... I can imagine

The Walter MacKay Draycott Fonds, the most well-known of the private fonds in North Vancouver's archival repository, contains this recollection of trench life in Flanders, the following Christmas:

"We had marched from the slippery, slushy camp at Winchester to Southampton, England, on the morning of December 1914, with everyone in high spirits. On entering the streets of Southampton, crowds of citizens had gathered to wish us well; their thanks was returned with a popular song, "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here, What the Hell Do We Care." At dusk we boarded the S.S. Cardiganshire [for Flanders] and took what comfort there was on the upper deck to dodge the cold wind...

how busy you were on Peace Day. I had a very happy day. I marched in the great procession all down the North Rd and past the War Memorial where the Royal Salute was taken and through the town. It was perfect weather and we nurses marched in caps and aprons. The procession took more than half an hour to pass the War Memorial so you can imagine it was long. How the people cheered! In the afternoon and evening there was dancing in all the parks, bands and fireworks and bonfires."

In World War I, fifteen million people were killed, making it the conflict still referred to as the War to End All Wars. ❖

# Museum at Campbell River Digitization Project

Catherine Gilbert, *Promotions and Marketing, Museum at Campbell River*

**T**HIS YEAR, the Museum at Campbell River brought the past into the future with the launching of a new and exciting interactive website dedicated to the logging history of Northern Vancouver Island. With assistance from the British Columbia History Digitization Program and UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, the Museum was able to contract a web design firm to create the site and have a collections assistant scan, edit and upload its large collection of images.

The images were collected and sorted with the help of volunteers and, where possible, they were identified by the Museum's collection manager and archivist, Sandra Parrish. Eventually, over 1400 images in the form of photos, negatives, positives, glass plate and lantern slides were selected. Parrish had been planning the project for some time and was aware of the Ike Barber grant, which first became available in 2007. She applied for the grant in December of 2009, and received confirmation that it was awarded to the Campbell River Museum in early June of 2010. The purpose of the project would be "to promote and enhance access to the history of the unique logging sites and methods in the Northern Vancouver Island region from the Museum's archival holdings, and to make them

available online, in an easily searchable, unrestricted website." According to Parrish, the history of logging is one of the most frequently accessed research topics at the Museum.



Homepage



Gallery

Since the Museum had already created a similar website about sport fishing with the assistance of a local graphic and web design firm, Chameleon Creative, Parrish had a good idea of how to proceed with the new project. She chose to work again with Chameleon's owner Heidi Peterson and they laid the groundwork for the project. Chameleons' general manager, Andy Chapman-Coombs, who had previously worked in software development in the UK, then stepped in to write the program that would launch the site.

Chapman-Coombs' aim was to create a site that could be used intuitively, and employed a tool called "taxonomy," which meant that every element in the website had a tag attached

to it. That way, a researcher could type in a word or phrase like "Elk River Timber Company" and any photos that referenced that name would come up and create its own grouping like a gallery.

"The galleries are dynamically created" says Chapman-

Coombs, “and there is no need to go from page to page.”

Chameleon uses Drupal, a content management system that allows Museum staff to edit on the site (for example, adding information, newspaper articles, correcting text or adding new photos). Even visitors to the site can post comments, which could help in identifying people, places and objects in the photos, and allow for a degree of interactivity. In this way, Chapman-Coombs has hoped to stimulate interest and to “get people on the hook”. Another unique feature of the site is that it is portable - it can be saved to a DVD and projected for example on a kiosk in a location like the Museum lobby. The public will also be able to order and purchase photos through the site.

The project would not have been possible without an able assistant. Parrish needed someone who had “good, strong computer skills, was quick, familiar with scanning, and proficient in Photoshop.” Fortunately, she had recently interviewed Chelsea Pielou for an alternate position at the Museum, and was aware that she possessed the required skills. She asked if Pielou would be interested in participating in the project; she accepted, and began the daunting task on June 16.

Although Pielou’s chief task to take the images of varying quality and size -some very faded or with rips, water stains, folds and dust damage-then photo edit and group them together, she also worked very closely with Chapman-Coombs. Both Parrish and Chapman-Coombs stated that Pielou was key to the success of the project, and commented that “Chelsea has done a brilliant job.” It took four months for Pielou to complete the project – a total of 360 hours.

Chapman-Coombs worked with the Museum from July to October perfecting the program. Because the cost of creating the program went over what was estimated, Chameleon decided to sponsor fifty percent the cost on behalf of the Museum. Now, since the prototype has been completed, a similar site could be created in 35 to 40 hours. The Museum for example, could have a whole new archive in days. This conforms with Sandra

Parrish’s wish to continue digitizing the Museum’s image collection and to create a larger site that encompasses the broader history of Northern Vancouver Island.

To view the logging history site, visit <http://gallery.crmuseum.ca/>, or click on the icon on the Campbell River Museum’s home page. ☒

*Screenshots by Andy Chapman-Coombs.*



# Endangered Archives Programme

Peter Johnson, *Chair, AABC Grants Committee*

## New Funding Opportunity for 2011 posted on AABC Website

The British Library's *Endangered Archives Programme*, funded by Arcadia, awards grants to researchers, archivists and librarians to identify, locate, assess, recover and transfer to an appropriate repository within the country of origin, neglected archival materials relating to its pre-modern period.

The EAP is normally concerned with non-western societies, but if material is located in a developed country where funding opportunities are severely restricted and the archival material is in an especially vulnerable condition, then applications would be considered on an individual basis. A relevant instance might be a strongly argued application for the recovery of significant, endangered archival material (broadly interpreted to include records, publications, aural and visual materials, etc.) scattered in non-public collections across a remote region of Canada.

Applications by Canadian researchers for grants related to the investigation and recovery of endangered archival materials located outside North America and Western Europe are considered on an equal basis with other similar applications.

Funds are available for Pilot projects (especially welcome under the EAP) to investigate the survival of archival collections on a particular subject, in a discrete region, or in a specific format; and for Major projects to locate relevant collections, arrange transfer to a suitable local archival home, and deliver copies to the British Library and a local institution for the benefit of researchers worldwide. A Preliminary Application must be submitted initially by all applicants.

The application deadline for 2010 has now passed, but for further information on the Programme, including a complete list of funded projects, application terms, guidelines, and forms, see <http://www.bl.uk/aboutpolicies/endangeredarch/homepage.html>. 

## AABC Financial Statements for 2009/10

Linda Nobrega, *AABC Treasurer*

It was suggested at the 2010 Annual General Meeting that the Executive Committee release the reviewed financial statements for 2009/10 and the approved budget for 2010/2011. Financial statements for the year are also made available to the AABC membership annually in the AGM package but as the statements are reviewed in August, this earlier release of the statements will allow members more time to review them before the next year's AGM.

Accordingly, to view the 2009/2010 financial statements and 2010/2011 budget, please go to <http://www.aabc.ca/financial2010.html>.

# Andornot Archives Starter Kit Update Released

Kathy Bryce, *Andornot*

**A**NDORNOT HAS JUST RELEASED an upgrade to the desktop version of our Andornot Archives Starter Kit. This was formerly known as Archives Online and is an add-on to Inmagic DB/TextWorks for managing archival accessions and descriptions.

The Archives Starter Kit is designed to allow quick and easy creation of databases for archival accessions and descriptions and is especially suited to small- and medium-sized archives with limited IT resources. It is designed to comply with the following archival standards:

- Canadian Rules for Archival Description (RAD)
- International Standard for Archival Description (ISAD)

The Archives Starter Kit includes ready to use databases for:

- Accessions
- Descriptions
- Contacts (i.e. donors, researchers suppliers, volunteers etc.)
- Research Requests
- Subject thesaurus populated with nearly 5,000 English terms from the Government of Canada Core Subject Thesaurus as of May 2010. These terms can be deleted or modified and are included to provide a starting point for building a local thesaurus.
- Name Access thesaurus
- Geographic Thesaurus which can be populated

with local provincial entries from the Geobase Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB).

- Profiles (to fill various forms with the institution address and contact names).

The databases can be adopted as-is, or customized for specific needs. They can also be augmented with other databases available through Andornot's mix and match options. For example, you can add

on databases managing artifacts, a library catalogue, donations, provenance, records management and more.

Reports include forms for printing deeds of gift or loan; hierarchical finding aids and an EAD XML report.

Our Archives Starter Kit—web version has also recently been updated. The web version allows you to create a web interface to your descriptive

data quickly and easily. While the web interface is based on the fields in the Archives Starter Kit fields it can be easily modified to use fields from any DB/TextWorks archival database instead. An alternate web interface is also available for schools or for organizations with just digitized resources, and features gallery style search results. We can also create a customized interface to suit your needs, and blend it with your website template or content management system.

Existing users of Archives Online version 2 and 3 may be able to upgrade for free. You will need a recent copy of DB/TextWorks—preferably the current version which is v12, however version 10 and up should also work. If you have an older version please contact us for upgrade



Menu Screen

pricing. If your databases or forms have been customized since your original purchase, these changes may need to be replicated or merged into the new version. Upgrade assistance is of course available on a consulting basis. Contact us to receive a copy of the upgrade instructions to see whether you would be able to handle this yourself or would need our help. Brad Morrison, Archives Manager for Sidney Museum & Archives recently upgraded from Archives Online version 2 purchased in 2003 and writes that “One of the marked improvements over the previous version is the Digital Asset data entry screen, wherein the ability now to satisfactorily catalogue, describe and view our photographic collection is becoming a significant asset in assisting our clientele. I just want to thank you again for developing and providing us with this useful archival tool which makes my day to day job so much easier to accomplish.”

For more details, please visit the news release on our blog at <http://www.andornot.com/blog/post/Andornot-Archives-Starter-Kit-update-released.aspx>. 

# AABC newsletter

ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Winter 2011

Issue 21, No. 1

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## President's Report

Janine Johnston, AABC President

**J**ANUARY AND February are very busy months for the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC). We are actively planning our services and projects for the upcoming year, writing and reviewing grant proposals, planning our annual conference held in April and recruiting for our executive and committee positions for the upcoming year. While this is a busy time for our volunteer executive and committee chairs, it is also satisfying to see the year's activities coming together.

We are happy to see how well the community is utilizing the provincial archival information network, MemoryBC . We have 183 institutions contributing archival descriptions to the network and 10,742 fonds have been published online as of early January. In December 2010, MemoryBC's software platform was upgraded to ICA-AtoM 1.1, which marks the first non-beta release of this software. This release has improved consistency and stability throughout the application, adding further developments to the administrative functions of the database, as well as refinements to the search page for new and updated records. Additionally, the upgrade has improved the data-entry fields for dates in archival descriptions, authority records and functions.

By piloting the ICA-AtoM software platform for MemoryBC, AABC has become a leader in the archival description revolution that is taking place in Canada. Archival networks in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario are now actively involved in projects to make ICA-AtoM the platform for their provincial databases and union lists. This is great news for the AABC since any investments made in developing tools or applications for ICA-AtoM will be felt across the country!

In addition to our conference, Networks and Archives/Networks in Archives, we anticipate that April 2011 will see the launch of our major initiative for this year: the ICA-AtoM Data Migration Project. This is a collaborative project between the AABC, Artefactual Systems Inc., Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and the Archives of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster. Together we are developing a migration tool and methodology for ICA-AtoM. This will make it easier and more affordable for institutions to import their databases

into ICA-AtoM and to use it as their institutional archival management system. We are pleased to have the National Archival Development Program (NADP) and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (IKBLC) supporting this important project.

As mentioned above, the AABC is now actively recruiting for Executive and Committee Chair positions for the 2011/12 fiscal year starting in April. You will see a list of available positions in this newsletter. AABC volunteer positions are a great way to gain further professional experience and to share your knowledge while giving back to the archival community. I hope you will consider these important volunteer opportunities!

## The AABC Needs YOU...

Peter Johnson,

AABC Nominations Committee

**T**HE AABC will need the willing support of several new volunteers as AABC officers, committee chairs, committee members, and regional representatives this year.

The Executive position of Treasurer falls vacant on April 29, 2011. This position is responsible for the Finance Committee and is a two-year term position. Elections for the Executive will be held at the AABC Conference Annual General Meeting on April 29, 2011

We are also seeking committee volunteers. The Membership Standing Committee and the ad hoc Conference Committee are both seeking Committee chairpersons, who will be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Additionally, Regional Representatives are also required for the Fraser Valley, Kootenay-Columbia and South Vancouver Island regions respectively.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact either Melanie Wallace at 604-822-9583 ([anglican-archives@vst.edu](mailto:anglican-archives@vst.edu)) or Peter Johnson at 604-502-6458 ([pnjohnson@surrey.ca](mailto:pnjohnson@surrey.ca)) to find out what is involved.

# South Vancouver Island Regional Group Going Strong

Sonia Nicholson, Evelyn Wolfe & Caroline Duncan, Saanich Archives

THE SOUTH Vancouver Island Regional Group (SVIRG) is a very active one where local archives - from small volunteer-run organizations to larger institutions - come together for a variety of activities. Saanich Archives has acted as the Regional Representative of the SVIRG since 2008 and has enjoyed the opportunity to enhance communication and cooperation between archives in the area.

As a way to explore archival and reference resources in the Greater Victoria area and to provide an opportunity for members to meet informally on a more regular basis, a series of field trips were organized for regional members to participate in. Initial field trips focused on local history and genealogy resources and included visits to the Victoria Family History Centre (Church of Latter Day Saints), the Victoria Genealogy Society Library and the local history room of the Central Library Branch, Greater Victoria Public Library. A regional meeting was held in May 2009 at Saanich Archives' new facility at the Saanich Centennial Library where participants were given a tour of the purpose-built facility followed by a talk by Rosaleen Hill on digitizing audio recordings. Nineteen archivists and volunteers from the region took advantage of the opportunity to exchange ideas and to ask questions on preservation and storage issues.

Further field trips focused on land title and map resources and included the Victoria Land Title Office and the Surveyor General Division of the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC. The fall meeting in 2009 was held at the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing Archives and was attended by representatives of the Girl Guide Archives, Saanich Pioneer Society, Royal BC Museum & Archives, Saanich Archives, Anglican Archives of BC, St Margaret's School Archives, Sisters of St Ann Archives and the Greater Victoria Public Library local history section. Bea Johnson of the Royal Jubilee

Hospital School of Nursing Archives gave a presentation on their oral history project which was followed by a talk by Liz Koolman on the history of the Pemberton Chapel. Attendees were given a tour of the archives and enjoyed tea in the garden.

By 2010, interest in the SVIRG activities was stronger than ever. The spring meeting was held at the Girl Guide Archives in honour of the Girl Guides centennial celebration. Representatives from twelve archival institutions attended, and discussions included methods of communication with the public, as well as general challenges. Attendees enjoyed a tour of the Girl Guide Archives followed by refreshments. Spring visits focused on school archives with visits to St Margaret's School Archives and St Michaels University School Archives. In the fall, group members met at and toured the Esquimalt Archives, where Sherri Robinson and Greg Evans spoke about the history of the archives as well as plans for Esquimalt's centennial in 2012. The theme for the fall field trips was church archives with visits to the Church of Our Lord Archives and the Anglican Diocese of BC Archives.

The feedback on the SVIRG field trips and meetings has been excellent, particularly from volunteer-run community archives. Participants appreciate the opportunity to share information and ideas. Many of us from smaller organizations are working in relative isolation and by meeting regularly with others who are facing the same issues and challenges we realize that our experiences are not unique and that support is out there. Organizing and running a group such as this one does not have to be complicated, and the benefits to the local archival community are significant.

## News from SLAIS: SLAIS to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Michelle Mallette, Student Services Coordinator, SLAIS, [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca)

**P**LANS ARE well underway for the 50th anniversary celebration of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS), to be held April 29 and 30, 2011. Details on the events can be found at <http://www.slais.ubc.ca/about/SLAIS-50.htm>; the page includes photos of faculty, staff, alumni and space, and there is an impressive photo showing the demolition of the original SLAIS quarters in the north wing of the Main Library.

There is also a regularly updated section on activities and celebrations, including a link to secure online purchase of tickets for the Gala Anniversary Dinner & Dance on April 30 at the Sutton Place Hotel. Only 300 tickets are available and we expect them to sell out so be sure to reserve yours so you can celebrate with alumni, friends of SLAIS and both current and past faculty and staff.

The SLAIS Alumni Association is coordinating the Distinguished Alumni Awards – ten will be presented at the dinner, including several to MAS graduates. The Association is also planning a fundraising silent auction as part of the evening's events, and is welcoming donations for this event, from gift cards to unique experiences and everything in between. If you would like to make a donation for the auction contact Jill Teasley at [jill.teasley@gmail.com](mailto:jill.teasley@gmail.com).

Keep up with news of the event, including weekly tweets of past gems uttered by SLAIS faculty, by following us on twitter ([@slais50](https://twitter.com/slais50)). And don't miss out on the 50th Anniversary's Virtual Memory Wall – visit <http://slaismemorywall.wordpress.com/> for a trip down memory lane, and be sure to make your own contribution of a memory, a photo, or a shoutout to friends and classmates.



SLAIS and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre in the snow.  
Photo: Michelle Mallette

# Société historique de Saint-Boniface Upgrades Archives Search Interface and Launches Voyageurs Contracts Database

Jonathan Jacobsen, Andornot Consulting (<http://www.andornot.com/>)

**T**HE CENTRE du patrimoine (Heritage Centre) of the Société historique de Saint-Boniface (<http://shsb.mb.ca/>) is an archive and research facility dedicated to the preservation, study, dissemination and development of Francophone and Metis history in Manitoba and Western Canada. The Heritage Centre holds more than 500 archival fonds documenting every facet of life from culture to commerce, education to politics and religion to the economy.

"The Centre du patrimoine - Heritage Centre decided to do a completely new web site two years ago. Our goal was to have a user friendly website both for the general public doing research and for the staff updating the various sections of the site. One of the main objectives was to use as much as possible the Web 2.0 features in the limits permitted by our budget and staff resources. We wanted to have those features integrated into the database search and results interfaces as much as possible," says Gilles Lesage, Directeur général of the Heritage Centre.



Screenshot showing search results in Societe historique de Saint-Boniface Archives database

## Archives Database

In the fall of 2010, Andornot Consulting merged and converted various archival databases to the latest version of the Andornot Archives Starter Kit – Desktop Edition. We then created a new web interface, in French, based on the Andornot Archives Starter Kit – Web Edition. The search results include images for some records, which are dynamically generated in several sizes by the Andornot Image Handler. A selection list allows researchers to mark records of interest, then email, save or print those records, or submit them to the Heritage Center to request additional information. All of these add-ons can be found on the Andornot website at <http://www.andornot.com/products/andornot-add-on-options.aspx>

Although the database and web interface are hosted by Andornot, it appears to users to be seamlessly integrated into the Historical Society's website, thanks to tight integration between the two systems. The search interface dynamically fetches the site header, footer and navigation menu from a blank page in the Drupal content management system used by the main website and wraps it around the database search and results pages. If the main website changes, the portion hosted by Andornot will always be up to date.

The new archival web interface is available at <http://archivesshsb.mb.ca/search.aspx>

## Voyageurs Contracts Database

The heritage Center also asked Andornot to develop a database and web search interface for a collection of 35,000 records of contracts between fur traders (Voyageurs) and companies engaged in the fur trade in Canada between 1700 and ca. 1822. Further

information and links to articles giving background information on the database is available at [http://shsb.mb.ca/engagements\\_voyageurs](http://shsb.mb.ca/engagements_voyageurs). The search interface is also available in French at <http://voyageurs.shsb.mb.ca/search.aspx>.

Search results are grouped by the name of the voyageur, showing the multiple contracts many voyageurs undertook. Additional information includes parishes of origin, hiring company, length of contract, destination(s), advances and wages, supplies, conditions of hire, date of signing and more. Eventually the Heritage Centre hopes to be able to include digitized images of these contracts.

The database was created from a FileMaker database converted to a custom-designed Inmagic textbase.

As with the archives web interface, the Voyageurs interface is hosted by Andornot, but tightly integrated with the Heritage Center's main website.

"We are very pleased with the quality of the database products, the special features Andornot was able to

integrate, the successful seamless integration into our main website and ease with which we were able to upgrade from our previous databases to this new solution. In the short time since these applications were made available online, the comments have been very positive. We were also happy to work with the Andornot people and impressed by their efficiency, attention to our goals and objectives and courteous service." says Gilles Lesage.

Andornot is delighted to have been able to assist the Heritage Centre to improve access to these important sets of historical records.



Screenshot of Voyageurs Contracts Database

## Best of the Web: Archives Edition

Sonia Nicholson, AABC Newsletter

This edition of Best of the Web highlights the site [canadiansoldiers.com](http://www.canadiansoldiers.com), "a comprehensive source regarding the organization, vehicles, weapons, uniforms, traditions, and insignia of Canadian soldiers in the 20th Century." This site can be especially helpful in dating military photographs, particularly for those of us who are not as familiar with the topic.

Individual subject pages include diagrams, photographs and detailed information useful for researchers and archivists interested in Canadian military history. The site describes itself as comprehensive, and indeed it is. The scope of information is broad, while the site itself is engaging and easy to navigate. This site is certainly one to bookmark for repeat reference use.

Visit this site at <http://www.canadiansoldiers.com>

*Do you know an interesting, useful and/or unique archives-related website that you would like to share with other Archives Association members? Send your suggestions of must-browse sites to the Newsletter Editor at [leah.pearse@gmail.com](mailto:leah.pearse@gmail.com). Be sure to include the URL and a brief summary.*

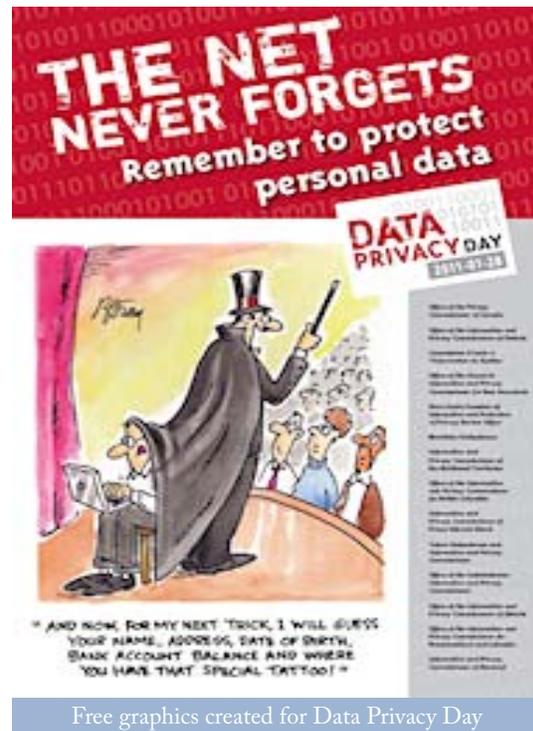
# International Data Privacy Day Presentation at the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia

Leah Pearse, AABC Newsletter

ON TUESDAY, January 25, 2011, various records managers, freedom of information and privacy officers, archivists and others attended a talk hosted by BC's Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham as part of a week-long celebration of Data Privacy Day. Data Privacy Day is an annual international celebration officially held on January 28 that aims to raise awareness and generate discussion about information privacy. To learn more about Data Privacy day, please visit the 2011 website at <http://dataprivacyday2011.org/>

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) was pleased to present Dr. Ben Goold, Associate Professor, UBC Faculty of Law who spoke on the topic of "Privacy, Democracy, and Institutional Trust: Why individual privacy should matter to government." Dr. Goold's major research interests include privacy rights, the use of surveillance technologies by the police and intelligence communities, as well as the rhetoric and language of human rights. His talk centered on the politics of privacy, particularly in relationship to his own studies into surveillance cameras installed in public areas and businesses around the United Kingdom. As an advocate for privacy, Goold outlined the tenuous balance between privacy, security and the efficient delivery of public services that compete in a post-911 world.

Goold found that when the large scale installation of surveillance devices were implemented in the UK, most of the public felt that the benefits of security vastly outweighed concerns about privacy infringement. He felt that there were three main reasons for this:



Free graphics created for Data Privacy Day

1. The public's growing concern of risk and the need to collect information to mitigate this;
2. The public's growing public preoccupation with security borne of a fear of crime; and
3. Easier to collect, store and transmit information today, so why not?

But what are the costs on the other side of these three arguments, asked Goold? His answer: trust. He feels that there is a tipping point where the public finally loses trust after it is gradually eroded away over time. News of major losses of private information reported in the media may help bring privacy issues into the public eye, but these warnings are rarely enough to effect significant change in the public's attitudes and practices.

Goold admitted that raising privacy concerns with the public is a difficult task. A common conception that many people hold is that they have nothing to hide so they have nothing to fear, but Goold points out that what people have to hide may change over time. For example, one's involvement in a pro-Islam march right before 911 would have felt like nothing to hide on September 10, but by September 12 one's feeling might have changed.

Goold often tells people that giving up privacy is giving up freedom of speech, because, as he said, how can one speak freely when you're conscious of being recorded? One of the talk's attendees also pointed out that privacy is choosing what you share and controlling what you share. As privacy workers, we can work to help educate the public on their rights to privacy and teach them about precautions they can take to safeguard their

personal information now and in the future.

*Read more about Dr. Goold and his research via UBC's Faculty of Law website at <http://www.law.ubc.ca/faculty/Goold/index.html>.*

*Read the press release "British Columbians Celebrate Data Privacy Day (24 Jan 2011)" from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia, which includes two fact sheets on protecting personal information on mobile devices for individuals and the workplace: [http://www.oipc.bc.ca/news/2011Releases/NR\\_DataPrivacyDay2011.pdf](http://www.oipc.bc.ca/news/2011Releases/NR_DataPrivacyDay2011.pdf).*

*On Page 8, there is one of the many free graphics created for Data Privacy Day that are available for download from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada at [http://www.priv.gc.ca/resource/dpd/2011/images\\_e.cfm](http://www.priv.gc.ca/resource/dpd/2011/images_e.cfm).*

## News from SLAIS: Students, Alumna Win Major Awards

Michelle Mallette, Student Services Coordinator, SLAIS, [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca)

SLAIS students and alumni continue to collect an impressive number of awards and honours. SLAIS was thrilled to learn that one of its Master of Arts in Children's Literature alumni, Wendy Phillips, received the Governor-General's Literary Award for Children's Literature. She was presented with the distinguished award at a gala dinner at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Wendy received the honour was for her young adult novel *Fishtailing*, published only last spring by Coteau Books. Wendy wrote the novel in verse as her creative writing thesis for the Master of Arts in Children's Literature at SLAIS. The award was presented as part of the 2010 Governor-General's Literary Awards ceremony honouring 14 authors and illustrators of Canadian literature for children and adults, in both French and English.

Current students are also earning accolades. For the first time since the scholarship's inception, ARMA Educational Foundation has awarded AIEF Graduate Scholarships to two SLAIS students in the same year. MAS student Jamie Sanford and Dual MAS/MLIS student Myron Groover have been awarded the 2010 ARMA International Educational Foundation (AIEF) Graduate Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a full-time student entering the second year of a graduate records and information management program or equivalent library science or archival studies program which contains a significant number of records management and information courses. The award was established to encourage the development of the international records and information management community, and SLAIS students have consistently been among the annual winners (several awards are available), but this is the first time two SLAIS students received the award at the same time.

# CCA Releases Brief on Canadian Copyright

Leah Pearse, AABC Newsletter

ON JANUARY 31, 2011, the Canadian Council of Archives submitted a brief on Canadian copyright to the Legislative Committee on Bill C-32 and requested an opportunity to appear before the Committee on behalf of the Canadian archival community to speak to the issues that are of concern to our profession and our work.

Ian Forsyth, University Archivist/Coordinator of Information and Privacy at Simon Fraser University, described this brief in his post on the Arcan-1 listserv thusly: "The analysis and suggested improvements to Bill C-32 contained in this brief would make it a better law to administer copyright for unpublished works, thereby enabling archives and archivists to preserve and make accessible unique and valuable resources for use by Canadians and users beyond our national borders.

The CCA brief has six sections which address, in turn:

- Unpublished photographs and other unpublished works;
- Photographs;
- Orphan works;
- Technological protection measures (TPMs);
- Rights management information; and
- Internet service provider (ISP) liability.

To read the Brief from the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) To The Legislative Committee on Bill C-32 (CC32) in its entirety, please visit the Copyright Committee's page on the CCA website at [http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/copycomm\\_rep.html](http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/copycomm_rep.html).

Though archivists have lobbied about Crown Copyright for some time, it is not part of Bill C-32 and is therefore not in this current CCA brief. Ian Forsyth pointed

archivists to some resources on Crown Copyright, including a Government of Canada Publications announcement (<http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/news/whatsNew.html>) from December 3, 2010 that is published on its website that addresses Crown Copyright. This announcement said:

Great news! Crown Copyright and Licensing (CCL) is pleased to announce that permission to reproduce Government of Canada works is no longer required, in part or in whole, and by any means, for personal or public non-commercial purposes, or for cost-recovery purposes, unless otherwise specified in the material you wish to reproduce.

To read more detailed information describing when permission is not required and when it is still required with regards to Crown Copyright, please visit [http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/ccl/aboutCrownCopyright.html#permission\\_not\\_required](http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/ccl/aboutCrownCopyright.html#permission_not_required).

## Networks and Archives/Networks in Archives: AABC Conference 2011

**Friday, April 29, 2011 – Saturday, April 30, 2011**

**Irving K. Barber Learning Centre**

**University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC**

**AABC Conference 2011 Planning Committee**

The Archives Association of British Columbia will hold its 2011 annual conference in Vancouver at the UBC Irving K. Barber Centre on April 29th and 30th. The theme of the 2011 conference is “Networks and Archives/Networks in Archives.”

Social, intellectual and technical networks define today’s society. Networks:

- Increase access to education and resources needed to manage information and cultural assets;
- Build awareness of archival holdings in and among diverse communities; and
- Reach new audiences by using new technologies, such as social networking tools.

The 2011 AABC conference will explore the development and use of networks of all kinds by memory institutions and the people who work with them. We are pleased to announce that Daniel Caron, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, will be giving a keynote address at the conference. The conference will include pre-conference workshops on the preceding two days (April 27th and 28th).

Details about the conference, the pre-conference workshops and registration will be coming shortly. Please visit the conference page on the AABC website at <http://aabc.ca/conference.html>.

# Archives Embrace Open Source Software – Can Records Management?\*

Corinne Rogers and Elizabeth Shaffer,

Graduate Research Assistants, InterPARES 3 Project

**O**PEN SOURCE software can be freely used, modified and redistributed through access to its source code. It is defined by the license that makes it available to the public, which at a minimum, must allow access to the source code, not just compiled versions of the code. Users must also be able to modify the code and redistribute the modified versions (derivatives). A key requirement of all open-source licenses is that a user must not redistribute the code under terms that are more restrictive than those under which it was originally released. Because the code is freely available, development tends to be collaborative, and the distribution mechanism is not based on licensing fees imposed by a commercial distributor.

The library and archival communities have embraced open source software for digital preservation. Projects for developing open source tools are beginning to coalesce into stable, long-term national and multi-national undertakings. In the U.S., many leading institutions have developed and distributed open source tools for digital preservation, including repository software and tools for format identification and validation. The Library of Congress, which released its first open-source tool in 2008, recently announced the establishment of new internal procedures for streamlining the process of creating open-source software, in order to “allow the Library and its partners to more fully participate in the open source development community.” Additionally, a number of British, European and Australian projects have developed or are currently developing tools and frameworks that support open-source repository software use and development. In Canada, a project is underway to design an OAIS-based preservation system that

integrates a suite of open-source tools and makes them available via a single user interface.

In contrast, open source software has made very few inroads into the world of records management. Until recently, electronic records management systems have been exclusively proprietary. Why is this?

## **1. Archives are collaborative, records management is institution-based**

Redundancy is becoming one of the cornerstones of digital preservation. Redundancy means that one institution can preserve the digital objects of another institution, either at the same time for the sake of backup and security or as a successor organization in the event the original repository ceases to exist. The popular repository software LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) is built around the premise that a consortium of institutions, preferably no fewer than seven, work together using the same systems to preserve, back up and provide public access to each other's content. Many other preservation projects are collaborative. This type of collaborative environment favours the development and use of open-source software.

In contrast, records management programs typically work in isolation. Inter-institutional sharing of records for the purposes of providing redundant storage and care of active records is rare because of security and privacy concerns, and since planning for permanent preservation is not the focus of a records management program, successor planning (i.e., designating another institution to take custody and control of the records in the event the originating institution ceases to exist) is rarely considered.

## **2. ERMS software development is lucrative**

Many organizations which might never consider putting money into an archival program are required by practical and legal considerations to manage their electronic records. This means that there is a much larger pool of potential clients for private companies developing proprietary software. In fact, proprietary software for electronic records management has reached a high level of maturity. Only the largest of archives, however, have the resources to pay potentially millions of dollars for software licenses. Electronic records management system (ERMS) implementations require anyone within an organization who creates and uses records to have a desktop license to interact with the records repository; an archives may need only a few specialized staff to interact with a digital preservation system. The differences in expenditure for software licenses mean that commercially licensing ERMS software is highly lucrative while commercially licensing digital repository software may be hardly worth the effort.

## **3. Active records are not considered cultural assets**

Archives and libraries hold cultural assets. In practical terms, this means that they often receive government funding, typically in the form of short-term grants that require outputs that will provide a general benefit to society, such as the production of new software tools that can be shared freely with others. However, organizations that hold records for the purposes of conducting their daily business and meeting their legal obligations are not perceived as providing an immediate, tangible cultural benefit to society at large through their records. Therefore, they must come up with their own money, removing any incentive to develop tools that can be shared for free with other organizations.

## **4. ERMS systems are integrated with other software products**

In digital preservation, the digital objects are removed from their originating systems and placed in the custody and control of the preserver. The preserving archives may have a well established culture of using non-standard, niche and open-source tools to accomplish its tasks because its activities are highly specialized. ERMS

software, on the other hand, is by necessity tightly integrated with the operating systems, office products and other software tools used by the parent institution. Managers may feel that an open-source product is not a good fit with the existing software environment and IT departments may be unwilling to support software that does not have the backing of large, well established and familiar software vendors.

Good electronic records management supports the creation and maintenance of authentic records capable of long term preservation. In many organizations, the lack of electronic records management capability can be one of the most serious impediments to creating, maintaining and preserving authentic electronic records. For archives receiving electronic records, verifying the authenticity of records generated outside an ERMS is a daunting challenge. The shared network drives of even a small organization may contain tens or hundreds of thousands of poorly identified, disorganized, fragmented and redundant documents and records. However, commercially available electronic records management systems tend to be prohibitively expensive, both in licensing fees and in integration and training costs.

The recent emergence of several open-source ERMS tools appears to offer the possibility that resource-poor organizations will be able to implement good electronic recordkeeping while avoiding heavy software licensing and integration costs, relying on publicly available developer support and a community of users for assistance. It remains to be seen if the collaborative atmosphere that has led to the success of open source tools in libraries and archives can successfully be transferred to the business model of organizational records management.

*\*This article derives from a general study of open source software for records management conducted as part of the InterPARES 3 Project (International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems) at the University of British Columbia. The authors are doctoral students in the School of Library, Archives and Information Studies at UBC and graduate research assistants for InterPARES 3.*

# University of Victoria Archives Accepts \$26,000 Gift from Victoria Foundation for Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association Fonds

Lara Wilson, University Archivist, University of Victoria Archives

LARA WILSON, University Archivist at the University of Victoria (UVic), is pleased to convey to the community that the Victoria Foundation has awarded UVic Libraries a \$26,000 grant to complete the digitization, translation and on-line presentation of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) fonds, housed at UVic Archives.

Founded in 1884, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association was a crucial force in Victoria's immigrant history. The oldest Association of its kind in North America, the CCBA was an active participant in Canadian life, struggling to build an inclusive society and to gain individual and group rights for people of Chinese origin. UVic Archives holds CCBA records from 1884 to 1923, which mark a difficult era for Chinese immigrants, when the completion of the Trans-Canada Railroad in 1885 threw thousands out of work. At the same time, the Canadian government instituted the "Head Tax," and anti-Chinese riots broke out in several Canadian cities. The majority of Canada's Chinese population was based in Victoria, which became the centre of the immigrants' struggle for human rights.

In 2006, portions of the CCBA material were selected and digitized through a partnership project with Simon Fraser University and Multicultural Canada. 55 documents were scanned and translated at that time and are available on the University Library website at <http://www.library.uvic.ca/site/lib/dig/Chinese-Canadian.html>. Those present at the New Years' dinner and funding announcement were Dean Fortin (Mayor of Victoria), Christopher Causton (Mayor of Oak Bay), Carol James (MLA Victoria), Denise Savoie (MP Victoria), Murray

Coell (MLA Saanich and the North Islands) and Ida Chong (MLA Oak Bay Gordon Head).

*List of the elected Directors, Vice Directors, Councilors and Contribution Councilors for the appeal to abolish the discriminating laws and to establish the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association by the merchants in Victoria, dating from 1884. (University of Victoria Archives, 1977-084.1.1.4)*



(University of Victoria Archives, 1977-084.1.1.4)

## News from SLAIS: ACA@SLAIS – International Symposium Held at Barber Centre

Michelle Mallette, Student Services Coordinator, SLAIS, [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca)

**T**HE SLAIS student chapter of the Association of Canadian Archivists held an international symposium at the Barber Centre at UBC on February 11. The students sought to engage custodians of the world documentary heritage in an interdisciplinary dialogue about the preservation of its newest forms and expressions. The topic was inspired by current issues in social media, the web, and mobile communications, which are producing a documentary heritage quite different from the traditional one. In advance of the symposium, two days of seminars were planned to give students and guests an opportunity to engage less formally and wrestle with some of the knotty issues surrounding mobile communications, social media, and heritage. The proceedings from this event will be published at <http://www.slais.ubc.ca/people/students/student-groups/aca/symposium2011/proceedings.html>.

*Upper Right: Seminar led by Marnie Burnham and Ewa Piorko from Library and Archives Canada. Several seminars exclusively for students and faculty were hosted during the days before the Symposium.*

*Lower Right: ACA@UBC Coordinator, Ellie Kim, speaking at the Symposium.*



Seminar led by Marnie Burnham and Ewa Piorko.  
Photo: ACA@UBC



Ellie Kim, speaking at the Symposium.  
Photo: ACA@UBC

# InterPARES: Update on Survey Results & Products You Can Use

Cindy McLellan, Graduate Research Assistant, InterPARES 3 Project

**T**HE RESULTS are in from the survey on Acquiring and Preserving Digital Records in Small and Medium-sized Archives in Canada. Now, analysis is being conducted on the answers given by 93 respondents. InterPARES GRAs Cindy McLellan, Shamin Malmas and Anneleen van Dijk would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. In the next issue of the AABC Newsletter look for an article summarizing and analyzing the results of this national survey.

Now that some products are completed, a change has been made to the InterPARES 3 website to make it easier to find them. Generic versions of products made for specific Case or General Studies will all be made available for download in the 'Products' section of the InterPARES 3 Project website. Currently, the generic version of the educational outreach brochures and the digital records acquisition policy from the North Vancouver Museum & Archives (NVMA) Case Study can be found in the 'Products' section under 'Education Modules' at [http://www.interpares.org/ip3/ip3\\_products.cfm?item=1](http://www.interpares.org/ip3/ip3_products.cfm?item=1).

Check back to the Products section of the InterPARES 3 Project website for additional products in the near future. Several General Case Studies (such as the Policy and Procedures Templates General Study) will soon post products on this website as well. Please use, share, disseminate and modify any of these products to suit your needs and make your job easier.

# AABC newsletter

ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Spring 2011

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## President's Report

Jane Morrison, *AABC President*

**T**HIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER comes hard on the heels of our annual general meeting and conference, so I would like to start by thanking the outgoing executive members President Janine Johnston, Treasurer Linda Nobrega and interim Individual Member-at-Large Corinne Rogers for their many hours of work; it was a pleasure to be on the executive with them. Our complete 2011–12 executive other than myself is: Courtney Mumma as Vice-President (President 2012–13), Christine Gergich as Treasurer, Jennifer Pecho continuing as Secretary, Deidre Brocklehurst as Individual Member-at-Large and Peter Johnson continuing as Institutional Member-at-Large.

The conference “Networks and Archives/Networks in Archives” held on April 29th and 30th was a great success. Thanks to the conference committee comprised of Jill Teasley, Corinne Rogers, Alexandra Allen, Nicole Stocking and Elizabeth Shaffer. Many thanks as well to the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the University of British Columbia for its generous hosting of the conference and annual general meeting again this year. The conference committee lined up a program of sensitive, thoughtful, entertaining and information-packed sessions. If anyone is interested in participating in the 2012 conference committee (location to be determined), please contact Deidre Brocklehurst.

We are looking ahead this year to the continuing development of MemoryBC/ICA-AtOM, to renewing our website and considering membership issues. AABC course offerings over the coming year include three Distance Education courses: from Education Advisory Services, Managing Plans and Drawings, and Oral History: From Theory to Practice; and from Preservation Services, Introduction to Archival Preservation. Exact dates are not yet set for these offerings, but look for them starting in the fall. The Preservation and Education Advisory co-ordinators will be developing a two-day workshop on Oral History/Audio Tapes: Archival Best Practice, which will then be taught in subsequent years.

I think we have a strong AABC team in place with our executive, contractors and committees. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Best wishes for a pleasant summer.

I'm looking forward to another successful year for the AABC. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding our association feel free to contact me at any time. ☒

## Best of the Web: Archives Edition

Sonia Nicholson, *AABC Newsletter*

As archives professionals, we consult a wide range of reference material in both traditional and increasingly in digital formats. Many of these sources, however, are not actually directly related to archival institutions and organizations. One such example is BCPL8S.ca, a comprehensive site on British Columbia license plate history. Visitors can select from an extensive list of plate types—from passenger and motorcycle to various specialty plates. Within each category, images of license plates are arranged in date order, which allows one to quickly notice the differences from year to year, and are accompanied by background information and other details. The site can be of considerable use in dating photographs containing vehicles.

BCPL8S.ca was the recipient of a British Columbia Historical Federation 2001 History Web Site Award.

Interest piqued? Explore the site for yourself at <http://www.bcpl8s.ca/>.

*Do you know an interesting, useful and/or unique archives-related website that you would like to share with other Archives Association members? Send your suggestions of must-browse sites to the Newsletter Editor at [leah.pearse@gmail.com](mailto:leah.pearse@gmail.com). Be sure to include the URL and a brief summary.*

## Networks in Archives / Networks and Archives AABC Conference 2011: A Success! Corinne Rogers, *Conference Committee and AABC Executive (term ended April 2011)*

The annual conference of the AABC took place at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre on April 29th and 30th. This year's theme of Networks and Networking was a timely one, and Canada's archival networks were represented at all levels of government. The priority in the profession of building cooperative networks was evidenced in sessions such as the Reciprocal Research Network, which introduced the possibilities for linking diverse collections such as those that exist in First Nations and Museum archives, and Cooperative Acquisition Strategies, prompting excellent discussion among BC archivists. Keynote speakers Sean Berrigan and Jean-Stéphan Piché introduced the importance of networks and networking at Library and Archives Canada, and Elizabeth Denham, Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC, offered closing remarks following a panel discussion with archivists working in federal, provincial, municipal, First Nations, university and community archives. Two pre-conference workshops, Managing Photographic Media, and Archivemata Digital Preservation Workshop, rounded out the program for four informative and inspiring days. Thank you to the conference committee, the Executive, our volunteers, and of course, presenters and attendees! Grateful thanks also to our sponsors: Andornot, Artefactual Systems, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, City of Vancouver, Royal BC Museum, SLAIS, SFU, UBC Library Vault, Vancouver School of Theology and University of Victoria.

See everyone next year! ☒

# Truth and Reconciliation Commission—National Research Centre Forum

Christopher Hives, *University of British Columbia Archives*

**I**N EARLY MARCH, I attended the three-day National Research Centre forum in Vancouver sponsored by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The primary objective of the forum was to discuss and explore issues and options in the preservation of the records created and collected through the work of the TRC and, in particular, the recorded testimonials solicited from survivors of the Indian residential schools and their families.

## Indian Residential Schools—Background

Begun in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the Indian Residential Schools system represented a Canadian government initiative to deal with what had been characterized as the “Indian problem.” Funded by the federal government and operated by a number of religious organizations, the schools focussed on “civilizing” and “Christianizing” aboriginal youth so that they might be more easily assimilated into Canadian society. Between 1870 and 1969 when the program formally ended (although the last school did not close until the 1990s), it is estimated that more than 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children were largely compelled to attend the 130 residential schools operated throughout the country.

After attendance at residential schools became mandatory in the 1920s, government agents often forcibly removed young children from their families and communities, relocating them to facilities hundreds of miles from their villages where they remained for a minimum of ten months of the year. The children came to institutions where they were often referred to only by their assigned number and residential school staff

sought to extinguish all traces of their indigenous culture and traditions by whatever means necessary. Students attending the residential schools were punished for speaking their native language and often fed a diet of foods quite unfamiliar to them. Many of the children at the schools endured physical, psychological and sexual abuse at the hands of those entrusted with their care.

Inadequate operating funds for residential schools often resulted in the children having to engage in a variety of chores to help maintain those facilities. Limited funding also resulted in sub-standard living conditions as some overcrowded school buildings lacked adequate heating, sanitation and ventilation systems; this gave rise to outbreaks of various infectious diseases resulting in high mortality rates among the students. It is little wonder that in light of their treatment and the harsh physical conditions numerous students attempted to escape to return to their families and villages. Unfortunately all too often, these efforts ended tragically and contributed to the high mortality rates.

The removal of children from the First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities and the significant physical distances involved often resulted in the substantial weakening or entire destruction of parent-child relationships. Children lacked the opportunity to experience a nurturing, healthy family life or to develop the skills necessary for successful parenting. The abuse endured by many of the survivors of the residential schools often repeated itself within their own families. As a method of coping, many turned to alcohol and drugs to help deal with the situation.

As profound as these experiences must have been for the students themselves, the impact of residential schools, unfortunately, spread far beyond them. Parents, family members and communities from whom the children were taken were deprived of the opportunity to enjoy watching an entire generation grow, learn and come of age. This is particularly significant for societies where the inter-generational transfer of traditions, culture, languages and spirituality largely through the oral traditions is so important.

### Truth and Reconciliation Commission

In the 1990s, the churches that operated the residential schools began to offer formal apologies for their roles in the operation of the residential schools. About this time, former students also began to speak out about their treatment and many hundreds of individual law suits quickly followed. Criminal charges were laid against sexual abusers and a class-action suit was filed against the churches and the federal government. Extensive negotiations eventually gave rise to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) between representatives of former students, the churches, federal government, Assembly of First Nations and other aboriginal organizations in 2006. Amongst other things, the settlement provided for the creation of a compensation fund of at least \$1.9 billion for former students and the creation of an Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Officially established in 2008, the TRC (currently comprised of Justice Murray Sinclair, Chief Wilton Littlechild and Marie Wilson) has a five-year mandate to complete its ambitious work.

Broadly speaking, the mandate of the Commission is to develop an accurate assessment of the nature and impact of the treatment endured by residential school survivors to help them and their families better understand and contextualize their experiences. This is being done through the identification and collection of copies of historical documents held by those institutions that operated and funded the schools, solicitation of input from school administrators and staff as well as through

the recorded testimonials provided by former students and their families. This important documentation, and in particular, the testimonials of former students, is to be gathered together and preserved permanently in a National Research Centre for the survivors, their families and all of Canadian society so that this episode in our history is not forgotten and is never allowed to happen again.

### National Research Centre Forum

To help shape their recommendations for the creation and operation of a permanent National Research Centre, the TRC convened a forum in Vancouver March 1–3, 2011 where participants included advocates, archivists and residential school survivors. The forum featured an outstanding roster of international speakers from South Africa, Serbia, Rwanda, Germany, Chile, Australia, Guatemala, Spain, United States, East Timor, Bangladesh, Peru, New Zealand, Sudan and Canada. The presenters spoke eloquently on their own experiences with documentation as it related to genocide and human rights violations, truth and reconciliation commissions in their countries, challenges in the collection of information necessary to pursue criminal prosecution and the importance of establishing commemorative centres to both promote healing within and between communities, as well as to keep the experiences within the public eye.

Here is a summary of just a few of the many presentations. Archivist Trudy Huskcamp Peterson gave a very interesting overview and analysis of the records and their treatment of truth commissions held in some 45 countries out of about 145 countries in the world. Director of the Kalali Genocide Memorial Freddy Mutanguha spoke about the role of his facility in documenting events in Rwanda, the site of one of the world's worst modern-day genocides. Mutanguha, who lost his parents and four sisters during the three months of fighting between Hutu and Tutsi tribesmen, stressed the importance of collecting and displaying archival materials "to help our children understand the past and for all to have a better future." Catherine

Kennedy, Director of the independent South African History Archive, a Johannesburg-based human rights archive, discussed the difficulties presented by apartheid-sympathetic governments in their attempts to locate and open the archives of the South African Truth Commission. She indicated that gaps in the documentary record make it difficult to get at the “truth,” which in turn impacts negatively on efforts of reconciliation. Other presentations touched on efforts and issues associated with the documentation of First Nations communities in the United States and Canada. At a couple of points during the proceedings, forum participants also had the opportunity to hear some incredibly moving testimonials from survivors of our residential schools.

The quality of presentations from the opening to the conclusion of the three day event was outstanding. As I can't even begin to do justice to the scope of the important information shared during the event, I would invite anyone interested in this topic to check out the webcast recordings of the forum presentations at: <http://www.trc-nrc.ca/websites/NRC/index.php?p=181>.

What really resonated for me when listening to the presentations was the centrality of records and their proper management in safeguarding fundamental human rights, providing people with the opportunity for healing, understanding and reconciliation, and perhaps even in some cases ensuring the successful pursuit of legal redress against those responsible for criminal atrocities. The importance of identifying, locating, preserving and providing access to records in these contexts is obvious and certainly provides a different way of looking at the roles of records than might be familiar to many of us in our archival settings.

The TRC commissioners undoubtedly face myriad challenges in their deliberations over options for the development of a National Research Centre to house, preserve and provide access to an accurate and comprehensive historical record of the operation and impact of the residential schools. Arguably, there

are both pros and cons to the establishment of a single, monolithic repository/memorial as there are with the development of a decentralized physical or virtual network. My personal hope is that there is an opportunity for some sort of a decentralized model. Notwithstanding the ubiquitous nature of technology, it seems to me that there would be particular advantages to ensuring that the testimonials offered by residential school survivors and their families be physically housed in the regions in which the interviewees lived to ensure that they would not have to travel significant distances to access the original recordings if that were their wish. In addition, the development of a regionally focussed approach may well provide the catalyst or core around which a dynamic collection of knowledge and information will continue to grow into the future.

After spending three days at the National Research Centre forum I came away with a much better understanding of the complex issues confronting the TRC in pursuit of its ambitious mandate. The Commission is certainly to be commended on its extensive consultation with various communities and constituencies as well as its recognition of the importance of engaging in discussions with those experienced in the preservation of archival records. It seems to me that the work of the TRC and, in particular, the establishment of a permanent repository for its records and the recorded testimonials of residential school survivors will be of considerable interest to the Canadian archival community. ☒

# Ocean Falls Project: A BC Archives Success Story

Claire E. Gilbert, *Archivist, British Columbia Archives*

**2**010 WAS AN EXCITING YEAR for the British Columbia Archives at the Royal BC Museum as we completed an appraisal, arrangement and description project twenty-five years in the making.

The Ocean Falls Project focused a team of four, under the direction of a Project Manager, on the appraisal, arrangement and description, conservation and rehousing of a multiple media fonds accessioned by the BC Archives from the townsite of Ocean Falls, British Columbia. The fonds totaled approximately 170m of records of the Ocean Falls Corporation and its predecessor companies, which had been transported to Victoria from Ocean Falls via sea barge in late fall 1985. Piled in a stack, end-to-end, the records would be 6 times the height of the Netherlands Carillon Tower.

The project was funded through the Taylor Trust, a trust established in 1979 in the will of Geoffrey Wilson Taylor. Mr. Taylor was an accountant by training who had a keen interest in business history in British Columbia, authoring a number of books on the subject. Upon his death in 1992 the BC Archives had become one of the main beneficiaries of his estate, receiving a bequest in excess of \$540,000. Of this Trust, \$150,000 was made available for this specific project—the first time the Archives had used any of the money.

The project took place over 8 months and was a great opportunity for the BC Archives to once again step into an educational leadership role, hiring two co-op students from the School of Library Archives and Information Studies (SLAIS) at the University of British Columbia to fill the roles of Archives Technicians, as well as hiring a contract Project Archivist and contract Conservator (also a student).





Opposite Page  
Top: Ocean Falls Project workspace  
Bottom: Water damaged plans

This Page  
Left: Beth in fume hood  
Right: Organized chaos

Photos by Claire E. Gilbert

The largest challenge of this project were the records themselves—there was no comprehensive inventory of the collection and no comprehensive conservation reports. A few research requests had been processed in recent years, in relation to litigation and maintenance of the power dam, but only small file lists of the physical contents of boxes had been made on these occasions. No intellectual arrangement existed and one was left to assume that damage to the records occurred before, en route (i.e. on barge) or upon arrival in Victoria.

This project was also intended to establish best practices and guidelines for the BC Archives to undertake similar projects in the future. Working against Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) guidelines, and in reference to the MPLP (More Product, Less Process) approach, goals and objectives were challenged, proved, amended and reported for future reference. Further, mobile shelving, laptop computers and an organized processing space was established within the precinct for use in future initiatives.

The project's success is due, in great part, to the skills of the project staff. They showed a commitment to learning about Ocean Falls the place and a determination to work through the dirt and the mould, as well as a great team spirit which they embodied to meet all challenges head on.

As Project Manager, this project served as a challenge and an opportunity to process records that had plagued me for the previous eight years while working as a reference archivist. Before completion of this project, an inquiry into the records could take days to answer – and that was if you knew “sort of, kind of” how things were arranged. Now this collection is available to researchers on a much more broad level with an item level inventory of over 19, 434 architectural drawings/plans, over 3,000 photos and 177 containers of textual records, as well as an intellectual association between all of its parts.

The Ocean Falls Corporation was dissolved by Order-in-Council No. 606 in March 1986. The Ocean Falls Corporation fonds was completed and available for consultation on September 12, 2010.

For further readings on the MPLP process, please consult the following resources:

“More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing”. Mark A Greene and Dennis Meissner. *The American Archivist*, Vol. 68 (Fall/Winter 2005) : p.208-263.

“Accessioning as Processing”. Christine Weideman. *The American Archivist*, Vol. 69 (Fall/Winter 2006) : p.274-283. ☒

## News from SLAIS

Michelle Mallette, *SLAIS Student Services Coordinator*, [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca)

**S**LAIS ALUMNI, FACULTY AND FRIENDS put on the ritz and spent a weekend reminiscing and reconnecting as they gathered in Vancouver to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the School. Events were held both at UBC and in downtown Vancouver April 29–30. The weekend began with a reception at UBC, where UBC President Stephen Toope congratulated the faculty, staff, students and alumni on the accomplishments since 1961, noting how the School continually revived and renewed itself over 50 years, embracing the growing impact of information and records management, archives and technology, children's literature and digital literacy and expanding its offerings and research contributions accordingly. Alumni of the School also spoke, including UBC University Archivist Chris Hives, UBC University Librarian Ingrid Parent, Vancouver City Librarian Sandra Singh, and Janet Giltrow, UBC Faculty of Arts Associate Dean of Students, as well as Irving K. Barber and SLAIS Director Caroline Haythornthwaite.

Alumni, employers and newly admitted students crowded into SLAIS at an Open House on April 30 to find out what SLAIS has to offer today, from research topics to co-op employment opportunities. Nearly 100 attended this event which was held at the top of the Irving K. Barber Centre on the UBC Campus, where SLAIS relocated in February 2008.

That evening, 200 gathered at the Sutton Place Hotel to celebrate the 10 recipients of the 50th Anniversary SLAIS Alumni Service & Leadership Awards. SLAIS Director Caroline Haythornthwaite presented Sam Rothstein, the founding Director of SLAIS, with a special medal honouring his status as the “founding father” of the School in 1961. Caroline also announced a new scholarship in Sam Rothstein's name, which will be used to recognize students who demonstrate innovation and foresight. She then welcomed each of the School's

past directors: Sam Rothstein, Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Ken Haycock, Edie Rasmussen and interim director Terry Eastwood. Over the four-course meal, each director introduced and presented awards to two winners of the SLAIS Alumni Leadership & Service Awards. For the 50th anniversary, the winners were Ann Curry, Master of Library Science; Elizabeth Denham, Master of Archival Studies; Sarah Ellis, Master of Library Science; Dean Giustini, Master of Library Science; Cate McNeely, Master of Library Science; Laura Millar, Master of Archival Studies; Ingrid Parent, Bachelor of Library Science; Judith Saltman, Bachelor of Library Science; Shelley Sweeney, Master of Archival Studies; and Peter Van Garderen, Master of Archival Studies. 1962 alumna Joss Halverson (BLS) and current student Leah Hopton (MLIS) were the final speakers as they led the 200 attendees in toasts to the past and to the future. The SLAIS Alumni Association, led by MACL alumna Kathie Shoemaker, raised funds for the SLAIS Scholarship Fund with a silent auction and the evening culminated with music and dancing, courtesy of DJ and SLAIS alumnus Randy Gatley.

### SLAIS Welcomes Newest Faculty Member

SLAIS is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Giovanni Michetti as an Assistant Professor, effective January 1, 2012. Dr. Michetti joins the SLAIS faculty from the University of Rome, where he is Assistant Professor of Archival Science at the Special School for Archivists and Librarians, now part of the Department of Documentation Science, Linguistics, Philology and Geography. He holds a Ph.D. in archival science from the University of Rome, where he has been a faculty member since 2004. As an archivist he developed the Italian version of the standard Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standard, worked with public institutions to address issues raised by changing documentary objects and process, and has conducted research on archival legislation. His research interests

Photos from the SLAIS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event





From start, left to right: Terry Eastwood, MAS program founder and emeritus professor; Chris Hives with Elizabeth Denham; Shelley Sweeney; UBC President Stephen Toope, SLAIS Director Caroline Haythornthwaite, and Irving K. "Ike" Barber; Kelley Stewart, Jennifer Yuhasz and Jill Teasley; Former SLAIS director Basil Stuart-Stubbs and Prof. Luciana Duranti; SLAIS Alumni Leadership & Service Award winners with Caroline Haythornthwaite ; Marnie Burnham, John Pisacreta, Holly Yoo, Caitlin Webster, Robert Helms and Jana Buhlmann.  
-- Photos by Don Erhardt, UBC

focus on digital preservation and records management, and his teaching areas range from markup languages in archival functions to cryptography and informatics. He will be at SLAIS this summer, teaching Advanced Arrangement & Description in July and August, before returning to Rome for the fall, and formally joining the faculty in January.

#### Awards for SLAIS Faculty, Alumni & Students

The SLAIS community continues its impressive record of success in earning awards. Faculty member Dr. Victoria Lemieux earned an Outstanding Paper Award at the 2011 Literati Awards for Excellence for her article, "The Records-risk Nexus: Exploring the Relationship Between Records and Risk," published in *Records Management Journal*, Vol. 20, no. 2. Graduating MAS student Patrick Ansah and visiting Ph.D. student Umi Asma Mohktar, from University of Malaysia, have been chosen as the 2011 recipients of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Award from the Society of American Archivists. Established in 1979, the award is presented to an archivist from outside of the United States and who is already in North America, to support attendance

at the SAA Annual Meeting. Patrick came to SLAIS from Ghana to pursue the Master of Archival Studies. He has recently completed his MAS program, and will be conferred the degree at the convocation ceremonies in May. Umi is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Malaysia, and is a visiting student in the doctoral program at SLAIS. Kelly Lau, a student in the Dual MAS/MLIS program at SLAIS, won the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Ward from SAA, in support of minority students attending the annual meeting. It's the first time a SLAIS student has won this award. All three winners will receive their awards August 26 at the SAA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Finally, SLAIS adjunct faculty member Maggie deVries won the 2011 Sheila Egoff Award for Children's Literature for her recent novel, *Hunger Journeys*, published by HarperCollins Canada. Maggie is at SLAIS this summer, teaching LIBR 524 Writing, Publishing and the Book Trade for Children. ☒

# AABC Data Migration Toolkit Project

Peter Van Garderen, *Artefactual Systems*

## Project Overview

The AABC Data Migration Toolkit project is a collaboration between the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC), Artefactual Systems, the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster Archives, Simon Fraser University Archives, the University of Victoria Archives, and the University of Northern British Columbia Archives to migrate data from their current archival description systems into ICA-AtoM. The project began in December 2010 and will run into April 2011 to complete all tasks.

Each of the participating institutions has provided funding to contribute towards the costs of migrating their existing datasets while the core of the project's funding was provided through a National Archival Development Program (NADP) grant requested by the AABC specifically for this project. The project involved analyzing and selecting appropriate technical tool(s) to use in the migration process as well as developing a generic methodology to assist those doing data migration projects. This 'toolkit' should have enough generic application to be useful for other data migration projects, not just those migrating data into ICA-AtoM.

## Project Objective

The rationale for the project emerged after the AABC migrated its BC Archival Union List (BCAUL) to run on ICA-AtoM software for BC's new database and portal, <http://memorybc.ca>. This generated interest from several BC archival institutions to move to ICA-AtoM as their archival description and access system. One of the primary draws is that ICA-AtoM is free and open-source software. This eliminates software license cost. However, there is still a cost associated with migrating to ICA-AtoM, namely in the time spent to map legacy datasets to the ICA-AtoM data structure.

The time and cost to perform the data migration, both for in-house technical support, or to hire a technical services company like Artefactual Systems at an hourly rate, can quickly add up and become prohibitive. The goal of the AABC Data Migration Toolkit project is to investigate the data migration process more closely, and to discover whether it is possible to standardize and build shared technical capacity around a single data migration tool and methodology. The primary aim of this integrated "toolkit" is to reduce the time and cost to migrate archival description datasets to ICA-AtoM.

## Source Data

The UNBC Archives migration involved data from their custom-developed MS SQL Server and MS Access databases with no data model documentation. It also included archival descriptions started in an ICA-AtoM (Release 1.0.9) MySQL database and importing over 5,000 digital asset files (image and video).

The SFU Archives migration involved data from a custom-developed FileMakerPro archival information system that has quite extensive data model documentation and included detailed ICA-AtoM data mappings drafted by the developer of the SFU application. The Anglican Diocese of New Westminster Archives is migrating from an Inmagic/DBTextworks database.

The UVIC Archives is migrating from MS-Word finding aids as well as the institutional descriptions it has been maintaining in MemoryBC since its launch. The UVIC Archives migration also includes scanned photographs with item-level descriptions from a custom-built Apple WebObjects database.

All of the participant datasets and digital assets are being migrated to the 1.1 release of ICA-AtoM. UNBC and the Anglican Archives will use Artefactual's ICA-AtoM hosting service while SFU and UVIC Archives will host their own copy of ICA-AtoM. UNBC Archives intends to migrate their ICA-AtoM data from the hosted copy to their own in-house version at a later date. The UNBC, SFU and Anglican Archives each have accession record data. ICA-AtoM will not have accession record support until release 1.2, which is scheduled for September 2011. The accession data from these three institutions will be migrated at the time of their upgrade to ICA-AtoM 1.2.

### Technical Options

At the project outset, three free technical options were investigated for use as the data migration tool: Drupal CMS, Google Refine and Pentaho ETL. Drupal was ruled out due to the installation and configuration complexity required to turn this CMS into a data migration tool. Google Refine was initially ruled out because it is only capable of reading and producing simple flat file comma-separated value (CSV) files while ICA-AtoM implements a fairly sophisticated relational data model that involves a variety of foreign key relationships and table joins. 'Extract, Transform, and Load' (ETL) refers to a category of tools designed specifically to handle complex data migrations and mappings.

The free and open-source Pentaho ETL tool was chosen to tackle the UNBC migration, the most complicated of the four migrations. Pentaho's features include a graphical user interface to design data migration workflows and provides end-to-end read and write capabilities for MS SQL Server, MS Access, MySQL and a large variety of other relational databases, flat-file formats (including XML) and web service interfaces. This allows reading directly from the source dataset, mapping and transformation of the data, and writing directly to ICA-AtoM's MySQL database tables. The tool evaluations and detailed documentation of how Pentaho was utilized for the UNBC migration is provided on the project wiki at <http://artefactual.com/>

[wiki/index.php?title=AABC\\_Data\\_Migration\\_Toolkit](http://wiki/index.php?title=AABC_Data_Migration_Toolkit). Unfortunately, the complexity of both the UNBC source data and the Pentaho software led to some significant project delays and re-evaluation of the selected tool and methodology. There is no doubt that Pentaho is a powerful tool that Artefactual plans to use in future complex data migration projects. However, it simply involves too steep of a learning curve to recommend as a community solution.

The project focus therefore returned to comma separated value (CSV) datasets. While using CSV does mean making compromises for more sophisticated data mappings, in some cases making these impossible, the CSV format has the advantages of being simple to understand, easy to manipulate via commonly used tools such as Microsoft Excel, and ubiquitous for import and export of application data. Therefore, the decision was made to base the ICA-AtoM data migration methodology around CSV for the remaining SFU, UVIC and Anglican Archives migrations. Artefactual is currently developing a CSV import mapping to support this approach. This feature will be available to other projects in the ICA-AtoM 1.2 release.

Many archivists are already familiar with massaging CSV files in spreadsheet software like MS-Excel. Google Refine is a free tool that is designed to optimize and enhance the manipulation of flat-file data with an interface that is similar to standard spreadsheet software. Therefore, archivists wanting to migrate to ICA-AtoM 1.2 in the near future will have the option to use MS-Excel or to use the Google Refine, with documentation supplemented by specific Google Refine examples from this project, to arrive at the CSV format required for import into ICA-AtoM.

### Project Findings

While the goal of this project has been to reduce the time and thereby cost involved in data migration projects, it has highlighted the fact that most data migration projects, including those mentioned here, present a significant challenge that is often under-

estimated at the outset. This is particularly true for custom-built systems where a common data mapping cannot be re-used but must be developed from scratch in each instance. The good news is that the tools and recommendations from this project will help to reduce the time required to migrate datasets to ICA-AtoM and other sources.

The bad news is that this required time is usually much greater than first calculated. Documenting the source data structure, creating an initial data mapping, running test loads of the data conversions, reviewing the conversions, correcting errors and omissions and re-running conversions is a multiple iteration process that requires close communication between the technical staff qualified to work with the tools and the archivists responsible for data quality.

While technical tasks take up the majority of time, delays in communication between technical and archival professional staff also add up (responding to emails, scheduling meetings). Therefore, the project conclusion is that a CSV based approach that can be implemented by archivists themselves without much additional technical assistance will be the most efficient use of available resources for ICA-AtoM data migration projects. The migration projects should include a generous project timeline, some budgeting for internal or third-party technical support (if archivist technical capacity is limited), and a clear reason to justify the time and expense of the migration, e.g. features present in ICA-AtoM not available in currently used platform, moving from a custom-built, unsupported system to a common open-source platform with the benefit of shared tools and maintenance, etc.

For further information about the project and technical details about the tools and dataset mappings, see the project wiki at [http://artefactual.com/wiki/index.php?title=AABC\\_Data\\_Migration\\_Toolkit](http://artefactual.com/wiki/index.php?title=AABC_Data_Migration_Toolkit). 

## Open Letter to Christy Clark and Responses

IN EARLY MARCH 2011, Christy Clark, Liberal Party Leader was named the Premier Designate for British Columbia. In the weeks before becoming Premier, Ms. Clark was campaigning for an Open Government Initiative and had requested that the public send our thoughts and ideas to her via her website. This was a opportune time for the AABC to advocate to the province on archival issues.

On the following pages, you will find the open letter that AABC sent to Clark, which was drafted by Janine Johnston, Jane Morrison and Jennifer Borland, the AABC's Chair to the Public Awareness, Advocacy, and Legislation Committee. This open letter was also forwarded to The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government, as well as to The Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. Clark and Cadieux wrote letters to AABC in response; these have been reproduced on the following pages as well.



## Archives Association of British Columbia

Honorary Patron: The Honourable **Steven L. Point**, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia  
Box 9041  
Station PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the Executive and members of the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC), I would like to congratulate you on being sworn in as Premier of British Columbia.

The AABC is encouraged by your key initiative to enact proposals towards an Open Government. Archivists share the belief that government information should be accessible and provided freely or at minimal cost. BC archival institutions promote openness and accountability on a daily basis by providing access to historical records, digitizing archival material and providing access to these records online through our provincial archival network *MemoryBC.ca*.

Ensuring the preservation of and access to our archival heritage is a cornerstone of any open government initiative. Archives help to ensure that government is held accountable to the public by preserving the records that enable citizens to monitor the conduct of government bodies and public servants. In our province, the BC Archives is mandated with this role as the Official Archives of the Government of British Columbia.

Unfortunately, the provincial government has not been a strong supporter of its public archives over the last decade. BC still stands alone among the provinces and territories in having no Archives Act; such an act would define what public records are, address their transfer and disposition, and identify the role of the provincial institution. The *Document Disposal Act* fulfils only a limited part of these requirements.

In 2001, the archival community suffered a major setback with the loss of two essential provincial funding programs, the Community Archives Assistance Programme and the Community Archives Advisory and Training Programme. This left archives reliant on a federal grant funding envelope of approximately \$50,000 for the entire province.

In support of openness, accountability, and the preservation of BC's documentary heritage, we hope that your government will restore funding to the archival community programmes and draft provincial archival legislation to ensure the availability of public records. We encourage you to show your commitment to the principles of Open Government by supporting these initiatives.

I look forward to your response.

Janine Johnston, President  
Archives Association of British Columbia

cc: The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government  
The Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development



April 12, 2011

Janine Johnston  
President  
Archives Assn of BC  
34A, 2755 Lougheed Hwy  
Suite 249  
Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 5Y9

Dear Ms. Johnston:

Thank you for your letter and your kind words of congratulations. I am enjoying his new opportunity to make a difference and look forward to the important work ahead.

I appreciate your comments about the importance of open government and the role of public archives in that initiative. I note that you are also recommending an Archives Act to build on what is covered by the Document Disposal Act. I see you have shared your insight with my minister for Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government, the Honourable Stephanie Cadieux. Your input will most definitely be helpful to her in those important discussions.

Again, thank you for writing to me about this matter. I have asked Minister Cadieux to follow up directing with you at her earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Clark", is written over a horizontal line.

Christy Clark  
Premier

Pc: Hon. Stephanie Cadieux

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Office of the  
Premier

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:  
Parliament Buildings, Victoria





MAY 05 2011

Ref: 65147

Janine Johnston  
President  
Archives Association of British Columbia  
34A, 2755 Lougheed Hwy  
Suite 249  
Port Coquitlam BC V3B 5Y9

Dear Ms. Johnston:

Thank you for your letter of March 18, 2011, addressed to the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier and copied to me as Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government. My new role as Minister responsible for Open Government will be both exciting and challenging and I look forward to hearing from a wide range of stakeholders, such as your organization, as my ministry moves forward with this important initiative.

The points you raised in your letter, such as the role of archival institutions in providing information to the public; the comparative analysis to B.C.'s legislative framework as it relates to archives, and, in particular, the role that the preservation of records can play in creating an open government, are examples of the valuable insight to be gained from consultation with practitioners in these areas.

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your views. I can assure you that the information you provided will be carefully considered as part of a comprehensive review on open government. Over the next few months, we will be considering many factors as we formalize our thinking on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Honourable Stephanie Cadieux  
Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government

pc Honourable Christy Clark, Premier

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and Open Government

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the  
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