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Cover photo is of Kari Anna Hampelokken with her spinning wheel outside the Carlson house on Annacis Island. The family originally came from Norway and eventually found themselves here. Delta Archives, 2021-035-001. Courtesy of Delta Heritage Society.

THE ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (AABC) REPRESENTS & ADVOCATES FOR THE ARCHIVAL COMMUNITY IN BC
34A - 2755 LOUGHEED HIGHWAY SUITE #249 PORT COQUITLAM, B.C. V3B 5Y9 INFO@AABC.CA

FACEBOOK @ARCHIVESASSOCIATIONBC
TWITTER @ARCHIVESASSOCBC
WEBSITE HTTPS://AABC.CA
MESSAGE FROM THE AABC PRESIDENT

KATIE SLOAN

In late August, I attended the Platinum Jubilee Reception Honouring Patronage Organizations and Awardees on behalf of the AABC. The Reception was held at Government House in Victoria and hosted by the Honourable Janet Austin. The event recognized and appreciated volunteer organizations to whom the Lieutenant Governor is a patron. As part of her remarks, Her Honour thanked the representatives in the room, stating that volunteer organizations that promote arts and culture, “are the heart’s blood of the province”. She went on to say that these organizations help to enrich and bring communities together around British Columbia.

I have been thinking about those words and sentiments since that event. What does a volunteer organization look like in 2022? What does an archival volunteer organization such as the AABC look like in a “post-pandemic” world?

In one way, organizations such as the AABC are in more demand than ever. This is evident in our online courses, workshops and “roundteas”, which are often at capacity. MemoryBC has seen a steady, if not increasing, number of archival associations uploading content over the past two years. Our Education and Advisory Coordinator is kept busy in responding to archival related questions, not just in British Columbia but across the country. Finally, one of the strongest themes that emerged from the AABC’s joint conference with the Yukon Council of Archives last year was a sincere appreciation of the two Associations taking the time and consideration of bringing the stories of those in more isolated corners of the Province and Territory to the forefront. The need for the AABC and what it can provide seems more relevant than ever.

Despite this success, the demand for what the AABC can provide is outweighing what it is able to supply. Every Committee within the Association has an open call for volunteers. Some regions have no regional representatives; some have been vacant for months, even years. The Executive have seen competing priorities between their own full-time positions and the AABC, which can lead to some important initiatives within the Association being under- or unfulfilled altogether. The archival community, it seems, is burnout and exhausted from the last two years and does not have the capacity to take on additional volunteer work.

However, this message is not intended to be one
of doom and gloom. While the current model of the Association may not work within a post-pandemic world, this is an opportunity for the AABC and the archival community at large to reimagine what the AABC is and could be. The Executive has already started this by completing a strategic plan earlier this year. However, the future of the AABC lies within the larger archival community; the voices of all archivists and heritage keepers, regardless of educational background, of different educational backgrounds and experiences, of ideas and positions from every corner of British Columbia count.

The AABC wants to hear from you, however you are able and have the capacity to. Help us continue to make up the heart’s blood of this great Province and to grow the Association in ways that may not have even been imagined a few years ago.
After 20 plus years, AABC’s Financial Manager Karen Blimkie submitted her resignation to the Board in August. Karen has accepted an exciting new position for a small independent school in Vancouver. Congratulations, Karen!!

On behalf of the AABC, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to Karen. Her dedication and financial acumen have led the way for the AABC, ensuring that the organization met all its legal and operational financial requirements. Karen has also imparted her wisdom and expertise to many of the AABC Treasurers and Board Members, past and present. “Thank you” sounds a bit trite here, based on her service and expertise, but I truly want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Karen; you will be missed!

Karen graciously stayed on long enough to assist the Executive to find a new Financial Manager and as such, I would like to introduce the AABC community to Angela Brain! Angela has a strong background in financial management, both for profit and non-profit organizations. Currently, Angela works at the City of Delta in the Budgets and Taxation Department. She is also the Treasurer of the South Fraser Regional Science Fair and is the Co-Treasurer of the PAC at her children’s school. Angela comes to the AABC with glowing references, and I have no doubt that she will be able to pick up the position where Karen left off.

Thank you Karen, and welcome to the AABC community, Angela!
ARCHIVES AWARENESS WEEK
SUMMARY

Archives Awareness Week is an annual celebration to draw public attention to the importance of the province’s nearly 200 archival institutions. This year, Archives Awareness Week ran from November 13-19 with the theme “I’m Still Standing”. We recognize that the past three years have been beyond difficult for many of us as we’ve navigated a deadly virus, burn-out, funding disruptions, and have had our capacities to engage with our professional practice diminished. This year’s Archives Awareness Week sought to uplift archival workers, recognize the amazing work we’ve done throughout the pandemic, and leverage our capacities.

The Week was chock-full of exciting initiatives, including new blog posts from the Archives of North Vancouver and the Saanich Pioneer Society, as well as a virtual exhibition from the Douglas College Archives. Here at the AABC, we put on a full week of virtual activities: a workshop on Managing Oral History Programs, an exciting screening and Q&A co-hosted with the ACA featuring the creators and participants of the National Film Board of Canada’s film Unarchived, an engagement session with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations (MIRR), an Indigenous Archives Forum, and an update session to hear from iSchool students and archivists across the province and the neat projects and ideas they’ve been working on. To join the conversation online, use #BCAAW2022. For more information on 2022 Archives Awareness Week, check out the event page.

NEW WEBINAR RECORDING AVAILABLE
CREATING ARCHIVAL EXHIBITS

Tune in with the AABC to learn about creating effective and engaging exhibits using treasures from your archival holdings! In this webinar we discuss the steps for designing an exhibit, consider the use of displaying reproductions vs original records, and review best practices for mounting and providing a secure environment for textual records and photographs. Participants will also hear from Krisztina Laszlo who will share her experience preparing the exhibit “Past Purrfect: Cats in the Collection” for Rare Books and Special Collections, UBC Library.

AABC webinar recordings are available to AABC members ($15.00 per individual webinar recording) and non-AABC members ($30.00 per individual webinar recording). Please contact aabc.advisor@aabc.ca for more information. For a list of all available webinar recordings, see our website.
“A TEMPLATE FOR AN INDIGENOUS ELDERS’ ARCHIVE”
HOW? WHY NOW?

Kelly Speak
AABC member/IAC member (since 2016)
Professional Specialization in Collections Management, UVIC 2016

Editor’s note: We are pleased to share part one of this series from Kelly Speak on creating “A Template for an Indigenous Elders’ Archive”. Kelly will continue to share updates in upcoming AABC newsletter issues.

What would you do if an Indigenous Elder, recognized worldwide for her work in Language Revitalization, asked you, an archivist for less than 6 years, to create an archive around her life’s work largely and intentionally without the use of standard archival practices?

I am guessing you would have more questions than answers as to how to do this. The very first question for me was (and still is) how can this archive take shape while ensuring it is primarily rooted using the knowledge and practices of Indigenous Ways of Being? I knew that I needed to further develop an Indigenous mindset. I learned that I must be open to learning, to be aware of my biases, and of crucial importance – to listen intently and deeply.

So… I put away my many questions, opened my ears, and tuned into the present. I sat with Dr. Lorna Wánosts’a7, the elder who hired me, and we poured through the more than 40 bankers boxes, which constituted her life’s work. I listened to her stories for three days. Then I researched articles on Indigenous-led Archives. You might say I was doing my homework! It helped me appreciate this archival opportunity and the challenges that go along with it. Sitting with an elder is truly an honour and is key to developing my Indigenous mindset.

On a personal note, I started my Indigenous mindset learning journey about 5 years ago when I received my Native Status. I learned that my grandmother was born on a reserve and subsequently lost her status. I only met her once but, even as a child, I sensed her solemness and sadness. However, years later, I saw her beautiful smile captured in a photograph in our family archive. A reminder that she was in a happier place in her journey.
Developing an Indigenous mindset is a journey, and an exciting one. This article is my way to take you on this journey with me, sharing with you how ‘A Template for An Indigenous Elders’ Archive’ is to be created without relying primarily on standard archival concepts and practices.

I welcome your valuable input as well as a listening ear.

Your first question to me may be “how?” or perhaps…”why now?” Since ‘how?’ is very much a work in progress, I will answer ‘why now?’.

**BECAUSE** it is time to revisit the issue of who should be the ‘keeper of the records’ as some archivists like to call it, or ‘keepers of cultural knowledge’, as some Indigenous Peoples may call it. I am suggesting that these are 2 polar opposite concepts that I plan to keep learning about.

**BECAUSE** it is time to engage in this refreshed way of doing things in the archival world. It is time to embrace the opportunity to establish a template for Indigenous-led archives, one which could blend with current practices; if and when it makes sense to do so, or, one which leaves current practices out entirely.

**BECAUSE** it is time for ‘keepers of cultural knowledge’ to guide us, the archivists, as to how an Indigenous-led archive should look and most importantly – how it must feel! It is a place where a person can experience Indigneous ways of being and begin to develop an Indigenous mindset. Perhaps a smudging ceremony at the entrance or a walk or talk with an elder?

Our goal is to create a template, a welcoming pathway for learners, so cultural knowledge remains alive, accessible, and engaging. Current archivists and curators of archives are invited and much needed on this journey. Our team consists of Lorna, Chuutsqa, Lucas and myself. “A Template for An Indigenous Elders’ Archive” will be shared widely with the archival community, as well as Indigenous communities and their respected elders.

Miigwetch!
(An Ojibwe word that represents “thank you”)

**RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

- Indigenous Archives Collective Position Statement on the Right of Reply to Indigenous Knowledges and Information Held in Archives, Indigenous Archives Collective
- CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance, Global Indigenous Data Alliance *(summary only) (full article)*
- “The Right to Know”: Decolonizing Native American Archives by Jennifer O’Neal
- Nakona Wasnoya Yuhabi / Assiniboine Knowledge Keepers: Indigenous Archiving from the 19th into the 21st Centuries by Joshua Ben Horowitz
- UNDRIP, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
AVAILABLE NOW ON THE ACA BLOG
ARCHIVAL RESEARCH, INDIGENOUS PROTOCOLS, AND DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING: A CASE STUDY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA – AN UNTOLD HISTORY

Recently, Emma Metcalfe Hurst, a UBC iSchool MASLIS student in her final year, published a two-part post on the blog of the Association of Canadian Archivists In the Field, titled Archival Research, Indigenous Protocols, and Documentary Filmmaking: A Case Study of British Columbia – An Untold History. This series of posts reflects on Metcalfe Hurst’s experience as an archival researcher for the documentary TV series, British Columbia – An Untold History, and the three key steps – education, relationship-building, and identification – that led to the creation and implementation of an Indigenous Protocol in the production of the series. The first post provides an introduction to the project and the process, while the second post concludes by sharing some individual observations that point to some challenges, setbacks, and changes that arose from doing this work. This work is intended as a guide for future reference when undertaking archival research for documentary filmmaking.

Read Part 1 and Part 2 on the ACA’s blog today!

REGISTRATION OPEN
THE UBC STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN ARCHIVISTS’ 14TH ANNUAL SEMINAR AND SYMPOSIUM

The Association of Canadian Archivists Student Chapter at the University of British Columbia (ACA@UBC) is pleased to present its 14th annual Seminar and Symposium, Archives Unbound: Redefining Archival Concepts and Practice. This event will be held virtually on Zoom on Friday, February 10th and Saturday, February 11th, 2023. Visit the ACA@UBC’s conference website to read more about the event and speakers – register before December 31 for early-bird pricing! Registration is free for students, but is necessary to receive the links to join.

This year’s two-day seminar and symposium brings together students, scholars, and practitioners whose work challenges dominant archival paradigms, and who reimagine and redefine archival concepts and practices. In addition to panels on records and archives that fall outside Eurocentric definitions, we will facilitate conversations around digital archives and the ethics of digitization, archiving current events, archival businesses, and archival commitments to Truth and Reconciliation.
Summer was a busy time for the Delta Archives and work restarted on projects and events that had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with the Douglas J. Husband Discovery Centre, we hosted our first open house event which proved a great success in September. The Centre had its grand opening in April 2022 and serves as the successor to the Delta Museum and Archives, which was located within the second municipal hall on Delta Street. As irony would have it, we are now located in the third municipal hall. If we continue to grow, we may eventually end up in the fourth one located right next to us!

We restarted our Oral History program this year, which had been suspended during the pandemic. We managed two interviews involving the documentation of rural Annacis Island history, another oral history with the son of the famous George Massey, and two with former residents of Delta’s Cold War-era Vancouver Wireless Station that monitored for Soviet communications. The base was fairly secretive and hosted its own community filled with Department of National Defense servicemen and their families. More oral histories are planned before the end of the year, including with former MLA Val Roddick on the subject of local political history and another with a highly knowledgeable local farmer who can rival staff with his local history knowledge.

More or less everyone interviewed were people I have met and interacted with in the day-to-day work I do at the Delta Archives and so we have built up a good relationship prior to conducting the interviews. In the course of my job, I interact with many people who could share invaluable oral histories; there is no risk of running out for lack of good interviewees. These are people who I have cultivated good friendships with that have donated material in the past, been frequent researchers, or people associated with the Delta Heritage Society. Sometimes even a combination of two or three all at once.

There has been a lot of exciting work to do as well in the realm of arrangement and description (and lots and lots of photo scanning). One of our oral history interviewees offered us shy of a hundred family photos taken at the Vancouver Wireless Station (VWS). They were the only Chinese-Canadian family on the base and one of the first Chinese families known to have moved to the Ladner area since the destruction of Chinatown back in 1929 during a massive fire. There has been a lack of documentation of Chinese-Canadians in Delta’s history so this donation was eagerly welcomed. It was even more valuable considering that very little photographic documentation existed for the VWS itself. Needless to say, processing the collection has jumped near the top of my to do list.

Another big achievement for the Archives has been the documentation of the history of Annacis Island. The island is near universally associated with the industrial park that comprises the entire island, but prior to Grosvenor International
building the industrial estate, the island was an idyllic farming landscape surrounded along the outside of the dike by fishing shacks, small docks, and boathouses. Back in late 2021 I came across an archived email from 2016 in a computer folder stating that a woman was willing to part with her family albums that related to her grandparents’ farm on Annacis Island. The island’s history during this rural period had been virtually undocumented within the Archives, being our biggest hole in Delta’s geographic representation. As it turned out, we were not offered an album or two. We were offered five containing over 1000 photographs. From then until now I have been working with the donor and her family to identify the context of the photos and so far it has been a smashing success. The collection is still being processed, but we are now onto the final album and the experience has been wonderful for all involved, reigniting family connections as the descendants get in touch with relatives they haven’t spoken to in 5 or 10 years. You can bet we got some good oral histories from them too!
MEET THE 2022-2023 AABC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MARIA PARASCHOS
MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Maria Paraschos has a Master of Archival Studies degree from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and International Studies from York University’s bilingual Glendon college. She currently works as a Reference Technician at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in Ottawa, Ontario. She has held a few positions in her time at LAC, including Archival Assistant on the first phase of the We Are Here: Sharing Stories Indigenous Heritage digitization initiative, and Privacy Analyst in the Access to Information and Privacy Division.

When she is not fielding reference queries from LAC patrons, Maria can be found curled up with her knitting and a good documentary, working on improving her French language skills, or exploring her new surroundings in Ottawa.

What drew me to a career in Archives?

I was initially drawn to archives because it was a field where I could combine my interests in both history and social justice. The #IdleNoMore movement began around the time when I was looking into what I could do with my undergraduate degree. This movement taught me more about Canada’s darker colonial past and inspired me to want to go into a career where I could be helpful in a meaningful way. The role of archives as spaces of reconciliation, reparation, and reclamation really resonated with me as someone who’s family comes from a part of the world that has also experienced colonialism and historical erasure. A decade later, I am proud and grateful to say that I am part of this community of practice.
Emily Larson is the Secretary for the AABC. She is based in Vancouver, Canada on the unceded territories of the x̱w̓məθk̓ʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and Selíl̓witulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Emily has a MAS/MLIS with the First Nations Curriculum Concentration from the UBC School of Information, which she completed in December 2019. For most of her professional career she worked for the UBC Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, but has recently joined the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC as a Records and Information Management Analyst. Emily really likes building systems that work for the people who use them. Her areas of focus have been user experience and interactive and emerging technologies. More broadly, as an information professional she is passionate about the importance of storytelling, disruptive practice, and the power dynamics of information.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Outside of work, I love spending time in the kitchen and eating good food! I started out as more of a baker, but during the pandemic became interested in becoming a better cook as well. I can often be found on the weekends taking on some kind of ambitious food project and when I don’t have the energy for that, I’ll be scoping out the best dessert places in Vancouver. Outside of food, while by Vancouverite standards I’m not particularly outdoorsy, I also love walking along the beach and spending time by the ocean.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER WITH THE AABC

Volunteer for AABC committees today and support archives and the archival profession throughout the province.

We are seeking enthusiastic and conscientious volunteers to sit on our standing and ad hoc committees. Participants will get an opportunity to network and gain valuable skills while fostering the development of the provincial archival community. Participation does not require a major time commitment and committee schedules are flexible.

We are seeking volunteers for the following areas:
- Conference Committee
- Constitution and By-laws Committee
- Indigenous Advocacy Committee
- Grants Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominations and Elections Committee
- Programs Committee
- Finance Committee
- Communications Committee
- Regional Representatives (Central & North Vancouver, Greater Vancouver, Kootenay - Columbia, and BC Northeast)

If interested, please contact AABC President, Katie Sloan, at aabc.president@aabc.ca for more information.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Making a donation is as important as ever. We understand that COVID-19 has made it difficult for many professionals to donate, but your contributions provide awards to UBC School of Information students every year and provide support to the annual ACA@UBC conference. This is a key part of the AABC’s mandate to foster the development of our provincial archival community.

Help us meet our goal and donate now.

PHOTOS WANTED

The AABC newsletter editorial team is looking for archival images to feature on these pages. Got something to share? Send a 600dpi or higher scan or photo with a suggested image credit to aabc.secretary@aabc.ca.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Help showcase the incredible work of BC’s archives and archivists. The AABC Newsletter is back and we need your stories. To be included in the next issue, submit your 250-word newsletter content proposals to aabc.secretary@aabc.ca with the subject line: AABC Newsletter Proposal.

We’re open to all content ideas, including (but not limited to): articles, paper excerpts, opinion pieces, archives / archivist spotlights, upcoming events, and more!
The AABC communications committee would like to thank our membership for their interest in the Newsletter. Both the AABC and our newsletter are run by an inspiring and much appreciated group of volunteers. Please join me in thanking the following individuals for their tireless work on this issue of the newsletter:

Emily Larson, AABC Secretary / Newsletter Editor
Manda Haligowski, Graphic Designer
Elizabeth Robertson, Social Media Volunteer
Katie Sloan, AABC President
Kathryn Louro, AABC Vice-President
Alexandra Neijens, AABC Treasurer
Maureen Atkinson, AABC Member-at-Large
Maria Paraschos, AABC Member-at-Large
Daniel Collins, AABC Past-President
Lisa Glandt, AABC EAS Coordinator
Kevin Hicks, Contributor
Emma Metcalfe Hurst, Contributor
Kelly Speak, Contributor

Finally, this newsletter would be nothing without our AABC community and readership. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

DISCLAIMER
The articles published in the AABC newsletter do not reflect the AABC’s position on archival practice and issues. The newsletter instead provides a platform for discussion and dissemination of ideas regarding archival practice and issues from heritage practitioners and stakeholders.