



## ACA 2011 CONFERENCE

Debby Shoctor, President

Given its distance from our province, this year's ACA conference, held from June 2-4, 2011 in Toronto, featured an unusually large amount of Alberta content.



There was a strong contingent of archivists representing Alberta, including Karen Buckley, Bryan Corbett, Mary Flynn, Linda Fraser, Raymond Frogner, Rene Georgopolis, Michael Gourlie, George Judson, Leslie Latta-Guthrie, Lorraine Mychajlunow, Terry Reilly, Jennifer Rutkair, Karly Sawatzky, Elizabeth Walker, and me. It was old home week in some ways as many former Alberta archivists also attended, including Jean Dryden, Scott Goodine, Jeremy Heil, Heather Home, John Lund, Brock Silversides, and Sharon Walz (my apologies to anyone who was missed).

But more than just attending, many of these individuals played other roles at the conference. Raymond, Jean, Terry, Michael, and I each presented a paper during the regular conference sessions. Rene presented a poster session on the work of the Edmonton Chapter of the

Progressive Librarians Guild (which has its fair share of archivists). The ASA as a whole sponsored one of the refreshment breaks, which was welcomed by all conference delegates.

The ASA also shared in the awards and honours, not the least of which was a victory for the West in the ACA East-West softball game! For his Alan Ridge Award-winning article, "Innocent Legal Fictions': Archival Convention and the *North Saanich Treaty* of 1852," Raymond Frogner was awarded the prestigious W.K. Lamb Award. According to the ACA's website, the Lamb Award is presented "annually to honour the author of the *Archivaria* article that, by its exceptional combination of research, reflection, and writing, most advances archival thinking in Canada. It is the senior award of the journal for the best article overall." Bryan Corbett was named a Fellow of the ACA

for his many years of involvement with the association. Michael Gourlie was acclaimed as the new Vice-President of the Association of Canadian Archivists at the AGM. Congratulations to all.

The next ACA conference will be held in Whitehorse from June 6-9, 2012. Its theme, "In Search of Archival Gold," celebrates and highlights the "archival gold" found in Canada's archival institutions and promotes discussion of the opportunities, issues and challenges that these records present, in the same year that the Yukon Archives in Whitehorse is celebrating its fortieth anniversary.

Here's hoping for a strong Alberta showing in Whitehorse!

## contents

- 2 AGM and Institutional Forum
- 3 From the Desk of the Archives Advisor
- 4 Archives Institute 2011
- 5 Social Media for Archives Workshop

- 6 Remembering Judii Rempel
- 7 People and Places
- 8 Membership Renewal Form

# archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President — 2010 - 2011

Debby Shoctor

### Vice President

Jane Bowe-McCarthy

### Secretary

Judy Kovacs

### Treasurer

Lisa Atkinson

### Institutional Member-at-Large

Leslie Pearson

### Individual Member-at-Large

Bonnie Woelk

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Grants

Leslie Pearson

### Education

Raymond Frogner

### Communications

Terry O'Riordan

### ANA

Braden Cannon

## NEWSLETTER

### Advertising, Design and Layout

Carrie Herrick-Fitzgerald

## ASA STAFF

### Executive Director/Archives Advisor

Michael Gourlie

### Member Services Manager

Carrie Herrick-Fitzgerald

### Financial Coordinator

Gemma Zarrillo

### Database Administrator

Carrie-Ann Lunde



The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.



Raymond Frogner receives the prestigious W.K. Lamb Award from Archivaria General Editor Jean Dryden (left) and ACA President Loryl MacDonald (right)

## INSTITUTIONAL FORUM AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ASA held the Spring Institutional Forum and its AGM on May 28, 2011 at the City of Edmonton Archives at the Prince of Wales Armouries.

To start the day, fifteen institutional members gathered to discuss issues of common interest. Leslie Pearson was elected the Institutional Member-at-Large, after having completed her appointment as Mary Nutting's replacement. The ASA presented the results of the Access to Holdings Program Review, which indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the program but suggested some areas of improvement which have been incorporated into this year's grants adjudication process. The members also discussed ICA-AtoM, the open-source archival descriptive software, and its potential use for the Archives Network of Alberta, pending a review by the ANA Committee. Finally, members provided brief reports about new initiatives and other activities at their institutions.

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 1PM, attended by approximately 30 people and chaired by President Debby Shoctor. Lisa Atkinson presented the financial statements for 2010-2011 and introduced a budget for 2011-2012. Committee members presented the annual reports of the ANA, Communications, Education and Grants Committee for the past year. Finally, just before adjourning, the Nominations and Awards Committee announced that Raymond Frogner was the winner of the Alan D. Ridge Award (Print) for his article, "Innocent Legal Fictions': Archival Convention and the *North Saanich Treaty of 1852*," which appeared in *Archivaria* 70.

Thanks to Kathryn Ivany, City Archivist, for allowing us to use the City Archives for our meeting.

# FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor



ASA members may have noticed an increase in the number of online surveys they're answering lately. Since the ASA now has a subscription to the online survey website SurveyMonkey, I've been determined to make the most of its features while avoiding the development of survey fatigue among the membership. SurveyMonkey has proved surprisingly useful in the capture and analysis of attitudes about the 2010 ASA conference, the level of satisfaction with ASA workshops, and the opinions of ASA institutional members about the Access to Holdings program. Given the general lack of statistical research about the archival community and the continuing need for information to plan effectively, I find SurveyMonkey an interesting and compelling tool.

While I've created several surveys over the past year, a recent survey may be of interest to the wider archival community in Alberta. With the assistance of the Alberta Museums Association (AMA) and the approval of the ASA Board, I distributed a survey to museums in Alberta who are institutional members of the AMA but not members of the ASA in any way. The purpose of the survey was to determine how those Alberta museums which do not have a connection to the ASA handle archival materials in their custody. From experience, I knew that Alberta's museums all have some form of archival records among their holdings, but they don't always use standard archival practice. To get some basic information, the survey questions pertained to the typical archival functions of acquisition, appraisal, arrangement, description, preservation and access.

Out of a possible 190 respondents, 61 institutions responded to the survey, a respectable 32% response rate. Within those institutions, the vast majority included the acquisition of archival materials as part of their mandate, but very few had a separate budget for an archival program, and almost none had specific training in archival work. The

volume of holdings of these institutions was difficult to determine given various methods of expressing the extents but represented at least dozens of metres of textual records, thousands of photographs, and large numbers of maps, films and oral histories.

In terms of archival functions, most museums undertook some appraisal for selection and respected original order, with a few dividing the materials into a predetermined classification system. In contrast to archival work, most museums described archival records at the item level, which is not a surprise given that process is the museum standard for artifacts. For me, the most interesting questions dealt with access to the materials. While a majority of museums had some place for researchers to use the archives and permitted research within their facility, the clear majority of respondents did not advertise the availability of the archives for research.

As a first attempt at getting information about a constituency with archival records yet outside the ASA's current membership, the survey successfully created a snapshot in time of current practice. Museums

who requested site visits as a result of the survey will form a large part of the advisory services schedule in the coming year. Given the results of the questions regarding awareness of the services provided by the ASA, some marketing and profile-building in the museum community might be necessary.

Surveys like this provide valuable information that allows the ASA to be more strategic in its planning and its approaches to specific issues. Although ASA won't be surveying its membership about every little thing, there likely will be an occasional (and brief!) online survey in your email inbox, and your responses are much appreciated.

# 2011 ARCHIVES INSTITUTE

The 12<sup>th</sup> ASA Archives Institute was held at the University of Calgary from May 9-14, 2011. Fifteen participants came from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and even Nova Scotia to attend the annual, 5 ½ day intensive fundamentals course.

This year's instructors included Michael Gourlie, Karen Buckley, Janet McMaster, Alison Freake and Jonathan Davidson. The ASA thanks the staff of the University of Calgary for providing expert instruction as well as the space to hold this year's Institute.

2011 ASA Archives Institute Class Picture



(left to right): Tammy Donahue Buziak, Carolyn Foard, Michael Gourlie, Laurel Neustaedter, Tim O'Grady, Amanda Sittrop, Chelsea Clark, Florence Kennedy, Tammy Vallee, Joanne Shum, Callie Reid, Callie Perry, Jennifer Huska, Betty Simon, Brenda Cole (missing – Rachel Perez)

# SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

Amazing as it seems, 2011 marks the fifth year of Twitter, the social networking site based on messages of a maximum of 140 characters. Even if you don't use Facebook or upload images to Flickr, the impact of social media on our daily lives is undeniable, with outcomes as simple as sharing photos among a small group of followers or as wide-ranging as instigating political revolution. Despite their reputation as staid and unchanging institutions, archival repositories are not immune to the power of social media and its potential to engage audiences in new ways.

On March 18, the ASA presented "Social Media for Archives," the spring workshop of the ASA's Education Program held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta boardroom in Edmonton. Presented by Braden Cannon of the University of Calgary / Provincial Archives of Alberta, the workshop drew seventeen participants eager to learn about how archives can use social networking sites to their best advantage. After reviewing the history and philosophy of social media as well as some of its common technological terms, the participants examined the various types of social media, including blogs, tags, wikis, real simple syndication (RSS), podcasts, social networks, and geographical information systems (GIS). The workshop concluded with examples of how different archival institutions are using social media to highlight their holdings and reach out to new audiences. Examples included large-scale projects with large budgets and a number of partners as well as smaller-scale projects that a small archival institution could easily undertake with a small amount of effort and the right content, much of which is in the process of being digitized and could easily be repurposed.

The workshop prompted much discussion among participants about how their institutions as well as the ASA could utilize all aspects of social media to their best advantage at the local and provincial levels. The ASA thanks not only Braden for his timely workshop but also the Provincial Archives of Alberta for the use of its facilities.



# REMEMBERING JUDII REMPEL

Jim Bowman

Judith Dianne Rempel, Coordinator and Archivist of the Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta, died peacefully and unexpectedly on May 24, 2011, from a congenital heart defect. She was 58.

Born in Abbotsford, BC, to a devout Mennonite immigrant family, Judii completed high school there at Mennonite Educational Institute. At eighteen she volunteered for service in Pennsylvania with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a social agency which then paid only an allowance of \$15 a month. In recent years she described herself as a non-church-goer but continued to be deeply immersed in the history and culture of the Mennonite people.

Judii completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees in sociology at the Universities of Waterloo and Western Ontario, specializing in social demography. She worked as a statistician, demographer, and social planner for the Provincial Gerontologist of Manitoba, for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Research Institute in Calgary, and from 1987 to 2009, for the City of Calgary. Soon after "retiring" from municipal employment, she married Grant Moberly, CGA, and joined his company specializing in accounting and consulting for small businesses.

Judii was a bon vivant. She had a remarkable zest for life, a sense of adventure, and a curiosity. She loved to travel, and spent a year in Gambia recently. She was an expert gardener, a brilliant cook, a connoisseur of fine wines and foods, and a gracious hostess. She was a skilled website designer and a passionate genealogist. She never flinched when it was necessary for someone to take on a leadership role: she served on the boards of the Canadian Population Society, the Calgary Horticultural Society, the Alberta Family Histories Society, and of course, the Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta.

Though not formally trained as a professional archivist or librarian, Judii was determined to bring professional standards to the all-volunteer Mennonite Historical Society. She completed the ASA's Archives Institute, studied professional literature, and recruited professional archivists and historians to serve as her "mentors" in case difficult issues arose. She secured space and designed an office, reading room, and archival storage facility in a modern

office building owned by the MCC. She devoted at least one day per week to the Mennonite Archives. Much of that time wound up being devoted to answering complex genealogical reference questions from members of the worldwide Mennonite diaspora.

Judii's life was too short, but it certainly was well-lived. Let it be an example to us all.

# PEOPLE AND PLACES

Andriy Chernevych is the new City Archivist at the Galt Museum and Archives in Lethbridge. Formerly with the City of Wetaskiwin Archives, he has an MA from the University of Alberta, is a graduate of the ASA Archives Institute and has volunteered at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. And congratulations to Greg Ellis, long-time Galt Museum Archivist, on his pending retirement.

Raymond Frogner is leaving the University of Alberta Archives to take a position at the BC Archives at the Royal BC Museum. Consequently, his fiance Jessica King of the Provincial Archives of Alberta will also be leaving for Victoria. Congratulations to both of you, and best wishes on your upcoming wedding in September.

Inspired by local archivists, the Edmonton-based indie folk band The Provincial Archive toured Canada performing at a number of venues, including spaces at the provincial archives in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador, among other venues. Check out their progress on Facebook or at [www.theprovincialarchive.com](http://www.theprovincialarchive.com).

## ALAN RIDGE AWARD

To honour Alan D. Ridge, Alberta's longest-serving Provincial Archivist to date, the ASA created the Alan D. Ridge Publication Award in 1989. Designed to honour the best research and publications produced in Alberta, the award has undergone changes in recent years, including the elimination of a cash prize category and the creation of an "other media" category to include non-print media unanticipated when the original award was established. For a biography of Alan Ridge, plus a list of award winners and links to winning articles (where applicable), please visit the ASA website's "Member Honours and Awards" page at [http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V\\_ITEM\\_ID=23](http://www.archivesalberta.org/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=23).

At the Spring Institutional Forum, Raymond Frogner received this year's Alan. D Ridge Publication Award (Print) for his article "Innocent Legal Fictions: Archival Convention and the *North Saanich Treaty of 1852*," which appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of *Archivaria*, the journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists. At the 2011 conference of the Association of Canadian Archivists, Raymond also received the W. Kaye Lamb Award, presented "annually to honour the author of the *Archivaria* article that, by its exceptional combination of research, reflection, and writing, most advances archival thinking in Canada. It is the senior award of the journal for the best article overall. This is the first time ever that a Ridge Award winner subsequently has gone on to receive the Lamb award. Congratulations Raymond!



Michael Gourlie presenting Raymond Frogner with his Ridge Award certificate at the ASA AGM.

# archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

## SUBMISSIONS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The **Archives Society of Alberta News** is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o:

Archives Society of Alberta  
PO Box 4067  
South Edmonton Post Office  
Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8

Editor contact information:

Telephone: (780) 424-2697  
Fax: (780) 425-1679  
Email: mgourlie@shaw.ca

Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor to the **Archives Society of Alberta News**, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

**Please note:**

**Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.**

The views expressed in the Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta or its Editor. The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.



The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.

## ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011 – 2012

Name (Institution or Individual) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Delegate (Associate) \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members) \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

**Please Check**

- Archives Employee . . . . . \$50.00
- Students, Volunteers, Seniors. . . . . \$25.00
- Associate Institutional Member . . . . . \$75.00
- Institutional Member (Please contact the ASA for further information)
- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ Visa  MasterCard

Card holder name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque or money order payable to the **Archives Society of Alberta** and mail to:

Archives Society of Alberta  
PO Box 4067  
South Edmonton Post Office  
Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8