Welcome to the winter 2012 edition of the Association of Canadian Archivists’ Bulletin.

It’s that time of year when many of us reflect back on the past year’s accomplishments or failings and start plotting out the upcoming year’s challenges, setting new goals and taking stock of the status quo. In this issue we pay tribute to some of the great work that was accomplished in 2011. There is information on recent exhibits, revamped and new websites, and a history mystery solved. Also included are updates on the upcoming ACA 2012 Conference in Whitehorse.

This edition also features an article by Shelley Sweeney entitled “Professional Associations and Mergers of Archival Institutions in Canada”. It looks back at the merger of four major Canadian institutions and reflects on the implications these mergers between archives and libraries might have for the future of our profession. Additionally, Rodney Carter pulls together a commentary — stemming from a recent listserv debate — about the virtues and perils of volunteer positions for newly graduated archivists. A recent graduate looking for a permanent position as an archivist gives us her two cents as well.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Happy New Year!

Best regards,
Carrie Limkilde
President’s Report

Dear Archival Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

The New Year brings changes in the ACA Board. The terms of ACA Vice-President, Rod Carter, and Director-at-Large, Heather Pitcher, ended 31 December 2011. I thank Rod and Heather for their tremendous work, positive contributions, and senses of humour. They will be missed! I also wish to welcome Michael Gourlie (Archives Society of Alberta) and Heather Beattie (Hudson's Bay Company Archives) to the ACA Board of Directors in their respective roles of Vice-President and Director-at-Large. Their terms of office are 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2013. I know both will excel as ACA Leadership Team members.

With these two new appointments, the ACA Board and their portfolios for 2012 are:

- Loryl MacDonald (President): Advocacy Committee (chair), Professional Learning Committee (board liaison), ACA Foundation (member), and ACA Secretariat;

- Michael Gourlie (Vice-President): Governance Committee (chair), Communications Committee (board liaison), Ethics Committee (board liaison), and ACA Foundation (member);

- Deirdre Bryden (Secretary-Treasurer): ACA Foundation (chair), Archivaria (board liaison), Conference (board liaison), and Membership Development Committee (board liaison); and

- Heather Beattie (Director-at-Large): Outreach Committee (board liaison), Student Chapters (board liaison), Special Interest Sections (board liaison), and ACA Foundation (member).

In 2012, the Board will continue to focus on three themes that we feel are key to ensuring that ACA continues as a thriving and relevant association – effective advocacy, quality member services, and good governance pursuant to the 2007 Review and Renewal Recommendations.

**Fall Planning and Priorities Meeting:**

The ACA Board of Directors and Directors-Elect, Membership Development Committee, Outreach Committee, Educational Guidelines Taskforce, and 2012 Program Committee met in-person 13-16 October 2011 in Toronto for our annual Fall Planning and Priorities meeting. The Fall P&P brought together volunteers to discuss issues facing the Association and to develop work plans for the coming year.

During the sessions, the Board also reviewed volunteer self-evaluations and conducted orientations for new Directors and new committee volunteers. We also enjoyed meeting students from the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Information ACA Student Chapter at a local pub. The Board is very pleased with the ACA committees’ excellent work and is grateful to all of the ACA Committee members who volunteer their time, energy, and expertise on behalf our association.

**ACA Board Activities:**

Recent ACA Board activities include:

- Rod Carter attended the Library Archives Canada (LAC) Stakeholder Forum on 8 September 2011. The primary purpose of the forum was to discuss possible collaboration in a Pan-Canadian Documentary Heritage Network.

- The Board formally approved the ACA’s Communications Policy and the ACA’s Sponsorship Policy at its 13 October meeting.

- On 13 October, the Board also approved subscriber and event fees (Archivaria subscriptions, conference registrations, and workshops) for 2012 – 2016. We are pleased that there will be no increases in 2012.

- On 22 October, Deirdre Bryden participated in the Canadian Council of Archives General Assembly teleconference call.

- Deirdre Bryden also participated in a conference call of the LAC Pan-Canadian Documentary Heritage Network working group on 28 October.

- On November 4, 2011, Deirdre Bryden, Loryl MacDonald and Rod Carter met in Ottawa with the Board of the Canadian Historical Association to discuss issues of mutual interest.

- On November 4, 2011, Deirdre Bryden, Loryl MacDonald and Rod Carter also met with representatives of Library Archives Canada.
ACA 2012 Program Committee Update

Judging by the response to the Call for Papers for ACA 2012 (Whitehorse, June 7-9 2012), Canadian archivists and their international colleagues are very keen to join the archival gold rush and talk about their treasures.

Program Committee members Catherine Bailey (Chair), Rob Fisher, Tom Belton, Jane Morrison, Ian Burnett, and Juanita Rossiter (dedicated liaison member from the 2011 Host and Program Committees!) met in person in Toronto on October 14-15, 2011. Having committee member Susan McClure (currently on leave from her post at the Halifax Regional Municipality Archives) participate through Skype from her sabbatical in South America brought a welcome new dimension to our deliberations.

The Committee received 79 paper and session proposals, many of which made very inventive use of gold rush and mining metaphors. Over two days of deliberations, we carefully assessed how well proposals reflected the theme of the conference; how they linked to broader archival issues and topics; and, in the case of individual papers, how the paper might fit in with other individual submissions to create a complete session. Our aim was to create a balanced program that would appeal to the broadest audience possible. At the same time, we brainstormed about possible plenary speakers, and considered whether some different presentation formats might work at ACA--Pecha Kucha or TED-X anyone?

While these new formats remained merely ideas (perhaps to be explored by future committees?), the Preliminary Program at a Glance presents the first glimpse of what we hope will be an exciting and engaging program for delegates in Whitehorse. Speakers will explore issues related to literary and artistic archives; social media; digital information infrastructure; appraisal and reappraisal; researcher community engagement; audio-visual preservation; access barriers to records (solicitor-client privilege); marketing, outreach and promotion; and archival networking and collaboration. Throughout the program are various sessions that focus more closely on the “archival gold” that is held in our institutions, the foundation of Canada’s rich and vibrant documentary heritage. In a departure from past years and in an effort to accept as many paper proposals as possible, the program even foregoes the traditional closing plenary session in favour of three concurrent “Archival Gold” sessions. It’s our hope that delegates will leave the conference refreshed, renewed and enthused about what archivists do and why we do it.

The Committee is now working with speakers to develop the final conference program, with complete session descriptions, prior to the opening of registration (slated for March 1, 2012). In the meantime, please visit the conference website at archivists.ca/content/program for up-to-date information on the Program Committee’s activities.

Catherine Bailey
Chair, ACA 2012 Program Committee
catherine.bailey@bac-lac.gc.ca

Come to ACA 2012 in Whitehorse: The Wilderness City
Are you planning to come to ACA 2012 in Whitehorse? We hope so! The ACA conference was last held in Whitehorse in June 1996 and for those of you who are saying “been there, done that” – you might want to reconsider. For one thing, we now have the largest Canadian Tire store in western Canada which means that you can now afford to buy your mosquito repellent!

All joking aside, Whitehorse, as the capital of the Yukon, is a fabulous city with many features that a town of comparable population does not have. It is called “the wilderness city” because wilderness is never more than fifteen minutes away from wherever one resides in the city. The ACA Host Committee is hard at work to ensure that conference attendees will get to see what Whitehorse and the rest of Yukon has to offer. Here is a short history about the history of the name Whitehorse to pique your interest.

The area surrounding Whitehorse has been home to Yukon First Nations people for countless generations. There is a place near the headwaters of the Yukon River where water rushes through a rock canyon. First Nations people call this canyon and rapids Kwänlin which means “water flowing through rock” in the Southern Tutchone language. This stretch of water had some of the best fishing spots in the area, drawing First Nations people to harvest spawning salmon. In the 1880s, the first non-native miners appeared, headed down the Yukon River. These miners often stopped at Kwänlin, and as early as 1887, they called it the Whitehorse Rapids because they compared the white caps of the rapids to white horses’ manes. The town site Whitehorse was named after the Whitehorse Rapids. Today Whitehorse has a population of 26,711 (June 2011) and is home to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta’an Kwäch’än Council.

If you are looking for a 2012 Yukon Vacation planner, please go to travelyukon.com to order it directly or you can choose to print a copy there as well.

Lesley Buchan, Chair, ACA 2012 Host Committee
This is a tale of four institutions, two governments and two professional associations. On the one side we have the merger of the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada to form Library and Archives Canada (LAC), the government of Canada, and the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA). On the other side we have the merger of Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, the Archives nationales du Québec, and the Grande bibliothèque du Québec to form the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ), the Québec government and the Association des archivistes du Québec (AAQ). If we compare the two mergers with regards to the roles played by the professional associations, we see results that differ yet are the same.

The merger of the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada was the first to take place in 2002. The creation of the National Archives of Canada, formerly the Public Archives of Canada, occurred after the Quebec Literary and Historical Society petitioned the Governor General and the House of Commons in 1871. Journalist Douglas Brymner was appointed a year later and was tasked with the job of creating a national archives for Canada. The National Library of Canada was formed quite a bit later, in 1953, in response to a recommendation from the Canadian Library Association and L’Association canadienne des bibliothécaires de langue française to the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, also known as the Massey–Lévesque Commission.

Interestingly, with the creation of the National Library of Canada, W. Kaye Lamb, the Dominion Archivist, became the National Librarian in addition to his archival role. He held both of those positions until his retirement in 1968, at which time a National Librarian, Guy Sylvestre, and slightly later a Dominion Archivist, Wilf Smith, were appointed. But we can see that in both cases of the creation of the national institutions, the government was reacting to a recommendation made by an organization. Although there were no professional archival associations in 1872, one could consider the Québec Literary and Historical Society to be a precursor.

Fast-forward to the year 1998, when the Canadian federal government was considering who the new National Archivist would be. Historian Jean Pierre Wallot was retiring. Both the ACA and the AAQ sent a letter to the federal government with a list of 5 archival candidates for the position and insisted that the associations be involved in the review process. This is important because of what followed. Because while the associations were struggling to be recognized with regards to the appointment, the Honorable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, announced the consultation on the future role and structure of the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada. This became known as the English Commission after the chair of the consultation, Dr. John English.

Now maybe one can say with hindsight that the fact that the federal government of Canada held a joint consultation on these two separate institutions, meant that officials were already thinking that the two repositories could be merged into one. Although Minister Copps said that she was looking to strengthen the capacities of the two institutions in order for them to play a leading role in “information management partnerships,” and that it was not a “cost-reduction exercise,” one cannot help but speculate that a reduction in costs through a merger would be welcomed by the government.

Terry Cook, in his article on the English Report in Archivaria 53, referred to the rumor mill in Ottawa which “buzzed that English’s job was really to justify merging the National Archives and National Library into one grand Canadian heritage research institution.” This would possibly have been a legacy project for Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, had he actually left at that time.

I was the newly elected president of the Association of Canadian Archivists when this English consultation took place. With my colleague Lois Yorke, who was president of the association just before me, we made a presentation to the Commission based on a lengthy brief prepared by Lois in consultation with members of the Executive and various committees. Many personnel from both institutions, others in the archival and library communities, the academic sector, other government departments and agencies, international associations, organizations involved in information management, and Canadians generally, made submissions.

We made 33 recommendations in the ACA’s submission, but the upshot was we strongly felt that the two institutions should be kept apart: “the ACA is emphatic that the two institutions must remain separate and distinct.” Likewise, the AAQ “concluded that the best way to fur-
ther the mandates was the present situation of two institutions, each headed by a person with the authority of a Deputy Minister.” At the end of the consultation in 1999, the English commission itself made a large number of recommendations, but first and foremost was that they recommended “that the National Library and the National Archives be separate institutions with distinct leaders.”

At the same time that the English commission tabled its report, Ian Wilson, formerly Provincial Archivist of Ontario, and Roch Carrier, writer and former head of the Canada Council, were appointed National Archivist and National Librarian respectively. It would seem soon after that the two leaders began to talk about increased cooperation between the two institutions, having agreed with the recommendation from the English commission.

According to Ian Wilson, a very negative relationship had developed between the National Archives and the National Library ever since the retirement of Kaye Lamb. Many problems were symptomatic of this poor relationship. There were long-standing jurisdictional issues relating to the acquisition of maps, music manuscripts and literary papers by the National Library. There were questions as to which institution would be responsible for preserving websites. The institutions themselves were running separate websites using two different technologies which did not allow the sites to speak to each other. Although the two organizations shared the same building, clients had to register twice, once with each institution, in order to use the two collections. Separate service standards were a sources of continuing tension. When Roch and Ian tried to develop a service standards agreement, it was “more like a treaty between warring powers.” Finally, after touring the country and speaking to many members of the general public, Ian felt that they didn’t understand the difference between archives and libraries, they simply wanted access to the content.

Roch and Ian established four committees to explore how the two institutions might work more closely together. For example, the National Library had wanted to set up a preservation lab for itself. A joint Preservation Committee was appointed to work out a more cooperative solution. Committee members said they had “never been given permission to talk together” before.

After this long process of exploring cooperation between the two institutions, and after considering the future challenge of handling electronic materials, Ian said it came down to whether the two institutions had a common goal, mission and values regarding the role of information within a modern society. “Could we explain the differences [between the two institutions] anymore?”

Finally, on what Ian referred to as a “memorable day” when he and Roch went for lunch together to try and resolve some of the differences between the two institutions, Roch suggested that they amalgamate the National Library and the National Archives. Ian agreed a single institution would be much better positioned in the government and suggested that they tell the prime minister’s office and from that point on the two coordinated the merger. In 2002 in a speech from the throne, the merger was announced. At the same time, Ian sent an email to his staff announcing the merger. This was the first time that at least some of the staff, members of the public and the professional organizations heard about it.

It is difficult to say what the reaction was from the community at the time. By this time I myself was off the executive of the ACA. I think it would be fair to say that the executive of the ACA was shocked and dismayed by the news. A straw poll taken this summer among members of the Association, however, indicated a fairly wide range of opinion. Some people referred to the merger as “a disaster,” “demeaning to archivists and archives and the value of the record,” “a bad idea as it was setting a bad precedent,” and that “cost-cutting seemed to drive the process rather than being only one of the results.”

The lack of consultation bothered many: “line archivists were surprised to hear the news when it was announced;” “staff on both sides were gob smacked, along with the rest of us.”

Some were a bit more neutral or even optimistic about the merger:

“[I wondered] how [the merger]would work logistically.”

“The idea of merging reference was, in my mind, an exciting one.”

“The merger was… an imaginative, positive, even necessary response to the realities of the digital age.”

“I was all for it at the time: I saw a tremendous potential for savings on redundant services.”

More than one respondent mentioned that having an archivist, Ian Wilson, as head of the new merged institutions was consoling. Given how emphatic librarians are about library training, it must have been a very bitter pill for them to swallow. Although the National Library was a much smaller institution than the National Archives at the time of the merger, librarians have always greatly outnumbered archivists, and libraries outside the two
national institutions have always had much better financing than archives in Canada. But today, now that there is neither an archivist nor a librarian in charge of LAC, the absence is felt: “it’s difficult to look to the National Archives for leadership when it doesn’t exist and there is no national archivist.”

In the end, however, one particularly irate senior archivist stated bitterly, something that many archivists in the profession were thinking:

“users, keepers, & owners of our archival heritage deserved better.”

Thus, it would be fair to say that there was indeed consultation with the community, but the recommendation overwhelmingly supported by those who submitted reports to the English Commission, to not merge the two institutions, was, in the end, not followed.

It is my impression that the two associations were so heavily invested in choosing the new national archivist, having been frozen out of the previous choosing of historian Jean Pierre Wallot, that when archivist Ian Wilson was chosen as the new National Librarian/National Archivist, nobody felt they should rock the boat when the merger was announced.

There were rumors and rampant speculation as to why the merger was occurring, including the idea that the merger was primarily to get a new building and later to create a “mega-heritage-consortium,” including archives, library and museums, at the national level. If so, this sadly did not pan out. The merged LAC ended up being moved to a retrofitted office building in Gatineau, a bedroom community for Ottawa located over the border in Québec. Although the office is located opposite the Parliament buildings still remains for reference services.

The merger has not been a particularly happy one for the professional staff. A labor settlement win in favor of librarians in the federal service boosted their salaries well beyond that of the archivists, creating an imbalance, which has only been partially addressed today. Low salaries and dissatisfaction with the archives has further led to very high turnover of staff. Culturally, librarians felt that archivists were not concerned enough with reference and focused too heavily on preservation and collecting. The archivists felt the librarians were doing work that was of a technical, repetitive nature and insufficiently scholarly.

While the two professional staffs have come to a greater understanding and accommodation of each other over the last nine years, the merger was and continues to be difficult. A survey conducted in 2011 at Library and Archives Canada among archivists about the recent modernization exposed how archivists have felt about the institution, if not the merger itself. 75% of all archivists felt that the modernization process at LAC had or will have a negative impact on their work as an archivist, and 70% of archivists did not feel respected as professionals. 42% had looked or would be looking for another job at the time the survey was taken.

Outside the institution, once the merger took place the LAC sent out staff members to visit provincial associations across Canada, and hired consultants to do surveys to get community response. Institutionally however, the LAC has struggled. Although management has tried to move the organization forward, they have recently been lambasted publicly by the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Canadian Historical Association, among others, for perceived failures. Outside of Canada, archivists and archival associations have felt the merger was a retrograde step.

The merger of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec or BNQ, the Archives nationales du Québec or ANQ, and the Grande bibliothèque du Québec to form the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, occurred in 2006. It had a somewhat different origin from the LAC merger. As early as 1972 the Québec ministère de la Culture issued a directive calling upon the BNQ to give the ANQ the literary archives that the library had acquired. Thus, the government of Québec recognized the separate roles and responsibilities of the two institutions.

Fast forward again to 2005, the government of Québec asked Lise Bissonnette, president and general director of the BNQ, to think about the possibility of a merger. The primary reasoning of the government was an economic one: three institutions, sharing common administrative activities, could save the government money. M. Bissonnette in turn asked Carol Couture, then at l’Université de Montréal, to organize the merger between the three institutions. Carol involved the AAQ right from the start. At the Association’s annual congress in 2005, all members participated in discussing the merger; Lise Bissonnette attended and spoke to people. There were formal and informal discussions. The critical point about this however, was that a merger was already decided upon; the Association was just providing input on what that merger
would look like.

What was the principal role of the AAQ before the merger? Carol felt that the Association helped prepare the ground, to make the profession ready to accept the merger. He felt the executive itself didn’t have any negative or positive reaction to the merger. Discussing this with Québec archivists on the ground however, some felt that the Association “lacked courage,” but that it was in no position to stop the merger from occurring. The Association receives funding from BanQ and so might have no position to stop the merger from occurring. The Association funds from BanQ and so might have felt hesitant to pick a fight. An archivist formerly on the Executive of the ACA also remarked that the ACA treated LAC with “kid gloves” because of their institutional membership. No doubt both associations have come to depend upon the important financial input of the two institutions.

In the end, although the merger was not without difficulties, Carol felt that it was a positive move. He refers to the merger as a harmonization instead of an integration of staff and that this difference in philosophy means that there were fewer problems between staff of the two institutions because management didn’t try to merge the two professions. Carol also feels that when new staff arrive who have studied in the professional schools, they are prepared to work on either the archival or the library side. This also means less friction between the two professions.

Three years after the harmonization, Carol pointed to many advantages, including: 20 new positions systematically replaced, a 30% increase in financial resources, an improvement of preservation conditions, a complete overhaul of the archival database Web interface, the acceleration of digitization, and so on. Carol also said however that there were many challenges, including an overall increase in the workload, the imbalance between Montréal and the Grande bibliothèque and the other regions, the difficulty for 800 BAnQ employees to get together, and so on.

Five years after the harmonization, however, Dr. Guy Berthiaume, a Canadian historian specialized in the study of Ancient Greek Religion and Chair and CEO of BAnQ since 2009, supposedly stated at an AAQ conference two years ago that there weren’t any particular advantages to the merger but that it did not hurt. Since then, we have seen mergers of one sort or another take place in New Zealand, Ireland, and other countries.

I think the final conclusion we might come to, is that governments have ideas of things that they want to accomplish and ways that those goals will be met, and whether archival associations participate or not, it’s very hard to stop that ship from sailing. I am sure that both Roch Carrier and Ian Wilson would have been very aware of what the government was expecting, in addition to all the advantages that they anticipated.

There are undoubtedly many advantages to having one mega institution to look after both archives and libraries, and it is true that researchers make far fewer distinctions between the materials and services provided by each type of institution than professionals do. Terry Cook has said that technology for the “production and distribution of the book versus that for the record” is what has kept libraries and archives apart and that as separate technologies disappear in the digital age, so will the need to keep separate institutions. He sees partnerships between the professions, however, as being essential in a world that values content, context, heritage and culture.

Whether archival and library organizations are merged or harmonized, the professions have yet to reconcile themselves to the change. It is difficult enough for archivists and librarians to carve out unique identities in the eyes of the public; being in a single institution makes it even harder. There is often jockeying for power and fighting for resources in these hybrid institutions; one only has to look at the literature about university archives, often embedded in libraries, to know it’s most often an uneasy alliance. One might speculate that if Library and Archives Canada were flush with funds and archivists and librarians had achieved a perfect balance of power and resources within that institution, that great things could be accomplished.

What about the future? Could it be that as Carol Couture has suggested, a blended professional will arise to effortlessly switch from one job to another in a single library/archives institution? The professions do not seem to be able to handle both professional jobs equally well at this time. And it has been remarked that currently, students who have been trained to work in either library or archival positions, have sometimes tended to do less well than if they specialized in one position or the other. Naturally some individuals have no problem leaping the philosophical divide. But will some information super professional emerge to work in these merged institutions in the future? I think that type of person is still some way away.

*Based on a paper delivered to the ICA SUV, Edinburgh, 2011
Archives News and Other Notable News

Association for Manitoba Archives’ New Website
The Association for Manitoba Archives is pleased to announce the launch of its new website. The site is now available at mbarchives.ca.

Powered by Drupal and hosted by the University of Manitoba, the new website features much of the content from the old website but is presented in a more user-friendly design. New features include a discussion forum where members and the general public can ask questions of archivists; a members only section where AMA members can access association documents such as annual reports, as well as register for membership renewals and upcoming events and workshops; and a news and events feed on the home page that keeps members abreast of the latest developments in the Manitoba archival community. The site also features a prominent link to the province’s new descriptive catalogue, powered by ICA-AtoM.

A few sections are still under construction but should be available for use early in the coming months. New features will continue to be added to the website in the future.

Brett Lougheed
Chair, AMA Technology Working Group

Archives Society of Alberta’s New Blog
The Archives Society of Alberta has recently launched a new blog to promote Alberta’s archival community. It’s just a couple of posts at the moment, but they are hoping Alberta’s archivists will provide additional content about their holdings, activities and other initiatives frequently in the coming months. Check it out: archivesalberta.wordpress.com

ACA@UBC 2012 International Symposium, Unpacking the Digital Shoebox: The Future of Personal Archives
The student chapter of the Association of Canadian Archivists at the University of British Columbia is pleased to inform you that registration has opened for the ACA@UBC 2012 International Symposium, Unpacking the Digital Shoebox: The Future of Personal Archives. The event is taking place on Friday, February 17th at the Frederic Wood Theatre at UBC.

Early bird registration deadline is January 16th. For a list of speakers and to register visit: tinyurl.com/7le29wn

UNESCO International Conference at UBC – The Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation
SLAIS, The iSchool at UBC, is partnering with several other organizations to host the UNESCO Memory of the World 20th anniversary international conference on digitization and digital preservation in Vancouver on September 26-28, 2012. For more information and the call for papers visit the following link: tinyurl.com/7wgtpfg.


A significant new online exhibit by the Nova Scotia Archives draws upon unique resources to tell the story of courage and survival of African Nova Scotians, as the world marks the United Nations’ International Year for People of African Descent.

Gabriel Hall at 94 years old. He came to Nova Scotia on board the Chesapeake. Source: Nova Scotia Archives

African Nova Scotian Diaspora: Selected Government Records of Black Settlement, 1791-1839 was launched on September 23rd to coincide with the International Afri-
can Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference in Halifax.

The exhibit contains more than 500 digitized and fully searchable government documents relating to early African Nova Scotian immigration and emigration. It adds to the Archives' existing 70+ online resources, including 'African Nova Scotians in the Age of Slavery and Abolition' and a photographic portrait of Africville, 'Gone but Never Forgotten.'

African Nova Scotia Diaspora (gov.ns.ca/nsarm.virtual/diaspora/) focuses mainly on the settlement of 2,000 Black Refugees in Nova Scotia between 1813 and 1816. They came as the result of a proclamation by British military authorities during the War of 1812, giving Americans who deserted to the British side the opportunity of going as free settlers to one of the British colonies.

Many of the documents are rich in the names of individual Black Refugees, including lists of those who settled in Preston, Hammonds Plains, Beechville and elsewhere in Nova Scotia. Others reflect the struggles of the Black Refugees, and remind us of the obstacles and challenges they had to overcome.

The Nova Scotia Archives plays a leading role in preserving the province's documentary heritage. It is mandated to acquire, preserve and make available Government and private-sector records of provincial significance, and is committed to ensuring the broadest possible public access to its resources and services.

The Archives has expanded its Internet/Social Media presence from a single web page in 1998 to 2 websites, a Facebook page, Twitter and Flickr sites, and a YouTube channel - attracting a total of 1.9 million research visits and 69 million page views annually.

The Archives welcomes visitors six days a week at its premises at the corner of Robie Street and University Avenue in Halifax, by e-mail at nsarm@gov.ns.ca, by telephone at (902) 424-6060, and on its websites at gov.ns.ca/nsarm and novascotiagenealogy.com. It also hosts a C@P site for the benefit of the broader community.

African Nova Scotian Diaspora is available online at gov.ns.ca/nsarm.virtual/diaspora/.

---

University of Victoria Archives and Special Collections presents an on-line exhibit: The World of Mary’s Wedding – Reminiscences of World War I

An inspired collaboration between Pacific Opera Victoria and the University of Victoria Libraries has resulted in the creation of exhibits, displays, and a website to draw you into the world of “The World of Mary’s Wedding”. “Mary’s Wedding” is a new opera commissioned by the Pacific Opera Victoria, with composer Andrew MacDonald and playwright Stephen Massicotte, based on Stephen’s award-winning play. “Mary’s Wedding” tells a story of love and remembrance set in the Prairies, the trenches of France and the battle of Moreuil Wood in March 1918. The World of Mary’s Wedding: Reminiscences of World War I from the University of Victoria Archives and Special Collections is in three parts: private remembering derived from letters, diaries, personal photographs, & scrapbooks; collective remembering using the military artifacts of war; and the art of remembering showcasing war art, drama, poetry and music.

Visit the exhibit at: worldofmaryswedding.library.uvic.ca

Check out the new Archeion site for Ontario's archival descriptions

The Archeion Standing Committee and members of the Archives Association of Ontario board announce the launch of the next generation of Archeion. Ontario’s archival descriptions are now available at archeion.ca.
The new Archeion includes a number of enhancements including:

- Multi-level archival descriptions;
- linking digital objects held in institutional digital repositories to their archival fonds of origin;
- the ability for Archeion users to display element headings in French, Dutch, Spanish, Slovenian, Polish, and Portuguese;
- institutional descriptions based on ICA-ISDIAH, the International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings, which will allow AAO institutional members contributing to Archeion to keep up-to-date contact and descriptive information about their own institution;
- advanced search capabilities incorporating data generated from user studies conducted on behalf of the AAO by the University of Toronto and Artefactual Systems Inc.;
- global search and replace for descriptions;
- bulk Import XML and CSV;
- reports for file and item lists, box lists and physical storage locations;
- a rights interface based on PREMIS.

A manual on how to use the new Archeion site is now available from the AAO website at http://tinyurl.com/archeion-manual. Additionally, workshops on how to use the new Archeion will be offered at various locations across Ontario throughout March, 2012. For more information check the AAO website: http://aao-archivists.ca/

**Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) releases report on digital research content**

In 2011 the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) undertook an exploration to determine what impact access to digital research content has had on the research community in Canada. The report documents a number of issues that have been observed during day-to-day activity and described in the literature. It concludes that CRKN is delivering on its mission to build knowledge infrastructure and research capacity in Canada’s universities which in turn contributes to national competitiveness and economic benefit. The findings of this research are available in a report called **CRKN Outputs and Impacts: Findings of Four Focus Groups with the Research Community**. This report was shared with members and is now being circulated more widely.

The findings from major research themes investigated included:

- Research practices have become more productive as digital research content provides convenience of access, better selection, lower cost and higher researcher satisfaction;
- The interdisciplinary aspect of research has been augmented as more publications are monitored, gray literature is included, cross-disciplinary connections are made through key word searches and links, related fields of research are accessible, and systematic reviews are more timely and of higher quality;
- Research collaboration has expanded networks of researchers in Canada and abroad, cross disciplinary networks and co-authorships expand, and Canada gains an international reputation for leadership through superior knowledge resources;
- Teaching and learning practices are more effective and more efficient as they take advantage of expanded and timely learning resources.

To learn more about CRKN and to view the report, visit the following link: tinyurl.com/7ucb673
This online exhibit focuses on the War’s impact on those living in Upper Canada at the time of the conflict and on later generations who sought ways to remember it. It documents how the war was fought both within the province and in locations beyond its borders, and it examines the War's later image in the popular imagination.

The exhibit provides some highlights of the Archives of Ontario’s rich collection relating to the War of 1812 and sheds some light on invaluable documents, many of which have never been published. Correspondence and diaries contemporary to the war tell the story in the words of those who lived through it. A broad variety of documentary art, illustrations and later photographers has been selected to help bring these contemporary words to life.

Stay tuned for updates, launch dates and schedules for the Archives of Ontario’s War of 1812 commemorative events and activities. To see the War of 1812 online exhibit visit www.ontario.ca/archives.

For more information email us at reference@ontario.ca.

The Archives of Ontario will celebrate 200 years of peace by delivering exciting programming and events to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 over a three-year period. Proposed activities include a themed speakers’ series, exhibits, articles, social media and educational programming.

The Archives of Ontario’s website (ontario.ca/archives) features an extremely popular online exhibit entitled, The War of 1812. This extensive online exhibit and history resource showcases some of the personalities and locations that played a role in the war and explores the events of that conflict as told through the correspondence and diaries of those who lived it. These words are illustrated with artwork, maps and photographs from the Archives’ holdings.
Searching for Archival Silver… a history mystery solved.

By Lauren Oostveen of the Public Information Officer, Dept. of Communities, Culture, and Heritage, Nova Scotia Archives

In 2010, the Nova Scotia Archives began a pretty standard scanning project. We have close to 100,000 images on our website and every year we add thousands more... that amounts to many, many hours spent scanning.

The photos in question were nitrate negatives that dated back to the 1890s. The photographer that we hired to work with the negatives scanned, Photoshopped, and arranged the negatives. When she was done, she brought a few of us together for a “slideshow” of what she felt were the best items in the collection. That's when we realized two things:

1. These photos were exceptional. You could also call them beautiful, awe-inspiring, moving, brilliant, amazing, and many other terms. They are stunning pieces of history and most of them hadn't been seen by anyone in almost a century.

2. Many of the photos were taken outside of Nova Scotia and were missing titles, captions, dates, locations, and so forth.

It was clear that we wanted to share these amazing photos with the world, but a traditional exhibit didn’t seem to do them justice. We decided to involve the public in tracing the history of these photos through a crowdsourcing project on the photo-sharing website Flickr.

By adding a tag or a comment on Flickr the public can help the archives deduce where and when these photos were taken... and who is in them. This collection is largely focused on two things: striking scenery and groups of people. The people in the frame are what makes these photos different---they are laughing, jumping, touching, grinning, and moving. They give an emotive quality to these photos that you don’t often get with older prints.

Since its launch in October, the Flickr project has received 75,000 views on 150 photos. 42 photos have been commented on and 51 have been favourited. More importantly, some significant photos have been identified, including one of the most mysterious photos of the bunch.

This eerie photo of seemingly abandoned buildings on a tiny island had everyone guessing:

Some thought it was in Italy. Others thought it was off of the South Shore near Yarmouth.

Thanks to an especially resourceful Flickr user, we now know that this is Silver Islet in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. It’s a tiny piece of land in Lake Superior near Thunder Bay, Ontario. It is called Silver Islet because of the highly profitable silver mine that operated there.

A vein of pure silver was discovered on the island in 1868. At the time, the island was 50 meters in size and only 2.5 metres above the waters of the lake. In 1870, the site was developed and wooden breakwaters around the island were built to hold back waves. The islet was then expanded to over 10 times its original size and a small mining town was built up on the shore nearby. Over the 16 years that the mine was in operation, $3.25 million worth of silver was extracted.

After most of the ore from the original site had been removed, a second vein was discovered in 1878. By 1883, most of the silver had been extracted. A short time later, a shipment of coal did not arrive before the end of the shipping season. This caused the pumps holding back the waters of the lake to stop, and in early 1884 the islet's mine shafts were flooded.

There you have it, a history mystery solved on Flickr!
Professional Obligations in Offering and Promoting Unpaid Work

By Rodney Carter, St. Joseph Region Archives of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph

Early in November, a post was made to the AAO’s listserv on behalf of a third party, advertizing an “excellent” leaning opportunity for a student. The organization was hoping to attract a knowledgeable individual to organize their historic records while simultaneously offering to provide work experience to a new professional. It was a volunteer position which required arrangement and description of historic materials as well as conducting oral history interviews. There would be no archivist to supervise the work. I spoke out against this post suggesting that students ought to steer clear of it. I have been asked to revisit this issue and share my opinions on volunteering and internships here in hopes of spurring discussion in the wider archival community.

The issue for me with this posting was primarily how it was framed. If it was described as a straight-forward volunteer position I doubt I would have thought twice about it. What bothered me was that it was posed as an educational opportunity even though there would be no supervision from a professional. The student (or other candidate) would have to apply what they had already learned without anyone there to answer questions, critique their work or suggest areas where they could improve. If a position is one where the person doing the work is supposed to learn, there has to be someone available to teach. Otherwise, they would only be attempting to put into practice what they have already learned – at great expense – without the benefit of an experienced archivist to let them know if they are on the right track or not.

An institution looking for someone to do the job of a professional should be prepared to pay a professional wage. If they are offering an educational opportunity, such as an internship, then they must be willing to put the time and energy into working with the intern so that real learning occurs.¹ If the institution benefits more than the worker, then I think there is a serious imbalance within the situation.

This is not to suggest that there is anything wrong with volunteering or for offering volunteer positions. Indeed, volunteerism is to be commended, but the parameters of the work must be very clear. Volunteering can be very rewarding, and helping build capacity in institutions and educating the wider public is certainly an important way archivists can give back to the broader community, while, at the same time, helping to ensure important documentary heritage is preserved. Volunteering can be great for enhancing a resume and it may be the only way for small institutions to get work done. I applaud archivists – new and old – who give their time to non-profits or others to help them preserve their history. There are, however, ramifications for asking a volunteer to do the work of a professional and those considering volunteering should ask what value is the institution placing on its archives if they are unwilling or unable to fund a professional position and ask whether a paying job is being replaced as a result of their work.

One argument that was put forward in response to my posts posits that as archival studies programs are graduating ever increasing numbers of archivists at the same time that the number of archival jobs are diminishing, getting relevant on-the-job experience, such as was put forward, is very important. It is precisely because of the extremely competitive job market, however, that we, as a community of professionals, must be very wary of promoting “opportunities” that potentially take advantage of new archivists who are clamouring for work. We must ask what we are saying if we allow an institution - even a non-profit - to benefit from the labour of a new professional without either paying them a living wage or providing them with a valuable learning experience. I believe that, as a community, it is vital that we comment on situations that are potentially exploitative and encourage institutions that need our expertise to deal with their documentary heritage to find a way to offer a short-term contract or other compensation so that the employers truly understand the value of the work that we as archivists do.

As a community, we should not be encouraging institutions that wish to take advantage of the competitive environment that exists for all archivists - not just students or new professionals. Institutions that, consciously or not, neither value nor respect the work of archivists must be challenged. As members of a professional community, I think it is in all of our best interests to actively work

against this mentality and promote the value of professional archivists.

We owe it to ourselves to provide meaningful opportunities to new professionals through internships or mentorships where they are properly compensated for their time and effort. Ideally this would include monetary remuneration; however, it should also leave the new professional (or archivist) with newly gained skills and knowledge in addition to getting the desired line on their resume. As a professional community, we need to continually engage in advocacy and outreach to promote archives and the value of archivists for institutions and organizations of all types.

Editor’s Note: It is my hope that members of the archives’ community will weigh in on this debate, which originated on the AAO listserv. Please feel free to add to the conversation citing your own experiences and perspectives on some of these significant issues facing our profession. I will print responses in upcoming issues.
As the archival profession is a very competitive one, opportunities to gain experience and a way in to the workforce are few and far between. I have been lucky and I have received some opportunities through a couple of paid internships - most recently an YCW Building Careers in Heritage Internship; however, many new archivists do not have such luxuries. In order to get my foot in the door, however, I did volunteer at a regional archive and this experience was very rewarding and I worked with some great people. In turn, this experience (coupled with my graduate work) helped me secure my first contractual position at a city archive.

One of my first encounters working with archival material happened when I worked at a small town museum as part of a Young Canada Works grant. As with smaller institutions, the museum employed only one person who acted as curator, archivist and administrator (and everything in-between). That being said, the curator was not formally trained for her role - she had a Master of Arts in Fine Art. When I worked with the archival material, she largely relied on my previous experience as a volunteer at another museum and deemed me an ‘expert’ as far as she was concerned. Although I gained a lot of value out of my internship, anything having to do with archives needed to be revisited.

In contrast to that, my volunteer experience at a regional archive fared a bit better. The archivists there knew what they were doing. I digitized part of the collection and worked with their archival database in preparation for the launch of an online search feature for patrons. The only problem with this arrangement had to do with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. As a student, it was assumed that I would be covered under my institution’s workplace agreement and not under the region. As soon as I finished school though, I could no longer volunteer at the archives as it is a unionized environment and I was not their employee. This is a tad frustrating for a young professional who is trying to gain experience. If I want to work with real professionals, I cannot as their institution cannot employ me. In contrast, I can always volunteer at a small town museum or archive and run the risk of working alongside someone who knows as little or less than I do about archives and does not have the resources to properly mentor me.

A very unfortunate trend I am also noticing is a lack of appreciation for the level of skill and time needed to become an archivist. These jobs pop up on job boards and listservs, asking for either volunteer archivists, severely underpaid archivists, or students who do not have the necessary skills to complete the job properly. In the case of students, it is all well and good to try to gain some archival experience through volunteer work; however, without proper supervision things can go very wrong. I think volunteering can be a valuable experience if a practicing archival professional takes on the supervisory role and has the student shadow them. That being said, there really should be some sort of remuneration for the work completed. We are professionals and thus need to be treated as such and that includes recognition for our hard work.

Getting into the profession appears to be a bit of a catch-22. I need experience to be employed as a professional archivist, but getting experience, especially some of value, is getting increasingly harder.
Cuadra Associates helps Roosevelt University Expand Public Access to its Archives

New Software Key to Expansion

Los Angeles, CA-December 7, 2011- Roosevelt University, founded in 1945 to foster the democratic ideals and values of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, is taking advantage of new archives management software to provide for public access to its archives. Its extensive catalog of archival materials has now been made available for searching over the Internet.

The software involved is STAR Knowledge Center for Archives ("SKCA"), a product of Los Angeles-based Cuadra Associates. This software, which can be used from any browser, supports the rapid and efficient cataloging of archival materials, as well as providing for easy search of the materials over the Internet.

The organization of the University's archival materials did not begin in earnest until 2007 but in a relatively short period of time, the archivists have processed about 20 percent of the University's collection. They first focused primarily on cataloging their photographic collection, and are now concentrating on a series of document collections that are part of the backlog.

According to University Archivist Laura Mills, SKCA has enabled the University to pick up the pace of describing its collections, as well as supporting the release of an attractive public-access catalog. "The appearance of our public-access catalog is welcoming and straightforward," she said. "University staff members tell me that they like it. We can already see that both our users over the Internet and University staff members will enjoy the benefits of using this tool because they can get to the descriptions, photographs and images that they want easily and quickly. And, SKCA's 'Advanced Search page' helps them to limit their retrieval to only the materials that are relevant to their needs."

Mills credits SKCA for helping to make so much of the University's collection accessible in such a short period of time. "SKCA is a really effective and efficient way to make your collection accessible both within your organization and over the Internet," she said.

About Roosevelt University

Roosevelt University, a national leader in educating socially conscious citizens, is a private student-centered university with 6,700 students studying at comprehensive campuses in Chicago and northwest suburban Schaumburg.

About Cuadra Associates, Inc.

Cuadra Associates, Inc., a SydneyPLUS Company, is a leading provider of knowledge management software products. The core of every Cuadra product is STAR, a highly acclaimed multi-purpose software package with the power and flexibility to manage information collections of all types. STAR is used to manage information collections from many types of environments, including archives, libraries, museums, and publishing houses.

For more information on Cuadra products, contact Ilene Slavick at 800-366-1390 or 310-591-2490 or visit the company's Web site at: http://www.cuadra.com
SOURDOUGHS! WHOOP IT UP AT THE ACA

SOURDOUGH RENDEZVOUS

TRY THIS REMEDY FOR CABIN FEVER

Whether a Sourdough of the ACA, who has yet to renew membership or not yet a member, take advantage of Association of Canadian Archivists membership in 2012, including discounted conference rates.

Come to Whitehorse to Discover Archival Gold

June 7, 8, 9

2012

Find gold benefits as an ACA member: www.archivists.ca