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

The end of 2012 is nearly upon us. However, there is still time to enter the ACA’s membership renewal early bid draw to get the chance to win cool archival prizes! Also, the ACA Communications Committee is asking members for input on the ACA Bulletin, so please take a few minutes to complete the online survey when it arrives in your inbox this month.

In this issue of the Bulletin, we included some updates on next year’s ACA Annual Conference in Winnipeg. Read about what the Host Committee & Conference Program Committee have been cooking up for us for 2013! There is also an interesting article from the Sisters of St. Ann Archives concerning the changing role of religious archives in Canada and a students’ review of the ACA’s Digital Preservation Management Workshop.

Happy reading and I wish you all a safe and wonderful holiday season. See you in the New Year!

Best Regards,
Carrie Limkilde
Editor

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Hey there fun loving members of the ACA! This is your official invitation to join us for the 2013 ACA Conference in balmy Winnipeg, Manitoba! Yes, Winnipeg can be balmy by June. It could also snow, but we’re focusing on the positive.

It is very appropriate that Winnipeg is the host city for this year’s ACA conference as the conference theme is "Archives as Community, Community as Archives." Winnipeg has an undeniably strong community spirit and the archival community in Winnipeg and across Manitoba is excited to share its city and province with our national and international colleagues. The Host Committee has been working hard planning tours and social events that are unique to the city and representative of our community. There is so much to do around Winnipeg!

Watch future Bulletins, as well as your inbox, for more information from the Host Committee as the conference approaches. We will also be periodically updating the ACA website with social event details. And for the most up-to-date information on the 2013 ACA conference, interesting tidbits about the host city, and to personalize your trip with your friends and colleagues, visit the conference Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/events/540686962624428/) and follow us on Twitter (http://twitter.com/aca_conference).

OK, now everyone has plans June 13-15, 2013. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Brett Lougheed

Association of Canadian Archivists Foundation

2012 is going well for the Association of Canadian Archivists Foundation. The ACAF successfully raised almost $1400 at the ACA conference in Whitehorse through the annual raffle and inaugural silent auction, and so far has received over $2300 in donations. November and December are our busiest fundraising months and we’re looking forward to launching our new fundraising initiative soon. The Association of Canadian Archivists Foundation is hoping to surpass the amount raised last year. Every cent helps towards reaching our goal of establishing scholarships for students through our Scholarship Endowment fund.

If you would like to contribute to the ACAF, there are several ways to do so. In addition to sending donations through the ACA office, you can also donate through CanadaHelps.org. Although CanadaHelps.org only takes credit cards for payment, the site offers up tax receipts immediately, and also provides the option for monthly contributions if desired.

For more information about the ACA Foundation and the ACA Scholarship Endowment Fund, please go to our website: http://www.archivists.ca/content/aca-foundation

ACA 2013 Conference Program Update

After devising our conference theme and call for papers back in May, the ACA 2013 Conference Program Committee has had a long summer, watching proposals trickle in, worrying whether or not the theme was inspiring enough... Well, it turns out that 95% percent of you sent in your conference proposals on the last day! We received 43 session proposals and 23 individual paper proposals. In other words, far too many to fit into the eight 3-paper session slots available.

So, the proposals were duly organized, spreadsheets were created, and packets sent to Committee members for individual review and scoring according to factors such as: link to conference theme; interest to archivists; quality of speaker; links to other sessions/papers; repetition of recent conference session; and advancing thinking of a recent conference session. The scores were tabulated ahead of time, so that when the Committee met in person on October 25-26, we had a good sense of where there was consensus and where we needed to have a longer conversation. In the end, of course, we still had too many great sessions and papers to fit in the conference structure.

So we made some extra efforts to build more sessions into the program (stopping short of adding an additional concurrent, or adding a day to the conference!). We were able to extend the number of sessions available by moving certain events around on the program and creating sessions of a variety of lengths. We also decided to minimize the number...
of times an individual speaker would appear on the program in order to give more conference space to a greater variety of voices.

Then came the fun of fitting papers and sessions together within the program time constraints (hello post-it notes!). We grouped individual papers logically together where there were complementary (or conflicting!) points of view. In the end we were able to see streams emerging within the overall theme of “Community as Archives, Archives as Community.” There are 3 main ideas that flow through the days of sessions related to aboriginal communities and archives; archives of communities; and our professional community of archivists.

We are in the process now of contacting everyone who proposed a session or paper, confirming plenary speakers and pulling together the logistical needs and "Conference at a Glance." If you have never submitted a conference proposal before or are looking for some tips, there will be a session at this year’s conference where some hints will be doled out. Calls for posters and student papers go out in November, so do not forget to submit your ideas. We are excited about the way the program is coming together and are very much looking forward to seeing you in Winnipeg!

Conference Program Committee goes high tech.
Communities are the framework of our identities, our history and our lives. Online and offline, connected by geography, ethnicity, language, sexuality, interests, professions, friendship and kin, our lives are a lattice of communities.

Join us in Winnipeg, city of communities and meeting places, for an exploration of how archival consciousness arises in communities and how community consciousness has arisen among archivists. In addition to three exciting plenary sessions featuring international experts, the program is organized into three session streams:

- **Aboriginal Communities and Archives:** Explore Aboriginal perspectives on archives and stories; consider the role of archives in social justice, truth and reconciliation; discuss how archives can contribute to social memory in Aboriginal communities;
- **Archives of Communities:** Archives are built around communities tangible and virtual, providing the foundation of community identity and creating a place for participatory archiving. Speakers will illustrate the power of archives to unite communities such as ethnic groups, the queer community, individuals brought together by memory and grief, geography and more;
- **The Community of Archivists:** Discuss issues around professional identity; the changing role of the archivist; get updates on the building of standards, collaboration and new approaches to acquisition, appraisal, description; and continue the discourse on the utility and challenge of the digital and the virtual.

This year’s conference not only promises a thoroughly stimulating and engaging program, but also offers opportunities to join colleagues in experiencing Winnipeg’s irrepressible community spirit. Social events will highlight a few of the unique eccentricities, charms, and attractions of Winnipeg and surrounding area. Or you can explore what the city has to offer on your own! ACA 2013 will allow you to be connected to the conference and your colleagues like never before through Facebook, Twitter, and the ACA website. And the ACA 2013 app will ensure that you have all the conference information you require no matter where you and your mobile device may be.

The ACA 2013 conference hotel will be the Delta Winnipeg. Among its many features are a central location in downtown Winnipeg within walking distance of many of the city’s attractions, a rooftop pool, excellent dining, a fantastic lounge, and strong Wi-Fi throughout the guest rooms and conference facilities.

For additional information, or to register, visit the ACA 2013 section of the website at [http://www.archivists.ca/content/annual-conference](http://www.archivists.ca/content/annual-conference).

Note: **Registration opens on March 1, 2013**
Obituary

Jay Atherton 1936-2012

On behalf of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA), I wish to extend my sincerest condolences on the passing of Jay Atherton. Jay Atherton was born and raised in Vancouver. A graduate of the University of British Columbia in 1961 (Honors Canadian History), he served as an archivist and senior manager with the Public (later, National) Archives of Canada from 1961 to 1993. He received an MA in Canadian History from Carleton University in 1982. During 1978 and 1979 he served as a member of Consultative Group on Canadian Archives, sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. From 1978 to 1986, Jay served as senior manager responsible for the work of the National Archives in promoting and facilitating effective collaboration between the professions of records management and archives. These activities included service as a member of the Standards Committee, and the Board of the Ottawa Chapter, Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA International). Jay was a founding member of the Association of Canadian Archivists (1975) and The Friends of the National Archives of Canada (1994), later serving as President of each of these organizations. Previous to his retirement from the National Archives in 1993, he was senior manager (1986-2002) of the organizational units responsible for the acquisition, control, and description of archival records. He served (from 1993 to 1996) as General Editor of Archivaria, and he devoted several years to the task of creating a university archives at Carleton University. Jay received honorary membership in the Association of Canadian Archivists in 2002 and was made a Founding Fellow in 2009. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Jay’s family, friends, and colleagues. We are truly grateful for his devotion to the development of the Canadian archival profession.

Best Regards,

Loryl MacDonald,
ACA President

Tribute to Lyne St-Hilaire-Tardif

Change is inevitable, and it is with considerable regret that I note the departure of a long-time member of the Archivaria team. Lyne St-Hilaire-Tardif has been involved with Archivaria in many roles, most recently as copy editor and proofreader, since Number 32 (Summer 1991). As the ACA’s office manager (1991–99), which included a three year term as Bulletin editor (1996–99), she was involved in many aspects of the production and mailing of the journal until 1999, when she left the ACA to establish her own editing business, Lyne’s Word. The ACA engaged her to continue as production coordinator/proofreader; in 2008, she became the copy editor/proofreader. Lyne retired in 2010 and wrapped up her business; however, she kept Archivaria as her sole client. In 2011, she signalled her intention to step down from her work with the journal, and Archivaria 73 (Spring 2012) was her last issue.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the entire ACA, I want to acknowledge Lyne’s tremendous contribution to 42 issues of Archivaria. Her long experience with the journal and her knowledge of the archival community and the practice of archivy have contributed greatly to the journal’s success. Thank you, Lyne, for your remarkable commitment, and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Jean Dryden
Archivaria General Editor
The Archives of Ontario’s new exhibit: Perceptions of 1812: Identity, Diversity, Memory

The Archives of Ontario continues to develop and deliver free onsite exhibits that enable the public to understand and learn using the Archives’ collections. In November, the Archives will be presenting their exhibit, Perceptions of 1812: Identity, Diversity, Memory, in the Helen McClung Gallery.

This exhibit is part of a suite of commemorative activities we’re delivering. With articles and blogs, a speakers’ series, online and travelling exhibits, educational resources and the Twitter feed @ Elyplayter1812, we’re showcasing our unique holdings and highlighting the vital significance of this time in Ontario’s history.

The War of 1812 is often cited as a foundational moment in Canada’s history, and the Archives of Ontario holds a substantial collection of materials related to the conflict as well as the numerous efforts to commemorate the war during the past 200 years.

This exhibit is curated by Dr. Ross Fair. Ross holds both an MA in Public History and a PhD in Canadian History. His academic interests focus on pre-Confederation Canada, particularly Upper Canada.

Perceptions of 1812: Identity, Diversity, Memory attempts to expand our view of the conflict beyond the battlefields and the military heroes. Using reproductions of records and images unique to the Archives of Ontario’s collections (archival, library and art), the exhibit’s graphic panels explore aspects of the war and its aftermath from various points of view.

The exhibit is illustrated by images and documents that represent a diverse range of people in order to present the different experiences of life during wartime. The conflict provided some individuals opportunities for career advancement, while others suffered devastating personal and property losses. Several panels expose the often overlooked subjects of pacifism and treason, while others portray how bitter debates spawned by the war helped forge an Upper Canadian identity. Perceptions of 1812 also draws upon the records of later generations of Ontarians to highlight the efforts of those who sought to commemorate the War of 1812, honour its heroes and heroines, and preserve the province’s collection of neglected forts and battlefields.

Using a wide array of collections held by the Archives of Ontario – ranging from Ely Playter’s diaries and Thomas Ridout family correspondence, to the Women’s Canadian Historical Society Papers, to the records of the Niagara Parks Commission – the exhibit highlights the fascinating stories of how the War of 1812 and its aftermath shaped the character of Ontario and the nation.

The Archives of Ontario will further complement these stories with on-site educational programming for students in grades 7 to 12. In a hands-on workshop, students will be able to be their own historians, combing the exhibit to create their own stories of the War of 1812 and display their final works in our George Spragge classroom adjacent to the exhibit.

We hope the images, stories, and programming in Perceptions of 1812: Identity, Diversity, Memory informs and enlightens, deepening your understanding of the war – and its lasting impact.

Stay tuned for updates for the Archives of Ontario’s War of 1812 commemorative events and activities. To see the Archives of Ontario’s War of 1812 online exhibit, visit ontario.ca/archives. For more information email us at reference@ontario.ca

Perceptions of 1812: Identity, Diversity, Memory
On now at the Archives of Ontario Exhibit Gallery
Mon. to Fri.: 8:30am - 5:00pm, Tues. and Thurs. to 8 p.m.
Sat.: from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Archives of Ontario
134 Ian Macdonald Blvd.
Toronto ON
416-327-1600 or,
Toll free in Ontario:
1-800-668-9933
ontario.ca/archives
The Sisters of St. Ann Archives’ landmark agreement with the BC Archives

By Carey Pallister,
Archivist, Sisters of St. Ann Archives

The role of religious congregations across Canada has changed. These once strong and influential institutions of religious life have been declining in numbers and in importance to modern Canadian society. As a result, many congregations are making the difficult decision to transfer or deposit their Archives to secular institutions to be preserved and managed by them.

Congregational and diocesan archives have traditionally been private Archives, created and maintained by their founding organization for the specific needs of that organization. Access was restricted to those within the community or those trusted by the organization. The new reality, essentially a public-private partnership will test and challenge the status quo and require patience, respect and consideration from both parties. It is essential that the new stewards and users of these records have an understanding of the culture and sense of the historical context in which they were created. Archivists as stewards of religious archives must find a balance between the privacy of the founding institution, keeping alive its legacy and sharing it with the world in a manner that is in keeping with the principles of the original creators.

The Sisters of St. Ann have been leaders in this movement and have recently signed a deposit agreement with the BC Archives. This innovative agreement benefits not only the two institutions involved, but all British Columbians.

The Sisters of St. Ann is a congregation of women religious founded in Vaudreuil, Quebec in 1850 by Marie Esther Blondin, now Blessed Marie Anne Blondin. On June 5, 1858, four Sisters and a laywoman arrived in Victoria to begin educating children of the colony. Their arrival in Victoria coincided with the Fraser River gold rush, necessitating a response to the changing needs of the burgeoning population, which included helping the sick. The Sisters lived in a log cabin that also served as their first school. The first pupils were not only the aboriginal children that they had originally been missioned to teach, but children of the Hudson’s Bay Company employees and colonists as well. The school flourished, obliging the Sisters to expand and, and to build various additions to their buildings and open new schools in several locations. In 1871, the Sisters built the first wing of what would become St. Ann’s Academy, now a National Historic Site. Throughout the years, the education and health care provided by the Sisters of St. Ann in Victoria and across the Province of British Columbia established them as a vital and important part of the civic communities. In the years that followed, the Sisters founded schools, hospitals and taught in Indian Residential Schools. They offered a broad spectrum of health, education and social services to communities throughout British Columbia, Yukon, Alaska and Washington State.

This landmark agreement places a private archives physically into a public institution with its own space, access and policies. The records also come with their own archivist who is an employee of the Sisters of St. Ann. For legal and other reasons, this is being called a deposit with the records staying within the full custody and control of the Sister for the next 15 years, after which, the records will be donated to the BC Archives. An archivist from the BC Archives who will subsequently be responsible for the deposit will be in-culturated and educated on the foundation of Congregational archives, the Sisters of St. Ann’s tenets and culture as well as policies and procedures unique to the Sisters of St. Ann’s Archives holdings.

The main message that came out of the ACA Whitehorse 2012 conference was that Archives should stay visible, be relevant and accessible and form partnerships. The Sisters of St. Ann Archives are trying to achieve these objectives all these while also keeping their records in the place they were created and striving to keep alive their legacy and history both a vital and unique part of British Columbia’s historical memory.
ACA’s Digital Preservation Management Workshop: An Archival Studies Student Perspective

By Parvaneh Abbaspour, Kerry Goodfellow, Nalissa Tanner, and Emily Zheng

Between September 26th-28th, Montreal and McGill University’s School of Information Studies (SIS) had the privilege of hosting the ACA-sponsored workshop, Digital Preservation Management: Short-Term Solutions for Long-Term Problems. Running since 2003 and led by Dr Nancy Y. McGovern and Kari R. Smith, both of MIT, this program was organized by the ACA’s Professional Learning Committee. McGill’s own Dr. Carolyn Hank served as a guest instructor. As McGill MLIS students specializing in Archival Studies, the four of us were fortunate enough to have been selected as volunteers at the workshop, and had the opportunity to attend most of the sessions.

The workshop attracted a diverse group of information professionals from across Canada, representing organizations of varying sizes and mandates. While many organizations had digital preservation management programs in place, others were just at the planning stages. It was wonderful to meet these professionals and discuss the significant issues that concern so many of us. The theme of constant change emerged from these conversations. For those of us studying to be archivists, preservationists, or record managers, the industry we will enter in a few years’ time will look drastically different. We no longer have the luxury of waiting for a “stable” format in which we can keep records indefinitely without fear of obsolescence. We will need to make difficult managerial choices in order to intervene during a record’s active phase, all while staying informed about technological trends and continuing to adapt our practices to fit our communities.

McGovern and Smith summarized the workshop’s overall content in “4 documents + 5 legs + 5 stages = Digital Preservation,” or how the implementation of a sustainable digital preservation management initiative can be achieved through two reference models, three organizational components, and five stages of organizational development. Firstly, the two main reference models used are the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model and Trusted Digital Repositories (TDR) Checklist, also known as ISO 16363. The TDR complements the Trustworthy Repositories Audit & Certification: Criteria and Checklist (TRAC) developed in line with OAIS. The instructors explored the relations between these models, as well as obstacles for implementing them in practical contexts. Secondly, the instructors used the analogy of a three-legged stool to explain the essential components for sustaining a digital preservation program: Organization/Management, Technology, and Resources. They emphasized the importance of developing all three “legs” in tandem, and warned us against shortsightedness caused by developing any one leg at the expense of the others. Finally, participants learned the five stages of development in a preservation management program and evaluated their own organizations’ progress.

As newcomers to the field, we were struck by the difficulty of applying conceptual models to real life situations, even when these theories are broken down into composite parts. McGovern and Smith stressed the importance of flexibility, as appropriate standards for the management and preservation of digital objects may appear very differently at varying institutions and points in time. For this reason, the term “good practices” is emphasized over “best practices,” highlighting the fact that different institutions can have vastly different needs, different sources of support from their organizational structure, and varying technological and economic resources. “Good practices” also eliminates any sense of competition amongst institutions, fostering a sense of collaboration and cooperation that ought to characterize the archival community.

Accordingly, the instructors used a very flexible and open-ended approach to teaching. Since the workshop was designed as a five-day course, this condensed session had to impart a great deal of information in a limited period of time. The instructors aptly combined lectures with group work and case studies. They also adapted their own American perspective for a Canadian audience, making every effort to provide Canadian models and to draw upon participants to offer other examples and comparisons. For example, neither Canadian nor American copyright, privacy, and access laws seem capable of comprehensively addressing all the issues surrounding digital preservation. In response, the instructors emphasized the importance of establishing lifecycle management initiatives within collection development policies, before records leave the active phase. Smith pointed out that may institutions in the US have banded together to produce and follow Codes of Best Practice in several domains such as Fair Use and Documentary Film Making in order to deal with the out-of-date language and gaps in copyright law that obstruct the interests of both information creators and consumers. We were very curious to know, are Canadian institutions engaging in similar behaviours when our own extant laws are as obsolete as floppy disks?

On the final day of the workshop, the instructors presented a job posting to facilitate a discussion about recruitment for their digital preservation teams. It allowed us to reflect upon the qualifications we will need when we enter the field and how we might meet them. In addition to technical skills, the
posting underlined the basic qualities of communication, flexibility, and adaptability in a service-oriented environment. With all this talk of evolution, it is comforting to know that some of the most important values in archives remain the same: authenticity, access, and a devotion to service. Between copyright infringement and good practice, our job is still to provide current and future users with information.

**Archives News**

**Upcoming Conference: Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference**

The Spring 2013 meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference will take place at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel and Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA, April 25-27. The conference theme, "Charting the Waters: Priorities and the Future of Archives" helps to commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812, and the program promises to yield a dynamic discussion about the future of the profession.

http://www.marac.info/upcoming-conferences

**BLOGGERS WANTED**

The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) is seeking anyone from the ACA community who might be interested in being a guest blogger on the OGS blog. From an Archivist's point of view, this would be an ideal platform from which to instruct Genealogists on the correct protocols and best practices when they visit an archive to do their research. Our members are also keen to learn the correct procedures when it comes to preserving their collections. Any contributions on this front would also be most welcome.

Interested parties may contact, Frances O'Regan, the OGS Librarian/Archivist at: foregan@ogs.on.ca

**Help the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections Win a Reader's Digest Contest:**

And now for something light years away from sad and dreary, I just submitted an entry on the Hamilton family séance archives to the Reader's Digest contest on Canada's Most Interesting Towns. They asked for quirky, so I gave them quirky! If you all vote for this story it gets featured on their site. It won't win any prizes but will reach a whole new audience, half of whom probably have never even heard of the word archives. It can't be a bad thing, right?

Shelley Sweeney
http://www.readersdigest.ca/cmit/submission-details?submission_id=473

**The City of Edmonton Archives launches a new online exhibit**

Edmonton’s Hidden Communities is a new online exhibit recently launched by the City of Edmonton Archives. The exhibit guides the user through 5 of Edmonton’s “alternative” communities from the turn of the 20th century to the 1980s. Though all have now disappeared, and remain largely forgotten, their stories are told through newspapers, photos, maps, government reports and other archival documents.

Come explore life in the tent cities of the early 1900s, squatters’ camps during the Depression, and the long-term communities that grew up around Ross Acreage and the Dutch Settlement, where you could own your own home on someone else’s land, so long as frills like plumbing weren’t a major concern!


**Call for Student Papers & Poster Presentations: CoSA and SAA 2013 in New Orleans**

The 2013 Student Program Subcommittee is accepting proposals for two special sessions dedicated to student scholarship during the Joint Annual Meeting of CoSA and SAA in New Orleans, August 11-17, 2013. Work from both master’s and doctoral students will be considered.

Graduate Student Paper Session: The work of three current archives students will be selected for presentation during a traditional open session format.

Graduate Student Posters: Individual posters may describe applied or theoretical research that is completed or underway; discuss interesting collections with which students have worked; or report on archives and records projects in which students have participated (e.g., development of finding aids, public outreach, database construction, etc.). Submissions should focus on research or activity conducted within the previous academic year (Fall 2012-Summer 2013). Student Chapter posters may describe chapter activities, events, and/or other involvement with the archives and records professions.

Further details regarding these sessions, including the proposal form, are available at:
http://tinyurl.com/saa2013students

While having access to the content of the workshop was invaluable, we were also grateful for the opportunity to network with the workshop participants, who were kind enough to share their professional experiences, struggles, and advice. We offer many thanks to the ACA, McGill’s SIS, and the Digital Preservation Workshop instructors for this wonderful opportunity. It is always encouraging to reaffirm that an information professional’s education does not end with an MLIS.
The Association of Canadian Archivists - ready to help!

The Early Bird Draw!
Renew your membership by Dec 31, 2012 and have the chance to WIN one of three great books:
“Basements & Attics, Closets & Cyberspace: Explorations in Canadian Women’s Archives” - WLU Press;
“Canadian Folk Art to 1950” - U of A Press;
“Imagining Winnipeg: History through the Photographs of L.B. Foote” - U of M Press.

Do you feel swamped? Being part of the ACA community can help!
No need to reinvent the wheel, access ideas through the ACA’s members only area discussion boards or take advantage of the Mentorship program.
Network with fellow archives professionals at the annual Conference, keep abreast of the latest ideas through Archivaria.

Stay in touch through Facebook, http://www.facebook.com/AssociationofCanadianArchivists
Check the latest tweet at https://twitter.com/archivistsdotca

Be a part of the ACA community, join today!
http://archivists.ca/content/membership

Background Map: Greater Winnipeg Proposed Parkway (1907)
Image Courtesy of University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
Image greatly cropped from original | Provided under Creative Commons License

For more details on the great book prizes check out the ACA Facebook page or the members area on the ACA websites. See web addresses above.