

In This IssueBC Archives
p. 2Feature Story:
A Very COOL
Archives
p. 3SFU Archives
p. 4AABC Award
p. 5Best Archives on
the Web
p. 5Plaques,
Retirements,
Meetings
p. 9Qualicum Beach
Archives
p. 9BCAUL/ICA-AtOM
p. 10News from SLAIS
p. 11Sidney Archives
p. 12Editorial Postscript
p. 13**PRESIDENT'S REPORT***by Jordana Feist, AABC President*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

by Kelly-Ann Turkington, Permissions Officer

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

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

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

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

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

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

The past year has been particularly busy with clients requesting material for use for British Columbia's 150th Anniversary. In 2008, we processed almost 600 client orders and permissions requests for various uses including books, calendars, exhibits, displays, film/video and newspaper articles. Over 3000 photographs alone were reproduced.

Also of note, in the past year, not only has there been an increase in requests for custom digital formats, but also an increase in requests for use of material in non-traditional formats such as streaming video and podcasts. The work is anything but routine and each request presents its own challenges.

Please contact Kelly-Ann Turkington at (250) 387-3845 if you have any questions regarding the Royal British Columbia Museum Corporation's Licensing Program.

A VERY COOL ARCHIVES

by Margery Hadley and Sylvia Van Kirk

“We are the COOL Archives.” That name can be used with confidence by the official repository of the Church of Our Lord, Victoria, and the Diocese of Western Canada of the Reformed Episcopal Church. On May 2nd, 2009, a gathering from the church, archives and heritage communities celebrated the official opening of the Church of Our Lord Archives, Victoria’s newest archives and new member of the AABC.



*Dedication service, May 2, 2009
Dick Faulks photograph*

The creation of the COOL Archives is the realization of a dream and the culmination of a process that started many years ago. A plan for an archives was presented to the Church Vestry in the late 1980s, but it was Bishop Rob Badham who took the first steps to save and make accessible our valuable documents. Frequently-consulted records were copied to ensure their protection, a fire-proof safe was purchased by the Diocese to store some of the original records, and a database was developed for the Registers of Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals.

Further progress required a designated room, and this became possible with the recent completion of the Community Ministry Centre. However, without a BC150 Heritage Leg-

acy Grant, it would have been many years before an actual Archives became a reality.

The BC150 funding awarded in January 2009 enabled the Church of Our Lord to contract the services of a professional archivist; purchase valuable archival supplies, computer equipment and shelving; furnish the physical space for reference service; acquire conservation treatment for several important items; and to scan and retire original photographs from display.

Led by the Church of Our Lord’s Heritage Coordinator, Sylvia Van Kirk, the “archives team”, including project archivist Margery Hadley and numerous volunteers, worked vigorously for three months. At the core of the project was the archival work of identifying, gathering and appraising more than twenty metres of records stored throughout the church, followed by the arrangement, description, and housing for ten-plus metres and many oversize documents.



*Julia Browne sorting financial records
Sylvia Van Kirk photograph*

Managing the project required hours spent purchasing supplies, equipment, furnishings and services, tracking expenses, preparing reports, etc. Meanwhile, volunteers hauled, assembled, sorted, copied, framed, prepared display materials, planned and hosted events, and, on a daily basis, handled quantities of shredding, recycling and garbage. Overall . . . an extraordinary endeavour for such a short period of time!

Continued on page 6 - COOL Archives

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

STAFF RETIREMENTS AND APPOINTMENT

by Ian Forsyth, University Archivist

Enid Britt, Archives Assistant, retired in 2008 after working at SFU for 38 years, starting in 1970 as a temporary employee in the Physics Department followed by appointments as a Secretary in Human Resources, Academic Advising and Education before joining the Archives in 1986. At 22 years, Enid is the longest serving member of the Archives staff and, with her leaving, we lose a valued colleague who possesses a fountain of information and experience regarding the Archives' history. Enid worked tirelessly with three university archivists to improve access and promote awareness about SFU's corporate memory. Creating and continuously improving the Archives' website as a communication tool in the Internet age was a substantial contribution in advancing the department's mandate. Very public service-oriented, she worked diligently to help students and staff as well as the general public to find the archival resources they sought. Her efforts in this regard are reflected in the many notes of appreciation she received from grateful patrons over the years. Enid also gave generously of her time every year to numerous community events including the University's United Way campaigns and convocation ceremonies. We, her colleagues in the University Archives, wish her happiness and health throughout retirement as she spends time with her two passions, grandchildren and golf.

Frances Fournier, Archivist, retired on May 22, 2009. Frances started the second career of her life at SFU in 1989 as a professional archivist. Before joining the University she received a B.A., M.L.S. and a doctoral degree in the history of science from UCLA, relocated to Vancouver, married John Fournier (a UBC mathematics professor), raised a family in Point Grey and, with her considerable artistic talents, became an accomplished seamstress and crafts person who creates beautifully designed and colourful hand-made quilts. In a mid-life career change, Frances returned to university, graduating with a Master of Archival Studies degree from UBC. As SFU's first professionally trained archivist, she worked diligently to preserve SFU's corporate memory by saving and making available records that tell the stories about the people, programs and events that made SFU the community

it is today. Additionally Frances developed and strengthened the University's holdings of private archives, acquiring numerous collections on the women's movement and the contributions made by women in BC society. Her knowledge and passion for our documentary heritage was generously shared through the presentations and assistance she gave to students, teaching them the relevance of archives and how to use them for academic assignments. She supported faculty in their role as teachers; aided graduate students, academic scholars and the general public as researchers; and helped administrators find archival information needed for planning and decision-making. She served her professional community in a leadership role on the Executive of the Archives Association of British Columbia. And, in a career spanning 20 years, Frances popularized our University's historical legacy and its place in the history of education and the province through a series of seven theme-based displays marking SFU's 40th anniversary. We, her colleagues in the University Archives, wish her much happiness and health throughout retirement as she begins the next phase of a wonderful life.

Richard Dancy accepted an appointment as a full time continuing Archivist starting May 25, 2009 in the SFU Archives and Records Management Department. Richard continues working with us following nine years of service as a recurring limited term Archivist. He will be responsible for various archival and records management functions as well as the department's IT systems.

AABC HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

RECIPIENT - GEORGE BRANDAK

Presentation Speech by Terry Eastwood, AABC Annual Conference, April 2009

We are here today to honour George Brandak. Last December, George retired after 35 years as Manuscripts Curator in Rare Books and Special Collection at the UBC Library. George is a proud native of Saskatchewan. After completing his M.A. in history at Sir Wilfred Laurier University, he worked at the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan Archives before he came to UBC. To hear him tell it, his appointment had as much to do with his knowledge of sports and ability to play poker as with his academic and professional attainments.

During his long career at UBC, George amassed an impressive body of holdings with particular strengths in BC labour, literature, politics, and business. Over the years, George has seen many changes in the profession, but his commitment to acquisition and in particular to access has never wavered. George was always ready to help researchers. He was happy to provide the personal touch, and always willing to offer contextual information not necessarily captured in the formal finding aids. He would often be seen heading off to lunch or coffee with researchers, during which he happily shared his knowledge. During his career George has also taken considerable delight in dealing with students. This is true of the instruction he provided to students at UBC and in the course he taught at SFU, and his supervision of their practical work.

George has devoted untold hours to the service of his beloved profession. He was present at the very conception of this association at a meeting, if I remember correctly, held at the Vancouver City Archives sometime in the summer of 1973. He has been a faithful member of the Association ever since. He served as its first President in 1974-75, and as Secretary-Treasurer 1978-80. George has also been a member of the Association of Canadian Archivists since its establishment in 1975. He served as ACA Director (1982/83), Vice President (1989/90) and President (1990/91), as well as on various committees.

George treats his professional colleagues as his extended family. It has always been important to him to enjoy their com-

pany as much as share their burdens. Many of our fondest memories of George are of his antics as captain of the West's team in the annual East-West baseball game at the ACA conference or his mastery of the chicken dance at the annual banquet. George has an apparently inexhaustible supply of good humour and corny jokes that have enlivened the many good times he has shared with his colleagues.

George's legacy will be passed on to the next generation of researchers and archivists in the form of the wonderful archival collection he assembled at UBC and the vibrant associations he helped bring to life. He touched the lives of many people who will not forget him. For his long and generous service to the archival cause, it is with great pleasure that I present George Michael Brandak as honorary life member of the Archives Association of British Columbia.

BEST ARCHIVES ON THE WEB AWARDS

Congratulations to David Mattison of the British Columbia Archives (Royal British Columbia Museum) on receiving an Honorable Mention for his site, "The Fictional World of Archives, Museums & Art Galleries", in the recent Best Archives on the Web Awards. The recognition, in the category of "Most Whimsical Archives-Related Website", came from ArchivesNext, a U.S.-based blog for the archival community; a panel of distinguished judges selected winners from the list of submitted nominees. David's site documents references to archives, museums and art galleries in fictional works, and is well worth a look (<http://fictionalarchives.vox.com/>). For a complete list of the winners, visit the ArchivesNext blog at www.archivesnext.com.

Do you know an interesting, useful and/or unique archives-related website that you would like to share with other Archives Association members? In the spirit of the awards, we invite you to send in your suggestions of must-browse sites; e-mail them to the Newsletter Editor at leah.pearse@gmail.com, and be sure to include the URL and a brief summary. While there will be no judging, we hope to make this a regular feature that will serve to share valuable resources amongst AABC members.

Continued from page 3 - COOL Archives

There is still work to be done and a detailed work plan will direct ongoing efforts. The COOL Archives remains a work in progress, but, importantly, the fascinating history of Church of Our Lord and the Reformed Episcopal Church can now be shared with a wider public and enrich the cultural heritage of Victoria and British Columbia.

FASCINATING HISTORY

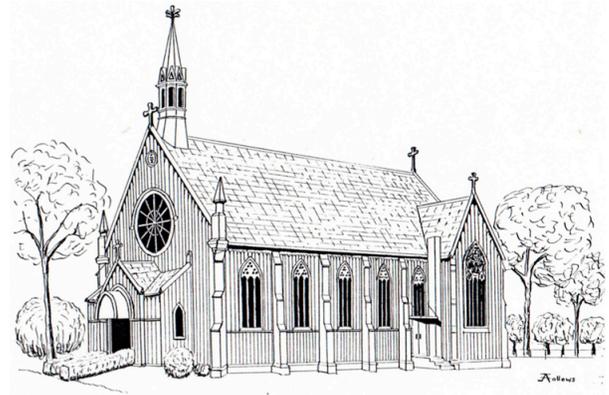
The Church of Our Lord has played an important role in the Victoria community. The Church was founded by the Reverend Edward Cridge, who had emigrated from England in 1855 to be Chaplain for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Victoria. Rev. Cridge played a major role in establishing the Anglican church in Victoria; however, in the fall of 1874, doctrinal differences between Cridge and the Anglican Church resulted in Cridge and his large following creating a new congregation and, in keeping with its evangelical principles, the new church affiliated with the Reformed Episcopal Church of America. Bishop Cridge ministered to COOL for over 30 years. He died in 1913 in his 96th year.

Many founding members of Church of Our Lord were Victoria pioneers and had strong ties to the Hudson's Bay Company. Sir James Douglas, former Governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island and the Colony of British Columbia donated both the land on Humboldt Street and the historic Appleton Organ. Other early pew holders included the families of Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken, Captain William Henry McNeill, and Chief Trader Charles Ross. The first Rector's Warden was Benjamin William Pearse, assistant colonial surveyor and prominent landowner. The first People's Warden was William John Macdonald, who became one of BC's first Senators.

The Cridges, Carrs, and other members of the congregation played a leading role in founding important social institutions which grew into the Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Cridge Centre for the Family, and the YW-YMCA. The family of artist Emily Carr began attending in 1875 and insight into the early history of COOL comes from the stories of Carr. Similarly, Church minutes and marriage, baptismal and funeral records, complete from 1874 and now in the Archives,

provide invaluable information about the network of influential congregants and families involved in the development of the Church of Our Lord and the Victoria community.

RESTORATION AND RENOVATION



*Church of Our Lord
Drawing by Rev. E. A. Follows, ca.1990*

Local architect John Teague's Carpenter Gothic structure is Victoria's oldest church building on its original site. Featuring a fine hammerbeam ceiling, the church at the corner of Blanshard and Humboldt Streets was constructed for \$12,000 by pioneer contractors Charles Hayward and Robert Jenkinson. At the time, the neighbourhood was rural and James Bay came up to the church's back steps when the tide was high. By the 1920s, the original Sunday School Hall was in need of replacement and plans for Cridge Memorial Hall were drawn by the noted architectural firm of Samuel McClure. A portion of the hall was completed in 1930.

Continued on page 7 - COOL Archives

Continued from page 6 - COOL Archives

Caring for this important heritage resource has been a significant activity of the Church of Our Lord for many years and “Restoration and Renovation (R&R)” created a sizeable archival record. In 1998, the Church of Our Lord was designated a National Historic Site. The 125 Restoration Millennium Project of 1999-2003 included major restoration of the sanctuary building and realization of the long-time dream of a Community Ministry Centre. The ministry centre has allowed the Church to expand its tradition of community service. The centre also now houses the COOL Archives.

Today, the Church of Our Lord is an active community ministry and prominent heritage resource in downtown Victoria. It is the leading church in the Diocese of Western Canada and Alaska and the oldest church built specifically as a Reformed Episcopal Church in North America. Restoration and renovation is ongoing. Currently restoration of the Rose Window is proceeding, thanks to funding from the Heritage Legacy Fund of British Columbia, and funding is sought for a conservation plan and further exterior and structural restoration.

COOL COLLECTIONS

Drawn from storage areas and offices throughout the church buildings, the archival holdings, although initially disjointed, were found to be comprehensive and in generally good condition. Administrative records from the time of Church founding in 1874 until present are largely complete. Other records series in the Church of Our Lord fonds are: Ministry and programs, including marriage, baptism and burial records; Committees and groups; Buildings and grounds, including restoration and renovation records; and Topical files. The Archives also cares for some publications and oversees care of the numerous artefacts and art works in the church.

The Church of Our Lord fonds is described at the sub-series level with accompanying file lists. A printed finding aid is available and database access will be available in the near future. Physical processing is complete.

The records of the Reformed Episcopal Church, ca.1885-ca.2000, was the second fonds to be processed under the BC150 project. Series of this fonds are: I. General Synod

of the Reformed Episcopal Church of Canada; II. Diocese of Western Canada; III. Free Church of England; and, IV. Reformed Episcopal Church USA. The largest quantity of records pertain to St. Paul’s Reformed Episcopal Church of New Westminster, 1883 to 2002. Processing of the REC fonds is continuing.

As a project – except for the very tight timeframe – the COOL Archives Project is as close to an archivist’s dream as they come: hands-on involvement, start-to-finish; well maintained, complete and interesting holdings; gracious and trusting hosts and colleagues; ample supplies; and, an archives space NOT in the basement. As a resource, the COOL Archives contains unique evidence of Victoria’s religious and secular history, now protected and accessible.



*Margery and Sylvia in the Archives, opening day
Don Bourdon photograph*

Continued on page 8 - COOL Archives

Continued from page 7 - COOL Archives

COOL ARCHIVES HIGHLIGHTS

- Registers of marriages, baptisms & funerals for Church of Our Lord, 1874-1996, and for St. Paul's REC, Westminster, beginning 1883
- Vestry and financial records, 1874-1996
- Records of Church of Our Lord groups such as Ladies' Aid, Mary & Martha Society and the Missionary Guild
- Records of St. Paul's Church, New Westminster, founded in 1883 and closed in 2002
- Letter of Mary Cridge to sister-in-law Elizabeth, written enroute to Victoria with her husband, Edward Cridge, in 1855
- Memorial from Choir of Church of Our Lord to Lady Douglas, 1877
- Records of church renovation and restoration projects, 1974-2003, including the Restoration 125 Millennium Project
- Photographic record of the Sanctuary over the years
- Records of the REC Diocese of Western Canada, including extensive correspondence of the Bishops Primus
- Poetry book of Bishop Archibald Keevil, St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal Church



Some "highlights" on display, opening day
Don Bourdon photograph

The remarks of Bishop Charles Dorrington sum up the sentiments of opening day, and of days to come:

"Today, as we celebrate this day where the history of over 135 years has been faithfully gathered together and archived for future generations, we are provided with a solid foundation upon which we can place our faulty steps. This building, the architectural beauty with its wonderful acoustical resonance, these accouterments such as this 182 year-old pipe organ and the beautiful stained-glass windows together with the prayers of thousands upon thousands of people that have soaked these walls are all reflected in the history of this church and of its faithful family. I want to thank Sylvia Van Kirk for all that she has done to guarantee that the written and photographed history of God's hand upon this part of Canada will still be there and available for future generations. I also want to thank the BC150 Heritage Legacy Fund and all other government agencies that have made the safeguarding of these things possible. Without this help so much would likely have been forgotten or destroyed and lost forever. Thank you all for being the keepers of our history. Let us pray together for God's continued grace and love and for the future history of this wonderful place."

(Excerpt from address by Bishop Charles Dorrington, May 2, 2009. Printed in The Grape Vine : Church of Our Lord newsletter, May 2009, p.6)

A Very COOL Archives indeed!

The Church of Our Lord Archives is located in the Community Ministry Centre at 626 Blanshard Street, Victoria. The Archives is open to the public, by appointment, on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please contact Sylvia Van Kirk, Heritage Co-ordinator at: 250-383-8915 (tel), 250-383-8916 (fax), archives@churchofourlord.org

Margery Hadley, archivist for the COOL project, works with archives and research clients through her business, Aevum Archives and Research Services in Victoria.

Dr. Sylvia Van Kirk, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, is Heritage Coordinator at the Church of Our Lord. She is a specialist in fur trade social history and the colonial period in Victoria.

TALES OF PLAQUES, RETIREMENTS AND MEETINGS

by Jo-Anne Allison, Archivist, Diocese of Prince George



In the fall of 2007, Ron Walsh, bus driver, boiler fixer, handyman and resident historian of the Diocesan Center building, (formerly O'Grady Catholic High School) retired from his job at the Diocesan Center. While cleaning out his office, he found a bronze plaque which commemorates the December 21st, 1957 dedication of the Father George Daly, C.Ss. R. Chapel in the Sisters of Service girls' residential club by then-Archbishop William Duke of Vancouver.

Ron remembered participating in the dismantling of the chapel and remembered that he felt that the plaque should not be left with the rubble. Why he brought it to Prince George is lost in the mists of time; however, once the plaque resurfaced he was most anxious that it be returned to its rightful owners, if they could be found. Ron brought the plaque to me in the Archives and I set out to find out what I could about this interesting artifact.

Immediately after Ron brought the plaque to me, I contacted Sister Patricia Burke of the Sisters of Service Archives in Toronto. An exchange of emails followed and slowly we filled in the gaps in this story. The chapel was added to the girls' residential club or house on West 11th Avenue in Vancouver in December 21st, 1957. Sister Pat told me that the chapel was quite important to the Order because it was dedicated to their co-founder, Father George Daly, C.Ss.R., and she forwarded a copy of the poem written to commemorate the occasion.

The Sisters of Service came to Vancouver in October 1929 to open a residence for immigrant women. This mission was closed in 1972. The Sisters remained in Vancouver and served in pastoral ministry until 1980.

Sister Pat was most happy to hear of Ron's discovery and both Sister Pat and Sister Anna McNally were thrilled that I planned to repatriate the plaque if we could sort out the details. The plaque is made of bronze and weighs eight pounds, so shipping it through the mail was not an option. After some discussion we realized that I should hand over this precious artifact to the Sisters of Service at the next Catholic Archivist Group meeting in Edmonton. And on September 25th I did exactly that.

Were Sister Pat and Anna surprised that the plaque ended up in Prince George? Well, nothing surprises an Archivist but this came very close!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING MID ISLAND?

by Netanja Waddell, Qualicum Beach Archives

Thanks to a recent federal grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, the Qualicum Beach Archives has received sufficient funds to purchase DBTexworks (INMAGIC) and acquire the services of Netanja Waddell. It's full steam ahead with streamlining and computerizing the forever growing collection of photos and other archival material, such as numerous fonds from local pioneer families. Netanja is delighted to be working in the archival milieu after many years focusing on records management - and staying local is an added privilege. In collaboration with Diane Foster, the new Museum Curator, the QB Museum and Archives are working on the development and implementation of policies & procedures in order to restructure and update the organization to contend with the needs of a thriving community.

BCAUL/ICA-ATOM PROJECT UPDATE

by Janet McMaster, Archival Network Coordinator

The BCAUL/ICA-AtoM project is progressing well. ICA-AtoM is a fully web-based, open source, multi-level archival description software developed on behalf of the International Council on Archives by Artefactual Systems from New Westminster, B.C. The ICA-AtoM software will replace the ACT/Cinemage software that is currently being used for BCAUL. The upgrade will also include a name change from BCAUL to MemoryBC.

The primary advantage for the AABC's institutional members is that after they have received training for the new system, they will be able to add and revise their own multi-level descriptions directly in the online database, as well as update their repository information. The other option for institutions with existing archival information systems is to add new descriptions via EAD XML import. After the new system has been launched, all new and revised descriptions will be vetted by the Archival Network Coordinator, who will then make the changes "live". Regular updates will continue to be submitted to the national database, ArchivesCanada.ca.

ICA-AtoM stands for International Council on Archives – Access to Memory. It is designed to support international standards such as General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD(G)), as well as the International Archival Authority Record for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families (ISAAR(CPF)) and the International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings (ISDIAH). Thanks to the collaboration between the AABC, Artefactual Systems, Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives, Rules for Archival Description (RAD) templates were added to ICA-AtoM. Therefore, RAD (July 2008 version) will continue to be the data content standard for the AABC's database.

The AABC, working with Artefactual Systems, has taken the opportunity of adding some new enhancements to the system to ensure consistency and improve searching capabilities. For example, subject access points have been included for the first time, based on top level B.C. Thesaurus terms, and city/town/village names from the BC Gazetteer are also incorporated for place access points. Further down the road, the system will have the ability to link digitized/digital objects.

Information sessions about the project were held at the AABC conference in Vancouver at the end of April as well as at the ACA conference in Calgary in May. The first ICA-AtoM training session was held in Vancouver on April 25, 2009 in conjunc-

tion with the AABC conference. The 25 attendees at the workshop completed a variety of tutorials that prepared them for contributing their institution's archival descriptions, authority records and repository records to the AABC's <http://MemoryBC.ca> portal, which is running the ICA-AtoM software. These information sessions and the workshop, as well as a number of other recent presentations, have generated a great deal of enthusiasm about the project, and many positive comments have been received.

The deadline for submitting descriptions to BCAUL was April 30, 2009. All new and revised descriptions that were received by the deadline have been uploaded to BCAUL, and all of the material that is in BCAUL as of May 2009 is being migrated to the new system. The new MemoryBC.ca site will be launched with a "soft launch" over the summer. Institutions who received the training in Vancouver in April will be assigned passwords in the fall to access the system so that they can add and revise their own descriptions and make any required changes to their repository information.

As per the existing process, the Archival Network Coordinator will continue to upload new and revised descriptions for institutional members who have not yet received the MemoryBC training. Please continue to send this material to Janet McMaster at jmcmast@shaw.ca for uploading. This service will continue on an interim basis until all AABC institutional members have received direct data-entry training or EAD XML import instructions.

The full launch of MemoryBC will take place in November 2009 in conjunction with Archives Week. Additional training sessions for AABC institutional members will take place in late November for those in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. Training in Prince George and Kelowna will take place in March or April after much of the snow has melted! Plan to set aside one day to take a RAD Refresher workshop followed by the ICA-AtoM workshop. These workshops will be offered free of charge. Notices about upcoming training sessions will be posted on the AABC's web site and on the archives-bc list serv.

If you have any questions about training, please contact Kelly Stewart, AABC Education and Advisory Archivist, at kstewart@aabbc.ca.

NEWS FROM SLAIS

by Michelle Mallette, SLAIS Student Services Coordinator, michelle.mallette@ubc.ca

SLAIS WELCOMES THREE NEW FACULTY

SLAIS has hired three new faculty members as a result of its faculty search in early 2009. Eric Meyers and Lisa Nathan will join the faculty in July 2009 and Aaron Loehrlein will arrive in January 2010.

Aaron Loehrlein is completing a joint Ph.D. in Information Science and Cognitive Science at Indiana University in Bloomington. His dissertation research is an exploration of the ways in which a person's conceptual structures influences information-seeking behaviour.

Eric Meyers is completing a Ph.D. in Information Science at the University of Washington, with the dissertation, "The Nature and Impact of Group Information Problem Solving." His research interests include youth information behaviour, information literacy, and virtual worlds.

Lisa Nathan is completing her doctoral dissertation on "Adaptation and Information Technology: An Ethnography of Values, Choice, and Tension in Two Ecovillages" in the Information School at the University of Washington. This year, she is serving as Co-Principal Investigator on the Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal Project.

SLAIS TAKES LEAD IN RM CURRICULUM PLANNING

Two School of Library, Archival & Information Studies (SLAIS) faculty members have been funded to develop a digital recordkeeping curriculum that will be the standard for archival education in digital records.

The proposal, submitted by Dr. Luciana Duranti with Dr. Vicki Lemieux as co-applicant, was for the Development of a Curriculum in Digital Recordkeeping. It has been funded by the International Council on Archives (ICA). The curriculum will be endorsed by the ICA as the standard for archival education in digital records, translated into the five official languages of the ICA, and delivered in the 147 member countries. In announcing the funding decision, the ICA said "the Programme Commission was impressed by the quality

of your application and the relevance of your proposal."

ADJUNCT FACULTY SOUGHT

SLAIS is actively inviting expressions of interest from archivists and records managers who are interested in teaching courses at SLAIS as adjunct faculty members. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and experience, and benefiting from the opportunity to teach students who are new to the profession, contact the Chair of the Archival Studies program at SLAIS, Dr. Luciana Duranti, at luciana.duranti@ubc.ca. Current course descriptions are available at www.slais.ubc.ca. Specific course outlines are not required at this stage.

MENTOR AND BE MENTORED

Experiential learning is a cornerstone of the SLAIS educational philosophy. Here is an opportunity for you to give time back to SLAIS, and benefit from hosting a student. Consider hosting a student for a professional experience, which matches skilled SLAIS students with projects in the field. Students have worked on arrangement and description, processing of full fonds, records management projects, digitizing projects, user needs analysis and more. They bring up-to-date skills, energy and enthusiasm, a commitment to learning and a desire to make a difference. You'll benefit not only from bringing a project to fruition, but from working with new professionals who are excited and well-grounded in theory and new technology. We call that reverse mentoring. For more information contact SLAIS Student Services Coordinator Michelle Mallette at michelle.mallette@ubc.ca, or visit www.slais.ubc.ca/COURSES/arstlibr596/

Continued on page 13 - News From SLAIS

SIDNEY ARCHIVIST MOVES TO NEW OPPORTUNITY

by Graham Debling, President, Society of Saanich Peninsula Museums

Sidney Museum and Archives are looking for a new volunteer archivist.

Diane Foster, Archivist for Sidney Museum and Archives, is moving to Qualicum Beach to take on the role of Museum Manager after over 8 years of service here in Sidney.

Diane's first experience with Sidney's archives was a jumble of donated and collected documents, photographs and maps stacked in boxes in a storeroom at the back of the Customs House when it was located near the waterfront. Diane soon discovered the challenges ahead of her: much of the collection was in poor condition and not properly catalogued. Sidney's museum moved into renovated space in the lower level of the Old Post Office building. It became apparent fairly quickly that the new accommodation was great for the historical museum but not suitable space to provide an archival service to the public.

Archive space was created in the lower level of the Sidney Town Hall adjacent to the Arbutus Room where the Archives can still be found today. Diane moved forward with enthusiasm. Drawing on her archival experience and interest in history, Diane organized a network of volunteers under her leadership and embarked on a program to bring the Archives up to standards expected by the Archives Association of BC and compliant with the Rules for Archival Description. As individuals and organizations in the area learned about the Archives and the commitment of Diane and her volunteer team, suitable material was donated in increasing frequency adding substantially to the work of preservation, indexing and accessioning. Recently, through a grant from the Town of Sidney, microfilm copies were prepared of the early editions of the Sidney Review that had become very fragile.



Diane Foster (second from left) with three members of her team of volunteers; (from the left) Anne Atkins, Diane, Joan Gibb and Freda Thorne

Diane will be leaving archival holdings that are well established and growing. A diverse group uses it for a variety of reasons: about a third of users are businesses, and another third are individuals undertaking genealogical research. The remaining users are divided broadly between academic researchers, individuals researching specific buildings, and local government officers. Users of the Archives draw on the extensive collection of photographs, information files, documents, newspapers, biographical files, maps and plans, oral history transcripts and reference books.

The importance of the Archives has been well illustrated by the Museum's Historical Interpretative Signs project. Six additional information panels have been added to complement the three put in place along the sea walk in July 2008. Photos, written material from the Archives and research by Diane and the volunteers have provided a significant contribution to this project. This most recent project has identified the need to preserve additional historical records so that current and future members of our community, visitors and our children may be better served. Extensive and reliable historical records are essential to the Museum to meet their objectives of providing sound historical interpretation and presentation; both are dependent upon access to primary source historical records.

Continued on page 13 - New Opportunity

Continued from page 12 - New Opportunity

The Members and Volunteers of the Museum and Archives wish Diane well in her new venture and, along with users of the Archives, say thank you to Diane for the leadership and guidance that has established Sidney's Archives on a solid foundation. Diane's team of volunteers will continue to do their best to respond to requests and maintain operational hours. The Archives are open three days a week, Tuesday to Thursday 10:00 am - 3.30 pm. Telephone inquiries can be made at 250-656-1322 and e-mail inquiries at archives@uniserve.com. Donations of suitable archival material will continue to be accepted at either the Archives or the Museum.

Sidney Museum and Archives are looking for a volunteer archivist with archives or records management experience who is interested in taking a leading role in providing this invaluable service to the local community. For further details regarding this opportunity, please contact the Museum and Archives Executive Director, Peter Garnham, at 250-655-6355, or drop by his office in the Museum, located in the lower level, Old Post Office building, Beacon Avenue, Sidney.

Information Contact: Peter Garnham, Executive Director, Sidney Museum and Archives, infor@sidneymuseum.ca, 250-655-6355

WHERE SLAIS STUDENTS ARE GOING

Continued from page 11 - News From SLAIS

Spring/Summer is a busy time for internship placements. This year, SLAIS students are doing 12-week archival internships with various municipal archives throughout the Greater Vancouver area, two at UBC and two in the United States – one with the United Nations Archives and Records Management Section in New York City, and the other at the Harvard Art Museum & Archives in Cambridge, Mass. These students gain tremendously from these experiences, which give them an opportunity to develop practical skills before they join you in the profession. Consider adding to their experience by hosting a student yourself, or hiring one

Note from the Editor

We hope you have enjoyed this latest edition of the AABC newsletter, which reported on many of the archival comings and goings in the province, from Sidney and Qualicum Beach, to Prince George, Burnaby and beyond. The success of this newsletter, as always, depends on the contributions from our readers. This will hold true for our new regular feature that highlights archives-related websites based on suggestions from the archival community. This month, we featured David Mattison's award-winning site "The Fictional World of Archives, Museums & Art Galleries" and we are eager to see what other sites will be recommended in the future.

This newsletter also marks the advent of a new Newsletter Committee and would not have been possible without the support and advice of outgoing editor, Greg Kozak. Thank you, Greg, for all the wonderful work that you have done on the newsletter over the years--you have left us some big shoes to fill!

Editor - Leah Pearse

Technical Editor - Earlene Bitterman

Editorial Committee Member - Sonia Nicholson

Got news? Send AABC news, tips, suggestions or letters to the editor, Leah Pearse (leah.pearse@gmail.com).