



The Archives Re-Past

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President's Message

It is a busy time for the SCAA. I will touch on some highlights, with more details available about some of these items to be found elsewhere in the newsletter. Our second application for annual global funding from the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund was submitted in mid October. An interview with SaskCulture's Cultural Advisory Committee in mid November was followed by the good news that **our grant for 2008/09 will be increased to \$108,000**, allowing us (in addition to maintaining current programs including travel support for all members) to introduce small institutional project grants to Council members. More information about this was circulated prior to the NADP workshop. Jeff O'Brien and Carey Isaak recently attended the annual general meetings of the Canadian Council of Archives and SaskCulture, respectively. Like seeing the first robin in spring, the general assembly of the Canadian Council of Archives is one of the first signs that grant season is nearly upon us – and as this newsletter arrives in your mail, no doubt many of you are busy writing grant applications. Even if you were unable to attend the NADP workshop on November 24th, I hope many of our institutional members will apply for National Archival Development Program (NADP) funding. Along with the SCAA institutional funding available, the allocation available for institutional projects is just over \$80,000, the highest it has been in years.

This continues to be a year in transition, with **Carey Isaak charting new waters as our first full-time Executive Director / Archives Advisor**, and an office rented in Regina over the summer. We expect to have part-time administrative support in place soon.

We recently welcomed **Jamie Benson to our executive team as Treasurer**. On behalf of the Executive, I'd like to thank Rob Paul for his work as Treasurer for the first

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2007**

part of the year; unfortunately Rob was unable to complete his term.

And we have a new committee: the Public Awareness Committee, chaired by Cheryl Avery and with members from across the province, has lost no time in undertaking a couple projects on our behalf. On November 23rd in Saskatoon the committee presented a half-day public awareness workshop at which a public awareness "toolkit" was launched. This toolkit will also be distributed to institutional members and made available from the website. The "PA" Committee will also take the lead on organizing Council activities for Archives Week, Feb. 4-10, 2008. Thanks also to Luke Sather, who has taken on leadership of a reconstituted Communications Committee; Stephen Roth who continues in his role as chair of the Education Committee; and Jeff O'Brien, an experienced member of the Grants Committee who this year returns to the chair.

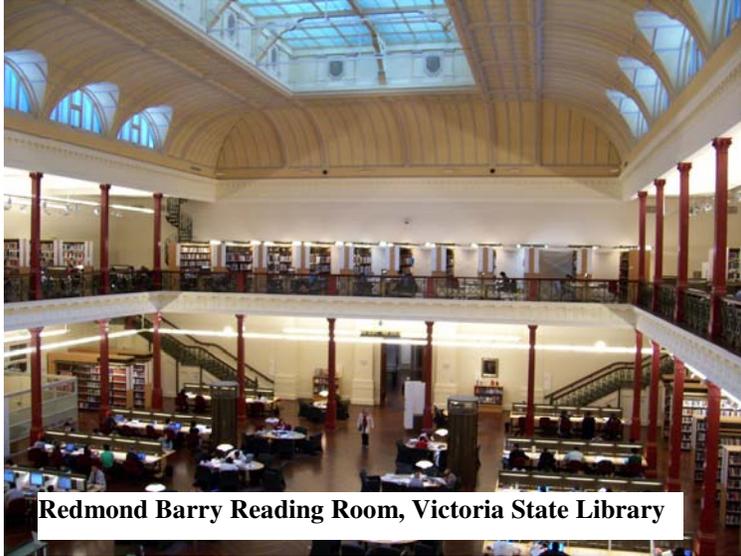
Finally, please mark your calendars... On May 24th, the Canadian Council of Archives will bring the "Archives and You" conference to Regina, with the help of a committee of SCAA members. More details will follow as the program takes shape. At this point, I can say that while the conference is aimed at users and potential users of archives, we hope that there will be sessions and workshops of interest to SCAA members as well. **For that reason the SCAA's annual general meeting is scheduled for the day before, at the University of Regina Archives – Friday, May 23, 2:30 p.m.**

Tim Hutchinson, President



Melbourne: Visiting the State Library of Victoria

Currently on leave from his position at the University of Regina, Mark Vajcner is studying towards a PhD with Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia. We hope to bring you more interesting tales of Mark's Aussie Adventure and his time in Perth, Australia in the months to come. Mark writes -



Working my way across Australia – from Sydney to Perth – has been a truly exciting experience. I have had the opportunity to meet interesting people and to see many interesting and beautiful places.

One of the most fascinating places has been Melbourne. This city is full of parks and gardens, food, architecture, and shopping. It is known as Australia's sporting capital – being home to the Australian Open Tennis championship among other world-class sporting events. For the archivist, its main attraction is the State Library of Victoria. The State Library of Victoria is the central library in Melbourne and one of the premier reference and research libraries in Australia. Its collections contain over 1.8 million books and an extensive collection of documents, images, recordings, and other materials pertaining to art, music, and the history of Australia. Among its most interesting archival materials are the folios of British explorer, Captain James Cook.

Redmond Barry Reading Room, Victoria State Library

The Library opened in 1856 with a collection of 3,846 books. The majestic domed reading room, that was to become the La Trobe Reading Room, opened in 1913. Restored between 1999 and 2003, this reading room houses the library's Australiana collection. It is also the starting point for access to most of the Library's archival and original materials. The Redmond Barry Reading Room, originally built in 1892, holds nearly 100,000 books from the library's general collection on open shelves. Other materials are stored throughout the building and in twenty-one other offsite facilities.

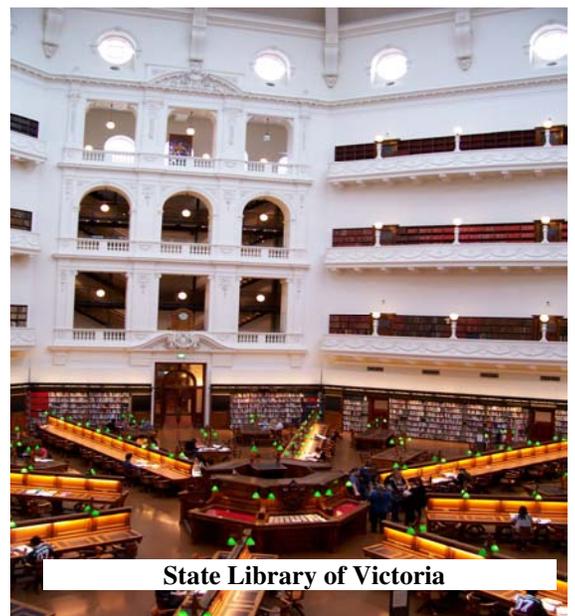
In addition to the reading rooms I visited Experimedia, a dedicated space in the library for exploring new media. The Library's digital strategy aims at making its rich heritage of collections available to users. The Library has already made more than 200,000 digital images available via its catalogue and the national PictureAustralia initiative. Virtual reference services have been developed, a digital archive begun, and the Library has developed a Digital Preservation Policy.

One of the Library's current digital projects involves creating digital images of about 1000 Melbourne public works maps. Dating from 1895 to the 1940s, these show early building locations and street layouts in great detail.

State Library of Victoria Facts

1,847,500 books; 95,330 newspaper volumes
6,630 linear metres of manuscripts; 326,360 photographs
108,220 maps; 28,319 prints (and printed material)
9,180 paintings, watercolors, and drawings
24,840 sound and video recordings; 3,625 objects

Websites: <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>
Creating the Library of the 21st Century <http://www.slv21.com/>



State Library of Victoria

ARCHIVES WEEK February 4 – 10, 2008

Work is proceeding briskly on the preparations for this year's Archives Week celebrations. A number of events are being planned for the Regina and Saskatoon area, details of which will be announced as soon as the final details are ironed out.

The Council would like to encourage all member institutions to think about planning an event in your community that would profile the vital role that documentary records of individuals, families, organizations, businesses and governments play in retaining the public memory of our province's unique history.

Over the past couple of years, many members from across the province have devised unique ways to draw public attention to their archival collections and the valuable role that archives and archivists play in society. The Council would like to see this spirit and commitment continue in 2008. With the SCAA's new Public Awareness Kit now available to all members, and a few years of experience behind us (for background information on Archives Week in Saskatchewan and past events in 2006 and 2007, please see: http://scaa.sk.ca/archives_week.html), the Council is very optimistic that this year's celebrations will be best yet.

If any member would like advice or assistance in developing an event for Archives Week in 2008, please feel free to contact Carey Isaak, the SCAA's Executive Director/Archives Advisor at the Council's office in Regina at any time. He can be reached at (306) 780-9414 or at scaa@sasktel.net

Report on the CCA Archives Advisory Services Working Group Meeting **Ottawa, October 23-24, 2007**

The meeting provided some good discussion on issues/matters common to those in attendance, such as:

- Definition of a 'site visit'
- Allowing archival advisors to sit in provincial NADP grant adjudications
- Archival advisor's salaries and benefit packages
- Access to conservation/preservation facilities

Members of the working group worked on preparing a new draft of an Archives Advisor Reporting Form that would capture information in a standardized fashion so that the information could be used by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) in preparing future reports to the Treasury Board (a lot of input from Ian Forsyth and Fred Farrell of the CCA was greatly appreciated by all).

Members also worked on developing an 'Advisor's Toolkit' to assist archival advisors across the country on various issues (automation, archives management, description, preservation/storage, etc.)

Carey Isaak
SCAA Executive Director/Archives Advisor

Yes! There really is...Archive, Saskatchewan



A hamlet in the province of Saskatchewan, named Archive, was located on seven acres of land on the NW23-15-27 W2nd, owned by one Sam Newberry. The Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) began laying track through Mr. Newberry's quarter-section in 1912 on its way to completing its 'alphabet branch line'¹ to Assiniboia.

The hamlet was made up of: a station house; a Saskatchewan Grain Growers Co-operative elevator; a section house; store and Post Office (in operation from 1913-1964); pool hall; barber shop, and; a blacksmith shop.

Mr. Victor Eldstrom built the store and blacksmith shop, which later burned down. In 1920, Pattie and Fred Johnson bought a building built by Gordon Newberry. They made this building a home, with a small part used as a store and post office.

The Archive district organized a ball team and a ladies group called the Archive Thimble Bee. They organized bazaars, raffles, dances and bridal showers. The community attended and helped clean the Swedish Church and Cemetery (SE36-15-27-W2nd).



In 1987, there was only one family home remaining on the original town site.

A big thank you to Joe LeClair of the Saskatchewan Archives Board in Regina for supplying the text and photographs of Archive, SK for this article

¹"In 1906, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (GTP) reached the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border at the point where it is crossed by the Qu'Appelle River. The GTP was a subsidiary of the Grand Trunk Railway which dominated Ontario and Quebec much in the same way the CPR ruled western Canada. As it set off across the plains, the GTP more or less followed a practice of naming its sidings in alphabetical order. The Saskatchewan stations finish off a Manitoba sequence which began with Arona, Bloom and Caye and ended with Uno and Victor before crossing the border. Once in Saskatchewan, the line proceeded twice through the alphabet [see *People Places: Saskatchewan and its Names* by Bill Barry (Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 1997) p.# 60-63 for all the town names associated with the GTP's main line through Saskatchewan] before launching another series before the line crosses into Alberta."

"There was one other 'alphabet line' in Saskatchewan. In 1912, the CPR began building a line south from Moose Jaw to and around Old Wives Lake. The first five stations, none of whose names seems to have had any particular local significance, were Archive, Buttress, Crestwynd, Dunkirk and Expanse. Construction stalled at Expanse in 1914 (due to the shortage of iron rails needed for the Canadian war effort at the outset of World War I). When it resumed its southward push to Assiniboia after the war, the alphabetic approach was abandoned"

People Places: Saskatchewan and its Names by Bill Barry (Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 1997) p.# 60-63

SaskCulture Annual General Meeting, October 20, 2007

It was only a one day affair this year with the election of some new board members, and the tabling of the President's report, the General Manager's report and the Auditor's report taking place in the morning. The afternoon discussion centred around the initial draft of SaskCulture's Funding Review Implementation Strategy.

Background

By initiating its own review, SaskCulture feels it is being proactive in addressing emerging needs versus the status quo. The results of the current review will provide evidence for SaskCulture to make a better case to government that the money going to culture through the lottery system is a good public investment. It will also point out where improvements to the system are necessary.

Progress to Date

In October 2006, the SaskCulture Board adopted a set of Guiding Principles to help it stay focused on the task at hand as well as inform SaskCulture's stakeholders on the underlying values of the funding review. They were developed as a result of the discussion and dialogue over the previous two years by the Board and members of the funding review team, as well as from meetings with members and other stakeholders.

The membership of SaskCulture had an opportunity to discuss the principles with the Board at a member consultation in October 2006 (at SaskCulture's Annual General Meeting in North Battleford), as well as an opportunity to provide written feedback. That feedback informed the final principles set by the Board in February 2007.

Guiding Principles (in no particular order)

- The focus for funding priorities in the future will be the support of relevant cultural activities. Organizations will be supported as a means to deliver relevant cultural activity. Relevant cultural activity will be based upon cultural impact, accessibility and service
- Trust funding for cultural activities will be allocated to support the stated priorities of the Culture Section of the Trust. These priorities will be based on direction found in SaskCulture's Ends and the lottery agreement
- Cultural impact, plus access and participation, will be the key elements for determining support by the Culture Section of the Trust. Once an activity/organization receives a positive evaluation in these areas, it will then be considered in terms of its organizational effectiveness.
- SaskCulture, as Trustee for the Culture Section of the Trust, will work with appropriate stakeholders to ensure that everything currently supported by the Culture Section of the Trust, including SaskCulture itself, is evaluated to ensure that it is the best means available to contribute to a culturally vibrant framework. As well, evaluation of organizational strengths, weaknesses and gaps will be considered.
- In looking to the future, the Culture Section of the Trust will also need to be open to new possibilities for service delivery.
- SaskCulture, as Trustee for the Cultural Section of the Trust, must consider what will be supported in the future. In doing so, discussions need to take place with those funding agencies that is partners with to ensure that work is mutually supportive and that the areas of support by each agency are clearly defined.
- SaskCulture will not force groups currently funded by the Culture Section of the Trust to change, but if funded groups are not meeting a satisfactory level of funding priorities of the Culture Section of the Trust, their funding will be decreased or discontinued.

Rationale for Change

The above mentioned principles were finalized in 2007 and SaskCulture conducted interviews with the organizations that deliver programs and services supported by the Culture Section of the Trust. The information from those interviews, the various funding applications and follow-ups for the past five years, funding trend information, the 2006 Members' Summit, Board and Committee discussions throughout the review, as well as a review of the applicable restructuring reports of a few years back, have all been considered by SaskCulture in the development of an Implementation Strategy.

Throughout SaskCulture's work on the review this past year, there has been solid agreement that the 'status quo' is not on as SaskCulture moves forward. The review results will inform changes to current programs in terms of relevancy, accessibility and cultural impact as well as effectiveness and efficiency.

Once all of the meetings were conducted, numerous reports read and the many hours of discussion had taken place, the SaskCulture board agreed that the changes required had to address the following areas of concern.

Areas to be Addressed

- Municipal support for cultural activities
- Participation by persons of First Nations and Metis ancestry, as well as support for First Nations and Metis cultural programming and leadership opportunities
- Engagement in cultural activities by people from rural parts of the province, as well as geographically isolated communities
- Organizational performance (cultural impact, accessibility and/or organizational effectiveness), overlapping mandates and/or duplication in services/program delivery, and gaps in services/programming
- Support for calculated risk-taking
- Accessibility of the lottery-funded system to the people of Saskatchewan (this means that the focus of organizations should be broader than their membership)
- Support for capacity building to the organizations supported by the Culture Section of the Trust
- Participation in cultural programming by youth, as well as more opportunities for leadership by youth in cultural organizations/activities
- Advocacy and communication across the whole of the cultural community

Implementation Strategy

SaskCulture's Funding Review work is ready to move forward with the Board proposing the following outcomes as the basis of its Implementation Strategy. These outcomes will enable SaskCulture to address the areas of concern identified above. The proposed outcomes encompass change for the cultural community that is supported by SaskCulture itself. Structurally, SaskCulture will have to adapt as these outcomes unfold. Such adaptations may involve constitutional and operational changes.

SaskCulture's focus will be that of a cultural congress in which it acts as the catalyst for bringing the various cultural sectors together on common issues such as advocacy for culture as a whole, training for cultural workers and volunteers, cross-culture funding initiatives, capacity building and risk taking, as well as the Trusteeship role for the Culture Section of the Trust.

Implementation Time Frame

Member feedback – January 10, 2008

Board finalization of Implementation Strategy - February 15, 2008

Revamping of SaskCulture's work based on final strategy – March 2008

Implementation unfolds (year long process) – April 2008

Report submitted by:

Carey Isaak
SCAA Executive Director/Archives Advisor

Archives and You Conference

The Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) and the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists (SCAA) would like to invite you to attend the CCA's annual Archives and You!, Conference which will be held at the Regina Inn Hotel in Regina, Saskatchewan, May 24 and 25, 2008.

"Everything you wanted to know about archives... but were afraid to ask" is the motto for Canada's only national conference for users of archives. It is designed to provide genealogists, researchers, historians, teachers, students, writers, volunteers, librarians and curators and interpreters in museums, historical sites and parks with the opportunity to learn firsthand from archival professionals from across Canada.

From engaging plenary sessions, to interactive roundtables and workshops, exhibits and tours of local area archives, "Archives and You!" is designed to sharpen archival users' tool-set and strengthen their relationship with the archival community.

The 2008 conference will focus on three specific themes: Genealogy; First Nations Archival Records/Issues, and; Culture and Heritage Records/Organizations. For continuing updates relating to the conference, check out their website at: http://www.archivesconference.ca/index_e.asp

In conjunction with the conference, the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the SCAA is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, May 23, at the University of Regina.

SCAA Strategic Priorities within NADP Program Objectives

In referring to the NADP financial contributions program on the next page, take time to review these strategic priorities within the NADP program objectives set by the SCAA. Note that projects will be awarded additional points, from 0 to 10, based on the contribution the proposed project is likely to make towards achieving the local priorities.

1. Increase access to archival heritage through the national catalogue Saskatchewan priorities:

- (a) Projects leading to any fonds- and series-level descriptions from institutions not yet represented on SAIN and Archives Canada
- (b) Projects leading to increased numbers of fonds- and series-level descriptions on SAIN and Archives Canada

2. Increase awareness and broaden use of Canada's archival heritage Saskatchewan priorities:

- (a) projects that target new and non-traditional audiences
- (b) inter-institutional projects, or projects that result in tools, methodology, etc. that increase awareness and broaden use of archival records, which will be of assistance to other institutions

3. Increase the representation of Aboriginal peoples and under-represented ethno-cultural groups in Canada's archival heritage Saskatchewan priorities:

- projects focusing on Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan

4. Increase the capacity of archival networks to undertake strategic and development activities Saskatchewan priorities:

- inter-institutional projects, or institutional projects with a reasonable potential to assist other institutions in capacity building
- *Applicants are requested to coordinate proposed projects under objective 4 with the SCAA

5. Increase the capacity of archival institutions to preserve Canada's archival heritage Saskatchewan priorities:

- for institutions without a current global preservation assessment*, preservation assessments
- for institutions with completed global preservation assessments, projects following up on priority recommendations of the assessments
- * Examples of non-current assessments include situations in which an assessment was done prior to major facility upgrades, or other changes which would result in most of the recommendations no longer being appropriate. The SCAA's proposed priorities for 2008-09 are the same as in 2007/08 with one clarification, and will be posted once they are approved by the CCA.



National Archival Development Program

The National Archival Development Program (NADP) is a financial assistance program of the Library and Archives Canada (LAC), administered by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA).

Applications from institutional members of the SCAA are first adjudicated at the provincial level by the SCAA Grants Committee. The deadline for 2008/09 applications is Monday, January 7, by 5:00 p.m. Send five (5) copies of your application to:

Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists
202-2080 Broad St.
Regina, SK S4P 1Y3

Please also send an electronic copy of your application, either by including a CD in your package, or e-mailing it to scaa@sasktel.net. Guidelines and forms for 2008/09 are now available from the CCA at: <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/NADP.html>

To assist institutional members in the preparation of effective applications, the SCAA (assisted by NADP funding) has prepared several documents to supplement the official application form and guidelines (not yet updated for 2008/09); they can be found on the SCAA's website at: http://scaa.sk.ca/nadp_workbooks.html

Starting with the 2007/08 application year, councils may identify local priorities. The approach taken in Saskatchewan was to identify priorities within each national objective. These are provided on page 11.



Holiday Greetings from the SCAA!

