



Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATES

The Associates met at the Provincial Archives on November 26, 1998 to consider the 1998-1999 action plan. This action plan was based on the roundtable discussion of the September meeting of the Associates. Two specific initiatives were agreed upon. The first was a project to enlarge on the descriptive information on archival photographs of the Miramichi region. This project is a pilot for a province wide project for which funding is being sought from the Millennium Partnership Fund of the federal government. The second project is a merchandizing project for on-going revenue generation for the Associates.

Projects in progress were reviewed, including the acquisition of additional microfilm readers for the Archives Search Room. To date, six of the projected target of ten have been acquired.

The Associates were joined by the Minister of Supply and Services, the Honourable Greg O'Donnell, and Deputy Minister, Stephen Wheatley, for discussion of the Archives' needs for additional and improved accommodation as well as for equipment. The Minister and President of the Associates signed a Cooperating Agreement that provides guidelines for joint undertakings of the Associates and the Provincial Archives.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

FESTIVALS AND EXHIBITS - Successful Openings

The exhibit *Women at Work* was opened at the Provincial Archives in early October to commemorate women's history month, which, this year, investigated the theme, "The Business of Women." The Minister of Supply and Services, the Honourable Greg O'Donnell, officially opened the exhibit to a gathering of about 60 people which included several of the women represented in the exhibit, the Honourable Marcelle Mersereau, the minister responsible for women's issues, and a Women's Studies class from STU.

The exhibit chronicled the changing nature of the work of New Brunswick women from the 1890s to the 1960s and featured more than 30 New Brunswickers. It ranged from women working on farms and weaving baskets, to women who made inroads in business, education and the arts.

The opening of the exhibit *Dordrecht during World War II* was held on Sunday, 8 November 1998. Marion Beyea, the Director of the Provincial Archives officiated, with the Cultural Attaché from the Dutch Consulate in Montreal officially opening the exhibit.

This exhibit was prepared by the Municipal Archives of Dordrecht, Holland, in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII. At the same time the Provincial Archive mounted the exhibit *New Brunswick At War*. Then in 1998, the two institutions exchanged

exhibits: the NB exhibit was opened in the spring of 1998 in Dordrecht by the Canadian Ambassador to Holland.

The opening of *Dordrecht* was attended by many veterans of the war who had taken part in liberation of Holland, and by many immigrant from Holland who made Canada their home after the war. The primary speaker at the event was Mr. Justice Rodman Logan, a former member of the Canadian army who had participated in the liberation. His stories of his time in Holland often filled the room with laughter. At the same time, the photos brought back a few sad memories to the survivors of the war.

In the months following the opening, several school classes visited the exhibit. For their visits, arrangements were made to have at least one of the following present: a Canadian veteran, a Dutch war bride, a person who was a child in Holland during the war, or a former member of the Dutch resistance. The exhibit was also temporarily put on display for a few days in Charlottetown at a Maritime Dutch cultural weekend.

Public Service

In 1998/99, the number of researchers to the Archives reached an all time high with an 18% increase over the previous year. As internet usage gains popularity, the e-mail requests doubled; and written inquiries were up by 10%. Employment Projects such as *NB Job Corps*, *Job Action*, and *EEO* continue to be used to good effect for such tasks as creating indices, microfilming, data input, and constructing in the Conservation Section storage containers for records. Through a grant program of *Heritage Canada*, two young people were employed for four-month periods to develop the Archives data base for control of holdings, and to mount finding aids and exhibits on the Archives Internet *home page*. A third person worked in Conservation conducting a survey of document deterioration to compare against a base line established 20 years ago.

Public Programmes

Archives staff were involved in a record number of outreach activities intended to introduce and explain the Provincial Archives to the public throughout the province and to make archival resources more accessible. These included participation in Marysville Heritage Day, an Archives Day in St. Andrews, a presentation on oral history in Dalhousie, and talks to Bathurst Heritage Trust, Queens County Historical Society, docents of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, and a St. Patrick's Day presentation in Hartland on genealogical research in Ireland. The Archives also provided historical displays for the opening of the West Bathurst Bridge and for the reception for the President of Ireland in Saint John. Tours of the Archives and instructional sessions were provided for diverse groups including: history classes from George St. Junior High, Fredericton High School, and Minto High School, and for a STU anthropology class and University of New Brunswick Bachelor of Office Administration students.

In effort to relieve space pressures on an interim basis Government Records staff relocated to offices formerly used by the Elections Branch. This permitted the reorganization of the Micrographics Unit for safer, more comfortable and more efficient work conditions for filmers and the dark room technician and better more capacity and better conditions for the storage of master negative microfilm. The photographic lab was moved to vacant space in the Regional building on St. Mary's St. to allow the expansion of the audio visual area and interlibrary loan service.

Training in Records and Information Management has diversified with an increase in the number of courses offered to staff of municipalities. This was to assist them in the implementation of the

new Municipal Records Authority (MRA), an integrated file plan and retention schedule developed in conjunction with the municipalities, and to assist staff of departments in managing records in electronic format. An issues paper on managing and preserving electronic records was prepared for the Public Records Committee.

REFLECTIONS ON A THANK-YOU by Robbie Gilmore

Recently I had the opportunity to provide a researcher with a couple of items of information, including a newspaper obituary, on her grandparents who had raised her until she was ten years old when due to circumstances beyond her control she was removed from their care. Now as an adult she was attempting to find out more about them, questions perhaps that as a child she had never thought to ask. As you see below, her 'thank you', included here with her permission, for a task which took only minutes was heartfelt, to say the least.

417-155 Wakesiah Ave.
Nanaimo, B. C
March 9, 1999

Dear Mr. Gilmore:

How do I begin to thank you for sending me the information regarding my grandparents Jack & Maude Kelly of Rexton. To you , this sort of thing may be routine -- sending out information. However, to me, what you did gave me back my heritage! I was taken from my grandparents (who I loved as my parents) when I was ten years old and never again was I to live as an Acadian, nor did I speak French again. I opened the envelope you put the documents in this morning and when I saw the contents I cried like a baby. Everything came back to me once again. I knew who I was and where I came from! I am 57 years old, have raised a family and become a social worker, however I have never forgotten my home on the Richibucto River and all the love of my grandparents. They are my hero's. So when you, at times, may think of your job as mundane --remember me -- you gave me something so precious, I can never thank you enough.

Florina Mary Margaret Young

For the staff at the Archives, this response is very rewarding professionally. One of the side benefits of responding to public enquiries is to occasionally assist someone in discovering family members who they had no knowledge of, or whom they remembered vaguely from their childhood. Sometimes these individuals set out on a quest filled with a great deal of emotion and a very real 'need to know'.

All at the Archives who respond to public enquiries would have similar stories, but this particular one made me realize how much of an impact we can have on people's lives by just taking the time to look at a database or an index. Upon reflection, I made a few other observations. First of all, we have to admit that people often see the government (and civil servants particularly) as perhaps something to be suffered, and not always gladly. When we can genuinely help someone, as in the case above, that individual usually goes away with a healthier opinion of the public service. The results benefit them, they after all received the assistance sought, as well as us.

Secondly, because more archival records (with attached indexes) become available weekly, the staff can oftentimes find something in a matter of minutes which the beginner may take months to locate, if ever. We may even think of places to search which they knew nothing of. This is the 'service' in civil service. Conversely, though, we must admit that we cannot always assist in

locating the records they seek. We cannot always pull a rabbit out of the hat, as I once explained to an understanding researcher. Some may find this ironic if not downright amusing coming from me, but the researcher must be aware that we do not have the resources to engage in elaborate research for them. We can direct them, or even better get their search started with the discovery of a key document, but very soon they are on their own. To refuse or limit assistance in an inoffensive manner calls for the utmost tact, but it is necessary to ensure that others are helped and other archival work goes on.

Finally, our approach to public service is coloured by empathy: realizing that many people have no one else to help them find this information which is so important to them. That is why we attempt whenever possible to provide some assistance, even if it is telling them who can help if we cannot. What this boils down to is a philosophy of service: remembering that we are public servants helping citizens. Or, on a more personal level: people helping people.

ACQUISITION OF NEW MATERIAL

GOVERNMENT RECORDS

RS141 **Vital Statistics Branch Records** –1938-1944, 45 additional microfilms. *Certificates of the Registration of Death* are now on microfilm up to the end of 1944.

RS141 **Vital Statistics Branch Records** – Two additional installments in the Index to Marriages: 1905-1907 and 1908-1910, the work of a volunteer, Dorothy Wiggs.

RS658 **Right of Way Branch Records**, ca.1970- 1980. An index of individual surnames and entities beginning with letters "O" to "V". New entries in an on-going series of indexes. The files for letters "O" to "V" are on 90 microfilms.

RS966 **Heritage Branch Records**, 1952-1987. An updated finding aid with additional files on historic sites and communities in the Counties of Saint John, Sunbury and Victoria. The complete series covers sites and communities around the Province.

RS148 **Charlotte County Council Records**, 1786-1966. This is an extensively revised finding aid to a series consisting of 13.1 metres of paper documents and 76 microfilms. Index based on finding aid descriptions, including: taxation, justice, health, old soldiers and widows pensions, overseers of the poor, education, etc.

RS841 **Records of the Royal Commission On Mothers' Allowance and Minimum Wage**, 1924. 54 pages. A copy of the final report of the Commission, 4 July 1924.

PRIVATE RECORDS

MC2784 **Anglican Church Records, Parishes of Sackville and Dorchester**, 1801-1994. 1.5 metres on 8 microfilms. Church Registers for Sackville, 1820 to ca. 1970, and Dorchester, 1870's to ca. 1990. Include Registers of Service, records of women's groups and many individual items relating to the building of the Westcock Rectory and the Sunday School Buildings.

MC2785 **Amos Eddy Journal**, 1838, 1862-1865, 1880-1908. One microfilm, F19406. The Journal is named for the last person to record in it, Amos J. Eddy (1861-1944), a Bathurst farmer. It records trade in foodstuffs in 1838 and is a veritable who's who of the Bathurst area for that time. It records many family names still common to the area. In later years, the records are of sales of farm produce, with the names of the purchasers, and the record sales at the Methodist Church Cemetery for a *brief* period.

MC2805 **Woodstock Women's Institute Records**, 1915-1995. Complete minutes for the period on two microfilms, F19608 and F19609.

MC2793 **United Baptist Church of Knowlesville Records**, 1862-1934; 1949-1950. Contains minutes of conference, trustee meetings, business meetings, annual meetings and *Regular Prayer and Praise Services* of the **Knowlesville Free Christian Church**, the predecessor church.

MC2787 **Martha Grace Baxter Fonds**, 1908-1911. One microfilm, F19473. Martha Grace Baxter (1893-1911) of Carter's Point, Kings County, kept diaries for the last three years of her short life in which she detailed her family's farm life as well as a record of the weather, river conditions, local events, involvement with Church and Sunday School and family activities.

MC2752 **Grace Aiton Collection**, 1890-1902; 1950's and 1960's. On microfilm. Grace Aiton, (1888-1963), was a Kings County historian who lived in Sussex. Her collection contains materials written or collected by her and relating to the history of Sussex, and of Kings County, as well as the Moncton area and churches, especially the Church of England.

MC2809 **Anagance Ridge School Records Collection**, 1874-1966, On microfilm only. This collection contains Minute Books of Annual Meetings of Ratepayers and School Trustees, 1897-1966; Trustee Account Books, 1874-1901; School Registers, 1898-1966; Parish of Havelock Assessment lists, 1933-1934; and financial records for 1890-1966.

ASOCIATES of the PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF NEW BRUNSWICK

If you wish to become an Associate, please complete the attached form and send it with a cheque for \$10 made payable to the Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. Contributions in addition to this amount are welcome and tax receipts will be provided.

ASSOCIATES OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

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YES, I wish to assist the Provincial Archives by supporting the goals of the Associates of the Archives.

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The Board of Directors of **the Associates of the Provincial Archives** are members of the public who have volunteered to facilitate the activities of the Provincial Archives. They come from many walks of life and have diverse cultural interests. In some way all had some connection with the Archives before this appointment. All have experience using the documentary holdings of the Archives. The Associates for 1998/99 are: Elide Albert, John Corey, Joseph Day, Cyril Donahue, Ernie Forbes, Joe Knockwood, Robert Kelly, Jocelyne LeBel, Fernand Lévesque, Dave MacMinn, Frank Morehouse, Mary Biggar Peck, and Betty Sewell.

Marion Beyea, Provincial Archivist is the Archives advisor to the Associates. Fred Farrell, Manager of Private and Photographic Records at the Archives Provincial of New Brunswick, is the Secretary-Treasurer.

CONTRIBUTORS

All contributions for this issue were prepared by members of the staff of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

ARCHIVES WEB SITE

The Archives URL is <http://www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives/index.htm>. For the uninitiated this means the Archives is 'on the Web'. General information is available on the Archives, its holdings, hours of operation and its programs as well as information on the Associates of the Archives. Also available are general guides to holdings and genealogical guides for each county. Individuals contacting the Archives via the internet are asked to provide their mailing address because most of the Archival finding aids and all of the documents are not available through WWW. This 'site' is still in development and will, in the future, include publications dealing with records management and electronic records, and information on exhibits and finding aids.