



Silhouettes

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The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

A big new presence on the Internet

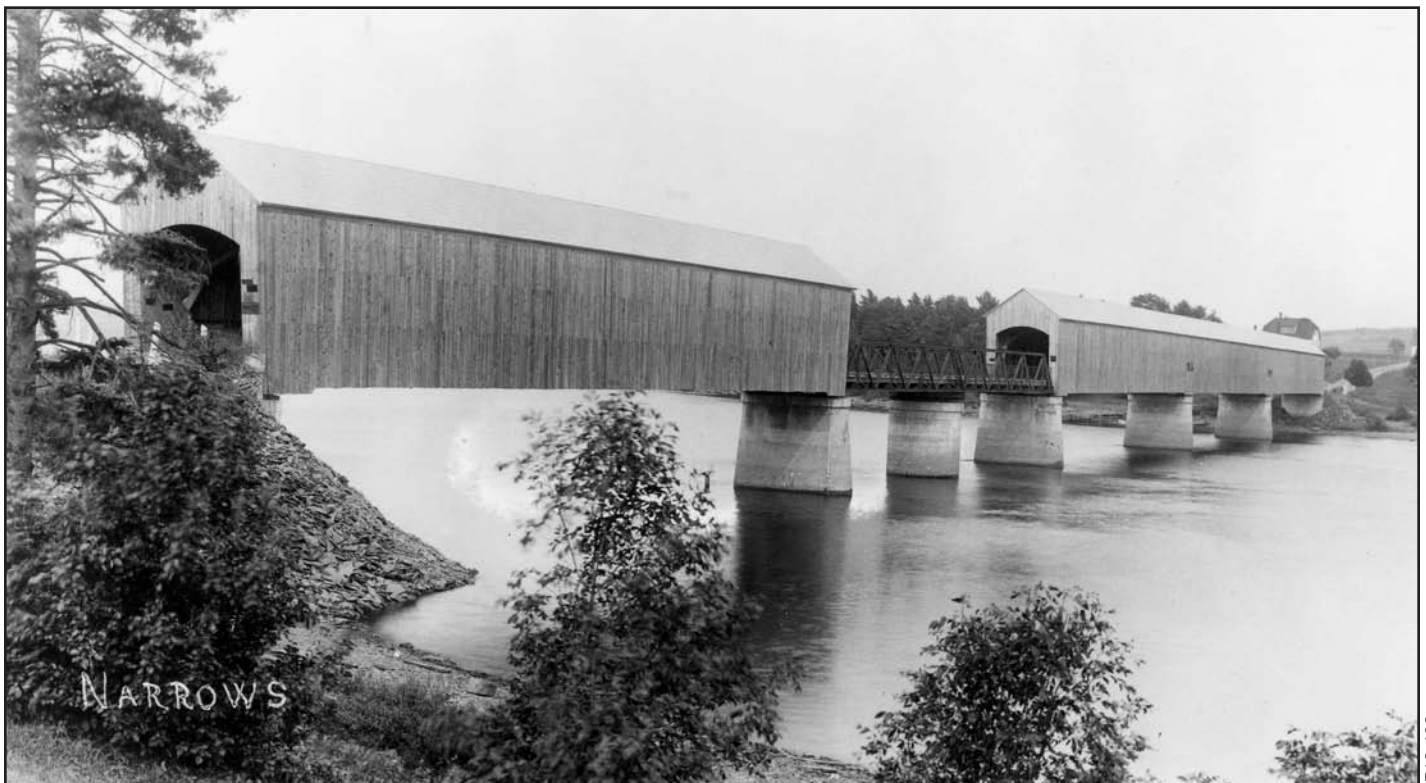
ARCHIVES, as we know, are about history. But this Fall, at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, history is being merged with modern technology in a dramatic way. Four “virtual exhibits” and a remarkable new database of vital statistics on the Archives’ website (www.archives.gnb.ca) will create unprecedented, instant public access to the records, documents,

photographs and other materials from the province’s rich history.

The statistical database, named for its compiler, the late Danny Johnson of Saint John, who spent twenty-three years combing early New Brunswick newspapers for information on births, marriages and deaths, is a wonder in itself. It contains more than 325,000 separate entries from between 1784 and

1896 and is an obvious boon to genealogy researchers, among others. It is also a vast tribute to one man’s dedication to his pursuit (see accompanying sidebar).

Similarly, the four “virtual exhibits” (two are on the web now, and two will be added shortly) provide comprehensive looks of another kind at the province’s history. One, the Archival Portfolio, created in collaboration with the province’s Department of Education, is a social studies aid that ranges broadly over the tapestry of New Brunswick life. Originally developed for French-speaking students in Grades Three and Four, the portfolio also appears in English and will certainly interest a wider audience.



The new covered bridge exhibit on the Archives website includes this photograph of the bridge at Cambridge-Narrows, which was destroyed in the February 2, 1976, Groundhog’s Day Gale.

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Its abundant images, each appearing with a brief descriptive text, reveal subjects as compellingly diverse as a typically fraught Victorian parlour, a 1938 tableau of native people weaving baskets in Victoria County, a community dance at Dunn's Corner, Queens County, in the 1950s, and the original waxen New Brunswick seal, with its Loyalist sailing ship and the province's motto, *Spem Reduxit*, Hope Restored.

A big part of the New Brunswick story has been immigration, and another exhibit, Planned Settlements in New Brunswick, covers the settlement and development of five rural places in the province: New Denmark, Kincardine, Stanley, Allardville and Johnville. The first three were settled in the traditional way, as a result of migration from the Old Country, although each with a distinctive twist. The other two, Allardville and Johnville, were created by a migratory movement *within* the province. Johnville came into being after a Roman

Catholic clergyman, Bishop John Sweeny, in the 1860s directed Irish escapees from the potato famine, who'd been barely eking out an existence in Saint John, to a better life amid the green hills and forests of Northern Carleton County. Similarly, three-quarters of a century later, another community was born when, in the darkest days of the Great Depression, Father J.-A. Allard led his poverty-stricken flock into a crown forest near Bathurst to create "green farms." They cleared land, built log homes, constructed roads, and thus did Allardville become an early New Brunswick green community.

The text of the Planned Settlements exhibit is informed and interesting, and since it is an exhibit, it is copiously illustrated with digitized photographs and documents. The marvel, of course, is that all of this can be summoned with the click of a few buttons. At the Provincial Archives, the man who makes this possible is Programmer/Analyst



Children play outside their school in the Scottish community of Kincardine during a 1960s Winter—from the Planned Settlements virtual exhibit.



P214-75

Colonists who started Allardville, near Bathurst, in the 1930s stand with their community's namesake, Father J.-A. Allard (centre, at back of photo), after he celebrated the planned settlement's first mass.

Dana King. Working with archivists who research and prepare the materials, it's his responsibility to transfer them from the page to the screen, which is hardly as simple as it sounds. Each of the new additions presented "various areas of complexity," he says, but the goal was always the same. "You try to make it, within reason, as user-friendly as possible." The time required to do that can vary. King, who's been the Archives information technology specialist since 1995, says that, for example, the Danny Johnson statistical database, with its great volume and flexibility of access, was lifted into cyberspace in just 10 weeks. But selecting appropriate records, describing their significance and context, and converting them to digital images takes much longer.

Meantime, what could be more "New Brunswick" than covered bridges? The province once had more than 350 of

them. By now, the total is down to 64, but that doesn't mean all of the others have been lost to history. The Archives' new Covered Bridges exhibit includes 336 photographs, along with a text that reveals the forces that combined to produce such a proliferation. The exhibit also contains some of the romantic folklore surrounding the bridges, the answer to why they were covered in the first place, even engineering specifications. And there's a history of the fabled bridge at Hartland, which first opened in 1901 and remained uncovered until a Spring ice run carried away two spans. Enclosed and reopened in 1922, it became, at 1,282 feet, the world's longest, beating one in Norway by 200 feet. This, apparently, will be news to the U.S. Postal Service, which recently issued a stamp declaring a mere 450-footer on the Vermont-New Hampshire border the longest covered bridge. This subsequently led to an apology, sort of,

by *Vermont Life* magazine, after Canadian readers weighed in on Hartland's behalf.

The content of the fourth "virtual exhibit" is more contemporary. It consists of editorial cartoons by two well-known New Brunswick caricaturists, Josh Beutel of Saint John and the late Bill Hogan of Miramichi. As the exhibit's Introduction states: "Editorial cartoons have the extra advantage over many other archival sources of providing entertainment along with food for thought." And so it is with these. They cover societal and political issues mainly from the last quarter of the 20th Century. Some of the issues are national and international in scope, but since both cartoonists were working in New Brunswick, their cartoons—some 1000 of them that originally appeared in daily and weekly newspapers—usually bear a provincial perspective. They make up a

unique body of work that offers insight and a chuckle, too.

And, like the contents of the other exhibits, they will linger in cyberspace for a long time to come. As Fred Farrell, the Archives' manager of private sector records, notes, much of what's on the Web is there for only a certain period of time, but archival material, by its very nature, is destined for a lengthy stay. The new Web offerings, he says, "are clearly only a small percentage of what we hold, but they are still a sizeable amount of documentation on the topics they deal with."

The Canadian Cultural Online Program of the federal government's Department of Canadian Heritage provided financial help for the new exhibits, and Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives lent



It takes a team of talented people to create archival exhibits. Among those who contributed to the virtual exhibits are the three people shown here. Left, Janice Cook, Archivist and researcher/writer for the Planned Settlements exhibit; centre, Dana King, Programmer/Analyst; right, Wanda Lyons, photo archivist.

their support, too. There's no doubt that traditional users of the Archives will like the new access to information, but what's equally exciting is that it will introduce others to the institution, and to New Brunswick history. The Web

presence, says Farrell, "allows people potentially to browse the Archives the way they would a library or museum." They can do it quickly, and it may whet their appetites for more. "It's definitely a dramatic change in terms of access." ■



Daniel F. Johnson

A prodigious achievement

DANNY JOHNSON'S interest in history was fired early on, as he listened to family stories at home in Perth-Andover. But it wasn't until after he'd graduated from UNB in 1975

—with a business degree, no less—that he really got going on his life's work. Having managed a project for the Victoria County Historical Society, in which stories were collected for its publication, *The Tobique*, he began applying his acquired skills to genealogical work. From then on, until he died in February, 2005, at age 52, it became his consuming passion.

The Daniel F. Johnson database of New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics, which was launched on the Provincial Archives website with a special ceremony earlier this Fall, is a truly prodigious achievement. It contains some 325,000 entries that Danny amassed while examining more than 70 newspapers from between 1784 and 1896. What's important about this is that government recording of births, marriages and deaths—the main focus of his attention—didn't begin

until the late 1800s, and church records were often incomplete. So newspapers were an important additional source, but nobody had ever come close to studying them so comprehensively and in such detail. Not only that: Danny also noted things like organizational affiliations, shipwrecks, and trips outside the province—other pieces of information valuable to researchers and people studying their family roots.

The newspaper statistical database is the most comprehensive of its type in the country, and plaudits began reaching the Archives soon after it went on the Web. One academic searcher e-mailed: "The 'search any word' feature is incredible. If you search 'wicker' you get notices of Indian basket sellers in Saint John. If you search 'slavery' you get obits of very aged former slaves. If you search 'professor' you get obits of many, many otherwise obscure male music teachers. If you search 'Jewish' you get terrifically interesting material on the establishment of the Jewish community in Saint John." Meanwhile Ruby Cusack, *The Telegraph-Journal's* genealogy correspondent, said: "[T]he new database secures [the Archives'] position as a pioneering institution on the Internet, with a world class inventory of offerings."

ARCHIVES' DIARIES: Phoebe Chandler Racey

A life in free fall

AT CHRISTMAS, 1896, W. R. “Dick” Racey, a Fredericton banker, gave his wife Phoebe a small pocket diary in which she promptly began recording events in their lives, which were about to take a tumultuous turn. Phoebe was a grand-daughter of a former lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick, Edward Barron Chandler. She had recently noticed a lump behind her ear, and early in 1897 she went to Boston to receive treatment from a Dr. Cabot. We pick up the story with excerpts from the diary.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9: Without a headache all day and the first time on record in this new year. After a busy morning in which I wrote to Father & Dick, Rose (a Boston friend or relative, apparently) and I went to town. . . . Saw the Dr. and had an examination, also treatment.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14: Attended to my person all the morning. After lunch went to Dr. Cabot. He was encouraging.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26: Deadly homesick.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4: Dispatch from Dick saying he was coming to spend a few days with me.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27: Went to the Dr.'s again. (He is at his father-in-law's funeral.) Waited ages, then didn't see him—pretty cross.

MONDAY, MARCH 1: A letter from Dick with some money. Thank goodness.

Treatment for the lump was apparently successful, and Phoebe was finally allowed to return to Fredericton in early May. But, at home, other family crises awaited her, including some disturbing symptoms in her baby son Jack.

TUESDAY, MAY 11: Arrived in Fredericton. Dick met me at the Junction with Elspeth and Dickie (their other two children), bless their hearts. Little Dickie has not grown one mite and Elspeth is

not as pretty as she was. Saw my baby just as soon as I got to the house and didn't know a thing was wrong till lunch.

SATURDAY, MAY 15: Consultations of the Drs. about Jack—they call it slight epileptic attacks. Feeling very heavy hearted.

MONDAY, MAY 17: Jack had 28 jumps.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23: B. Richardson Racey—birth at Brantford 18 November 1858, at rest 23 June 1897. (Dick Racey, Phoebe's husband, dies suddenly at age 38. His obituary and funeral announcement are pasted into the diary.)

TUESDAY, JULY 13: Elspeth quite sick & feverish. Jack had seven jumps.

FRIDAY, JULY 16: Back in Boston again—how little we know what is before us. I could not help the feeling of a little disappointment—it is best—and I must be prepared for more of them and harder things to carry each day. I'm afraid of myself—that is all. If God will only stand by me—Jack seen by three Drs., the house Dr. and the visiting Dr. as well as Dr. Galbraith. . . . How strange it all seems! But he had 11 more jumps. God bless my baby.

SATURDAY, JULY 17: My dear little faithful chic! Jack had 28 jumps. Dr. Buller has decided it is epilepsy. How much more suffering has the dear Lord for me. My heart feels heavy & faint tonight. Mamie came twice and brought Jack such lovely toys. . . . How lonely & sad I am tonight. And still, knowing all things, I wouldn't have dear Daddy back. He is surely happy.

Later that month, Phoebe and Jack returned to Fredericton. But soon she and her children were packing again. They had decided to go to England, where relatives could help support them. In 1899, she married again, to a ship's officer, but they divorced a few years later. Around 1910, she and



Phoebe Racey with her children: Jack, left, Baron or “Dickie,” and Elspeth.

Courtesy of Dick Racey

Elspeth moved to Paris so that the latter, an aspiring actress, could receive voice training.

Phoebe, however, could not afford to raise her boys, and two aunts took over their upbringing and education. The older of the two, Baron or “Dickie,” became an apprentice seaman at age 14 but eventually got into banking in Canada. He joined the Canadian Army in 1914, was sent to France, was captured, and spent 15 months in German POW camps. After the war, he returned to banking and then went into the insurance business. For much of his career, he assumed the financial burden for his mother, her stepmother and stepsister, and, at times, for Elspeth, too. As for Jack, he never settled into permanent employment and spent years roaming the United States and Canada. Discharged from the U.S. Army on medical grounds in 1917, he fell into a life of poverty and destitution, and the family finally lost all track of him in the early 1930s.

Phoebe Racey, meanwhile, was back in England, and she died there, in Dittisham, at the age of 79.

(Editor's note: The diary from which these excerpts were selected, and other records of the Chandler-Racey family, a total of about one metre's worth, mostly saved by Phoebe, were donated to the Provincial Archives in December, 2005, by her grandson, Dick Racey, of Timmins, Ontario. Mr. Racey, who is Baron's son, also provided notes on the family history and the photograph used here.) ■

New Finding Aids

Private Records

Women's Institute fonds: MC322 Cross Creek, MC397 Stanley, MC2171 Lincoln, MC2177 Barony-Pokiok, MC2178 Chance Harbour, MC2180 Glades Road, MC2198 Sheffield, MC2282 Clairville, MC3160 Charlotte County District #10, MC2664 Durham Bridge, MC3093 Queens County District Convention, MC3198 Boiestown, MC3095 Lakeside, MC3271 Chipman, MC3286 Jacksonville, MC3322 Albert-Riverside. 1914-2005. Minute books, financial records & correspondence, originals and microfilm.

MC3282 Hartland United Farmers Co-operative Ltd. fonds. 1951-1969. Minutes, 1cm., original.

MC3015 The United Farmers of New Brunswick fonds. Pamphlets, constitution. 1918, 1921. Original.

MC3050 The Chaleur Zephyr. Newspaper, largely satirical published in Dalhousie, NB. 1886. 1 issue (1 folio printed on 4 sides). Original

P623 Alan M. Sinclair fonds. Royal visit of Princess Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth II, and Prince Philip in Saint John during Royal visit to New Brunswick. 1951. 6 photos, b&w.

MC26 Asa D. Chase discharge certificate. Discharge from 1st Regiment, Maine Veterans, June 1, 1865.

MC199 Maritime Fire Fighters Athletic Association. 1933. Scorecard with schedule of day's events for annual sports competition. 4p. textual, 1 item.

MC587 Jemseg Baptist Church fonds: (1853-1916) Minute books, 1853-1883, induction record, newsclippings. Microfilm (F8990).

MC593 St. Thomas United Church (Doaktown) fonds: (1835-1979) Minutes of meetings of church officials and groups, membership list, 1934, Baptisms 1909-1934. Microfilm, 4 rolls.

MC867 John H. Rhodes fonds. Business and personal records including records relating to School District No. 10, parish of Hopewell, minutes of one meeting of the Albert Branch of the Lord's Day Alliance. 1882-1911. 10cms.

MC879 New Brunswick Canneries Company Limited fonds. Legal records and correspondence relating to the sale of vessels and property owned by the NB Canneries Company Ltd. at Chamcook, NB. 1918-1919, 2cms.

MC880 Victoria Specialty Company Limited fonds. Administrative records including company minute book, letters patent. 1912-1921. 4cms.

MC882 Weldon Brokerage Company Limited fonds. Minutes, including organizational meeting, company by-laws. 1948. 3cms.

MC1424 Thompson Bros. Ltd. fonds. Business and financial records. 1955-1983. 60cms.

MC1641 James and John Chaffey fonds. Daily account books. Microfilm. (1775-1859). Originals, 1833-1838.

MC2878 Margaret L. Currie fonds. Letters highlighting community, national and international events, trains as a mode of transport, and on the church as the centre of community life. 1912-1951. 20cms.

MC2899 Passenger Diary of a transatlantic voyage from Bristol to New York City, mentions sightings of whales, porpoises, sea birds, other vessels and the activities of sailors, other passengers and himself. 15 April 1858-17 May 1858. 24 pp.

MC3003 Bruce F. Hay fonds. Records of court cases, administrative and advertising and Corinthian Lodge No. 13. 1936-1949. 3 cms.

MC3069 James F. Robertson fonds. Household account books. 1907-1914. 1cm.

MC3238 Georgiana Mary Parry fonds. Diary containing details about Fredericton's social and cultural life from the perspective of a military officer's wife. Covers the period of the last months of the British garrison's presence in Fredericton. 1868-1880, 2cms.

MC3264 George A. Love fonds. Account book kept primarily for his retail business in hay and coal at McAdam. 1902-1924, 2cms.

Government Records

RS280, Kings County School Records (pre-1967) (revised)

RS282, Northumberland County School Records (pre-1967) (new)

RS283, Queens County School Records (pre-1967) (revised)

RS109, Crown Lands and Colonization Inspectors Records, 1930-1962 (revised)

RS442F, Westmorland County Court Civil Cases, 1962-1979 (new)

RS275, Albert County School Records (pre-1967) (revised)

Additions to Archives Website

Provincial Returns of Deaths-RS141C4, 1919 added (2,670 records)

Late Registration of Births-RS141A1b, 1910-1911 added (3,721 records)

Deaths-RS141C5, 1956 updated (4,745 records added)

Recent acquisitions

Government Records

RS443 York County Court Minute Books, 1962-1979.

RS952 Queens County Circuit Court Minute Book, 1935-1967.

RS1076 Fredericton Judicial District Minute Books, 1979-1995

RS1006 Department of Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Written briefs and summaries to the New Brunswick Select Committee (of the N.B. Legislature) on the 1987 Constitutional Accord (Meech Lake), 1989. Also includes documentation on the Meech Lake Strategy and background/research files, 1987-1989. 1 m.

RS1074 Land Registration and Information Service Records. Planning documents, scripts, presentations. Includes documentation on the LRIS turnover to NBGIC, automation of the land registry system, studies, and research for modernization of the organization. 1976-1989. 4 m.

RS966 Heritage Branch Records. Records relating to the refurbishing, remodelling and reopening of the Old Government House in 1999. Includes brochures, videos, pamphlets, photographs, correspondence, minutes of advisory committee, information on furnishings. 1990-1999. 1 m.

RS427 Saint John Municipal Records. Minutes of the Common Council of the City of Saint John (Books 57 to 81) for 1934 to 1989. (7 reels of microfilm) ■



Christmas Shopping at the Archives

Unique N.B. items for sale at the sales kiosk in the lobby of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick



President's Report

Associates aided acquisition

THE ASSOCIATES OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES, a volunteer organization that supports the institution, successfully carried out various projects during the year.

The fund-raising campaign started in 2003 to acquire the Josh Beutel editorial cartoons reached a successful conclusion. More than 5000 of the Saint John caricaturist's original cartoons dealing with provincial, national and international issues are now preserved at the Archives and are available for study and use in exhibits and publications.

The Associates also contributed to the purchase at the Christies' London auction of the papers of Major-General Henry O'Halloran. These include such important records as a Mi'qmag religious text, notes, drawings and correspondence. Major-General O'Halloran was posted to British North America from 1839 to 1842 and studied Mi'qmag culture and customs, while also teaching himself the written language.

The Associates helped, too, with acquiring an account book of a medical doctor who practiced in southeastern New Brunswick, the records of the Independent Order of Foresters of Stonehaven, and a ledger from a store at Tay Creek.

The Associates' public programs concentrated on promoting the film holdings of the Provincial Archives and the Archives' interest in acquiring amateur movies for preservation. Films depicting various New Brunswick communities were shown in Moncton, and footage of Saint John and environs was presented at the Saint John Free Public Library during Heritage Week.

A successful grant application by the Associates to the Environmental Trust Fund made possible the description of various series of aerial photographs. The organization also supported employing a student to update the master plan for the preservation of New Brunswick newspapers, and it began a fund-raising campaign to acquire the Dan Johnson database of vital statistics from provincial newspapers.

The Conservation Cooperative, which the Associates sponsor to provide technical preservation advice, assessments, and treatments of documents, maps, and bound volumes, completed projects for UNB's Harriet Irving Library, the Saint John Free Public Library, the City of Saint John Office of the Common Council, Acadia University, the Council of Archives New Brunswick, the Provincial Archives, and several businesses.

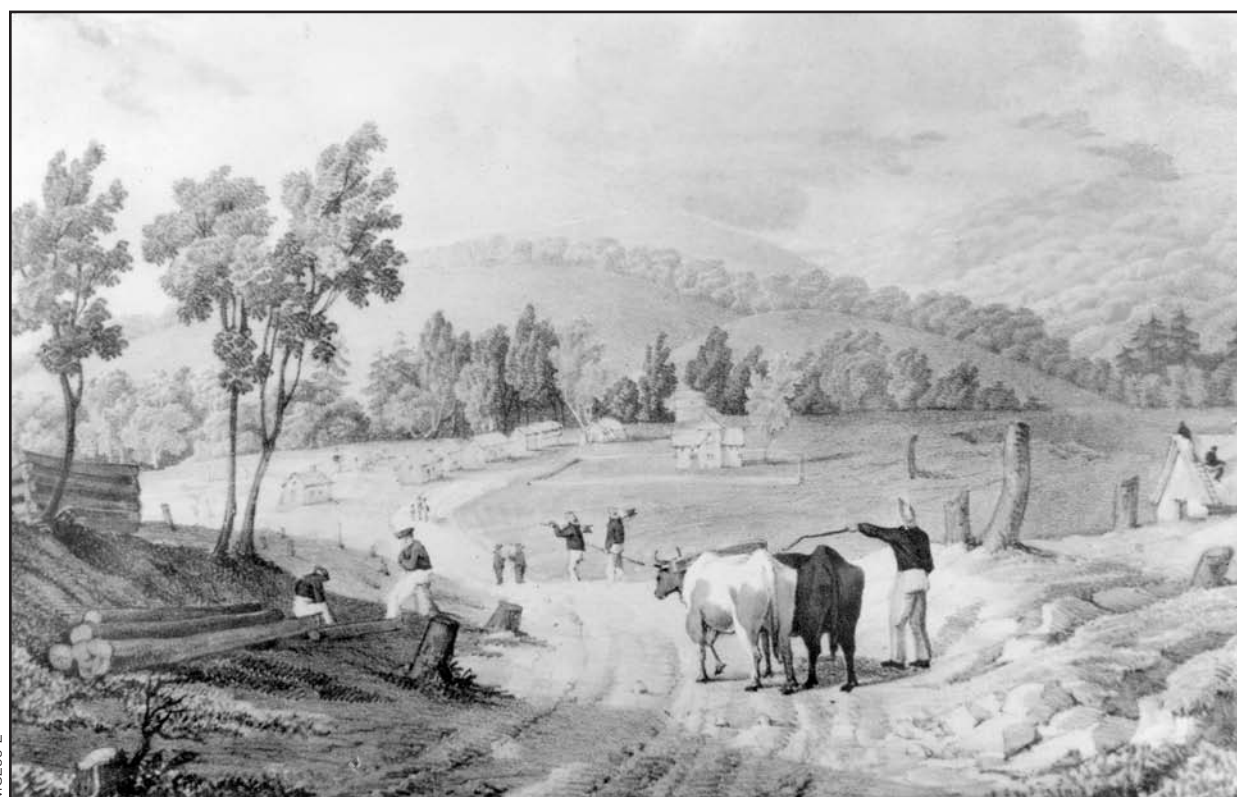
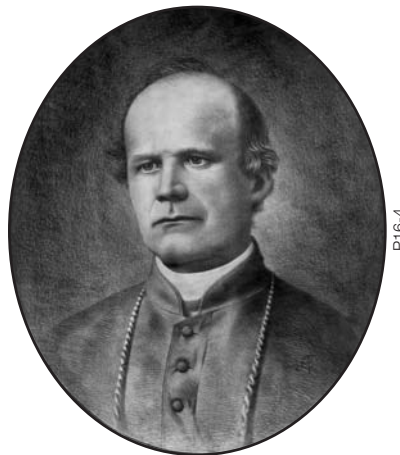
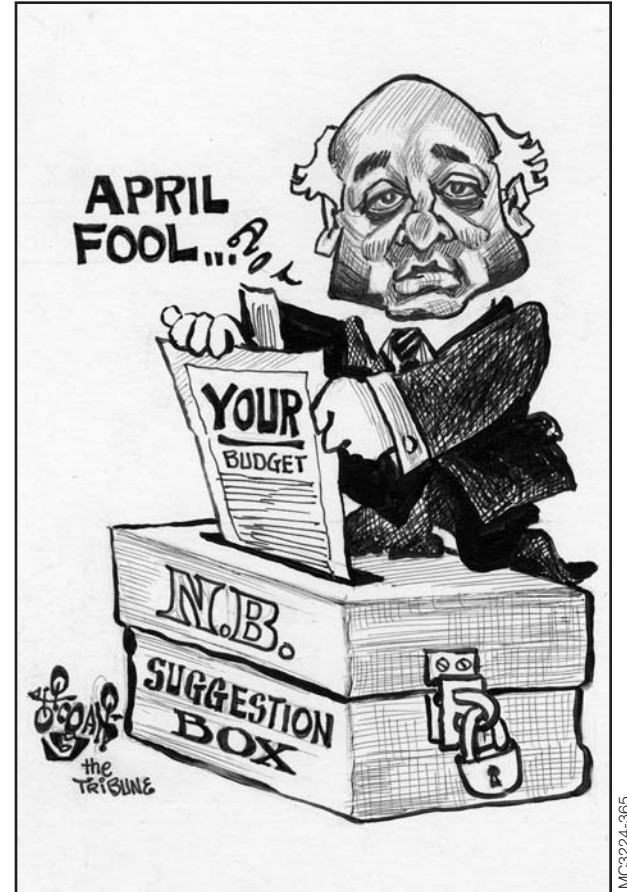
The Associates received many compliments this year on the organization's newsletter, which is one of the primary benefits of membership. It contains articles on historical records, programs of the Provincial Archives, and activities of the Associates.

The contributions of Associates' directors and members, Archives staff, and donors have been vital to the realization of these projects.

—Dr. Gwen Davies

A website sampler

THE NEW “VIRTUAL EXHIBITS” on the Provincial Archives website are rich in both text and illustration. These pages offer a sampling of the illustrative material. The cartoon at top left, by Saint John’s Josh Beutel, shows Conservative Joe Clark and Liberal Pierre Trudeau sowing promissory seeds and then spraying each other’s “crops” with poison during the 1979 federal election campaign. Miramichi cartoonist Bill Hogan’s drawing, at right, is from the 1980s and has N.B. Finance Minister Allan Maher inviting public suggestions—but it may all be an April Fool’s joke. In the second row, left, a George T. Taylor photo shows Danish settlers standing by their “Immigrant House” soon after they arrived in Victoria County in 1872. It’s from the Planned Settlements exhibit. The photographic tableau to the right, from the Archives Portfolio exhibit, has a Malecite group making baskets on the Tobique River in 1938. Immediately below this caption box is a photo from the Covered Bridges exhibit showing North Coles Island in 1930. At right is Bishop John Sweeney, who led Irish immigrants to another planned settlement, Johnville, in the hills of Northern Carleton County, in the 1860s. And, at bottom, is the settlement of Stanley, near Fredericton, as it appeared to an artist in 1835.



Un avant-goût du site web

LES NOUVELLES « expositions virtuelles » contenues dans le site web des Archives provinciales sont riches en éléments textuels et graphiques. Voici un avant-goût du matériel d’illustration. D’abord, la caricature de Josh Beutel, dans le coin supérieur gauche, montre le conservateur Joe Clark et le libéral Pierre Trudeau semant des promesses sous forme de graines au cours de la campagne fédérale de 1979, chacun arrosant de poison la « récolte » de l’autre. À droite, un dessin datant des années 1980 du caricaturiste de Miramichi, Bill Hogan, montre le ministre des Finances du Nouveau-Brunswick, Allan Maher, sollicitant des idées de la part du public; mais tout cela pourrait n’être qu’un poisson d’avril! Dans la deuxième rangée, à gauche, une photo de George T. Taylor montre des colons danois réunis devant “la maison des immigrants” peu après leur arrivée dans le comté de Victoria en 1872. La photo est tirée de l’exposition Projets de colonisation. Dans le tableau photographique à droite, tiré de l’exposition Portfolio archivistique, un groupe de Malécites confectionne des paniers le long de la rivière Tobique en 1938. Immédiatement sous la boîte de légende, une photo de North Coles Island en 1930, tirée de l’exposition Ponts couverts. À droite, l’évêque John Sweeney qui, dans les années 1860, mena des immigrants irlandais vers de nouveaux lotissements à Johnville, dans les collines du nord du comté de Carleton. Enfin, en bas, une vue d’artiste de la colonie de Stanley, près de Fredericton, en 1835.