

April 2008

Volume 28, Issue 2

## *ArchiNews / ArchiNouvelles*

### **MANITOBA DIGITIZATION SUMMIT**

The summit was held January 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Carol Shields Auditorium Millennium Library. Over 100 archivists, librarians, historians and museum specialists attended the event hosted by the Association for Manitoba Archives, Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport, Manitoba Library Consortium, University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg.

Pat Hardy was the facilitator for the event which focused mainly on where Manitoba heritage groups stand when it comes to digitization. The morning started with a brief overview of the Manitoba scene, the most revealing, yet not surprising element was that most institutions lack the funding and the skills to digitize documents.

Ian Wilson from Library Archives Canada was the first guest speaker. He stated that technology, including the Web, has great potential and becomes a resource to all peoples. The second speaker was Brian Bell from Alouette Canada who showcased its product, software made in Canada that has interactive and discovery portals. The last speaker was Rosaleen Hill, who gave an overview of preservation issues and digitization.

The afternoon started with a panel discussion on what historians, educators and genealogists want to see as digital resources on the Web. This discussion was then followed by breakout discussion groups on the needs of Manitoba heritage institutions to get on the digital bandwagon. It was quite evident that training was a huge priority.

To summarize, the summit was a good look at how institutions deal with digital issues. It was a relief to realize that we are mostly all struggling with the concept of digitizing – it was a good opportunity to raise our concerns and ideas.

### **MODERN INFORMATION CARRIERS**

The Canadian Conservation Institute workshop: *Modern Information Carriers* was held on February 14 & 15, 2008 in partnership with the Association of Manitoba Museums. The facilitator of the session was Joe Iraci.

The goal of the two days was to discuss the structure, composition, and format of various types of information recording media. Agents of deterioration were covered, as well as ways to promote longevity through selecting appropriate media, understanding both controllable and less controllable factors, and ensuring proper handling and storage. Methods to minimize potential damage and information loss in an emergency or disaster were also discussed.

#### **MANITOBA DAY AWARD 2008**

**The Boards of Directors  
of the  
Association for Manitoba Archives  
and  
La Société historique de St. Boniface  
Invite Members and Friends  
to attend the  
Second Annual Manitoba Day Award  
Luncheon and Presentations**

**Monday, May 12, 2008**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre**

**RSVP 942-3491**

**Tickets \$20.00**



## Chair's Report to Members

I am delighted to announce that the AMA strategic plan was approved by the Board on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2008. As well as serving as a "road map" for Association activities the plan will be an invaluable tool for building our case with the various funding agencies that support Association activities. It is the hope of the Board that this document will present a better understanding of our Association to the non-archival world.

The 2008 federal budget has not announced any new funding for archives. In fact, the government plans to cut back 3 million dollars over the next three years to Library and Archives Canada. "It is streamlining its administrative structures and discontinuing services that are a low priority for Canadians to focus its operations on preserving records of national significance to ensure that future generations are able to make use of these important cultural resources." (<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2008/plan/ann3-eng.asp>) How this reduction will impact us is yet to be known. We will keep a close eye on this important issue.

The Management committee has been working diligently over the past six weeks preparing grant applications for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The NADP grants have been adjudicated locally and forwarded to the Canadian Council of Archives for national adjudication. Our submissions to the Provincial Heritage Agency Grant Program for operating support and our Annual Training Proposal have been submitted to the Province of Manitoba. Our Association is highly dependant on grants to function. Let us hope our hard work is fruitful. Currently we are revising a proposal to a private funding body.

I also take this occasion to announce that I will be stepping down as Chair of the AMA as of May 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 for family reasons. I wish to thank the Board for their commitment and hard work – by working together we make a stronger Association. A special thank you to the members of the Management committee, Diane Haglund and Jacinthe Duval, who spend many hours writing grant proposals to help sustain the AMA. Keep up the good work!

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to represent your Association. All the best!

Carole Pelchat

Chair

### Chair of Finance and Grants

As Chair of the Finance and Grants Committee of the AMA, I would like to express my gratitude to Gerry Berkowsky and Cathy Collins for the many years they spent as volunteers on the Grants committee. Their hard work has been much appreciated. I wish them all the best in their new endeavors. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome two new members who have generously accepted invitations to join the committee. Many thanks to Lucille Bazin and Joan Sinclair who have agreed to give us a hand this year. And my thanks again to every member of the committee for their hard work this year.

Jacinthe Duval

### Beautiful Plains Archives

The year 2008 is a time to celebrate for more than one reason: the Beautiful Plains Archives has been granted full membership in the AMA as of January 2008, and our project for Neepawa's Homecoming 125 this July is well underway. After choosing a limited number of the historic photos in the archives, we are offering them to local businesses for display this summer and into the fall. Work on the project began in September with the scanning of many hundreds of historic photos held by the Beautiful Plains Museum and a smaller, private museum. As well, volunteers have been adding names and dates as needed, and we are restoring provenance as much as possible. We thank the Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism for funding the project.

## The U of M Archives Goes YouTube

The TG Hamilton collection of séance photographs just got a boost via YouTube, the popular video sharing site. The University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections produced a four-minute video montage using photographs from the fonds. The idea came from a project created by Port Alberni employing still photographs from the B.C. Archives.

What made the Port Alberni video so effective was the use of appropriate music. It was difficult, however, to find suitable royalty free music. The project would have stayed in limbo, except for the work of a University of Manitoba film studies graduate. The student, Rob Ross, took the photos selected for the video and using the Department of English's media lab, strung the photos together.

The result has been satisfying. A 2 page spread in the National Post was supplemented by local stories in both newspaper and television which has brought the video to the attention of researchers, artists, the general public and donors. We have been receiving queries about it ever since the video went up. The number of hits on the video made slow increases up to about 3,000 until the late-night syndicated American talk show Coast 2 Coast picked up the story. Then the number jumped to 21,000. Now a Japanese site has featured it and the number keeps rising. It's been an interesting experience - not a wholly un-alloyed pleasure, as I received a rather unpleasant and slightly threatening phone call from someone upset by the contents of the video. But the video has brought the collection to a much larger and new audience. We hope in future to augment this video with old black-and-white film from the early part of the last century.

You can watch the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0HncGNBCqY>

Shelley Sweeney

## AMA AWARDS PROGRAM

Do you know of an outstanding project that is innovative and enhances an archives or archival community? How about a person who has made an exemplary contribution to archives in Manitoba? Consider nominating a person or project. The AMA has an awards program that can be used to enhance the profile and honour such projects and individuals. The awards program has grown over the years to include Honourary Membership, Award of Recognition, Outstanding Project or Achievement, and Thesis Prize.

The newest category is the Manitoba Day award. It is awarded to the users of archives rather than archive projects or practitioners. 2008 will be the second year the AMA will be highlighting outstanding Manitoba projects that rise out of archival materials. Last year's recipients received a small award at a luncheon. Deadline for this award is end of February and is adjudicated by the AMA executive.

The AMA thesis prize is awarded to a student in the University of Manitoba archival studies program who receives a "passes with distinction" designation upon the completion of their thesis.

The other awards are handled by the AMA membership committee with the deadline being three months before the AMA annual meeting in September.

The awards program is an important part of the AMA as it is a way of recognizing achievements in our own community. The Manitoba archival community is small and we need to support and recognize our own community and its accomplishments. Secondly the awards program is a way of creating an event to highlight archives and the role it plays in the larger society.

For more information on the awards program contact the AMA office.

Conrad Stoesz

## The Loyalist Resource Centre

Manitoba Branch Inc. (Est. 1932) of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, with its Dominion Office in Toronto, is composed of 27 branches across Canada with a total membership of well over 2,500. Members, who join the UELAC through one of its Branches, support Canada's Constitutional Monarchy and uphold the nation's distinctive political and legal heritage to which their Loyalist ancestors contributed.

Through the Association, members seek out historic places, documents, and artifacts connected to the Loyalist experience and migration so these items can be preserved for future generations. While the Association principally attracts descendants of Loyalists, anyone who supports its aims is welcome to join the organization by becoming an associate member of a branch in their area.

The Loyalists had an impact on the creation of Canada. The growing number of colonists from the Thirteen Colonies petitioned for the same rights they had in the colonies: including the judicial, political and land tenure systems as well as the role of the English language as the common form of communication that contributed to the political division.

In 1905 Loyalists' descendants were leaders in the establishment of Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon. Apart from the Loyalists who were involved in exploration and the fur trade out of Montreal at the end of the American Revolution, it was the descendants of those Loyalists who moved west as the land was opened for settlement who carried those systems with them and welcomed the new immigrants from Europe and Asia. The fact remains that it is estimated that one in every seven Canadians has some Loyalist blood in his/her veins!

The Loyalist Resource Centre at 120 Eugenie Street in Norwood Grove, Winnipeg, will host an

### OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Manitoba Branch Inc. 120 Eugenie Street  
Winnipeg MB R2H 0X7,  
Ph: (204) 489-7180  
[jmcarter@mts.net](mailto:jmcarter@mts.net)

## Winnipeg Art Gallery

The Winnipeg Art Gallery Archives are pleased to announce the completion of a project to arrange and describe their records of the well known Inuit art collector, George Swinton. These records were processed in part with assistance from the National Archives Development Program and Manitoba Heritage Grants.

An important collector of Inuit art, Swinton's first collection of 139 sculptures was acquired by the Winnipeg Art Gallery in 1960. In 1976, a second collection of over 1,000 sculptures and graphics came to the Gallery from Swinton. A third collection was donated in 1989.

The materials which comprise our Swinton Archive date from 1899 to ca.1985 and were received by the Winnipeg Art Gallery between 1977 and 1985. These materials, created and acquired by Swinton as he researched his seminal work *Sculpture of the Eskimo*, illuminate a period during which Inuit art began to be collected seriously and contain information about an important era in Canadian art history. The audio recordings described as part of this project are unique and include the voices of Inuit artists speaking in their own words about their work, how they came to create it and the issues surrounding its sale and marketing. The labeled photographs provide valuable visual documentation of twentieth century Inuit art works created up to ca.1985.

These materials are available to researchers at the Winnipeg Art Gallery Archives (with prior notice) during regular Library hours. The finding aid to these records will soon be available for consultation on Archives Canada, the Canadian Archival Information Network.

Linda White  
Winnipeg Art Gallery Archivist (Term)

## Passages

### SISTER GENEVIEVE ROCAN 1919 - 2008



At Résidence Despins on March 17, 2008, Sister Genevieve Rocan died of cancer surrounded by her sisters the Grey Nuns and some members of her family. Genevieve was born on April 5, 1919, in Ste Genevieve,

Manitoba. Because Spanish influenza was prominent at the time and the cause of many deaths, her parents Engelbert Rocan and Augustine Legal who lived in La Broquerie, responded to the maternal grandparents' invitation to spend some time in Ste-Genevieve before the birth of their child. Genevieve went to school in La Broquerie; she was always eager to learn about everything and we can say that our companion kept that until the end. As a young woman, Genevieve was inspired by the compassion and care of her teachers, the Grey Nuns. On February 5, 1940, she entered the St. Boniface Noviciate and made her perpetual profession on August 15, 1945 in Montreal, Québec.

Sister Rocan always enjoyed the people and places where Providence led her: Lebret, Saskatchewan, St. Norbert, Sainte-Anne-des-Chênes, Manitoba, Chesterfield Inlet, N.W.T where she taught the young Inuit for 13 years and later in St. Michael's, North Dakota for five years.

Recognized as an excellent teacher, Sister Rocan loved her students and knew how to instill in them lasting values. Coming back to Manitoba, Sister Rocan was named as provincial secretary and councillor for the Grey Nuns. She knew how to share her talents, particularly in oral and written French, and many came to her for help. When she completed this mandate, she accepted the responsibility as director of Laurent Centre.

During many years, Sister Rocan also assumed the responsibility of the archives and later the library at the Grey Nuns Provincial House. After the renovation and reintegration at Résidence Despins, she offered to help organize the library. Throughout her various ministries, Sister Genevieve was recognized to be a woman of faith, prayer, knowledge and dedication. Besides her religious family, Sister Rocan leaves to mourn five sisters and four brothers. She was predeceased by her parents, two sisters and two brothers.

## The AMA Membership Committee

One of the roles of the Membership committee of the AMA is to process new applications and review the documentation submitted for the reaccreditation process undertaken by the AMA. Recently two new archives have become members of the AMA. Video Pool in Winnipeg and the Beautiful Plains Archives in Neepawa. Both Centres have had site visits by the AMA coordinator and had their policies, procedures, finding aids, and financial records approved by the membership committee. Our institutional membership base continues to grow which is great. It means that the concept of archives is growing in the Manitoba population, which can only be a good thing for our sector. It also increases access to Manitoba's rich heritage for the public..

The second year for the reaccreditation process is now underway and the committee is working through the materials recently submitted for year one as well as year two. This process will strengthen the archival community. It will be a mark of certification that Manitoba's archives are continually under review so that donors, users, and funders can have some assurance that their particular institutions meet the archival standards as appropriate to each community. Institutions can use the certification as a mark of distinction within their own communities and sponsoring agencies creating awareness of their archives and its programs.

Conrad Stoesz

## Membership Renewal

The AMA Membership year begins April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Renewal notices will be sent out in early April.

The annual member needs survey will be included with your notice. Please take time to complete it. Knowing your needs and interests is essential for developing meaningful programming.



**Don't be late!**

**Renew now.**

## "The Past Lane" : A New Manitoba History & Heritage Forum

A new Manitoba History & Heritage Online Forum (tentatively dubbed "The Past Lane") is up and running, and awaiting your participation. Its address is: [www.mhs.mb.ca/forum](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/forum). The idea is that this forum will enable people interested in the conservation and restoration of heritage buildings and, more generally, for people interested in all aspects of Manitoba history, to share information. The forum is a work in progress so any comments, pro and con, on any aspect of its design and operation, are welcome. As for anything new, there is a learning curve to using the forum effectively but feedback on how it can be made as appealing and useful as possible are especially wanted. Everyone posting to the site must be a registered user. To become one, select the "Register" link near the top of the page. A formal launch of the forum occurred on Monday, 18 February (Louis Riel Day) at the offices of Bridgman Collaborative Architecture.

Dr. L. Gordon Goldsborough

## Personal Papers of Dr. Earl A. Levin

The Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg is pleased to announce the acquisition of the personal papers of Dr. Earl A. Levin. During his long and influential career in city planning, Dr. Levin was the Director of Planning for the Province of Saskatchewan; Director of City Planning for Metropolitan Winnipeg; the head of the City Planning program at the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Manitoba; a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg; and the President of the Town Planning Institute of Canada (now the Canadian Institute of Planners). As both a consultant and a public sector planner Earl Levin was involved in some of Winnipeg's most important planning processes, including Neeginan and the Core Area Initiative. Now Dr. Levin has donated his personal papers to the Institute of Urban Studies. The collection includes over 70 speeches and original articles on a wide range of planning topics, as well as correspondence, planning reports and extensive newspaper and magazine clippings.

Michael Dudley

## SPRINGFIELD EXPLORES REGIONAL LIBRARY

In early March, *The Clipper Weekly* published an article on a topic of archival interest. The caption of the photograph read:

“Diane Haglund, Association for Manitoba Archives, and Denise Weir, Manitoba Libraries Branch along with Roger Langlais of Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport were in attendance at last week's public meeting to provide insight and answer questions regarding the establishment of a Springfield Regional Library and Public Archives.”

Source: *The Clipper Weekly*, Volume 17, No. 19.  
March 3, 2008, pp.1-2.

## ArchiNews / ArchiNouvelles

is published by the Association for Manitoba Archives.  
Submissions, questions or comments should be directed to the Chair of the Information and Outreach Committee: Diane Boyd ([Diane.Boyd@Radio-Canada.ca](mailto:Diane.Boyd@Radio-Canada.ca))

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors of the AMA.

Deadline for next issue –  
15 May 2008

Box 26005 Maryland P.O. Winnipeg, MB R3G 3R3

Tel: 204 942-3491

Fax: 204 942-3492

Email : [amal@mts.net](mailto:amal@mts.net)

ISSN 1193-9958