

## Missionary Oblate Sisters



Historical exhibit of the Missionary Oblate Sisters

In 2004, the Missionary Oblate Sisters celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our foundation in Saint-Boniface. To mark this occasion an historical exhibit was created. The logo of the Centennial Year banner, *As is the spring, so is the stream*, was inspired by the words of the congregation's founder Archbishop Adélar Langevin: "Each child is a moral and social spring that will have its influence in the future. He will father children, being the source of others according to nature. You who are raising the children of the nation, you are also a spiritual source, therefore, take good care; as you make the spring, so will be the stream... As Missionary Oblates, you are preparing for the Church, a generation of faith and for the world worthy citizens." (Constitutions, 1906) The motto serves as an allegory that reflects the beginnings, growth, and presence of the Oblate Sisters in Western Canada.

The canonical noviciate was established by Langevin on March 24, 1904, and the first six candidates became the first Oblate Sisters. When three of the members returned to their families a few months later, the remaining sisters continued to believe in the future of their foundation.

1906 saw new recruits and the congregation opened a boarding school for small boys (6 to 12 years of age) and girls (grades 1 to 12) in St. Charles.

The Congregation grew rapidly, and by 1911 the first sisters made their final vows, a lifetime commitment that ensured stability to the Order. Langevin desired to see his "daughters", as he fondly called them, to be missionary-educators. As they grew in numbers, schools were opened in parishes, villages and towns in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

By the 1960s, the congregation began to decrease in numbers. Parochial schools were taken over by the government; private and separate schools became part of the public schools system. The new mandate for the sisters became educational programs, such as: Home Economics training, Centre for the Deaf, Retreat Centres, Spiritual accompaniment, the Aulneau Renewal Centre, Associates of the Missionary Oblate Sisters, Foreign Missions, and Social Justice.

The sisters who are no longer active continue to provide spiritual support for the sisters who are still active in the apostolate field. The future holds many questions for the Oblate Sisters: For the Oblate Sisters, the future holds many questions: What plans does the Creator have for this modest stream which continues to decrease gradually in strength and in numbers? Will it find renewed vigour by modifying its course, bypassing obstacles and finding new ways to accomplish its goal as it travels on its way? Will it regain its impetus in a different form while being faithful to its original mission of Missionary-educators? While remaining faithful to the work entrusted to it by its Founder, will it find other persons who resonate its charisma and mission? Will some find in themselves the desire and will to answer the call of the Creator who invites them to become one more drop in the modest stream? Will others become Oblates, offering themselves to God for the good of humanity and His greater glory? Who will continue to "Keep the Trust" according to our Founder's motto: "*Depositum Custodi*"?

Sister Thérèse Bilodeau

## Chair's message to AMA members

This is my final message as Chair of the Board of the AMA. I'd like to begin by thanking all members who attended our recent AGM, the dinner with guest speaker Marc Lerman of the Association for Canadian Archivists, and/or the mini-conference that followed on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. At the AGM, following the business portion of the meeting, the AMA signed a *Memorandum of Understanding (MofU)* with the CCA. CCA Board Member Suzanne Girard was in attendance to represent the CCA. The *MofU's* are being signed by Councils and Associations across the country to solidify relationships between the CCA and its member organizations on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary year.

After dinner, members heard from Mark Lerman, who described the ACA's current renewal process. Of particular interest was Mark's description of the ACA's emerging interest in advocacy for Canadian archivists and archives – a positive and welcome development. And by all accounts, the mini-conference – *Made in Manitoba* – was a great success. In this twenty-fifth year of our own Association, it is something of a testament to the commitment of member archives and archivists that so

many of us are writing and speaking to issues that affect archives locally, nationally, and internationally. Well done all!

At the Board's post-AGM meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>, Gilles Lesage took over the Chair of the Board. His leadership and broad knowledge of archival issues will benefit the AMA this coming year as the process of change and renewal continues. Alf Redekopp, Chair of Finance and Grants; Elizabeth Blight, Chair of Membership; Paula Warsaba, Chair of Education; and Carole Barnabe, Chair of Information and Outreach have returned for another year.

The last two years have been both challenging and rewarding and I want to thank my fellow Board members, Diane Haglund, Kathy Kushpel, and all of you, our members, for your support and encouragement during my tenure. It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Board!

Jody Baltessen.



**Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony  
Jody Baltessen, Chair of the AMA, and Suzanne Girard,  
representative for the CCA**

Mark your calendars!  
**Once upon an archives**  
December 6<sup>th</sup> 2005



**Gilles Lesage, AMA Chair for 2005-2006**



## Looking Back...

2005 marks the 25<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of the Association for Manitoba Archives. This is the third in a series of planned articles looking back to the activities of 1980.

The first (founding) Annual Meeting of “Concerned Manitoba Archivists” was held on March 8 1980. Those present agreed that interim Operating Regulations be used on a procedural basis until the subsequent annual meeting when a formal constitution would be adopted. They then proceeded to elect officers for the organization: Cathy Macdonald (United Church Archives) as President, Lawrence Klippenstein (Mennonite Heritage Centre) as Vice President, Zenon Hluszok (Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre) as Secretary, Betty Blight (Provincial Archives of Manitoba) as Treasurer and Garron Wells

(Hudson’s Bay Company Archives) as Newsletter Editor.

By the time of the founding meeting ad hoc committees had already been busy. One chaired by Cathy Macdonald reported on the investigation of the necessity to have the new association incorporated. The other chaired by Garron Wells reported on letters that had been sent to the two Winnipeg newspapers concerning the status of the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives funding as a symptom of the lack of funding for all archives in the province and the report prepared on behalf of archives for the Government of Manitoba’s review on Manitoba’s Cultural Policy. Advocacy was and still is a major role of this Association.

Other issues raised at this meeting were the need for a Directory of Archives in Manitoba and a proposal that the foyer of the Manitoba Archives Building be used exclusively for archival/heritage displays.

Next time let’s look at the budget.

Elizabeth Blight

## Les nouvelles de la Société historique de Saint-Boniface



### Les Oblats de la province du Manitoba

La Société historique de Saint-Boniface est fière d’annoncer l’apparition d’une nouvelle section au site *Au pays de Riel*. Ces nouveaux modules cherchent à retracer l’histoire des missionnaires Oblats de la province religieuse du Manitoba en portant une attention particulière aux écoles résidentielles dirigées par les Oblats.

En visitant ces modules, vous pourrez visionner de nombreux documents d’archives sortis de la collection des Oblats de Marie-Immaculée accompagnés de textes qui cherchent à mieux faire comprendre l’histoire de cette congrégation qui a joué un rôle déterminant dans l’évolution de l’Ouest canadien.

Un gros merci à nos bailleurs de fonds : Programme de culture canadienne en ligne de Patrimoine canadien, Bibliothèque et archives Canada et le Conseil canadien des archives; au Ministère de la Culture, du Patrimoine et du Tourisme dans le cadre du Programme de subventions destinées au patrimoine et à Francophonds.

[www.shsb.mb.ca/paysriiel](http://www.shsb.mb.ca/paysriiel)

Sélectionnez : « L’histoire des Oblats au pays de Riel »

### Nouvelles acquisitions pour la SHSB

La SHSB a reçu 97m de documentation depuis le 23 juin 2005. Voici une liste des plus gros donateurs :

- Étienne Gaboury, architecte
- Sœurs du Sauveur
- Sœurs des Saints-Noms de Jésus et de Marie
- Société Radio-Canada (CKSB)
- Les Éditions du blé



Ken Reddig has been named the new director for the Centre for Manitoba Studies. He will start August 1, 2005 and will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Heinrich Loewen in June 2004. This will be Ken's second term with the Centre after a 12-year stint from 1979-1990. After leaving CMBS he continued in the archival

field in positions with the Provincial Archives of Manitoba 1990-1997 and the Mennonite Heritage Centre 1997-1999. Since 1999 Ken has taken on several fund development positions with MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) and St. Boniface Hospital.

Reddig currently serves as chair of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, chair of the Jewish-Mennonite-Ukrainian Conference Committee and as member of the Mennonite Studies Advisory Council at the University of Winnipeg.

His vision includes "mentoring the next generation; speaking, writing and publishing; and the need to create methodology that helps people tell their stories... The goal is to move from *my* story to *our* story. We need to help congregations incorporate the faith stories of their members into the corporate culture of church and conference life . . ."

Conrad Stoesz



#### Humidification and flattening / Box making workshop

On June 22, Carole Boily led the workshop at St. John's-Ravenscourt School. Participants learnt how to build and use an affordable humidity chamber to flatten photographs and documents. They were also taught how to make boxes to house odd sized items.

A special thank you to Calla Grabish and the staff of St. John's-Ravenscourt School.

### Invitation to an Open House at the New Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies.

Tour the new facilities  
Visit with our new/old director – Ken  
Reddig.

October 20, 2005, 1-5 pm  
Refreshments will be served.  
1310 Taylor Ave., Winnipeg, MB.

For more information call Ken or Conrad  
at the Centre at 669-6575 or email

[kreddig@mbconf.ca](mailto:kreddig@mbconf.ca) or  
[cstoesz@mbconf.ca](mailto:cstoesz@mbconf.ca)

### Locked Out of the Archives

As many of you may already know, I spent eight weeks walking the picket line when the CBC / Société Radio-Canada chose to lock out its employees across the country.

In addition to the great exercise, the in depth analysis of the cracks in the side walk, learning to walk and read without hitting anything, and noticing the walking habits of all the dogs in the neighborhood, that walking four hours a day affords, I had time to ponder the Corporation's archives.

I began working in the archives in April 2003. Since then, I have inventoried the backlog and have begun the digitization process, implemented an archival system for current programming, began processing non-audio records, and have written many a description. But upon reflection, I realized that I had never truly considered what it meant to work at corporate archives.

In the Corporation's effort to save money by requesting the ability to hire more contract workers, I realized just how quickly the complexion of an archives could change. It is an important lesson to learn ... one must always be ready to adapt to the unexpected in the wacky world of archives.

Diane Boyd

## ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS WORKING TOGETHER

Manitoba is home to almost 150 museums and many of those institutions are responsible for archival records in one form or another. A number of individuals responsible for records and archives in Manitoba museums and galleries are planning an informal meeting to get to know one another better and to discuss some of the issues unique to museum archives/records management.

Please join us at the Transcona Historical Museum, 141 Regent Ave. West between 10:00am and noon on October 19 for muffins and coffee and a chance to meet others doing the same work (and for a peek at the Transcona Historical Museum's current exhibit, *The Greatest Transconian*).

## UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections is proud to announce their most recent initiative. The Archives has researched the history of forty of the University of Manitoba's most interesting buildings on the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses and has created informative plaques relating to the buildings' histories and their namesakes. These histories are more anecdotal in nature than existing cairns and monuments on campus and will inform passersby of the many interesting stories surrounding the buildings and their honorees. Each plaque consists of a sheet containing historical anecdotes and a related graphic, are printed in vivid colour to attract the eye of the casual observer, and will be installed in locations within the forty buildings where they will be the most noticeable. The sheets within the plaques are interchangeable so that new historical anecdotes will be displayed at a later date. In addition, the Archives has developed a brochure for a self-guided walking tour of the original buildings in the core area of the Fort Garry campus. The brochure features a map of the area that identifies the buildings and describes the related historical anecdotes. This brochure was created with the financial assistance of the Alumni Association Inc. and will be available at Alumni House for any interested visitors. The Archives hopes to make University of Manitoba students, faculty, and staff, as well as any visitors on campus, aware of the university's interesting historical legacy and the role archives can play in creating this awareness. The project was funded by the Heritage Grants Advisory Council.

## AMA RE-ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

At the AMA's Annual Meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> members approved the proposal of the Membership Committee to begin the re-accreditation of existing Institutional Members of the AMA. This is part of the AMA's ongoing efforts to promote a sustainable Manitoba archival community, to ensure that all Institutional Members continue to meet or exceed the established basic minimum standards as a recognized archives, and to encourage Institutional Members to review and update their policies and procedures.

Each Institutional Member will be reaccredited every 5 years.

Institutions whose turn it is to be reaccredited will be notified. They will be expected to meet set criteria and provide documentation prior to the beginning of membership year (April 1<sup>st</sup>). If they have difficulties meeting the requirements they will be given a year to attempt to address the problem areas. During the year of assessment those institutions will be accepted as a full Institutional Member with all rights and privileges (and membership fee). If at the end of that year (beginning of second membership year) those institutions have not met the basic criteria they will be accepted as an Associate Institutional Member until they have been able to meet to rectify the problem(s).

A re-accreditation schedule will be developed and publicized. Grandfathered members will be scheduled first. Members who have been recognized since the establishment of AMA Accreditation Program will be scheduled in the order of their application. New members applying and accepted will be slotted in the schedule to ensure their first reaccreditation will occur five years after their acceptance. The Membership Committee may adjust the schedule from time to time to facilitate its work.

Institutional Members who are successfully reaccredited will receive a certificate announcing that they have achieved recognized archival status. Subsequent reaccreditations will be shown with a dated stamp to add to the certificate.

For more information about this Program contact the AMA's Coordinator or the Chair of the Membership Committee.

## ASSOCIATION FOR MANITOBA ARCHIVES AWARDS PROGRAM



The Board of Directors of the AMA is pleased to announce the formalization of the AMA Awards Program. Members are encouraged to make nominations in any of the following three categories.

### HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP

**AWARDED TO:** Individual members of the AMA who have demonstrated a substantial commitment and outstanding service over a prolonged period of time to the Association and the Archival Community.

### AWARD OF RECOGNITION

**AWARDED TO:** Any individual or institution who has made a significant contribution to the development of archives in Manitoba

### OUTSTANDING PROJECT OR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**AWARDED TO:** An individual or institution to recognise a one time, significant project or achievement that is innovative, cutting edge and enhances an archives or the archival community

Contact the AMA office for nomination forms or for more details about this program.



**Made in Manitoba - Mini conference held on September 30<sup>th</sup>,  
Heather Pitcher in front of her peers.**

### “ARCHIVAL PERSPECTIVES FROM THE HOME FRONT”

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, members of the AMA met for a day filled with discussion, ideas and relationship building. The day began with Paula Warsaba introducing the Keystone relational database being used by the Archives of Manitoba. Records are described at the series level, which reflect structural changes in the organization.

Shelagh Linklater, also from the Archives of Manitoba, followed with a presentation about the mechanics behind the move of the Archives.

Heather Pitcher outlined why advocacy for the archive is

important and some ideas of how this could be done. Discussion followed on how the archival community could engage educators about the resources and services that archives in Manitoba provide.

Gilles Lesage talked about his experience with, and the importance of, the International Council on Archives (ICA). The networking that happens is one of the big benefits of the organization.

Jody Baltessen’s presentation was related to the creative cities movement. Archivists are a part of the creative class and aid the success of cultural industry making archives and archivists important to the well being of a city.

Cynthia Kent’s presentation, which rounded out the event, focused on the concept of archives and technology.

The event ran smoothly and people enjoyed the conference, gift shop and lunch provided at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. It was noted by one long-standing AMA member that this was a good way to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association. We have a lot of expertise right here at home.

Conrad Stoesz

## 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;  
Carole Barnabé  
([cbarnabe@ustboniface.mb.ca](mailto:cbarnabe@ustboniface.mb.ca))

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

Deadline for next issue –  
6 December 2005.

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ISSN 1193-9958



## Info Bytes...

### Out of the Archives 2005

**The Manitoba Historical Society**  
The Archives of Manitoba  
and  
**CBC in Manitoba**  
present

*A retrospective of  
CBC in Manitoba news history 1954-  
1977*

**A 'film night' presentation  
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
Thursday, November 17, 2005**

Eckhardt-Grammatte Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Centennial  
University of Winnipeg  
515 Portage Avenue  
Free Admission  
Free parking in CBC lot - enter via  
Young St.  
Further information to follow

The Association for Manitoba  
Archives  
And  
The Association for Manitoba  
Museums

### **PRIVACY LAW COMPLIANCE FOR ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS**

with  
David Carrick - Aikins, MacAulay &  
Thorvaldson

**November 9, 2005  
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Winnipeg Art Gallery  
300 Memorial Blvd**

\*\* deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup> \*\*



ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED ARCHIVISTS  
90 State Street, Suite 1009  
Albany, New York 12207  
(518) 463-8644  
(fax) (518) 463-8656  
[aca@spfall.com](mailto:aca@spfall.com)

- May 15: Deadline to apply for the 2006 archival certification examination
- June 1: Deadline to submit certification maintenance
- August 2: The 2006 examination will be held in Washington (DC), Albany (NY), Indianapolis, Seattle, and Tampa, and "pick your site" locations around the world

[www.certifiedarchivists.org](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org)

*Visit our website for forms and to learn how you can hold the examination in your hometown, or contact the ACA office for more information*

### STORY TELLERS WANTED:

DO YOU HAVE AN ANECDOTE, A STORY OR TELLING TALE TO SHARE WITH FELLOW ARCHIVISTS? IF SO, PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO THE AMA FOR THE ANNUAL *ONCE UPON AN ARCHIVES* GATHERING!

### Mark your calendar!

### Institutional Forum

#### Details to follow

November 17, 2005  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Centre du patrimoine  
340, boul. Provencher