

Royal Winnipeg Ballet Alumni Association Archives



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet was established in 1939 and continues to this day – world-renowned – Canada’s international ambassador of the arts.

The RWB Alumni association surfaced in December of 1989 as a direct outcome of the glorious 50th Anniversary of the RWB. The Association formalized itself in 1991 and 1992 with the development of a constitution (based on the University of Manitoba Alumni Association). The Association set its main objectives, at that time, as the preservation of the company and school’s history, the support of these organizations and the development and maintenance of an ongoing alumni network.

In 1995, an on-site artistic resource center was developed. This center is complementary and in agreement with the arrangement made with the Provincial Archives of Manitoba in 1977. This was the first step in creating a “living archives”. We are able to provide easy access information, both internally and externally, assisting the

company in planning the future and in responding to the many requests that are received from publications and researchers.

The next step was “project vintage” which made visible our proud dance heritage and legacy. We undertook the production and assembly of three display cases in the RWB foyer and one in the atrium area. These displays are periodically renewed and refreshed. The framing and mounting of suitable posters in the studios and selected offices within the RWB building is another ongoing project. The current poster inventory is more than 400.

The current focus is the revamping of the physical makeup of the resource center - adjusting shelving, purchasing material to upgrade our archival standards, developing an electronic archive and digitalizing our holdings.

Tours of the RWB building, conducted by Alumni Association members, are available by contacting Kristie Grant at 957-3447. The Alumni Association is looking forward to seeing many visitors during our 65th Anniversary Season.

Margaret Piasecki

Next Issue in October

Have a great summer!

ACA conference in Montréal



*Carole Barnabé, Diane Boyd, Diane Haglund, Janelle Reynolds, Jacinthe Duval
Missing Tom Nesmith, Gilles Lesage and Leah Sander*

Montréal May 27-29 was the location and date for the ACA annual conference. This year's theme was Accountability and Ethics in the Archival Sphere. Archivists across the country met to discuss these very important issues that seem to be the new archival buzzwords. Manitoba was represented by 8 delegates, 3 of whom presented papers. Tom Nesmith presented a paper on "Reflections on Appraisal as a Process: Theory, Practice, Ethics"; Leah Sander participated in the student session with her paper entitled "Collecting our Thoughts and Re-collecting our Stories: The Collection of Personal Records in Archival Institutions" and Diane Boyd viewed "Archival Accountability in Online Public Programming – A Case Study of a Francophone Archives" (re: Web site *Au Pays de Riel*.) Congratulations delegates.

The other delegates present were Diane Haglund, who chaired a session on Accountability and the Aboriginal Record, Jacinthe Duval, Gilles Lesage, Janelle Reynolds and myself. The highlight of the conference was surely the plenary session with the Auditor General of Canada Sheila Fraser who discussed the role of information management in good governance and accountability.

Next year's conference will take place June 8 to 11, 2004 in Saskatoon with the theme of "Theory and Practice."

Carole Barnabé

AMA Annual General Meeting & "The Future of Archives" Mini-Conference

**September 30th – October 1st, 2004
St. John's College, University of Manitoba**

**Featured Speakers
National and International Perspectives:**

**Professor Randall Jimerson, Western
Washington University
Miriam McTiernan, Archivist of Ontario
Gilles Lesage, SHSB**

Manitoba Roundtable:

**Gerry Berkowsky, City of Winnipeg Archives
Ken Romaniuk, Oseredok-Ukrainian Education
and Cultural Centre
Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Heritage Centre
Shelley Sweeney, University of Manitoba
Archives & Special Collections**

Fees : TBA

Keep us posted!

**The ArchiNews / ArchiNouvelles is always
looking for articles, jokes, and other news
worthy items to insert in the newsletter.**

**The Newsletter will be published 4-5 times a
year. Please forward all information tidbits to the**

**AMA office ama1@mts.net or to
cbarnabe@ustboniface.mb.ca**

Conscientious objectors story finally told



Conscientious objectors felled and cut thousands of trees as one expression of alternative service during the Second World War. This photo was taken at Cave Trail, BC, circa 1943-44. COs also planted trees – 17 million on Vancouver island alone – to revive burnt out forests. – Jake Krueger photo collection

About sixty years ago, over 10,000 Canadian conscientious objectors, many of them Mennonite, chose alternative service instead of fighting in the Second World War.

Their story has been largely relegated to short print-run books and contributions to archival collections. In 1996, Conrad Stoesz, now archivist and researcher at the Mennonite Heritage Centre, contacted the federal government to obtain conscientious objector (CO) records but was told the files had been destroyed.

This revelation planted the seed of an idea that has now grown into a comprehensive 700-page web site called www.alternativeservice.ca. The web site tells the stories of men who, instead of fighting, built roads and bridges, fought fires, taught school children, mined, logged, farmed, worked in manufacturing and the medical field. By law, most of their earnings were sent to the Red Cross for relief work. The site makes comprehensive use of rare archival documents and photos, film footage, and audio recordings. It also tells the stories of families and churches that supported COs.

The web site was officially launched on May 26. At the launch, Esther Epp-Tiessen representing Mennonite Central Committee's peace and justice desk, said, "Conscientious objectors gave us the gift of showing another way, and this website is an example of their gift." MCC together with Mennonite Church Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage through

the Canadian Culture Online Program, as well as the Canadian Council of Archives, the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society and private donors helped fund the project. The project cost about \$20,000, plus significant volunteer contributions.

Dr. David Schroeder, one of the site's contributors, briefly told his story to the 50 plus people gathered to commemorate the launch. After he was drafted, he applied for CO status, and became an orderly at St Boniface Hospital.

He spoke about how conscientious objection led many men to lives of service in society. Of the twenty-eight COs that worked in the St. Boniface hospital with him, twenty-five of them pursued careers in social service. "In the long run, I am more convinced that I made the right choice. We need to address the futility of war."

Henry Borne worked in a forestry camp at Radium Hot Springs with other CO's. The conditions could be challenging. "We ate elk meat that was so old that they were just about ready to die off. That's what the boys got. Old tough elk meat. Boy, you had to have good teeth."

Borne described the reaction of some people to the CO stance. One of the cooks accused them of cowardice, saying, "'Our men are out on the front lines and you're just fooling around here in the bush.' What could we do? We just shut up and did our work and kept on going."

In a section called "Hard Questions", content developers respond to frequently asked questions and accusations leveled at pacifists such as "What is the difference between being a pacifist and a coward?" Schroeder's own thoughtful responses to the tough questions bring integrity to the entire package.

Developers paid close attention to the making the language on the site accessible to a wide age range. "We developed the content keeping in mind that students in at least two grades in Manitoba have units in their curriculum that relate to the Second World War. Our hope is that teachers and students, in addition to others, will visit the site to learn more about peaceful alternatives to war," said Stoesz

Annemarie Plenert
Mennonite Church Canada

National Designation of Prairie Cathedrals

Parks Canada has chosen two churches built by Father Philip Ruh OMI, in Manitoba as candidates for designation as national historic sites. The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg Archives invites the archival community, family and friends to attend the national designation ceremony of the Church of the Resurrection in Dauphin which is scheduled to be held on the evening of Thursday, July 29, 2004; and the designation of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Cook's Creek, Manitoba on the afternoon of August 14, 2004.

Time of the events and other final details are pending the federal election on June 28, and the appointment of the new cabinet. Cabinet members, or their representatives are central to the designation ceremonies.

The Dauphin designation, scheduled for Thursday, July 29 will launch the Dauphin Ukrainian Festival. The Cook's Creek designation will welcome two very special guests: Father Philippe Legrand and his brother Eric Legrand, grandnephews of Father Ruh.

Father Philip Ruh, OMI, served the Ukrainian Catholics in Canada for nearly fifty years, and though he was not a professionally trained architect, he designed and built, or influenced the building of more than forty churches, schools, and halls.

For further information:

Dauphin: Ken Romaniuk

Cook's Creek: Gloria Romaniuk

942-0218 (Winnipeg) ucec@mts.net

338-7801 (Winnipeg) grr@mts.net

AMA Roundtable and All Member Forum



Gilbert Comeault, Shelagh Linklater, Brian Hubner

On June 24th the AMA presented a roundtable presentation of LAP (Learning Assistance Program) Grants. The first speaker was Shelagh Linklater who received a grant to attend the CCI Symposium and she discussed Preservation of Electronic Records. Gilbert Comeault followed with an overview of his sessions at the AMIA – Association of Moving Image Archivists Conference. Brian

Hubner shared his notes on the monetary appraisal of archival records when he attended the ACA Institutional Workshop in Montreal.

The Institutional forum took place in the afternoon when the future of the Canadian Council of Archives was discussed. Current arrangements for CCA funding end in March of this year. CCA funding supports grants to archival institutions through Control of Holding, Preservation Management and Archives Canada (CAIN) programs. Association for Manitoba Archives' initiatives such as the Learning Assistance Program, and the Education and Advisory Services also depend on CCA funding.

We need to advocate our needs better. A letter writing campaign will begin shortly. We ask all members to help out. Ideally we ask that archival institutions ask their sponsoring bodies to write letters on their behalf to maintain or, better yet, improve CCA financing. More information on this issue to follow.

Carole Barnabé

Nurses Alumni (1904-2004)

The Nurses Alumni is celebrating their centennial this year having been formed in 1904. Their first endeavor was to establish a Nurses' Registry - any nurse in the city seeking employment could register, and any one wishing to employ a nurse could obtain the names of nurses with the assurance that they were in fact qualified as stated. This registry in conjunction with the Manitoba Association of Graduate Nurses, which was formed in 1905, became the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses after the passage of the Bill Respecting Registration in 1913 and is now known as the College of Registered Nurses.

In 1907 the Alumni began publishing a Journal with the purpose of keeping members in touch with each other. It provided information on changes at their Alma Mater, the Winnipeg General Hospital, Nursing Education & Practice, as well as articles on new and changing medical diagnosis and treatments. That same year they started a lecture series on pertinent topics, open to all nurses at no cost. The Journal continues to be published with the same purposes and lectures continue under the name 'Jubilee Memorial Lecture' and are open to the public at no charge. The 2004 Lecture was on the history of the Alumni with the Alumni Archives the historical resource for both information and photos.

The Archives came into being almost by default with the collection of material to publish in the Journal. In 1934 the Archivist became an elected position on the Alumni Executive. In 1967, with the Director of the School of Nursing dedicating a room in the Nurses Residence, the paper goods and photos that had been stored in the School Library were moved in and a museum was begun. The collection continues to grow and in 1998 the Health Sciences Centre Executive made the request that the Alumni be responsible for all historical artifacts in the complex.

The collection includes Journals, Scrap books, Photos, Class Yearbooks, Student Note books, Hospital Reports, School of Nursing Records and all types of nursing artifacts, and other items, giving a glimpse of nursing not only in Manitoba but anywhere around the world that the Alumni Members have gone.

All material has been donated by Alumni Members, their families, the School of Nursing or the Hospital. The Archivist, a part time job, continues to be a volunteer, an elected position on the alumni executive.

On June 23, 2004 Shaw Cable came to the Archives Room NA 179 in the Isabel M. Stewart Building, 700 McDermot Ave. to record an interview on the Alumni to be shown on TV probably in a couple of weeks

Anne Crossin
Archivist for the Nurses Alumni WGH/HSC and HSC.

Francophone and Anglophone Archivists Share Ideas

On 26 May 2004 archivists from both the ACA and AAQ had a chance to share ideas during the BCA's joint symposium at Concordia University in Montreal. The first session was entitled Reflections on the Future of the Canadian Archival Community; the second, Building Bridges with Allied Professional Communities; the third, RAD: Its Future Role as an Interface between Archivists and Users; and the fourth, Reaching New Clienteles - Archives Develop New Communities of Users.

In sum, the symposium was an interesting mix of ideas that are not always shared between Anglophone and Francophone archivists in this country. On a personal note, I found the opportunity to meet archivists from Quebec, whom I knew only from their writings, rather fulfilling, as I can now put a face to the archivist.

Diane Boyd

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ArchiNouvelles

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questions or comments
should be directed to the
Chair of the Information and
Awareness Committee,
Carole Barnabé
(cbarnabe@ustboniface.mb.ca)

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necessarily those of the
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mbsarchives.mb.ca

Information Tidbits...

Wanted: Used Microfilm Reader

The Ukrainian Cultural and
Educational Centre, OSEREDOK is
seeking a modestly priced reader to
provide in-house use of film we
currently hold, and/or for use in
future projects.

Please call Gloria Romaniuk at:
942-0218 or email to: ucec@mts.net

Mark your calendar

AMA Annual General Meeting

Sept. 30th 2004

Congratulations

Jacinthe Duval has successfully
defended her thesis. She will
receive her Master's in Archival
Studies in October 2004!

Congratulations

Lori Nordland has won a one-year
digital archiving internship at the
federal government's International
Development Research Centre.

Retirement

Gail Wiebe has retired from the
Carberry Plains Archives.

Appointment

Myrna Brownlie has been appointed
archivist for the Diocese of Rupert's
Land.

Resumes on file

Drop off your resume to the AMA
office for potential grant work.
Resumes will be kept on file for one
year.

Religious Archives Special Interest Group

Tuesday, September 15, 2004
1:30 p.m.

To be held at the Asper Jewish
Community Campus
Kroft Board Room
123 Doncaster Street, Winnipeg
R.S.V.P. Irma Penn : 477- 7461

New address for the AMA

Please note that effective August 3, 2004 the
AMA will have a new mailing address:

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