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**EVERYWOMAN'S  
WORLD**



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of Canadian  
Archivists

the **Bulletin**

October - November 2011



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of Canadian  
Archivists

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Issue	Submission deadline
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<i>Spring</i>	<i>April 6</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>July 6</i>

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## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the fall 2011 edition of the Association of Canadian Archivists' Bulletin.

Warning! This issue contains some content that readers might find unnerving, eerie or downright terrifying. Inside are articles about archival ghosts and the University of Manitoba's *spooktacular* Hamilton fonds. Readers Beware!

There are also some wonderful articles featuring archival collaborative projects, recent exhibits and a new Bulletin feature "In Search of Archival Gold" that highlights treasured archival collections as we lead up to the ACA 2012 Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon.

I would like to thank all the contributors this month for the wonderful submissions – please keep them coming – and a big thank you to Loryl MacDonald for showing me the ropes!

Happy Halloween!

Regards,  
Carrie Limkilde

## President's Report

Fall is here! The Fall inevitably reminds me of that first-day-of-school-assignment - write an essay about "How I spent my summer." And so, I wanted to update you on how the Association of Canadian Archivists' spent its summer 2011 ...

### 2011 ACA Annual Conference Results:

The 2011 ACA Annual Conference 1-4 June 2011 in Toronto was a sold-out success. The conference attracted 443 participants including 335 delegates and 108 additional attendees such as exhibitors, award recipients, workshop participants, and special guests. Delegates came from every province and territory in Canada, as well as from Brazil, Germany, Great Britain, New Zealand, Qatar, South Korea, Spain, and the United States. 15 firms exhibited at the Trade Show and 20 organizations supported conference events and activities. Conference reviews have been overwhelmingly positive. 93% of respondents to the Conference Survey found the 2011 ACA Annual Conference a good to excellent experience. Overall, respondents thought the conference educational, stimulating, and fun. I am grateful to the Program Committee, chaired by Heather Home, and the Host Committee, chaired by Karen Teeple, who volunteered their time and expertise in making the 2011 Annual Conference in Toronto a great success. Thank you!

### 2011 Annual General Meeting:

At the ACA's Annual General Meeting on 4 June 2011, ACA



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members elected Heather Beattie and Michael Gourlie to the ACA Board of Directors in the respective roles of Director-at-Large and Vice-President. Their terms of office begin 1 January 2012. In the meantime, Heather and Michael are shadowing Heather Pitcher and Rod Carter, the current Director-at-Large and Vice-President whose terms end 31 December 2011.

In addition, at the AGM, ACA Members adopted a member fee schedule for the period 2012 - 2016, received the audited statements, accepted Board and Committee reports, and appointed the Auditor for the 2011 fiscal year.

#### **2012 and 2013 Annual Conferences:**

Meanwhile, planning for 2012 and 2013 is well underway. The 2012 Annual Conference is 7 - 9 June 2012 in Whitehorse, Yukon. The theme is "In Search of Archival Gold". The 2012 Program Committee, chaired by Cathy Bailey, and the Host Committee, chaired by Lesley Buchan, are sure to offer a fun and informational 2012 conference. ACA 2013 will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Johanna Smith, Library Archives Canada, will serve as 2013 Programme Chair and Gabrielle Prefontaine, the University of Winnipeg Archives, as 2013 Host Committee Chair.

#### **ACA Leadership Team:**

Karen Buckley and Kate Guay's terms as Chairs of the Professional Learning Committee and the Outreach Committee respectively have ended. I wish to thank Karen and Kate for their hard work and positive contributions to the ACA. They will be missed. I also wish welcome two new members to the ACA Leadership Team. Erica Hernández-Read has been appointed Professional Learning Committee Chair and Sarah Janes Outreach Chair. I am sure both will excel as ACA Leadership Team members. With these two new appointments, the ACA Committee Chairs are:

- Erica Hernández-Read, Professional Learning Committee
- John Lund, Membership Development Committee
- Michael Gourlie, Communications Committee
- Rod Carter, Governance Committee
- Sarah Janes, Outreach Committee

#### **The Bulletin:**

I am very pleased that Carrie Limkilde has been appointed Editor of the ACA Bulletin. Carrie has been at the Archives of Ontario since 2006. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies and also holds an M.A. in English from Queen's University, which will no doubt serve her well in this new volunteer role.

#### **ACA Board Activities:**

Recent ACA Board activities include:

- The Board and Directors-Elect held their regular monthly meetings on 20 July, 24 August, and 27 September.
- Deirdre Dryden, Secretary-Treasurer and ACA Foundation Chair, attended the MyCharityConnects Confer-

ence 6-7 June in Toronto. This conference is designed to show charities and non-profit organizations how to best use social media to help with their fundraising initiatives. Deirdre came away from the conference inspired and full of new ideas regarding social media.

- On 15 August, the Board, Office, Directors-Elect, 2011 and 2012 Host Chairs, and 2011 and 2012 Program Committee Chairs conducted a 2011 Annual Conference Post Mortem Meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 2011 delegates and exhibitors' survey responses and to make recommendations for future conferences based on the results.
- Rod Carter developed a Joint Archival Advocacy Protocol. We hope this policy will guide us as we continue to work with partner institutions and organizations to represent the needs and interests of our members.
- The Board, Office, and Communications Committee discussed and approved updates to the ACA public and members' websites.
- Rod Carter attended the Library Archives Canada Stakeholder Forum on September 8, 2011. The primary purpose of the forum was to discuss possible collaboration in a Pan-Canadian Documentary Heritage Network.
- The ACA Board is planning the annual Fall Planning and Priorities Meeting to be held in-person 13-16 October in Toronto. Please stay tuned for the results of this meeting.
- On October 22, I will be attending the Canadian Council of Archives General Assembly in Ottawa.
- On November 4, 2011, we will be meeting in Ottawa with the Board of the Canadian Historical Association to discuss issues of mutual interest.

And, as always, please remember this is your association. If you have any suggestions for programs, services or more effective governance, please contact me or any member of the ACA Board.

#### **Conclusion:**

In closing, I thank Duncan Grant and Judy Laird for their ongoing devotion to the interests of our members and to the success of the ACA. I also wish to express my gratitude to my hard working colleagues on the ACA Board. I wish to especially acknowledge Rod and Heather who will be ending their terms on the ACA Leadership Team. You will be missed! Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to the Student Chapter, SIS, and Committee chairs and to all ACA members who volunteer their time, energy, and expertise on behalf our association. The ACA is only as strong as the commitment of its members and volunteers. I am grateful.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Loryl MacDonald,  
President

## ACA Updates

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### The ACA Welcomes Its New Volunteers

By Rodney Carter, Chair of Governance Committee

Following a very successful call for volunteers this summer, the Governance Committee is pleased to announce the addition of six new volunteers to the ACA's Committees. On behalf of the Board, we welcome Bryan Bance (Outreach), Amanda Leinberger (Professional Learning), Nick Richbell (Outreach), Bernadette Roca (Communications), Angela Amy Smith (Membership), and Jill Teasley (Professional Learning) to the ACA Leadership Team.

### Post an Event on ACA Website!

By Shelley Sweeney, ACA Outreach Committee

Got some snappy event that you want other archivists to know about?

Can't be bothered tweeting the news? Sara Janes of the ACA Outreach Committee and the ACA Office have been working hard to create a new place for everyone to post events on the ACA website. You can find a new calendar under "Communications/Events Calendar" on the ACA website.

What kind of events are we looking for?

- The event should geographically be located within Canada
- The event should be focused on archives (it may originate in related fields like records management, libraries, museums, but should demonstrate some crossover element targeted at archives or archivists)
- The event should be open to archivists in general, and not restricted to employees of a particular organization or alumni of a particular program
- the event should be non-commercial in nature

Examples of such events would be the ASA Archives Institute or the Ontario Archives Awareness Week. This is a great opportunity to let others know about what you're doing and to raise the profile of your institution or organization.

Note: All postings of events will be moderated before being posted.

Post your event today at:

[http://archivists.ca/events\\_calendar](http://archivists.ca/events_calendar)

### ACA Mentorship Program

Are you a new professional looking for advice? A student wanting to learn more about the profession? An experienced archivist willing to share your knowledge? The ACA mentorship program is looking for mentors and mentees for 2012. For more information, and to fill in an application form, visit <http://www.archivists.ca/content/aca-mentorship-program>. Or contact Rachel Mills, ACA Mentorship Coordinator. Thanks!

### Come one come all ..... ACA 2012: Whitehorse

By Lesley Buchan, Chair ACA 2012 Host Committee

Like the Call for Papers says (<http://archivists.ca/content/annual-conference>), people have travelled around the globe in the hope of finding gold, and what better place to find it than in Whitehorse in June 2012?

While the Program Committee eagerly reads through submissions for papers and sessions celebrating the unique and irreplaceable archival gold that is the foundation of our rich and vibrant documentary heritage, the 2012 Local Host Committee is busy planning a fantastic time for those of you who make the trip north of the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel.

The official dates of the conference are June 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> with the opening reception on June 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope to entice you to come early for pre-conference trips, workshops, and meetings or you can stay afterwards for a post-conference excursion. More information about these pre and post-conference activities will be forthcoming. Tentative plans for social events during the conference include a tour of the historic SS Klondike sternwheeler, Yukon Brewing beer tastings, a trip out to the historic town of Carcross, swimming in the Takhini Hot Springs pool, mountain biking or canoeing under the midnight sun, etc., etc. Start saving now for a t-shirt – archivists are hard at work coming up with catchy slogans which include: "You don't know Jack (London)" or "(Robert) Service with a smile".



"We take photography seriously in Whitehorse!" Large replica Kodak Instamatic 100 camera, Hougens's Store, Whitehorse, 1969. Yukon Archives, Rolf and Margaret Hougens fonds, 2009/81 #272



## Be Yourself, not just a Number

As the Members Only website is structured with limited access to information in the membership database, it begins knowing just your member ID number and password. This ID number is used when you join a group or send a message, until you add your name to your onsite profile.

Here's how you **Become More than a Number**

Step 1: Login at [www.members.archivists.ca](http://www.members.archivists.ca)

**Welcome**

Welcome to the members-only site of the Association of Canadian Archivists! This site is a place for members to discuss important issues, collaborate on documents and form communities of shared interest, as well as providing an online home to the many committees and special interest groups that make up the Association.

To get started, log in below with your **Member and Subscriber Services** username and password. If you have forgotten your password you may retrieve it by clicking here: [Forgot Your Password?](#)

If you don't have a username and password, please [contact the ACA Office](#) to obtain one!

[Home >](#)

**User account**

Access denied. You must login to view this page.

**Username: \***

2058

Enter your Members of the Association of Canadian Archivists username.

**Password: \***

\*\*\*\*\*

Enter the password that accompanies your username.

[Log in](#)

Step 2: My Profile

Click on the *My Profile* link in the right side menu bar

**Welcome, Judy Laird.**

[Logout.](#)

- My Activity
- My Groups
- My Profile
- Create content
- Conference Proceedings
- Member Directory
- Archivaria main collection

**Activity**

	Date
Rodney Carter commented on Communications Policy (draft).	1 week 5 days ago
Michael Gourlie commented on Communications Policy (draft).	1 week 6 days ago
Catherine Bailey changed Submission management in 2012 Programme Committee.	2 weeks 23 hours ago
	2 weeks 23





Step 3: Input your name:

Click on the Edit tab, and then the Profile Details as shown in the image below.

Home >  
**My Profile**  
View Edit Messages Notifications Track File browser  
Account Profile Details  
Profile Details  
**First Name:**  
Judy  
Your given name(s). This will be visible to other users who have logged in.  
**Last Name:**  
Laird  
Your family name. This will be visible to other users who have logged in.  
Welcome, Judy Laird.  
Logout.  
My Activity  
My Groups  
My Profile  
My Coordinates  
Membership Renewal  
Create content  
Conference Proceedings  
Member Directory  
Archivaria main collection  
Reserved e-Archivaria  
My groups

Then Save, by clicking on the Save button at the bottom of the My Profile screen

line or separate them by commas. No HTML allowed.  
Save  
Terms and Conditions  
Drupal



## Set E-mail for Messages

Step 1: Login at the Members only website, [www.members.archivists.ca](http://www.members.archivists.ca)

Step 2: My Profile:

Click on My Profile in the right hand menu options

http://members.archivists.ca/activity

Association of Canadian Archivists

All Activity SIS and Committees Topics & Blogs Publications FAQ

Home > Activity

	Date
Creighton Barrett changed Digital Preservation Institute Draft Budget in Professional Learning .	1 day 1 hour ago
Creighton Barrett changed Digital Preservation Institute Draft Budget in Professional Learning .	1 day 1 hour ago
Erica Hernandez-Read changed Minutes - 9 September 2011 in Professional Learning .	4 days 20 hours ago
Erica Hernandez-Read changed Workshops in Professional Learning .	4 days 20 hours ago
Erica Hernandez-Read changed Surveys in Professional Learning .	4 days 20 hours ago
Erica Hernandez-Read added a Collaborative Document named Minutes - 9 September 2011 to Professional Learning .	4 days 20 hours ago
Rodney Carter commented on Communications Policy (draft).	2 weeks 4 days ago

Welcome, Duncan Grant.

Logout.

- My Activity
- My Groups
- My Profile
- Create content
- Conference Proceedings
- Member Directory
- Archivaria main collection
- Reserved e-Archivaria

My groups

Group	New
2012 Conference Team	
2012 Host Committees	

Step 3: at My Profile, go to the Edit tab

Association of Canadian Archivists

All Activity SIS and Committees Topics & Blogs Publications FAQ

Home > My Profile

View Activity privacy settings Edit Messages Notifications Track Contact

File browser

Profile Details

Welcome, Duncan Grant.

Logout.

- My Activity
- My Groups
- My Profile



# You are no exception

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Membership before  
December 31st and  
be entered in a draw  
for great prizes!

## Join Now



Reap the benefits as a member, learn more: <http://archivists.ca/>

No. 4 Central Recruiting Committee, No. 2 Military Division, Toronto

Stone Ltd.

You are no exception. Join now / Stone Ltd.

Toronto : Central Recruiting Committee, No. 2 Military Division, [btwn 1914 & 1918]

Courtesy the Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005696918/>

# Island Imagined

By Donald Moses, Robertson Library, University of Prince Edward Island and Juanita Rossiter, Archives of Ontario

*"The cartographic history of Prince Edward Island is a rich and diverse one. It is possible to trace many of the foundational developments of the province through the eyes of its early mapmakers. Maps are like snapshots in time of the way a place was observed or how it wished to be seen. They often tell us as much about the mapmaker as they reveal about the geography of the landscape."*

Officially launched on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Island Imagined is a project that tells the story of Prince Edward Island (PEI) through maps. Its website provides access to cartographic materials (maps, plans, gazetteers, and atlases) from the collections of the Public Archives of Prince Edward Island, the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation, and the Robertson Library of the University of Prince Edward Island. Over 1000 PEI maps, atlases, and gazetteers have been digitized and allow users the opportunity to browse by PEI county and record type in searching the digital objects. Additional features include historic map overlays, and educational materials that are available to enhance the experience of the site. Funding for the project was secured through the Canadian Council of Archives Archival Community Digitization Program and the Department of Canadian Heritage through the Canadian Culture Online Program.

## Highlights of the collection:

Highlights of the collection include manuscript maps from the Public Archives of Prince Edward Island, maps from the James W. Macnutt Collection, and a number of fully digitized historical atlases including the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Prince Edward Island* (1880). The site also includes supplementary material such as Alan Rayburn's *Geographical names of Prince Edward Island*, selected articles from the *Island Magazine*, and guides for learning more about the cartography of Prince Edward Island and its impact. A viewer allows the user to zoom in and pan around the image. Rich content features include interactive learning guides outlining the historical context of the maps as well as the details of the digitization process. Examples of learning guides included are a brief guide for map elements, as well as more in-depth guides concerning the use of the maps as a resource for genealogical research, landscape and land use history.

## Equipment and software used:

Most of the collection was scanned using an overhead scanner, a TTI Repro-Graphic Workstation 3040 equipped with a BetterLight 80 megapixel scanback. Many of the maps scanned were oversized and were stitched together digitally after scanning. While various tools like Hugin, a panorama photo stitcher, were tested, the team used Photoshop for much of this work. The Island Imagined collection was

built using an open source digital asset management system called Islandora, <http://islandora.ca>. Each map became a digital object composed of several 'datastreams'. The datastreams associated with the object would include the original archival TIFF, along with a compressed JPEG2000, a thumbnail image, and a Metadata Object Description Schema (MODS) and Dublin Core (DC) descriptive metadata file. Islandora allows for the automation of processes on ingest – for example when uploading a TIFF, it is automatically converted to a JPEG2000 and a thumbnail image is generated for the object. Display and discovery of the content is through a custom Drupal interface and long term storage and access is provided through the Fedora repository software. If you would like an Island Imagined of your own, you may want to explore Islandora. It can be downloaded in a number of forms from <http://islandora.ca/download>. The team also georeferenced selected maps to use as historic overlays and QGIS <http://www.qgis.org> was used for this purpose.

## Audience:

The Island Imagined collection is a resource for all communities. Whether it is a primary school student preparing for his/her first Heritage Fair, university students working on an assignment related to land use on the Island, or genealogists in search of their family roots, the collection provides something for everyone. On PEI, all grade 6 students learn about the history of PEI and the Island Imagined team hopes to work closely with the PEI Department of Education to introduce students to the Island Imagined website.



**Ashby Map, 1798** - "In late November 1798, during the term of Governor Edmund Fanning, approval was granted to change the name to Prince Edward Island, in honour of the Duke of Kent who was the commander-in-chief of British Forces in North America and was living in Halifax. He would later be the father of Queen Victoria. The official name change did not happen until 1799, but was anticipated in a map created in 1798 by H.A. Ashby. The map is significant not only because it is the first to feature the name "Prince Edward Island", it is also noteworthy because we begin to see evidence of the emerging settlement patterns in the Island." (Map 23 from the Robertson Library's Collection)



### **Feedback received:**

After being launched in the spring of 2010 and there has been a wonderful response from the community. Since the launch questions have been received from both Islanders and those “from away” wondering if we had specific maps, how they can download or purchase print versions of the maps, to those looking for maps of their community or those that included their family names. Additionally users have asked for additional features such as being able to rotate the image displayed and to be able to print at various resolutions. Since the Island Imagined project has been built on an open source software stack, it is hoped to implement these features soon. Other feedback received is “How can we help?”. Many of the manuscript maps are name-rich and it would therefore be beneficial to transcribe all of the information presented. This would be of immense value to the community and a plan on piloting a method for community contributions is therefore being considered.

For further information please contact Donald Moses, Digital Initiatives and Systems Librarian, Robertson Library, University of Prince Edward Island. <[dmoses@upei.ca](mailto:dmoses@upei.ca)>

### **Related links:**

Island Imagined:

<http://www.islandimagined.ca/>

PEI Public Archives and Records Office:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/archives/>

University of Prince Edward Island's Robertson Library:

<http://library.upei.ca/>

PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/peimhf/>

Island Magazine:

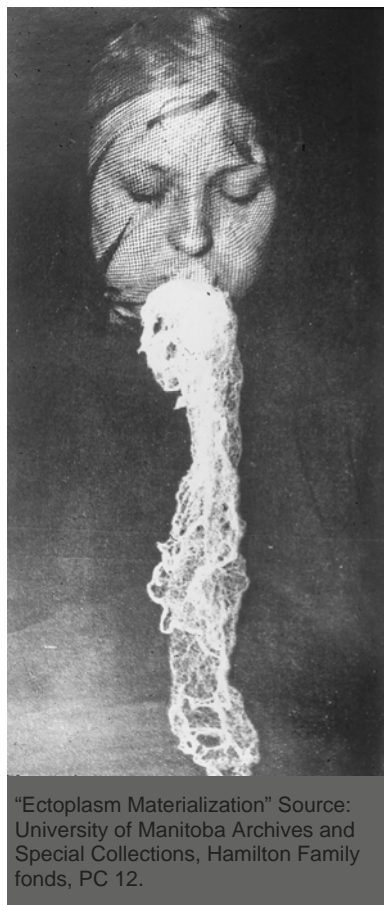
<http://www.gov.pe.ca/peimhf/index.php3?number=1015310>

## **The University of Manitoba's Hamilton Family**

By Dr. Shelley Sweeney, University Archivist at University of Manitoba and Brian Hubner, doctoral student University of Amsterdam

**The Hamilton Family fonds**, at the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, documents the investigation into life after death by Dr. Thomas Glendenning (“T.G.”) Hamilton, and his wife Lillian. The Hamiltons conducted their investigations through the use of spiritualist mediums in séances or “home circles” which met in their home, in a room with boarded up windows and a bolt on the door, on Henderson Highway, in Winnipeg, MB. T.G. photographed each séance, while Lillian took careful notes. “Hamilton House” became a centre for Spiritualist activity that became known worldwide. T.G.’s interest in investigating the psychic realm was first aroused in 1918 by his close friend Professor W.T. Allison, who had encountered the Patience Worth phenomena in the United States. T.G.’s and Lillian’s first experiments from 1920 to 1927 studied telekinesis, or the movement of objects through non-physical means, with neighbour Elizabeth Poole acting as medium. From 1928 to 1934, T.G. studied teleplasms, or ectoplasms, with two women acting as mediums: Mary Anne Marshall, also known as “Dawn,” and her sister-in-law Susan Marshall, known as “Mercedes.” These experiments produced over 700 photographs, 72 with ectoplasms, now with the University and available on its website. This was part of the revival of spiritualism which occurred in the 1920s and 30s, spurred on in part by the trauma of deaths related to the Great War and 1918 Flu Pandemic. Spiritualism arose in the United States at the middle of the nineteenth-century, the basic tenant being that the dead could manifest themselves on earth and could be contacted and sometimes made visible by mediums.

What T.G. and Lillian sought to obtain were verifiable facts culled from repeated experiments over an extended period of time and conducted under rigorously controlled conditions. Full, accurate records of their experiments were kept



“Ectoplasm Materialization” Source: University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections, Hamilton Family fonds, PC 12.

and the room where the séances were held was locked at all times, Lillian keeping the key hanging around her neck. Boards covered the windows, to help ensure absolute darkness for the séances. An elaborate battery of eleven cameras, shutters open, provided simultaneous photographic records of each séance when T.G. initiated the firing of the flash powder. T.G. went public with his experiments in 1926 and began to lecture about what they were doing in their house. He gave over 85 lectures throughout North America and Europe. By 1934 he publicly declared that he believed in the life-after-death explanation for the manifestations. In addition to his lectures, he wrote numerous articles that were published



in Canada and abroad. The Hamiltons were visited by some of the leading spiritualists and mediums of the day including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, British author of the “Sherlock Holmes” detective series; “Margery”, a famous medium from Boston and her husband Dr. L. R.G. Cran- don; Nandor Fodor, a Hungarian-born British and Ameri- can psychologist; and William Lyon McKenzie King, who later became prime minister of Canada.

## Connections Growing Between Archives of Ontario and York University

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By Jenny Prior, Archives of Ontario

Having fully settled into our purpose-built facility, the Archives of Ontario is making the most of our location at York University. We’re reaching out to the York community on an ongoing basis, strengthening existing relationships and building new ones.

Creating general awareness about our institution is key. During the YorkFest Welcome Week in September, the Archives’ information table was right in the centre of the action. About 350 people approached us to ask about our collections and services.

Letting students and faculty know that our diverse holdings can support research in their particular areas of study is also a priority. We recently made presentations to the faculty councils of both the Schulich School of Business and the Faculty of Fine Arts, outlining how archives can be sources of insight and inspiration for a range of academic streams. The response was enthusiastic, and there has already been a spike in the number of professors registering their classes for orientation sessions and tours of our building.

## Archives News

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### City of Thunder Bay Archives launches new Waterfront History Virtual Exhibit

The City of Thunder Bay Archives launched a new online exhibit this past summer featuring the development of the City’s Waterfront over the past 40 years. The Virtual Exhibit offers a virtual tour of the waterfront, aerial photography, as well as a chronology of the development’s progress from its inception in 1967 to the present.

To find out more information or view the exhibit, visit:

[http://www.thunderbay.ca/City\\_Government/City\\_Records\\_and\\_Archives/Web\\_Exhibits.htm](http://www.thunderbay.ca/City_Government/City_Records_and_Archives/Web_Exhibits.htm)

### Carleton University Archives and Research Collections launches Douglas Cardinal Archives Project

Carleton University Archives and Research Collections has joined forces with Carleton University Centre for Public History to create a Web 2.0 presence documenting the

By 1933, Hamilton resigned from his staff and teaching positions due to ill health, although he continued to write on topics of interest to him. His last article, “Reality of Psychic Force,” appeared in the British spiritualist journal *Light*, in January of 1935. He died shortly after of a heart attack at the age of sixty-one. After his death, Lillian continued the séances until 1944.

We’re very open to developing mutually beneficial partnerships across the university. Within the next year, we’re hoping to formalize an initiative that will see fine arts students taking on curatorial roles in upcoming exhibits.

And starting in late October, a partnership between the Archives, York, and the OPP Museum is allowing us to host the museum’s award-winning historical mug shot exhibit *Arresting Images*, and run a complementary speakers series. Two of the three talks feature York faculty. Professors from the history, sociology and law departments will speak about criminal justice, and fine arts faculty will deliver a session on photography.

With our shared emphasis on research, inquiry and discovery, the Archives of Ontario and York University have much to offer each other.

multi-media Douglas Cardinal collection while it was being processed. The Project incorporates blogging on tumblr, tweeting, and uploading photographs and video on Facebook.

To check out the project visit the following links:

- Blog Site: <http://dcardinalproject.tumblr.com/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-Cardinal-Archive-Project/159766270753736>
- Twitter: @cardinalproject

### Virtual Memory Boxes: Bodies, Technologies, and Archival Improvisations

The *Virtual Memory Boxes* project was a research project co-ordinated by a team of researchers from the Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice research project based out of the University of Guelph, Ontario. Its purpose was to

explore the intersection of bodies and technologies in the archival process. Specifically, the project's collaborators were interested in how memories are collectively created, improvised, and archived, and how humans and technology interact in the process of memory creation and preservation. The Virtual Memory Boxes project held an installation/workshop in Guelph, Ontario and in Utrecht, The Netherlands in 2011.

To check out the Guelph Memory Box visit the following link: <http://memorybox-thinkingspaces.improvcommunity.ca/about.php>

## Ghosts In The Archives

Carrie Limkilde interviews Christina Stewart



Media Archivist Christina Stewart

Christina Stewart is currently the Media Archivist at the Canadian National Exhibition Archives at Exhibition Place. She has a background in Media Arts and is a graduate of the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation at George Eastman House in Rochester New York. She has worked with film collections held at Northeast Historic Film, the National Steinbeck Center, and the Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre. While working

at George Eastman House on the Warner Bros. Nitrate Film Collection, she taught incoming Selznick students nitrate film handling and archival film inspection. She has also been involved with Home Movie Day and has taught film workshops through the Toronto Area Archivists Group and the Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre. Christina is currently working on digitizing the Canadian National Exhibition Archives 16mm film collection.

The CNE Archives has a bit of a history with ghosts. Most recently, the CNE Archives hosted a paranormal research group, The Searcher Group, lead by Richard Palmisano who were conducting investigations of paranormal activity on the grounds of the CNE. Palmisano turned his research findings into a book called the Canadian National Exhibition.

**Q: Previous to working at the CNE Archives did you believe in the existence of ghosts and the paranormal?**

I did and I still do. I've always had a fascination with them since having "visits" from my grandmother when I was a

### Archives of Ontario launches *Arresting Images: Mug Shots from the OPP Museum* exhibit

The Archives of Ontario is hosting the OPP Museum's award-winning travelling display "Arresting Images: Mug Shots from the OPP Museum" from October 22 until December 9, 2011 in the Helen McClung Gallery.

The AO will also be offering several speaker series events during this period. The first, featuring the OPP exhibition curator as well as 3 staff members from the AO, was held in the George Spragge Classroom on October 24th.

To find out more click on the following link: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/pdf/arresting-images-oct-24.pdf>

child. Many years ago I worked in a haunted school, which had been converted from an old luxury hotel with an unfortunate history. On two separate occasions the hotel had been destroyed by fire and unfortunately many lives were lost. After each fire the hotel was rebuilt on the original foundations. The hotel closed during the Depression and was taken over by the military for use as a training school during the Second World War. The military has kept the hotel intact only adding teaching wings to the existing building. The old hotel building is definitely haunted, with spirits of long past hotel guests and of WWII service men. Aside from me, colleagues and students saw and even exchanged words with individuals we would have sworn were real. We often reported seeing the same "individuals" and often in the same areas of the building. Luckily the spirits were all very nice and usually helpful. So by the time I came to the CNE Archives I was "seasoned", shall we say, for anything of the paranormal variety.

**Q: Richard Palmisano's new book *Ghosts of the Canadian National Exhibition* is based on his research & 13 month investigation of paranormal activity at the C.N.E., including the CNE Archives. I understand that his organization, The Searcher Group, worked closely with the Archives while conducting their investigation. Can you describe this investigation a bit and tell us how the Archives were able to assist Palmisano in his research?**

In 2009, we did a CNE exhibit titled "Ghosts of the CNE". This exhibit was based on ghost stories from CNE and Exhibition Place staff that experienced paranormal activity here on the grounds. With a history as long as the CNE's and with the remarkable history of the grounds, is it any wonder there are a few things that go bump in the night around here? Richard Palmisano came to this exhibit and contacted us afterwards regarding investigating the Archives, mostly to try to figure out who our spirits were and

why they were haunting our stack area. During the course of Richard and The Searcher Group investigating the Archives, we decided to investigate some of the other buildings where sightings had occurred. The investigations always took place on the weekends, at night, and with an Archive member. The investigation team would set up digital cameras and EVP capturing equipment. We would then either leave the building, letting the capturing equipment run undisturbed while we went to investigate another building, or we would investigate a building with a medium trying to make contact with the spirits. Just trying to gather as much information/evidence as possible about who was there and why.

**Q: Have you read *Ghosts of the Canadian National Exhibition*?**  
Yes, I have read the book, and, in fact, I'm actually in it.

**Q: Did this experience working with The Searcher Group and Palmisano change the way you feel about your place of work and the records held by the CNE Archives?**

Working with The Searcher Group and with Richard has helped me understand who we have back in the stacks and, sometimes, why they're here. I've also developed a deeper understanding in general about what ghosts actually are and not to be afraid of them.

**Q: Can you tell us a bit about the recent CNE Archives' exhibit *Ghosts of the CNE*?**

Our exhibit this year was a combination of our staff stories and The Searchers Group investigation findings. We also highlighted some Victorian death practices and events that were popular at the CNE in the late 1800's. The CNE grounds had a military burial ground and do have other possible sensitive burial sites left over from the days when this area was part of the Federal Garrison Reserve. We displayed a hearse from the 1880's to signify this. We showcased MonentiMoi artefacts such as hair jewellery, hair wreaths and needlework. These artefacts were examples of the items judged in the Ladies Handicrafts competition category of the Prize List. We also had a complete Magic Lantern set up, pertaining to the pre-cinema magic lantern shows of Dr. Pepper's Ghost Show and Phantasmagoria shows that were very popular events at the CNE. We did try to have a bit of fun with the topic as well by having several fun house mirrors up and mannequin's dressed as our archives ghosts for people to have fun with.

**Q: Do you have a favourite or least favourite ghost that haunts the CNE grounds?**

My favourite ghosts would be our archives friends that hang out here in the stacks, but if I had to choose just one it would have to be Dr. Orr. Dr. Joseph O. Orr was General Manager of the CNE from 1903 until his death in 1917. We have his death mask and other items from when he was General Manager. The medium with The Searcher Group was able to identify him and tell us he is attached to his



mask and two photographs, one of himself and one of his wife. He is a distinguished gentleman with a bit of a sense of humour. When the medium was in the stacks, she was drawn to a certain box, which contained his death mask, and asked if she could open it. She then said "someone" told her to "watch out" as she opened it. She jumped back, out of shock, and started to laugh a little, because Dr. Orr told her, "See, wasn't I a handsome man?" She then told us that he said there was a photograph missing from his box and that it had been misplaced. The photograph he was referring to was of his wife Georgiana, who started

the CNE Women's Department. The Archives manager Linda Cobon, knew the photograph was missing and has been looking for it for years. Just as an aside, we have been in contact the Dr. Orr's family and recently received an image of Mrs. Orr, so we can know what she looked like and can identify her when we find her photograph.

**Q: Lastly, tell us a bit about the Haunted Walking Tours of Exhibition Place that are being held Friday evenings this fall? What do people get to see & hear about?**

We've been having haunted walking tours since the Fall of 2008. This year we are having our walks every Friday night up until Halloween. The tours last about two hours and start on the east end of the grounds by the Princes' Gates and end on the west end at Scadding Cabin. We go through a few building, including the Archives. The leader of our tours is Steve Collie. He is a fun and energetic guide with a vast wealth of historical knowledge of the CNE grounds. We take people right to the spots of known paranormal activity and share any information about who, what and why these spots could be haunted. Basically it's a great combination of the history of the grounds and stories of our ghosts. We can't promise anyone will see a ghost or have a paranormal experience, but we can tell you that some people never leave the Canadian National Exhibition.



## Searching for Archival Gold

*This is the theme for the upcoming ACA 2012 Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon. Just to wet your appetites a little, the Bulletin will be highlighting several archivist selected collections of personal favourites. Send me your “archival gold” for the upcoming winter issue & your treasured map, photograph, manuscript – you name it – could be featured for all to share.*

### David L. Gibson collection: as good as gold!



David L. Gibson holding photographs of Edgar and Minnie Hugill ca. 1990. Source: Archives of Ontario, F 4592 David L. Gibson fonds

By Carol Hopp and Elana Sadinsky, Archives of Ontario  
Sometimes, it takes many years to find a tiny grain of gold and other times, a record-sized gold bar will be handed to you.

### Acquiring the David L. Gibson collection

In the late 1980s, the Archives of Ontario (AO) was one of several archives considered as a possible repository for David L. Gibson's records, a collection identified as including glass plate negatives and other early photographic formats; but a transfer did not occur at that time. It was not until 2009, after a referral from the Ontario Heritage Trust, that the AO was again approached about the collection and a donation agreement signed between the AO and the donor, Allison Boyd, Gibson's granddaughter.

### Why David L. Gibson?

David Leslie Gibson (1921-2010) had been gifted ca. 1500 glass plate negatives decades ago by Edgar Herbert Hugill (1859-1955). Edgar, and his father, John Hugill (1829-1911), had been professional photographers in Ingersoll and Muskoka. Edgar Hugill had acted as a surrogate father and close friend to Gibson. Upon retirement, Gibson made it his mission to research and catalogue the collection. Also included in the collection are glass plate negatives belonging to a pro-

fessional photographer named H.F. Robinson and other records including those belonging to the Gibson and Foulds families.

### Why did the AO want these records?

In 2009, the AO did not have any glass plate negatives that represented Southwestern Ontario. The David L. Gibson collection filled a gap in our holdings with records including photographs from Muskoka, Brantford, Ingersoll, and Aylmer, Ontario. Gibson had identified and indexed the photographs with corresponding contact prints. In addition, the photographs were in excellent condition and served as an example of a very early process with images of people and places uniquely captured by clever photographers. Definitely a record-sized gold bar!

### Processing completed; presentation delivered

On Sept. 14, 2011, AO staff Elana Sadinsky, Dee Psaila, and Carol Hopp, gave an AO Learning Council presentation at the AO on the newly processed F 4592 David L. Gibson collection as part of the Learning Council's 'Discovery Hour' series. In the audience were AO staff members and two special guests who had known "Dave" Gibson very well. Allison Boyd had informed them that Gibson's photographs had been transferred to the AO, and the two men had anxiously waited for the day when the processing would be completed.



Members of Stevens family outside house on Earl Street, Ingersoll [croquet]. Source: Archives of Ontario, F 4592 David L. Gibson fonds

### Success!

The presentation was a very successful event using *Prezi* software that took the audience on an exciting voyage through prospecting and acquiring the records, the unique housing techniques used to transport and store this precious bullion (glass plates), digging the quarries to find the photographer H.F. Robinson, and seeing many of the Gibson images for themselves. Following the presentation, the two guests participated in a tour of the AO. Finally, at the rain-

bow's end was their pot of gold and they took some time to examine the Gibson collection photographs – focusing on series F 4592-5 Photographs of Keewaydin Island and Seven Sister Islands in Muskoka, Ontario. The guests identified and ordered many images of cottages that they knew and views of the islands that had not changed in 100 years.

### What you can do

If you are interested in reading about and possibly viewing and ordering images from F 4592 David L. Gibson collection for yourself, visit the Archives of Ontario website at <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca> and search the Archives Descriptive Database (ADD).



[Unidentified] man with children swimming at "Seldoncliffe" [Kandahar, Gordon Gibson, William Gibson] Source: Archives of Ontario, F 4592 David L. Gibson fonds

*Organizing data for eloquent presentation!*



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