

Council of Nova Scotia Archives Newsletter

No. 35 summer / fall 2002



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Remembering annapolis



The **Council of Nova Scotia Archives (CNSA)** was founded in 1982 by a core group of 25 institutions, organizations and individuals interested in creating a network of archives throughout the province. There are now over 100 members, representing community archives and museums, university and religious archives, heritage associations and corporations, as well as the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management.

Today the CNSA offers a variety of archival services to its members, the heritage community and users of archives. Through its Education Committee and Education and Outreach Archivist, the CNSA offers a core curriculum of archival training workshops as well as specialized workshops.

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On the Cover:

Don Messer with Fiddle, 1965
NSARM. Don Messer fonds; 1998-132/071/154



News from the CNSA President

Summer is upon us – and it is time for many CNSA members to gear up for a busy summer season. We have just completed a very successful Spring Conference which was held on April 18-20. Thanks to our Vice-President, Joanna Andow, and members of the Education Committee, this year's conference took place at the Sisters of Charity facilities at Mount Saint Vincent University in Bedford. The Education Committee put together an impressive three-day conference with concurrent workshops being offered on preservation and digitization issues. It is clear from recent developments, that the national CAIN (Canadian Archival Information Network) project will be placing an increased emphasis on digitization projects. The better we educate ourselves as archivists on digitization issues, the more prepared we will be to participate in CAIN and take advantage of the funding opportunities that program will offer.

A great deal of work goes into organizing our Spring Conferences. I would like to thank all the members of the Education Committee and Joanna Andow for their hard work on our behalf. I am sad to announce the resignation of Education Committee Chair, Laura Bradley, who has also resigned from her position as archivist at the Yarmouth County Museum Archives. We wish Laura well in her new life in Ontario, and we thank her for her contributions to the CNSA, not only as Chair of the Education Committee, but as an active CNSA member for many years. The departure of this committee chair meant that our staff picked up a great deal of work in connection with the conference. Thank you Johanna, Meghan and Deirdre! Anita Price, Dartmouth Heritage Museum, and past CNSA President, agreed to act as Interim Chair of our Education Committee, and her contribution has been invaluable. Thanks Anita!

Some members will have noted our website woes over the past few months. Meghan Hallett and Johanna Smith have worked hard to get the CNSA website back up and working. This has involved a lot of work! The new and improved site is now up and operational. The new address is: <http://www.councilofnsarchives.ca>. Feedback on the website is welcome.

The CNSA continues to operate and prosper not only due to our hardworking staff, but thanks to a great deal of volunteer work on the part of our membership.

Service on our committees or on the Executive definitely involves work, but for most of us involved, we find that service to the organization gives back as much as it demands, and more. I urge any of the members who would like to be more involved with the CNSA to put your names forward. I would be delighted to hear from you.

I hope all of you have had a rewarding and productive summer.

Peter Crowell
CNSA President

Welcome New Members

CNSA welcomes the following organizations and institutions who have joined during the past year:

Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Dartmouth)
Cape Sable Historical Society (Barrington)
Lunenburg County Historical Society (LaHave)
McNaught History Center and Archives
(Summerside, PEI)



Fiddling with Don Messer: Rehousing and Redescription of the Don Messer fonds

By Julie Morris
Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management

Anyone growing up in the Maritimes between 1930 and 1969 has heard of Don Messer. In fact between 1944 and 1969, Messer was well known nationally through radio and television. The purpose of this article is to acquaint you with the preparatory work which went into making Don Messer's archive and library accessible for public use.

The Don Messer fonds, previously known as the Don Messer Collection, was held on deposit at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia for twenty-five years before it was formally donated by Don Messer's daughter Dawn Attis in 1998. In the old archives building on Studley Campus, Dalhousie University, the records had resided in metal file cabinets outside of Dr. Phyllis Blakeley's third floor office. When the archives moved in 1980, the file cabinets were stored in a little vault with the large LPs being housed in another small vault in the Sound and Moving Image Division. Audio reels and cassettes, photographs, oversized materials and artifacts were stored in boxes on top of the cabinets. Since its donation, NSARM staff have updated the entire inventory, creating RAD compliant descriptions and searchable databases. The Canadian Council of Archives CPCAR funding program provided supplementary funding to rehouse the Don Messer fonds according to each physical medium's preservation needs and requirements. In the future public access to the Don Messer fonds will be further highlighted on NSARM's website in a virtual exhibit featuring the diverse nature of the fonds and incorporating digital images and sound clips.

Donald Charles Frederick Messer, fiddler, music director and music writer, was born in Tweedside, NB, 9 May 1909. Following his school years in New Brunswick, Messer studied violin in Boston, Massachusetts, and began his career as a professional musician by playing in bands for dances. By 1929 he was performing on radio station CFBO, Saint John, NB, and in 1934 his band, the *New Brunswick Lumberjacks*, was being broadcast from CHSJ, Saint John. In 1938 Messer took part of his group to Charlottetown and formed a band known initially as *Don Messer and the Islanders*, and later as *Don Messer and His Islanders*. From 1944 to

1958 from CFCY in Charlottetown they were broadcast three times a week to CBC's national radio network. The group also recorded for the record labels Apex, MCA, Rodeo and its affiliates and by 1952 had released over sixty recordings in a variety of formats. The group moved to CBC television in 1959 and was featured on the Halifax produced *Don Messer Show*. It later became *Don Messer's Jubilee* and Don and his band became the most popular "old-time" musical group in Canada in the mid-twentieth century. Messer's group periodically toured parts of Canada, including Festival Canada's centennial trip in 1967, which lasted three months and included 61 stops. After CBC's cancellation of *Don Messer's Jubilee* in 1969, a syndicated version was broadcast from CHCH-TV Hamilton. Messer died 26 March 1973 in Halifax.

The fonds consists of textual records, sound recordings and photographs, created and accumulated by Messer during the course of his career. It includes over nine metres of textual records, 506 audio discs, 98 audio reels, 15 audio cassettes, 373 photographs and 69 minutes of 16 mm cinefilm. In addition to documenting Messer's career, the fonds also contains a major music library documenting the musical tradition of rural North America. Messer actively acquired musical scores and recordings from musicians, composers and folklorists throughout North America and Europe. The fonds is arranged into four series and complements others held by NSARM such as the Helen Creighton fonds, as well as associated material in other repositories including the *Ned Landry fonds* and the *Festival Canada fonds* held by the National Library of Canada. Television recordings of *Don Messer's Jubilee* are found in the *CBC, Atlantic Region fonds* at NSARM as well as in the CBC Archives at Halifax and Toronto.

The *musical scores series*, which makes up the largest part of the fonds, is Messer's personal music library formed over a fifty year period for purposes of performance and recording. It includes published, unpublished, and hand-written musical scores and adaptations for instruments and voice. Many bear his annotations and notes, including some material composed and written by Messer himself. The series consists of 9727 items of sheet music, six volumes of bound sheet music and 527 music books. Attached to some of the music scores are

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Messer's program notes for television and radio, as well as correspondence. The majority of scores are by traditional or unknown composers, including composers not known outside their own communities. Because Messer was performing on national radio, and later television, he tried to incorporate music which was popular and well known into his broadcast and touring programming and his groups' recordings. His library is witness to the diverse sources from which he drew his music. Some Canadian composers represented in the series include: Hank Snow, Alberta Slim (Wilf Carter), Stu Davis, Victor Pasowisty, the *Happy Gang*, Al Cherny, Liam Clancy and Tommy Makem, Andy DeJarlis, Ned Landry, Paul Anka, Ian and Sylvia Tyson, Bruce Murray, Graham Townsend, Moe Koffman, Jean Carignon, Fred McKenna, Olaf Sveen, Gaby Haas and Sir Ernest Mac-Millan. International composers include: Scott Joplin, Buck Owens, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, George and Ira Gershwin, Elvis Presley, Gene Autry, Roy Orbison, and Smiley Bates.



Group Photograph of Don Messer and His Islanders, with all the members identified, ca. 1950s. (NSARM. Don Messer fonds; 1998-132/072/330)

The *sound records series* is a continuation of Messer's music library and consists of audio discs, [193-]1973, and audio reels and cassettes, 1947-1973, which were published, distributed by a record label, or privately recorded for Messer's use on radio, television or by his musical groups. The audio discs include commercially pressed 78 rpms, 45 rpms and LP recordings that cover a wide range of musical styles including popular music, country music, folk music and jazz. Canadian artists include *The Andrews Sisters*, Joseph Allard, *Stu Clayton and the Trail Riders*, Andy Dejarlis, *Jerry's Hayshakers*, *Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians*, *Jim Magill and his Northern Ramblers*, the *Nova Scotia Fiddlers*, Tom Doucet, the *Rhythm Pals*, and others. In addition, there are 38 test pressings (acetates), one-off or next-to-final recordings of commercial pressings of Don Messer, the *Don Messer Orchestra*, the *New Brunswick Lumberjacks*, and other artists, some of whom have not been identified, and a CHSJ (Saint John, NB) transcription disc containing an account of the 1939 Royal Visit and a speech by PC leader John Bracken.

Audio tape reels and cassettes consist of "off-air" radio and television soundtracks, air-checks, interviews, audition tapes, rehearsal tapes, live concert recordings and dubs of albums. Some original sound recordings are very fragile and most of the acetate discs have been reformatted to audio tape. Recordings include: Shelburne (Ontario) Fiddle contests of 1963 and 1969; Ukrainian Music Festival 1962 (Manitoba?); *The Don Messer Story* radio program 1967; sample episodes from the *Don Messer* radio show for 1933, 1958, 1960 and several undated; sample episodes from the *Don Messer* television show for 1962, 1967 and several undated; national and local artists, such as Tommy Hunter, Emma Treadwell, Johnny Forrest, Marg Osburne, Jerry Holland, Dougie MacPhee, Charlie Chamberlain, Jim Bennett, Robert Goulet and Percy Faith; and international artists such as Frank Sinatra, Steve Lawrence and Eddie Gormet, the *New Christy Minstrels*, Tony Bennett and Jerry Vale.

The remaining two series primarily document Messer's career. The *photograph series* consists of black and white photographs and slides, mostly relating to *Don Messer and His Islanders* and the television program *Don Messer's Jubilee*. Some prints are reproductions of early photographs of Don Messer and his musical groups; however, most of them were taken for public relations purposes by photographers such as Wamboldt and Waterfield and Maurice Crosby. Included are the musical groups *Backwoods Breakdown* and the *New Brunswick Lumberjacks*; individuals from his shows and tours such as Marg Osburne, Charlie Chamberlain, Cecil MacEachern, Waldo Munro, "Duke" Neilson, Warren MacRae, Gary MacNevin, Rae Simmons, the Buchta Dancers, Joe Wallen and Don Tremaine; as well as guest artists such as Hank Snow, Catherine MacKinnon, and the Rhythm Pals.

The *correspondence and other material series* consists of correspondence, legal papers such as contracts and royalty agreements, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, periodicals, program notes, ephemera such as programs, posters and flyers, and a copy of the 1971 National Film Board documentary on Don Messer's Jubilee.

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lee. Correspondence includes incoming letters from record companies, broadcasters, music publishers, fellow musicians and fans from 1944-1973, as well as copies of outgoing correspondence from Don Messer. Also included in this series is a thirty-five foot long petition with over thirteen hundred names protesting the cancellation of *Don Messer's Jubilee* in 1969. Scrapbooks are made up of photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, musical programs and other ephemera concerning Messer's career. The periodicals are unique in that they are available in few libraries and archives in North America.

The redescription and housing project involved detailed refitting of inventories and providing new enclosures for materials. The original inventory for the musical scores did not contain enough information for purposes of monetary appraisal and were re-examined and painstakingly entered into a database by NSARM staff, Darlene Brine and Gail Judge, in 1999 and 2000. Although the appraisers for National Archival Appraisal Board examined this material *in situ*, the bulk of their

examination was done through the website. A paper copy of the database-generated list consisted of over four hundred pages was neither efficient for searching nor practical to send to each appraiser. An electronic version of the old inventory was inputted by staff, edited and prepared for conversion to a database format. The detailed lists and databases were annotated and fiddled to reflect new physical locations. All of the material in the filing cabinets were removed, enclosed in archival folders and sleeves, labeled, boxed or wrapped, and then stored in its correct physical environment. RAD compliant fonds and series descriptions were completed and new inventories attached to the descriptions on *BossaNova*, NSARM's database of archival holdings.

Pilot Certificate Program

By Cathy Naugle
Volunteer, St. Paul's Church Archives

When I attended the first CNSA Core Curriculum workshop in December I was, frankly, a little worried about what I was getting myself into. I had never heard of a fonds and had no idea what it meant to "respect" it. Provenance was something that sounded like a place in France. In the world of archives I was an obvious newcomer. Much to my relief, I found myself among other novices as well as a good cross section of experienced archives users representing government institutions, schools, churches and museums from all over Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The fact that people would drive from PEI or New Brunswick to spend two days talking about archives suggested to me that something significant was going on here.

The first workshop was an overview of the material we would be covering over the next six months starting with Acquisition and Accessioning, moving on to Arrangement and Description, the dreaded RAD and finally to Digitization, Preservation and Conservation. Instead of being dry and irksome as I feared, the subject matter has actually been engaging. We have had many lively discussions relating to the case studies and hands-on exercises provided by our instructor, Johanna Smith. The group participation has been extremely enlightening. Everyone has brought her or his own specific situa-

tion to the table. The amount of information garnered simply by taking part in these discussions has been invaluable. Networking has been another advantage of attending the workshops. We have made contacts with other archivists, and have been exposed to a vast amount of available resources. A Certificate is also presented to those who wish to attend all workshops and do the required assignments.

All participants have been provided with comprehensive notes and handouts which help in following along with the attractive and well-prepared slide show presentation. In addition to these, Johanna has taken the time to e-mail us with suggested solutions to problems we have worked on in class. Meghan Hallett has also shared her expertise in RAD and Archway. I, for one, am very pleased to be taking part in the Core Curriculum Program. Terminology and concepts that were foreign to me in December have become much clearer. Even RAD doesn't feel so imposing. I look forward to applying what I have learned. It will make my experience as a volunteer in our church archives much more rewarding.



Dr. Phyllis R. Blakeley Award

*By Anne MacLean
Chair, Dr. Phyllis R. Blakeley Award Committee*

In 1988, an award, which recognized archival excellence, was established in the memory of Dr. Phyllis R. Blakeley. Every year since then, the CNSA has sought to present this award to any CNSA member in good standing.

The Award consists of a personalized award certificate, an engraved plaque, which is kept for a period of one year, and a \$100 gift certificate from the publishing division of the Society of American Archivists.

This year's Committee was comprised of the 1998 winner Peter Crowell, of the Argyle Township Court House Archives, Philip Hartling, representing the 2000 award-winning team from NSARM, and Barb Thompson of the Cumberland County Museum. Anne MacLean from the Saint Mary's University Archives was the Executive Member-at-Large, and thus Chair of the 2002 Award Committee.

Both nominations submitted to the Awards committee focused on projects designed to highlight Acadian documents, and make them more accessible to the larger community. Judging for the award took place by telephone conference call on April 8, 2002.

The winner of the 2002 Dr. Phyllis R. Blakeley Award is the Université Sainte-Anne, Centre Acadien, nominated by Dr. Gerald Boudreau, Director of Centre Acadien. The project nominated involved the creation of a web site allowing users to read and hear extracts from hundreds of hours of tape recordings made during the 1970's, which featured primarily Acadian senior citizens of Southwestern Nova Scotia. In utilizing today's technology, Centre Acadien was able to provide cutting-edge access to documents that an international public could appreciate; the long term benefits of this project will be an increased awareness, on the part of researchers, of resources available in Nova Scotia related to Acadian culture.

The Awards Committee would also like to acknowledge the runner-up of this year's award, La Société Historique Acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest. Their project also deserves recognition for its high quality.

Itinerant Description Archivist Report

*By Deirdre Bryden
Itinerant Description Archivist*

The year I was with the CNSA seemed very busy. After arriving in August 2002 I enjoyed traveling around the province, meeting many of you and seeing what wonderful things were in your archives. Since the publication of our last newsletter, I visited the Annapolis Valley Macdonald Museum, Université Sainte-Anne's Centre Acadien, the Cumberland County Museum and Archives, Dalhousie University's Archives, the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County, the Old Kings Courthouse Museum, the Shelburne County Museum, and the Fort Sackville Foundation. I completed descriptions for Les Archives Père Clarence d'Entremont, the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society, and Saint Mary's University Archives. In addition to creating new descriptions, I assisted Meghan in editing the ArchWay database and helped the Education Committee with the planning and preparation for the Spring Conference.

However July 5 was my last day with the CNSA. I now have a new job having accepted a position as archivist for the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph in Kingston, Ontario. Although excited about my new job, I am also sad to be leaving the CNSA and Nova Scotia. This job was a fantastic learning experience and a lot of fun. I enjoyed traveling around this beautiful province and seeing such fascinating archives. Thanks to Peter, Joanna, and the rest of the Executive for their support, and a special thanks to Johanna and Meghan for making every workday an enjoyable one.

CNSA has new email addresses!

Johanna Smith
advisor@councilofnsarchives.ca
(902)424-7093

Meghan Hallett
archway@councilofnsarchives.ca
(902)424-6082

CNSA staff and committee reports: EOA, AW, Education, Preservation, Grants...

Education and Outreach Archivist Report

By Johanna Smith
Education and Outreach Archivist

Well, it seems like I've been caught in a whirlwind of activity ever since I returned from my year of education leave at the University of Toronto. It was a great year during which I refined my archival knowledge and was able to look at the CNSA with a fresh perspective (and I also obtained a Master's in Information Studies!). It seems like a far distant memory now, when I look back at everything that has happened since. Thanks so much to Christine Lovelace who did such great work for the CNSA last year. It's been so easy to transition back into the job thanks to her strong efforts!

Core archival education

Since my return I've been spending a great deal of time revamping our core education program and piloting a Core Curriculum Program where participants take each of our 6 core workshops over 6 months, and receive a certificate of completion at the end. The core workshops are: 1) Introduction to Archives, 2) Introduction to Preservation, 3) Acquisition, Accessioning and Appraisal, 4) Arrangement and Description, 5) Introduction to the *Rules for Archival Description*, and 6) Reference and Access. Look for a review of the Core Curriculum Program elsewhere in this newsletter. The first set of fifteen graduates completed the last workshop in June this year- congratulations! The cycle will be repeated again beginning in October, so look for the registration information over the summer. If you are interested in the program, let me know, as it may have an effect on where I plan to deliver the workshops.

In March I attended a roundtable in Ottawa held by the Association of Canadian Archivists on archival education. We looked at curricula for *Introduction to Archives* and *Introduction to RAD* workshops from across the country. I believe the ACA would like to develop a standard curriculum outline for these two workshops, and it was good to know that the education the CNSA delivers is in-line with what is being done across the country.

Grants

Many institutional members applied for grants this year under the three Canadian Council of Archives programs. I was able to advise many of the members applying for **Control of Holdings** grants and **Preservation** grants. These funds can be used to hire staff to arrange and describe records or to do a preservation assessment of your archives, or even to buy preservation supplies. I am always available to discuss funding options and to prepare for the grant process. It's great when institutions begin thinking about their projects ahead of time in preparation for the mad December application rush, so give me a call anytime to discuss options.

Meghan is available to discuss grants from the third CCA pot of money related to ArchWay, digitization projects, and on-line archival content. Note that these grants are only open to CNSA institutional members, so think about getting your membership upgraded. I'm available to help with that too!

CNSA Institutional Member requirements:

Must be an organization housing material with long-term archival value and having:

- 1) an approved mandate;
- 2) written policies for acquisition, access and preservation;
- 3) designated individual, with archival training, responsible for the archives;
- 4) secure, designated archival space protected from water, fire, light and extremes of temperature and humidity;
- 5) open hours equivalent to one day per week and including by-appointment hours.

An institutional member has voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting and is eligible to apply for grants.

Site visits

I've been busy with site visits, as usual! I've been to a few new archives, and have been encouraging them to

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join the CNSA. It's great to see such an interest in archives in Nova Scotia. I've been able to give general assessments of institutions and provide direction and priorities for improvement. In other cases I've been able to join in and spend a day accessioning a backlog of archival material. I love to help out in your archives in any way I can, so please, please do not hesitate to call and arrange a visit. I'm here to help!

New website

Most recently I've been working with Meghan and Liz (our web-designer), to revamp our website (www.councilofnsarchives.ca), giving it a new look as well as a bunch of fun new content. You'll find useful links to electronic archival resources, as well as features like a guide to grants available to archives and heritage groups, samples of policies and archival forms, a listing of upcoming CNSA workshops, a membership directory and a calendar of CNSA events and important dates. The website will be updated with new information and links frequently so please check it out and make it a part of your daily routine!

Other activities

In June 2001 I became the Director Without Portfolio on the Association of Canadian Archivists' Board of Directors. It's given me a whole new appreciation for the work Board members do and has allowed me an excellent view of archival activities at the national level. I encour-

age any archivist to be a member of this professional organization. Do not hesitate to contact me for more details.

This summer I have been focusing my efforts on working with Peter Crowell to target keepers of municipal records in Nova Scotia. Many of these significant records are maintained by municipalities themselves and are not necessarily cared for in an archival manner to allow access while maintaining adequate preservation standards. We are encouraging municipalities to care for their records in a more concerted way. Any connection you may have to a municipal office or municipal records in your community may help us with this project. Get in touch with me!

And finally...

I also want to say a special public farewell to Laura Bradley, formerly the archivist at the Yarmouth County Museum Archives. She left Nova Scotia at the end of February for the green grass of Ontario, and will be missed. As well as running one of the best archives in the province, she's been a great colleague and support to me since I began working for the CNSA, and most recently was an excellent chair of our Education Committee.

Good luck Laura, I'll miss you!

ArchWay Archivist Report

Taking ArchWay on the Road

*By Meghan Hallett
ArchWay Archivist*

This spring was a busy and exciting time. In April I attended the Museums on the Web conference in Boston. This conference offers heritage professionals an opportunity to learn about new computer and web based technologies, and more importantly a look at what museums around the world are doing on-line. Not only did I attend three days of conference sessions, I enrolled in a pre-conference tour and pre-conference workshop. The workshop was presented by Carl Lagoze (Cornell University), John Perkins (CIMI) and Basil Dewhurst (Australian Museums and Galleries On-Line) and looked at the potentials of the Open Archives Initiative (OAI), a protocol which can be used to increase the accessibility to on-line data. However before this I took part in a behind the scenes tour of the web technology used at the Museum of Fine Arts. This included a look at their network room, digital photo lab, and an in-depth look at their electronic collections information database.

On the final day of the conference Natalie Holst, CAIN Coordinator, and I took part in a demonstration session to "show off" ArchWay and CAIN. The responses to ArchWay were all positive. Many people were very impressed with the adherence to standards in Nova Scotia and Canada. On the final day, I had the opportunity to watch some demonstrations. It was exciting and a bit scary. There are a lot of terrific on-line projects going on around the world and so much new technology! But I had some consolation in the fact that we are all "in it together" searching for funding, racing to keep on top of new developments, all while still doing our regular jobs.

Overall it was a terrific conference, Boston is a lovely city, and I have a copy of some selected papers that were given at the conference which I will gladly loan to any interested person.



CNSA Grants Committee Report

By Joanna Andow
CNSA VP and Grants Committee Chair

This fiscal year, the Canadian Council of Archives allotted \$63,500 to us for regular programs, which include the Professional Development and Training Programme, and the Control of Holdings Programme. \$150,000 was allotted for CAIN, and \$37,400 for Canadian Archival Records Preservation Management Program (CPCAR). Application packages were sent to institutional members in November and general members were sent a letter announcing the grants and encouraging them to upgrade their membership to the institutional level to make them eligible for the funds.

This year the CNSA requested permission from the CCA to transfer 10% of our allotted CPCAR funds (which were left over) to the other programs. Specifically, \$2551.70 to the Regular Holdings Program, and \$1188.15 to the CAIN program. This amounts to 6.8% and 3.2% respectively. This allowed us to approve more applications in those programs. For the past few years, we have had money left in our CPCAR allotment even after all applications that meet the criteria are approved.

This fiscal year, the Executive decided to open three streams of CAIN funding to its institutional membership. Last fiscal year, the CNSA applied for funds to administer 'mini grants competitions' for free computers and money for computer training for its membership. At our meeting in November, the Executive decided that allowing members to apply for funds directly would be more efficient; rather than adding extra grant adjudications to our schedule.

For this year only, members were not required to match funds in their CAIN applications. However, all applicants made an effort to contribute and many matched or exceeded their requested funds.

For the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the CCA made \$150,000 available to the CNSA for CAIN projects. The CNSA applied for \$135,000 of this funding. This application covered salary, benefits, and travel for the CNSA Itinerant Description Archivist; salary, travel, and benefits for the ArchWay Archivist, and salary and benefits for the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management Private Sector Records Description Archivist.

Seven institutional members made successful CAIN applications. Projects included the purchase of computers, digitization, and virtual exhibits. The successful ap-

plicants were Cole Harbour Heritage Farm, Archdiocese of Halifax Archives, Beaton Institute, Dalhousie University Archives, Cumberland County Museum and Archives, Shelburne County Genealogical Society, and the Pictou County Genealogy and Heritage Society and totaled \$16,188.15

\$63,500 was available for the Regular Holdings Program. Under the Professional Development and Training Programme, the Council applied for \$47,367 to cover the CNSA Education and Outreach Archivist Position. This amount includes travel and salary for the position, communication funds, and funds for training. The Council also applied for \$1236 for a digitization workshop.

This year, 6 institutional members submitted successful applications under the Control of Holdings Programme, totalling \$17,448.70. They were NSARM, the Archdiocese of Halifax Archives (2 projects), Dartmouth Heritage Museum, King's-Edgehill School, Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, and Dalhousie University Archives.

\$37,400 was available for CPCAR projects. The CNSA applied for funding for preservation workshops, totaling \$4485. Eleven applicants from our institutional membership were successful. Four of these were for global preservation assessments; the others for rehousing projects, microfilming projects, purchase of equipment and holdings maintenance. Successful applicants were Victoria County Archives, Nova Scotia Highland Village Society, Mount St. Vincent Motherhouse Archives, Yarmouth County Museum Archives (2 projects approved), NSARM, Dalhousie University Archives (3 projects approved), St. Paul's Church Archives, and the Beaton Institute. Total funds granted in this programme amounted to \$32,503.93. Unspent funds, as I mentioned earlier, were transferred to the CAIN and Regular Holdings programmes.

This year the CNSA applied for one grant under the Special Projects Programme from the 'national pot' of CCA funds. This application was submitted jointly with the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Councils. The grant has been approved by the CCA and gives us funding to put on an Interprovincial Workshop on managing cartographic records - a workshop that our members have been requesting for some time.

Congratulations to all successful applicants!



CNSA Preservation Committee Report

By Rosemary V. Barbour
Chair, CNSA Preservation Committee

During the past year the membership of the Preservation Committee comprised Rosemary Barbour (NSARM), Kim Brenner (NSARM), Terry Eyland (Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum), Paula French (Heritage Solutions), Doug Kirby (CBC), Julia Landry (Leaf by Leaf Book and Paper Conservation Services), Johanna Smith (ex-officio) and Brian Speirs (ex-officio). The Committee met on 4 occasions during the year. The Cold Vault Consortium sub-committee also met on several occasions and members were in regular contact by telephone and e-mail.

Preservation Education

This year, the CNSA Preservation Committee received a Conservation Program for Canadian Archival Records (CPCAR) Professional Development and Training grant through the CCA which allowed us to hire Julia Landry to develop and present two workshops on the construction of custom housing. These workshops were held at Liverpool on 15-16 November with 6 registrants and at Stellarton on 29-30 November with 5 registrants.

We were also the recipient of the past year's Canadian Conservation Institute's annual outreach workshop for the Atlantic region and hosted the workshop "Preservation Management for Seasonal Museums" on 18-19 October 2001 at Annapolis Royal. This workshop was presented by Deborah Stewart, conservator, with 5 participants attending. I would like to extend the Committee's appreciation to Mr. John Kirby, Executive Director of the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County, for allowing us to present this workshop at his site.

In an attempt to encourage CNSA institutional members to have a preservation site assessment done of their facility, the Committee put together a short information sheet explaining the process and costs and giving contact information. This was mailed to all institutional members who have not yet undertaken a global preservation assessment. Once an institution has completed a preservation assessment, it can apply for grant funding from the CCA for preservation policy development, holdings maintenance, reformatting and other preservation projects and we encourage all institutional members to consider having an assessment done.

Cold vault

The CNSA Preservation Committee, as a member of the Cold Vault Consortium which includes Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (NSARM), CBC Maritimes Region and the Nova Scotia Community College, received a CCA Preservation Management grant of \$17,010. Using funds from the CCA, the CBC and NSARM, the Consortium paid for the transfer of the cold vault from Hull, PQ, to Halifax (\$5,209); purchased and installed a new dehumidification wheel (\$5,400); purchased and installed a new Programmable Logic Controller which regulates, sequences and monitors the mechanical, electrical and air-handling equipment that maintain the prescribed micro-climate (\$14,231); purchased and installed one new compressor (\$2,933) and installed tracks in the vault for mobile shelving (\$2,000). During 2002-2003, the Consortium will complete the cold vault project with funds and staff time supplied by Consortium members.

In concluding, I would urge members to let the Committee know of preservation training or information needs they have. We will try to arrange for training or put members in touch with people or resources that might be helpful. You can approach any member of the Committee or pass a request along through the CNSA office. Anyone interested in participating in the activities of the Committee will be warmly welcomed.

From the Conservation On Line (CoOL) List serve:

Subject: DuPont Mylar Type D
From: Bill Minter (wmntr@aol.com)

Polyester Film for Encapsulation has been going through some major changes within the past few years. A few years ago the ICI Melinex line of film was purchased by the DuPont Corporation. I thought that the Melinex line would be dropped. However, Melinex Type 516 has lived on at DuPont. Now, there is information from DuPont, that Mylar Type D will be discontinued as of September 2001. Mylar Type D has been developed for the Graphic Arts Industry. They are now using computers for most of their work so there is little call for Mylar D.

According to DuPont, suppliers have been alerted to the discontinuation of Mylar D and they have developed a game plan. Melinex Type 516 and another similar film, 456, should be readily available for use in preservation. Those of you who use DuPont Mylar Type D should contact your supplier for new information.

Impressions of the Spring Conference: Digitizing Images for your Archives or Museum

By Betty Aboe-Milligan
HRM Tourism, Culture & Heritage

So, what does digitization mean to you? Jim Fox put this question to each of the participants on day one. We were a bit hesitant, no one wanting to be the 'tall poppy' so early in the program. At the end of day two, he asked again. There were groans around the room. It was 4:00 on the last day. We were tired of thinking. Being the polite Nova Scotians that we were, we mentally thought 'I'll give you 5 more minutes.' The resulting answers were enlightening. The two lists were very different and showed clearly how successful the three presenters had been in informing us on the topic of digitization.

Jim Fox, Diane Bowden and Owen Bannerman are three staff members of Canadian Heritage, working on the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN). One aspect of their job is to provide training to people like the CNSA membership, on a variety of topics, in this case digitization.

Digitization is not the panacea for all of our problems or challenges. It **MAY** be a solution to some of the issues, but the process is time consuming and potentially costly. We need to plan ahead in order to benefit. We were advised to assess the needs of our organizations; to think of the legal issues; to develop standards and guidelines for the work; to plan the project including what would be digitized, why and by whom; do the work; and evaluate the results. A digitization project could make our collections more accessible to a broader audience, reduce the handling of the objects and help to achieve our institutional conservation and educational goals.

Understanding that was easy! The real trouble began when we got to Pixels, bit depth, dots per inch (dpi) or pixels per inch (ppi) in an image of a certain resolution. Bit depth refers to tone & colour. The higher the bit depth the greater the colour. 8-bit = 256 colours (grey scale); 24 bit = 16.7 million unique colours and 30-bit even more. Pixels affect resolution. The more there are, the greater the resolution. We learned that we should make a master image at the highest resolution we could afford - space wise. Remember that the higher the resolution the more information you have and the more space you need to store it. A 400 dpi, 24 bit colour image could take up 475 kilobytes of space. Multiply that by 1000 images and you are looking at a 'space hog'.

The first question then becomes, if you do this project can you store the results?

If we decide to proceed then we must decide the format to use. There appeared to be three common ones to consider. TIFF was 'platform independent' and could go from a Mac to a PC. It was the right one for a master file. JPEG and GIF were other options that we could use for surrogate images. JPEG is better for image reproduction because it supports 24 bit colour, while GIF is the format mainly used for web graphics. That seemed straight forward so we moved on.

What kind of equipment do we need? A big topic. Flat bed and drum scanners were discussed, but in reality we can only afford the small flatbed. Scanners help us to deal with traditional photos, or other archival material. If the images are too large for the scanner bed it was recommended that you scan it in small sections. With appropriate software you can knit the individual pieces back into a whole image.

What about creating a digital image for display on a screen? We investigated cameras, printers, screens, image sizes and what inevitably followed; re-sizing. Our friend the 'pixel' came back to visit at this point and we realized that all of that mathematical calculation from the first day had a purpose.

Of importance to our work was the type of printer used to create our images. If they are printed by a laser printer the life of the print may be about 2 years. The image sits on top of the paper and eventually fades. For print longevity an inkjet printer is better as it creates an image that is bonded to the paper.

This workshop gave us the tools (information) to help us decide if a digitization project would be appropriate for our institution. We had knowledge about basic equipment needs and could therefore develop a budget. Now we must decide if this new process will replace the more traditional form of recording (photographs) or will augment it. My personal feeling is that it is an exciting new tool to be used in tandem with more traditional methods.

The course notes are available from the CNSA office for any who wish to investigate the process. For those who would like to take the course it is available on line, free of charge. Check the net at <http://www.chin.gc.ca>



“Introduction to Preservation” Workshop

By Fred Horne
McNaught History Center and Archives
Summerside, PEI

“Do what you can with what you have” seems to be the best motto for successful preservation in Archives of all sizes. Add in a little “its all about finding what works best for you” and you have a recipe for applying lessons learned in an archival workshop. Freelance professional conservator Paula E. French delivered just such a workshop entitled “Introduction to Preservation” in the days leading up to this year’s Spring Conference.

If there is one thing that sticks in my mind from Paula French’s workshop it is that *preservation is at the root of all that we do as archivists*. Immediately upon accepting an item into our care and control we are preserving, supposing we *never* do a thing more to it, we are still preserving, maybe not very well, but the point remains - the reason we have it in the first place is to *preserve it*. If we don’t, who will? Exactly!

Should we assume that the vast majority of acquisitions are at least a tiny bit better preserved in archival hands than they would have otherwise been? It turns out that a little curiosity can cure a lot of complacency. First you must **assess** the current situation. That means asking lots of questions about your current site, how and where you hold your archival materials, asking what are the physical properties of your archival holdings, and what are their preservation needs? The result is bound to be a body of knowledge you may never have thought you needed to know, secrets heretofore kept from you by the likes of parchment, magnetic tape, picture frames and paper clips to name a few. Not for lack of trying, as archivist all you have to do is ask a few questions and pay attention to what you discover.

Now you know you’ll have to act on this new found knowledge and appreciation for your archival holdings. But not before you do a **Plan**. That means developing appropriate policies and procedures and a strategic plan to address the preservation needs of your holdings. Yes I know it is so easy to say, but in fact a specific policy can be as brief as a one-liner. Just get the job done, you don’t have to write a book.

Finally you **Act** to address various preservation challenges that include a variety of topics and levels, rang-

ing from environmental control, through determining supply needs/sources to that mainly modern miracle called *re-formatting*.

There is insufficient space to get into detail on the many ways Paula French’s *Introduction to Preservation* will help now that we have returned to our Archives. However I can leave you with a few observations, flagged as I heard them, *but please do not try any of these at home, always consult a professional conservator*, since I may have gotten it slightly skewed.

Environmental monitoring is not a do-it-yourself sort of thing....Lux is the measurement of light.....there is such a thing as an Ideal Environment.....Ideals, however, are just that....oven bags for turkeys are a source of cheap mylar....UV filters do break down....when doing conservation work wash your hands often....Use common sense....environmental monitoring is a must....mold can result from a water disaster....keep your stuff off the floor...when damage occurs: record it....there is a flame test to determine if poly vinyl chlorides exist in plastic sleeves....many preservation supplies are available locally and inexpensively if you get out and look for them....zip-lock bags create an environment that can be aggravating....there is a lot of preservation info out there on the WWW.....tailor questionnaires to your own needs wherever possible.....images can and do migrate on their own....mixed collections usually present the greatest preservation challenges....*red-rot* only happens to vegetable-tanned leather....in a typical file there are usually many items that must be separated from each other by barriers....old albumen photos mounted on very acidic board (used 1920s to 1950s) have probably faded as much as they are going to and archival storage away from light will extend their largely stable condition....2b pencils have softer lead....always use pencils in archival reading rooms....lead that does not smudge or rub off is desirable....establishing priorities for preservation activities is crucial...preservation management also involves establishing access guidelines for staff and care and handling procedures for visitors...there are many types of re-formatting...be clear of your reasons for re-formatting before proceeding....determining what to re-format is similar to determining collection priorities for preservation....there are advantages and disadvantages to various forms of re-formatting.....develop and keep updating your disaster preparedness plan.

Remembering Annapolis.....

By Ernest J. Dick,
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"Remembering Annapolis" has tapped into a groundswell of our community history that we hardly knew existed. "Remembering Annapolis" is a series of oral history evenings organized for the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County by Ern Dick, long-time archivist and oral historian. We have now completed our second year, with growing interest for future years. We have been getting at least 25 people for each evening, sometimes as many as 50, with people sitting on the floors, in adjoining rooms, and wherever they can find space. We have a small core of regulars but most evenings fully half or more of the participants have never visited HRS before or were even aware of our activities.

The first winter we remembered a wide variety of activities, from hockey night in Annapolis Royal; hunting, fishing and guiding; harvesting and selling dulse; boat-building; dramatic and musical performance; apple growing; summertime; to the Hollywood – Annapolis connection. This past winter we focussed on particular communities outside of Annapolis Royal itself, and remembered Granville Ferry, Moschelle, Lequille, Port Wade, and Lower Granville. Indeed, we have had so many people attend that the O'Dell Museum can no longer accommodate everyone, and we have begun using the community halls in these areas. Moving into the community halls made obvious sense when we were remembering those communities and certainly attracted participants who rarely come to town.

For each topic we identified key people that we needed to be our key "rememberers" and contacted them weeks ahead to confirm their availability. We encouraged them to bring friends and family, and also to invite others that should be included. Identifying these key people generated curiosity and credibility for our evenings, and guaranteed a good turn-out.

Publicity for these evenings has been very simple. We found an intriguing historic photo for each theme and had these historic photos published in the local weekly newspaper, together with an announcement of who would be some of our "rememberers". This was all we had to do as word of mouth invariably brought out more people than we were expecting for each evening.

For each topic we searched in our holdings for appropriate artifacts and records that would be of interest and brought these out for display and circulation. We encouraged people to bring in their own scrapbooks or memorabilia to explain and trigger further "remembering". Invariably such "treasures" would be left for copying and sometimes even for donation. We always tried to explain the advantages of permanent donation in our community archives but always respected the wishes of those who wanted to keep such materials in their own families.

We, of course, recorded the remembering, trying always to get people to identify themselves before speaking. The quality of the recordings is not great and the recordings certainly could not be of any further use beyond research. Indeed, we often had a number of conversations going on at once, making the recordings quite jumbled and unintelligible on occasion, but only adding to the "fun" of the evenings. Thus, the act of "recording", and thereby validating the stories being exchanged, may be more important than the recordings themselves. This process of facilitating oral history may be as important as preserving the buildings, artifacts and records that we have devoted ourselves to at the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County. We know, of course, that all of these components of preserving and promoting the past complement each other but we admit to some surprise at the potency of oral history.

We have come to understand with "Remembering Annapolis" that we are tapping into a wide-ranging and authentic appreciation for heritage in our community. Oral history, that is the speaking of the past, remains the oldest and most enduring form of history. Even in our age of specialized history channels, hundreds of new web-sites every day interpreting and presenting the past, multi-media "publications" explaining the past, billion dollar heritage recreations and parks, the latest visual effects and budgets in the hundreds of millions of dollars for feature films re-enacting the past, and all of the instantaneous communications of cyber-space, this fundamental telling and listening to the stories of the past continues to hold our fascination.



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across this country and with people around the world.”

“This virtual collection will be of immense value to people from all walks of life who want to research the rich history of our people,” said Mr. d'Entremont. “Participants in the Acadian World Congress and family reunions to be held in 2004 will not only find genealogical information on their families, but will also be able to access a wide variety of original materials describing the past and present lives of the Acadian people of the Argyle district.”

Digital Archives of the Argyle District Acadians can be accessed on the Internet at <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/argyle>.

The Acadian Historical Society of West Pubnico has been fortunate in attracting a large volunteer base and was able to honour more than 60 volunteers at a ceremony that formed part of the events associated with the International Year of the Volunteer.

Argyle Township Court House Archives

The Argyle Township Court House Archives has begun the process of planning for a new home for the archives. Currently located in the Argyle Township Court House, Canada's oldest standing courthouse, the historical society in charge of the administration of the facility has acquired the property of the former Seventh Day Adventist Church, which adjoins the courthouse property to the south. Plans are to renovate the main part of the church building to serve as a research center and reading room, and to build a new addition on the rear of the building to provide office space and proper archival storage. This is a big project, and will take the society several years to complete.

ATCHA recently received a donation of 439 glass negatives, produced by brothers Willis Sabean and Major A. Sabean. These photographers worked in the village of Kemptville from about 1895-1910. Contact prints have been produced and the work of describing and identifying the images has commenced. Photos include house portraits, family portraits, logging activities, gold mining activities, parades, picnics, school groups, hunting guides and their expeditions, and much more.

Work has also been ongoing on the Heritage Property Inventory for the Municipality of Argyle. Four contract employees worked on conducting research on our pre-1914 buildings from December – April. We are fast approaching our goal of having every pre-1914 building in

the municipality photographed and researched. The process of entering all of the data gathered into a database has also commenced.

The Argyle Township Court House has a new website: <http://www.argylecourthouse.com> and email address: atcha@klis.com.

Beaton Institute of Cape Breton Studies

The Beaton announces the publication of two guides to its holdings - one for the Cape Breton related manuscript collection and one aimed at genealogical and family history records in particular. The *Brief Guide to the Manuscript Holdings at the Beaton Institute* provides short annotations aimed to assist researchers in finding Cape Breton-related manuscript records of interest held within their vast collection of more than 3,000 manuscript groups, 50,000 photographs, 3,500 audio and video tapes, 1,500 maps and plans, and 1,500 books. The Guide includes an index of the names, geographic locations, and subjects covered by the collections and fonds included in it. The Guide is 227 pages in length and retails for \$25 (shipping extra). Equally valuable is the shorter *Guide to the Genealogical Holdings at the Beaton Institute*. In its 34 pages readers will find the sources most useful for genealogical research, including information from the Biography and Genealogy files, census records, church and cemetery records, and much more. This guide retails for \$5 (shipping extra). Those unable to choose can save \$2 by getting both.

During the 2001-02 year, the Beaton answered 3649 requests from the faculty, student body, and community and used 4874 items to fill requests. Among the 47 accessions received were 3m of textual records rescued from the attic of Morrison's Store in Baddeck recording nearly 100 years of business activity at the hub of Victoria County and 2m of audio materials from Herbie MacLeod who collected a wide range of music with a strong representation of Cape Breton tunes and musicians.

The Beaton hired a part-time Promotions Assistant on a six month contract to publicize the institution's services and collections. The November/December issue of *Celtic Heritage* included a major article on the Beaton including its origins with Sister Margaret Beaton and a brief introduction to its collections.

The Beaton Institute website has had a makeover - check it out at <http://beaton.uccb.ns.ca>.



Celtic Music Interpretive Centre Society

The Celtic Music Interpretive Centre, home of the largest fiddle in the world has moved and is now housed in the ground floor of the Judique Community Centre. Everyone is thrilled about the new accessibility and layout. The Centre houses in its Inverness County Audio Collection rare interviews and biographies of Cape Breton musicians as well as a Photo Gallery of local artists.

Visitors to the centre experience an Interpretive Tour, which is an education based opportunity to immerse themselves in the fiddle and piano music and the dance of the area. It's a fun and entertaining forty minute adventure featuring an introduction to Judique's own Buddy MacMaster, the tartan legacy of the area, the evolution of Celtic music throughout the past century, and also includes a mini-ceilidh and an exploration of our on-site archives.

During the Spring, the Society welcomed Joyce Rankin of Judique as its full time manager for the Centre. A local musician, Joey Beaton, returned as Tour Director and Music Consultant. This year, the centre has developed a program that introduces selected up-and-coming musicians to the resources available at the archives and which gives them a chance to perform what they have learned from the material.

To spread the word in the community about the Centre, many local residents were invited early in the open season to tour the Centre and experience the Tour. In July, Baddeck's Bell Bay golf course hosted the 4th annual Celtic Music Golf Classic which is the Centre's main fund-raiser.

Colchester Historical Museum Archives

Our big change is expanding our Archives to the whole of the second floor of the Museum. We have been engrossed in this for most of the past year. We were closed for the month of November when we did a huge reorganization of our holdings. Our storage area is now on the same floor as the Archives with about 70 feet of steel shelving for storage boxes. We also were able to receive from Surplus Crown Property Disposal a number of steel cabinets, tables, chairs and bookcases which we have put to good use in storing fragile and important documents. This new storage area helped to relieve the congestion in the library. Most importantly we have a finding aid on the computer for all our docu-

ments and all our resource books will soon be in a database as well. A new computer system was purchased for the Archives. A new scanner and printer along with two used computer systems were also donated to the cause.

The Archives now sells Genealogies and Histories in the newly created Archives Book Nook.

Our staff and volunteers have been creating new databases on various topics (such as obituaries, marriages) for our website. The new databases and updates and corrections to existing ones should take place in the very near future.

Cornwallis Military Museum

The Museum has recently been renovated with the addition of new restrooms and seven new six foot dividers. The dividers will allow more of the Museum's photographic archives to be on display rather than in storage.

The Museum is hoping to become a member of the Canadian Forces Museum system which would be a great achievement after only five years in operation. In Nova Scotia, the institutions now accredited as part of the Canadian Forces Museum system are aviation museums at Greenwood and Shearwater, the Maritime Command Museum in Halifax and the Nova Scotia Highlanders Museum at the Amherst Armoury. The Museum is also awaiting word on whether some buildings, including theirs, at the former training base HMCS/CFB Cornwallis will receive heritage recognition.

Cumberland County Museum and Archives

Sheila Copps was the featured speaker at an Edwardian Dinner banquet that was the center piece of a May fund-raiser of the Museum's parent organization, the Amherst Township Historical Society. The Museum also benefitted from the proceeds of a garden tour held in Amherst in July.

Visitors to the second floor research room of the Archives will now find a computer available allowing them to search the census, birth, marriage, death and cemetery records found in the archives. The archives has been able to index most of the cemetery inscriptions found throughout Cumberland County.

In the winter and early spring, a display using maps

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from their collection as well as some lent by the Wallace and Area Museum was featured in Grove Cottage's exhibition room. Featuring maps and surveyors records, the exhibit was followed in the summer by a display of Dolls and Teddy Bears. October will see a display of work by local photographer Debbie Emslie.

Archivally, much progress has been made in separating reference material from fonds and in describing records for inclusion in ArchWay.

Dalhousie University Archives

The Dalhousie University Archives recently transferred to the Yarmouth County Museum Archives four significant business fonds. Originally collected in the 1970s when few institutions were collecting business records, the Parker-Eakins, Royal Store, S. A. Crowell and the Grand Hotel fonds represent businesses that shaped the Yarmouth economy in the 19th and early 20th centuries. A two way exchange of fonds also happened between Dalhousie and the Public Archives at the other end of University Avenue.

Yarmouth County Museum Archives Archivist Stuart McLean was quoted in the Yarmouth Herald as phrasing the co-operative acquisition strategy adopted over a year ago by the CNSA. "It encourages archives to get rid of material that they really shouldn't have in the first place and (have it) transferred to another archive, where it should be."

The Dalhousie Archives has also been active on the digitization front with 2 significant projects now available on the web. Funded through CCA the *Robert Doyle theatre costumes and set designs* site makes accessible about a quarter of the over 2000 colour set and costume design sketches of various theatre productions and other performances drawn by former Neptune Theatre designer and founder (and original director) of the Dalhousie University Costume Studies program, Robert Doyle (<http://www.library.dal.ca/archives/doyle/description.htm>). The *Waldren studios: images of Nova Scotia 1870-1940* site makes available more than ten percent of the over 35,000 image collection of the long-time Pictou and Antigonish photographer George Waldren. Some of the images in the collection were taken by A. J. Rice who founded the business and sold it to Waldren in the 1890s. The *Waldren studios: images of Nova Scotia 1870-1940* site was funded in part by Industry Canada through the Digital Collections program (<http://www.library.dal.ca/archives/waldren>).

DesBrisay Museum

Few heritage institutions in the Province can claim the long history of Bridgewater's DesBrisay Museum. In October 2002, a special display will commemorate the acquisition of Judge DesBrisay's private collection of local artifacts by the Town which formed the basis for the collection now known as the DesBrisay Museum.

Girl Guides of Canada Nova Scotia Council

Since moving into our new premises at Guide House on Dutch Village Road, the volunteers on the Archives Committee have been busy trying to get the paper, photographs, uniforms and artifacts sorted and catalogued. We continue to receive various items of interest.

During 2001 we created two "loan kits", which can be borrowed by a Guider in either a Brownie Pack, a Guide or Pathfinder Unit and used to acquaint the girls with the early years of the Girl Guide movement. Each kit contains twenty four items ranging from a doll dressed in an early uniform to a card showing how the Union Jack was created. Each item comes with a trivia question for the girls to answer (and we have included an answer key). This gives the leaders the opportunity to help their group learn about the History of Guiding in an interactive manner.

We have a series of hats once worn by various branches and a number of uniforms on display at the present time. Guide House is always open during business hours and people are welcome to call and make an appointment if they wish to visit at another time.

Highland Village Museum

The fall of 1999 saw Roots Cape Breton embark on a most exciting project. We have been entering genealogy information in a custom database, MIMS. The program was created by an **xwave solutions** ~ Nova Scotia Museum Partnership, and is an ideal technology partner for heritage institutions with complex data management requirements.

At the present time we have entered the 1871, 1881, and 1891 census. Existing birth and death records from 1864 to 1877, and marriage records from 1864 to 1910 for all of Cape Breton have also been entered. A partial listing of school registers from the Cape Breton Victoria

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School Board is also in our database. This record contains about 300,000 names. We have begun to enter the 1901 census starting with Cape Breton County and expect the database to top 800,000 entries upon completion.

During this project we discovered many facts about Cape Breton. There is an interesting list of surnames and variant spellings which has grown to 50+ pages. We have chosen to standardize the names for searching purposes and provide a note to give the spelling as found in the record. It is not uncommon for a name to be spelled three different ways in one record. Our list includes 31 different spellings for Mombourquette.

Occupations are also varied. While farmer seems to be the most common, one groom listed his occupation as tight rope performer. There were gentlemen, jewellers, drill sergeants and boat builders all vying for the hand of their true love. Places of birth within the marriage records range from those in Cape Breton to Italy, at sea, Bennington, Vermont and Norway.

Given names are an interesting source of information. While we know that in 1871 there were 538 names of girls and women beginning with Ann, there was also Artemisia. 1400 males were named John. There is also Cecil and Wallace. What were the influences for given names? The Scots naming convention is fairly well known, the first son for the father's father and the first daughter for the mother's mother and so on. What were people reading, hearing, seeing that gave them ideas?

Entering the death records was a difficult time. It was easy to track outbreaks of disease in one family when children and parents die within days or weeks of each other. Causes of deaths were interesting. One woman in my own tree was killed by a barn falling on her during the August gale of 1873. This information existed in our oral history and was verified by the death records. Others listed things like died from a broken heart from loss of land, visitation by God, cancer and abdominal pain.

While we do not have all the answers for the question What's your father's name?, we are endeavouring to find out. Each year, more information comes to light. Sometimes a search is easy and takes only a few hours. Most times it takes much longer, maybe even 20 years to find that stray piece to the puzzle. Although the data entry phase ends, much research is still to be done. Each of you can help by writing down what you remember, including the stories of parents and grandparents. These are the meat to the stew that is Cape Breton. I invite you all to visit and see our facilities and we are always interested in having copies of your family trees in our archives.

Maritime Conference Archives

The Maritime Conference Archives is located in Sackville, New Brunswick and is the CNSA's most notable out of province member - until a few years ago the Archives was housed at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax.

Since moving, the collections have grown and the archives recently made arrangements for offsite storage to house some collections. One significant addition in 2001 was 17 boxes of records from Pine Hill Divinity Hall, in Halifax, that contained bursary and treasurer's records as well as student registers covering the period 1920 to 1949. An unusual acquisition was a large quilt created by the Halifax Presbytery.

The archives was the recipient of a CCA Control of Holdings and a CAIN grant through the Council of New Brunswick Archives.

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management

Reference Consolidation Project

NSARM has renovated to consolidate delivery of all onsite Reference Services on the third floor of the PANS Building. The existing Third Floor Reading Room remains for researchers working with original archival holdings. However an adjacent storage vault has been painted, rewired and made into a Microform Reading Room, where the readers, reader-printers and self-service Microfilm Collection are housed. The most heavily-used portions of the NSARM Library have been moved to an open-shelf arrangement in the new Reading Room, giving researchers direct access to about 25% of the library holdings. These changes will enhance the delivery of onsite Reference Services, especially during Saturday hours.

Mobile Shelving Project

NSARM has received special one-time capital funding to purchase mobile shelving, which will provide a much-needed increase to our storage capacity. A phased four-year project to install the shelving in selected vaults will begin this fiscal year.

MacAskill Digitization Project

Wallace MacAskill (1887-1956) is one of Nova Scotia's best-known photographers, noted especially for his coastal and marine subjects. Courtesy of CCA-CAIN Program funding, NSARM launched online access to the W. R. MacAskill fonds in April. The project includes a searchable database of some 5,000 image titles,

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complemented by 500 digitized images selected from the holding. The database is searchable by keyword or by pre-assigned subject themes.

Mi'kmaq Online Resource Guide

This project is definitely one of the most ambitious recently undertaken at NSARM. The Virtual Exhibit component, showcasing photographs, maps, sound recordings, documentary art and artifacts, was launched in April; the remaining resources in September. The heart of the Guide is a large database capable of searching across nearly 2000 library and archival holdings identified during the project – photographs, maps, bibliographic records, textual records, artifacts, sound recordings and moving images. Searching by place-name, surname and pre-assigned themes is possible. A narrative guide flows around the database and links to descriptions of creators, related file and item lists, and a large selection of digitized holdings. Treaties and petroglyphs are presented in special sections, and background information has been developed for Mi'kmaq genealogy, researching proof of status, and for explaining various Mi'kmaq orthographies and naming conventions.

250th Anniversary of the *Halifax Gazette*

NSARM partnered with several other organizations to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Canada's first newspaper. Cooperation from the Massachusetts Historical Society enabled a digitized copy of the initial issue (23 March 1752) to be displayed on the NSARM website. A series of public events was hosted in the PANS Building over the weekend of 23 March, co-sponsored by NSARM, the School of Library and Information Studies (Dalhousie University) and the National Library of Canada. As well, Archives staff developed a complementary exhibit, '250 Years of Newspapers', featuring representative selections of original newspapers published in Nova Scotia since 1752. In June, this exhibit was joined for the summer months by a larger one, 'Extra Extra: Read All About It! Highlights of the National Library of Canada's Newspaper Collection'. This exhibit included the real *Halifax Gazette* whose acquisition by the National Library of Canada was announced at NSARM.

Archival Description Project

This began in May 2001 as part of NSARM participation in the CAIN Initiative and will prepare fonds-level descriptions of private-sector holdings for inclusion in the BosaNova, ArchWay and CAIN databases. After several months of foraging through boxes and scrutinizing file and item lists, there are now approximately 150 RAD-compliant fonds descriptions and 150 name-authority records completed for colonial administrators, politicians, writers, artists, Loyalist families, corporations and associations – to name just a few – that are significant to the history and development of Nova Scotia.

A few particularly noteworthy additions to BosaNova include Helen Creighton, whose fonds documents her sixty-year career collecting and transcribing folk songs and folk tales; the Clara Dennis fonds, containing research on Nova Scotia history compiled during her career as a reporter and author; and the fonds of Scottish emigrant John Young and his sons William and George Renny, all of whom occupied high-level positions in Nova Scotia politics and law. The Miller Family fonds includes correspondence and other records documenting 260 years of the business affairs of Loyalist merchant Jacob Miller and his descendants in Lunenburg County. As for notable corporate records, the Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty fonds includes minutes, scrapbooks and case books of the society established in 1877 to protect and care for animals, and even children for a period of time.

NSARM-DUA Cooperative Acquisition Project

This project with the Dalhousie University Archives is well underway. It involves the patriation of university records, both official and associational, such as the papers of A. E. Kerr (president, 1945-63) and records of the former Nova Scotia Technical College; and the transfer to NSARM of Nova Scotia Government records such as the Labour Relations Board and the Royal Commission on Provincial Development and Rehabilitation, as well as government-related records such as the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union.

Acadian French Registers Project

As part of the forthcoming Acadian Celebrations in Nova Scotia, NSARM will soon begin development of an online searchable database for the baptisms, marriages and burials contained in two surviving pre-Deportation registers for the Roman Catholic Parish of St.-Jean Baptiste, Annapolis Royal, 1702-55. This will be a cooperative venture with the PANS Board of Trustees via the PANS C@P Site.

Cooperative Project with GSU

Peter Day, Genealogical Society of Utah, has micro-filmed the following records, which are or will shortly be available on self-serve microfilm: City of Halifax school registers, 1869-1930; Pictou County school registers 1886-1930; Education Records collection, 1872-1930; Divorce case files, 1757-1960; Land Grant registers (to 1900); and Halifax City and County assessment rolls, 1811-1948. He has also copied parts of the NSARM card catalogue system.

Corporate Records Management Policy

After extensive review, revision and refinement, the Corporate Records Management Policy (CRMP) draft has now been reviewed by the Deputy Ministers' Committee and forwarded for consideration and approval by Treasury and Policy Board, which is responsible for rolling out

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the upcoming version of the NS Government Management Manuals. At this stage, there has been evaluation by: NS Archives & Records Management internal Management Committee; Government Records Committee; Department of Justice Legal Review; clients & stakeholders in government departments, agencies, boards & commissions; IT Directors Forum; and Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Coordinator. Thank you to all those who provided feedback on the CRMP.

Pier 21 National Historic Site

Pier 21 has had some exciting staff changes: Kathy Murphy (formerly Public Relations Manager) is now their Group Sales Manager. Maria McGowan has been hired as the new Manager of Public Relations and Special Programming.

Their resource centre's collection of first hand arrival accounts, oral history interviews, images, and artifacts continue to grow. With funding from HISTORICA Canada, Amy Coleman was hired to write "Pier into Your Past: A Family History Resource and Activity Guide". This children's guide to genealogy was added to their education kit and was the focus of school group workshops held during Citizenship Week. During the week, Resource Centre staff member Amy Coleman worked closely with a National Archives consultant to conduct workshops for school children. Halifax Regional Library reference librarian Joanne McCarthy also conducted genealogy workshops on Heritage Day.

The Pier 21 facility continues to be a much sought after venue for community events. The launch of Dr. Brad MacRae's latest book "The Seven Strategies of Master Negotiators," featuring a section on Pier 21 booster Ruth Goldbloom was hosted. In April, the Pier saw the 2002 California Wine Fair and the associated Wine Makers Dinner which also supports Pier 21.

Saint Mary's University

The past year has been an active one. Last fall, the Archives received three grants from the University's Student Employment Experience Program (SEEP). These projects were intended to provide a meaningful work experience, on a part-time basis, to currently enrolled students. A separate SEEP position was approved on a full-time basis for Summer 2002.

The Archives was the recipient of two Young Canada Works Summer 2002 grants which resulted in activity on a number of projects including researching the University's history, subject-indexing the backlog of student publications, and records analysis of several administrative departments.

The Archives has received acquisitions from various university departments, very few of whom have a system in place for a regular transfer of material. Several small donations on the part of alumni have also enriched their collection of student records. The Archives anticipates that the anniversary year will result in an increase of archival donations by individuals.

The Archives has formed a close working relationship with Karen White of the Archdiocese of Halifax Archives, in recognition of the intertwined nature of the history of the two institutions. This relationship permits a decrease in delays for research requests from patrons, as information now flows more freely between the respective archives.

Both institutions have collaborated with Anne West in the production of a Saint Mary's coffee table book, focusing on the history of the university in images. The Saint Mary's University Archives is also collaborating with several departments on campus for projects related to SMU's anniversary. Plans for a year-long oral history project, and a commemorative calendar are progressing.

Anne MacLean has left the Archives to pursue Archival Studies at UBC. Her replacement, Hansel Cook, is a recent UBC library school graduate. Hansel is no stranger to the Nova Scotia archival community having worked, for a time, as Acting University Archivist at Dalhousie where he was the Archives Assistant for 4 years.

Shelburne County Genealogical Society

The Shelburne County Genealogical Society celebrated summer with a series of family festivals in which the genealogy and records pertaining to particular families or groups were featured. July saw the Bower family as the centre of attention while in August, Mayflower Ancestors were the featured group.

Earlier in the year, Mi'kmaq history month was celebrated with a display called Native Peoples of Shelburne County. The display was curated by Amanda Peterson who was employed through a grant made by the Aboriginal Peoples Training and Employment Commission, APTEC. Included in the display were information gained from searching old census records, and copies of marriage and birth certificates indicating native ancestry. Among the family names of the County that have Mi'kmaq connection are Burbine, Labrador, Luxey, Francis, Pictou, Paul, Charles, Hammond and Meuse.

The Society also used the APTEC grant to create a CD of cemetery records. Plans are underway for a virtual exhibit featuring James Harding, a prominent local shipbuilder.

The Society hired Margaret Wareham as office manager.

Université Sainte-Anne

In pursuit of its mission, the *Centre acadien* at *Université Sainte-Anne* (Pointe-de-l'Église/Church Point) received in January 2002 a grant to scan and digitize three important photo collections in its holdings. The project, estimated at over \$8,000, was financed in the amount of \$4,234 by the Canadian Council of Archives through its Canadian Archival Information Network (CAIN) program.

Among the many photo collections preserved at the *Centre acadien*, the three collections selected for this project were of special interest because of their connection to the Acadian heritage of southwestern Nova Scotia. They are: Collection Harold Robichaud (104 photos), John Collier, Jr., (49 photos) and Daniel B. Field (281 photos). All three collections have been located at the *Centre acadien* for a number of years.

All 434 photos have been scanned and digitized on to CD's and will be, for the most part, made available on the *Centre acadien's* website: <http://www.ustanne.ednet.ns.ca/cacadien/album.htm>. Not only will this

make these photos more available to the public, but being digitized they will be better preserved for a longer period of time. Naturally, for those photos in which people are identifiable, written authorization from these people or from their next of kin will be obtained before they are published on the Internet.

The *Centre acadien* has a mission of collecting, of preserving and of classifying all that deals with Acadian history and culture, particularly that of Nova Scotia, of making this material available to the professors, to the staff and to the students of the University, as well as to the public in general of promoting and of providing an outlet for the Acadian history and culture in Nova Scotia, firstly within the Maritime Provinces, and secondly within other community groups in Canada, in the United States of America and abroad.

For more information regarding the *Centre acadien*, visit its web site: <http://www.ustanne.ednet.ns.ca/cacadien/>.

Yarmouth County Museum Archives

Laura Bradley who has been the Archivist at the Yarmouth County Museum Archives for the past twelve years left her position to return to Ontario at the end of February. The new Archivist, who began work on March 19th, 2002, is Stuart McLean. Stuart comes to us with a BA in History and a Masters of Library & Information Science both from the University of Western Ontario. He has worked in Archival positions at both the J.J. Talman Regional Archives (Univ. of Western Ontario) and the Directorate of History & Heritage, Department of National Defence in Ottawa. Stuart also worked as a Genealogical Researcher at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador for several years. We welcome Stuart in his new position and hope that all his archival colleagues throughout the province will introduce themselves to him in the near future.



Anna Hamilton will be missed

On July 12 the Halifax paper contained the sad news of the passing of Anna Hamilton. Many CNSA members will remember meeting her at the events and workshops associated with our annual meetings. For many years Anna was a vibrant proponent of archives in her community of Tatamagouche and the surrounding area. Indeed for those in Halifax she at times seemed like the only advocate for archives in that part of the province.

Starting from scratch Anna worked long and hard to create the North Shore Archives. One suspects the acquisitions occurred after many cups of tea and persuasion from her house on the Brule Shore. Eventually the

archives outgrew where it originally was and relocated to quarters in the former hospital. Anna was more instrumental than she would let on in having the hospital kept and transformed into the Fraser Cultural Centre.

If one checks CAIN or ArchWay today there are descriptions for more than 25 fonds which together tell the story of settlement and progress on the North shore of Nova Scotia. It's a great legacy of Anna's work in archives and a work that we are sure the community in Tatamagouche will continue to pursue in the future.

[From the Halifax Chronicle Herald]

HAMILTON, Anna Marguerite
HAMILTON, Anna Marguerite - 83, Brule Point, Colchester Co., passed away July 10, 2002, in Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital, Tatamagouche. Born in Brule Point, she was a daughter of the late Allister and Christine (Baillie) Hamilton. Surviving are brother, Dr. William (Mariam) Hamilton, Sackville, N.B.; nephew, Brian Hamilton, Edmonton, Alta.; sister, Shirley (A. Hugh MacDonald), Maryvale; nieces and nephews, Allyson Egbert, Toronto; William Egbert, Scott Egbert, Edmonton; Kimberely Egbert, Antigonish; Daryl MacLean, Toronto; Karen Glazier, Stratford, P.E.I. She was predeceased by brothers, Alexander Hamilton and Elmer Hamilton; sister, Erlene Betty Griffin.

Ms. Hamilton was a graduate of Pictou Academy, Provincial Normal College, Truro and Acadia University (B. A., 1942 and M.A. 1954). She taught mathematics at Harvegal College, Toronto and later at Shelburne, Springhill and Wolfville High Schools. In 1957, she moved to Truro, joining the teaching staff at Colchester County Academy. From 1964 until 1974, she was an instructor in mathematics methodology at Nova Scotia Teachers College, Truro. Retiring in 1974, she returned to the Hamilton Century Farm in Brule Point.

During her retirement years she worked as a volunteer in a variety of local, provincial and national organizations ranging from the St. John Ambulance Association, Red Cross Society to Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. In the latter organization she occupied offices at the community and zone levels. She was a member of the Northumberland Arts Council and helped found the North Shore Archives located in the Fraser Cultural Centre, Tatamagouche. She served as archivist until

her death. Always and avid "crafts person" she excelled in crocheting, tatting, wheat weaving, origami, and furniture restoration. For several years she taught craft classes in these subjects at the community schools in Tatamagouche, River John and Wentworth.

She held office at the congregational level at St. Andrew's United Church, Truro, and in the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge of the United Church. A charter member of the United Church Women she was awarded a life membership in 1997. In addition, she completed two terms on the archives committee of the Maritime Conference and on several occasions was a delegate at both the conference and national council levels of her church.

Of all these many activities, it was the North Shore Archives which claimed a high priority. Today's valuable collection of documents, photographs, genealogical records and memorabilia are largely the result of her interest in local history.

A publication "Medical Doctors Of The North Shore" containing over 100 biographical sketches was completed during her "Watch" at the North Shore Archives. Her commitment to volunteerism was recognized by the Municipality of Colchester when she was presented with the Pettigrew Leadership award. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service in celebration of her life was held in Sharon United Church, Tatamagouche on July 13, at 2 p.m. with Rev. Bonnie Kelly officiating. Memorial donations may be made to the Lillian Fraser Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, North Shore Archives or Brule Community Centre. Arrangements are under the direction of Coulter's Funeral Home, Tatamagouche.

Can anyone use ... a microfilm camera a fancy microfilm camera

The Geological Survey of Canada Atlantic has a TFC (Tameran) - 6000 Automated Flow Camera system for 35mm microfilm available for permanent retention by an interested needy archives or records programme.

This camera is:

- ⇒ 72" W x 27" D x 78" H;
- ⇒ would require 10x12' of floor space to set up;
- ⇒ weighs approximately 1000 pounds;
- ⇒ requires a dedicated 20amp circuit.

Description of monitoring system and general data available upon request from Iris A. Hardy, Curator, National Marine Geoscience Collections. May be contacted by e-mail at: hardy@gsca.NRCan.gc.ca or phone (902) 426-6127.



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