

# CNSA Newsletter

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA ARCHIVES



In this issue...

## Summer's Highlights

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Susan McClure

Welcome to the return of the CNSA Newsletter! Read ahead to learn how the Council's staff, Sara Hollett and Lisa Snider, have been assisting members across the province, and then about interesting projects undertaken by many of our members. Be sure to read through to the last pages with announcements and an enlightening look back at an early CNSA newsletter. Thanks to Sara, Lisa, and members of the Executive and Committees for the time and energy they give to the CNSA. And special thanks to Communications & Awards board member, Sharon Murray, for reigniting the newsletter and helping keep our members connected!

Please think about getting involved with the CNSA. The Education Committee needs more members to help plan the spring conference, and every year we need new Executive Board members. You will have an influence on CNSA business and meet others committed to promoting archival excellence!

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES ADVISOR

Sara Hollett

Summer and Fall 2019 have been busy for advisory services at CNSA! I've traveled all over the province meeting members and doing site visits. In October, we joined forces with Kimberley Maguire, the Archives Advisor for the Council of Archives New Brunswick, to offer the **Introduction to Preservation for Archives** workshop. Kimberley, a former conservator, taught the workshop to an excellent group of Nova Scotians and New Brunswickers at the Tantramar Heritage Trust in Sackville, NB.

In November we partnered with the Beaton Institute at Cape Breton University for our **Introduction to Archives** workshop. Our group was small but mighty! During the hands-on portion, we were able to work with some semi-processed fonds supplied by the Beaton. The exercise was especially significant for participant Deanna (Dee) Ryan-Meister, who arranged and drafted a description for the Denis Ryan fonds. While Dee very much appreciated the opportunity to arrange her first-ever fonds, what made it even more special was her unexpected



Dee and Sara at the Intro to Archives Workshop

personal connection to the fonds. Dee is a distant relative of Denis Ryan from the well-known band, Ryan's Fancy. On top of this, the fonds included recorded music by Dee's Great-Uncle, Emile Benoit, from Cape St. George, Newfoundland and Labrador. Dee and I are pictured above showcasing her outstanding work! It was wonderful to watch participants go through the trials and tribulations of making sense of a complex fonds.



From the Intro to Preservation Workshop at Tantramar Heritage Trust, NB, Oct. 15-16



The small-but-mighty crew at the Intro to Archives Workshop, The Beaton Institute, CBU, Nov. 6-7



## FROM OUR MEMORYNS COORDINATOR

Lisa Snider

I have had the great pleasure of visiting institutions all across Nova Scotia to talk about MemoryNS:

- Archives du Centre acadien at Université Sainte-Anne
- St. Mary's Genealogy Research Centre at Sherbrooke Village
- Shearwater Aviation Museum
- The Library at the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry/Energy and Mines
- Annapolis Heritage Society
- Thomas Raddall Research Centre at the Queens County Museum
- Shelburne County Arts Council & Shelburne County Museum Complex
- Parrsborough Shore Historical Society
- Wallace and Area Museum
- Colchester Historeum
- Guysborough Historical Society
- Highland Village/Baile nan Gàidheal
- Isle Madame Historical Society
- Chestico Museum
- Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library/New Glasgow Public Library

Plus, I have visits planned with:

- Acadian House Museum
- The Halifax Citadel
- Dalhousie Libraries
- Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in MemoryNS training. I've enjoyed meeting so many members of the CNSA, and hope to meet yet more before my position ends in the new year!



## ACADIAN HOUSE MUSEUM, WEST CHEZZETCOOK

Shirley (Doucette) Lowe, Coordinator of the Veterans Project

This summer, our seasonal museum, Acadian House Museum in West Chezzetcook, worked on projects that had been neglected for several years. A project close to the hearts of our volunteers was the **Veterans Recognition & Collections Project**. This project involved collecting photos (mainly digital) and digital records for the veterans who served from our area, primarily in the First and Second World Wars. Of the 60 known WWII volunteers, there were four fallen soldiers and one woman. We have **collected nearly 50 photos** of these 60 volunteers from our area. We are struggling to determine the best media options for the photos and records, which could include a wall panel, manual records binder, digital, or all three. We have discovered some fascinating stories. These will be included as well. Our students at **L'Acadie Historic Site** were enthusiastic about their summer projects while completing their daily tasks of handling tours, events, and genealogy inquiries.



The Acadian House Museum, West Chezzetcook

“ We have discovered some fascinating stories.



## THE ARGYLE TOWNSHIP COURT HOUSE ARCHIVES, TUSKET

Kaitlin Wood, Municipal Archivist

This past summer had many highlights thanks to a dedicated group of summer staff and volunteers. In conjunction with municipal support, the funding we received through federal and provincial youth initiative grant programs allowed us to create seven positions.

The summer staff worked hard on a **variety of archival projects** including photographic digitization initiatives, database work, backlog reduction, and contributions to several indexes. We are excited to have started a new oral history project this year. Staff carried out oral history interviews and created transcriptions throughout the summer months. They also provided reference services to researchers, gave interpretive tours of the Court House & Gaol, aided with school programming, created content for our social media accounts, contributed to the production of the summer issue of **The Argus** – our quarterly publication – and managed the “Cell” gift shop.



ATCHA's summer staff

We were also happy to **partner with several community groups** this summer. Firstly, with the Abuptic Festival Planning Committee for an historical bus tour of Glenwood and the Argyles (located in the Municipality of Argyle), which was a big success. We also provided archival research support for a three-day event called *Island Memories*, which consisted of several historical talks on the communities of Surette's Island, Morris Island, and others. This event was also well attended and served as a fundraiser for the local community centre on Surette's Island.

We were pleased to host the local **Argyle Artisanal Farmers Market** on our grounds from June to the end of August. ATCHA offered a series of family friendly events on Wednesday afternoons in the Farmers Market tent, including an ice cream social, crafts, cookie decorating, and outdoor games. We also hosted two **Drumming & Sharing Circle** events in the tent over the summer months in partnership with Yarmouth Drumming and Sharing Circle, a local Métis organization.

“ **We are excited to have started a new oral history project this year.**

## COLCHESTER HISTOREUM, TRURO

Ashley Sutherland, Archivist

We had two students working in the Colchester Historeum's Archives this summer and two others in the Museum. During the month of June, approximately **290 students visited** the Historeum for school programming. The Archives developed a map activity, so students could do activities in both the museum and the archives.

We completed many small projects in the Archives throughout the summer such as scanning images, filing, and reorganizing and thinning-out boxes of photos that were over-stuffed. Big thanks to our volunteers, Joanne and Dave Hunt, who built shelves for us, creating additional space in the library for our growing collection! We added digitized photographs to Collective Access and created a total of **557 new records**. We also created **586 records for digitized maps**, which we had added to MemoryNS earlier this year for public access, but now the staff can access through Collective Access.



Summer students: Kenzie, Craig, Brianna, Abby, and Ashley

Our summer students **reappraised a large number of our books** throughout the summer, compiling a list of those that did not meet the CHS mandate, and re-homing over 100 to other institutions! Summer students and volunteers also contributed to *Historic Nova Scotia* – Brianna Crosby wrote a story about Dominion Chair Company and Janet Eisses wrote a

story about Northumberland Light and Power Company. Joanne and Dave Hunt painted the Archives wall and re-hung the AF Church map, land grant, and tapestry to make the space feel more visitor-friendly. They also assisted with moving shelving to **begin creating a Processing Room**. All of this took place while we served our visitors and assisted with research inquiries! We couldn't have done it without our team of summer students!

**“ We added digitized photographs to Collective Access and created a total of 557 new records. ”**

## COLE HARBOUR HERITAGE FARM MUSEUM

Heather Adams, Collections Manager

The Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum saw another fun and farm-y summer season filled with excellent events, awesome activities, and cheerful chickens. In June, we held our second annual **Fibre Frolic**, where the farmyard was filled with fibre vendors, and our sheep were sheared for another year. We hosted four fibre-related workshops, which were a great success! All-in-all, it was a terrific time!

The success of last year's **Farm Day Camp** led to us to expand the program this year, and we held not one, but two camps – one week in July for younger children, and one week in August for older children. The kids enjoyed agriculture and heritage-related activities, games, and crafts!

As a farm museum, we want to make sure we celebrate food and the harvest. To that end, **Feast! in the Farmyard** happened in August. This wonderful long-table dinner saw guests seated outdoors in our beautiful farmyard where they were treated to a delicious meal. The menu featured Sustainable Blue salmon, free-range chicken from Woolies of Upperbrook Farm, and Bridie's rustic sourdough loaves. We also partnered with our new neighbour, North Brewing Company, who served their delicious beer!



Scarecrows for Farm Fest

When school started in September, we welcomed students from the **Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University**, who spent the morning doing a mini-pickling workshop with Environment Manager, Emma, and Head Chef, Heather-Mae. The students also learned about wool processing from sheep to yarn, from volunteer, Sue, and Collections Manager, Heather.

We ended the season with a fantastic **Farm Fest**, where visitors were able to build scarecrows, try their hand at an apple press, learn about spinning wool, and buy fall-themed treats in the Giles House! It was a beautiful day, and a wonderful event!

Thank you everyone for an amazing season!



## DESBRISAY MUSEUM, BRIDGEWATER

Linda Bedford, Curator

The DesBrisay Museum in Bridgewater had a very busy summer. The museum held its first ever **Square Show**, which featured 8x8-inch squares of original artwork by Nova Scotia artisans. The exhibit contained 138 artworks in a variety of mediums including water colour, oil, graphite, and photography, all of which were for sale.



The Square Show at the DesBrisay Museum

Our Fall exhibit will feature **Letters from War** and will include two-dozen letters from our archival collection that were written by local soldiers

serving in the First and Second World Wars. The exhibit will also include a dozen historical photographs and postcards, which will complement several showcases of artifacts in the exhibit space.

An image of our **Christiana Morris porcupine quill decorated cradle (1868)** was featured in the Minneapolis Institute of Art exhibition catalogue *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists* (University of Washington Press, 2019).

Our **Engage & Explore** series of workshops feature events such as book launches; guest speakers on local history topics, watercolour painting, or photography; guided cemetery and church tours; making cards for our military troops; as well as artist talks by rug hookers, basket makers, and quilters. For these workshops, the museum ties in an artifact or archival document to the respective event, featuring a local artisan, craftsperson, or author, as well as promoting them in our gift shop. All of these new partnerships help bring awareness to the museum and its collections. Our museum collection of artifacts and archival materials are available to the public for viewing on NovaMuse: [www.novamuse.ca](http://www.novamuse.ca). Visitors can follow the DesBrisay Museum on Facebook or visit our website - [www.desbrisaymuseum.ca](http://www.desbrisaymuseum.ca) - to find out more about our museum's programs, changing exhibits, and events.

“ **All of these new partnerships help bring awareness to the museum and its collections.**

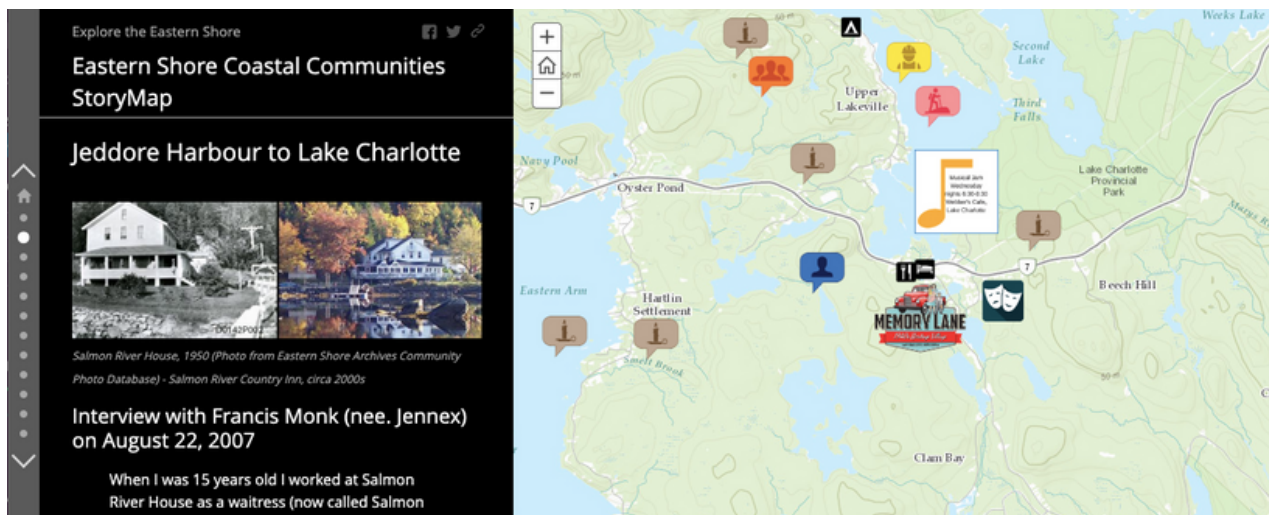


## EASTERN SHORE ARCHIVES, LAKE CHARLOTTE

Caitlin Smith, Social Media & Marketing Manager, Memory Lane Heritage Village

The **Eastern Shore Coastal Community Mapping Project** is a story-mapping project hosted by the Eastern Shore Archives. It was collected & managed by artist, Julie Adamson Miller, and focuses on the geographic area from Salmon River Bridge to Little Liscomb. Started in 2018, the goal was to provide context, understand local community values, and make connections between the communities and their marine environment by looking back through their fishing history and coastal heritage and ahead to the future.

In 2018-19, the information gathered was assembled onto two large paper maps, one showcasing the history of the Eastern Shore and the other highlighting the present with local residents' hopes for the future. The paper maps were presented at a number of open houses at local community venues in the Fall of 2018 and the Spring of 2019. The second phase of the project was to recreate the maps in an interactive digital format that would make them accessible to a broader audience through the Eastern Shore Archives' website. Julie and Thea Wilson-Hammond, Director of the Eastern Shore Archives, worked with local consulting firm Inlet Communications to digitize the maps using the ESRI Story Maps platform. All of that hard work has paid off and the digitized project is now live on the Eastern Shore Archives website: <https://heritagevillage.ca/home/index.php/archives/> The project will be officially launched this winter, 2019-20.



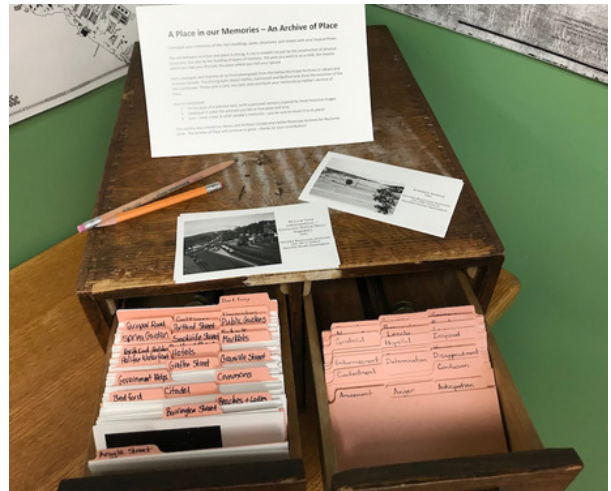
**Acknowledgements:** This mapping project has been sponsored, supported, and funded by: WWF-Canada, Seacoast Trail Art Association-Sheet Harbour and Lake Charlotte Area Heritage Society/Eastern Shore Archives. Interviews for stories by Julie Adamson, Margaret Bradley, Ruth Legge and from the Eastern Shore Archive's oral history collection. Project Artist & Manager, Julie Adamson. Digitized by Inlet Communications, Musquodoboit Harbour.

## HALIFAX MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

Susan McClure, Municipal Archivist

**Audio-visual Access Project:** Thanks to PADP funding through the Dept. of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Halifax Municipal Archives has ventured into the awesome but daunting world of audio-visual digitization. We inventoried over 2000 moving images and sound recordings, and from those selected 256 to digitize - focussing on older, more obsolete formats (8mm film, Umatic, DAT tapes), but also insuring we had a representative sampling of our a/v holdings. We now have digitized recordings of the contentious 1995 public hearings about the pros & cons of municipal amalgamation; movies of the construction and opening of the MacDonald Bridge in 1954; recordings of the emotional final meetings for Dartmouth and Halifax City Councils; and lots of parade footage! They are available for viewing and described in the Archives Database. We'll be featuring clips on YouTube through social media posts over the coming year, but here's a **sneak preview of the construction of the MacDonald Bridge**: <https://youtu.be/4GNzQwXK7rE>

**Nocturne:** We partnered with Library and Archives Canada on an *Archive of Place* installation for Nocturne. Visitors to the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 were invited to "catalogue" their memories inspired by historical city images under the "emotion" they felt at that place and time. (Yes, we used the *Nova Scotia Emotion Headings* thesaurus!) Haligonians waxed nostalgic about the Public Gardens (Happiness); Dartmouthians recalled childhood trips on the old ferries (Anticipation); and someone remembered dancing at the Chickenburger in Bedford (Amusement). Visit our Reading Room to add your memory to the *Archive of Place*.



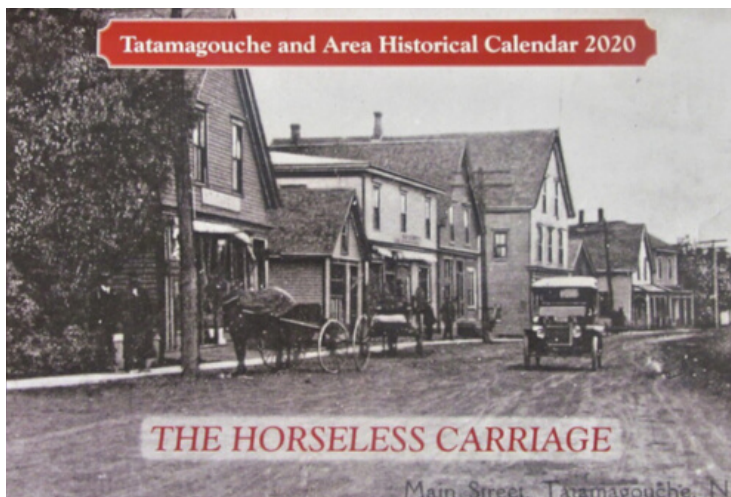
An *Archive of Place* installation at Nocturne

**New Mi'kmaq Source:** Guide For Mi'kmaq History Month, we created an on-line inventory of municipal records pertaining to Mi'kmaq people in the region. These records are fairly limited, as the primary government bodies responsible for Indigenous relations within Nova Scotia are at the provincial and federal levels, however the Guide points to interesting sources for genealogists, evidence of the complicated process of providing municipal services to reserves like the Cole Harbour Reserve, and to examples of how municipal officials have interacted with indigenous groups over the years. "Diversify the Archives" intern Elena Cremonese identified relevant material and scanned much of it to be available on-line. The Municipality's Indigenous Service Advisor reviewed the guide.

## NORTH SHORE ARCHIVES, TATAMAGOUCHE

Dale Swan, Museum Interpreter and Archivist

Crew members onboard the ship North Shore Archives have been very busy with projects in addition to assisting clients with genealogical requests. We are planning a new webpage and **have our very own Facebook page** rolling, adding ours to the two serving the Heritage Centre at Creamery Square. Members are out in the community interviewing folks who have stories to tell. We **refurbished the model village** of Main Street, Tatamagouche, in 1940, so it is ready to be displayed in a public venue this coming Christmas season. 2020 calendars are available for purchase, which we are selling along with books at various market venues. We assisted with several exhibits including the new Shortline Railroad exhibit in our museum. Two student **Heritage Fair projects** were displayed in the Archives this past summer, and a member talked about items she found in her house while renovating, as part of the museum's Show and Tell program on Saturday mornings.



2020 Calendars (above) & the refurbished model village of Main Street, Tatamagouche, in 1940 (below)

We held a successful **yard sale**, and members assisted with a fun fundraising dinner hosted by the museum. Our members visited over 40 museums, archives, and historic sites in Nova Scotia this past summer for networking and learning from others. We also provided copies of visual and printed materials to other museums for their exhibits. Our members come together weekly for individual and group project work called **Wednesday Afternoon at the Archives ...with Tea at Three.**

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**Members are out in the community interviewing folks who have stories to tell.**



## YARMOUTH COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, YARMOUTH

Lisette Gaudet, Archivist

Our archives were very busy this summer with many visitors coming in to research their families, the town, businesses and more. Our two summer students, Zoe Plourde and Blaine Saulnier, helped visitors as well as worked on several projects for the archives. We are currently working at creating an **Online Research Project** where much of our material will be accessed through our website. The students along with our Archivist worked at digitizing photographs, documents, and our Heritage Homes inventory to be used for this project. We're looking to launch this project this coming December.

In June, we marked the **50th anniversary** at our current location for the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives with a week-long celebration. During this week, the archives created a photo display of past and present museum exhibits and a photo display of past summer students. We also created **Sailing at the Museum**, an interactive, escape-room style game that sent people throughout the museum and archives, solving nautical puzzles and riddles to determine what type of sailor they were. Also for the 50th anniversary, we **interviewed 44 individuals** that have been or are currently involved with the museum and archives. These included directors, volunteers, summer students and staff, with each interviewed about their time here and what they love best about the organization. We presented a compilation video of all the interviews in August and the full copies are being stored in the archives.



Participants at "Sailing at the Museum"

With the flurry of activities happening, the summer flew by and now we begin our winter projects. For full details on events and other points of interest, we'd like to invite you to visit our website at [yarmouthcountymuseum.ca](http://yarmouthcountymuseum.ca).

**“ In June, we marked the 50th anniversary at our current location for the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives**

# TAKE NOTE

## News & Announcements

The CNSA is offering a **free workshop on how to write a successful PADP application!** In this interactive session, you will practice writing a grant application, get feedback, and have all your PADP questions answered. It will be a day packed with valuable information! Led by Patti Bannister, Provincial Archivist and former PADP adjudicator, **Monday, Dec. 9, 10am-3pm, at the Colchester Historeum, Truro.** Can't make it? There will be another session in the new year – stay tuned for details!

**The Education Committee is looking for a new member.** The committee coordinates and administers the education and professional training activities of the CNSA. The group's main activity is organizing the annual Spring Conference, and will meet regularly in the months leading up to that event. No previous experience is required; great for new members of the CNSA! If you are interested in joining, please contact either Leah Rae: [leah.rae@canada.ca](mailto:leah.rae@canada.ca) or Mary Flynn: [mflynn@schalifax.ca](mailto:mflynn@schalifax.ca).

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From CNSA President, Susan McClure:

I want to let you know about a recent decision made by the CNSA Executive. We **combined the budgets for two of your significant membership benefits:** the Professional Development and Training Assistance Bursary (PD/T) and Travel Reimbursement (\$1500 and \$800 respectively). There have been years when one or the other has not been fully expended, so combining the budgets permits more flexibility in supporting your training needs. Funds will now be expended until the total budget is depleted. So apply early!

The **PD/T bursary** provides up to \$500 to an employee of a general or institutional member to attend conferences, workshops, institutes, etc. beyond what the CNSA offers. The Education Committee considers applications throughout the year and recipients share a report on their training activity. Recently, members have used the bursary to attend the CCI Preservation workshop and the Oral History symposium in PEI.

The **Travel Reimbursement** assists members travelling to educational opportunities hosted or co-hosted by the CNSA (workshops, conferences, core curriculum). CNSA members may apply for a travel reimbursement of 60% of the total mileage costs based on the current Council mileage rate (\$.38/km), up to a total of \$200 per annum per member (organization or individual). Travel claims are submitted to the Archives Advisor within 30 days with proof of attendance.

# FROM THE VAULT

A look back at past newsletters



From the cover of the CNSA Newsletter, Summer 1985, issue no. 2:

## “ The Council of Nova Scotia Archives

*It is not some two years since a small group met to attempt to form an archival association of Nova Scotia. Time and growing support have now enabled a more visible presence to evolve. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia and the Public Archives of Canada have contributed financial support. Numerous volunteers have spent innumerable hours nursing the infant organization. Our turtle like progress has been deliberate - we wish to leave no one behind. The interested individual; the single person operation; the larger scale operations all merit equal consideration. It will be noted that we are a Council of "archives", not of "archivists". Just what an "archivist" is we will leave to the well honed navel gazing expertise of those west of the St. Lawrence River. We have more important matters to address - the ever increasing cost of supplies; the practical training necessities in which to house collections; how to do more with less funds - the list is endless. So too is the challenge.*

*Our hope is to create a provincial-federal-private industry-volunteer network which will permit the small tasks - those that now seem to fall between the cracks of funding requirements of most agencies - but which are of essential importance to the small archives - to be addressed. In this way the network we hope to create will have its strength in our smallest organization. We want then to build up rather than trickle down.*

[...]

### **Dr. Phillis Ruth Blakeley CM, D.Litt. LL.D.**

Provincial Archivist, Province of Nova Scotia, tendered her resignation at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 23 January 1985. The resignation is effective 1 April 1985. Our Fall newsletter will contain a review of Dr. Blakely's contributions to the local and national archival community.