Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe and Haudenosaunee peoples. Wilfrid Laurier University and The University of Waterloo are situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

AAO 2018 Conference Welcome Message

Welcome to the Archives Association of Ontario (AAO) 2018 Conference—Celebrations: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly hosted by the SouthWestern Ontario Chapter (SWOC). The conference theme is becoming as the AAO celebrates its 25th anniversary. This year the program explores celebrations and takes an inwards look at the interpretation of events and how our profession and the public evaluates their success. Sure to be thought-provoking, our program addresses Indigenous Archives, outreach and reconciliation, commemoration in response to Canada 150 and other provincial and local celebrations, how obsolete media carriers contributes to the narrative of storytelling, and the use of technology to provide access and frame celebrations, to name only a few topics.

We hope in advance that you enjoy the conference program and events, and that you get the chance to tour the region of Kitchener and Waterloo. Beyond intellectual stimulation, the Local Arrangements Committee offers a range of activities from tours and morning runs. If this is your first AAO conference be sure to come out to the First Timers reception. The conference opens at the breathtaking Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, and you will not want to miss the conference banquet as we celebrate 25 years of the association. Be sure to pick up your own copy of the AAO’s history book In Pursuit of the Archival Endeavour: The Story of the Archives Association of Ontario.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the planning of this year’s conference—especially Conference Co-chairs Julia Henry and Nick Richbell as well as the members of the Local Arrangements Committee; the Fundraising Committee for securing conference sponsorship; the Professional Developments Committee for offering engaging workshops; and the Program Committee for developing a strong conference program.

We hope to see you all again at the AAO 2019 Conference in Belleville!

Tracey Krause
President, Archives Association of Ontario (2017-2018)
Conference Team Welcome Message

Welcome to Waterloo! Over 20 years have passed since the AAO’s annual conference descended on the Region of Waterloo and we are very happy to welcome you all back. The University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University are proud to co-host this year’s conference during the AAO’s 25th anniversary year.

The Professional Development committee has organized 3 interesting workshops which will allow participants to learn about digital preservation with Grant Hurley or archival description in AtoM and applying taxonomies with Lisa Snider. This year’s conference program has a variety of thought provoking and informative sessions which we hope will leave you thinking differently about we celebrate archives and our collections.

We look forward to kicking off the celebrations at the conference Opening Reception being held at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo, then continuing the conversation at conference pub at The Lion Brewery. Foodies won’t want to miss the conference banquet at The Berlin in Kitchener. You’ll also be able to tour the Sites of Nonresistance exhibit at the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, visit the Region of Waterloo Archives, and see the award-winning Kitchener Public Library. Wherever your interests lie, there’s something for you to celebrate!

This conference would not have been possible without the support of the Local Host Committee (Karen Ball-Pyatt, Jessica Blackwell, Andre Furlong, Cindy Preece, Danielle Robichaud, Lorna Rourke, and Charlotte Woodley) the Program Committee (Deb Adesso, Kathryn Harvey, and Sara Janes), and the Professional Development Committee. We would also like to extend our thanks to the AAO Board and Secretariat for their support throughout the past year.

Julia Hendry  
Local Host Chair

Nick Richbell  
Program Chair
The 2018 Conference Silent Auction

The 2018 Shirley Spragge Silent Auction will open at noon on May 10th in the Senate and Board Chamber, and close after the first coffee break on May 11th. Winners will be announced at the Awards Luncheon.

Funds raised from the auction go to support the AAO Shirley Spragge Bursary that is awarded annually to a successful applicant to cover their travel and registration fee for the annual AAO Conference.

Shirley Spragge was an enthusiastic, dedicated archivist, well known in the archival community in Ontario and across the country. While she was most closely associated with Queen’s University, she was involved in many other endeavours, including archival associations, historical groups, church archives, and university faculty work. In 1995, Shirley died from complications associated with lupus.
Message from the Mayor of Waterloo

On behalf of Council and the citizens of the City of Waterloo, it is truly a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you attending the Archives Association of Ontario (AAO) Conference. The conference theme is “Celebrations: The good, the bad, and the ugly” and it is being held at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo.

Established in 1993, the AAO is a network of archives and archivists providing programs, education, advocacy and shared knowledge. It consists of 325 active members and it represents archival institutions and professionals as well as users and supporters of archives.

While you are in Waterloo, I hope you have a moment to explore the City of Waterloo Museum. The museum is a vibrant heritage portal that is located in Waterloo’s premier shopping centre in Conestoga Mall. It serves as a community-gathering place where residents and visitors celebrate stories, both local and global, which are unique to the City’s growth and evolution. Through its collections, exhibitions, programs, and volunteers, the Museum interprets the fabric of our past, and point the way to our future.

As Waterloo’s history junction, the City of Waterloo Museum is popular for ever-changing exhibitions that explore the hometown history of Waterloo. The City of Waterloo Museum’s vast collection includes the Signature Seagram Collection related to early manufacturing and service of distilled spirits. Original prints, paintings, photographs, craft, manufacturing artifacts, books and pamphlets tell the story of Waterloo’s fascinating municipal past. The sizeable collection of over 10,000 objects is continually being enhanced through additions from our local community.

Whether you are here as a speaker, organizer or an attendee, I truly hope you enjoy your time in Waterloo, and at the AAO conference.

Sincerely,

Dave Jaworsky
Mayor
Message from the Regional Chair

May 2018

Dear friends,

I am pleased that you have chosen to meet this year in Waterloo Region. As an historian by training, the creator of a municipal archives, a politician who needs to know background, and a family researcher, I know the value of archives and the role they play today. I am also aware of the challenges facing the profession as technology changes so much of how the historical record is kept.

I wish you well as you meet here in the Region and that, as you meet friends and colleagues and discuss “the good, the bad, and the ugly”, you will take time to enjoy the hospitality of our Region and the things that make it special. All the best in your conference.

Sincerely,

Ken Seiling
Regional Chair
Registration Check-In | Doris Lewis Rare Book Room, Special Collections & Archives, Dana Porter Library

Pre-Conference Workshop A, Introduction to Digital Preservation: key concepts and tools | Davis Centre Library, Room DC 1568
Grant Hurley, Scholars Portal

This course will introduce participants to the key concepts, practices and tools in digital preservation. It will be followed by a demonstration and discussion of a variety of tools that practitioners can begin using to meet their digital preservation goals. The course is intended for non-experts who would like to get to know the field and to apply tools and techniques to low-resource institutional environments.

The conference workshop is available to all members of the AAO at a rate of $125.00. Non-member rate is $200.00. Student rate is $100.00.

Pre-Conference Workshop B, Archival Description with RAD | Fretz Seminar Room at Conrad Grebel University College, Room 4224
Lisa Snider, Archives Association of Ontario

This workshop will provide a half-day introduction to archival cataloguing using the Canadian content standard, Rules for Archival Description (RAD), with a focus on entry into an AtoM database such as Archeion. Participants will learn how to do a multi-level archival description at the first level of detail for a fonds and series.

The conference workshop is available to all members of the AAO at a rate of $65.00. Non-member rate is $100.00. Student rate is $50.00.
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Pre-Conference Workshop C, Subject Headings and Taxonomies
Fretz Seminar Room at Conrad Grebel University College, Room 4224
Lisa Snider, Archives Association of Ontario

This workshop follows the morning session on Archival Description With RAD. The workshop covers subject headings as well as name access points, including for provenance and geographic names, with a focus on entry into an AtoM database such as Archeion.

The conference workshop is available to all members of the AAO at a rate of $65.00. Non-member rate is $100.00. Student rate is $50.00.

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Municipal Archives Interest Group (MAIG) annual meeting
Region of Waterloo Archives, 20 Weber Street East, 1st Floor

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tour 1 | Behind the Scenes at the Waterloo Region Museum
Meet at the Registration Desk at 1:30pm

Tour 2 | Kitchener Public Library and Region of Waterloo Archives
Meet at KPL, 85 Queen St. N. Kitchener, Information Desk, 1st floor

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
First-Timers Reception
Doris Lewis Rare Book Room, Special Collections & Archives, Dana Porter Library
Sponsored by University of Waterloo Library

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Opening Reception
The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery
25 Caroline Street North, Waterloo

9:00 PM -
Lion Brewery at the Huether Hotel
The Huether Hotel, 59 King Street North
In the Belly of the Whale: Reflections on the Precarious Future(s) of the Aging Settler/Colonial Museums and Archives of Canada

It was the whiteness of the whale that above all things appalled me.”
- Ismael in Moby Dick by Herman Melville, 1851

Registration Check-in | Paul Martin Centre foyer

Opening Conference Plenary
Senate and Board Chamber
Speaker: Andrew Hunter, Senior Curator, Art Gallery of Guelph
Moderator: Tracey Krause, Archives Association of Ontario
Opening Conference Plenary brought to you by Frame Discreet

Through a combination of personal stories, historical narratives, contemporary art and his own artist/curator projects, Andrew Hunter will consider the state of museums and archives in Canada, their problematic pasts and their precarious futures. Emphasizing the colonial roots of these institutions, Hunter will reflect on the challenge of adaptation and the growing demands from many communities for significant, foundational change in these so-called “public” institutions. Hunter draws on natural history/evolutionary theory and medical research into aging and mental illness (particularly dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease) in an ongoing search for ways of understanding the barriers to real change including cultural/historical ignorance embedded in Canada’s national narrative. Hunter is an outspoken advocate for the transformation of public collecting institutions, critiquing the lack of true cultural diversity at all levels of these institutions and their inability to engage with history, knowledge and “artifacts” that do not fit their traditional definitions. Rather than advocating for the expansion of current institutions (an approach that inevitably sustains and continues to prioritize settler/colonial collections, programs and methodologies) he has argued for turning over space and resources and encourages others to be an informed ally (to make space and speak out in support OF, not for) diverse communities historically “marginalized” by these institutions. Hunter, who lives with mental illness, also addresses the unhealthy culture of art museums with their deep connections to the overly competitive contemporary art world and their corporatized model of management.

Andrew Hunter is an accomplished curator, artist, writer, educator, community researcher and advocate. He recently became the Senior Curator at the Art Gallery of Guelph. From 2013 to 2017 he was the Fredrik S. Eaton Curator, Canadian Art, at the Art Gallery of Ontario where he co-curated, with Anique Jordan, the acclaimed exhibition Every. Now. Then: Reframing Nationhood, a critical reflection on Canada’s sesquicentennial featuring over 40 contemporary artists. Hunter has held curatorial positions across Canada and, as an independent artist and curator he has produced exhibitions and publications in Canada, the United States, United Kingdom, China and Croatia. A graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (Halifax), Hunter is known for his innovative narrative-based museum interventions and his ongoing creative research performance Professor William Starling’s Perambulations of Inquiry. With Lisa Hirmer, he founded the international creative research project DodoLab and has been Adjunct Faculty at the Ontario College of Art and Design University and at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture. Hunter’s curatorial work is often founded on archival research and collections and emphasizes interdisciplinarity, collaboration and narrative. He is committed to the museum as a truly publicly engaged institution of community learning and progressive thought. His first projects at AGG are 150 Acts: Art, Activism, Impact (with Shauna McCabe, AGG Director) and an expansive series of radio and podcast interviews with Black artists, scholars and activists produced with Nigerian/Canadian writer, curator and artist Liz Ikirako. Hunter’s upcoming exhibition and publication projects include The Drive (on colonial legacies of resource extraction in Canada) as well as projects with senior Indigenous artists Bonnie Devine (Anishinaabe/Serpent River First Nation), Shelley Niro (Haudenosaunee/Mohawk) and Jeff Thomas (Haudenosaunee/Mohawk). Hunter is 2nd generation Canadian and lives in Hamilton, Ontario, the city his grandparents emigrated to from Birmingham, England and Glasgow, Scotland, in the 1920s.
Along with all of the expected commemorative and critical activities that were a part of both the unofficial and official Canada 150 celebrations, numerous corporations took advantage of the sesquicentennial of Canada’s Confederation to market their products. These products included everything from toilet paper to lingerie. A funeral supply company in Atlantic Canada even went so far as to produce a Canada 150 coffin, which it auctioned off to a lucky funeral parlour.

In 2017, the Government of Canada published an application form and a set of guidelines for those companies and organizations wishing to use the official Canada 150 visual identity. In all, there were over 6200 applications, all of which were approved. At the same time, many companies tied their products to Canada 150 using their own marketing and branding ideas, most of which were tenuous at best.

This presentation will discuss the commercialization of Canada 150, the role the government played in facilitating and encouraging this process, and how the marketing of these products has made them an archive of how Canada 150 was obscured by meaningless product placement.

The idea of the archives as a memory bank is a popular refrain echoed throughout the professional literature. Whether articulated as part of a postmodernist critique of power and control, or referenced as part of a grant proposal to justify an archives’ cultural relevance, archivists, broadly speaking, have adopted the centrality of memory production as a core function of their repositories. It should be no surprise, then, to find that archivists seek with considerable verve to position themselves as key contributors to national, regional, and local celebrations of all varieties and sizes. The trend toward outreach on the part of archivists to make the archives more inviting to non-traditional researchers has only perpetuated this tendency within the profession. Overall, this is a positive development but one that assumes certain responsibilities. Chief among them the understanding between archivists that memory is not history, and that our participation in celebrations of the past should be predicated on providing greater historical awareness, not representations of social memory.

This presentation makes the case for historical awareness as a fundamental ideal that is indispensable to the modern archivist. It argues that archives are not neutral spaces, and that notions of tradition and nostalgia often cloud what many assume to be popular knowledge about the past. As such, it is imperative for archivists to bring a critical perspective to bear on their participation in celebrations of the past to ensure the distorting effects of social memory are not construed as history.
In the absence of a national web archiving strategy, Canadian governments, universities, and cultural heritage institutions have pursued disparate web archival collecting strategies. Carried out generally through contracts with the Internet Archive’s Archive-It service, these medium-sized collections (estimated around 40TB) amount to a significant portion of Canada’s born-digital cultural heritage since 2005. While there has been some collaboration between institutions, notably via the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) in western Canada, most web archiving collecting occurs in isolation. Researchers seeking to use web archives in Canada are thus limited not only to the Archive-It search portal, but also to exploring discrete collections scattered across several institutions.

Given the growing importance of web archives for scholarly research, our project aims to break down these silos and generate a common search portal and derivative dataset provider for web archiving research in Canada.

The Web Archiving for Longitudinal Knowledge (WALK) project has been bringing together Canadian partners to integrate web archival collections. Co-directed by a historian and an archivist, the project brings together computer scientists working on the Archives Unleashed Toolkit and Warclight, postdoctoral fellows working on governance issues, and undergraduate students running tests and usability improvements.

This presentation will provide an overview of the WALK project, focusing specifically on the questions of interdisciplinary collaboration, workflow, dataset creation and dissemination. As web archiving increasingly happens at the institutional level, the WALK project suggests one way forward towards collaboration, collection development, and researcher access.

With the ascendency of virtual reality (VR) as a consumer technology comes an exciting promise for the archival profession: while numerous scholars have commented on barriers to access inherent within the physical spaces of archival institutions, VR may offer a new modality through which to engage untraditional audiences. It may likewise enable interfaces that intuitively communicate archival principles through their design, and other features yet to be imagined. But even if the focus – as with any nascent technology – tends toward celebratory narratives of future possibilities, it is also important to recognize the opportunities for existing power dynamics to be re-inscribed, as well as the normative values deeply encoded in the technology itself.

This presentation will briefly discuss the process of developing an experimental VR prototype in Unity as an archival interface; the emphasis, however, will be on the literature review component of the project. Drawing on scholarly writing in the areas of archives and affect, archival interfaces and user experience design, the presentation will begin to map a site of inquiry for exploring VR in an archival context. In addition, to celebrating the potential of VR to support more user-friendly and user-sensitive interfaces, however, the presentation will also attend to the more problematic dimensions of using VR as a tool for archival access.
Buffet Lunch & AAO AGM
Senate and Board Chamber

Session 2A. Organizational Updates
Senate and Board Chamber
Moderator: Juanita Rossiter, Archives of Ontario
Contributors: Kathryn Harvey, University of Guelph, Archival and Special Collections | John Roberts, Archives of Ontario | Tracey Krause, AAO

The Steering Committee on Canada’s Archives (SCCA) will provide an update to the AAO community on its activities over the past year. Specifically, the SCCA will give an overview of the committee’s history and composition and outline the work of its three main working groups: the Archival Workforce Taskforce, the Awareness Strategy Taskforce, and the Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce. The presentation will conclude with an indication of timelines for completion of the work and information about how people can get involved.

Kathryn Harvey,
University of Guelph, Archival and Special Collections
&
John Roberts,
Archives of Ontario
Update on the Steering Committee on Canada’s Archives

Tracey Krause,
Archives Association of Ontario
Board of Directors Discussion: Future Directions

Exhibitor Fair & Refreshment Break
Senate and Board Chamber foyer
Session 3A. Celebrating Obsolete Media Carriers - Panel
Paul Martin Centre
Moderator: Carol Radford-Grant, City of Toronto Archives
Contributors: Blanche Joslin, Ryerson University | Rachel E. Beattie, Media Commons, University of Toronto | Leslie Thomas-Smith, Western University Archives | Bridget Whittle, McMaster University Library

Celebrating obsolete carriers by sharing our successes and challenges with these special formats. This panel brings together four entirely different perspectives to discuss obsolescence in archives. A student, archivist, librarian, and media archivist will all be celebrating the obsolescence they deal with in their respective institutions. Topics covered will include how to manage access and preservation when media is only a small part of an archives, two approaches to digital forensics, and the incredible challenge of finding and then maintaining playback for obsolete video formats such as Umatic video cassettes. Panel members will discuss the many varied issues they face and triumphs they celebrate when dealing with media that requires a lot of extra effort and specific specialized expertise to arrange, process, and provide access to. Along the way, this panel hopes to provide helpful hints and tangible coping techniques for those in a variety of institutions with obsolete archival materials. This panel is for anyone looking at an object in their archive and wondering, “What do I do with this?”.

Session 3B. Approaches to Outreach - Panel
Room 1E1
Moderator: Christina Wakefield, City of Thunder Bay Archives
Contributors: Tom Belton, Anne Daniel, & Amanda Oliver, Western University Archives

This panel presentation will focus on innovative ways that Western Archives is increasing its level of engagement with various communities, such as students, faculty, alumni, local researchers, and donors. Examples include a Canada 150 project to digitize and publish thousands of London Free Press photographs of the centennial year 1967 and the creation of a virtual exhibit celebrating the Labatt Brewing Company’s 170th anniversary. Western Archives’ staff used social media to promote and share content from the London Free Press and Labatt exhibits.

Beyond these specific initiatives, Western Archives also engages with various memory and heritage Facebook groups to promote the institution’s holdings. The panel will share some initial impressions and data related to the measurement of success of these initiatives.

The panel will also discuss the challenges of community engagement such as ensuring proper attribution, as well as balancing this work with more traditional collection management activities.
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Institutional Development Committee (IDC) Meeting**
Paul Martin Centre

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Tour 3 |** Laurier Archives and Laurier Library Makerspace
Meet at the Registration desk at 5:00 pm

**Tour 4 |** Mennonite Archives of Ontario - Guided tour of the Sites of nonresistance exhibit
Meet at the Registration desk at 5:00 pm

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

**Conference Banquet**
25 Years of the Archives Association of Ontario
The Berlin, 45 King Street West, Kitchener
Meet at the Registration desk at 6:30 pm for a shuttle to the banquet. The bus will return at 10:00 pm and stop at the Delta, the Comfort Inn and Hotel Laurier.
Fun Run or Walk 3-5 km
Meet in front of Laurier Library

Registration Check-in
Paul Martin Centre foyer

Session 4A. What Well Managed Records Can Tell
Paul Martin Centre
Moderator: Emily Sommers, University of Toronto
Contributors: Laura Hernandez & Roderick McFall, Library and Archives Canada | Naomi Recollet, University of Toronto & Iona McCraith, Archives Association of Ontario

In 2016-2017, a small collection of survey plans in the custody of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) grew exponentially when Natural Resources Canada’s Office of the Survey General transferred over 80,000 original survey maps and field books. Dating as early as 1760, these records document the survey, settlement, and sustainable use of Crown Lands. These records celebrate many milestones in our history, including the Klondike Gold Rush, the creation of Yukon Territory, and the French and British occupation of the Citadel in Québec. On the surface, it seems obvious that an acquisition as important and extensive as this should be cause for celebration; however, in the 21st century we need to acknowledge the narratives of colonialism and power that run throughout the records. While recognizing that Canada’s history is complicated, we need to ask ourselves how we celebrate such a significant acquisition in a way that is respectful, cooperative, and that engages in Reconciliation initiatives.

The vast majority of these Canada Land Survey Records (CLSR) document Canada’s Indigenous history and culture such as the distribution of language groups, treaty rights, the location of Residential Schools and Indian reserves, and Indigenous land use and occupation. Through these, we can see the history of Indian reserves, National Parks, military bases, railway development, the fur trade, the Arctic, and defining events such as the Klondike Gold Rush. The CLSR will contribute greatly to preserving the documentary heritage of Canada and its Indigenous People to the benefit of present and future generations.

These records are underused archives sources. In its ongoing effort to make them available to users, LAC staff have experienced many challenges. The 80,000 records are being processed, described, arranged, and made available to the public via finding aids, exhibits, and LAC’s online database. In doing so we are trying to balance the celebration of the acquisition of these records as important historical documents, while acknowledging the fact that they are testimony to the systematic control and mistreatment of Canada’s aboriginal people. How can LAC effectively describe and disseminate this significant acquisition to non-traditional users and researchers given the challenges posed by appraisal, database constraints, arrangement and description, and the size of the acquisition?
Session 4A. What Well Managed Records Can Tell
Paul Martin Centre
Moderator: Emily Sommers, University of Toronto
Contributors: Laura Hernandez & Roderick McFall, Library and Archives Canada | Naomi Recollet, University of Toronto & Iona McCraith, Archives Association of Ontario

Should we be celebrating, or is it time to take a step back and critically analyze our work and practices?

The authors of this presentation say, when it comes to working with Indigenous communities, celebration may not be quite the proper word. Connecting Indigenous communities with an archivist is just one small milestone in the larger narrative, which would be about continuing and developing a relationship, so that every First Nation community has a proper record management system and working archive. But how do we get there? Naomi Recollet will share her story of how she came to an archive program and her feelings of being labelled an “expert” from community members. She will share her experience as a student archivist given the challenge of establishing a formal archive program within an Indigenous context and community. She will share on the meeting with the AAO Advisor in July 2017 at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation on Manitoulin Island, and why she chose to reach out to the AAO. Iona McCraith will reflect on working as an Advisor within an Indigenous community, and share her ideas on how to develop a successful relationship. She will also share knowledge, she is learning, about how archives and records are viewed in Indigenous communities as opposed to a colonial settler perspective.

Session 4B. Expectations, Exhibitions, and Experiences - Panel
Room 1E1
Moderator: Robin Keirstead, Western University Archives
Contributors: Alison Little, Archives of Ontario | Laurie Dougherty, Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives | Petal Furness, Grey Roots Museum & Archives

The Archives of Ontario will lead a panel discussion on the development, delivery, and outcomes of exhibition projects in archival spaces – focusing on those exhibitions undertaken in connection to major historical anniversaries or cultural events. This discussion will provide an opportunity to review and evaluate exhibitions, identify challenges, spotlight successes, and flag key strategies for future projects. With speakers from archival and memory institutions across the province, this panel will provide insight into planning and coordinating exhibit projects of different scales and formats, and leave with best practices to help guide future exhibition planning at their own institutions!

Exhibitor Fair & Refreshment Break
Senate and Board Chamber foyer
Joel Sherlock, Indigenous and Northern Affairs

What do we do once the celebration is over?: Service delivery transformation in the spirit of reconciliation

Sean Smith, Archives of Ontario

This treaty has been wrinkled for more than 100 years

Session 5A. Indigenous Archives, Outreach and Reconciliation

Paul Martin Centre

Moderator: Danielle Robichaud, University of Waterloo Library

Contributors: Joel Sherlock, Indigenous and Northern Affairs | Sean Smith, Archives of Ontario

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was lauded as a good first step in repairing the relationship between the Government of Canada and the First Nations of Canada. Since the Commission closed its doors in December 2015, the question now is how public institutions can transform so that reconciliation can truly be realized once the celebration has ended. The Genealogical and Archival Research Unit (GAR) is a small wing of the Indian Registration Program at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Its main purpose is to provide research support to internal clients, and research services to the general public.

This presentation will provide a critical analysis of the changes to GAR’s delivery of service to external clients. It will also discuss some of the obstacles in providing excellent client service in terms of privacy legislation, changes to the Indian Act, client needs, and support from senior management.

Certainly, reconciliation is a long process and no one person or institution will be able to reconcile Canada’s turbulent past with its Indigenous Peoples, but rather it will take a collective effort of all institutions that serve Indigenous people to truly carry out this process. GAR is trying to do its part in the reconciliation process.

As much as possible, this presentation aims to provide a candid, insider’s perspective on working as a heritage professional within the Federal Government, and in a department whose main priority is not to provide archival services to the public.

In 2013, Treaty 9 left the vaults of the Archives of Ontario for the first time to travel to a conference organized by the Mushkegowuk Council in Moose Factory. At the time, the request was seen as a singular event. However, with the recent surge in awareness around treaties, by the time of this year’s AAO Conference, AO staff will have travelled with the Treaty on three separate occasions.

The Mushkegowuk and Anishnaabe peoples of northern Ontario have long held that Treaty 9 documents only part of what was orally agreed to when it was first signed in 1905. Recently uncovered archival evidence, specifically Commissioner Daniel G. McMartin’s diary, housed at the Queen’s University Archives, supports Indigenous understanding of the Treaty leading to renewed interest in it. To understand the complete story of the Treaty is an act of healing; returning the Treaty to the community is a small step towards reconciliation.

By sharing the document, the AO has gained an increased appreciation for its importance to Indigenous communities. We have not only had to re-examine our responsibility to preserve a significant record but also what it means to make it available. Sharing the Treaty has not only become a significant point of engagement with Indigenous communities for the AO, it has also challenged long held beliefs about archival practice.

The AO has been fortunate to witness the celebrations that have accompanied the return of Treaty 9, but recognizes that these celebrations are not ours to own. This presentation will examine the AO’s experiences in sharing Treaty 9 and will explore such questions as:

- Does a document end its life in the archives?
- What is an Indigenous perspective on the records we hold and what does this mean for our practice?
- What do the imminent Treaty 9 negotiations say about the value of archives?
- How far should we go to make records available?
Session 5B. Context and Commemoration
Room 1E1
Moderator: Rodney Carter, RHSJ St. Joseph Region Archives
Contributors: Leah Sander & Sarah Cook, Library and Archives Canada | Megan Kerrigan, Providence Care

Documenting the act of commemoration: Panel

The Canada 150 Secretariat was created in May 2015 under the Department of Canadian Heritage to coordinate and oversee activities related to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. This included oversight of Canada 150 activities within the Government of Canada, as well as liaison with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, and private and not-for-profit Sectors.

In the fall of 2017, as the Secretariat closed up its activities, it needed Library and Archives Canada’s advice and approval on what records LAC deemed as archival, under the applicable LAC disposition authorization. This required the LAC archivist to conduct a more detailed analysis of the records by the Secretariat.

This presentation will be a case study of how these records of commemoration were appraised for archival value. Commemoration of a national event by the federal government is a reflection of how government sees itself, the country and its citizens at a particular moment in time, with the potential to touch on opposing themes of identity and belonging, exclusion and dissent. As such, the archival record of commemoration itself constitutes a rich heritage worth preserving for future generations.

The Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau (CGMPB), the precursor to the National Film Board, distributed non-fiction films in Canada and internationally. One of its most important films was “Salute to Valour”, the filming of the July 1936 pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge. During this commemorative event more than 6,200 Canadian veterans and their families crossed the Atlantic on five ocean liners and converged on the monument. King Edward VIII unveiled the monument and it was broadcast live back to Canada and around the British Commonwealth. At the same time, the CGMPB filmed the ceremony and this production was distributed the next year across Canada. However, the vast literature on the Vimy battle and its memory makes almost no reference to “Salute to Valour”.

The 100 year anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge in April 2017 saw a new pilgrimage to Vimy to witness the re-dedication of the monument. Footage from the 1936 Vimy unveiling was in countless television news stories related to the 2017 pilgrimage, however, the original official film, “Salute to Valour”, remains lost. This presentation will reconstruct the context of this forgotten film, including its creation, distribution, and its ultimate fate. Even if a film production is lost, there may still be traces of the record within other audiovisual works. However, archival footage that is re-used in modern productions or that which is stored in stock shot libraries can be decontextualized from its original source. Contextual research into the history of the record can ultimately help reclaim orphaned footage while providing new perspectives to a commemorative event.
Session 5B. Context and Commemoration

Moderator: Rodney Carter, RHSJ St. Joseph Region Archives
Contributors: Leah Sander & Sarah Cook, Library and Archives Canada | Megan Kerrigan, Providence Care

Documenting the act of commemoration: Panel

After more than a decade of planning, Providence Care Hospital in Kingston opened in April 2017, becoming one of the first hospitals in North America to fully integrate long-term mental health programs with physical rehabilitation, palliative care, and complex care. The new hospital replaced and integrated two older sites: St. Mary’s of the Lake Hospital and Mental Health Services. These two hospitals had a long history in Kingston, each with unique mandates, sponsors, and staff and patient populations.

St. Mary’s of the Lake, purchased by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in 1904, served as a school, orphanage, and novitiate, and in 1946 opened as a hospital for the “chronically ill.” Mental Health Services, formerly Rockwood Asylum then Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, has origins dating back to 1856. Many firsts in Canadian mental health were accomplished there.

In the lead up to the new hospital opening, Providence Care was challenged to integrate two different staff and patient populations. “Celebrating the Spirit” is the initiative adopted by Providence Care to accomplish this. As keeper of the corporate memory, the Providence Care Archives was uniquely positioned to lead the “Celebrating the Spirit” initiatives, particularly those showcasing the history of each site. The Archivist used heritage to promote pride and excitement in the shared experiences and values of both sites. Celebration remains an important aspect of archival work, as shown in the case of Providence Care, where celebration supported the culture building happening at a unique opportunity in time for the organization.

AAO Awards Luncheon

Awards Lunch brought to you by Ancestry
Awards presented by Robert McIntosh, Director General of Archives Branch, Library and Archives Canada

6A. Our Past Makes Our Present, Makes Our Future

Moderator: Dana Thorne, Lambton County Archives
Contributors: Paul Henry, City of Ottawa Archives | Ellen Millar, Simcoe County Archives | Marissa Paron, Library and Archives Canada | John Smart, Retired Alonquin College

The Organizational History Committee serves to celebrate the achievement of 25 years of the Archives Association of Ontario.

Beginning in 2015, with substantive work beginning in 2016, the committee has been tasked with the creation of an organizational history of the AAO, beginning with its antecedents, the Toronto Area Archivists’ Group and the Eastern Ontario Archivists’ Association, leading to the Ontario Association of Archivists and together, with the Ontario Council of Archives, joined together in 1993 to form the AAO. The organization history will be published as part of conference 2018.

This presentation will serve as a guided interview, in the style of CBC’s The Next Chapter program, with members of the editorial and author teams discussing both the research and writing process, and also as an opportunity to share some of the narrative highlights of the book and reflect on AAO stories. The membership will be invited to ask questions of the team, with a concluding reflection on AAO to come by a member of the present board.
3:15 PM - 3:45 PM  
**Refreshment Break**  
Senate and Board Chamber foyer

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM  
**Closing Plenary**  
Senate and Board Chamber

Speaker: Carole Gerson, Professor, Department of English, Simon Fraser University

Moderator: Kathryn Harvey, University of Guelph, Archival and Special Collections

**Recognition and Commemoration of Pauline Johnson**

The name of Pauline Johnson (1861-1913) is probably familiar to most of you, for documents and assorted remnants of her life and career are preserved in many Ontario archives, museums, and other institutions. What I find particularly striking about this important Mohawk poet, in contrast to other figures in Canada’s literary history, is the range of formats in which she has been recognized over more than a century, by governments, organizations, and individuals: these include editions of her writings, musical settings of her poems, stage enactments of her personal story, public sites and monuments, a chocolate company, a postage stamp, and a First World War machine gun. In this talk, I’ll discuss how these commemorative gestures reflect Johnson’s changing significance as both a person and a persona – i.e. both the historical woman and the self-representations she crafted on the stage and the page – in relation to Indigenous responses and to mainstream Canadian culture.

Dr. Carole Gerson (FRSC) has been teaching for many years in the English department at Simon Fraser University, where she holds the position of University Professor. Co-editor of volume 3 (1918-1980) of *History of the Book in Canada / Histoire du livre et de l’imprimé au Canada*, she has published extensively on Canada’s literary and cultural history with a focus on early Canadian women writers. These authors range from well-known figures such as Pauline Johnson and L.M. Montgomery to more obscure figures who can be found in her two databases: Canada’s Early Women Writers ([http://digital.lib.sfu.ca/canadas-early-women-writers](http://digital.lib.sfu.ca/canadas-early-women-writers)) and the Database of Canada’s Early Women Writers ([https://dhil.lib.sfu.ca/doceww/](https://dhil.lib.sfu.ca/doceww/)). In 2011, her book, *Canadian Women in Print, 1750-1918*, won the Gabrielle Roy Prize for Canadian criticism. In 2013 she received the Marie Tremaine medal from the Bibliographical Society of Canada.
Explore more of your family story—with Ancestry and AncestryDNA.

AncestryDNA
- The only consumer DNA test with over 350 regions
- 5x more regions than other DNA tests
- We make it easy to connect with living relatives
- Find new relatives—and grow your family tree
- Discover the places your ancestors called home

Ancestry
- The world’s largest online collection of family history records
- The only place with over 100 million family trees
- We add an average of two million records to our sites daily
- Start with a name and build your family tree
- Share your discoveries and connect with our community

Only Ancestry combines access to 10 billion historical records with the most detailed consumer DNA test.

AncestryDNA
- The only consumer DNA test with over 350 regions
- 5x more regions than other DNA tests
- We make it easy to connect with living relatives
- Find new relatives—and grow your family tree
- Discover the places your ancestors called home

Ancestry
- The world’s largest online collection of family history records
- The only place with over 100 million family trees
- We add an average of two million records to our sites daily
- Start with a name and build your family tree
- Share your discoveries and connect with our community

Explore more of your family story—with Ancestry and AncestryDNA.

AncestryDNA
- The only consumer DNA test with over 350 regions
- 5x more regions than other DNA tests
- We make it easy to connect with living relatives
- Find new relatives—and grow your family tree
- Discover the places your ancestors called home

Ancestry
- The world’s largest online collection of family history records
- The only place with over 100 million family trees
- We add an average of two million records to our sites daily
- Start with a name and build your family tree
- Share your discoveries and connect with our community

Only Ancestry combines access to 10 billion historical records with the most detailed consumer DNA test.
The only address you need to know for the best variety of Archival Quality Products!

Email: info@universityproducts.com Ph: 1.800.628-1912 Fax: 1.800.532.9281

WE PROTECT WHAT YOU VALUE MOST™

From the everyday to the extraordinary – store, manage and transform how your business gets done.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT / SECURE STORAGE
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION / SECURE DESTRUCTION

IRON MOUNTAIN™

1.800.327.8345
IRONMOUNTAIN.CA

Whether it’s a small media transfer or a large-scale asset migration,
Flume Media Archiving can deliver a cost-effective and reliable solution for the digital preservation of your media content.

Flume Media Archiving specializes in professional audiovisual digitization and consulting services.

300 New Toronto St. Unit 3, Toronto, ON M6V 2E8 | 416-621-4826
www.flumemedia.com | @flumemedia
From Physical 2 Digital, we help you scan, store, and access your archives. We’ll give you the tools to do it in house or we can do it for you.

Scan It
Store It
Access It

Contact us for a free consultation
1-877-726-3933

www.spacesaver.ca | jpaolucci@spacesaver.ca | www.nimble.ca

Book and Paper Conservation Services
London, Ontario, Canada
519-495-3402
www.bookandpaperconservationservices.com
info@bookandpaperconservationservices.com

Professional conservation services for works of art on paper, archival materials, and rare books. Proudly serving the library and archives community in Ontario.


Active preservation, secure access and flexible collection management in one easy-to-use application - learn more and meet the team at the Preservica table.

Get to know us at preservica.com

Preservica
Active digital preservation
Thank you to our Sponsors!

We are also grateful for the following in kind supporters: University of Waterloo Library for First-Timers Reception space, refreshments, and pre-conference workshop space; Conrad Grebel College for pre-conference workshop space; and Porter Airlines and Air Canada for discounted travel rates.
In Pursuit of the Archival Endeavour

The Story of the Archives Association of Ontario

Tracking the history of the Archives Association of Ontario (AAO) from its origins in the 1970s as the Toronto Area Archivists Group and the Eastern Ontario Archivists Association, In Pursuit of the Archival Endeavour documents the evolution of archival associations in Ontario. By the time of the merger in 1993 of the Ontario Association of Archivists and the Ontario Council of Archives, the AAO had become the voice of archivists and archives in the province. Over the course of its first 25 years, the AAO has faced crises both financial and political while addressing the needs of the profession and its institutions. In a testament to the strength of the AAO’s grassroots origins, the roster of archivists who have served as board members, as staff, and as committee volunteers reads like a who’s who of today’s archival landscape. And on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, the Association looks forward to the next stage in its evolution.

Edited by Paul J. Henry, Karen Teeple, and Brian P.N. Beaven. Authors: John Smart, Brian P.N. Beaven, Anne Hepplewhite, Ellen Millar, Marissa Paron.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS