

Archives Association of Ontario &
Association for Manitoba Archives

ARCHIVES

CONFIDENTIAL

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS
THUNDER BAY 2016

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 - Friday, May 13, 2016

Prince Arthur Waterfront Hotel & Suites
17 North Cumberland Street
Thunder Bay, ON

AAO/AMA Joint Conference brought to you by the City of Thunder Bay

WELCOME TO THE 2016 JOINT AAO/AMA CONFERENCE

Welcome to the Archives Association of Ontario (AAO) and the Association for Manitoba Archives (AMA) 2016 Joint Conference—*Archives Confidential: Breaking Down the Barriers* hosted by the Northwestern Ontario Archivists' Association (NOAA). Our program explores issues seen as taboo within our community, as well as those that are often overlooked, are not addressed in an inclusive manner, or that create discomfort or discord in the relationships between practitioners, record creators, donors, users of archives, and the general public. Sure to be thought-provoking, our program addresses truth and reconciliation, records with which we might not be comfortable as professionals, in addition to how we mediate discovery, privacy and identity in archives, to name only a few topics.

We hope that you enjoy the conference program and events, and that you get the chance to tour beautiful Thunder Bay. We encourage you to visit Fort William Historical Park, explore downtown Port Arthur, try Finnish cuisine at the famous Hoito restaurant, and star gaze at the David Thompson Astronomical Observatory. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the planning of this year's conference - especially the invaluable Matt Szybalski and the members of the Local Arrangements Committee; the Fundraising Committee for securing conference sponsorship; and the Program Committee for developing a strong conference program.

Marissa Paron, President
Archives Association of Ontario

Emma Prescott, Chair
Association for Manitoba Archives

SILENT AUCTION

Support the 2016 Conference Silent Auction by bidding on an array of handcrafted goods, books, art, and gift baskets. Funds raised by the auction will go towards the AAO Shirley Spragge Fund that is awarded annually as a travel bursary to enable a successful applicant to attend the AAO Conference.

The Conference Silent Auction, located in Salon E, will open at noon on May 12th and close after the first coffee break on May 13th. Winners will be announced at Friday's luncheon.

Shirley Spragge was an enthusiastic, dedicated archivist, well known in the archival community in Ontario and across the county. 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. Shirley died from complications associated with lupus in 1995.

AAO/AMA PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

For a bit of healthy competition between the provinces, and to encourage conference delegates to get out and see some of Thunder Bay's sights, you are welcomed to participate in the **AAO/AMA Photo Scavenger Hunt!** The goal is to take photographs of as many of the locations and activities listed below. The photo scavenger hunt will run the length of the conference! The lucky province will be announced at Friday's luncheon.

Each province will compete as a team. Designated team members will submit photos of each completed task. If both provinces complete the list (or if neither do..!), then the province with the most points wins.

Submit your photos by posting them to Twitter or Instagram with the conference hashtag **#aaoama16** and state which association you are from **#aao** or **#ama**. Photos must be submitted by 11 am on Friday, May 13.

1 point each:

- A member of your team enjoying locally roasted coffee or locally brewed beer
- The Thunder Bay Tourist Pagoda
- Standing in the splash pad at Prince Arthur's Landing
- Your favourite piece of public art
- Your best view of Lake Superior
- Visiting Fort William Historical Park (location for walking tour and conference dinner)

2 points each:

- Riding on Thunder Bay Transit (\$2.65 cash fare; some tickets available to conference attendees on request)
- Visiting the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame (approximately 10 minute drive or 30 minute bus ride)
- Visiting the Thunder Bay Museum (approximately 10 minute drive or 30 minute bus ride)
- Visiting the Thunder Bay Art Gallery (approximately 10 minute drive or 40 minute bus ride) or Definitely Superior Art Gallery (approximately 10 minute walk)
- At the Finnish Labour Temple / Finlandia Hall / Hoito Restaurant (Bay & Algoma neighbourhood, 15 minute walk or short bus ride)
- Shopping at a locally owned business
- The view from Hillcrest Park (5 minute drive, 10 minute bus ride, 25 minute walk)

3 points each:

- A photo of you in Thunder Bay as a child (or at least 15 years ago)
- Visiting the Terry Fox Memorial (approximately 15 minute drive, no bus available)
- Visiting Kakabeka Falls (approximately 30 minute drive, no bus available)

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATIONS

The Archives Association of Ontario (AAO) is a network of archives and archivists providing programs, education, advocacy and shared knowledge. Consisting of approximately 300 members, the AAO supports and promotes the work of archivists in preserving the history and culture of Ontario and its citizens. It was established in 1993 as a result of the amalgamation of the Ontario Association of Archivists and the Ontario Council of Archives.

The Association for Manitoba Archives (AMA) was created in 1992 to merge the major programs and services of its predecessors, the Association of Manitoba Archivists (founded in 1980) and the Manitoba Council of Archives. This merger occurred shortly after the Association of Manitoba Archivists' and Manitoba Council of Archives' joint publication of Plan 2000: The Manitoba Archival Community in the 1990s in March 1991. This publication came about as a result of the 1988 Manitoba Archival Needs Assessment Study, The Past Is Present.



Archives Association of Ontario



ASSOCIATION *for*
MANITOBA ARCHIVES



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of my colleagues on Council and the Citizens of Thunder Bay, I welcome delegates to the Joint Conference of the Archives Association of Ontario and the Association for Manitoba Archives to the City of Thunder Bay.

Archives are important because they enrich and provide the basis upon which the stories of our lives are written. Archives provide access to knowledge and information, and root us in our personal and community history.

Archivists are important because you are the ones who identify, preserve, and provide access to records that permanently record the culture of our society.

Sometimes those records and those stories can be uncomfortable to talk about. And so I commend you for your courage in tackling some of those difficult issues – truth and reconciliation, records of trauma, issues of race and gender representation to name a few – at your conference here in Thunder Bay. Your conference is also about community building and collaboration so I'm especially pleased to welcome archivists from across two provinces.

Thunder Bay is the most dynamic city in the most beautiful part of the province. Come early, come often, and stay a while to explore all that we have to offer.

Again, on behalf of the City Of Thunder Bay: welcome to all delegates to this important event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith P. Hobbs".

Keith P. Hobbs, Mayor

City of Thunder Bay
www.thunderbay.ca



8:30 AM -
5:00 PM

Registration Check-in | Salon E

9:00 AM -
4:30 PM

Pre-conference Workshop Emergency Planning and Salvage | Salon A

Instructor | *Iona McCraith, AAO Archives Advisor*

Do you have an emergency plan but aren't sure that you could implement it in the event of a fire or flood in your archives? Not really sure what to do with that box of wet documents or photographs? Haven't had experience organizing and leading a response team? Join your colleagues in this one-day workshop to gain knowledge in emergency response and salvage procedures. Topics include:

- *Roles of emergency response team members*
 - *Health and safety issues*
 - *Effective communication with your team and the media*
 - *Special issues to consider during salvage operation*
 - *Salvage priorities*
 - *Salvage procedures for archival records*
 - *Emergency response resources*
-

2:00 PM -
4:00 PM

AAO Municipal Archives Interest Group (MAIG) Meeting | Salon D

5:00 PM -
6:00 PM

First-Timers Reception | Salon E

An opportunity for those who have never been to an AAO or AMA conference or event to meet each other and the Directors of their respective associations.

7:00 PM -
9:00 PM

Opening Reception: Thunder Bay Military Museum & O'Kelly Armouries (317 Park Avenue)

9:00 PM -
12:00 AM

Pub Night | The Foundry Pub

After the Opening Reception concludes, join your colleagues at The Foundry Pub, located at 242 Red River Road, along the way back to the hotel. A great menu includes locally produced food and drink.
<http://www.thefoundrypub.com/>

8:30 AM -
5:00 PM

9:00 AM -
10:00 AM

Registration Check-in | Salon E

Opening Conference Keynote | Provincial Room *Keynote Address brought to you by Carr McLean*

Moderator | *Scott Goodine, Archivist of Manitoba*

Speakers | *Dr. Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada & John Roberts, Chief Privacy Officer and Archivist of Ontario*

In their opening keynote, Dr. Guy Berthiaume and John Roberts will discuss building relationships and collaboration with and between the archival community at both the national and provincial levels; and the roles between the federal and provincial institutions and councils like the National, Provincial and Territorial Archivists Conference (NPTAC). They will also speak to the next steps and priorities of Canada's Archives: A vision and areas of focus for 2015-2025 strategy.

Dr. Guy Berthiaume assumed the position of Librarian and Archivist of Canada on June 23, 2014. Prior to joining Library and Archives Canada, he was the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec between 2009 and 2014, following a 30-year career in academia. Dr. Berthiaume holds a Doctorate in History. In addition to serving as a professor of Ancient History at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), he held administrative positions focusing on research and university development. Previous roles include Vice-Rector, Development and Public Affairs, Université de Montréal, and Vice-Rector, Research and Creation, UQAM.

John Roberts assumed the position of Chief Privacy Officer and Archivist of Ontario in September 2015. Prior to joining the Archives of Ontario, John held a range of operational, policy and senior leadership roles in New Zealand. His extensive knowledge of information management and privacy protection has contributed to creating and leading policy design and implementation of new public recordkeeping legislation; supporting the integration of Archives New Zealand, the National Library of New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs; and leading strategic engagement with New Zealand state sector agencies to support their involvement with the Government Chief Information Officer and Government Chief Privacy Officer. John holds an Masters degree from Victoria University of Wellington, and a Masters in Information Management and Systems from Monash University in Australia.

10:00 AM -
10:30 AM

Vendor Fair & Refreshment Break | Salon E

10:30 AM -
11:30 AM

1a. Archivist Book Club hosted by AMA Education Committee | Provincial Room

Moderators | *Jessica Nichol & Tyyne Petrowski*

What better way to begin "Breaking Down Barriers" than to have a discussion among colleagues? Led by the AMA Education Committee, this session will examine two recent articles addressing topics and themes that we believe need to be spoken about more actively within the broader archival community. Within the framework of the articles provided, we will discuss perspectives on how morally and/or ethically contentious issues and records can be handled from acquisition to access. Session facilitators will lead the group discussion with sample questions, focusing on ways that archivists can move forward as an archival community in addressing these issues and engaging with the types of records the theme addresses.

- *"Archives Beyond the Pale: Negotiating Legal and Ethical Entanglements after the Belfast Project" by Christine George*
- *"Hard to Dismiss: The Archival Value of Gay Male Erotica and Pornography" by Marcel Barriault*

11:30 AM -
12:30 PM

AAO Annual General Meeting | Provincial Room

AMA Meeting | Salon D

12:30 PM -
1:45 PM

Lunch - AAO & AMA Trivia Game | Provincial Room

Game Host | *Tracey Krause*

To inspire healthy competition and bring together members of the AAO and AMA, a ruckus trivia game will test the knowledge of each association's provincial history. Brush up on your neighbour's history and may the best association win!

**1:45 PM -
3:00 PM**

**2a. Plenary on Truth & Reconciliation | Provincial
Room**

Moderator | *Anne Lindsay*

Speakers | *Sarah Story, University of Manitoba*
Sarah Hurford, Library and Archives Canada
Jason Bennett, Library and Archives Canada

Sarah Story, University of Manitoba

“Unsettled Tensions, Ignorant Missteps and Career-Changing Realizations: A Critical and Personal Reflection on Settler-Indigenous Alliance Building”

Settler archivists have to make a critical choice in their careers—the choice to maintain the status quo and remain colonial in our archival practices and approaches, or the choice to openly reject colonialism and work to find a different way forward. For those archivists who choose the latter, the conscious decision to become an ally and work with Indigenous groups is not an easy path; building relationships is not without its difficulties. This presentation will critically reflect on how one learns to become an effective ally in building trust and how the archival profession can move forward in more informed and respectful ways working with Indigenous groups.

Sarah Hurford, Library and Archives Canada

“Mind the Gap: Reconciling Collections with Reality in Aboriginal Archives”

Library and Archives Canada’s (LAC’s) holdings are a treasure trove of records about Aboriginal communities and individuals, but the majority of these records were created by government entities, churches, explorers and companies. Relatively few of the records about Aboriginal people and communities were created by Aboriginal people. This presentation will examine this gap in reference to LAC’s collections, records and descriptions, and demonstrate the actions that LAC has taken to address this issue.

Jason Bennett, Library and Archives Canada

“Learning from Reconciliation: Working with Government Records at Library and Archives Canada”

Beginning in 2007, archivists at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) became engaged in various roles in support of the Truth and Reconciliation

1:45 PM -
3:00 PM

Commission of Canada. National events brought LAC archivists into direct dialogue with former students of the Indian Residential Schools system and their families. Through an anecdotal review of comments from survivors, children of survivors, and the general public, this presentation will document how this dialogue brought into focus public expectations and preconceptions of LAC, both for what people hoped to find, and what they ultimately found. Through this exchange, LAC archivists gained a new sensitivity in how government records intersected with the lives of survivors, and the challenging work that lay ahead in heeding the lessons of the reconciliation process. This presentation will also address LAC's unique position to make a positive and lasting impact in the national conversation of reconciliation for both aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples.

3:00 PM -
3:30 PM

Vendor Fair & Refreshment Break | Salon E

3:30 PM -
4:45 PM

**3a. The Records We Are Not Proud Of:
Discussion on Outreach and Controversial
Materials** | Provincial Room

Moderator | Sara Janes

Speakers | Sean Hayes, Seneca College

Sara Janes, Lakehead University

John D. Lund, City of Ottawa Archives

Rebecka Sheffield, Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives

The past can be an unpleasant country. Even when archival collections don't represent atrocities or trauma, they may still contain evidence of racism, sexism, classism, and bad decisions of every kind. With rising pressure on archives to celebrate our communities' histories and participate in nostalgia-as-outreach, how should we navigate acknowledging the bad and the ugly as well as the good? Is there greater harm in drawing attention or staying silent? The question is not so much about truth and censorship as it is about the spotlights that we, as archivists, choose to throw upon some records and not others. Each speaker will present a case study from their own experience and respond to the questions of trends, issues, practices, and recommendations.

**6:00 PM -
7:30 PM**

Heritage Walk of Historic Downtown Port Arthur | *Heritage Advisory Committee*

Join Pamela Cain, City of Thunder Bay Historical Researcher, as she guides delegates through historic sites located in downtown Port Arthur.

**6:00 PM -
7:30 PM**

Guided Walk of Fort William Historical Park

Bus leaves the Hotel at 5:30 pm

**7:30 PM -
10:00 PM**

Voyageur Feast at Fort William Historical Park

Conference Banquet brought to you by Ancestry

Bus leaves the Hotel at 6:30 pm

**10:00 PM -
12:00 AM**

Star Walk at David Thompson Astronomical Observatory (Fort William Historical Park)

**8:30 AM -
3:00 PM**

Registration Check-in | Salon E

**9:00 AM -
10:15 AM**

4a. Building Memory: Perspectives on Acquisitions and Appraisal | Provincial Room

Moderator | *Paul Henry*

Speakers | *Sean Smith, Archives of Ontario*

Catherine Bailey, Library and Archives Canada

Tina Lloyd, Library and Archives Canada

Sean Smith, Archives of Ontario

“If you show me your collections mandate, I’ll show you mine” or “It’s no secret; Ontario is developing a collaborative acquisition strategy”

In 2015, a collaborative inter-institutional collection strategy for Ontario was proposed to the archival community. The overwhelming support for the proposed strategy led the AAO Institutional Development Committee (IDC) to make the development of a collaborative acquisition policy for

the province a priority. This presentation will provide an update on the progress of the working group and seek to gather member feedback on outstanding issues or residual challenges related to the strategy and to solicit support for the working group's proposed timeline for completion and its implementation plan.

Catherine Bailey & Tina Lloyd, Library and Archives Canada

“But are we getting the records? Lessons Learned from Monitoring Government Records Disposition”

While Canada's national archives has a lengthy and well-documented history of government records disposition, it has not always been as successful in assessing the effectiveness of this disposition. In response to external assessments, such as those conducted by the Auditor General of Canada, archivists have attempted to develop various means to assess effectiveness. This presentation will critically examine the past, the present, and the future of monitoring the appraisal and acquisition of government records. Their examination will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of past efforts, identify the lessons that have been learned, and speculate on how to create a truly effective means of monitoring government records disposition that meets current needs.

**10:15 AM -
10:45 AM**

Vendor Fair & Refreshment Break | Salon E

**10:45 AM -
12:00 PM**

5a. Mediating Discovery, Privacy, and Identity in Archives | Provincial Room

Moderator | Donna Bernando-Ceriz

Speakers | Michael Moir, York University

Alison Little, Archives of Ontario

Dr. Jay Young, Archives of Ontario

Janel Cheng, Independent Researcher

Michael Moir, York University

“Archives, Identity, and Confidentiality in a Culture of Access”

Based on a review of news media, blogs, scholarly journals and government websites, this presentation will discuss changing attitudes toward confidentiality and the representation of individuals within fonds where access is not governed by legislation, and how these perspectives influence practical aspects of managing archival holdings in terms of acquisitions, descriptive practices, reference services, and outreach.

Alison Little & Dr. Jay Young, Archives of Ontario

“Families of Confederation: Transforming National Stories at the Archives of Ontario”

In September 2016, the Archives of Ontario will launch the 150th anniversary of Confederation exhibition. One of the main curatorial challenges in commemorating this anniversary has been deciding how to represent people and the impact of Confederation had on their lives. This presentation will explore how the Archives distilled the narrative of Confederation into an exhibit which illustrates the impact of political, economic, and social forces on families from across the province, exploring representation, memory-making, and diverse perspectives on shared histories.

Janel Cheng, Independent Researcher

“Coming to Know What We Don’t Know: The Ethical and Equitable Stewardship of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions”

This presentation will discuss the limitations of existing intellectual property regimes with regards to the legal protection of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs), address the need for effective policy development on the stewardship and management of TK and TCEs, and serve as an entryway for generating some sense-making around such issues as a professional community.

**12:00 PM -
1:30 PM**

AAO Awards Luncheon (AMA delegates Welcome) | Provincial Room

**1:30 PM -
2:45 PM**

**6a. Plenary: “It’s nothing, I’m fine”:
Acknowledging Emotion and Affect in Archival Practice | Provincial Room**

Moderator | Rebecka Sheffield

Speakers | Julia Holland, York University

Danielle Robichaud, University of Waterloo

Anna St. Onge, York University

Few academic studies have been published on the emotional labour involved in archival work, although articles and monographs have been published in recent years by scholars outside the profession reflecting on their own emotional experience working with archival records and

2:45 PM -
3:15 PM

interacting with archival institutions. This discussion will centre on panellists' experiences of emotion and affect in our professional practice and how our institutional policies and practices can be changed to provide a more supportive, compassionate and holistic environment.

Refreshment Break | Salon E

3:15 PM -
4:30 PM

Closing Plenary “Archives and Politics: The Last Taboo?” | Provincial Room

Moderator | *Emma Prescott*

Speaker | *Dr. Tom Nesmith, University of Manitoba*

“Archives and Politics: The Last Taboo?”

The socio-political weakness of archives is the most pressing problem confronting archivists. The key challenges archives face today can only be effectively met by dealing with this underlying problem. Perhaps the only greater problem is our difficulty in addressing our socio-political weakness, especially through sustained engagement in public affairs. This difficulty may not be rooted in a full blown taboo against dealing with it in that way, but the low priority we have traditionally given it sure seems like one. The result has been our general lack of success in moving public policy on archives in the directions we typically espouse in our conference gatherings and other discussions. While important efforts have been made to begin to address this problem in Canada and elsewhere, the voices of archivists are still rarely heeded in the public square. This paper takes up this issue in an effort to stimulate further thinking about how archivists can be more effectively engaged in what is essentially political activity.

***Dr. Tom Nesmith** is a Professor in the Master's Program in Archival Studies in the Department of History, University of Manitoba. He has published widely on archival concepts and issues, been general editor of *Archivaria*, and is a Fellow of the Association of Canadian Archivists.*

6:00 PM -
9:00 PM

Conference After Party | Choose Your Food Adventure

Join one of our Food Adventure teams for a table at a fantastic local restaurant. It's a perfect opportunity to chat with new and old friends, and meet conference presenters and AAO and AMA leadership. Later in the evening, we'll stake out space at one of the great bars within a short walk to the hotel. Sign up at the conference registration table.

Special thank you to the City of Thunder Bay Transit for providing free bus tickets, the City of Thunder Bay Information Technology Department for providing audio/visual equipment, and the Thunder Bay Military Museum and O'Kelly Armouries for providing the space for the opening reception.

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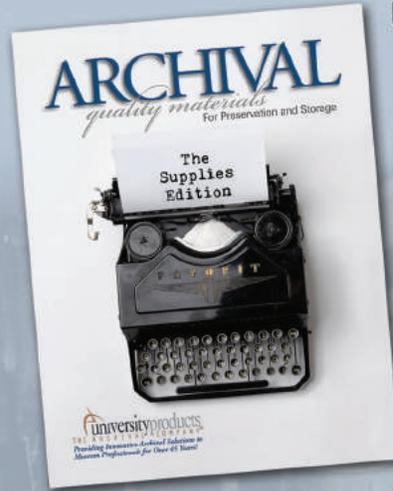


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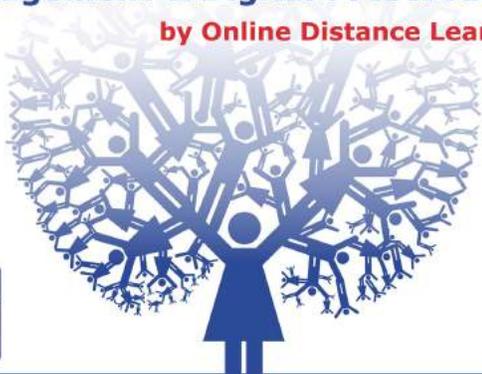


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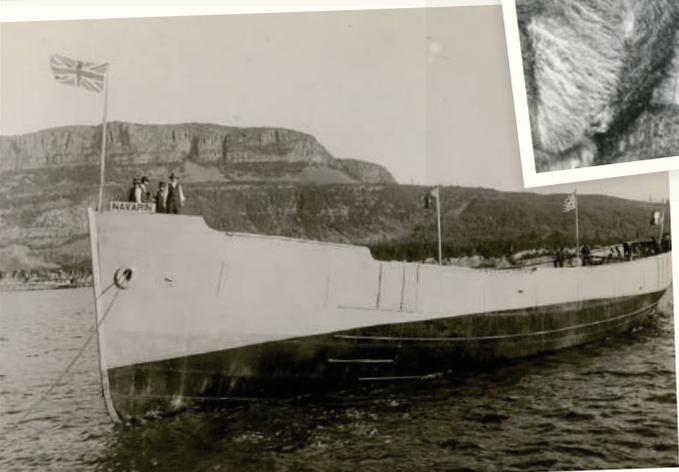
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