

**S. J. McKEE ARCHIVES  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2011**

**I. APPRAISAL**

From Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> through Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup> a National Archives Appraisal Committee composed of Dr. Kathryn Young, Brian Hubner and Garry Shoquist visited the S.J. McKee Archives to complete a monetary appraisal of the Manitoba Pool Elevators fonds. This marked the culmination of a ten year project involving several people who worked on the processing, arranging and describing of this body of records. The completed appraisal ranked the Manitoba Pool fonds with those of the Hudson's Bay Company and the United Grain Growers as foundational to any history of Manitoba in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**II. ACCESSIONING, PROCESSING, ARRANGING AND DESCRIBING**

Seventeen accessions were added to the S.J. McKee Archives' holdings in 2011.

- In March the Archives acquired the records of journalist and longtime Brandon resident, Fred McGuinness. These materials add to previous accessions of his records that document the research and writing of books on the Kinsmen Club of Canada and the Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba.
- At the end of June the Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba officially donated its records, which have been on deposit at the McKee Archives since the early 1980s.
- In December the Archives acquired a collection of 32 black and white photographs of the Brandon Industrial School. The photographs date from 1913-1915 and include images of the school, its buildings, grounds, and students.
- A number of the accessions in 2011 were accruals, including additions to the: Faculty of Education records; Errol Black fonds; Westman Coalition on Equality Rights in the Canadian Constitution fonds; Lorne Watson collection; Senate records; and BUSU scrapbooks.

During the spring and summer, C.M. Henry completed reorganizing, scanning and describing the Athletics photograph series of the Brandon University Photograph collection (BUPC). This project was completed in part due to the desire of the Athletics Department to use archival photographs in its promotional materials. Additional accessions were made to this series in late December and the processing and description of those materials is underway.

Henry also completed the appraisal and processing of the CKX fonds in the first half of 2011.

This year the Archives continued to digitize its photographic holdings. The majority of this work was completed by Circulation staff, including Gaye Sheardown, Donna Andresen, Randy Patton,

Tanya Canton and Richard Bee. Through their work the Archives is one step closer to making images from the CKX fonds, the Brandon University Photograph collection, MG 2 Brandon College students and the Provincial Exhibition Association of Manitoba fonds more readily available to users through our website.

Richard Bee continued the process of converting the cassette recordings from the Westman Oral History collection into MP3 files.

### **III. REFERENCE AND RESEARCHERS**

Reference services were provided to a variety of researchers seeking archival data and photographs related to Brandon history, World War I internment in Brandon, displaced persons, the Provincial Exhibition Association, the Wheat City Business College, Display Building # 2 (Fair Grounds), the history of the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society Ltd., concert party tours in Western Canada c. 1900-1910, and historical figures, including several Brandon College alumni. The materials were used for personal research/projects, publications, teaching materials, websites, art projects, film productions, yearbooks, family histories, history themed events in Brandon, and building and renovation projects. The Archives provided photographs of the 1922 and 1954 Brandon floods for use by the Brandon Sun during their flood coverage.

Within the University, the archives responded to reference requests from the President's office, the office of the Vice-President (Academic & Provost), Public Communications, Institutional Advancement, Athletics, the Senate office, Student Services and the Dean of Arts office. The Archives provided images for the slide show used at Convocation, images which were later used by the University for the AUCC centennial project. The Archives continued to provide images and text for the archives page in the 2011 issues of the Alumni News.

Archives' staff consulted on a number of archival topics during 2011, including: preservation policies, metadata, oral history, copyright, archival arrangement and description, archival software and digital preservation.

As has been the case for several years, Dr. James Naylor's 54-437 Historical Methods & Historiography class devoted time to archival work. Each member of the class was assigned the task of completing two item level descriptions that were RAD compliant for an oral history interview in the Westman Oral History collection. In addition several of the students have undertaken research papers based on holdings in the S. J. McKee Archives.

### **IV. EXHIBITS**

On February 11<sup>th</sup> - Cabinet Day at Brandon University – the Premiers of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, along with several cabinet ministers, arrived at Brandon University for a joint meeting. The Archives participated by creating a display of Tommy Douglas photos and textual records. The display was located in the Ceremony Room of the Heath Studies Complex, the same room in which the meetings took place. Tom Mitchell and Reinhold Kramer with President Dr. Poff gave the leader of each cabinet delegation a copy of *When the State Trembled – How*

*A.J. Andrews and the Citizens Committee Broke the Winnipeg General Strike* as a memento of the visit to Brandon University.

An exhibit featuring photographs, flags and textual records from the McKee Archives was developed, although never used, for Homecoming weekend in October.

## **V. PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Following the NAAB appraisal of the MPE records discussions were held with the university administration concerning our ongoing relationship with Viterra and how we might ask Viterra to assist the Archives with the preservation and access work required to address the MPE records.

In February the Archives also began consultations with Backstage concerning the microfilming of the MPE Board of Directors minutes.

Consultation with several vendors with a view to selling the Lawrence Stuckey Stamp Collection began in February. It was decided that Marsesch & Sons located in Toronto would be given the project and the stamps were sold at auction over the summer.

In May, the Archives hosted a number of retired members of the Brandon Fire Department who helped Archives' staff identify Fire Department and related photographs in the CKX fonds.

The S.J. McKee Archives hosted the fall meeting of the Association for Manitoba Archives' Rural and Northern Archives Special Interest Group on October 12. The meeting was attended by 19 RNAM members representing 8 institutions.

C.M. Henry coordinated the production of the AMA's Rural and Northern Archives 2012 calendar throughout September and October. She also selected photos from the McKee Archives' holdings for inclusion in the calendar.

In October, C.M. Henry met with Alex Beshara from Institutional Advancement to collaborate on content for the University's Facebook page. Each month Beshara, through consultation with Archives' staff, will add 4 images from the Archives' holdings to a photo album entitled *S.J. McKee Archives* to BU's Facebook page.

Archives' staff provided a number of archival tours in 2011, including tours to various classes from Kirkaldy School, the Historical Methods & Historiography class and Marissa Stelmack.

## **VI. RARE BOOKS & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Although items continued to be added to Rare Books, there were no special projects or initiatives undertaken in 2011.

From February until the end of July, Cataloguing Librarian, Marianne Reid catalogued 237 pamphlets in the Manitoba Pool Elevators fonds.

## **VII. FACULTY & STAFF ACTIVITY**

Tom Mitchell retired from Brandon University on August 31, 2011 after thirty years service to the university; including as Dean, Registrar and since 1996, University Archivist and history lecturer.

C.M. Henry attended a Humidification workshop held by the Association for Manitoba Archives in March. She also attended full day training sessions for ICA AtoM at the University of Manitoba (both campuses) in May and December.

In May Henry also travelled to The Pas, MB on behalf of the Association for Manitoba Archives to act as a consultant for the Sam Waller Museum. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the museum's archival holdings and develop a description plan.

Upon Tom Mitchell's retirement, C.M. Henry assumed responsibility for the archival component of the History Department's Historical Methods & Historiography course taught by Dr. James Naylor.

C.M. Henry completed her first year as Chair of the Board for the Association for Manitoba Archives. The second year of her term commenced in September.

C.M. Henry  
Tom Mitchell  
January 2012