



# Archival Connections

*Newsletter of the Catholic Archivist Group*

Volume 4, Number 2

**May 2007**

## **From the Chair – Gayle Desarmia, SP**

As we begin this month of May I am very conscious that we are in the midst of the glorious 50 days of Easter. May the signs of new life and growth outdoors be symbolic of new life and growth taking place our hearts as we journey toward Pentecost.

I have some information from the Catholic Archivist Group Executive to share with you regarding our elections and our annual conference.

The week of May 15<sup>th</sup> Linda Wicks, our Secretary, will mailing the nomination ballots for the position of Chair of the Catholic Archivist Executive. Please consider letting your own name stand for the position and consider whom you might like to nominate for the position. Check the constitutions to learn what the position involves. (Please note that it does not include production of our newsletter.) I have been the Chair for four years and it is time for someone else to fill this position.

The week of June 29<sup>th</sup> Linda will be sending out the 2007 conference package. In the meantime, we are including the conference schedule in this newsletter. Also included in this issue are two items for the AGM. These items concern the Outreach Committee and a Mission Statement. We hope that including these items for the AGM will serve a dual purpose. It will inform our total membership of the issues on the agenda and will also help to shorten the AGM because participants will have a chance to review the items ahead of time. Please submit any questions, comments regarding these items in writing to me before the AGM.



We are always looking for stories and news items for this newsletter. Do you have some item that may be of interest to the group? We would like to see all types of archives (diocesan, religious, educational and healthcare) represented in our newsletter. To have your items appear in the newsletter, send them to me by November 15<sup>th</sup>. ([archives@providence.ca](mailto:archives@providence.ca))

I extend a special thank you to each one of our contributors to this issue of our newsletter. Your participation gives us a newsletter of which we can be proud.

## You Won't Want to Miss This! – Debra Majer (Diocese of London)

It is with great excitement we announce that this year's CAG conference in Montreal will feature a truly accomplished and successful guest speaker. Dr. Gregory Hunter, is both a Certified Archivist and a Certified Records Manager. His list of archival and records management publications and awards are endless. In 2004 Dr. Hunter was elected as a fellow of the Society of American Archivists. Currently, Dr. Hunter is a Professor in the Palmer School of Library and Information Science at Long Island University, directing graduate-level certificate programs in archives and records management. Furthermore, Dr. Hunter is the Principal Archivist and Records Manager on a team headed by Lockheed Martin to build an Electronic Records Archive (ERA) for the American National Archives and Records Administration.

Dr. Hunter will spend a full day facilitating our group on how to plan alternative media projects for archives and records management programs. He will give conference goers an opportunity to learn about new advancements in digital imaging technology, as well as introducing a fresh look at micrographic technology.

CAG members attending the sessions will also benefit from Dr. Hunter's awareness and understanding of the nature of religious and diocesan archives. Dr. Hunter is a practicing Catholic and spends some of his spare time volunteering his services to Catholic churches by creating their websites and acting as webmaster. For more information on Dr. Hunter and his biographical summary please visit his website, [www.hunterinformation.com/bio.htm](http://www.hunterinformation.com/bio.htm).

## 2007 Conference – Old Montreal: A Look at the New Digital World



*Bientôt à la Villa...*



The Catholic Archivist Group annual conference will be held from September 24 to 27<sup>th</sup>, at Villa St. Martin which is a Jesuit estate along the banks of the Rivière-des-Prairies (see above). This year's conference on technology gives us the opportunity to discuss the technological future in our archives. In addition to excellent presentations and tours, the conference offers members the opportunity to meet colleagues, network and make new friends. We are including the conference schedule here. The brochure will be mailed the week of June 29th.

## Conference Schedule at a Glance

### Monday, September 24 – *Arrival and Welcome*

3:00-5:00 p.m. – Registration  
5:30-6:30 p.m. – Supper  
7:30 p.m. – Evening Social

### Tuesday, September 25 – *Tour Day, Banquet and Special Interest Group Meetings*

7:45-8:45 a.m. – Breakfast  
9:45 a.m. – Board the Bus  
9:30 a.m. – Celebration of the Eucharist, Sacred Heart Chapel in Notre Dame Basilica  
10:15 a.m. – Tour of Notre Dame Basilica  
11:30 a.m. – Walk Through Old Montreal  
12:00 noon – Lunch at Le Grille Restaurant  
1:30 p.m. – Departure for Congrégation de Notre Dame (CND) Archives  
2:00 p.m. – Tour of Congrégation de Notre Dame (CND) Archives  
4:00 p.m. – Departure for Villa St. Martin  
6:00-8:00 p.m. – Conference Banquet  
8:00 p.m. – Special Interest Group Meetings (Diocesan Archivists, CSJ Archivists)

### Wednesday, September 26 – Dr. Gregg Hunter, the author of *Preserving Digital Information, a How-To-Do-It-Manual*, will guide us through the world of digital information.

7:45-8:45 a.m. – Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. – Session with Dr. Gregg Hunter  
10:15 a.m. – Break  
10:45 a.m. – Session with Dr. Gregg Hunter  
12:00-1:00 p.m. – Lunch  
1:30 p.m. – Session with Dr. Gregg Hunter  
2:45 p.m. – Break  
3:15-4:30 p.m. – Session with Dr. Gregg Hunter  
5:30-6:30 p.m. – Supper  
7:00-8:00 p.m. – Outreach Committee Presentation on CAG Website  
8:00 p.m. – Social

### Thursday, September 27 – *AGM and Departure*

7:45-8:45 a.m. – Breakfast  
9:15 a.m. – CAG Annual General Meeting  
10:15 a.m. – Break  
10:45 a.m. – CAG Annual General Meeting  
11:15 a.m. – Closing Liturgy of the Eucharist  
12:00 noon – Lunch followed by Departure

We are looking for a person willing to take photographs at our conference. If you have a camera and would like to be our conference photographer, contact Wayne Jenkins, SCJ ([proarch@poshus.org](mailto:proarch@poshus.org)) or Sr. Gayle Desarmia ([archives@providence.ca](mailto:archives@providence.ca)).



## Quotation Exchange – Eloi de Grace (Diocese of Edmonton)

The historian, essentially, wants more documents that he can really use; the dramatist only wants more liberties than he can really take.

•Henry James Jr. – *The Aspern Papers*

The old believe everything; the middle-aged suspect everything; the young know everything.

•Oscar Wilde

Tell me the acts, O historian, and leave me to reason upon them as I please; away with your reasoning and your rubbish!

•William Blake, *The Ancient Britons*

The first law of history is not to dare to utter falsehood; the second, not to fear to speak the truth.

•Pope Leo XIII, *On the opening of the Vatican Archives, Aug. 18, 1883.*

Anybody can make history. Only a great man can write it.

•Oscar Wilde, *Aphorism.*

There is nothing small in the service of God.

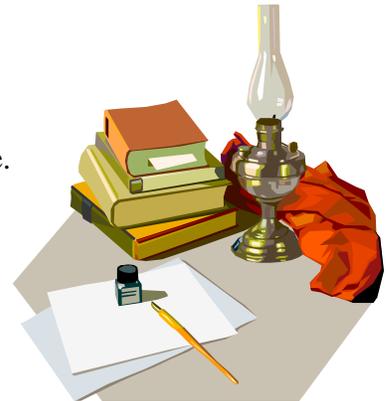
•*St. Francis de Sales*

What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure.

•*Samuel Johnson, Johnsonian Miscellanies, 1*

Take anything of which it may be said, “Look now, this is new.” Already, long before our time, it existed. Only no memory remains of earlier times, just as in times to come, next year itself will not be remembered.

•*Ecclesiastes, 1:10-11*



## Student Internship – Jo-Anne Allison (Diocese of Prince George)

The opportunity to work with archival materials is very attractive to university students participating in the University of Northern BC History internship program. These students may work on special projects in community archives in exchange for course credit. The chance to read “real” documents and handle “original” materials makes for an immediate and personal experience for students with a special interest in the past.

The expectations are that students will complete a project that is equivalent to the workload demanded by a regular three-credit course. My student, Alison Matte, is a third year history student who started her semester-long internship in the Diocesan Archives in January. My hope

was that, in addition to a few other tasks, Alison would produce three fully researched biographies of notable priests – information which is in constant demand in my Archives.

When I first contacted the University about hosting an intern I was ecstatic to think that I would be able to access a pool of volunteer labour with research skills. What I didn't immediately realize however is that students undertaking an internship have the completion of academic projects as a priority – and thus cannot be asked to do those million-and-one odd jobs one might ask a regular volunteer to do. In addition, I discovered that even though students understand the academic importance of working with original documents, most do not possess practical knowledge of the challenges involved with working with archival materials. This entailed some adjustments to my expectations and required more training time than I had anticipated.

Archival materials may be fragile. They often have indecipherable handwriting and fading ink. Letters often lack specificity and in religious archives, are often in languages other than English. This means that correspondence takes a long time to read, interpret and understand. Further, in order to be useful, these documents must be understood within their particular historical context, which requires a substantial amount of supplementary and time-consuming research. While I had taken these factors as a given, they were a big surprise to Alison.

However, the biggest impediment to Alison's research was the lack of organization in the Diocesan Archives. Most documents are unorganized and materials are only roughly sorted. Only one fonds is arranged and accessible via a database and finding aid. Thus, at first Alison was having trouble getting enough information to put together the required biographies.

We decided to turn the disadvantage of few arranged records into a positive by focusing on those records we did have immediate access to. Thus, rather than writing complete biographies of individuals, Alison focused on particular circumstances or happenings that she read about in the letters which were arranged and then, with supplementary research, built a "snap shot in time" for her research papers. For example, Alison incorporated her research on Fr Joseph Allard, OMI's missions to the Klondike gold creeks into a more general paper on how missionaries traveled in northern BC and Yukon in the late 1800's.



The Prince George Diocesan Archives' first experience with a university student intern was a success. However, that success is a testament to Alison Matte's flexibility, patience and creativity. I really enjoyed having a student but before I do this again I need to ensure that sufficient materials are arranged so that projects can easily satisfy the academic requirements which are the priority of students in the program.

### **Gertrude Lawler Portrait – Evelyn Collins** (University of St. Michael's College)

Gertrude Lawler, d 1929

The University of St. Michael's College is the recipient of a portrait of Gertrude Lawler, a graduate of the University of Toronto in 1890, 20 years before St. Michael's College began its

college arts program and before it admitted girls from St. Joseph's and Loretto Colleges. The portrait, was commissioned by her students and the alumnae of St. Joseph's High School in memory of her contribution to the school and the alumnae association, and as recognition of her stature in the Toronto community.

The oil painting (1932) by Kenneth Forbes, whose works hang in the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, portrays Gertrude in the colourful robes of a Senator of the University of Toronto, a position she held from 1927. It is a large painting, 36x48 inches, in a gilt frame, and her thoughtful pose as she sits beside some books, speaks of her concern for liberal education and the place of young women in the world. The painting was a gift from the alumnae to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto and hung until recently in Christie House, across from Queen's Park and the University of Toronto, linking the Catholic girls' college, the legislature and the governance of the University of Toronto and its affiliation with St. Michael's College.



Gertrude Lawler was an accomplished woman. Although, born in Boston, the third daughter of a successful building contractor, she was moved to Toronto and was boarded in the elementary school at St. Joseph's Convent, where she began her lifelong proficiency at collecting scholarships and awards. Following her graduation from St. Joseph's High School in 1887, she went on to University College, which young ladies attended in order to study for a Bachelor of Arts degree before the girls' colleges were affiliated with St. Michael's College. Having been awarded her BA in Modern Language and Literature in 1890, she followed this by achieving an MA in Mathematics in 1892, while practising a teaching career and studying art and music at St. Joseph Convent. The University of Toronto honoured her with a Doctor of Laws in 1927 for her leadership and continued dedication to the cause of education.

Gertrude's aspirations led to her to teach in the high schools, starting in Stratford, Ontario, then directing the English department at Harbord

Collegiate until she was appointed Principal. Throughout, she was prominent in city welfare institutions and edited books on English for the Ontario Ministry of Education. She was one of the founders of St. Joseph's Alumnae and was the first editor of their magazine, the St. Joseph Lilies. She was President of the Catholic Women's League and participated in other church organizations. As an eminent citizen who dedicated her life to higher education for women, and as a devoted contributor to religious activities, Pope Pius XI awarded her the Papal Medal in 1925.

Upon her sudden death in 1929, a former student recalls her graciousness, erudition and rich contribution to her profession. Tributes from the University of Toronto called her one of their most brilliant students, one of diverse academic achievements and a person with a civic conscience. The Congregation of St. Joseph marked her passing with a tribute that recognized that

their influence on her was carried on in her succeeding generosity to pupils, alumnae, church workers and members of the broader community.

With the move of the Sisters of St. Joseph to a different location, while they proceed in new directions with some of their older traditional services, this exemplar of St. Joseph's High School, will remind us and all the women on campus and in Toronto, of the merits of an education by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

### **Japanese Relocation, 1943-2002 – R.J. (Ron) Welwood** (Diocese of Nelson)

#### **W.E. DOYLE fonds – Re: Japanese relocated to the Nelson Diocese during World War II**

With Japan's entry into the Asian war, the Canadian government relocated persons of Japanese ancestry to various parts of the country under the guise of national security. A notice posted in February 1942 proclaimed that these conditions were sanctioned under the National Securities Act. Many of these people from the coastal communities of British Columbia were relocated to the interior of the province; and soon thereafter Bishop Martin M. Johnson sent appeals to various religious communities requesting assistance for Japanese missions located within the Diocese of Nelson. His pleas were not totally successful for various reasons, but a number of religious communities did send personnel to serve in the Kootenay region.

In 1991, the Canadian Catholic Historical Association suggested to Bishop W.E. Doyle that he write a paper about "The Response of the Diocese of Nelson to the Internment of the Japanese, 1942-1946." Since he had retired as Bishop of the Nelson Diocese in November 1989 and subsequently moved to Edmonton, Alta., it was possible for Doyle to begin collecting and assembling resource material in preparation for this assignment. His Secretary and later Diocesan Archivist, Mrs. Peg Barone, did the majority of the research for this project. Later, Doyle relocated to Kelowna, BC, where he resided at Seton House until his death on 14 September 2003. Thus this project was never completed.

Textual records were assembled from different locations:

1. Slokan Catholic High School records located on a shelf of unprocessed materials. This box was marked "From Bishop Doyle, 1995 Miscellaneous Items"
2. Material labeled: "Research Material & Correspondence, etc. re Help to People of Japanese Origin Relocated to Areas Within the Diocese of Nelson During World War II." was located on a different shelf of unprocessed materials. This research material is primarily the work of Peg Barone
3. A box of sundry materials located at Seton House was received in December 2003 as part of Bishop Doyle's estate

It is evident that these records were separated because of various circumstances: Doyle's relocations, the move of the Chancery Office and Archives, Barone's retirement in 2000, etc. All known resources were repatriated and reassembled into a single unit for more efficient access as, no doubt, Bishop Doyle intended.

The fonds (50 cm) consist of Correspondence inward and outward, Doyle and Barone hand written notes (some in shorthand), draft outline, interview notes and transcripts, binders of information about communities/congregations, school records, photographs, photocopies, Vancouver School of Theology thesis, various publications, etc.

## New Members

We welcome the following new members of the Catholic Archivist Group –

- Jane Coyne – Archivist for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg
- Carolyn Dirks – Archivist for St. Jerome’s University Archives
- Michaelleen King – Archivist for the Sisters of St. Ann Archives, Victoria BC
- Anthea Seles – Archivist for the Archdiocese of Vancouver Archives
- Rev. Lionel Walsh – Archivist for the Scarboro Missions

*Welcome!*

## Constitutions Revision – Gayle Desarmia, SP (Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul)



At our November 15, 2006 Executive Meeting, Linda, Walter and I discussed the need for an amendment to our constitutions regarding the Outreach Committee. Article VIII in our constitutions states that “the constitution of the Group shall be adopted and may be amended or repealed by a resolution of the Board and a two-thirds majority of the votes of members present at the AGM.”

We are sending the proposed amendment out now in order that all members have opportunity to review it prior to the AGM at our Montreal conference.

### **Section 2. Outreach Committee**

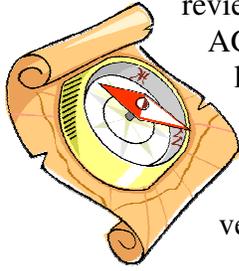
- Composition – The Outreach Committee shall be composed of two (2) members accepted by the Executive.
- Term – The Committee term shall be for three years and may be reappointed.
- Function – The Committee shall be responsible for establishing links with other Organizations and planning and producing documentation for the members.

### **Proposed amendment –**

- Composition – The Outreach Committee is composed of at least two members accepted by the Executive with the CAG chair as an additional ex-officio member.
- Term – *(No change required.)*
- Function – The Committee shall be of assistance to the CAG Executive for internal and external communications.

## Mission Statement Sets Direction – Gayle Desarmia, SP

As an Executive Walter, Linda and I have worked on a Mission Statement for our Catholic Archivist Group. What follows is our work to date. We are hoping to have this ratified as a provisional mission statement at our Annual General Meeting in Montreal in September. We are sending it out now in order that all members have opportunity to



review the statement and send any comments, suggestions to me prior to the AGM at our Montreal conference. In order to keep our AGM a reasonable length we will not be inviting general discussion on the statement at that time. All feedback should be given to me in writing prior to the AGM. With the provisional mission statement ratified, the executive or their delegates can over the next year review the feedback and bring a final version of the mission statement to the membership for ratification.

*We, the members of the Catholic Archivist Group are committed to maintaining and promoting the archives of Religious Institutes, Dioceses and Catholic Institutions, in order to preserve the spiritual and social heritage of all of its members.*

*The Catholic Archivist Group, established in 2004, is rooted in the Canadian Religious Conference of Ontario (CRC-O) Archivist Group, which was established in 1982.*

*The main purpose of the Catholic Archivist Group is for the mutual support of its members. We offer educational and networking opportunities for our members, as well as advice and services to the administration of our organizations, and to the wider public as the need and opportunity arises. We keep before all relevant authorities and associations the historical significance of our archival stewardship.*

*By committing ourselves to the ongoing support of our members, and to the mission of raising the profile of Catholic Archives and by being faithful to Canon Law, the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Catholic Church and pertinent government legislation, we are protecting and preserving the historical heritage they embody for future generations.*

## News from the Outreach Committee



The Outreach Committee has solicited proposals and cost estimates from three web designers. Included in the cost estimates is a mock web page which will provide a basis for discussion at our September meeting in Montreal. In order to proceed with the mock web page the Outreach Committee has developed an interim logo which the designers will use as a basis for their initial design work.

We still need your help! Do you know a web page designer? Have you viewed a good web page lately? Do you have ideas for what should be included? What do you think potential members would like to know about us? Let us know and we will pursue your leads.

Included in the Outreach Committee's task is investigating sources of funding for the project. Now that we have some idea of the costs involved we will begin looking into this phase of the project. If you know of finding sources for web design for non-profit groups – please let us know!

Don't forget about the Logo contest!!

The logo is integral to the final design and colour scheme of the CAG web page. It will also be featured on our letterhead and in our newsletter. This is a contest!! Any CAG member may submit a design. The logo must be clean and simple and easy to reproduce. The only limiting factor is your imagination! The winner will receive their 2007 Annual Meeting conference fees as a prize. Submit your designs to the Outreach Committee for review. Sr Laurette, Jo-Anne and Sr Gayle will review them and then make recommendations to the Executive. The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting in Montreal. Get your thinking caps on!!

Please contact:

Sr Laurette at [lcouture@mcsnet.ca](mailto:lcouture@mcsnet.ca) or at the Diocese of St. Paul Archives, 4410-51 Ave, St Paul, AB T0A 3A2 or fax (780) 645-6099

Jo-Anne Allison at [archives@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:archives@pgdiocese.bc.ca) or at the Archives, Diocese of Prince George, Box 7000, Prince George, BC V2N 3Z2, fax (250) 964-2101

## Farewell and Best Wishes

Leslie Hall – Archivist, Sisters of Charity of Providence, Edmonton AB – Leslie has taken a new position as History Coordinator for the United Farmers of Alberta. In her new position she will be helping to build an archives and museum collection for the UFA, as well as doing outreach projects in schools and museums and communities using the archives collections.

Natalie Treboute – Assistant Archivist, Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston ON – Natalie has taken a new position as Archivist for a banking institution in Toronto.

Irene Meloche, osu – Ursuline Religious of the Diocese of London Archives, Chatham ON – Irene has informed us that she will no longer be attending the Catholic Archivist Group conferences because her term as curator of “The Pines” museum is now completed. Irene has been a member of the group since 1986 and served two terms on the Conference Planning Committee. During this time she only missed attending one annual conference.

Irene shared this interesting story:

It was a sad day when, on December 22, 2006, I walked away from "The Pines" for the last time. I had been there several times during the preceding three weeks, helping to dispose of furniture and dismantle the last few cupboards. One incident that will remain in my memory is when the cupboard in the former community room was taken apart and under it, there were three books, which had apparently fallen behind and were not able to be retrieved. One was printed in 1860, one in 1864 and the third was a little Office of the Blessed Virgin, printed in 1915 and that had been given to one of the Sisters for her reception in 1927. They were in fairly good condition. They are now on permanent display in the heritage cupboard.



The Ursuline Motherhouse closed November 24, 2006, when all of the Sisters moved to the new residence called Villa Angela on Merici Way.



## An Archivist's Prayer

Mary, Mother of Christ and of the Church, you who treasured all things in your heart, help me to guard as carefully the contents of these Archives as I strive to preserve the past and present of this Diocese for the future. I place all these files under your protection and patronage, and ask your blessing upon my daily work for God's greater glory and for the good of those I serve. Amen.

SM Laurette Couture, CSSF  
Archivist – Diocese of St. Paul, AB  
April 2007

Note: Diocese could be replaced by Religious Community or whatever appropriate.

## Catholic Archivist Group

We are a group of archivists committed to maintaining and promoting the archives of Religious Institutes, Diocesan and Catholic Institutions in order to preserve the social heritage of all of its members

The main thrust of the Catholic Archivist Group is that of mutual encouragement and support and to keep before all relevant authorities and groups the importance, significance and relevance of our Archives.

We follow the terms of reference of professional archival guidelines in Canada, Canon Law, and the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, as well as pertinent government legislation.

## Archival Connections Publication Schedule

The newsletter is published December 1 (Fall issue), February 1 (Winter issue) and May 1 (Spring issue). Submit your news items, articles and photographs 2 weeks prior to publication date.

The next deadline is November 15, 2007.

## Catholic Archivist Group Executive 2006-2007

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