



# Archival Connections

Newsletter of the Catholic Archivist Group

Volume 5, Number 2

May 2008

## From the Chair – Éloi DeGrâce (Archdiocese of Edmonton Archives)

I had been working at the Archdiocesan Archives for about six months when, at lunch break, someone asked me: “Are you collecting something?”

When I said “No!” my co-workers were surprised. I had to explain that it would take me a lifetime to build up a collection of



something and that I would need yet another lifetime to enjoy it. As you may imagine, I do not have that option.

I have known many people who have accumulated antiques or collectibles, and for some, after many years of seeking, acquiring and storing, it was not easy to let go of their old “stuff”. For those who had a “treasured collection” at the end of their life, their treasure had suddenly become a burden. Collectors sometimes find it complicated to come up with a place to house their material or to find someone interested enough to care and conserve their collection - hopefully intact.

Collectors are driven by a variety of needs and urges. On the other hand, I do not know an archivist who is addicted to collecting. Archivists for the most part are driven by a different need - the unselfish need to serve others and ensure that the precious legacy of the past will continue to be treasured and enjoyed today and for many years to come. Archivists know that the prized documents entrusted to them to process and preserve are not for their own personal use, and are happy to offer researchers access to their

“collections” whenever circumstances warrant it. Archivists are driven by the desire to collect and preserve documents that researchers will use, probably long after they are gone as well.

Many people collect as a casual hobby. Archivists “work” on their collections; their daily time-consuming efforts spent on arranging and organizing documents are not a pastime, but a ministry.

A hundred years ago, William J. Locke wrote: “To the collector, by some unknown law of attraction, come the objects which he collects. Everywhere he goes he finds them to his hands...” I wish this would be true of archivists as well.

**O Canada – SM Laurette Couture, cssf (*Diocese of St. Paul*)**

We are the people of Canada,  
drawn from the four winds of the earth,  
a privileged people,  
citizens of a sovereign state.



We affirm that our country  
is founded upon principles that  
acknowledge the supremacy of God,  
the dignity of each person, the importance of family,  
and the value of community.

We cherish this free and united country,  
its place within the family of nations,  
and accepting the responsibilities privileges bring,  
we pledge to strengthen this land  
as a home of peace, hope and goodwill.



Trustees of a vast northern land,  
we celebrate its beauty and grandeur,  
Aboriginal peoples, immigrants,  
French-speaking, English-speaking, Canadians all,  
we honour our roots and value our diversity.

We recognize that we remain free  
only when freedom is founded on respect  
for moral and spiritual values,  
and the rule of law in the service of justice.



## Destination Edmonton – Requests from our 2008 Planning Committee



For the CAG meeting in Edmonton, come September 2008, please bring handouts that you use for publicity, informational or educational purposes. Bring enough for the other members at the meeting (50 or so). You may also bring old pictures of historic value; First School, First Church, First Hospital, First Convent something of sorts or more recent pictures of interest to your organization.

Thank you for your cooperation in making our meeting memorable.

Also the CAG planning committee is thinking of offering a shuttle service to and from the Edmonton airport for the September 2008 conference. This service would be offered for a small additional fee but still quite a bit less than the cost of a taxi. If you would be interested in this service please contact Lindsay at [lbergen@providence.ab.ca](mailto:lbergen@providence.ab.ca) or (780) 701-1814. If there is enough interest details will be included in the conference registration package.

## New Members

- ✚ **Dominy Williams** - Diocese of Hamilton
- ✚ **Ginny Weber** - Franciscan Friars of Western Canada.

Welcome!

## It's that time again!

With the Springtime comes our Catholic Archivist Group election process. This year we have to elect someone for the position of CAG Treasurer. Brother Walter Farrell is stepping down after three years as Treasurer of our group.

*thank you Bro. Walter, and may God bless you!*

Please consider letting your name stand for the position of treasurer and a member of the CAG executive. Our revised Constitutions and a Nomination Form will be e-mailed to you later this month. The election can only be successful if all members participate.

## From the Outreach Committee



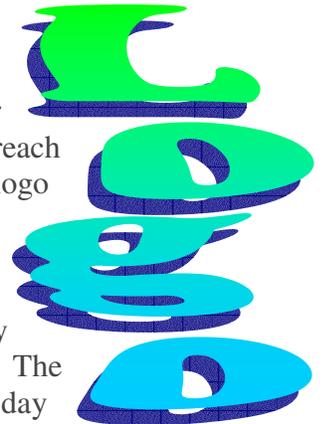
In response to the frequent requests from CAG members concerning our website, we thought the following might be helpful:

1. If you forget our CAG website address, try searching Google for Catholic Archivist Group. Our website pops up in the listing (usually listed second or third), whereas other search engines may not work as well or at all.
2. If you are still encountering problems or have inquiries about the site email [info@catholicarchivist.ca](mailto:info@catholicarchivist.ca)

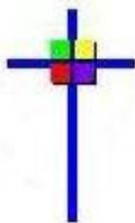
Please check out the photographs on our website at [www.catholicarchivist.ca](http://www.catholicarchivist.ca) and if you can replace a “?” with a missing name - or if there are other errors or omissions, , email Jo-Anne Allison at [archives@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:archives@pgdiocese.bc.ca) Thank you for your help!

The next web site update will be done in May and all the conference information will be posted on it then.

It is time to choose an official and permanent logo for the Catholic Archivist Group. Last year’s “interim” logo and two other designs are up for consideration. However it is not too late to submit an idea! The Outreach Committee (Jo-Anne Allison and Sr Laurette Couture cssf) will be accepting logo designs (on paper) right up until the close of the opening reception on Monday September 22nd at the CAG Annual Meeting in Edmonton. So get your thinking caps on! On Tuesday September 23rd all of the logo submissions will be posted and members will have a chance to vote (only once!) for what will become the Catholic Archivist Group’s official logo. The results of the vote will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday morning.



## Edmonton 2008 – Diane Lamoureux *(Planning Committee Chair / OMI Grandin Archives)*



**Catholic  
Archivist  
Group**

The Edmonton Planning Committee is excited and pleased to invite you to experience Western Hospitality from September 22-25<sup>th</sup> at the Providence Renewal Centre (PRC) in Edmonton, Alberta. PRC is a modern facility located in southwest Edmonton. You can check their facilities and go on a virtual tour at: <http://www.providencerenewal.ca/>

We will kick off the Conference on Monday evening with an opening reception (wine, cheese, etc.). We have also invited a few special guests to attend. It will be a chance to get reacquainted with other CAG members and to catch up from last year's Conference, and to meet new people.

The theme of this year's Conference is "Beyond the Last Frontier: The Future of Religious Archives". We have tried to provide each person with a number of choices for the sessions on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. In the morning, Religious Archivists will have the opportunity to explore options for their religious communities as their numbers decline and choices need to be made about the future of their archival collections. As requested, the Diocesan and Archdiocesan Archivists will also have a chance to meet at the same time to discuss relevant issues.

This year, in the afternoon, we are also planning 3 sessions to run simultaneously in two time slots. Each attendee will be asked to rank these three sessions in the order that most appeals to them. We will do our best to ensure that you get your top two choices, based on space availability. Don't worry though, all session packages will be made available to attendees. These sessions will be held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta – which has a wonderful new (2003) facility. Details will be in your registration package!

Later that evening, we will all be transported (by motor coach) back in time to the days of the fur trade - our banquet will be held at Fort Edmonton Park in the Clerk's Quarters. It is fairly rustic, so casual clothing is a must! We will, of course, have Alberta beef on the menu! Go to <http://www.fortedmontonpark.ca/pages/FortEdmonton/default.aspx> to check out the facility.

Wednesday morning, we have a tour planned to Mundare, home of the Basilian Fathers Museum and Archives, located in the heart of Ukrainian country – and just under an hour's drive east of Edmonton. (Their webpage is temporarily down, but hopefully will be operational soon at: <http://basilianmuseum.org/>).

On the way, we will pass through Elk Island National Park – a gem of wilderness just a short drive from Edmonton. As we drive through the Park, you'll want to watch for the bison (both plains and woodland) and other wildlife along either side of the highway. For more details, check out their website at: [http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/elkisland/index\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/elkisland/index_e.asp).



After the Museum tour, we'll stop for lunch at a local Mundare restaurant (M & M Cozy Kitchen) – where, of course, Ukrainian food will be on the menu (along with other special menu choices). FYI - Mundare is home to the world's largest garlic sausage statue.



After lunch, we will be returning to Edmonton and a tour of the University of Alberta Library's Special Collection. Afterwards, there is a free evening for those who wish to explore the city, or to gather at Providence Centre to socialize. We'll be putting

together information for those of you who want to see more of Edmonton.

Thursday is back to business with the Annual General Meeting scheduled for the morning, and after one last lunch at PRC, departures for home.

As fall comes a bit earlier in Alberta than in eastern Canada, we anticipate that the foliage should be in 'all its autumn glory' at that time, but the temperatures should still be pleasant during the day. It will be cooler in the evening, once the sun sets, so come prepared with some warmer clothing.

For Edmonton weather, both current and daily temperature averages, check the Environment Canada website at: [http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada_e.html).

We hope to have additional information, updates and links for the conference and other activities available in Edmonton on the CAG website in the near future, so please check it often!

The Planning Committee looks forward to welcoming you to Alberta - As Gordon Lightfoot said in his song "It's good to be Alberta-bound"!

p.s. Don't forget your camera!!!

### **War Time Scrapbook: A Community Treasure - Debra Majer (Diocese of London)**

Often times I am asked what I believe to be the most interesting item in the archives. This is such a difficult question to answer because there are so many items which I feel have special interest and are of historical worth to our diocesan history. Some items are more sentimental in value, such as a newspaper clipping of Bishop Fallon photographed with our diocesan chaplains in England during World War I. This worn and torn clipping was found in a dug-out in Arra, France during the war, and amazingly made its way back to our diocese nearly 90 years after it was found. Then there are vast amounts of interesting and personal correspondence between Prime Ministers and our bishops which have intrinsic value not only to our diocesan history but also to our country. Last summer, I was working in Windsor collecting records from a couple of the churches slated for closure. As I was rummaging through boxes and cabinets in the basement of Holy Rosary's rectory, I was hoping to uncover a diamond in the rough. There it was, an item unlike any other in the archives which I knew was a "find" so unique that it would have the capability of generating a great response from the community.

Through the piles of old documents and photographs a scrapbook was pulled from the bottom of a dusty shelf. This scrapbook which has pages filled with entries of young men and women are arranged alphabetically on recipe cards. Each card includes family information, marital status, personal details and achievements, along with military and battle information. Nearly every card has a photograph and for those who died in service, their entry is marked with a white cross. And unlike most historical projects from this era, there are no clues as to who was responsible for compiling this book.

One of the greatest challenges I've experienced as a Catholic archivist is educating the public and archival community about our Diocesan collection and how it is far more than just a collection of religious documents pertaining to spiritual affairs. In the fall of last year when I was contacting various media outlets about the scrapbook, I was confronting this very bias. Fortunately, despite what most newspapers assumed our items and documents represented, there was one exception, the Windsor Star. Very quickly, a reporter was in touch with me and asked if I would come to Windsor with the scrapbook so they could develop a story around the book for Remembrance Day as well as digitize all 344 entries so people from the community could access them on the Star's website.

Go to [www.canada.com/windsorstar/features/remembranceday/index.html](http://www.canada.com/windsorstar/features/remembranceday/index.html) to access these digitized entries.

The Windsor Star's front page story on November 10<sup>th</sup> read, "*Not forgotten*", and was accompanied by four entries with photographs from the scrapbook. Naturally, I was very pleased with how the story was covered and pleasantly surprised by the nature of people's comments which were being posted online. Family members of the deceased, past members of the Holy Rosary parish community and people from all over Windsor and Essex County were sharing memories of what they remembered from this period of time some 60 years ago. I was also extremely appreciative with how the Star's staff reporter covered the nature of the find as a "community treasure". This position was also captured by the many people associated with Windsor's historical community who also viewed this scrapbook to be extremely significant to Windsor's war time history.



Debra Majer with the scrapbook

When I arrived back in the office on the following Monday, there were many calls from people sharing stories about their father, brother, cousin, or husband who served in the war and who were also represented in the scrapbook. I was most taken aback after receiving a call from an elderly veteran who was one of the four men featured on the front page of the paper. He shared a number of emotional stories about his time in Europe, the battles he fought in and the loss of a brother who had also served in the war.

As a result of the community's response and the many "stories behind the stories" which had emerged with the finding of the scrapbook, the Star had written two more follow-up articles. What I was not prepared for was the acknowledgment from historical societies and museums from the Windsor/Essex area who contacted with me with offers to purchase or to take formal responsibility of the scrapbook. It is my intention to care for this scrapbook as I do all other items in the archives and most importantly, I am open to having it loaned out to various cultural institutions in Windsor so it may be viewed by the many people who have been touched by this piece of history.

NAME: GLENN A HURTER AGE 22  
LT IN A.A. AIR FORCE  
FATHER'S NAME: ARTHUR HURTER (DECEASED)  
MOTHER'S NAME: MRS BELLA GRENON

IN SERVICE IN JUNE 1941 WITH R C A F TRANS-  
FERRED TO AMERICAN ARMY AIR FORCE IN ENGL-  
AND IN 1943. COMPLETED MORE THAN 50 MISSIONS  
OVER ENEMY TERRITORY. AWARDED AIR MEDAL WITH  
3 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, AND PURPLE HEART.  
REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION ON MARCH 3, 1944  
PRESUMED DEAD IN MARCH 1945  
HOME ADDRESS-4722 WYANDOTTE ST



NAME: SGT ADAM HUTNICK AGE 30 SINGLE  
R-67607 R C A F

FATHER'S NAME: JOHN HUTNICK  
MOTHER'S NAME: DECEASED

IN SERVICE IN JULY 1940 IN CANADA  
ENGLAND, FRANCE, BELGIUM, HOLLAR  
DISCHARGED IN OCT 1945

HOME ADDRESS: 890 BELLE ISLE



NAME: GNR FRANK HUTNICK AGE 24 SINGLE  
A-115759 CDN ARMY

FATHER'S NAME: JOHN HUTNICK  
MOTHER'S NAME: DECEASED

IN SERVICE IN AUG 1942 IN CANADA  
ENGLAND FRANCE BELGIUM HOLLARD GERMANY

DISCHARGED IN MARCH 1946

HOME ADDRESS: 890 BELLE ISLE



NAME: PTE PETER HIEL AGE 21 MARRIED  
A114379 ARMY

FATHER'S NAME: RENE HIEL  
MOTHER'S NAME: LOUISE BOGART  
WIFE'S NAME: BARBARA TAYLOR

SERVED 3 YRS IN CANADA

HOME ADDRESS: 1434 DROUILLARD RD



A portion of a page from the World War II scrapbook found in the basement of Holy Rosary's rectory, July 2007.

*Just for laughs...*

A little boy was doing his homework one evening and turned to his father and said:  
"Dad, where would I find the Andes?" "Don't ask me," said the father. "Ask your mother.  
She puts everything away in this house."

# From the editor's desk



There's Spring in the air and a spring in my step (to the degree that aging bones allow!) as I get to work on this issue of our newsletter. A bouquet of thanks to all who have taken time from their busy lives to contribute articles and photographs for this edition - it's always good to know what's happening in the CAG archival realm, and it gives me a sense of security to know that there's really someone "out there". Please keep those articles coming – the newsletter cannot exist without you!

I hear (via the Alberta grapevine) that things are really percolating in the Edmonton area in preparation for our 2008 Conference - it should be an event well worth attending. To assist our 2008 planning committee, please respond to their requests (see "Destination Edmonton" article) to help make our September 2008 Conference the best yet. Can't wait to see everyone again!

## Publication Schedule

The newsletter is published three times a year: November, February and May. Deadlines for submissions to the newsletter are October 15, January 15, and April 15, respectively.

Email your news items, articles and photographs to Sister Laurette Couture, cssf at either [lcouture@mcsnet.ca](mailto:lcouture@mcsnet.ca) or [couture1939@hotmail.com](mailto:couture1939@hotmail.com). All submissions will be subject to editing; however final approval from the author will be obtained where possible.

## Catholic Archivist Group Executive – Contact Information

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## CAG Word Search

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W X L D A P S A U S A G E N S  
H R T F O R G V T O R V X O C  
S S H E O O N E R U N C O T R  
G A A E E V I E E T A S S N A  
V R N E M I R T A R N M B O P  
P C K L Y D P T S E O G Y M B  
L H S E C E S I U A S O I D O  
A I N C A N D M R C I B N E O  
N V E T N C H M E H B H A E K  
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I S S O D W Y C I L P I L O C  
N T O N A N I Z P J Q N I C V  
G C A S R W E B S I T E S L Q  
B A V R M U N D A R E R A E N  
B G W K C A K C E J R R B W N

ARCHIVIST  
BASILIAN  
BISON  
CAG  
CANADA  
COMMITTEE  
EDMONTON

ELECTIONS  
MUNDARE  
NEWS  
OUTREACH  
PLANNING  
PROVIDENCE  
SAUSAGE

SCRAPBOOK  
SPRING  
THANKS  
TREASURER  
WEBSITE  
WELCOME