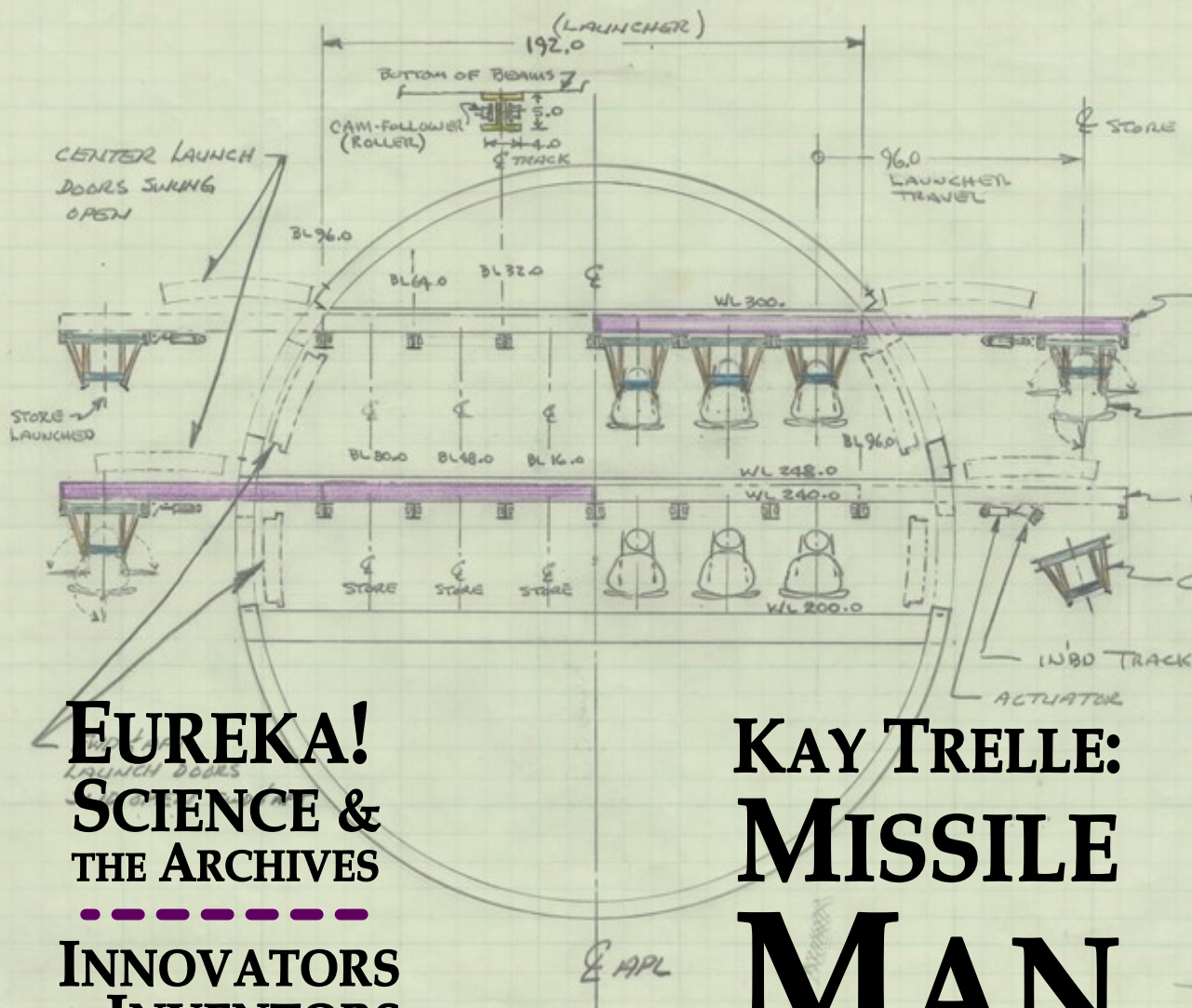


TELLING OUR STORIES

Volume 11

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Issue 4



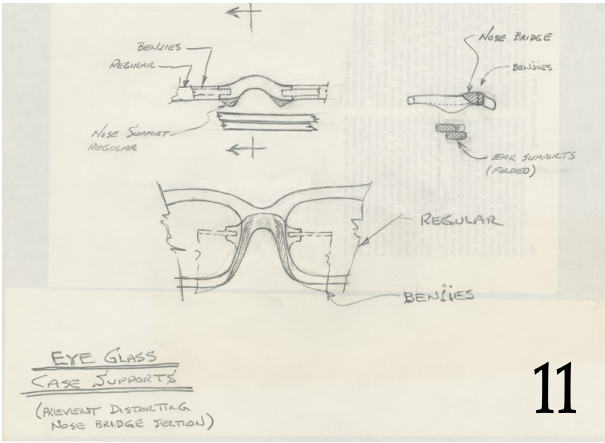
EUREKA!
SCIENCE &
THE ARCHIVES

INNOVATORS
& INVENTORS

KAY TRELLE:
MISSILE
MAN

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Cover photograph: Diagram of a launcher drawn by Kay while he worked for the Boeing Aircraft Corporation. Kay's main project was the Boeing 747 Drone Carrier, "a concept for launching and retrieving un-manned aircraft, using as a carrier a modified 747 commercial airplane." (From SPRA 438.11)

Note on Photographs: Photographs featured in Telling Our Stories are unedited, apart from minimal cropping. In cases where substantial cropping may impact the context of the photograph, this will be noted in the caption.

A Publication of the South Peace Regional Archives

Our Vision: Preserving and Sharing the Past.
Our Mission: The purpose of South Peace Regional Archives is to gather, preserve, and share the historical records of municipalities, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals within the region, both now and in the future.

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Rebecca Morin, Archives Technician (contract)

Mailing Address

Box 687, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A8
Telephone: 780-830-5105

E-mail: director@southpeacearchives.org
www.southpeacearchives.org

Letter from the Editor

This issue of *Telling Our Stories* celebrates science and technology in the South Peace and at the South Peace Regional Archives. In the following pages, we explore not only science and technology-related records within the Archives’ collections, but also the various technologies that we utilize to make records accessible to the public.

This issue’s featured fonds highlights the work of Kay Trelle, a Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineer whose life work made lasting impacts both in Canada and the United States. Kay is one of many innovative thinkers that caught the attention of our staff, volunteers, and guest contributors. This issue considers many of the opportunities— and challenges— that accompany technology. As you read these articles, we hope that you will enjoy the same curiosity that has driven so many in the South Peace to pursue scientific and technological discoveries. We also hope that you will join us as we celebrate the newest technology-based projects at the Archives.

It seems fitting that, at the time of production of this issue, we are also turning to technology to overcome a novel challenge for our organization: hosting our Annual General Meeting during a pandemic. Previously postponed in March, this year’s AGM will be hosted virtually on Zoom to ensure the health and safety of our members. Our AGM plans also include low-tech and no-tech solutions to encourage participation from all our members. We sincerely hope that you will join in on this important conversation.



Alyssa Currie
SPRA Executive Director

Take Note: AGM

The 2020 **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** for the South Peace Regional Archives is taking place **Saturday, September 26th at 10:00am** on Zoom. Full meeting details are available at **www.SouthPeaceArchives.org/2020AGM**

Join us for important updates, including:

Archives Reports

Election of Board Members

A Special Resolution to Repeal the Existing Bylaws and Accept Rewritten Bylaws

and...

Volunteer Recognition

Beth Sheehan Award

Members who are not able to join the virtual meeting may still vote by ballot. See the website or call the Archives for details.

Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect that the South Peace Regional Archives is located on the ancestral and traditional lands of many Indigenous peoples. This territory is covered by Treaty 8, signed in 1899. The continuing relationship between Indigenous peoples and this land contributes to the rich knowledge and culture of the South Peace region.

We are grateful to serve the people on this land and honor the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Movie Monday

Our Newest Multimedia Project



The Archives has just launched an exciting new multimedia project, thanks to the generous funding support of the Swan City Rotary Club of Grande Prairie. The Movie Monday project will increase public access to the Archives’ film collections using our YouTube, blog, and Facebook page.

The project will result in fifty-two previously digitized films being made accessible on YouTube for the public to learn from and enjoy. These amateur films document the daily lives of individuals and special events of the South Peace region, dating back to the mid-twentieth century. Many of the films are originally preserved on video cassette or 8mm film, making public access more challenging than other mediums. A small number of these films were previously available on our YouTube page but many more had not been made available due to limited staff resources.

Every Monday for the next year, a new video will be featured in an educational blog post and shared on the Archives’ Facebook page with the hashtag #MovieMonday. By sharing the films on these familiar



Above: Still from 8mm film titled “Family Growing Up #1, 1950-1956” (Foster family fonds, SPRA 449.01.03)

platforms, the Movie Monday project will promote access among our existing users as well as a wider audience. Once available on YouTube, the films can be used by educators to inspire connections to our community’s history, whether at home or in a classroom setting. A portion of the project funding will be used to digitize new films from our collections for future access and educational programming.

The South Peace Regional Archives would like to sincerely thank Swan City Rotary Club for their financial support on this project. With their assistance, and a bit of technology, we will be dramatically improving access to our film collections. We would also like to invite all of our readers to “like” us on Facebook to see the results of this exciting project!



Left: Still from 8mm film titled “Outdoor Activities, [ca. 1958].” (Foster family fonds, SPRA 449.01.03)

Welcome, Stephanie

We are pleased to introduce the newest member of our team. Stephanie Friesen has recently moved from Vancouver, BC to work as our new Archivist.

Hello everyone, my name is Stephanie Friesen and I originally hail from a small town in Manitoba. I recently graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Masters in Archival Studies. Before starting my master’s degree in BC, I completed an undergraduate degree in Archaeology at the University of Saskatchewan. During my time completing that degree, I was fascinated to learn how archival sources contributed immensely to a particular archaeological study. I also wanted to be able to facilitate research and widen people’s knowledge into the past (without personally digging in the dirt). This led me to becoming an Archivist!

My most recent position before coming to the South Peace region was as the Archivist and Records Manager at an independent school in Metro Vancouver. Another previous position I held was as a Collections Assistant at the Residential School History and Dialogue Centre. In that position I was involved in a digitization pilot program where I digitized records held at a partner institution in order to make

“I want to hear from you!”

As a newcomer to the South Peace region, I have been spending some of my time getting to know the SPRA and its collections to better serve you all in the future. Do you have a favourite collection at the Archives or a project that you’ve completed using rec-

SPRA’s New Archivist

them more accessible to Survivors and other researchers through the RSHDC’s website. Before that, I was a records management co-op student with a large department at UBC where I was involved in a server migration project. I also spent a summer working for the Rossland Museum & Discover Centre as their Assistant Archivist.

I’m so excited to be the new Archivist at the South Peace Regional Archives and to begin learning all about this community. I look forward to meeting with many of you in the future.

Below: Welcome, Stephanie!



ords from the Archives? Which of our services do you find the most valuable? I want to hear from you! Your feedback will help me familiarize myself with the collection and succeed in this position. Call the Archives at 780-830-5105 and ask to speak with Stephanie.

Stephanie Friesen, MAS

Eureka! Science & the Archives

This issue’s Archiveology

Stephanie Friesen, SPRA’s new Archivist, has taken up the Archiveology feature. Archiveology was created to help our readers better understand what Archives are and what we do.

When people think about archives and the purpose the records contained within them could serve, the first thing that often comes to mind is the study of, and advancement of history. However, there are so many more potential uses for archival records! Many different types of scientists use archival records for their research and to advance their fields too.

Archival records that discuss and depict fossils and land formations, such as those from local exploration groups, can be useful to geologists in their research. These depictions can show land formations that are no longer present or have changed drastically through time; they might be used in a study of soil erosion, for example. Diaries written by farmers that detail daily and yearly weather conditions can be used by climate scientists to monitor past trends and locational changes. Old images of the sky and diaries or letters written by past astronomers can still be useful to those studying the topic today. Aerial photographs have been used to study vegetation changes and deforestation. Aerial images have also been used to identify possible archaeological sites and to compare what sites looked like in the past to present day. Finally, images taken by early surveyors are being used today by environmental scientists to study how tree lines have changed and to compare how trees looked in the past to how they look now.



Above: Members of the Peace River Archaeology Society digging at Saskatoon Mountain in 1989 (SPRA 003.006)

Here at the South Peace Regional Archives, we have several fonds that may be of interest to scientists and science enthusiasts. The Peace River Archeology Society fonds (fonds 003) has slides, photo negatives, and field notes from three separate archaeological surveys in this region. The fonds also includes correspondence, meeting minutes, and newsletters. These records reveal the archaeological sites in this area and the artifacts that might be found in them. They might also teach you a bit about local geography!

Another fonds that may interest science enthusiasts is the Trumpeter Swan Naturalists Society fonds (fonds 106). The records in this fonds consist of executive records related to the formation and running of this society. It also includes field records that list bird counts and wildflower counts during different seasons of the year. There are also newsletters that have information about different animal species and sightings.

As is often the case in Archives, records can provide value or insight in surprising ways— even scientific ones. We can’t wait to have you explore our science-related fonds once we’re open to the public again and have your very own eureka moment!

Kay Trelle: Missile Man

Kay Trelle spent most of his career working for the aerospace industry in the United States. It was an interesting time of rapid growth in the aerospace industry, with the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Space Race to land on the moon. For much of that time, he worked in secrecy for Boeing and Lockheed on projects such as the Polaris and Poseidon missiles, and the drone-carrying Boeing 747. While he recognized these accomplishments, his greatest thrill was always the challenge of solving the next problem. He returned to Canada in 1973 and retired to the Lake Saskatoon district in 1990.

Roy Kay Trelle was born at home to Herman and Beatrice Trelle on August 18, 1924, near the hamlet of Lake Saskatoon, Alberta. He started his education in a two-room school at Lake Saskatoon and finished high school in Calgary when his father was stationed there during World War II. When Kay turned 18 in 1942, he enlisted in the Canadian Air Force and trained with the Commonwealth Training

Program in Vancouver, British Columbia. After the war, he traveled down to the United States to visit his family who had just moved to California. While he was there, his father was murdered by a disgruntled farm worker. Extending his visit to help his mother and 12 year-old brother during this crisis, Kay overstayed his visa and was drafted into the American Army. He served for two years with the occupation army in Japan. After his military service, he stayed on

in California to attend the Cal-Aero Technical Institute. He graduated in 1950 with an Honors B.Sc. in Mechanical/Aeronautical Engineering, and received a special letter of recommendation from the president of the college. He married Dorothy Smith in 1949, and was divorced in the 1950s.

After graduation, Kay worked with Convair, an American aircraft manufacturing company. In 1952, he took a position as Design Group Supervisor with Hiller Helicopters in Palo Alto, California, where he directed engineers and draughtsmen on helicopter basic structures and mechanical design. He later went on to become a Consulting and Design Engineer for Cook Research Laboratories in Redwood City, California, in 1957.

In 1958 Kay was hired by Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, and three weeks later became part of a thirty-three member international



Left: Kay Trelle and Rex Ford, another first year engineer from Douglas Hall, in front of the Engineering building at Queen's University in December 1940. (SPRA 193.02.03.42)

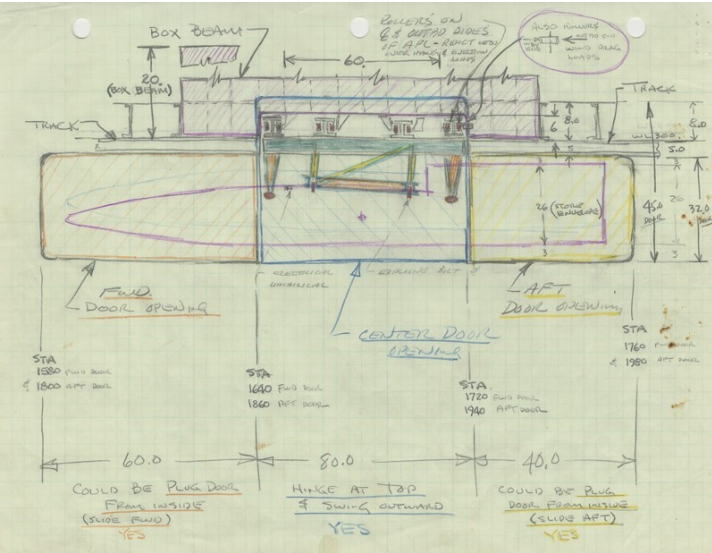
Kay Trelle spent most of his career working for the aerospace industry in the United States.

Right: Diagram of a launcher drawn by Kay while he worked for the Boeing Aircraft Corporation. Kay's main project was the Boeing 747 Drone Carrier, "a concept for launching and retrieving un-manned aircraft, using as a carrier a modified 747 commercial airplane." (From SPRA 438.11)

team (called the Skunkworks) designing the Polaris Missile. He was working there during the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. The Polaris Missile is still being used today on the Trident Submarine. Kay designed the release mechanism for the missile. He received a special commendation "for demonstrating outstanding imagination and design conception versatility resulting in substantial cost conservation benefits to the Polaris Missile Design Project." When the Poseidon C3 Task Force was formed in February, 1964, Kay was included as a design specialist and lead engineer. He received his second commendation for his work on the Poseidon "design solutions for re-entry system installations, structures, and separation devices." The letter states that Kay's "valuable contribution will result in missile systems of high quality and will extend the success of LMSC in missile system programs."

In 1966, Kay married his World War II sweetheart, Mae Morton, whom he had first met while in the Canadian Air Force Commonwealth Training Program in Vancouver. The couple had lost contact during the war and Mae assumed that Kay, like too many of his fellow soldiers, had died during the war. Kay re-established contact in 1965 and, after a separation of twenty-three years, they were married in 1966.

That same year, Kay moved from Lockheed to Boeing Aircraft Corporation in Seattle as a design specialist and lead engineer, with his primary responsibility "to develop an entirely new bomb suspension concept for tactical fighters." The fighter program was being



carried out in Germany and Kay took German language classes to facilitate his work. It was all for naught as the program was abandoned in November 1966.

The next project was the Boeing 747 Drone Carrier in 1969. This was "a concept for launching and retrieving un-manned aircraft, using as a carrier a modified 747 commercial airplane." The idea was that if there was another war, commercial jets such as the Boeing 747 could be quickly outfitted as drone carriers. Kay's responsibility was "to create and analyse various military derivatives for the 747 airplane."

From 1971-1973, Kay spent much of his time inventing, designing, and building an expandable recreational vehicle in the basement of their Seattle home. The vehicle was completed and licensed in the state of Washington, Kay and Mae began the patenting process and explored potential markets for its production. The costs of engineering and patenting each

In 1958, Kay became part of the international team designing the Polaris Missile.

Innovators & Inventors

When starting a research project, the Archives' reference files are the perfect place to begin. The collection of newspaper clippings and other printed materials fills seven filing cabinets, covers hundreds of topics, and includes items from the turn of the century to present day. For a detailed description of the contents, view the finding aid online — Fonds 510: South Peace Regional Archives Reference Files.

Among the Commerce files, the Innovators and Inventors Subseries includes news clippings about new inventions and methods developed in the area as well as a copy of 2005 "Alberta Venture – 100 Entrepreneurs" (Reference File Subseries 510.04.33). For this article, we selected some of our favourite clippings in order to provide you with the interesting excerpts and summaries below; the full articles can be found in our reference files.

Beat the Wet Grande Prairie had an unusually wet summer last year, posing some challenges for local farmers come harvest. Farmers in 1976 similarly struggled to get their crops off soggy fields. "The solutions have ranged from dual-wheeled units to balloon tires to paddle wheels. Eric and John Reichert of Wembley tried a different tack. They went to Shannon and Sons in Grande Prairie and arranged for specially-made tracks, costing \$7000 and shipped in from Texas - strangely enough, a prime producer of rice which grows in wet fields - for their combine. Danny Shannon (centre) arranged the equipment for the Reicherts, Eric (left) and John (right)."

News Stories from the Reference Files

Computer Whiz Computers are part of our everyday lives at home, work, and school now, but in 1980, it would have been quite a novelty to have a "micro-computer" in one's home. High school student Greg Wald used his personal computer to develop a math program of quadratic equations to help with his homework. He also created an American geography program that a micro-computer company in Edmonton thought would be marketable. Greg planned to get in contact with a company based in California about marketing his geography program. "I can see micro-computers becoming more useful as household tools all the time," Greg predicted. "People are still a little bit scared of computers but I think they'll get over it."



Above: *The Daily Herald-Tribune*, October 13, 1976



Greenhouse Acid Test

Lee Merlo set out to design a greenhouse that would withstand the climate of the South Peace. "The special CIL plastic is made to withstand the sun's rays," he described. "Most normal plastic will be broken down after a year by ultraviolet rays whereas this plastic should last five years in Grande Prairie." It was also strong enough to hold up under heavy snowfalls, and could be heated with a small gas or electric heater. The do-it-yourself greenhouse kits were manufactured right in Grande Prairie by Lee's Sheet Metal Ltd., which is still in operation, and sold by G.P. Do-It-Yourself, making this a truly local venture. According to the article, greenhouse packages started at \$495 and varied based on size.

Hoze Kozi After damaging a freshly painted wall with the hose of her vacuum cleaner, May Galigan searched for a way to cushion the hard plastic hose. Her first solution was to use her husband's socks, but they were not large enough. May's friend, Martha Beach (pictured at right), sewed a cover of acrylic plush long enough to encase the entire hose. When May and Martha discovered that "no patents had ever been registered, [they] proceeded with their own." Within four months, they sold 600 Hoze Kozis across Alberta and planned to market their product in other provinces and the United States.



Top left: *The Daily Herald-Tribune*, December 19, 1980

Top right: *The Daily Herald-Tribune*, January 20, 1984

Bottom right: *The Daily Herald-Tribune*, April 23, 1991



Olwen's Own Words:

Novel Sights

In 1933, Olwen Sanger-Davies travelled from East Sussex, England to the Peace Country to visit her younger brother, Morgan. Olwen documented her visit in two personal scrapbooks, containing approximately 500 drawings and paintings. "Olwen's Own Words" features excerpts and illustrations from these scrapbooks.

Olwen's Scrapbook: A Journey to the Peace Country in 1933 can be purchased from the Archives for \$40.00 + \$2.00 GST. Cash and cheques are accepted. Limited quantities are available.



Wednesday, June 21st

The road known as the Kicking Horse trail went past the Wapiti Lake Bungalow Camp which looked most attractive.

Then it wound down the Canyon, past the Silver Lead mine in Mt. Stephen and the spiral railway tunnels to the Yoho valley, up which we went to the Takakkaw Falls.

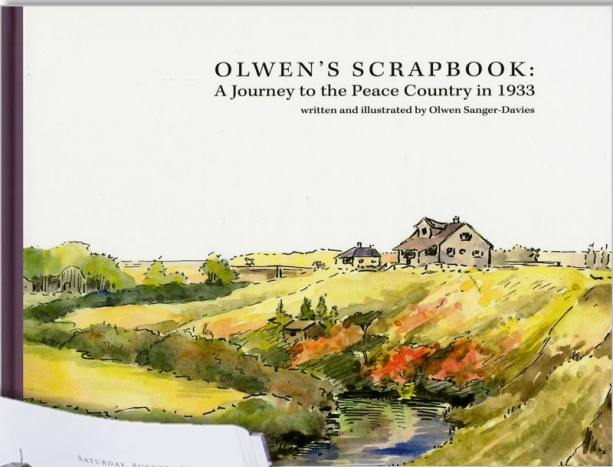
Tuesday, August 22nd

We motored one hundred ninety-one miles to Pouce Coupe in British Columbia and back. It was not so cultivated up there...

On the way there we visited the Experimental Farm at Beaverlodge; they had some good apple trees and nice flowers, many were the same as ours.

Purchase your
copy of Olwen's
Scrapbook today

ONLY \$40.00 +GST
while quantities last



Limited copies!
Cash and cheques
are accepted.



Truth & Technology

Exploring Opportunities and Challenges for Reconciliation

Technology is transforming all aspects of archival practice, including how archival institutions approach Reconciliation efforts. Broader changes in technology can have implications both for how records are preserved in the Archives and how we provide access to those records. The Indigenous History Committee (IHC), whose purpose is to examine the ways we can support Reconciliation, is actively exploring how we can make use of technology to preserve and promote the history of Indigenous peoples in the South Peace. The Committee is also exploring challenges that may be introduced by these technological changes.

Last summer, Archives staff undertook a project to digitize and describe the Indigenous series within the Archives' reference files (Series 510.12). Within this series, twenty-two different subseries cover a wide range of Indigenous-related topics. On completion of the project, the Archives had a searchable database, detailing the contents of the reference series, as well as digitized copies of every item. Indigenous-related reference information is now more easily accessible as we have a better understanding of their contents. Due to copyright and cultural concerns, this database is currently available for internal use only.

The South Peace Regional Archives' blog (located on the website) is another form of technology utilized to share Indigenous-related records. The blog includes two series that are specifically dedicated to content about the history of Indigenous individuals and communities. "Finding Memory: Highlights from the Indigenous Reference files" began in October 2019. The series began after the completion of digitizing the Indigenous reference files and focuses on highlighting content found within the files such as newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other historical documents. In May 2019, another series entitled "Renaming the Past, Reclaiming Their Stories: Indigenous Records at the South Peace Regional Archives" began. This series centers on sharing photographs of Indigenous peoples from the Peace region, as well as gathering background information on the context in which the photo was taken and who is in the photo, when this information is available.

As a result of the costs required to undertake technology-based projects, most of these projects at the Archives are only possible when we have grants to cover the expenses. One example of a new project made possible through a grant from Library and Archives

Canada is "Renaming the Past, Reclaiming Their Stories: Indigenous Records". This project (which was named after the blog series that began last year) will use digitization to increase access to approximately 300 Indigenous-related photographs and paper artifacts. The project will also decolonize records by working with the IHC to ensure the documents reflect culturally-appropriate terminology and are properly contextualized.

The ongoing pandemic has introduced many challenges; however it has also popularized technologies that have benefited the Archives greatly. We have been able to continue our regular IHC meetings and projects via Zoom, despite our closure, which has allowed the committee to continue their work without disruption.

Zoom has also provided the opportunity for the Archives to continue connecting with the public through our outreach and educational events. For Indigenous Peoples day in June, our Archives Assistant (Student) Kaydence hosted a virtual "Culture Bites" presentation entitled "Researching Indigenous History," with the Grande Prairie Public Library. In her Zoom presentation, Kaydence provided a tutorial of researching local Indigenous individuals using the South Peace Regional Archives website. The tutorial provided a step-by-step guide on how to use the records available in the Archives, as well as the potential challenges you may find when researching Indigenous individuals.

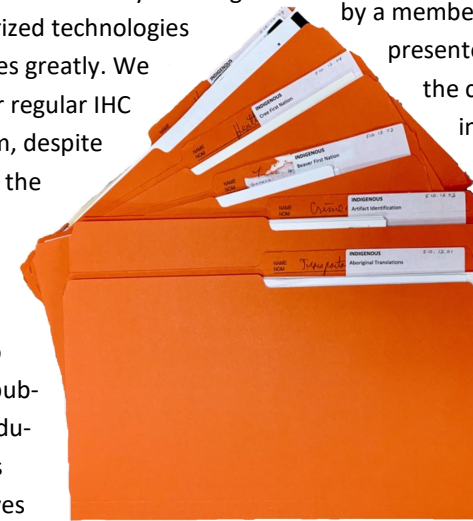
An important step of Reconciliation is listening to the voices of Indigenous peoples and involving them in

the process of decolonizing the Archives. In some cases, this means accepting where technologies might not be welcome or appropriate. The sharing of oral histories is an example of when it might not be appropriate to use technology like YouTube or Facebook to share Indigenous history. The art of storytelling and sharing oral histories is a traditional method used by Indigenous peoples as a way to pass down knowledge and is vitally important for indigenous communities to preserve their history. When an oral history is shared by a member of the indigenous community, it is presented in a manner that acknowledges the context that surrounds the story and in a culturally safe place that allows the story to be told authentically and respectfully.

Because technology like YouTube is accessible to anyone at any time, often we cannot properly contextualize the history being shared or ensure that it is being shared in a culturally appropriate way. In these cases, the use of technology might be inappropriate and disrespectful to traditional cultural practices. This is one challenge created by technology that the IHC is examining when exploring how to promote the history of

Indigenous peoples in the South Peace region.

Making Indigenous history more easily available and ensuring it is culturally and factually accurate is an essential step in Reconciliation. By using technology to provide these records in our previous and ongoing projects, we hope to help connect Indigenous peoples to their past, share the stories of Indigenous communities in the region, and make learning about Indigenous history more accessible for everyone.



Above: The Indigenous series within the Archives' reference files (Series 510.12) were digitized and described in the summer of 2019, thanks to funding support from the Young Canada Works program.



Left: A group of nine Aboriginal people, including men, women, and children on horseback, ca. 1930 (SPRA 032.08.08.0459, cropped). This photograph was featured on our blog on July 17, 2019 as part of the "Renaming the Past, Reclaiming Their Stories" series. We asked our readers for information about the people in this photograph as they are not identified in our records. If you know who they might be, we would love to hear from you!

Geology Rocks

*In Memory of
Mary Nutting*

Remembering the Kleskun Hills Geological Picnics

The following article was written by Mary Nutting. It was originally published in the Beaverlodge Town & Country News column "Country Roads with South Peace Regional Archives" on 28 July 2016.

It was about this time of year that the annual Kleskun Hills Geological Picnic was held during the late 1940s. This is a photograph of the very first one on July 7, 1946, when "Dinosaur Hill" was set aside "as public property" by the Municipal District of Grande Prairie (a forerunner to the County of Grande Prairie).

About 600 people attended, with speakers representing government, legion, board of trade, women's institute, agriculture, church, and media. Bob Cochrane, who had been advocating for the preservation of the site, "gave a brief description of the area."

By 1947, the picnic had become an annual event with lectures by professional geologists brought in from the University of Alberta or Imperial Oil. Their talks were published almost verbatim in the *Herald-Tribune*. Apparently, this event was unique in Alberta, as Dr. J. Allan, a University of Alberta Geologist told them in 1948: "This is the only place in Alberta which has such a day set aside to learn something of the ancient ages of the earth and of the need to preserve the area just as nature left it." The article goes on to tell the history of the area and ends with, "the talks were given on the grassy slope of Dinosaur Hill with the audience sitting on the grass in a circle. Ball



Above: Kleskun Hill Picnic, July 7, 1946, draws a large crowd of people interested in the geological formations in the area (SPRA 268.02.10)

games, horseshoes, and other sports followed. Lunch was enjoyed picnic style. The CWL booths of ice cream and refreshments were well patronized."

But it is the accompanying article, from the *Herald-Tribune* on July 21, 1949, that gives us a picture of the impact it had on the area: "Hundreds of people from near and far moto to the oddly shaped hills with their well-kept secrets..."

It also identifies the bus in the photograph: "A special bus will leave Grande Prairie bus depot at 1:30pm to take those without cars who wished to attend the picnic."

I love the picture the last sentence of the article creates: "Signs will be erected along all highways to guide motorists. The Municipal Geological Park is just about 17 miles north-east of Grande Prairie."



Above: Two students working in an audio lab at Grande Prairie Regional College, 1973 (SPRA 192.05.04.01-1973c)

Right: Students working in a language lab, 1973 (SPRA 192.05.01.01-1973e)

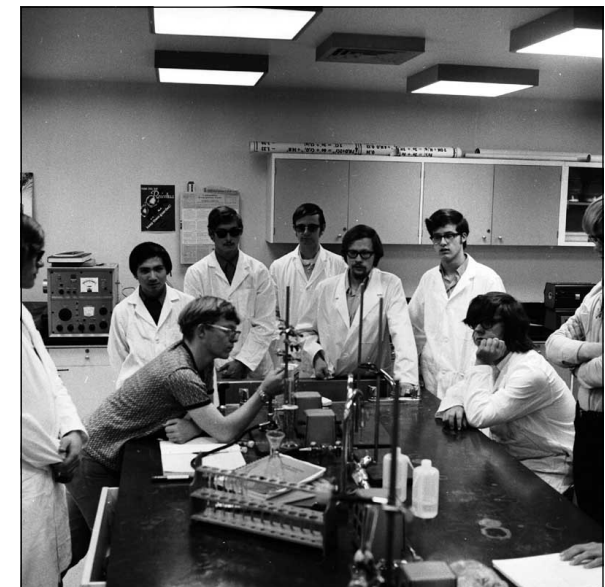
Bottom left: Prospective students visit biology lab at Grande Prairie Regional College, 1971 (SPRA 192.05.04.01-1971i)

Bottom right: Student demonstration in a chemistry lab at Grande Prairie Regional College, 1972 (SPRA 192.05.04.01-1972d)



Featured Photos

This issue's featured photographs are taken from the Grande Prairie Regional College subseries of the Frank Kozar fonds (fonds 192). The subseries includes photos of students, staff, and visitors to the college in the early 1970s. Enjoy!



The Role of Canadian Experimental Farms in Lily Hybridization

The following article is a guest contribution from Leanne Dowd, a writer for the North American Lily Society's quarterly bulletin. Leanne recently published a book on Canadian lily hybridizers which highlights the Beaverlodge Experimental Farm and local horticulturist John Wallace. Leanne donated a copy of her book to the Archives' reference library, where it is now available for consultation.

The hundreds of lily hybrids created by Canadian hybridizers is well documented in books, and periodicals. Canada's government-run experimental farms provided a platform for a few of these hybridizers to conduct their work. Without exception, these talented individuals also hybridized other genera of plants, principally those with practical application for farmers, such as fruits, vegetables and grains, as well as ornamentals.

In the 1800s there was a growing interest in the advancement of natural sciences that saw many nations building zoos, observatories, botanical gardens and experimental farms. In 1886, the Experimental Farms Act in Canada authorized the establishment of five experimental farms in Canada, the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa (1886), Nanpan, Nova Scotia (1887), Brandon, Manitoba (1888),

Indian Head, Northwest Territories (1888) and Agassiz, British Columbia (1888). The goal was to provide scientific information to newly immigrated farmers, unfamiliar with the harsh growing conditions in Canada, to improve production. Following this, there were many other stations built.

The Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa was the first of the stations built. Research focused on entomology, botany and horticulture but planting of shelter belts and landscaping grounds was integral to education as well. It is here that Isabella Preston carried out her groundbreaking work on lilies. She began hybridization of lilies at the Ontario Agricultural College in 1914. Out of that work came the L. x imperial strain, most notably, 'George C. Creelman', named after professor and President of the college from 1904-1920. In 1920 she was hired as a plant breeder at the experimental farm, flying in the face of gender expectations of the time.

During Preston's twenty years at the station she created 200 hybrids including lilies, roses, crab apples, columbines and Siberian irises. The Stenographer Group, Fighter Group, Preston Group and Tigrimax Group of lilies are among her accom-

plishments. Her contributions to later lily hybridization cannot be understated. She is recognized as Canada's first female hybridizer and was the first experimental farm employee to specialize in ornamental plant breeding.

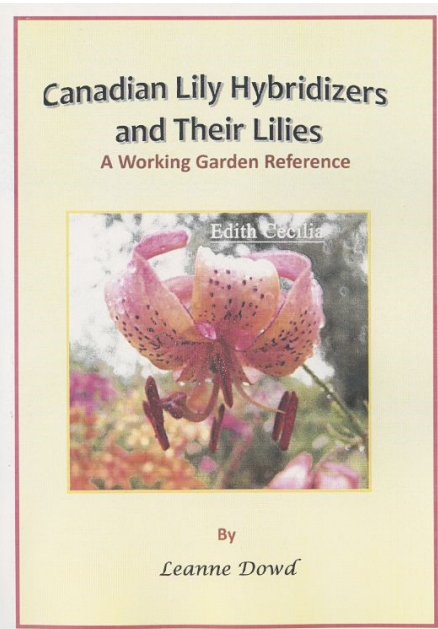
The Vineland Station, now the Horticultural Research Institute of Canada at the University of Guelph, Ontario, was built by 1910, consolidating fifteen previously grower-owned test plots. It conducted studies related to tender fruits which would grow in the geographically unique Niagara region. Currently it experiments in the areas of vineyards, rotation crops, ornamental plantings, greenhouses and as the only mushroom research facility in Canada. E.F. Palmer was station Director between 1916 and 1956. He is known world-wide for his development of hardy fruits and gladioli. Encouraged by Preston's previous work, he

created a late-blooming strain of trumpet lilies called the Sulphur Hybrids, the Vineland Aurelians Group and the Vineland Golden Aurelians Group. Beginning in 1935, he mentored J.C. Taylor who began work at the station. Taylor went on to develop a line of Asiatic hybrid lilies, the Ontario Bird Series, with names including 'Skylark', 'Golden Plover' and 'Sandpiper'. Breeding of lilies at Vineland was, and remains, a private endeavour, but supported by a supply of free labour.

The Beaverlodge Experimental Farm in Alberta, Canada's most northerly research station, was in operation by 1917. It developed out of work begun privately by W.D. Albright. He wrote to the Director of Experimental Farms in 1914 and offered to do agricultural tests on his farm if seeds were provided. Over time, the government became more involved and by 1941 the facility reached full station status. In addition to typical agricultural experimentation, it also has an apiary management program as well. Albright invited John Wallace of Ontario to work at the station in addition to operating his own nursery, Wallace went on to assume leadership of the farm's Horticultural Department. He bred new varieties of strawberries, saskatoons, tomatoes, roses, crab apples, trees and shrubs. His work with lilies is largely unrecognized. His named lilies include 'Nugget', 'Katja', 'Shelia' and 'Germaine'.

Morden's experimental farm in Manitoba was built in 1915. It is now called the Cereal Research Centre. In 1916, twenty five thousand apple seedlings were planted and five years later its fruit breeding program began. Over time, the breeding of hardy landscape plants including prairie-hardy trees, shrubs, perennials and lilies became the station's primary objective.

Left: John Wallace with one of his cultivars, the Shelia Lily, 1979 (SPRA 383.01.06.024)



Above: Canadian Lily Hybridizers and Their Lilies: A Working Garden Reference by Leanne Dowd (SPRA Reference Library)



W.R. Ronald joined the staff at Morden from 1974 to 1982 as a research scientist. Using advanced techniques including embryo rescue, he developed hybrids of previously incompatible lily groups. Lynn Collicutt collaborated with Dr. Ronald to develop these interdivisional crosses and carried on their work there following Ronald's departure until 1993. Their efforts produced the Canadian Belles Series and others such as 'Northern Beauty', 'Northern Carillon' and 'Northern Sensation' and 'Morden Butterfly'.

The Summerland Research Station in British Columbia was established in 1914. It is now called the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre. In 1924, R.C. Palmer, brother to E.F. Palmer and B.L. Palmer, also lily hybridizers of note, began the apple breeding program at Summerland which eventually produced the 'Spartan' apple. He was superintendent of the station from 1932 till 1953. His keen interest in ornamental horticulture led him to develop lilies with names 'Crimson King', 'Samarkand', 'Siam', 'Sirdar' and 'Skyrocket'.

By the 1970s, there were more than fifty government

Below: A Germaine lily, one of John Wallace's cultivars, 1975 (SPRA 383.01.06.131)



operated research locations nation-wide, built between 1906 and 1960. By 1995, the stations were consolidated into nineteen research centres/centres of excellence and as of 2019, the number sits at twenty. With the exception of the Ronald/Collicutt lilies produced at Morden, most, if not all, of the other lilies developed at the experimental farms are now gone.

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Cree Valley Chopsticks

In August of 1989, the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Reserve was booming with the recent opening of a new business: a chopstick factory. The factory was a joint business venture between the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation company Cree Valley Industries and Hi-Tech, a Japanese investment firm. It was the first of its kind in Alberta.

At the time of opening, other chopstick factories in Western Canada were on "shaky ground" according to Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation band manager Ron Sunshine, but what set the local venture apart was their use of innovative technology. The factory utilized a unique blend of technology from different cultures, including Canadian saws, used for cutting the aspen trees into sticks, and Japanese finishing equipment that shaped the sticks into ready-to-use disposable chopsticks. These Japanese finishing machines allowed for the factory to have a much higher daily output of chopsticks. At full production 15 million chopsticks a day could be produced.



Before opening, Cree Valley Industries brought nine Chinese technicians who were familiar with operating the Japanese chopstick technology to the factory so that they could teach the workers there how to operate the machinery. These technicians stayed in Valleyview for a couple

of months while they taught the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation workers. Despite the language differences, the two groups got along great; Sunshine stated that "a lot of laughter and sign language goes on during a workday...it adds to a cheerful working atmosphere."

Although the factory only operated for a few years before closing down, the story of the Cree Valley Industries chopstick factory offers a look into a unique business that was once located in the South Peace. This story also shows us how technology has the ability to unite people from diverse cultures around the world and to form unexpected bonds in unexpected places.



Top Right: The Daily Herald-Tribune, April 21, 1989

Bottom Left: The Daily Herald-Tribune, August 18, 1989

Ships & Stations

A Handbook for Wireless Telegraph Operators

In June 2019, the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie opened a new exhibition showcasing materials from their permanent collection. Pioneering Portraits included artwork from the estate of Bert Tieman. In preparation for the exhibition, Art Gallery staff visited the South Peace Regional Archives to examine the Bert & Miriam Tieman fonds and research Bert’s contributions to the local artistic community.

The Bert & Miriam Tieman fonds (Fonds 039) includes a handwritten “Handbook for Wireless Telegraph Operators” that caught the eyes of our staff and volunteers. The handbook was produced around 1920— the same time that the Tiemans immigrated to Canada. It

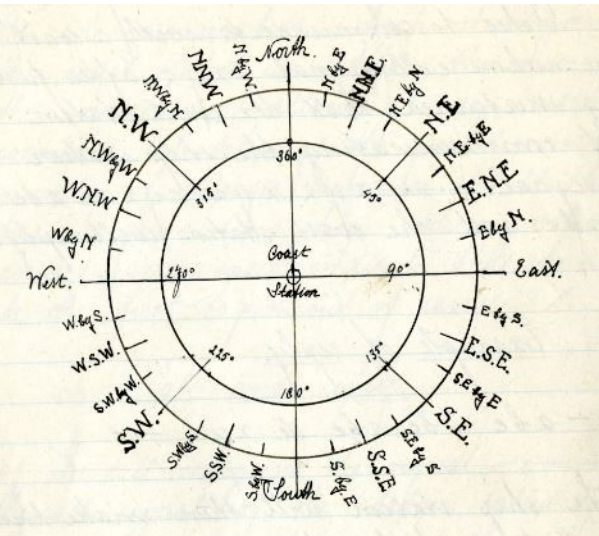
includes ship to shore information used for communications and was likely copied from a published text as a reference copy. Although the text was not relevant to the Art Gallery’s research, it was of great interest to one of our volunteers who wished to transcribe it. Mathew Wozniak, with assistance from fellow volunteer Leita Askew, completed a full transcription of the handbook that is now available on the Archives’ website (Fonds 039). It provides a fascinating insight into the communication technologies used by ships in the early twentieth century. We hope you will enjoy the following excerpts:

Purpose of this handbook

1. This book is intended as a manual for the guidance of wireless telegraph operators on board ship and at coast stations with regard to the acceptance and treatment of radio telegrams, the transmission and receipt of signals, and other details of actual working. It does not in any way deal with the scientific principles of wireless telegraphy, the details of apparatus, or the differences of the various systems. For the most part the instructions apply primarily to operators on board ship but for the sake of completeness certain instructions have been added which apply only to operators at coast stations...

Signals of distress.

7. In case of distress the obligation to accept messages is absolute in the case of every ship and coast sta-



Left: Hand-drawn compass from the “Handbook for Wireless Telegraph Operators.” (Bert & Miriam Tieman fonds, SPRA 039)

the United Kingdom is required to hold a certificate of competency conferred by the postmaster-general after examination. The examination is designed to test the operator’s practical knowledge of wireless telegraphy within the limits prescribed in appendix 6 and his knowledge of the regulations contained in this handbook. The certificate states also that the operator has been bound to preserve the secrecy of correspondence...

Language.

29. Radiotelegrams may be sent in plain language, code language, or cypher, except in the case of certain countries (shown in the table of telegraph tariffs in the post office guide), which do not admit code or cipher telegrams, or admit them under certain restrictions only.

This transcription marks Mathew’s last project before his retirement from volunteering at the Archives in 2019. Thank you Mathew, for your many years of dedicated volunteer service!

tion without distinction, and such messages must be accepted with priority over all other messages. They must be answered with similar priority and the necessary steps must be taken at once to give effect to them. Further Instructions in this respect will be found in section 73.

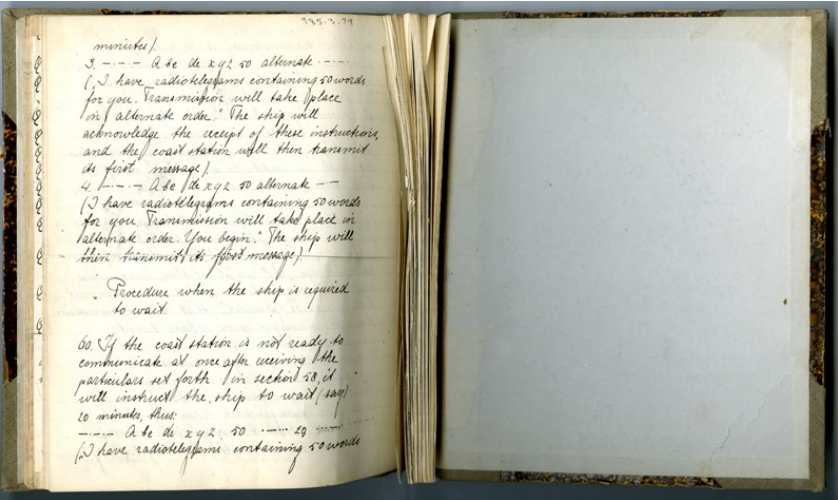
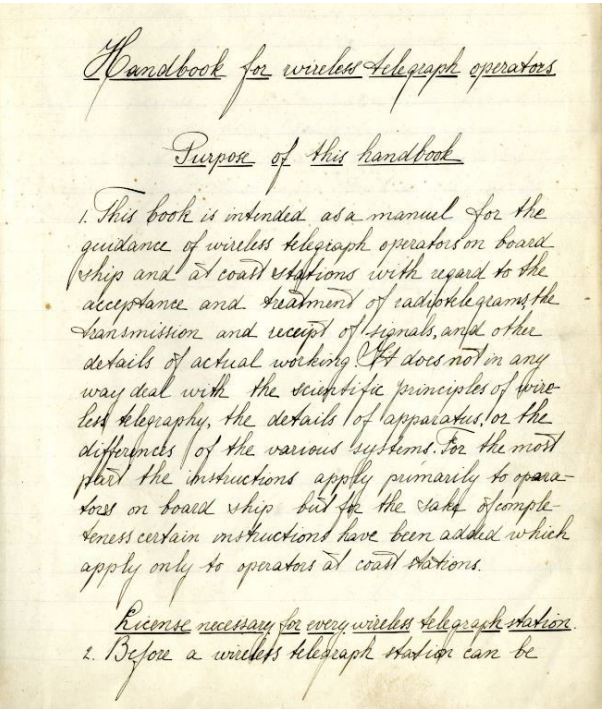
Avoidance of interference.

8. Another general obligation which is imposed on all stations alike, and which is regarded as of the highest importance, is that they shall interfere as little as possible with the working of other stations. The rules of working are largely designed to prevent such interference...

Operator’s certificate.

11. Every person operating a station on board a ship registered in

Right: Final pages from the “Handbook for Wireless Telegraph Operators.” It appears that the latter portion of the book was removed at some point. (Bert & Miriam Tieman fonds, SPRA 039)



New at the Archives

Since we've been closed to the public for the last several months, we haven't been accessioning many new fonds. This means that we've been hard at work completing other essential archival activities.

We recently completed processing several accruals to the Schenk Family fonds (fonds 256). The newly updated finding aid is now available on the Archives' website. Several new photographs have been digitized as well and are available on Alberta On Record. We hope that you will take the time to explore and enjoy this fantastic new resource.



Above: Archives Assistant (Student) Kaydence posing with the newly described Schenk Family fonds

We are also hard at work processing the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie fonds. It's a very large collection so it will take us some time to complete but we're making a lot of headway during the closure.

Finally, in the last few months we have also coordinated a transfer of approximately 30 books to different archival institutions around Alberta. These books did not meet our mandate but they are relevant to other regions in Alberta. We are so happy to have found good homes for these books!

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the Bill & Laura Turnbull fund

through the

Edmonton Community Foundation

The South Peace Regional Archives are very grateful for the financial support provided by the Bill & Laura Turnbull Fund.

The grant received was used to fulfill our goal of increasing community awareness of the Archives. This aim is especially important during the ongoing pandemic, as the Archives remains closed to the public. By increasing our digital presence and creating engaging content on our social media, we can continue to promote the Archives and our services.

Introducing...

#ThrowbackThursday



We are thrilled to introduce a new series on the Archives' Facebook page:

Throwback Thursday! Each Thursday, we will take a trip down

memory lane by sharing a photograph that highlights the history of the South

Peace. Want to take part?



Visit and "like" the **South Peace Regional Archives** on Facebook to see our posts, and then show your support by liking, commenting, and sharing any

#ThrowbackThursday photographs you enjoy. Your engagement on social media helps us stay in peoples' newsfeeds.



"Like" us on Facebook!

South Peace Regional Archives Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

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I would like more information about becoming a: _____volunteer _____board member

Select your membership:

Yearly membership: receive communications to stay informed about issues and happenings at the Archives, get involved in the society, attend meetings, vote on issues, and run for office.

Lifetime membership: receive all of the benefits of a regular membership, without the hassle of yearly renewal, and know that your membership could have a greater immediate impact. Lifetime members will also receive an official donation receipt for income tax purposes.

This membership is _____ new _____ renewal

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