

Friends **O**f the **S**askatchewan **A**rchives

2013 Annual Report



*Provincial Archivist, Linda McIntyre, holds the basket while Barr Godkin, a FOSA-Regina member, draws for a door prize winner at the Harvest Fair on Sept. 23, 2013
(Source: SAB_Harvest_10_small)*

SUMMARY

During 2013, Friends in the Saskatoon region began to meet on a regular basis and created an informal structure for their operation. Margaret Hendry was selected to serve as the FOSA-Saskatoon Liaison person; while Frank Korvemaker took over a similar role for the FOSA- Regina group.

Overall membership was reduced from 61 to 40, with 23 active and 17 associate members, as the criteria for membership was redefined and some previous members chose not to renew their membership.

As both the Regina and Saskatoon groups are still in the formative stages, activities during 2013 were limited to working on a few small projects, participating in the Harvest Fair event, and dealing with several potential donors.

ADMINISTRATION

The informal organizational structure continued throughout the year, and was also a matter of some concern. “Friends of the Archives” groups elsewhere in Canada were all formally organized as non-profit societies, with an executive and Board of Directors.

It was agreed that each Liaison person would print copies of the agenda, minutes and e-mails received during their term for incorporation into FOSA’s permanent archival record.

During 2013, meeting facilities were again provided at both the Saskatoon and Regina offices of the Saskatchewan Archives Board, as was limited administrative support.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The following activities were undertaken:

Volunteer Work:

- Regina Photo Project – This project helps the SAB to upgrade the textual information documented in the photographic collection. FOSA members systematically review the photos to identify discrepancies in the data entered into the SAB’s database, and subsequently made available on the Archives’ website. During the year the contents of an additional 2,149 photo envelopes were reviewed by the Friends, bringing the total now reviewed from 3,600 to 5,749.



*Outdoor Curling at Prince Albert, ca. 1900-1905
(Source: SAB: GM_R-A4531)*

- Cummins Map Indexing Project – This project will focus on making the names on the Cummins Maps readily searchable. Due to technical difficulties it was indefinitely tabled.
- School Registers Inventory Project – This project focuses on identifying the location of all school registers within the SAB collection, as well as listing the teachers who maintained the registers. A test run for the project was initiated, and 65 registers were reviewed.

Advocacy:

- Saskatoon SAB Office Review – a position statement was drafted by FOSA-Saskatoon and presented to the consultant hired by the Sask. Archives Board to review the status of the SAB's operations in Saskatoon. FOSA-Saskatoon has requested a copy of the consultant's report as interested stakeholders. Since the Sask. Archives Board is still considering the report no decision on this request has been made.

Donations:

FOSA members were involved with various archival records during the year, some of which were donated to the SAB; others to more appropriate archival institutions inside and outside Saskatchewan:

- Melville Town Hall Time Capsule – the contents of the 1913 Time Capsule, which included previously unavailable copies of the *Western Sun* and the *Melville Canadian*, were donated to the SAB
- Arlington Beach Church Records – the existence of some apparently abandoned Church records was brought to the attention of the United Church Archives in Saskatchewan.
- Clay / Shumiatcher Records and Artifacts – these items were referred to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa as they related primarily to Canadian military operations in Europe during World War II.
- Heritage Saskatchewan records – assistance was given to Heritage Saskatchewan in identifying historic photographs given to that organization. As the photos ultimately related to Chester, Montana, the records were referred to the local museum in that community.

Promotional Activities:

- Brochure development – Regina-based members prepared a brochure for general distribution by mail and at various SAB and FOSA events. It has also been posted on the website, and distributed to the Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre, as well as at Archives Week in Regina and at the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism Volunteer Workshop.
- Website enhancement – FOSA maintains a page on the SAB's website. The content includes copies of our annual report, and times for upcoming meetings.
- Communications Strategy – A lack of response from a survey to members resulted in termination of this activity.
- Regina Downtown Archival Display Proposal – a proposal to create a downtown display in the vacant Travellers Building, a heritage building on the 2000 block of Broad Street, has been initiated. The project would include co-operation among various Regina-based archival institutions and organizations, including the SAB, City of Regina Archives, University of Regina Archives, FOSA and potentially several others. Such a display could help generate new interest in the building, which was at one time slated for rehabilitation.



*Travellers Building, Regina in 2013
(Source: Frank Korvemaker)*



*Proposed building renovations, 2010
(Source: Laura Pfeifer)*

Social Events:

- SAB Harvest Fair – Various FOSA members participated in the September 23rd Harvest Fair held at the Regina Hillsdale Office. The event included displays of various historical records relating to the theme of past Saskatchewan harvests. Members welcomed guests, offered refreshments, solicited new memberships, and explained some of the projects with which FOSA is current engaged.



*Barr Godkin (left), FOSA-Regina member, and Stephen Roth, archivist with the Records Processing Unit of the SAB, welcome guests at the entrance display for the Harvest Fair.
(Source: SAB_Harvest13 _ Entrance)*

MEMBERSHIP

In 2013, Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives had a total membership of 40 people broken down as follows:

Saskatchewan:		36
The following Saskatchewan communities were represented:		
Regina:	20	
Saskatoon:	13	
Spring Valley	1	
Watrous	1	
Waseca	1	
Alberta:		1
British Columbia:		2
Ontario		1
Total Membership:		40

CONTACT INFORMATION

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