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

2016 Annual Report

*In 1949, a contract was let by the Department of Public Works to build a new bridge across the South Saskatchewan River, at a point known as Saskatchewan Landing, about 40 km northwest of Swift Current. The combination-steel-and-concrete-span bridge opened on June 20, 1951, but washed out during the following spring ice break-up on April 7, 1952.
A replacement bridge opened on July 10, 1953.
(Source: PAS: R-A6618[3])*

SUMMARY

Membership increased significantly from 160 to 200 active and associate members. Some of the new members initially contacted FOSA in order to find out how they can donate records to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS).

ADMINISTRATION

Structure - The informal organizational structure for FOSA-Regina and FOSA-Saskatoon continued for another year and remains a matter of some concern. Bill Armstrong remained the de-facto Chair of FOSA-Regina; Margaret Hendry filled a similar position at FOSA-Saskatoon.

FOSA Meetings - Meeting facilities continue to be provided at both the Saskatoon and Regina offices of the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, as was limited administrative support.

FOSA Website – Information relating to FOSA activities can be found on the PAS website. On the home page, click on "About the Archives", then select: "Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives" or click directly on the following link: http://www.saskarchives.com/about-archives/friends-archives

ACHIEVEMENTS

The following activities were undertaken:

Correspondence:

The Interim Gopher (a.k.a. Bill Armstrong) maintained a steady flow of correspondence with members and responded to a number of public enquiries. Well over a hundred e-mails found their way into members' In Boxes. Among some of the topics that FOSA members were asked to consider or provide some insight on, were the following:

- **family history enquiries**

Kenneth Lie contacted FOSA regarding his great-grandfather, Peder, who arrived from Norway at Quebec City in June 1929, and may have been recruited to work on farms in western Canada. The program began about 1925. He returned home in 1934. This is one of the photos he mailed home to Norway during his sojourn in Canada. He died in 1946.
(Source: Correspondence from FOSA member: Kenneth Lie, Norway)

- **identification of historic photos**
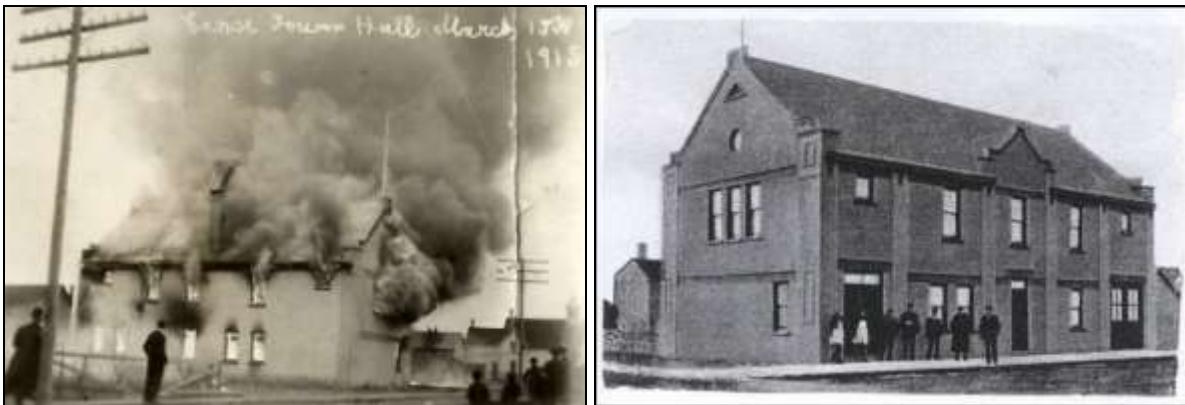
The handwriting identifying this burning "Genoe" Town hall was unclear;
but further research by FOSA members identified the structure as the
Town Hall in Pense, built in 1909 and burned in 1915.
(Source: Marion Fleming Lethbridge, Alberta; PAS: PR-08-196)

- **repatriation of Saskatchewan records from outside the province or country**

Records relating to Melaval were found in Texas.
FOSA members joined in the search for family who might want to have these repatriated,
or donated to a local archives or to the Provincial Archives.
(Source: Regina Leader-Post, Sept. 2016)

- **searches to locate relatives relating to historic documents**

(Left) John MacDonald, killed in First World War, and
(Right) Dan MacDonald [the "Smitty"] with curlers on
Canadian Bank of Commerce steps with their trophy (community unknown).
Documents suggest that both men were from the Whitewood area.
The American donor wants to see these items returned to family in Saskatchewan
or donated to the Provincial Archives.
(Source: Ian MacLennan, Forest Hills, New York, USA)

- **information relating to preserving archival records**

- **upcoming tours and seminars relating to various heritage programs**

- **questions relating to homesteading**

Which format for breaking virgin prairie was physically more demanding –
walking behind the plow (left), or seated on a sulky plow and being jostled for hours on end?
(Source: Correspondence from FOSA member Ralph Watzke, Grenfell)

- **information about grain elevators**

Request for information relating to the location and construction of grain elevators for the
Beaver Elevator Company by McDiarmid Construction of Winnipeg.
FOSA members helped locate photographs for about 15 such elevators in local history books.
(Source: Ernfold local history, p. 219)

- **procedures for donating records to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan**

Volunteer Work:

- **Regina Photo Project** – This project helps the PAS 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 PAS database and subsequently made available on the Archives' website. During the past year, the contents of an additional 1,635 photo envelopes were reviewed by the Friends bringing the total now reviewed from 8,104 to 9,739. FOSA members have worked on this Project for 180 hours, including 40 hours in 2016.
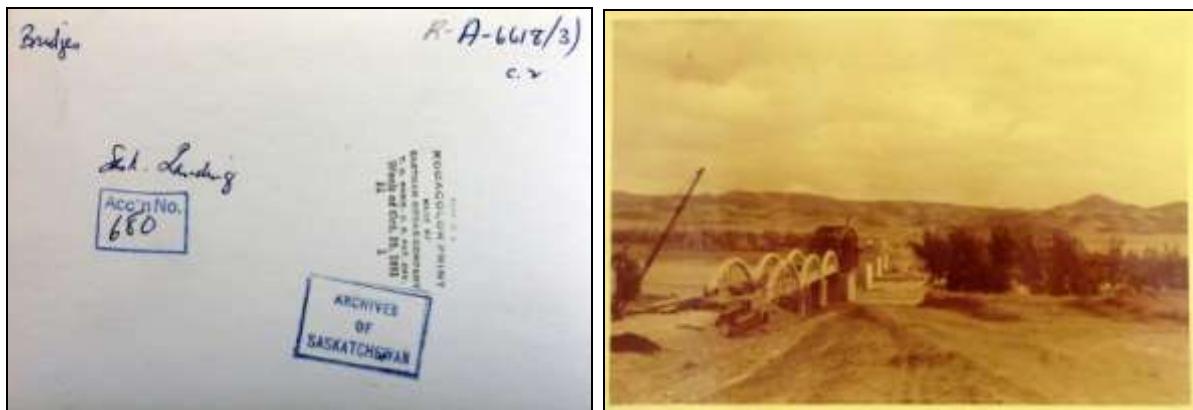
Front and back view of a photograph showing construction of the new bridge across
the South Saskatchewan River at a point known as Saskatchewan Landing,
about 40 km northwest of Swift Current.
FOSA members compare text on the photo with what is recorded in the database
and note any discrepancies.
(Source: PAS: R-A6618[3])

- **Archives Week (Feb. 6-12, 2016) – Regina** – The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan and the Provincial Capital Commission hosted a special Archives Week event at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum on Feb. 11th , which included a screening of the first three videos in the series "From the Prairies to the Trenches" (looking at Saskatchewan's involvement in the First World War). The event was well-attended, drawing well over 100 people, including a number of FOSA members, who helped host the occasion.

Curt Campbell, archivist with the PAS, discusses the video series
at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum Auditorium.
(Source: Bill Armstrong)

- **Saskatchewan Association of Architects - Box List Project – Regina –** This project was suspended in 2016 due to illness.

- **Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan Poster Series** – A poster series was developed at the Saskatoon office of the Provincial Archives to help promote the new name for the Archives. Saskatoon member of FOSA helped find and select suitable images for this series.
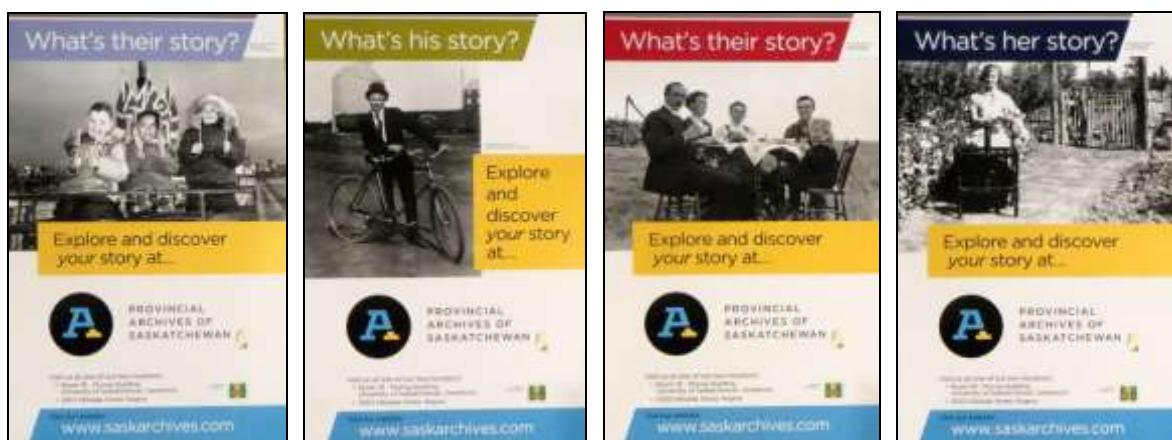
Donations:

FOSA member and retired PAS Archivist Frank Korvemaker was contacted by Glenn McEwen, a former director of the Palliser Triangle Wheat Growers Association, to inspect his records for potential donation to the PAS. At the same time, McEwen also brought out records relating to his grandfather, John Hill, who worked at Lord Brassey's Sunbeam Farm, Indian Head – a farming operation related to the historic Bell Farm.

Only the Wheat Growers' records were donated at this time (Accession 2016-025). They comprise about 40 cm (18 inches) of paper documents that date from 1970 to 2000, including minutes, reports, newsletters, convention information, press releases, and copies of *Pro-Farm* magazines.
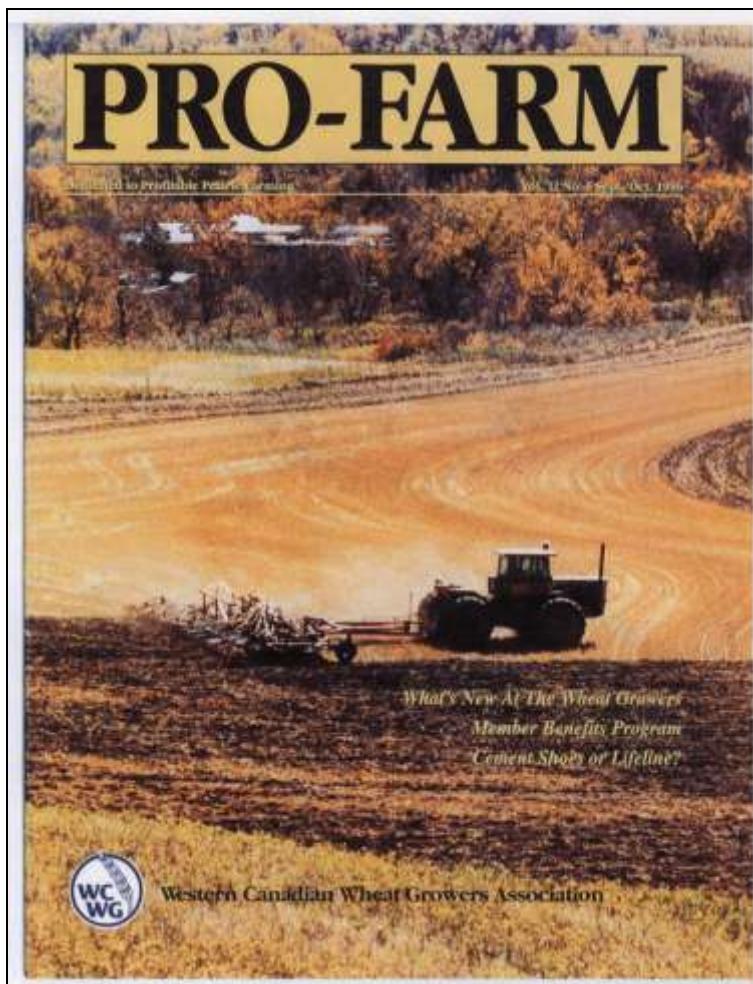
Cover of the September-October 1996 issue of Pro-Farm *magazine,*
published by the Western Canadian Grain Growers Association
(formerly the Palliser Triangle Grain Growers Association).
(Source: PAS Accession: 2016-025)

Promotional Activities:
- None in 2016

Social Events:
- None in 2016

MEMBERSHIP

During 2016, Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives membership increased by 25 % - from 160 to 200 members, distributed around the world as follows:

Canada: 175

Alberta	35
British Columbia	26
Manitoba	6
New Brunswick	1
Nova Scotia	1
Ontario	22
Quebec	1
Saskatchewan	83

World-Wide Members: 25

Australia	3
France	3
Ireland	2
Norway	1
United Kingdom	7
USA	9

Total Membership: **200**

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOSA-Regina Liaison	– Bill Armstrong:	fosa.regina@gmail.com
FOSA-Saskatoon Liaison	– Margaret Hendry:	fosa.saskatoon@gmail.com

Mailing Address (Regina)
Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives
c/o Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan
P.O. Box 1665
Regina, Sask. S4P 3C6

Mailing Address (Saskatoon)
Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives
c/o Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan
Room 91, Murray Building
3 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 5A4