

# Friends of the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan

## 2018 Annual Report



*(L-R) Friends Lynn McCaslin, Will Chabun, Allan Tidball and Bill Armstrong help staff a booth at the Archives' video presentation "From the Prairies to the Trenches" marking the end of its First World War series, presented at the MacKenzie Art Gallery.  
(Photo Source: Friends member: Frank Korvemaker)*

## **SUMMARY**

During 2018 membership increased over 65%, from 235 to 392 active and associate members. Some of the new members initially contacted the Friends in order to find out how they can donate records to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS).

The name of our Friends organization changed from Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives (FOSA) to Friends of the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (Friends of the PAS or Friends).

With the closure of the Saskatoon office of the PAS in December 2018, the Saskatoon branch of the Friends was integrated into the larger group.

The Friends brochure was revised to reflect changes in the administration at the Provincial Archives and consequently our contact information.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Structure – The informal organizational structure for the Friends appears to be working well and will continue as such for the foreseeable future. Bill Armstrong, corresponding under the pseudonym of “Interim Gopher”, remained the de-facto Chair of the Friends of the PAS.

Friends Meetings – Our regular meetings continued to be held at 3303 Hillside Street - the public office of the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan; while PAS staff has provided limited administrative support, which is greatly appreciated.

Friends Website – Information relating to Friends’ activities can be found on the PAS website. On the Home page, click on:”About the Archives”, then select: “Friends of the Provincial Archives”, or click directly on the following link: <http://www.saskarchives.com/about-archives/friends-archives>

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

The following activities were undertaken in 2018:

### **Correspondence:**

The Interim Gopher maintained a steady flow of correspondence with members and responded to a number of public enquiries. Over 150 e-mails found their way into members’ IN BOXES. Among some of the topics that the Friends were asked to consider or to provide some insight, were the following:

## Correspondence Cont'd:

- **family history enquiries and comments: Murray Galbraith**



*Hand-logged timbers at the Donald Galbraith Sawmill, Northland, Sask., 20 miles NW of Nipawin, July 1933; Donald, his brother Sidney, and families.  
(Photo Source: Friends member: Murray Galbraith)*

Over the past few years Friends member Murray Galbraith has shared a number of chapters from his family history, as it relates to logging in northern Saskatchewan. He has also contributed several images of that work, including the family photo pictured above.

- **a rail portage at Waskesiu**



*Selected view of the rail portage at Prince Albert National Park.  
(Photo Source: Waskesiu Heritage Museum website)*

Historic photos of a rail portage system built in Prince Albert National Park shows an ingenious way to move a large heavy canoe or motor boat up a steep hillside. These images show the importance of documenting our recent as well as our distant past heritage.

<http://waskesiuheritagemuseum.org/wp/kingsmere-rail-cart/>

- **soliciting help from Friends to find the relatives of Saskatchewan photos that were found in Chicago**

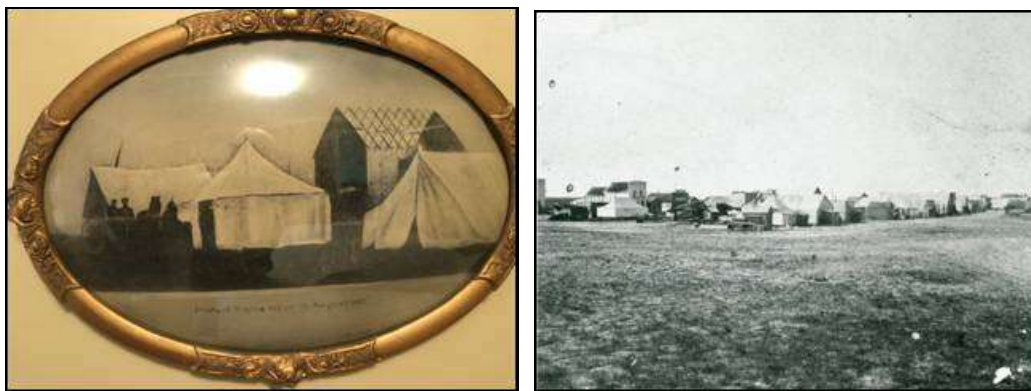


*Unidentified wedding photos possibly taken in Regina in 1940.*

(Photo Source: CBC News: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/goodwill-shop-regina-photos-1.4504388>)

Over the years Friends have tried to help identify photos found in obscure locations. This sleuthing work has led to some successes, and a few challenges that remain incomplete. The images above show several photos found in Chicago, but clearly have a link to Regina. If nothing else, the photographs were printed in 1940 at the TruLife Photo Co., located at 11th Avenue and Cornwall Street in Regina.

- **explaining the process for donating records to the Provincial Archives**
- **helping identify or elaborate on historic Saskatchewan photos, such as the sepia image in the oval frame below:**



*The start of Regina: August (left) and Fall of 1882*

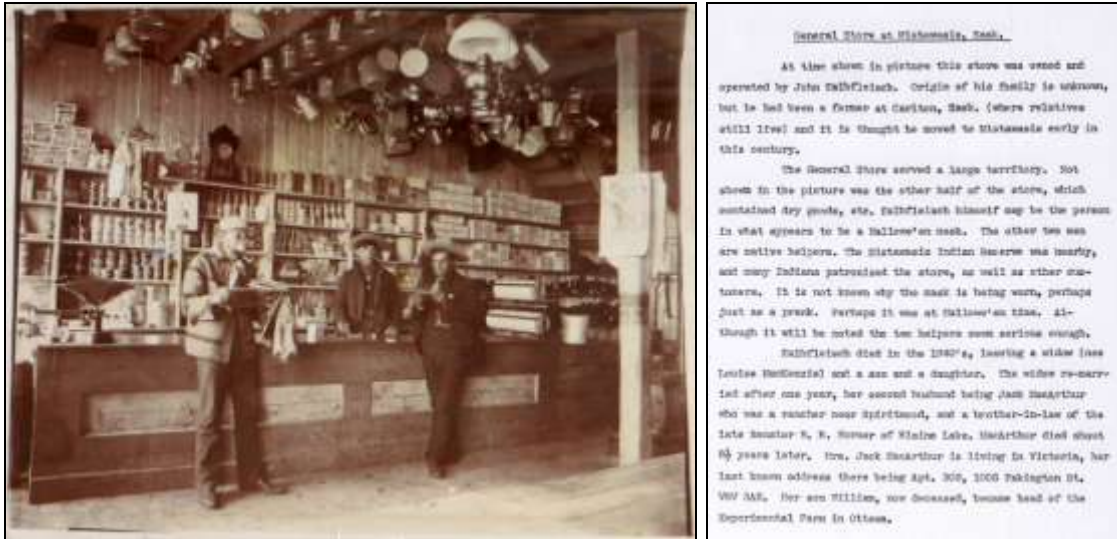
(Photo Source: [L] Jane Frew, via Friends member: Ron Davidson; [R] PAS: R-A 8700)

The photo at the left is the oldest known photo of Regina, taken a few months after first settlers began building at this townsite in late summer, 1882. Friends were asked to help further identify this image and its origin. Prior to this “discovery”, the oldest known image of Regina was the one featured on the right, dated to the fall of 1882, and showing a major increase in the number of stores and dwellings.



## Volunteer Work:

- **Regina Photo Project** – Started in 2012, this project helps the Provincial Archives to upgrade the textual information documented in the photographic collection. Friends systematically review the photos to identify discrepancies in the data entered into the PAS's database, and subsequently made available to researchers on the Archives' website. During the past year the contents of an additional 5,806 photo envelopes were reviewed by the Friends, bringing the total now reviewed from 11,712 to 17,518. Friends have worked on this Project for 557 hours, including 212 hours in 2018.



*Friends compare text on the back and/or accompanying the photo with what is recorded in the database. For this photo, showing the interior of the General Store at Mistawasis, a two page history was enclosed, which provides genealogical information on the Kalbgleisch family, and speculates on the mask being worn by the man on the left.*  
(Source: PAS: R-A 16,683)

- **Saskatchewan Association of Architects (SAA) Box Lists – Regina** – This project was reactivated in 2018, with 66 new documents scanned for future research purposes. As well arrangements were made to transfer additional SAA administrative records from the Association's office in Saskatoon to the Provincial Archives in Regina. The SAA's corporate archivist, Frank Korvemaker, also handles enquiries related to architects who have designed buildings in Saskatchewan. The SAA work comprised 58 volunteer hours in 2018, for a total of 524 hours since the project started in 2013.
- **Archives Week Event (Feb. 7, 2018) – Regina** – The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists (SCAA) partnered to present a series of speakers examining "Spotlight on the Past: The Regina that Never Was – Unbuilt Buildings and Plans from Archives in Regina". The event was held at Bushwakker's Brew Pub on Dewdney Avenue, Regina, and included presentations by Alex MacDonald, Bill Brennan and James Youck. The evening was chaired by Friends member Frank Korvemaker, and several other Friends helped with some of the evening's logistics.



*At Regina's Bushwakker Brewpub: Friends member Lynn McCaslin (L) discusses the evening's program with Dr. Bill Brennan, one of the speakers.*

*(Photo Source: Friends member: Frank Korvemaker)*

- **The 1885 Canadian Pacific Railway telegraph ledger project** – During the year, six Friends transcribed another 231 telegrams. The project will remain on hold throughout much of 2019 until the consolidation of PAS facilities at 2440 Broad Street, Regina, is completed.

## Promotional Activities:

- A new Friends brochure was drafted and distributed in 2018. The revised document reflects changes in activities undertaken by the Friends, changes in the administrative structure at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, and new contact information.



## Social Events:

- The annual Christmas social occurred after the November business meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP

Just over half of our members reside in Saskatchewan; the other Friends of the Provincial Archives members can be found throughout the world. During 2018, our membership increased dramatically by 67 % – from 235 to 392 members.

**Saskatchewan: 198**

**Outside Saskatchewan: 194**

**Total Membership: 392**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### E-Mail:

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