

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

2015 Annual Report



*FOSA-Regina members Darlene Clifford and Bill Armstrong watch as Lynn McCaslin demonstrates the work he is doing on the Regina Photo Project. 18 Nov. 2015
(Photographer: Frank Korvemaker)*

SUMMARY

As a result of new legislation passed in August 2015 the Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB) was renamed the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS). However, it was decided to retain the Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives (FOSA) name as the volunteer group formed in 2012 to support the work of the Archives.

It was also decided that the Regina and Saskatoon groups would each create their own annual reports, as they deemed fit.

Meetings for the Regina group continued to be held three times per year, and Bill Armstrong agreed to serve as interim gopher for the Regina group, monitoring the group's Google mail account and sending out occasional notes to all members, including news / information provided by the PAS.

Membership increased significantly from 102 to 160 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.

ADMINISTRATION

Structure:

The informal organizational structure for FOSA-Regina and FOSA-Saskatoon continued for another year, and remains a matter of some discussion. Bill Armstrong continued as the de-facto Chair of FOSA-Regina; Margaret Hendry filled a similar position at FOSA-Saskatoon. Bill has been particularly active in communicating with members through his numerous e-mails. The constant flow between his computer and those of FOSA members has helped to make all members more aware of the role that archives play in our lives and society, and in particular on how the Provincial Archives continues to expand and develop.



*Bill Armstrong – the Interim Gopher
(Photographer: M. Doppelganger)*

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. Attendance was generally under a dozen in both cities. In Regina, meetings were held in the afternoon. In 2016, FOSA Regina meetings will be held on: April 20, September 21 and November 16.



*FOSA-Regina meeting: L-R: Darren Cranfield (PAS Staff), Frank Korvemaker, Lynn McCaslin, Bill Armstrong, Lynda McIntyre (Provincial Archivist), Darlene Clifford. Nov. 18, 2015.
(Photographer: M. Doppelganger)*

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 in 2015:

Volunteer Work:

- **Regina Photo Project** – This project helps the PAS to improve the information provided to users regarding the Regina Photo Collection, housed in the Hillsdale Reference Room. FOSA members systematically review the photos to identify discrepancies in the PAS’s database, and subsequently made available on the Archives’ website. During the past year the contents of about 675 items (in 500 photo envelopes) were reviewed by the Friends, bringing the total now reviewed from 7,394 to 8,104. Since the project began in 2011, FOSA members have worked on this Project for about 195 hours, including 15 hours in 2015.

Following is a photograph reviewed as part of the Regina Photo Project. This postcard is an example of the kind of work undertaken by FOSA members to identify discrepancies between what is entered in the PAS photo database (based on the file card) and the information that can be found on the front and back of the image, or inserted in the accompanying envelop.



Front of postcard

Forget Public School postcard, about 1913

(Source: PAS: R-A 6134)

Additional information relating to the front of the postcard:

The postmark on the picture side indicates that the card was received and post-marked in Regina on May 14, 1913. (It was customary then to post mark both the sending location and dates, and the receiving location and date.)

The photo may have been taken in 1913, but also possibly one or more years earlier.

The school is a two storey brick building, with a bell tower, but no apparent bell.

At least 13 students are evident beside the school and on the front steps.

A wooden picket fence extends in front of the school.



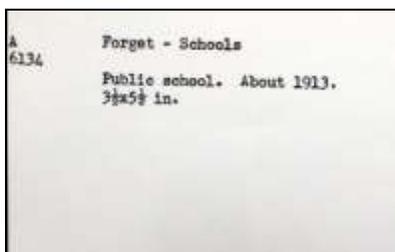
Back of postcard, with additional information

Information relating to the back of the postcard:

The back postmark indicates that the card was mailed in Creelman, a community not far from Forget. Like the front postmark, it is dated May 14.

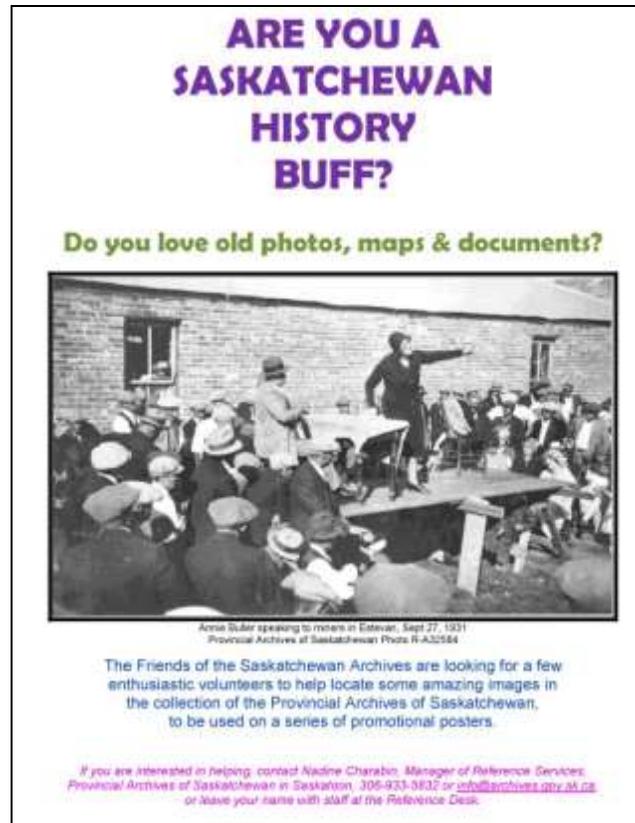
The name and address for the recipient is: Miss Adeline Armstrong, 2312 Cornwall Street, Regina. This might be verifiable in the Henderson's 1913 Directory. The name of the sender is not readily legible.

The sender of the card will be home "tomorrow noon" – probably meaning: May 15, 1913, as the writer has not provided any alternate date on the card.



File card with limited accompanying data.

- **Poster Display – Saskatoon** – A grant has been received to design 4 posters to be displayed on the windows of the Provincial Archives reading room so that these posters can be viewed from outside to attract attention to the Archives. FOSA members have been asked to help find images to help with the design. The posters are expected to be finalized and printed in 2016.

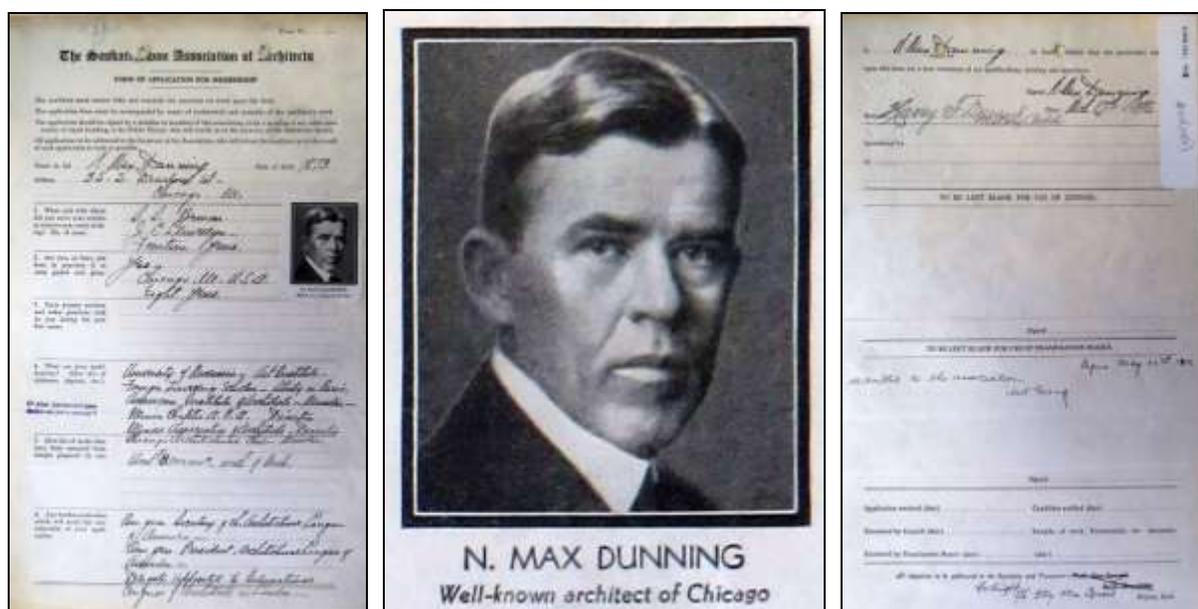


Sample of one of the posters created with input from FOSA-Saskatoon members

- **Archives Week (Feb. 1-7) – Regina** –for the second year, FOSA members helped deliver this event at Bushwackers - on Feb. 4. The focus in 2015 was on the Weyburn Mental Hospital at Weyburn and aspects of its past as reflected in Provincial Archives records and by reading and personal comments of people involved in its past.
- **World War I Commemoration** – In August, the PAS released the following details for its video-exhibit series. “**From the Prairies to the Trenches, Part II: From Salisbury Plain to Flanders Fields, November 1914 – December 1915,**” explores the events of 1915 at the Front and at home in Saskatchewan. The exhibit features a range of archival records and accounts of real Saskatchewan characters, including suffragette Violet McNaughton (from an archived audio recording). As in 2014, FOSA members helped welcome visitors to the event.

The exhibit is on display at Government House, Regina at the east end of the second floor, near the elevators. As well it can be seen in the main foyer of the Legislative Building; and on the PAS YouTube Channel, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaylaT5EZAM>.

- SAA Box List – Regina** – During 2015, the proposed demolition of the former Robert Simpson Warehouse in Regina brought about a flurry of activity as heritage supporters sought to determine the names of the architect and contractor associated with this building – the largest Warehouse built in Saskatchewan prior to the mid 20th century. As a result of the indexing of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects records under this project, the PAS was able to provide information about the architect, N. Max Dunning of Chicago, who applied for registration with the Association on March 17, 1916, when the building was already well over half completed. The fact that both the architect and the contractor (Wells Brothers Company) were both from Chicago caused considerable patriotic controversy within the Canadian construction industry at a time when Canada was at war, while the USA remained neutral.



*SAA Registration application for N. Max Dunning, including a photograph of the architect
(Source: PAS: Accession: 2010-319)*

Currently, this is a FOSA “single-member initiative” (Frank Korvemaker), and could set a precedent for the initiation of similar single-member activities.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2015, Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives membership increased from 102 to 160 members. Membership is largely generated from people who visit the Provincial Archives, either in person or by remote access. These are then sent information by Bill Armstrong.

Alberta	30
British Columbia	24
Manitoba	6
New Brunswick	1
Nova Scotia	1
Ontario	19
Saskatchewan:.....	68

World-Wide Members:		13
Australia	2	
France	1	
Ireland	2	
United Kingdom	2	
USA	6	

Total Membership: 160

CONTACT INFORMATION

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