

# **F**riends **O**f the **S**askatchewan **A**rchives

## **2012 Annual Report**



*Regina-based FOSA members review a ledger from the SAB collection*

**Genesis:**

In mid-2011 the Saskatchewan Archives Board launched its Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives (FOSA).

The Friends consist of interested individuals from across the province and throughout Canada wishing to support the Archives through volunteer work, advocacy, promotional activities and social events. Meetings are conducted in both Regina and Saskatoon, and communication with members living outside these two centres is primarily by mail and e-mail. The Regina-based members initiated regular bi-monthly meetings in 2012; the Saskatoon-based members are still in the formative stage, and plan to initiate meetings in 2013.

**Organizational Structure:**

The Regina-based group has chosen not to establish a formal structure at this time, and communicate with Saskatchewan Archives staff through a Liaison person. In 2012 this was Celeste Rider, who also chaired the meetings. The Archives, in turn, appointed Frank Korvemaker as the SAB Liaison person in Regina, and Nadine Charabin as the SAB Liaison person in Saskatoon.

For 2012, meeting facilities were provided at both the Saskatoon and Regina offices of the Saskatchewan Archives, as was limited administrative support, including secretarial services for recording meeting minutes, reproduction of the FOSA brochure, and postage.

**Achievements:**

For the Regina-based Friends, much of the year was devoted to exploring the mandate of FOSA, and the kinds of activities with which members wish to participate. In addition, several specific projects were considered and initiated.

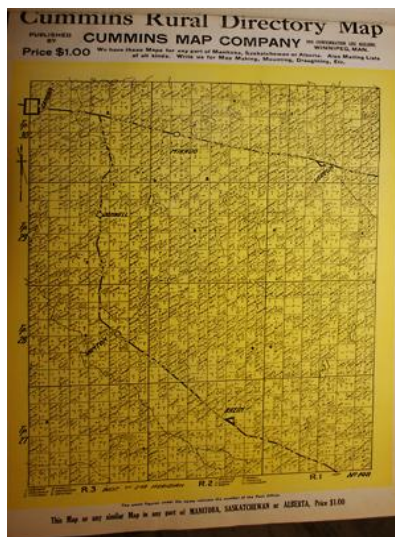
**Volunteer Work:**

- 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 3,600 photo envelopes were reviewed by the Friends.

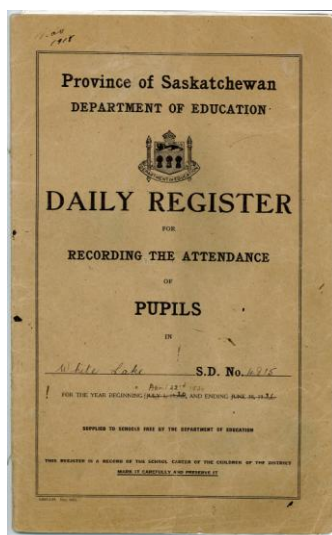


*A selection of photos from the SAB collection, including Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stanley Mission*

- Cummins Map Indexing Project – Although some of the Cummins Maps have been scanned and are available on the Internet (see: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmaps/Cummins/index.html>) this project is designed to provide a detailed index to all of the names that appear on these maps. Such an index will be especially useful to Reference Staff and researchers looking for a specific name, not just knowing the location of the land with which that person might be associated. Although the project concept is ideal for FOSA members living outside Regina or Saskatoon, implementation during 2012 was problematic as it required more SAB staff involvement than could be practically provided. The project will be reviewed in 2013 to determine if a modified version might be more viable.



- School Registers Inventory Project – This project will focus on identifying the location of all school registers within the SAB collection, as well as the teachers who maintained the registers. A Guide to the project was developed, and active entries are slated to commence in 2013. As most of the registers are located in Regina, this project will be primarily undertaken in the Regina office of the SAB, but can also be adapted for implementation at the Saskatoon office.



- The Saskatoon Outreach Photograph and Documents Project - The Saskatoon office of the SAB enlists the aid of the Friends to locate interesting photographs and documents for use in various outreach projects. This included photos that are unidentified or under-identified in the SAB collection. Some of these were subsequently posted on the website, and visitors to the site were encouraged to help identify the image or names of people featured.



*Unidentified Saskatchewan town.*

#### **Advocacy:**

- Federal funding cuts to LAC – A letter was sent to Minister James Moore (responsible for Library and Archives Canada), expressing concern about the federal cuts to the national archives budget. A cc was sent to all Saskatchewan Members of Parliament.
- Affect of provincial budget on SAB operation – A letter was sent to Minister Nancy Heppner expressing concern about the lack of adequate funding for the SAB, which effectively translated into a cut in funding.

#### **Promotional Activities:**

- Brochure development – Regina-based members prepared a brochure for general distribution by mail and at various SAB and FOSA events. It will also be posted on the website
- Website enhancement – FOSA maintains a page on the SAB's website. The content was modified in 2012, including the addition of an edited version of minutes for the Regina-based meetings.
- Communications Strategy - Some of the Regina-based members initiated development of a communications strategy for FOSA. A questionnaire was sent out, but the return was insufficient to develop a cohesive plan. Therefore, this activity will continue into 2013.
- Seniors Involvement – Several options were explored for making seniors aware of FOSA and the kinds of projects and activities which we undertake. The Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan were two groups identified as organizations to which FOSA should make presentations in 2013. The latter might be especially interested in working on the School registers Project.



### Social Events:

- SAB Website launch – FOSA members participated in the launch of the SAB’s revitalized website during Archives Week in February, 2012. Members welcomed guests, solicited new memberships, and helped make the event a social success.



*FOSA member Gord Goddard checks out the new SAB Website*

- Christmas Social – The Regina-based Friends decided to merge its annual November meeting with a Christmas social, and enjoyed the first of these in 2012. Everyone contributed to the refreshments, and ended the year on a very positive note.

### Mysteries:

- Where is Berlin, Saskatchewan?



The first of a series of mysteries was initiated. These are designed to help resolve questions relating to records in the Saskatchewan Archives collection, and complement the work undertaken by the Saskatoon-based members working on the SAB Blog. In this first mystery, Friends were asked to help unravel the true location for several photos taken by Kyle Simpson somewhere along the Canadian Northern Railway around 1910, and identified as Berlin, Sask. As no such community was apparently ever established, members undertook their own research and provided various suggestions. Ultimately, the mystery was resolved, and the CNoR railway siding near Maidstone, called Birling, was deemed to be the correct name.

## 2012 Membership Report

In 2011-2012, Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives had a total membership of 61 people broken down as follows:

Saskatchewan:	57
The following Saskatchewan communities were represented:	
Consul	1
Manitou Beach	1
Melfort	1
Melville	1
Pense	1
Regina:	32
Saskatoon:	15
Spring Valley	1
Waseca	1
Weyburn	1
Alberta:	2
British Columbia:	2
Total Membership:	61

During the year, we were saddened to hear of the death of one of the Regina group members, Keith Knox, who passed away on 07 May 2012.

The founding members of FOSA are:

Sue Alcock, Bill Armstrong, Gwen Beitel, Ian Brace, Thomas Bredohl, Michelle Cabana, Maria Cabana Boucher, Ingrid Cazakoff, Will Chabun, Diane Chambers, Darlene Clifford, Mary K. Crane, Kathy Decker, Robert Dilts, Erika Dyck, Wendy Fitch, Keith Foster, Jean Freeman, Peter Gallén, Verna Gallén, Tannor Giesbrecht, Gordon Goddard, Barr Godkin, Yvonne Gray, Laura Hanowski, Cameron Hart, Margaret Hendry, Ross Herrington, Carey Isaak, Wanda Jack, David Jamieson, Fay Johnsen, Keith Knox, Heather LeGars, Bev Lundahl, Lynn McCaslin, Bernadette McIntyre, Kristine Montgomery, Linda Neely, Tim Novak, Helen M. Pike, Cary Piller, Alan Porter, Yvonne Redant, Celeste Rider, Roberta Rivett, Marilyn Sandercock, Peggy Sarjeant, Holly Schick, Jackie Schmidt, Sheila M. Schmutz, R. Bruce Shepard, Olivia Shumski, Terry Sinclair, Nancy-Jean Taylor, Kam W. Teo, Tammy Vallee, Jeanne Walters, Dale Williams, Carole Wollbaum, and Julie Yu