

# Friends Of the Saskatchewan Archives

## 2014 Annual Report



### The Unidentified Photos Project

*Members of FOSA help the Saskatchewan Archives to reduce the number of unidentified photographs in the collection. Ironically, two photos of the same structure, held by Library and Archives Canada, are also unidentified, although the LAC attributes them to Dept. of Public Works photographer D.A. McLaughlin. (Source: TOP: SAB Accession 1013 and BOTTOM: LAC – PA-046887 and PA-046888)*

## **SUMMARY**

FOSA-Saskatoon conducted three meetings, and initiated four projects to help generate greater involvement by members. The group also successfully lobbied the University of Saskatchewan to make an appointment to the Sask. Archives Board.

Over the course of 2014 it became clear that the Regina group has few active members who are willing or able to attend meetings and handle the other functions required on an ongoing basis. As a result, at the November meeting the Regina group decided to scale back meetings to three per year, instead of six. Any liaison required between the group and SAB staff will be by email or phone. 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 SAB.

Membership increased dramatically from 40 to 102 active and associate members. Some of the new members initially contacted FOSA in order to find out how they can donate records to the Sask. Archives.

After four years managing the FOSA members' list Celeste Rider decided to hand that work off to another member. FOSA Regina would welcome someone to take on that chore. Knowledge of Excel spreadsheets would be an asset. Thank you for your service, Celeste.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Structure - The informal organizational structure for FOSA-Regina continued for another year, and remains a matter of some concern. Bill Armstrong became the de-facto Chair of FOSA-Regina.

FOSA Meetings - During 2014, meeting facilities were again provided at both the Saskatoon and Regina offices of the Saskatchewan Archives Board, as was limited administrative support. The FOSA-Saskatoon group held three meetings in 2014: January, September and November. A meeting planned for April was cancelled because few people could attend. Attendance ranged from 4 to 8 members. At the November meeting in Regina, it was agreed to reduce the number of meetings from 6 to 3 per year, to be held in April, September and November, with regular communication by e-mail in between formal meetings. For the time being meetings will continue to be held in the afternoon.

FOSA Website – discussions were initiated to convert the FOSA website from a component of the SAB website into a stand-alone format, with links to each other.

## 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 past year the contents of an additional 1,635 photo envelopes were reviewed by the Friends, bringing the total now reviewed from 5,759 to 7,394. FOSA members have worked on this Project for 180 hours, including 40 hours in 2014.



*Dog sledging in Saskatchewan – exact location, date and driver unknown.  
Taken by Theodore H. J. Charmbury, likely while he worked for the William James Studio  
in Prince Albert from 1901 to 1903, or after he established his own studio there.  
Charmbury was born in Nuthurst, England in 1879.  
(Source: SAB: S-B11,843)*

- **Photo Research – Saskatoon** – Early in 2014 some work was done finding photographs to attract students to the archives when doing Heritage Fair projects and World War I documents for *Saskatchewan History*.
- **School Register Project – Regina** – This project was suspended due to lack of volunteers. It was concluded that it was better to put all our effort into the Photo Project at this time and make as big an impact there as we can.
- **Poster Display – Saskatoon** – A grant has been applied for to design posters to be displayed on the windows of the Archives reading room so that they can be viewed from outside to attract attention to the archives. Volunteers will find materials to help with the design.
- **Archives Week (Feb. 2-8) – Regina** – FOSA members helped deliver this event at Bushwackers on Feb. 5. The focus in 2014 was on the Grey Cup and aspects of its past as reflected in Sask. Archives records and by reading and personal comments of people involved in the past.

- **Pop Culture Project – Saskatoon** – A pop culture project is getting underway to find photographs of popular celebrities who have visited the province over the years. The plan is to mount a digital display.
- **World War I Commemoration and Remembrance Day 2014** - On Nov. 6, the SAB’s new digital display in the rotunda of the Legislature was launched. The plan is to have changes made to the presentation over the 4 years it is there. Also, this event included launch of the SAB’s Digital Newspaper project. FOSA volunteers helped direct visitors to the display and reception locations and staffed the reception table.
- **SAA Box List – Regina** – This project involved developing a tentative Box List of records donated by the Saskatchewan Association of Architects between 2010 and 2014. Until the collection is formally processed by SAB staff, this interim list will enable the SAA to re-access specific files, and enable SAB Reference staff to handle some enquiries relating to the SAA records. The project revealed the existence of various items not previously known, including an architectural drawing for a house, designed by Reilly, Warburton and Reilly, of Regina, and a Notice of Annual Meeting, which listed the executive for the Association in 1915. Some of that administrative information had been lost when the first volume of consolidated Minutes of the SAA disappeared before the records were donated to the Archives.



*Samples of records found in the SAA Administrative files  
(Source: SAB: 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.

- **Heritage Festival – Saskatoon** – FOSA had representation at the Saskatchewan Archives display at the Heritage Festival at the Western Development Museum, February 2014. Brochures were available and there were some interested visitors.

- **Unidentified Photos Project** - This project was recommended for implementation in 2015, and will focus on reducing the number of unidentified images in the SAB collection. It is a project that should enable participation by all FOSA members with access to the Internet, regardless of their place of residence. An example of such an image is provided below, for an unidentified armoury. It is believed that this building is not from Saskatchewan, and hence FOSA members outside the province might be especially helpful in verifying the building's location, either from personal knowledge, or by contacting various historical or archival sources within their region.



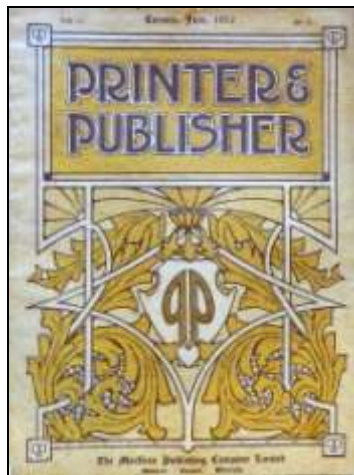
*A two-storey brick Armoury, with "Cavalry" carved in the stone over the front door.  
(Source: SAB: Accession 1013)*

#### **Advocacy:**

- FOSA-Saskatoon - A letter from the group was sent to the University president expressing concern that the University of Saskatchewan did not have a representative on the Saskatchewan Archives Board. We were pleased that the new board includes Dr. Angela Kalinowski of the history department at the University of Saskatchewan.

#### **Donations:**

FOSA members were involved with various archival records during the year, some of which were or will be donated to the SAB in due course:



*Records donated by Phil Ambrosi, Regina.*

- In September, Phil Ambrosi, a Regina resident and regular donor, brought several records relating to his father's printing business to FOSA's attention, and was directed to contact the Appraisal and Acquisition Unit. One of those items was a 1912 edition of *Printer and Publisher* that included a photo of the Printing Office at Hanley and news relating to Saskatchewan printing companies.
- An enquiry relating to Balcarres Hospital records was also forwarded to the Appraisal and Acquisition Unit.
- The Saskatchewan Association of Architects enquired about members donating their records to the Saskatchewan Archives. They too were directed to contact the Appraisal and Acquisition Unit to determine the current status on the SAB accepting such records.

**Promotional Activities:**

- **Regina Downtown Archival Display** – the proposal to create a downtown archival display in the vacant City-owned Travellers Building, a heritage building on the 2000 block of Broad Street, was discontinued after the City of Regina sold the building to private interests.

**Social Events:**

- None in 2014

**MEMBERSHIP**

In 2014, Friends of the Saskatchewan Archives membership more than doubled from 40 to 102 members.

Saskatchewan:.....		54
Eastend	1	
Indian Head	1	
Regina	35	
Saskatoon	13	
Spring Valley	1	
Waseca	1	
Watrous	1	
Yorkton	1	
Alberta .....		16
British Columbia .....		9
Manitoba .....		2
New Brunswick .....		1
Nova Scotia .....		1
Ontario .....		10
World-Wide Members: .....		8
Australia	2	
France	1	
India	1	
Ireland	1	
United Kingdom	1	
USA	2	
Unidentified Location .....		1
<b>Total Membership: .....</b>		<b>102</b>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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