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## The Changing Face of Archives: Will You Recognize Us? Part II

**Fred Farrell**

*Manager of Private Sector Records, Provincial Archives of  
New Brunswick and Past Chair of the Canadian Council of Archives*

Progressively since the 1980's the main training and hiring route for archivists is through the various titled Masters in Archival Studies programs, in English at U of T, Manitoba, and UBC. The entrants to these programs have a far more diverse background than the vast majority of entrants to the archival field prior to 1985, and now constitute a significant portion of the archival profession. Remember in part this is because few archives have hired and those that have, are nearer the locations of these schools. Prior to the archives schools, the majority of people working in archives had some sort of academic history background, often at the Masters level or higher. To show the extent of this transition, a few years ago the theme of the annual conference of the Association of Canadian Archivists was "What does history have to do with it?" I was expecting to hear a rousing debate over the merits of the two routes to working in archives, archival studies vs history. To say I was disappointed would be an understatement. Such a debate never materialized. It was a foregone conclusion that history was, if not irrelevant, at least far down the list of skills necessary to pursue a career in archives. I am not suggesting archivists in the past were any better prepared to work in archives than candidates today but they clearly had a greater interest and affinity to the records because of their interest in history and research background. If you are working in archives and do not first and foremost care about the records and their content you are less likely to battle the many or often constant challenges affecting preservation and access to records or be concerned with the plight of the academic historian. Much like archivists hired in the 1970's, the shortcomings in the background of entry-level staff could be ameliorated by mentoring. The problem will be, due to retirements, there will be no one to do the mentoring.

This downward spiral is further exacerbated by two additional complications: the trend that management can be done without any field specific knowledge and the increasing demand by all sectors of archives users for far more specific and detailed arrangement and description of archival holdings. The theory that management training alone is sufficient to run any organization is reinforced through programs by governments designed to recruit interns for entry-level positions who are selected and placed without regard to educational background or position qualifications. This has the employer benefit of making employees fairly interchangeable, which meets the need of growing flux within the federal and provincial governments, and complements the predictions of multiple careers in one's lifetime, but does nothing to encourage the type of commitment, longevity, and advocacy demanded by the challenges in archives and other heritage fields. Such a climate also doesn't foster the essential incremental knowledge fundamental to strengthening the capacity of archives to pursue their mandates and deliver services to a diverse clientele. This is similar to the approach in the public school

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## EDITORS' NOTE NOTE DE LA RÉDACTION

L'événement est historique : il tombe quelques flocons sur Ottawa ce matin. Mais il n'y a rien à craindre, les outardes sont toujours là, elles s'envoleront comme d'habitude au moins 24 heures avant que le sol ne se recouvre de blanc pour de bon. Il s'agit donc bien d'une édition d'automne, pas encore d'hiver pour le *Bulletin*.

Le Canada est un grand pays, de toutes façons, l'histoire ne s'y déroule pas partout au même rythme : ici, il tombe des flocons, ailleurs ce sont des gouttes de pluies; peut-être grêle-t-il quelque part et, à Kandahar, pendant que le ciel est toujours bleu, ce sont des roquettes qui tombent. Les attaques sont moins mortelles, mais tout aussi féroces à Ottawa : le Musée de la Guerre est forcé d'atténuer certains passages dérangeants de l'histoire, la Commission de la Capitale nationale voile honteusement ses images offensantes; l'histoire se fait accommodante, sinon raisonnable.

Le *Bulletin* ne se montre quant à lui accommodant que pour les auteurs qui veulent bien lui soumettre des textes. Graham Broad nous donnera donc son opinion sur la controverse au Musée canadien de la Guerre; Martin Laberge nous explique quant à lui ses projets de recherche sur la diplomatie française; Ruth Sandwell nous parle de l'utilisation des données des recensements canadiens, et vous trouverez aussi la dernière partie du texte de Fred Ferrell, commencé au numéro précédent. Nous avons aussi une mise à jour sur la situation des archives de la United Church, et sur la réduction des heures d'ouverture à Bibliothèque et archives Canada.

Archives are also the topic of Léon Robichaud's web column in this issue. Xavier Gélinas presents *Face to Face*, the new exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and we have all our regular sections and announcements to complete the picture. Our next issue, just as this one, depends on your contributions of articles, ideas and information that should be shared with the community. It will set the stage for lively discussions when we meet in Vancouver, a dynamic city with many attractions, as profiled by Bob McDonald.

Maybe it's just the changing of the seasons, but it seems to us that Canadians and historians working in Canada are ever more concerned about the role of history in civil society. But we're not sociologists. Keep sending us what you think your fellow historians would like to read, and through the *Bulletin* we'll give you a snapshot of what's going on across the country.

**Alexandra Mosquin and / et Jean Martin**

Co-editors / co-éditeurs

... continued from page 1

system where anyone can teach history but a specialist is more likely to be recruited for the sciences, math, music, and many other areas.

Let me remind you that this is all unfolding in an environment where nearly 40% of institutions have more than 40% of their holdings completely inaccessible and most of the rest of the holdings have no effective subject access. This situation, where the only thing keeping things afloat is the corporate memory and historical knowledge of the staff, and they are about to walk out the door through retirement, is desperate. The final nail in the coffin is accountability or what I like to call the Auditor General chill. The measurement of success for most public institutions is becoming not what you have accomplished but what you have accomplished against your work plan. Recently the federal Auditor General chided the Canadian Coast Guard for trying to do too much. There is no doubt that trying to do too much can undermine any institution's primary function. But when it comes to archives you rarely get a second chance to acquire or preserve something and those opportunities do not announce themselves conveniently sufficiently ahead of time to be included in work plans. Again the group most harmed by rule by work plan is academic historians. What can you do? Funding for archival activities by the federal government is a fraction of what goes to other heritage sectors, including academic historians. The CHA has a strong voice and needs to be more aware of what is

happening in Canada's archival community. Greater interaction with archives groups at the national level such as the Canadian Council of Archives would be an important first step. More involvement at the provincial and local level would also go a long way to establishing a greater rapport with the community that serves you and on which you depend. If you are lucky enough to have an archives in your community, ask them what issues they are facing and if there is anything you can do to help. Alerting your students to possible careers in archives would be a constructive step not only broadening career options for your students but possibly increasing the attractiveness of taking your courses. You and your students use archives and increasingly archives' web sites and products. Providing feedback on what you find in collections and on the sites you use would not only be of help to archives but it would offer you an opportunity to see what challenges archives face doing such activities. But at a minimum, before you send off that grant application to SSHRC, CFI, Canadian Heritage, or other foundations, check with the archives you intend to utilize to see if there are any impediments to using the records and what costs the archives may have to pass on to you based on your plan. The archives may even be able to supply you with information that will enhance your application. Archives today do not serve historians as well as we would like, but without your active participation archives soon won't care.



# WELCOME TO VANCOUVER

Vancouver is a very different city today than it was thirty years ago. As late as the early 1970s over 85 percent of the residents of Greater Vancouver were of European origin, and more than 60 percent still identified with family ancestry in Britain. A provincial city of less than one million people tied historically to the resource economy of the surrounding hinterland, Vancouver was – in the oft-repeated words of journalist Allan Fotheringham – “a village on the edge of the rainforest.”

No more. Now numbering more than two million people, almost 40 percent of the residents of Greater Vancouver have neither English nor French as their mother tongue. Substantial migration from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and South Asia has done much to detach Vancouver from its predominantly eastern Canadian and European connections, and to redefine it as an Asian Pacific city. Indeed, Vancouver has emerged as a global city. In 2000-2001 the proportion of foreign-born in the metropolitan region (37 percent) exceeded that of Sydney, Los Angeles, and New York, and is surpassed in Canada only by Toronto.

Vancouver’s transition from “urban village” to “world city,” much of which has taken place since the Congress last met at UBC in 1983, is evident in the international acclaim for the city’s new urbanism. Now being implemented in cities as far off as Abu Dubai, where Vancouver’s former City Planner and almost a dozen of his former planning staff have been hired to design urban Dubai in Vancouver’s image, the new urbanism is characterized by high density, mixed income housing, and plenty of parks and facilities for families, all paid for by developers. Tall, thin towers that preserve mountain views abound, with each tower supported by a podium consisting of a minimum of three-storeys of townhouses or commercial space that aims to keep urban life at the street level “vibrant, detailed, and warm.” Indeed, the downtown population, which has doubled to 80,000 residents in twenty years, is now housed in a forest of glass towers that local writer Douglas Coupland has characterized as the *City of Glass*.

Yet, while feature story writers from journals such as *Time*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and the *Smithsonian* are much impressed by the new Vancouver, the reality is that the physical city outside of the central core does not look much different from that of the sprawling suburbs of major urban centres across Canada. Here what stands out is the cosmopolitan nature of the population rather than distinctive architecture or planning. In addition, recurring stories of homelessness, drug-related violence, and traffic congestion remind us that

the new cosmopolitanism, and the new urbanism, have not yet created for many Vancouverites the ideal city that some would characterize – to cite the title of a recent *Canadian Geographic* essay – as “Futureville.” The Downtown Eastside-area that centres on Hastings and Main, a short walk from the historic districts of Gastown and Chinatown, constitutes the poorest postal code in Canada.

Visitors to Vancouver, then, have before them an exciting array of possibilities for enjoyment and edification outside of the Canadian Historical Association’s 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at UBC. Some of these possibilities entail enjoying the natural beauty of the area, for others interacting with a vibrant and changing city. The obvious place to start is at UBC itself, where a visit to the Museum of Anthropology,



Photo : Andrew Waldron, 2004

the Arthur Erickson-designed masterpiece located along Marine Drive at the northwest corner of the campus, is a “must.” Housing some 535,000 ethnographic and archaeological objects, many of which originate from the Northwest Coast of British Columbia, the museum is open daily to 5 except on Tuesdays, when one can enter on a pay-as-you-can basis until 9 pm. Nearby is the Nitobe Memorial Garden, a traditional Japanese Tea and Stroll garden that is considered one of the most authentic Japanese gardens in North America. On the south side of the campus is Pacific Spirit Regional Park, which comprises 763 hectares of forest and foreshore, the latter of which wraps around tip of the Point Grey Peninsula on which UBC is located. The closeness of Pacific Spirit Park to the university entices visitors to explore its paths by bike or foot. As part of the foreshore, and immediately below UBC, is the clothing-optional Wreck Beach, which (if the weather cooperates) invites conference-goers to chuck off their stress and their clothes for a liberating dip in the sea. Spanish Banks and Jericho Beach



provide attractive sites for walks or picnics as you follow the shoreline eastward from UBC towards the city.

Farther away from UBC, the area centred on Waterfront Station, the intermodal public transportation facility on the waterfront at the north end of Granville Street, offers a variety of possible walking excursions in the heart of the city. The station is the Vancouver terminus for the Seabus, which for the equivalent of a bus ticket will take you on an insightful trip across Burrard Inlet and back. While on the north side, leave the terminal and, turning immediately to the left, walk the equivalent of a couple of city blocks to the west where you will enjoy a spectacular view of downtown Vancouver. A public market is immediately outside the terminal (to the right). Once back on the south shore, a walk to the east of Waterfront Station will take you into Gastown where “touristy” shops, a bogus but immensely popular steam clock, and some very historic architecture offer a feel for old Vancouver in a contemporary setting. As you return to the station you might go south a block or two and back via some of the city’s most luxurious shops (see especially Sinclair Centre, west of Granville) where each summer thousands of tourists spent scads of money before and after trips north to Alaska. The tour boats themselves tie up at the Canada Place wharf immediately west of the Waterfront Station. In the Pan Pacific Hotel at the entrance to Canada Place (the city’s Convention Centre building, marked by its distinctive white sails) visit the bar on the second floor for a drink and enjoy the spectacular view of the waterfront. Further west (and past the new convention centre now under construction) you can walk along the waterfront towards Stanley Park, one of the nicest walks in the city. You may want to begin this walk closer to the Stanley Park end, perhaps after spending time in the park itself. This 400 hectare green space is a symbol of Vancouver and one of the city’s major tourist attractions. The Vancouver Aquarium in Stanley Park is also popular, and a walk around part or all of the 8.8 km seawall offers some of the best urban viewing anywhere in Canada. If, after all of this walking you are keen to travel sitting down, why not hustle back to the Waterfront Station and take the Expo Skytrain line across the city to New Westminster, where with not much effort you should be able to track down the Royal Café and enjoy a BLT with fries for \$3.99. Can’t beat that anywhere!

There are, of course, so many other places to go and things to see in Vancouver that one must, in the last instance, resort to a list. So here goes. For a close engagement with the city’s new urbanism, start with a bus or car trip to

Granville Island, located at the entrance to False Creek. If you are hungry, the Go Fish eatery, just to the west of the entrance to Granville Island, offers extraordinary fish and chips at fishermen’s prices. A walk around Granville Island and a visit to its many craft shops can easily fill a morning or afternoon. A small water taxi will take you across False Creek, and from here you can walk eastward to the upper end of False Creek along the margin of the former Expo 86 site and in front of the forest of glass towers that are the defining symbol of the new Vancouver. Once in the Yaletown area be certain to stop in at Urban Fare, the upscale grocery store and café that anchors the neighbourhood centered by the refurbished CPR Roundhouse, now a community centre. Very trendy! A terrific way to spend a couple of hours is to visit the Vancouver Art Gallery, located on Georgia Street in the downtown core, where admission on Tuesday evenings is free (with a donation). On the south side of the Art Gallery is Robson Street, which, heading west past Burrard, has become the hottest commercial stretch in the city. Excellent for a walk if you want to be part of the tourist scene. At two very different sites it is nature rather than commerce that attracts. The first is the George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, to the south of the city at the mouth of the south arm of the Fraser River. A veritable “heaven-on-earth” for bird watchers, the sanctuary is covered by migrating snow geese in the fall, and features sand pipers, hawks, eagles, cormorants, and ospreys in the spring. In the other direction, on the north shore of Burrard Inlet in West Vancouver, directly across the inlet from UBC, is Lighthouse Park, where one can sit on the rocks looking down at starfish in tidal pools and up beyond Vancouver at magnificent Mt. Baker, which ascends high above the city in the southeastern sky. Accessible by means of a forty minute ride on the 250 bus from Burrard Station for a \$3.25 ticket, Lighthouse Park is another one of the city’s “can’t-be-beat” tourist bargains. Perhaps with the money saved you might want to visit one of the city’s many fine restaurants such as Nu (on Granville), with its spectacular sunsets and upscale cuisine, or Feenie’s on West Broadway. **Have fun.**

**Bob McDonald**  
*History, UBC*

## NOS FIDÈLES MEMBRES OUR LOYAL MEMBERS

Comme c'est la coutume, la SHC présente ici une liste de certains de ses membres les plus fidèles. La présente liste contient seulement les noms des membres dont c'est cette année le 20<sup>e</sup>, 25<sup>e</sup>, 30<sup>e</sup>, etc., jusqu'au 65<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de leur première inscription parmi nos membres. La liste étant divisée en périodes de cinq années, ceux et celles qui en sont à leur 21<sup>e</sup>, 22<sup>e</sup> ou 42<sup>e</sup> année, par exemple, verront leur nom apparaître lorsqu'ils auront atteint le prochain quintile.

As in the past the CHA is here presenting a list of some of our most loyal members during the last 20 to 65 years. If a member is this year celebrating his or her 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> etc. anniversary of membership in the CHA, then his or her name will appear in one of the 10 predetermined categories which are organized in specific increments of 5 years. If however they have been with us for 21, 26 or 31 years then their name will not appear this time but will in fact appear as soon as they have reached the next five year mark or stage.

### 20 ANS – 20 YEARS

Ambrose, Linda  
Bernier, Jacques  
Bischoff, Peter  
Caulier, Brigitte  
Cyr, Jean-Roch  
Dagenais, Michèle  
De Orto, David  
Lang, Nicole  
Marshall, Dominique  
Micromedia ProQuest  
See, Scott  
Van Die, Marguerite  
Woolf, Daniel

### 25 ANS – 25 YEARS

Baker, Blaine  
Coulter, Rebecca  
Dubé, Jean-Claude  
Hanham, Harold  
Laberge, Alain  
Legault, Roch  
Sangster, Joan  
Stewart, Mary Lynn  
Wilfrid Laurier University,  
Library Periodicals

### 30 ANS - 30 YEARS

Cherwinski, W.  
Coulombe, Danielle  
Devalk, Alphonse  
Elliott, Bruce  
Estey, Ralph  
Getty, Ian  
Greater Sudbury Public Library  
Heron, Craig  
Reid, John  
Sager, Eric

Smith, John  
Stanley, Della  
Walden, Keith

### 35 ANS - 35 YEARS

Bennett, Paul  
Brescia University  
Bugey, Susan  
Cameron, Wendy  
Carter, Margaret  
Cohen, Thomas  
Cooke, Owen  
Frank, David  
Kent, Christopher  
Lamonde, Yvan  
McGahan, Elizabeth  
Mitchinson, Wendy  
Mott, Morris  
Mount St. Vincent University Library  
Munro, Kenneth  
Provincial Resource Library,  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Weaver, John

### 40 ANS – 40 YEARS

Armstrong, Christopher  
Collège Edouard-Montpetit,  
Bibliothèques-Périodiques  
Hall, David  
Houston, Susan  
Killan, Gerald  
Linteau, Paul-André  
Mann, Susan  
McCrone, Kathleen  
Morrison, Brian  
Standen, Dale  
University of Guelph Library

### 45 ANS – 40 YEARS

Bishop's University Library  
Galarneau, Claude  
Heggie, Grace  
Murray, D.  
Tennyson, Brian  
Trueman, John  
Wallot, Jean-Pierre

### 50 ANS – 50 YEARS

Hamilton, William  
Robertson, Barbara

### 55ANS – 55 YEARS

McLaughlin, John  
Prang, Margaret

### 60 ANS – 60 YEARS

McMaster University Library

### 65 ANS – 65 YEARS

American Antiquarian Society

## RECHERCHES EN COURS RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

### « La collaboration entre les institutions civiles et militaires dans l'histoire des relations internationales françaises : le ministère de la Marine, le Quai d'Orsay et la politique étrangère de la IV<sup>e</sup> République, 1945-1958 »

En 1945, la Marine française se trouve dans un piètre état. La guerre l'a beaucoup diminuée. Son personnel a été touché par les déchirements de la période de l'Occupation et de Vichy. Pourtant, le ministère entreprend très rapidement la reconstruction de la flotte et le rétablissement de son influence politique au sein de la République. Il ne faut pas oublier qu'entre 1930 et 1940, la résolution avec laquelle le ministère de la Marine affiche sa volonté de puissance tranche avec les hésitations stratégiques et politiques de l'armée et du ministère des Affaires étrangères. À la Libération, le ministère de la Marine revient à sa politique d'avant-guerre et, derrière les objectifs stratégiques élaborés par le ministère, se trouve l'ambition d'agir sur l'évolution du rapport de force politique européen. Le ministère considère la flotte comme un instrument apte à faire de la France un acteur international doté d'une politique étrangère autonome et en mesure de transformer l'environnement international en fonction des intérêts nationaux français.

L'objectif de ce projet de recherche est de déterminer, par l'analyse de l'influence de la Marine sur la construction de la politique étrangère française, la nature de la collaboration entre civils et militaires dans un système politique démocratique. Plus particulièrement, comme l'ont démontré mes recherches, il s'agit d'établir l'influence des relations interministérielles sur l'élaboration de la politique étrangère. Grâce à l'exemple du ministère de la Marine, nous vérifierons l'hypothèse selon laquelle la prise de décision en relations internationales résulte principalement de la capacité des décideurs politiques et militaires de mobiliser les ressources à leur disposition pour répondre aux menaces extérieures, qu'elles soient réelles ou fabriquées.

Dès lors, ce projet analyse, dans une perspective multidisciplinaire inspirée de la science politique et de la sociologie, la collaboration entre les institutions civiles et militaires dans le but de développer une meilleure compréhension du processus décisionnel au cœur de la construction des relations internationales de la Guerre froide. En utilisant, pour la période 1945-1958 la quête de puissance française comme référence, nous pouvons élaborer une grille d'analyse intégrant les trois caractéristiques justifiant le rôle des forces militaires en relations internationales : la menace potentielle, la menace réelle et, finalement, la guerre. En mesurant l'impact du type de

menace que semblait représenter, pour la Marine et pour les gouvernements de la IV<sup>e</sup> République, la Guerre froide, nous serons en mesure de construire un modèle analytique dépassant le seul cadre des années 1945-1958. L'analyse proposera une nouvelle explication des facteurs qui influencent la mise en œuvre des relations internationales par les États.

Grâce au cadre conceptuel proposé, notre projet de recherche permet de jeter un nouvel éclairage sur la construction des relations internationales françaises après 1945. En effet, le rôle de la Marine est absent du corpus historiographique. À la source de la quête de puissance française de l'immédiat après-guerre, tel qu'en témoigne la reconstruction de la flotte entre 1945 et 1955 et l'attitude de l'amiral d'Argenlieu en Indochine, la Marine souhaite reprendre son rôle traditionnel d'outil de projection de puissance. Nos recherches permettront donc de comprendre comment la culture interne du ministère agit sur la perception des relations internationales et les choix de politique étrangère. Elles détermineront aussi comment les militaires interviennent dans le cadre du débat politique et dans la formulation de la politique étrangère en temps de paix.

Parallèlement, ce projet réexaminera les relations franco-américaines en dépassant le cadre traditionnel des relations atlantiques, propres à l'historiographie de la Guerre froide. La Guerre froide impose un nouveau partenariat politique et stratégique à la France. Alors que la Marine percevait son rôle à la lumière de la puissance navale allemande, anglaise et italienne avant 1939, elle doit composer, à partir de 1945, avec la présence de l'allié américain en Méditerranée. Intégrée aux forces navales de l'OTAN, elle devient une force d'appoint, subordonnée au commandement unique de l'alliance, dominé par les États-Unis. Cette politique est contraire à la culture interne de la Marine – qui a toujours cherché les initiatives politiques et stratégiques susceptibles d'assurer l'indépendance de la France sur la scène internationale. Dès lors, l'étude de la collaboration entre les marines française et américaine en Méditerranée permettra une nouvelle analyse des relations franco-américaines et, plus généralement, des liens qui unissent les grandes et moyennes puissances.

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## THE CHA AND THE ARCHIVES

Craig Heron, York University



Archives are still crucial institutions for historians. No matter how much material is digitized and installed on websites, we still have to spend hours opening boxes of dusty documents and sifting through old paper. Since the spring, the CHA has become heavily involved in debates about how two major Canadian archives should be run.

### United Church of Canada Archives

In May the CHA learned that the Central Archives of the United Church of Canada, located at Victoria University on the University of Toronto campus, would close in the near future. We wrote a strong letter of concern. Through a series of meetings over the summer with a wide range of concerned people (archivists, librarians, historians, unionists, church members, and many others), we became involved in a "Save the Archives Coalition."

The group's goal was to convince the United Church and Victoria University to renew their discussions about keeping the archives open in its current location, so that it could continue to benefit from the expertise of its staff (who have been given notice of the termination of their employment) and the financial support of the university. At the beginning of October the Coalition launched a website with an on-line petition, which has attracted more than 2,300 signatures, and sent delegations to meet with the Church and University.

In mid October the United Church announced that it would re-open its archives in the suburban office building where its central offices are located. The Coalition remained concerned that, without financial support from Victoria and with none of the existing staff making the transition, the quality of service at the archives will inevitably decline. On 31 October it sent another open letter to Ms Sanders and Dr Gooch, re-asserting the public interest in this valuable research centre and urging them to reconsider the possibility of remaining at Victoria with the financial support of a special new fundraising effort. The archives is scheduled to close on 21 December and re-open in early May.

### Library and Archives Canada

Meanwhile, in August, the CHA was informed that LAC intended to reduce drastically its hours of service effective 1 September. We sent a polite letter of protest to the Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Ian Wilson, urging these changes be postponed until proper public consultations had taken place. We received no response. We put out a cautious statement on H-Canada urging historians who were concerned to write to the head of client services, as the LAC media release had suggested. Meanwhile, our Graduate Student Committee representative on Council, Heather Steel, launched an on-line petition to protest the new hours, which had more than 350 signatures by early September and eventually more than 500. Letters also rolled in from many people to let us know that they found the new hours of service unacceptable, including one from the Department of History at UNB. A poorly advertised meeting at LAC on 14 September drew 55-60 irate clients, who levied their criticisms at many aspects of service at LAC.

It soon became clear that LAC's responses to all these protests, including Dr Wilson's belated reply to our first letter, were simply form letters arguing that resources had to be shifted to electronic services, and not addressing the serious issues that were being raised about reduced accessibility for many different kinds of researchers. On 26 September I wrote an open letter to Ian Wilson that summarized the concerns that many people had expressed and again requested public consultations. I also requested an immediate meeting to discuss all these issues, and announced my intention of bringing along representatives of any groups who shared our concerns. A week later, under what must have been becoming an avalanche of letters, LAC announced the creation of a new Service Advisory Board. That went part way toward meeting our concerns, but we now wanted to get the new hours rolled back while the new board considered the whole question of hours.



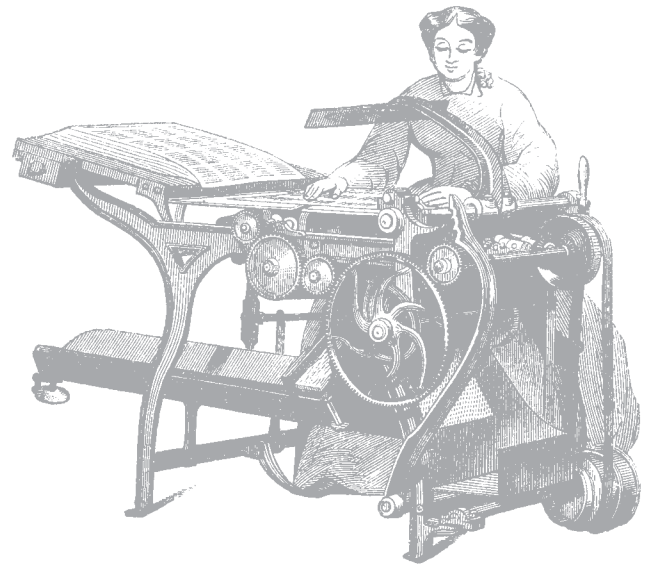
On 23 October a delegation of representatives of ten organizations met with Dr Wilson. Besides the CHA and our Graduate Student Committee, we had drawn in the Algonquin Nation Secretariat, the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, l'Institut d'Histoire de l'Amerique Francaise, the National Council on Public History, the Ontario Historical Society, the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada, and the Writers' Union of Canada. We had all agreed before the meeting that we wanted the hours rolled back while the Service Advisory Board considered the question.

Dr Wilson explained the wider mandate that LAC was now saddled with and the importance of reaching a new audience (particularly in schools) through on-line services, which, in the absence of any additional funding, had to be financed by taking resources away from existing programs. We responded that the balance had shifted too severely away from the more traditional clientele of researchers. After a

great deal of discussion, Dr Wilson eventually agreed to reconsider the cuts in hours of service in the very near future.

The ten groups involved in the delegation agreed that this had been a productive meeting. We subsequently assured Dr Wilson that we looked forward to making the new advisory board an effective forum, and that we were prepared to assist in any way we could to help promote the financial stability of LAC. We now await word on the current hours of service and the start-up of the work of the new board in late November.

***Please consult the CHA Website for updates on the issues.  
[www.cha-shc.ca](http://www.cha-shc.ca)***



## LA SHC ET LES ARCHIVES

Craig Heron, York University

Les archives sont encore des institutions essentielles au travail des historiens. On peut bien numériser et afficher sur les sites Web autant de documents que l'on veut, il n'en demeure pas moins que l'historien aura toujours besoin de retourner au concret en ouvrant des boîtes de dossiers poussiéreux et en examinant des vieux documents. Depuis le printemps dernier, la SHC est intervenue vigoureusement dans deux débats qui concernent la gestion de deux grandes institutions d'archives canadiennes.

### Les archives de l'Église Unie du Canada

La SHC apprenait en mai dernier la fermeture prochaine des archives de l'Église Unie, situées à l'Université Victoria, sur le campus de l'Université de Toronto. La Société a exprimé son désaccord sur cette décision dans une lettre bien sentie, et s'est jointe à la « Coalition Sauvez les archives » pour participer, au cours de l'été, à une série d'assemblées réunissant des gens de tous horizons que cette fermeture affecterait (archivistes, bibliothécaires, historiens, syndicalistes, fidèles de l'Église, etc.).

L'objectif de cette coalition était de convaincre l'Église Unie et l'Université Victoria de revenir sur leur décision et de garder les archives à leur endroit actuel, afin qu'elles puissent bénéficier de l'expertise de leurs employés (à qui on avait signifié leur congé) et de l'appui financier de l'Université. Au début d'octobre, la Coalition a lancé un site Web et une pétition en ligne qui a recueilli plus de 2 300 signatures, et a dépêché une délégation auprès de l'Église et de l'Université.

À la mi-octobre, l'Église Unie annonçait qu'elle rouvrirait ses archives, mais dans l'édifice de son bureau principal, situé en banlieue. Cette mesure ne convenait pas entièrement à la Coalition, qui craignait que sans l'appui financier de l'Université Victoria et sans la présence du personnel actuel pour assurer la transition, la qualité du service offert aux archives périclité inévitablement. Le 31 octobre, la Coalition fit parvenir une autre lettre ouverte à Mme Sanders et au professeur Gooch, pour leur rappeler l'intérêt que le public porte à cet important centre de recherche; elle les a aussi vivement incités à réévaluer la possibilité que le centre demeure à Victoria, grâce au fonds qu'amasserait à cette fin une nouvelle campagne de financement. Il est prévu que les archives fermeront leurs portes le 21 décembre pour les rouvrir au début de mai.

### Bibliothèque et Archives Canada

Pendant ce temps, au mois d'août plus précisément, la SHC apprenait que Bibliothèque et Archives Canada (BAC) allait dramatiquement réduire ses heures de service à partir du

1<sup>er</sup> septembre. La Société a exposé poliment ses objections à cette mesure dans une lettre adressée au Bibliothécaire et Archiviste du Canada, M. Ian Wilson, dans laquelle elle demandait instamment de tenir en bonne et due forme des séances de consultations publiques avant de mettre en vigueur de tels changements d'horaire. Sa lettre restant sans réponse, la Société a alors lancé un appel sur H-Canada, en joignant les historiens que la réduction de service préoccupait d'écrire au chef des Services à la clientèle, comme le suggérait le communiqué de presse de BAC. De son côté, Heather Steele, la représentante du Comité des étudiants diplômés au Conseil de la SHC, a fait circuler une pétition en ligne pour protester contre les nouvelles heures de service, pétition qui allait compter plus de 350 signatures au début de septembre et plus de 500 par la suite. La Société a aussi reçu de nombreuses lettres, dont une du département d'histoire de l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick, qui protestaient contre les nouvelles heures de service, les jugeant tout simplement inacceptables. BAC tint une réunion, mal annoncée, le 14 septembre, à laquelle se présentèrent une soixantaine de clients furieux, qui ne se gênèrent pas pour critiquer sévèrement de nombreux aspects du service de BAC.

Il apparut bientôt clairement que les réponses que BAC fournissait à toutes ces récriminations, même la réponse tardive de M. Wilson à la première lettre de la Société, étaient de simples lettres types expliquant que l'essentiel des ressources était désormais détourné au profit des services électroniques; pas un mot sur les problèmes que causerait la réduction de l'accès à de nombreux types de chercheurs. Le 26 septembre, j'écrivais donc une lettre ouverte à Ian Wilson dans laquelle je résumais les inquiétudes exprimées par de nombreuses personnes et je lui réitérais ma demande qu'il organise des séances de consultation publique. Je l'invitais aussi à convoquer immédiatement une réunion pour discuter de toutes ces questions et lui faisais part de mon intention de venir accompagné des représentants de tout groupe partageant mes préoccupations. Une semaine plus tard, et sans aucun doute après avoir reçu une avalanche de lettres, BAC annonçait la création d'un nouveau Conseil consultatif sur les services. Cela répondait en partie aux revendications de la Société, mais il fallait aussi que BAC rétablisse les anciennes heures de service, du moins jusqu'à ce que le nouveau Conseil consultatif se soit penché sur la question.

Le 23 octobre, M. Wilson recevait une délégation des représentants des dix organisations suivantes : la SHC et son Comité des étudiants diplômés, le Algonquin Nation Secretariat, l'Association des cartothèques et archives

cartographiques du Canada, la British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, l'Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française, le National Council on Public History, l'Ontario Historical Society, la Société pour l'étude de l'architecture au Canada, et le Writers' Union of Canada. Avant la réunion, les membres de cette délégation s'étaient tous entendus pour exiger le retour aux anciennes heures de service en attendant que le Conseil consultatif sur les services entame son travail.

M. Wilson a expliqué que BAC avait les mains liées par son nouveau mandat, plus vaste, qui l'oblige à conquérir un nouveau public (particulièrement celui des écoles) par l'intermédiaire de services en ligne; malheureusement, pour atteindre cet objectif, BAC n'a pas reçu de fonds supplémentaires et doit donc financer ses nouvelles activités de numérisation en puisant dans les ressources des autres programmes existants. Les membres de la délégation ont fait valoir que ce changement d'orientation défavorisait trop sévèrement la clientèle plus traditionnelle des chercheurs. Après de longues discussions, M. Wilson a fini par accepter de revoir bientôt la réduction des heures de service.

Les représentants des dix groupes ont reconnu que la réunion avait été fructueuse. Par la suite, ils ont assuré M. Wilson qu'il pouvait compter sur leur collaboration pour faciliter le travail du nouveau Conseil consultatif sur les services; ils se sont aussi dits prêts à l'aider d'une manière ou d'une autre pour assurer la stabilité financière de BAC. Nous attendons présentement des nouvelles au sujet des heures de service et du début des activités du nouveau Conseil vers la fin de novembre.

***Veillez consulter le site Web de la SHC pour connaître les plus récents développements dans ce dossier.***



## LES ARCHIVES ET LES BIBLIOTHÈQUES NUMÉRIQUES

Les bibliothèques numériques se développent à un rythme phénoménal, l'objectif étant de rendre le patrimoine culturel imprimé accessible sous forme numérique. Le projet Gutenberg (<http://www.gutenberg.org>) fut l'un des premiers dans le domaine. Lancé en 1971, il est basé sur le travail de bénévoles pour la numérisation d'ouvrages libres de droits. Google a évidemment fait parler en visant la numérisation et l'indexation d'un « catalogue virtuel complet de tous les livres et dans toutes les langues » (<http://www.google.ca/books>). D'autres projets concurrents ont vu le jour, tel que Open Library (<http://demo.openlibrary.org>) et, en France, la bibliothèque virtuelle Gallica (<http://gallica.bnf.fr>). Au Canada, cette tâche incombe à Canadiana (ou Notre mémoire en ligne, <http://www.canadiana.org>), autrefois l'Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques ou ICMH. Ces bibliothèques numériques sont généralement constituées à partir de balayages numériques permettant d'une part d'obtenir une image identique à la page originale et, d'autre part de convertir chacun des caractères afin de recréer chacun des mots du texte et permettre ainsi les recherches à travers l'ensemble du corpus.

Donald Fyson s'est déjà penché sur l'impact de ces nouvelles approches dans la pratique historique dans une note de recherche publiée dans la *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française* en 2005 (<http://www.erudit.org/revue/haf/2005/v59/n1-2/O12721ar.html>). Il a fait ressortir l'avantage incontournable de la recherche plein texte tout en nous rappelant que les imprimés ne sont pas représentatifs de l'ensemble des sources pour une période donnée. J'ajouterais que les chercheurs doivent aussi tenir compte d'enjeux tels que la qualité des versions numériques ainsi que la nature du fournisseur. Ainsi, des extraits des *Relations des Jésuites* (édition R.B. Thwaites) étant disponibles dans trois bibliothèques virtuelles, le chercheur devrait-il favoriser la qualité et l'exhaustivité de Canadiana, tirer profit de l'index des citations et de l'index des lieux (avec carte) de Google ou utiliser la navigation très conviviale de Open Library? Ces choix sont-ils neutres?

La numérisation de manuscrits présente évidemment d'autres défis. La technologie ne permettant pas de convertir l'écriture cursive en leur équivalent numérique, les documents sont représentés sous forme d'images accompagnées d'un descripteur analytique pour faciliter les recherches. L'un des projets les plus intéressants est certainement la mise en ligne des archives coloniales françaises via le projet Nouvelle-France, Horizons nouveaux — Histoire d'une terre française en Amérique (<http://archivescanadafrance.org>). À la fois exposition virtuelle de grande qualité et banque de données

comprenant les principales séries concernant les colonies françaises d'Amérique, ce projet vient partiellement compléter les lacunes des collections d'imprimés pour la période de la Nouvelle-France. L'accès est toutefois inégal car si certains fonds sont très bien indexés (dont la Série C11A pour laquelle un instrument de recherche informatisé existait déjà), d'autres le sont peu ou pas (particulièrement la Série B, dont les volumes sont disponibles mais sans notices descriptives détaillées). Le corpus de sources numérisées ne sera heureusement pas limité à la correspondance officielle car Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec numérise aussi plusieurs fonds, dont la correspondance d'Élisabeth Roberth de la Morandière (Madame Bégon) ainsi que les archives de plusieurs tribunaux de la Nouvelle-France. Le moteur de recherche Pistard (<http://pistard.banq.qc.ca>) n'est toujours pas le plus convivial pour accéder à ces nouveaux trésors, mais les usagers déterminés finissent par en saisir la logique.

En plus des archives numérisées en fonction des collections, il existe aussi des archives thématiques. Les expositions virtuelles (dont Horizons Nouveaux, citée plus haut ou Musea <http://musea.univ-angers.fr>, décrite dans une chronique précédente) en sont des exemples. On retrouve aussi des projets de type pédagogique, dont les Grands Mystères de l'histoire canadienne (<http://www.mysterescanadiens.ca>, auxquels j'ai contribué en 2005-2006), The Valley of the Shadow (<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu>), un pionnier dans le genre, ainsi que A Midwife's Tale (<http://dohistory.org>). Ces projets rassemblent en une collection virtuelle des documents provenant de dépôts différents. Le regroupement de documents portant sur une même thématique accompagnée d'une navigation généralement conviviale rend ces sources encore plus accessibles pour les gens qui sont peu familiers avec la logique des archives. Souvent accompagnés de transcriptions, ils permettent de faire des recherches plein texte et facilitent grandement la lecture. Ils sont donc très populaires, non seulement dans le monde de l'éducation, mais aussi auprès du grand public.

Les projets de numérisation doivent évidemment répondre aux mêmes critères scientifiques que tout autre projet universitaire. Qu'est-ce qui a été numérisé, par qui, comment et pourquoi? Dans le cas de l'imprimé, quel est le taux d'erreur du logiciel de reconnaissance optique de caractères? Qu'il s'agisse d'imprimés ou de manuscrits, les transcriptions ont-elles été vérifiées? Comme nous lisons les parties méthodologiques des études, nous devrions aussi le faire pour les outils informatisés pour nous assurer qu'ils répondent à nos besoins. À terme, nous devons aussi développer les outils nécessaires pour éviter ou pour tirer profit des redondances.

Dans le cas des *Jugements et délibérations du Conseil souverain de la Nouvelle-France*, on peut rêver à un outil qui associerait la recherche plein texte dans la version Canadiana à la consultation des pages correspondantes des manuscrits dans Pistard. On peut souhaiter que les initiatives pour un meilleur partage des ressources, telles que le projet Alouette (<http://www.alouettecanada.ca>), balisent la voie dans ce domaine.

Ces développements auront de toute évidence une incidence méthodologique. L'information étant atomisée, les chercheurs retrouvent les données dans les documents les plus pertinents

fournis par le moteur de recherche, souvent en isolation par rapport à leur corpus. Au-delà des questions d'accessibilité aux contenus et de préservation des originaux, la numérisation des collections de texte présentent de nombreuses opportunités pour la recherche. La communauté historique pourra en tirer profit si elle s'assure que les nouveaux produits répondent à ses besoins et si la méthode historique tient compte des particularités de ces nouveaux outils.

**Léon Robichaud**  
Université de Sherbrooke

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## LE MONDE DES MUSÉES

### 170 ans plus tard

À compter du 6 novembre, *Pointe-à-Callière, musée d'archéologie et d'histoire de Montréal* présente une exposition sur les Rébellions de 1837 et 1838, où Patriotes et Loyaux se sont affrontés avant de connaître des dénouements dramatiques.

Des objets exceptionnels, dont certains incontournables, vont rappeler comment les Rébellions ont marqué une page importante de l'histoire du Canada.

Des photos peuvent être téléchargées à l'adresse suivante :  
<http://www.pacmusee.qc.ca/pages/MediaPrive/expositions.aspx#8>

**Info :** Catherine Roberge, (514) 872-7858

**Site Web :** [www.pacmusee.qc.ca](http://www.pacmusee.qc.ca)





## *Tête-à-tête, une nouvelle exposition biographique*

Depuis son ouverture en 1989, le Musée canadien des civilisations présente une grande exposition sur l'histoire du pays : la Salle du Canada convie les visiteurs à un voyage dans le temps et d'un océan à l'autre. L'exposition se renouvelle constamment et reste le joyau du Musée, mais au fil du temps, il est devenu clair qu'un élément lui manquait : la biographie. Comment comprendre pleinement le cours de l'histoire canadienne sans évoquer des personnalités aussi centrales que Samuel de Champlain, John A. Macdonald, Nellie McClung ou Gabrielle Roy ? C'est alors qu'est né le concept de *Tête-à-tête : la Salle des personnalités canadiennes*, la nouvelle exposition permanente qui occupe le quatrième étage du Musée.

Une fois la décision prise de créer la première exposition pancanadienne à caractère biographique, les défis allaient commencer.

Premier défi : l'espace. Songeons au *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, indétrônable référence : il compte quinze volumes, de 1000 ou 1300 pages chacun, totalisant plus de 8000 biographies, et encore n'a-t-on atteint que l'année 1930. Une exposition ne peut s'offrir ce luxe de mots. Il nous faut vivre avec un lieu circonscrit, de 12 000 p<sup>2</sup>, ce qui est vaste mais non extensible. Et une exposition ne se compose pas que de textes. Qui dit « exposition » dit aussi objets, images, audiovisuels, ambiance de design, lieux de repos et de réflexion. Il faut enfin voir comment, pratiquement, la salle qui nous est dévolue est construite : elle se divise naturellement en un certain nombre de zones.

C'est en tenant compte de ces contraintes que *Tête-à-tête* a été divisée en cinq grandes zones et qu'on a estimé que, pour présenter les personnalités avec une certaine ampleur, nous en limiterions le nombre à vingt-cinq modules.

Cinq grandes zones, mais encore ? Nous avons opté pour une approche thématique. C'est ainsi que la zone « Nous avons bâti » inclut des personnalités dont l'impact fut physique, tangible : explorateurs, architectes, etc. La zone « Nous avons gouverné » est composée de gens ayant exercé le pouvoir au pays et dans des provinces. La zone « Nous avons combattu » regroupe ceux qui, par les armes ou la parole, ont milité pour une cause. On rencontrera dans la zone « Nous avons fondé » des personnalités à l'origine d'institutions non gouvernementales qui ont marqué le développement social et économique du pays. Enfin, c'est dans la zone « Nous avons inspiré » que se retrouvent les créateurs dont les œuvres – artistiques, littéraires ou même sportives – ont suscité l'exemple.

Une fois définies ces zones, demeure l'étape délicate : qui inclure, qui exclure, pourquoi et comment ? Des critères se sont dessinés après maintes discussions et réflexions, autant à l'interne au Musée, qu'à l'externe, par des sondages auprès de nos visiteurs et par une consultation, à l'automne 2004, de dizaines d'historiens et muséologues :

- les personnalités doivent être disparues depuis quelques années au moins, pour nous donner le recul nécessaire;
- elles doivent avoir eu un impact durable et réel sur le Canada et ses habitants, de préférence à l'échelle du pays, voire à l'étranger;
- il faut pouvoir compter sur un bassin suffisant d'études, de témoignages, d'images et d'objets, que ce soit dans nos propres collections ou dans les centres d'archives et musées à travers le pays.
- ces personnalités, nous les jugeons significatives, exceptionnelles même, mais nous n'en faisons ni des dieux ni des saints. *Tête-à-tête* n'est pas un temple de la renommée, un palmarès, une liste des « plus ceci » ou des « meilleurs cela ». Nous souhaitons présenter des voix multiples : celle de la personnalité elle-même, mais aussi celle des contemporains, celle des observateurs d'aujourd'hui, ainsi que la voix du Musée, pour laisser les visiteurs juges, en dernier lieu, du mérite – ou du démerite! — de chacune.

Le Musée « n'endosse » personne, mais il se porte garant de l'importance des figures présentées et de celles qui suivront.

Il n'est pas question en effet, que cette première cuvée demeure la dernière. *Tête-à-tête* se veut une exposition permanente, mais évolutive, autant pour maintenir l'intérêt des visiteurs que pour répondre aux nécessités d'une histoire trop dense pour s'incarner dans vingt-cinq modules inchangés. Dès la première visite, chacun verra que des personnalités majeures manquent à l'appel: pas de Marie de l'Incarnation, pas de John Molson, pas de Louis Riel, pas de William Logan, pas de Wilfrid Laurier ni de Thérèse Casgrain ni de René Lévesque ... Bien d'autres encore sont provisoirement absents. Il est impossible d'atteindre du premier coup l'équilibre idéal entre les périodes, les sexes, les groupes linguistiques ou ethniques, les figures connues et celles qui mériteraient de l'être, entre les régions, les domaines d'activité, les idéologies... En amorçant une rotation graduelle des modules, il s'agira de veiller à ce que, cumulativement, l'échantillonnage de personnalités soit un peu plus fidèle et conforme à la riche réalité du passé.

*Xavier Gélinas, PhD, Conservateur, histoire politique canadienne, Musée canadien des civilisations  
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## *Face to Face: A New Biographical Exhibition*

Since its opening in 1989, the Canadian Museum of Civilization has presented a major exhibition about our country's history: Canada Hall invites visitors to travel through time from coast to coast. The exhibition is constantly being renewed and remains the jewel in the Museum's crown. Over the years, however, it became clear that it lacked one element: biography. How can one fully understand the course of Canadian history without acknowledging such central figures as Samuel de Champlain, John A. Macdonald, Nellie McClung or Gabrielle Roy? Hence the origin of the concept underlying *Face to Face: The Canadian Personalities Hall*, a new permanent exhibition on the Museum's fourth floor.

Once we made the decision to create a first Canada-wide exhibition based on biography, the challenges began to surface. The first challenge was space. If one thinks of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, the ultimate reference, it consists of fifteen volumes of 1000 to 1300 pages each and a total of over 8000 biographies, just for the years up to 1930. An exhibition does not allow the luxury of so many words. We had to deal with a space limitation of just over 1100 m<sup>2</sup> (12,000 sq. ft.), which is large but not extensive. And an exhibition is more than text. It implies objects, images, audiovisuals and the creation of mood through design as well as a place to rest and reflect. We had to examine in concrete terms how the given space was laid out. It is naturally divided into a certain number of areas.

Keeping all of these considerations in mind, we decided to divide *Face to Face* into five large areas. We also concurred that to give each personality sufficient breadth, we would limit the number of modules to 25.

Five large areas, but then what? We settled on a thematic approach. Thus the area entitled "We built" includes personalities whose impact was physical and tangible: explorers, architects, etc. The area "We governed" features people who have held power in Canada or in the provinces. The zone "We fought" brings together people who have campaigned for a cause, using arms or words. The zone "We founded" introduces people who created non-government institutions that have marked the country's social and economic development. Finally, the zone "We inspired" presents creators whose works in literature and the arts as well as in sports have served as models.

Once these zones were established, we faced the delicate task of deciding whom to include, whom to exclude, why and how. The criteria outlined below evolved from numerous discussions and abundant reflection, both within and outside the museum. We surveyed museum visitors and held a consul-

tation with dozens of historians and museum specialists in the fall of 2004.

- Personalities must have died at least a few years ago in order to provide sufficient distance.
- They must have had a real and prolonged impact on Canada and its inhabitants, preferably nation-wide and even international.
- We must have access to an adequate number of studies, testimonies, images and objects, either from our own collections or from archives and museums across the country.
- While these personalities are considered to be of major, not to say extraordinary significance, we have not made them into gods or saints. *Face to face* is not a hall of fame or a top-ten list or the best of this or that category. We wish to present multiple voices: those of the personalities themselves but also those of their contemporaries, of current observers and of the museum as it give visitors the last word as to who is worthy – or unworthy – of being featured in the exhibition. The museum does not "endorse" anyone, but it does guarantee the importance of the personalities selected and of those who will follow.

In fact, this first edition will not be the last. *Face to Face* is intended as a permanent, yet evolving exhibition, to maintain visitors' interest on one hand, but also to reflect the scope of our history which is much too broad to be contained in twenty-five fixed modules. From their very first visit, viewers will notice the absence of major figures: there is no Marie de l'Incarnation, no John Molson, no Louis Riel, no William Logan, no Wilfrid Laurier no Thérèse Casgrain and no René Lévesque ... Many others are temporarily absent. It is impossible in a first attempt to strike a perfect balance among time periods, gender, language or ethnic groups, figures that are known or deserve to be known, regions, fields of interest, ideologies, etc. Through a gradual rotation of modules, we will attempt to present cumulatively a sampling of personalities that reflects more accurately the fertile reality of the past.

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[Translation: Henriette Levasseur]

## YOU CAN'T FIGHT IN HERE – THIS IS THE WAR MUSEUM

I assume that the contours of the War Museum dust-up are familiar to all, so I'll begin by observing that if you really want to ensure that a book is read, a film seen, or a recording listened to, the surest method is to ban it. I can attest to this from experience: nothing less than a school-wide ban would have obliged the entire population of fourth through eighth graders at my elementary school to read Judy Blume's coming-of-age novel *Forever*; not only that, only a ban could have compelled us to discuss, analyze, and otherwise dissect the book with a zeal that our English teachers had failed entirely to arouse in us with freely available literature. That the book turned out to be disappointingly inoffensive taught us important lessons about the character of people who ban things.

So bravo to the angry veterans or, at least, to those people who claim to speak for them: they have done more to publicize the War Museum's innocuous display on strategic bombing than the museum itself ever could have. And on the topic of 'claiming to speak for them', let me tell you what the World War II veteran in my own family had to say about it: "These guys survived Hitler – what's their problem?" (You must imagine these words spoken both indignantly and in my grandfather-in-law's Scottish burr to get the real effect.) In other words, it is simply undignified for men who once fought so hard in so real a cause to spend their remaining days in petty squabbles over piffing and only perceived offenses, and it is doubly so for anyone to do it on their behalf.

But in the hallowed spaces of patriotic memory offense can be made of almost anything. You may recollect Stephen Harper's frustration, a year or two ago, over the fact that his Remembrance Day poppy kept falling off. In a rare moment of humour the Prime Minister asked why, after ninety years, pin technology had not been perfected. Sure enough, the harmless little jest made the news and from some quarters came accusations that Harper had disparaged the memory of our veterans. So why should it surprise us that some people chose to take offense at the following?

The value and morality of the strategic bomber offensive against Germany remains bitterly contested. Bomber Command's aim was to crush civilian morale and force Germany to surrender by destroying its cities and industrial installations. Although Bomber Command and American attacks left 600,000 Germans dead and more than five million homeless, the raids resulted in only small reductions of German war production until late in the war.

I admit that the wording which replaced this is probably better, but that's not the point. Not one sentence in the original is untrue or demeaning to veterans. Debates about the efficacy and morality of the bomber offensive have been unremitting since the first bomb fell. Responsible historians and military leaders of unimpeachable patriotic credentials have weighed in on both sides of the argument. It is painful to contemplate that these few words might have caused some veterans offense, but there is a larger principle at stake here: *historians have a right to offend people*. Since when has it been the object of the historian's craft to make people feel good about themselves, let alone to make veterans feel that their military service was in all cases and in all causes not in vain? Our responsibility is to say what happened and why it happened. Whether the result reinforces or undermines nationalist sentiment is incidental, and at any rate something is staggeringly wrong when the same people who rage against the concept of inherited guilt can in the next breath say that we should be proud of our country's history.

About a month ago I noticed that the photograph of an abstract painting on the National Gallery's website was flipped. I notified them of the error, they investigated (the painting is hanging downstairs) and the image was fixed. In this case, an error was corrected, and that's one thing. But if I had said that the painting offended me and demanded that it be replaced with another one, that's another thing entirely, and make no mistake: it is the perceived offense, not a factual error, which was the cause of the recent controversy.

Canadians' very tenuous and very delicate patriotic sensibilities are moored to a generation that rapidly is passing into history, so it's not surprising that some people are feeling a little defensive. But now we find that even the most well-intentioned tributes, proffered by soldier-friendly historians working for an institution steadfast in its veneration of veterans, can willfully be misinterpreted as slander directed at their suffering and sacrifices. A historian's first duty is to the facts and not to the flag, but we are now confronted with the depressing possibility that any serious discussion of the war will have to be deferred until the generation that fought it is gone. And what's even more depressing is the fact that some people wouldn't have it any other way.

**Graham Broad**  
*King's University College, UWO*

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD NOUVELLES DU MILIEU

### Brock University

**Chair:** David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye

**Graduate Director:** Mark Spencer

**New Associate Professors:** Mark Spencer, Kevin Kee

**Awards:** Andrew McDonald, Faculty of Humanities Teaching Award, Elizabeth Neswald, CIHR Grant

**Appointments (tenure track):** Olatunji Ojo (Modern Africa), Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozàs (Latin America), Ning Wang (East Asia)

**Invited Professors:** Aleksandr Pavolovich Shevryev, Moscow State University (Modern Russian History)

**Leaves:** Carmela Patrias (W 2008), Murray Wickett (W 2008)

### Huron University College at UWO

**Chair:** Jun Fang

**Appointment (tenure track):** Nina Reid-Maroney (American history)

**Retirement:** Jack Blocker

### Laurentian University

**Chair:** Sara Burke

**Graduate Director:** Janice Liedl

**New Associate Professor:** Stephen Azzi

**Awards:** Gaetan Gervais received l'insigne de l'Ordre des francophones d'Amérique from le conseil supérieur de la langue française du Québec

**Appointments (tenure track):** Patrick Cavaliere (Modern Europe), Andrew Smith (Pre-Confederation Canada)

**Appointments (limited term):** R. Todd Webb (Canada), Benoit Grenier (Canada), Dan Byers (Canada)

**Anticipated Appointments (2008-09):** two francophone tenure-track appointments (Canada)

**Leave:** Linda Ambrose FW 2007-08

**Retirements:** John Rutherford

### University of Alberta

**Chair:** John-Paul Himka

**Graduate Director:** Christopher S. Mackay

**New Professor:** Jane Samson

**New Associate Professor:** Sean Gouglas

**Awards:** David Marples, University Professorship; Sarah Carter, Fellow of the Royal Society

**Appointments (tenure track):** French Revolution, Western Canada, Modern Middle East, Roman Literature

**Retirement:** David Lightmer

### University of Guelph

**Chair:** Terry Crowley

**Graduate Director:** Peter Goddard

**New University Professor Emeritus:** David Murray

**Appointments:** Renée Worringer (Middle East), Matthew Hayday (Canadian) Kris Inwood (Economic History – joint appointment with Department of Economics), Jacqueline Murray

**Leaves:** Stuart McCook, Karen Racine, Susannah Humble-Ferreira, Tara Abraham, Kevin James, Femi Kolapo

**Conferences:** International conference on the History of Drugs and Addictions, August 2007; Tri-University History Conference, November 2007

### University of Manitoba

**Chair:** Mark Gabbert

**Graduate Director:** Jarvis Brownlie

**New Associate Professors:** 2

**Appointments (limited term):** Western Civilization, Modern World

**Anticipated Appointments:** Medieval

**Leaves:** Research Study Leaves (7)

### Université de Sherbrooke

**Directrice :** Christine Hudon

**Professeure titulaire :** Christine Hudon

**Embauches (poste régulier et champ) :** Patrick Dramé (Histoire de l'Europe contemporaine (impérialisme et décolonisation en Afrique)

**Embauches prévues (pour 2008-2009) :** Professeur en histoire des États-Unis

### University of Toronto

**Awards:** Franca Iacovetta, Research Fellow with the Immigration History Research Centre at University of Minnesota, 2007-2008.

### University of Windsor

**Chair:** Peter Way

**Graduate Director:** Miriam Wright

**Appointments (tenure track):** Mohamed H. Mohamed (African History) and Shauna Huffaker (Middle Eastern History)

**Appointments (limited term):** Adam Poole (Modern British History)

**Awards:** Leslie Howsam, University Professor

**Leaves:** Christina Burr (F 2007), Leslie Howsam (F 2007), Christina Simmons (FW 2007-08)



## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS SUBVENTIONS ET BOURSES

### Network in Canadian History & Environment (NiCHE)

**What:** Innovative projects that mobilize or disseminate Canadian environmental history. (Examples might include a policy workshop, a public speakers series, educational resources, or a digital initiative).

**How much:** Twenty-five thousand dollars has been set aside to support new, one-time projects with funds between \$2500 and \$7500.

**Who:** All Canadian researchers and research teams – including graduate students, and including groups already receiving NiCHE support – are welcome to apply.

**Deadline:** 3 December 2007. Notification will be made by 10 December 2007.

*Please note that NiCHE cannot fund research itself, only its dissemination.*

**Info:** <http://niche.uwo.ca> or contact [niche@uwo.ca](mailto:niche@uwo.ca).

### Nouvelle initiative canadienne en histoire de l'environnement (NiCHE)

**Quoi :** Projets aspirant à faire rayonner les travaux en histoire environnementale.

**Combien :** Vingt-cinq mille dollars ont été alloués pour soutenir de nouveaux projets ponctuels, avec un financement pouvant aller de 2 500 \$ à 7 500 \$ par projet.

**Qui :** Tous les chercheurs ou groupes de recherche canadiens (incluant les étudiants diplômés et les groupes de recherche bénéficiant déjà d'un octroi de NiCHE) sont invités à soumettre leur candidature.

**Date limite :** 3 décembre 2007. Les responsables des projets retenus seront avisés au plus tard le 10 décembre 2007. *Veillez noter que NiCHE ne subventionne pas les projets de recherche, mais plutôt leur diffusion.*

**Info :** <http://niche.uwo.ca> ou écrivez à [niche@uwo.ca](mailto:niche@uwo.ca).

### The Manitoba Association for the History of Nursing

**Eligibility:** This award is open to any student in any discipline who is registered in a program of study at a recognized post-secondary institution

**How Much:** Applications can be made for amounts of up to \$500

**Deadline:** 11 January, 2008. Successful recipients will be informed by 31 January, 2008.

**Info:** [Chris\\_Dooley@UManitoba.ca](mailto:Chris_Dooley@UManitoba.ca)

**Hannah Summer Studentship program of the Associated**

**Medical Services** Administered by the **Canadian Society for the History of Medicine** to support undergraduate students interested in studying and learning the techniques of historical research and to encourage future serious study of medical history.

**Eligibility:** students enrolled in undergraduate programs in Canada

**How Much:** \$5500

**Deadline:** 15 January 2008.

**Info:** [http://php.ams-inc.on.ca/?q=grants\\_and\\_awards/hannah\\_studentship](http://php.ams-inc.on.ca/?q=grants_and_awards/hannah_studentship)

**La bibliothèque John Carter Brown (JCBL) décernera une**





*Grants and Fellowships / Subventions et bourses con't...*

trentaine de bourses de recherche pour la période allant du 1<sup>er</sup> juin 2008 au 30 juin 2009. Le soutien des recherches à la JCBL est réservé exclusivement aux chercheurs ou étudiants dont le travail est consacré à l'histoire coloniale des Amériques, du Nord et du Sud, y compris tous les aspects des participations européenne, africaine et amérindienne. Les bourses sont de deux types.

**Bourses de courte durée :** Les bourses de courte durée sont accordées pour des périodes de deux à quatre mois et comportent une rémunération de 2000 US\$ par mois. Ces bourses sont offertes aux Américains et aux ressortissants étrangers qui sont engagés dans des recherches pré-doctorales, post-doctorales, ou libres. Les étudiants de troisième cycle doivent avoir réussi leurs examens préliminaires ou généraux et être dans la phase d'écriture de leur thèse au moment de leur candidature.

**Bourses de longue durée :** La bibliothèque acceptera également des demandes pour des bourses post-doctorales de longue durée (de 5 à 10 mois), dont plusieurs sont subventionnées par la National Endowment for the Humanities (la Dotation nationale pour les sciences humaines), un service du gouvernement fédéral. D'autres bourses de longue durée sont assurées par des dons permanents à la bibliothèque: le fonds J. M. Stuart; le fonds InterAmericas pour la recherche sur les Indes occidentales et le bassin caribéen dans son ensemble; et le fonds R. David Parsons pour la recherche relative à la découverte et à l'exploration européennes. Les bourses de longue durée bénéficient aussi du soutien de la fondation Andrew W. Mellon. La rémunération des bourses de longue durée est de 4000 US\$ par mois. La délivrance des bourses commence, en général, entre le 1<sup>er</sup> juin et le 15 juillet ou entre le 15 janvier et le 15 mars.

**Date limite :** 10 janvier 2008

**Info :** [http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/John\\_Carter\\_Brown\\_Library/pages/fr\\_resfellow2.html](http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/John_Carter_Brown_Library/pages/fr_resfellow2.html)

**The John Carter Brown Library (JCBL)** will award approximately thirty Research Fellowships for the year June 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Sponsorship of research at the John Carter Brown Library is reserved exclusively for scholars whose work is centered on the colonial history of the Americas, North and South, including all aspects of the European, African, and Native American involvement. Fellowships are of two types.

**Short-Term Fellowships:** Regular John Carter Brown Library Fellowships are available for periods of two to four months and carry a stipend of \$2,000 per month. These Fellowships are open to Americans and foreign nationals who are engaged in pre- or post-doctoral, or independent research. Graduate

students must have passed their preliminary or general examinations at the time of application.

**Long-Term Fellowships** are for five to ten months (with a stipend of \$4,000 per month). The term for these Fellowships will typically begin between June 1 and July 15 or between January 15 and March 15. Applicants for NEH Long-Term Fellowships must be American citizens or have been resident in the United States for the three years immediately preceding the application deadline. Graduate students are not eligible for Long-Term Fellowships.

**Deadline:** January 10, 2008

**Info:** [http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/John\\_Carter\\_Brown\\_Library/pages/fr\\_resfellow2.html](http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/John_Carter_Brown_Library/pages/fr_resfellow2.html)

**Carl J. Ekberg Research Grant**

**Description:** The Center for French Colonial Studies awards each year one \$1,000 grant to further French-language research related to the French presence in the upper Mississippi Valley (Illinois Country).

**Eligibility:** The award is open to graduate students and junior scholars (Ph.D. awarded after Jan. 31, 2003) of any nationality; priority will be given to doctoral students whose dissertation proposal has already been approved. Applicants should have the necessary language proficiency to conduct the project. All academic disciplines are eligible.

**Deadline:** January 31, 2008.

**Info:** [www.noctrl.edu/cfcs](http://www.noctrl.edu/cfcs).

# THE CANADIAN CENSUS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

I was invited to speak at this workshop primarily because, in my role as a microhistorian, my work is rooted in the description and analysis of individuals within a community over time. Like genealogists, therefore, my work relies heavily on manuscript census information pertaining to individuals, and is therefore particularly vulnerable to the recent suppression of historical evidence about individuals through Bill S18, as Eric Sager outlines in his paper for this panel. My comments today do not, however, address the particular difficulties that this legislation will bring to people within my sub-specialty of microhistory, though they are significant. Instead, I will suggest that the government's decision to destroy or suppress particular kinds of historical evidence has implications that reach far beyond microhistorians', and indeed beyond historians' work, out to the common good of society at large.

We haven't heard much about the public good in recent years. The idea that we should even think about a public good that means more than the sum of individuals' wealth or well-being, let alone that the government should be a steward or custodian of such a thing, has been eroded in the English speaking world by twenty-five years of neo-conservative thinking. Neo-conservative ideology, so familiar to us all, emphasizes individual choices, rights and fears rather than an idea of a common or public good. The idea of a common or public good is not missing from neo-conservative ideology: when asked about the practical social consequences of this ideology, proponents used to argue that indeed the best way to improve the overall welfare of citizens in a democratic society is to provide as wide a range of opportunities and goods as possible, so that people can choose for themselves what they, as individuals, want. The link between individual well-being and the common good is provided by economists' foundational claim that people are rational, and make rational choices about their well-being whenever they are able. The collective effect of individual choices therefore is, naturally and inevitably within this ideological framework, the best solution to the problem of a collective social welfare: "To improve [general] welfare, you must increase freedom of choice, not because increased choice is necessarily good in itself, but because it increases the chances that each individual will be able to find something that serves his or her interests."<sup>1</sup>

I say "used to argue" because I seldom see any discussion of the concept of a public good; it has all but disappeared from media coverage of economic and social issues, to be replaced by more simple assertions that the privatization of public utilities, tax cuts, the growth of mega-corporations

and increased GDP should, but in any case must, inevitably, continue. There is little public discussion about, far less evaluation of, the evidence that might be brought forward to support the contention that increased wealth for a few will result in a better world for us all.<sup>2</sup> This should not surprise us, for the last ten years have witnessed the massive takeover of a variety of media – television, newspapers, and radio – by a few large corporations with an explicitly right wing agenda.<sup>3</sup>

But the silence that characterizes the media's treatment of the public good has not yet been met by a parallel trend in the Social Science and Humanities departments at Canada's public universities, notwithstanding their increased corporatization. Indeed, rather the opposite has happened. In recent years, not only have academics traced some of the more devastating economic, social and cultural impacts of global capitalism, but, more positively, a spate of sociological studies has demonstrated conclusively that there is such a thing as the public good, that it is more than the sum of individuals' happiness, and, indeed, that individualism, unfettered consumerism and, most measurably, inequality are instead detrimental to the health and well-being of the whole – to the common, public good. Richard Wilkinson and Avner Offer are among those have recently demonstrated that greater inequality throughout society clearly, measurably and quite precisely manifests itself negatively in key indicators of the general well-being of individuals – rich and poor – through entire societies and communities. Some of these include the health (morbidity and infant mortality, most notably), longevity, security (real and perceived) and general sense of wellbeing of *everyone* in society.<sup>4</sup> The public good – the health and well-being of everyone in a society – it turns out, has a great deal to do with our lives as individuals, whatever our ideologies or our incomes.

As social historians of the nineteenth and twentieth century English-speaking countries will attest, there are some rather strange ironies here. Historians generally agree that when it came to lobbying for the reforms that transformed western societies in the twentieth century, it was middle class fears – fears of the social unrest, the rampant diseases, the crime and the violence that had followed in the wake of laissez-faire capitalism – and not some reformers' vision of a more just and equal society that catalyzed the changes that created a more humane, egalitarian society by the mid-twentieth century. While these reforms did not create an egalitarian society in the English-speaking world, it is now clear that they succeeded, for some decades before the Thatcher/

Reagan years, in reducing inequality and, not co-incidentally, generating unprecedented comfort, better health and more wealth for a larger percentage of people than had previously been possible.

In spite of a surprisingly measurable public good, sustained or diminished by the persistence of a collective phenomenon – equality or its absence – governments in the English-speaking world are now intent, overwhelmingly, on ignoring its existence. Having rejected the principle that governments should be stewarding scarce resources, or arbitrating among competing interests for the benefit of the whole, or building a more healthy society, or creating policies that protect future generations from pollution, climate change or energy shortages, far less removing inequality, governments are now hard pressed to continue to justify their existence.

Fortunately for governments, there is still one active social role that they can play to gain the democratic support they need, even within a right-wing, deeply fragmented and unequal society. Their one remaining highly championed social role, the role that ensures their continued existence, is security. Increasingly, we see governments claiming legitimacy by trumpeting their unique ability to give us “national” security, both by protecting us from the fellow citizens whose health and well-being used to be a central concern of government, and from those “others” outside our borders.

It is time to bring this discussion back to the Census of Canada. I would like to suggest that the censorship of information contained in Bill S58, where individuals have the right to block access to information about themselves contained in the census after 92 years, falls inside this new pattern of fear, distrust and secrecy that is now increasingly defining public discourse in English-speaking countries. It represents a particular historical moment, one characterized by a politically popular *general* fear and distrust of everybody by everybody, and a particular *general* denial of a collective, public good. Without this historically contingent set of circumstances, it is difficult to understand what, exactly, Bill S58 is protecting us from. As Eric Sager has already argued, the information on the census is, first of all, available elsewhere, most of it as part of the generally accessible public record. Secondly, it is not clear what kinds of knowledge people want to protect themselves from after 92 years. Finally, if, as I suspect, the real issue at stake here is that people really do not want information about them known by anyone, ever, the problem is surely the *gathering* and *recording* of such information, not the use of it by historians and genealogists 92 years in the future.

But once the information has been gathered, which it surely has and will be by governments and interested corporations, it is precisely historians’ eventual access to this information that provides the real contribution to the common good.

There are two ways in which individual census information can do this, through time. The first has to do with the concept of our collective rights and freedoms. The very existence of public records is rooted in the idea that ‘the people’ have a right to see and understand what the government is doing with information about them. The Public Record exists not only to let us know about ourselves, but, in the process, it protects us from the kinds of totalitarian and repressive states imagined by George Orwell in *1984*, where the idea of a collectivity or common good comprised of individuals has been dissolved and replaced with propaganda in the present, and the restriction of reliable information about people in the past. It may seem paradoxical, but the largest guarantor of our individual rights and freedoms is our collective understanding of ‘society’. Our need to see and understand the information, and kinds of information, that the government is gathering about us must be balanced with our concerns about privacy and security in the present, but there is a point where our rights and needs for privacy as individuals will be compromised if we cannot, collectively, know about society in the past, and the individuals who comprised it. This point has been named as 92 years, and it includes our collective right to know just what kinds of information governments have been gathering about individuals. If governments are gathering detailed information at the level of named individuals, as they certainly are with the census of Canada, then historians of the future need to have access to this information so as to understand the relationships between particular individuals and the government. This is the best way of protecting our collective rights and freedoms, in the interests of a non-totalitarian and democratic future – for the public good.

A second way in which individual information in the hands of future historians can lead to the common good is related to the very existence of the notion of a public good itself. Historians of the future need to know about individuals in order to understand what the relationship is between individuals and a variety of collectivities, or communities, or society as a whole; for it is now clear that there is a relationship, and that it is complex and multifaceted. Historians of the future will be able to have a much better understanding of just how individuals are connected to the whole when they are able to trace individuals through time and space. A deeper and broader understanding of the relationship amongst people, and between people and the collectivities to which they belong, therefore, has greater potential for improving those relationships than the suppression of this information does. The more information that individuals in the future can have about those in their past (like us), the greater the likelihood that they will be able to improve their common good in their present and future.

If historians are going to fight back effectively against the suppression of historical evidence for future historians that is

so potentially harmful to the common good, I would suggest that we need to provide Canadians with a new discourse with which to combat the increasing censorship and secrecy that threatens our public good, present and future. We need to give back to people a language where the opposite of 'right to privacy' is not ONLY identity theft, credit card fraud, stalking, violence, and unimagined humiliation of public exposure (though about what, exactly, is often unclear). We need to demonstrate to people that it is essential to the collective, public good to allow Canadians of the future to see just what information governments were gathering about individuals in the twenty-first century. And we need to create a discursive space where we can argue that the right to privacy, happiness and liberty in the present, with our privacy and rights protected, is secured and enhanced, at least in part, by the ability of people in the future to gain a deep and broad understanding of "what happened" to individuals within a collectivity in the past. Finally, we need to convince people that our ability to live in an open and democratic society in the present, where people can work to improve the common good in spite of powers working against it, is dependent on

our ability to see and therefore understand the relationships amongst individuals, between governments and individuals, and amongst individuals and various collectivities, and through time. For it is our collective right to know about society – our collective as well as our individual selves – in the past, to gain a better understanding of the present, and perhaps even some direction for the future.

### **R.W. Sandwell**

*This paper was presented at the CHA 2007 meeting as part of a panel on the census and revised for the Bulletin in September 2007.*

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<sup>1</sup> Barry Schwartz, "Stop the Treadmill!" *London Review of Books* Vol. 29, no 5, March 8, 2007, 32.

<sup>2</sup> There are some important exceptions to this. I have just heard on our public broadcasting system this morning, for example, an interview with Naomi Klein, who has published a number of books, including *No Logo*, and her latest *Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*, explicitly challenging the claims of right wing economists like Milton Friedman that 'extreme' capitalism benefits anyone but a tiny rich majority.

<sup>3</sup> A number of recent, highly popular film documentaries, including Klein's *The Take*, Michael Moore's *Sicko*, and Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbot, and Joel Bakan's *The Corporation* and Chris Paine's *Who Killed the Electric Car* are taking up the role of serious social criticism that used to be filled by newspapers, television and radio.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Wilkinson, *The Impact of Inequality: How to make Sick Societies Healthier* (New York: The New Press, 2005); Avner Offer, *The Challenge of Affluence: Self-Control and Well-Being in the United States and Britain Since 1950* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006). For a serious discussion of the social and cultural import of the 'common good' for history educators, see also Keith Barton and Linda Levstik, *Teaching History for the Common Good* (New Jersey and London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004).

## COUNT ME IN

Craig Heron, York University

In the spring the CHA learned that only 56 per cent of Canadians who completed a form in the 2006 Census had agreed to let their personal information be released 92 years later. Like other groups, the CHA was concerned that this valuable resource for historians and social scientists (and many other Canadians interested in family or community history) would be permanently weakened as a research tool. In May we held a workshop during our AGM to draw together members of our association and other societies (especially sociologists, political scientists, and economists) who were concerned about this situation. Eric Sager (University of Victoria) agreed to head up this initiative.

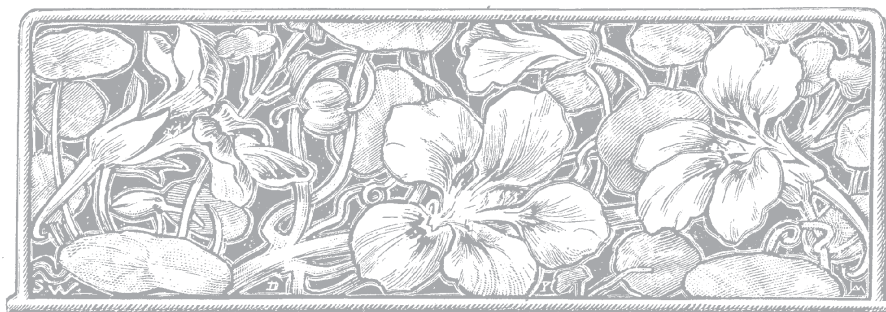
In July a delegation of four – Eric, Kris Inwood (Economics, Guelph), Gordon Watts (a prominent BC genealogist, head of the Canada Census Committee), and CHA President Craig Heron – made a trek to Ottawa to meet with the assistant Information Commissioner, the Privacy Commissioner, and the head of the Census Branch of Statistics Canada (and sundry staff). The delegation urged that these officials support an early parliamentary committee review of the so-called “informed consent” question (a parliamentary committee review is required, not later than 2014, by the 2005 Act to Amend the Statistics Act). In early September the CHA sent a letter to the Minister of Industry to request that such a parliamentary review be started.

## J'EN SUIS

Craig Heron, York University

Au printemps, la SHC a appris que seulement 56 pourcent des Canadiens qui ont rempli le formulaire de recensement de 2006 étaient d'accord pour que leurs renseignements personnels soient divulgués après 92 ans. Comme ceux d'autres groupes, les membres de la SHC se sont inquiétés que cette précieuse ressource pour les historiens et spécialistes des sciences sociales (et de nombreux autres Canadiens intéressés à l'histoire des familles ou des collectivités) soit à jamais diminuée en tant qu'outil de recherche. En mai, nous avons tenu un atelier dans le cadre de notre assemblée générale annuelle en vue de rassembler nos membres et ceux d'autres sociétés (en particulier des sociologues, des politicologues et des économistes) que la situation préoccupait. Eric Sager (Université de Victoria) a accepté de diriger cette initiative.

En juillet, une délégation de quatre personnes – Eric, Kris Inwood (Économie, Guelph), Gordon Watts (généalogiste bien connu de la Colombie-Britannique, à la tête du Canada Census Committee) et le président de la SHC, Craig Heron – se sont rendus à Ottawa pour rencontrer la commissaire adjointe à l'information, la commissaire à la protection de la vie privée et le directeur des opérations du recensement de Statistique Canada (et divers membres du personnel). Les membres de la délégation les ont exhortés d'appuyer la suggestion d'un examen préliminaire par les comités parlementaires de la soi-disant question du « consentement éclairé » (un examen de la *Loi modifiant la Loi sur la statistique* de 2005 par les comités parlementaires est nécessaire d'ici 2014 au plus tard). Au début septembre, la SHC a envoyé une lettre au ministre de l'Industrie lui demandant qu'un tel examen parlementaire soit amorcé.





# APPELS DE CONTRIBUTIONS CALL FOR PAPERS

## 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Historical Sciences

**Where:** Amsterdam, the Netherlands

**When:** August 2010

**Deadline:** 15 December 2007, for submission of abstracts

**Major Themes:** 3 (one-day sessions): The Fall of Empires - The City as Culture - Religion and Power; 20 special themes (half-day), 15 round-table (half-day) and 10 joint-session themes (half-day).

**Info:** <http://www.cish.org/GB/Projets/Proj2010.htm>

## XXI<sup>e</sup> Congrès international des sciences historiques

**Où :** Amsterdam, Pays-Bas

**Quand :** août 2010

**Date limite :** 15 décembre 2007 pour proposition de résumé.

**Grands thèmes :** 3 (séances d'une journée) : La chute des empires - La ville, produit culturel - Religion et pouvoir. 20 thèmes spécialisés (demi-journée), 15 tables rondes (demi-journée) et 10 thèmes pour séances conjointes (demi-journée).

**Info:** <http://www.cish.org/F/Projets/Proj2010.htm>

## Association canadienne d'histoire de l'éducation :

### 15<sup>e</sup> réunion biennale

**Où :** Sudbury, Ontario

**Quand :** 23-26 octobre 2008

**Date limite :** 18 janvier 2008

**Info :** <http://www.ache-chea.ca>

ou courriel : [admin@ache-chea.ca](mailto:admin@ache-chea.ca)

## Canadian History of Education Association: 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

**Where:** Sudbury, Ontario

**When:** 23-26 October, 2008

**Deadline:** 18 January, 2008

**Info:** <http://www.ache-chea.ca>

or email: [admin@ache-chea.ca](mailto:admin@ache-chea.ca)

## Canada as Refuge? International Conference of the Centre of Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh

**Where:** University of Edinburgh, UK

**When:** 1-2 May, 2008

**Deadline:** 30 November, 2007

**Info:** <http://www.cst.ed.ac.uk>

or email: [CentreofCanadianStudies@ed.ac.uk](mailto:CentreofCanadianStudies@ed.ac.uk)

## "Representations of Canadian Childhood and Youth"

Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth 2<sup>nd</sup>

International Conference on Re-presentations of childhood and youth

**Where:** University of Sheffield, UK

**When:** 8-10 July, 2008

**Deadline:** Unknown

**Info:** <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/cscy>

or contact Dr. Sally McNamee ([smcnamee@uwo.ca](mailto:smcnamee@uwo.ca))

## Canada and the New North America

**Where:** Centre for Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University

**Date:** February 14-16, 2008

**Deadline:** 1 December 2007

**Info:** [anurse@mta.ca](mailto:anurse@mta.ca)



## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NICHE FOREST HISTORY CLUSTER

The Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE) is a cross-Canada environmental history group that promotes new ways of supporting collaboration among Canadian environmental historians and colleagues in adjacent fields. It also works to ensure that this research is accessible to policymakers, natural scientists, and the Canadian public. NiCHE is not a funding organization, but rather a networking and informative body currently composed of several clusters around water history, forest history, early Canadian environmental data, landscapes and transnational ecologies. Given its importance to Canada, the forest warrants concerted investigation across disciplines, and the Forest History cluster, with your help, seeks to facilitate understanding of the place of the forest in Canada's (environmental) history. (See our website at <http://niche.uwo.ca/?q=node/10> for more details).

The project consists of an interactive online bibliography of Canadian forest history, and a "blog" to facilitate ongoing discussion of research issues in forest history. It is managed by Graeme Wynn and Emily Jane Davis of the Geography Department, University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. Your participation on this blog is warmly welcomed at all times, as are your comments, suggestions, references, etc.



## Prix / Prizes

### Massey Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society

Recognizes outstanding career achievement in the exploration, development or description of the geography of Canada

**Nominations** for the 2008 Massey Medal must be received by 15 November 2007, but all properly documented nominations are kept under consideration for a period of three years.

**Inquiries:** Awards Committee, The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, 39 McArthur Ave, Ottawa ON K1L 8L7, rcgs@rcgs.org

### La Médaille Massey de la Société géographique royale du Canada

Souligne des réalisations professionnelles exceptionnelles dans les domaines de l'exploration, du développement ou de la description de la géographie du Canada

**Les bulletins de candidatures** doivent parvenir d'ici le 15 novembre 2007, mais les dossiers avec tous les renseignements demandés sont considérés pour une période de trois ans.

**Enquêtes :** Awards Committee, La Société géographique royale du Canada, 39, rue McArthur, Ottawa, ON K1L 8L7, rcgs@rcgs.org

### Canadian History of Education Association Founders' Prizes

Six prizes that acknowledge the excellence of contributions to educational history. The categories are: an English-language article/original chapter; French-language article/original chapter; an English-language book/anthology; a French-language book/anthology; and prizes at the doctoral and masters levels for theses written on the history of education in Canada, in either French or English

Works published by Canadian and international scholars in the field of Canadian educational history during the period between 1 May 2006 and 30 April 2008 are eligible for consideration. Doctoral or masters level theses must be written on the history of education in Canada and have been defended during the period between 1 May 2006 and 30 April 2008.

**Deadline:** 30 April 2008, Award made at 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on October 23-26, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel in Sudbury, Ontario.

**Inquiries:** admin@ache-chea.ca. Information can be found at <http://www.ache-chea.ca>. Nominations for all prizes, including self nominations, may be sent to the Canadian History of Education Association (CHEA), c/o Department of History, Laurentian University, 935 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, P3E 2C6. Please submit

three copies of each nominated book, article or chapter. For doctoral or masters level theses prizes, please submit three copies of the thesis, along with a letter of presentation from the department chair or graduate chair.

### L'Association canadienne de l'histoire de l'éducation, Prix des Fondateurs

Six prix seront décernés pour reconnaître l'excellence des contributions en histoire de l'éducation. Les catégories sont : un article ou chapitre original d'un livre en anglais; un article ou chapitre original d'un livre en français; un livre ou une anthologie en anglais; un livre ou une anthologie en français; un prix pour une thèse de doctorat ou de maîtrise consacrée à l'histoire de l'éducation au Canada, en français ou en anglais.

**Date limite des propositions :** 30 avril 2008. Les lauréats seront présentés lors de la 15<sup>e</sup> Réunion biennale qui se tiendra les 23-26 octobre à l'Hôtel Radisson à Sudbury.

L'Association tiendra compte éventuellement de travaux dans le domaine de l'histoire de l'éducation au Canada publiés entre le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 2006 et le 30 avril 2008. Les thèses de doctorat ou de maîtrise doivent être consacrées à l'histoire de l'éducation au Canada et avoir été soutenues entre le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 2006 et le 30 avril 2008.

**Informations :** admin@ache-chea.ca. Pour tous renseignements concernant L'Association canadienne de l'histoire de l'éducation, veuillez visiter notre site Web : <http://www.ache-chea.ca>. Les propositions de candidatures pour tous les prix, dont celles posées par les candidats eux-mêmes, seront soumises à L'Association canadienne de l'histoire de l'éducation, aux bons soins du Département d'histoire, Université Laurentienne, 935, chemin du Lac-Ramsey, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, P3E 2C6. Veuillez joindre trois exemplaires de chaque livre, article ou chapitre proposé. En ce qui concerne les thèses de doctorat ou de maîtrise, veuillez joindre trois exemplaires de la thèse, accompagnés d'une lettre d'appui du directeur du département ou des études supérieures.



## À VENIR / THINGS TO COME

**24 January 2008:** "Modernizing Colonialism: Native Women and Work in Post World War II Canada", Joan SANGSTER, Trent University

"Canada's History Behind the Headlines" The Wilson Centre for Canadian History at McMaster University

**Where:** McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Convocation Hall, UH, Second Floor, 2:30 – 4:30 pm.

**Info:** wilsonch@mcmaster.ca

**7-10 February 2008:** "Sharing Authority: Building Community-University Alliances through Oral History/Le partage de l'autorité: Comment construire des alliances universités-communautés par l'entremise de l'histoire orale"

**Where:** Concordia University, Montréal.

**Info:** <http://storytelling.concordia.ca> or/ou Dr Steven High shigh@alcor.concordia.ca

**14-16 février / February :** "XII<sup>e</sup> Colloque des Nouvelles frontières pour étudiants gradués en histoire / 12<sup>th</sup> annual New Frontiers in Graduate History Conference"

**Où / Where :** York University

**Info:** yorknewfrontiers@gmail.com

**14-16 février / February :** "Canada and the New North America"

**Where:** Centre for Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University

**Info:** anurse@mta.ca

**28 February 2008:** "Pleased that our Great Father is Taking a New Way with us: Aboriginal Contributions to the Formation of Indian Policy in Upper Canada, 1791-1844", Ted BINNEMA, University of Northern British Columbia

"Canada's History Behind the Headlines" The Wilson Centre for Canadian History at McMaster University

**Where:** McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Convocation Hall, UH, Second Floor, 2:30 – 4:30 pm.

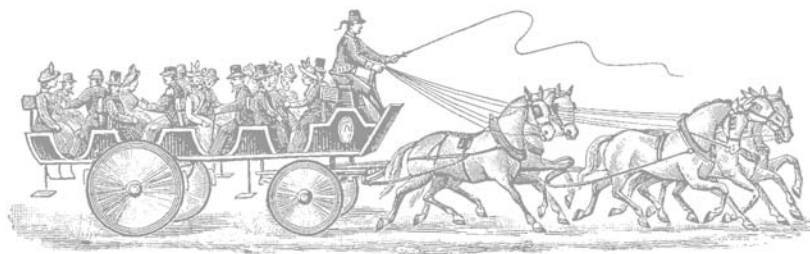
**Info:** wilsonch@mcmaster.ca

**13 March 2008:** "A Recent History of Income Inequality in Canada: Evidence and Explanations", Charles BEACH, Queen's University

"Canada's History Behind the Headlines" The Wilson Centre for Canadian History at McMaster University

**Where:** McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Convocation Hall, UH, Second Floor, 2:30 – 4:30 pm.

**Info:** wilsonch@mcmaster.ca





*Avoir une vacances sûres  
et heureuses!*

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*