



Diocesan Archives Newsletter

Update since July 2008:

Over the past year, your Diocesan Archives has been preparing for a prospective move of the Archives with the Synod Offices to a new location by completing two concurrent preservation projects with grant funds from both federal and provincial sources. In 2008 the funds donated to the Archives allowed us to speed up this work and still maintain services to the diocese. The reduction in the Archivist's hours in 2009 has made this more difficult to finish, but we have been able to pay an assistant with funds allocated to the Archives from Leap for Faith. We have processed over 500 research requests, collected and supported research for updating parish histories for 2010, and continued description and arrangement of new accessions.

With 2010 approaching, and the date, as yet unknown, to move out of the Diocesan Centre coming closer, our goal is to have the entire collection in preservation housing, well packed and in good order to facilitate the move and complete a searchable finding aid to give easier access to its contents onsite and offsite for years to come.

PEI Church Archives Workshop:

In September of 2008, the Archivist had the privilege of giving an all day workshop in Charlottetown, PEI entitled "**Creating a Church Archives**", primarily to provide helpful guidelines to the St. Peter's Cathedral Archives Committee, but also to create a resource for all Anglican parishes in PEI. This presentation was well attended by participants from our PEI parishes and the Archives Advisor from the Council of PEI Archives. The presentation is now posted in document format on the Archives web page (Diocesan website).

Preservation Projects:

Our preservation grant projects from August 2008 to May 2009 had 20 metres (59 boxes) of Bishops' files re-folded, relabeled, rehoused in preservation enclosure and transcribed into a searchable database. The supplies for this project were paid for with grant funds from Tourism Culture and Heritage through Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (NSARM) in a new program: Provincial Archives Development Program (PADP). During the same time period, we finished our stabilization and preservation enclosure of the older parish records (222 registers; 11 metres). The supplies were funded by Library and Archives Canada and the National Archives Development Program (LAC/NADP), through the Canadian Council of Archives, as in previous years.

Due to time and budget constraints, we will not be applying for further grants in 2009, nor again until we are in a new facility, but we will continue to consult with the Council of Nova Scotia Archives, the Canadian Conservation Institute, the Canadian Council of Archives, and keep up our own preservation activities as far as time and supplies will last.

Microfilming: NSARM did not engage in a microfilming project in the autumn of 2008, but we are making a list and tagging our records that are in need of microfilming to be ready, should we have an opportunity to participate in a future project. A bound register must be "closed" to be filmed.

We have received -- and would welcome MORE -- communication from the parishes about any records you have that are in need of microfilming to add to our list, so that no parish records will be missed.

Anglican Archivists' Network

The Anglican Archivists of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of Canada and Ontario met in

Fredericton last November where we reviewed the results of two projects involving the digital photographic recording of churches and material heritage in the Dioceses of Fredericton and Ottawa, and discussed personnel records and privacy issues, a register of clergy and clergy database in Ottawa, a Residential Schools update, and recommendations to the House of Bishops on corporate ownership and consistent retention and preservation of all diocesan (including parish) records.

Purchase of microfilm of Anglican Church records

We have had 5 requests to purchase copies of microfilm of Anglican Church records through NSARM from qualified heritage institutions in different areas of the province. This is helping researchers *and* helping us to provide controlled access to Anglican records for genealogical purposes through these institutions without harming the original parish records.

We encourage parishes to make every effort to preserve original records they may still have in the parish and to refer requests that require extensive handling away from their original books to the closest public microfilm-holding facility.

Archives Committee Membership Cropped

In September 2008 the Archives Committee began a major changeover in membership with the resignation of both our long-time Chair, and the Archivist Emeritus and in 2009, another valued member. We now have two new members, appointed by the Appointments Committee. The Rev. Tom Kerr had graciously agreed to chair the Archives Committee.

At Synod in May 2009, a motion was passed to amend Canon 24, by which we are mandated, without previous consultation with the Archives Committee. This amendment shortens our members' term of office to **4 years**, reduces our numbers from 8 to **4 voting members** and disallows any further appointments unless **3 of the current 5 seasoned members resign**. While this type of downsizing of

committee volunteers might make sense for other committees, the successful administration of the Archives requires experienced professionals and clergy who have accumulated specialized knowledge and expertise in order to make judicious decisions that benefit the whole diocese.

The Archives Committee is in the process of determining the long-term effects this may have on the care of the records of the diocese, which contain both the spiritual and corporate memory of our diocesan family and bear witness to the life and ministry of our Church.

Do you have a Parish Heritage Committee?

Most parishes have someone (or two), a churchwarden or Parish Council member, designated to preserve and keep track of their material heritage (windows, memorials, artifacts, church furniture, etc.) as well as their recorded heritage (Registers, ledgers, vestry books, minute books, office files, property documents), but only 3 parishes, to our knowledge, have a Heritage Committee to coordinate and focus on this activity throughout the parish.

The Archives Committee would like to include your heritage contact person(s) in our mailing list to give you a direct line to helpful information from the Diocesan Archives, *and so that we can brag about our diocesan-wide awareness of parish heritage.*

Please let us know if you have a Heritage Committee or persons assigned to heritage activities, and what activities take place in your parish, by contacting Lorraine Slopek, Diocesan Archivist at:
archives@nspeidiocese.ca

OR:

Diocesan Archives, 5732 College Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1X3. Phone (902) 420-0717 Ext. 231

For more info, ask the Archivist, or SEE: www.nspeidiocese.ca "Archives"

[New on the Archives Web-page:](#)

- ♦ [Creating a Church Archives - PEI Workshop, Charlottetown, Sept, 2008](#)
- ♦ [AAN Recommendations to the House of Bishops](#)