

CANB GAZETTE

Council of Archives New Brunswick
Conseil des archives Nouveau-Brunswick

Volume 1 Number 3

Summer 2026



CANB AGM 2026 attendees at Bibliothèque Champlain, in Moncton, N.B.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The annual general meeting in mid-May was a wonderful opportunity for our network to reconnect. Seeing so many members gathered, committed and passionate about the cause of archives in New Brunswick, is always inspiring. It is at moments like these that we realize how important our work is and just how much the strength of the CANB depends, above all, on the people who make it up...

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

On the financial front, things are moving in the right direction. We are pleased to report that we have received our operating grant from the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. In addition, financial assistance grants for our members are about to be sent out; we will keep you informed as soon as the details are confirmed. This is encouraging news for the network.

Summer is also just around the corner, and it's the perfect season to showcase your collections and sites. Tourists, families, and visiting researchers—these visitors are just waiting for an invitation. I encourage you to take advantage of these months to organize an event, refresh an exhibition, or simply open your doors a little wider. Archives and heritage sites have so much to offer to those who take the time to stop by.

Thank you to everyone who contributes, day after day, to preserving our collective memory. I wish you a wonderful and productive summer season. ★

François LeBlanc
President, CANB



CANB members during a tour of the Centre d'études acadiennes Anselme-Chiasson

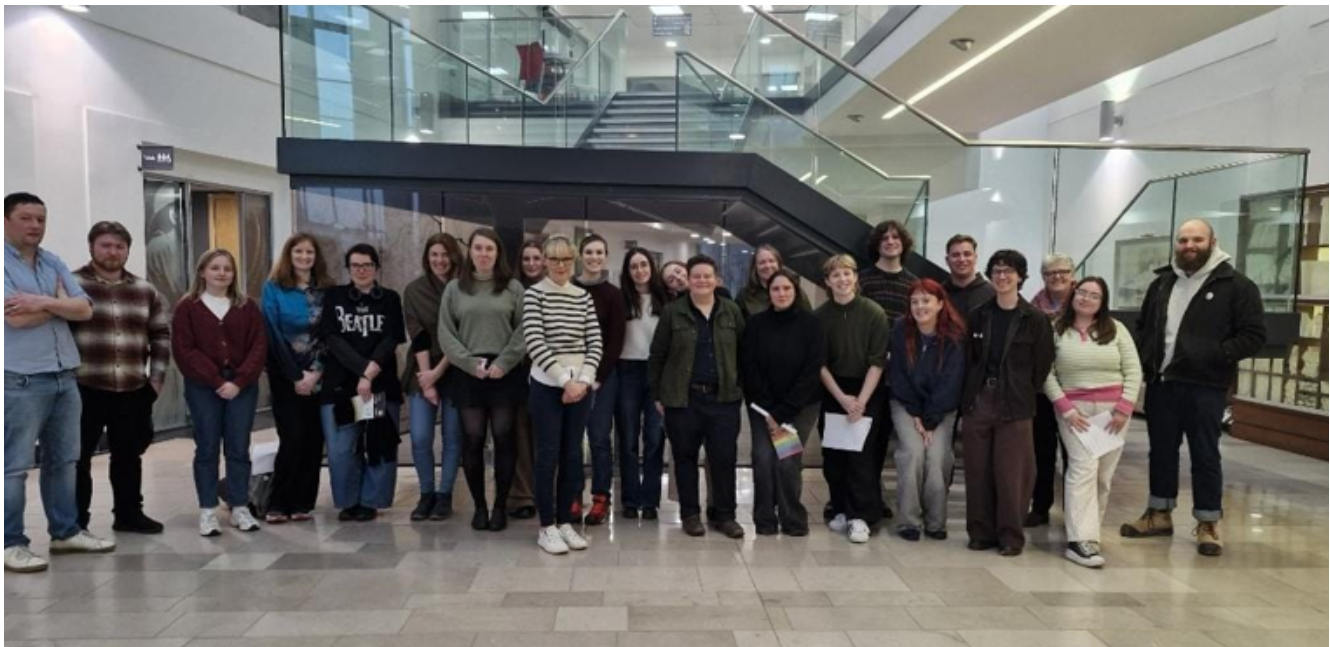
CANB GAZETTE MANDATE

Originally started in 1989, this publication aims to highlight the CANB Membership, Executive Council, and larger archival community across New Brunswick. It is a space to celebrate the work already being done here in this province, while simultaneously inspiring others to get involved!

Notes on printing:
The CANB Gazette prints perfectly on 8.5 x 11 printer paper so it can be shared widely!

Harold Holland Bursary Recipient: Meredith J. Batt, 2025

It was my great honour to be the inaugural recipient of the Harold Holland Bursary as a contribution to my studies at University College Dublin in the MA Archives and Records Management Programme. Over the past year, I have had so many important opportunities to learn from dedicated lecturers and archival practitioners who have shared their expertise and knowledge, including programme head Dr. Elizabeth Mullins and professor Dr. Julie Brooks, who have provided excellent instruction as the programme's core educators. The programme course work has focused on archival theory and the importance of policy and frameworks to ensure the proper preservation of records. We have worked on a number of practical assignments, including creating an organizational preservation policy, a retention schedule, and practice using digital preservation tools.



UCD MA Archives and Records Management class of 2025-2026, visit to Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), Belfast.

As part of the Archival Representation module, all students in the course were assigned a box of material to arrange and describe that contained the client files of H. and W. Stanley, Solicitors fonds. From around 1871 to 1961, the firm of H. and W. Stanley operated at 59 Dawson Street, Dublin. Over the course of almost a century in business, they dealt with a variety of clients whose files contain land records, with some dating back to the 1600s, as well as company and family records that document the transactions of estates and businesses across Ireland that revealed important information on gender history and dynamics in Ireland... (continued on page 4)

One of the highlights were leases of land by the widow Ann Martin, by the Corporation of Drogheda of the Mannimore Estate in 1785, following the death of her husband Austin Martin, a cabinet maker. Such land records offer researchers an important view into the life of a female property ownership and land transfers in late 18th century Ireland.

The bulk of the records in my box pertained to Country Workers Limited, a company established in Dublin in October 1930 as merchants of woollen and handcrafted textiles and wares. The Country Workers Limited was a cooperative that was female led and supported female textile workers from across Ireland, but in particular from the West Coast. H. and W. Stanley oversaw the incorporation and the early operations of the company. In December 1930, they opened The Country Shop in the basement of 23 St. Stephen's Green. The Country Shop helped to popularize the Aran sweater as a commercial product that could be purchased by travellers visiting Dublin from all over the world. While many of the records in the collection are copies and drafts, they highlight an important period in the establishment of the company. A list of shareholders from November 1930 shows the number of women involved in establishing the company and their marital status and the number of shares they were able to purchase. Some of the shareholders were either spinsters, married women or widowed and held significantly smaller shares than P. T. (Philip Townsend) Somerville-Large, who as a civil engineer was able to purchase 500 shares in the company, where the women were only able to invest in 10-20.



I am motivated in my work as a proud member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community to collect and preserve the histories and documentary heritage of the queer and trans+ community in New Brunswick. In moving to Ireland, I have been keen to learn how other LGBTQ+ communities are working on documenting their histories, as well as preserving and making their records accessible. In April, I hosted a panel event called "Archiving LGBTQI+ History: Perspectives and Experiences" as part of the UCD School of History and Gender Seminar Series... (continued on page 5)

Land documents in the conservation lab at PRONI, Belfast, February 2026.

The event included presentations from activist archivists like Karl Hayden and Orla Egan (LGBT Cork Archives), along with staff from the National Library of Ireland who work with the Queer Archives of Ireland. This event allowed members of the School of History, members of the general public and the archival students enrolled in the programme a chance to learn about some of the amazing work being done and that collaborations between national archives and community archivists are important for preserving these histories for future generations.

Over the course of this summer, I have been researching and writing my dissertation, which is the last component to completing my degree. My dissertation is focused on user access to born-digital archival records in Canadian 2SLGBTQ+ community archives. One of the most pressing challenges archives face is how to preserve and make available born-digital records, as a consequence of the transformation of our society from the creation of analog records to born-digital (for example: electronic documents, emails, digital images, etc.). This challenge will be all the more pressing in future years as a result of 2SLGBTQ+ activist groups creating more digital content. If born-digital materials are not preserved and, more importantly, not accessible to researchers, we risk gaps in the historical record when telling these histories.

While, aspects of the programme have been intense, it has been enjoyable to also experience the Irish culture and landscape when time has allowed. Highlights have included spending Christmas in Galway with my brother, hiking the Boyne Valley Camino (25km), visiting Belfast for conferences and school trips, doing a number of Irish LGBTQ+ history guided tours around museums and cultural sites, going to public lectures, and exploring the Wicklow Mountains with friends.

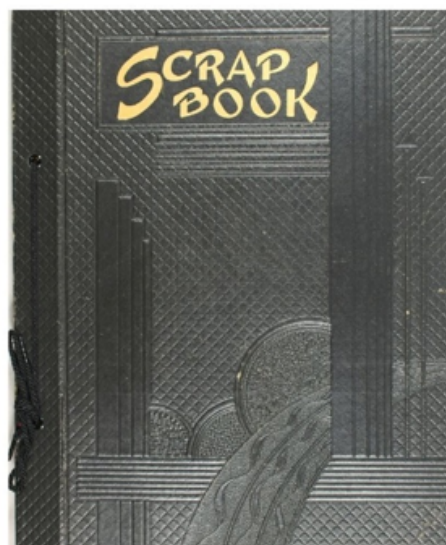


Hiking Croaghanmoira with friends in the Wicklow Mountains, June 2026.

Harold Holland's work as a conservator had an impact in ensuring the proper conservation and preservation of New Brunswick's documentary heritage, but he also left a mark in the Canadian Archival field. He was a founding fellow of the Association of Canadian Archivists and served on numerous boards of Canadian archival organizations. Holland's work has served as an inspiration, and I am grateful to receive this contribution to my tuition and my studies into the preservation of born-digital records. It has been an enriching year, and I am excited to return to New Brunswick and continue my work at PANB. ★

Meredith Batt

Between the Scrapbook Covers by Anna Krentz



A 1930s Christmas greeting sent from a nurse in the Northwest Territories to her family in Grand Manan. A deluge of wedding shower cards addressed to a young 1940s bride. A dance card filled up by the names of men in the 4th Pioneer Battalion. The official telegrams informing a mother of her son's death in aerial combat. Until recently, the stories embedded in these items held by the Charlotte County Archives were practically invisible, bound between the pages of fragile scrapbooks left to crumble on vault shelves under one-line descriptions.

Happily, over the past fall and winter, we were able to finally give many of our scrapbooks long-overdue attention thanks to a grant from the Documentary Heritage Communities Program, in what turned out to be its last year of operation. This project allowed us to take the time to properly understand and describe over thirty of our most significant scrapbooks, to digitize every page and item within, and to create custom boxes for the unhoused... (continued on page 7).

Scrapbooks, with their mixed mediums and acidic papers, are notoriously susceptible to deterioration, a fact which makes their physical preservation and digital reproduction one of the more urgent matters of format-specific collections care. At the same time, their value as archival records has long been underappreciated. Records created by women and those focused on family and domestic life sadly tend to suffer this way, and the majority of scrapbooks fit into both categories. Even those scrapbooks consisting entirely of newspaper clippings, easily dismissed as simply duplicating material findable elsewhere, offer unique individual perspectives from the vantage points of their creators.

We were extremely fortunate to obtain the grant funds, which we made the most of, acquiring copy stand equipment and using funded time to set up best practice policies, procedures, and standards before diving in. Even more widely significant, perhaps, is the knowledge that those administering the grant-top-level professionals at Library and Archives Canada—share our belief in the importance of preserving and promoting access to scrapbooks. This is a message we want to share. As materials embedding the individual representations perceived from rural and small town Atlantic Canada, and especially from women, the scrapbooks held by all CANB members offer an important contribution to the diverse understanding of Canadian social history. We encourage you to look at them in that light. We are also very happy to share any of our written materials, resources, and experiences, so don't hesitate to reach out.

The descriptions for all scrapbooks are available on ArchivesCANB; digitized images are currently available only via our own database. For those interested, here are a few favourites to check out:

Anna Shepherd scrapbook:

<https://charlottecountyarchives.omeka.net/items/show/4581>

McQuoid family scrapbooks:

<https://charlottecountyarchives.omeka.net/collections/show/594>

George S. Grimmer scrapbook:

<https://charlottecountyarchives.omeka.net/items/show/4596>

Willa Walker RCAF-WD scrapbooks: <https://search.canbarchives.ca/willa-walker-rcaf-womens-division-scrapbooks>



Anna Krentz
Charlotte County Archives





CANB VOLUNTEER AWARD

★ 2026 ★

Congratulations to Asia Daoud from the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

Asia is photographed here with Sienna Ingham (CANB Archives Advisor), Anjali Pabari (CANB Executive Council Member), and Kate MacEwen (Asia's supervisor at PANB).

A section of Asia's nomination letter written by Kate MacEwen:

"It is with great pleasure that I nominate Asia Daoud for the CANB Volunteering Award. Since joining PANB in February 2025, Asia has generously dedicated approximately 600 hours of her time. As PANB's volunteer coordinator and Asia's direct supervisor, I have borne witness to her strong work ethic, conscientious nature, and commitment to New Brunswick documentary heritage. Asia's careful eye for detail and enthusiasm for her volunteer work have established her as a key part of PANB's organization and the New Brunswick archival community as a whole..."

Thank you Asia for all your hard work!

CANB Executive Council

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François LeBlanc

Vice President
Jacqueline Sedore

Secretary
Ava Sturgeon

Treasurer
David Mawhinney

Members at Large
Anjali Pabari
Anna Krentz
Evelyn Fidler
Erika Basque

Ex-Officio Member
Joanna Aiton Kerr

WANT TO SUBMIT TO THE CANB GAZETTE?

CONTACT US!

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