

CANB GAZETTE

Council of Archives New Brunswick
Conseil des archives Nouveau-Brunswick

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"The Council of Archives New Brunswick:
Strengthening our ties and preserving our
collective memory."

The Council of Archives New Brunswick (CANB) remains committed to supporting institutions that work to preserve the province's documentary heritage. Thanks to its dynamic network and its expertise in archival science and conservation, the CANB continues to play an essential role in the vitality of New Brunswick's archival community.

One of the great benefits of CANB membership is access to these expert services, which assist members in the management, training, and preservation of their collections.

The CANB team continues to build strong relationships between institutions, offer training, organize workshops, and support funding applications. It also supports members in applying standards and best practices, in addition to collaborating on all the Council's activities.

CANB's services in conservation are designed to help institutions plan and implement concrete strategies to protect their collections. Through conservation assessments and suggestions for conservation treatments, CANB strengthens members' capacity to preserve their holdings for the long term.

At the provincial level, CANB continues to lobby ministers to consolidate its funding and highlight the importance of the archival network for research, education, and culture. CANB has ensured that it has a strong voice in public consultations for New Brunswick's Cultural Action Plan.

More than ever, the Council for Archives New Brunswick remains a pillar in safeguarding our collective memory and a valuable partner for institutions that bring history to life, one document at a time.★

Francois LeBlanc, CANB President

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVE'S ADVISOR

Thank you for picking up the first edition of the CANB Gazette. 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! ★

Sienna Ingham, Archives Advisor



"The Audacity of (Archival) Hope: The Charlotte County Archives at 50"

"Nonetheless, the group's determination to start an archives for the region, with no team members equipped with prior experience and no promise of long-term funding from any quarter, was audacious."

On December 10, 1975, the members of the Charlotte County Historical Society voting to establish the project ultimately known as the Charlotte County Archives probably didn't know what they were getting into. They were fired by passion for the region's past, fueled especially by the recent discovery of a trove of 19th century archival records in the attic of a local heritage building, and bound by a sense of community duty to care for the historical materials they'd been saving from dumps and estate sales for years. They had grants, volunteers, and leadership in the person of Dr. J. C. Medcof, who came to heritage after a career as a scientist at St. Andrews' Biological Station. They had fortunate timing: the Symons report from the Commission of Canadian Studies had just come out earlier in the year, emphasizing the importance of building up regional Canadian archives. Nonetheless, the group's determination to start an archives for the region, with no team members equipped with prior experience and no promise of long-term funding from any quarter, was audacious.

The years between that December and this one have seen more than a few up and downs. Despite it all, the Charlotte County Archives has endured. We turn fifty on December 10, 2025—a birthday, as luck would have it, only two days removed from that of our current archivist. We still have no long-term funding from any quarter, but we retain the solid community support that has sustained us through the (too many) years of famine and bolstered us through years of feast. Well over one hundred volunteers have performed virtually every archival, organizational, and heritage site function over the years. Dozens of students have gained meaningful early work experience within our granite walls, including at least two inspired to pursue master's degrees and work in the field. Our first archivist, Elinor Mawson, was born in 1910 (and acquired her PhD in physiology in 1936 under supervisor Dr. Charles Best, of insulin fame). Our most recent summer students were born in 2006. *Continued on page 3.*

CANB Executive Council

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There is still a lot to do. The collection remains beset by hordes of paperclips, folders labelled "miscellaneous," and the dread notation "found in vault." Local governments persist in supporting what we do, as long as they don't have to pay for it. Comprehensive intellectual control of our holdings glimmers on the horizon like an eternal mirage.

Yet we are here, almost certainly against the odds. We are today well away from the brink we petered on at times, and even renewing attempts to climb upwards. We have talent, ambition, a degree of reputation (I hope), and a lot of really cool archival stuff. We have friends from Grand Manan to Fredericton to Ottawa.

At fifty, I think we can say the audacity of that long-ago December meeting paid off.★

Anna Krentz, CANB Executive Council Member

★ SAVE THE DATE ★

January 15th, 2026

CANB and Dr. Michael Marlatt present a free workshop on mental health for the CANB Membership!

"Dr. Michael Marlatt leads this 90-minute collaborative workshop that addresses archivist mental health and comes off of his recently published article "Supporting the 36%: A Teaching Guide on Student Mental Health in Media Archival Education "in Synoptique: An Online Journal of Film and Moving Image Studies.

Michael will share some statistics, define concepts, and look to examine some of the current mental health concerns faced by archivists in New Brunswick. Attendees are welcome to share their own experiences as strategies are developed that we as a community can do to support each other working in New Brunswick area archives in 2025."



Anna Krentz is the 'lone arranger' of the Charlotte County Archives, housed in the former gaol in St. Andrews. Visit the Archives online at ccarchives.ca to learn more, peruse records databases, view online photos, and maybe even plan to come by in person!

Happy 50th birthday to the Charlotte County Archives

Meet the new Digital Preservation Archivist at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, Melanie Secco!

Hello! My name is Melanie Secco and this August I started working at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB) as their Digital Preservation Strategist.

In my previous position, I spent nearly five years in a Nova Scotia town managing a private religious archive alongside my colleague. As a dynamic duo we tackled our backlog, revamped policies, migrated our archival database, engaged with donors and users, and handled everything from our digital-born records to paper and photographs, film, tapestries, sculptures, and fine art. Each day was a surprise, and as anyone who has worked in a small institution knows, you quickly become a jack-of-all-trades, and an expert in the art of getting a lot done with limited resources. The ability to be flexible, creative, and to persevere, were key in getting ahead.

Though I'm just getting started at PANB, those skills have already served me well. They're especially handy when troubleshooting technology, tracking down ways to read obsolete media, and thinking about long-term strategies for digital preservation. This work is full of unique challenges, but also incredible rewards. It gives me a small part in helping to preserve our digital heritage, and empowering people to feel confident about managing their own digital records.

As a child of two professors, I also love the never-ending opportunities to problem-solve and share my knowledge (traits I came by honestly!).

As I settle into Fredericton I'm eager to see what New Brunswick has in store for me. Everyone at PANB has already been so incredible and welcoming! I cannot wait to meet the wider community of archival and museum professionals, through CANB and elsewhere.

Beyond my work, I'm also excited to explore the what's new in the city and province. I lived in Fredericton for about a decade before moving to Toronto to complete my Master of Information in 2018. During the intervening years, plenty has remained recognizable and familiar, but enough has changed to make it a new adventure!

On the rare occasions I'm not deep in cyberspace, or out wandering, I can also be found cozy at home, needle felting pumpkins, mushrooms, and cute creatures of all kinds.★

Melanie Secco, Digital Preservation Archivist, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.



FROM THE VAULT

Check out these columns from Volume 2, Number 2 of the original CANB GAZETTE published in 1990. Sound familiar?

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Newspaper Directory

Newspapers have always played an important role in the life of our province. The recording of events of the day make them a vital source for the understanding of the facts and feelings of the past and the present.

The New Brunswick Newspaper Directory 1783-1988, which was officially launched in February, lists approximately 650 titles, their dates of publication, location of holdings, microfilmed titles and much more useful information. It should prove to be an essential tool for researchers, archivists, genealogists or anyone who needs to consult a newspaper, whether current or historical. An order form for this important publication is included with this issue.

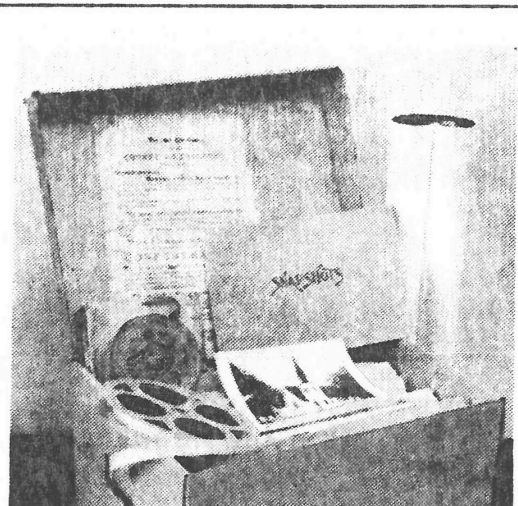
Advertisement in Atlantic Advocate

The archives councils of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick have shared the cost of placing a small advertisement in Atlantic Canada's lifestyle magazine, the Atlantic Advocate.

The purpose of this ad is to encourage the general public to visit local archives and donate family papers and photographs which are so many times forgotten and lost. These documents are a precious source of information for illustrating the history of the communities in our respective provinces, and it is regrettable that they are not used more. A

similar project to advance public awareness has already been successfully undertaken by CANB President Eloi DeGrâce in the French-language magazine Ven'd' Est.

The ad placed by archives councils of Atlantic Canada will appear in upcoming issues for March, May and September.



Is History Tucked Away in your Attic?

- Don't throw away your old family papers and photographs.
- Donate them to your local Archives.
- Help us to conserve your heritage.

**Contact:
Your Provincial
Archives Council**



Submissions to the CANB Gazette are always open!

Send your articles, projects, photographs, celebratory posts, and anything in between to archivesadvisor@gnb.ca