



One for the Archives

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Educational Archives and Heritage Centre
Winter 2001-2002

New Volunteers Welcomed at VM

The Archives would not exist but for the dedicated efforts of our volunteers. Chief Volunteer is, of course, the tireless John Aikman. In our last Newsletter (One for the Archives #1), John outlined the roles of our many volunteers, some who have served for several years.

In this issue, we would like to issue a special welcome to our newest volunteers at our Vincent Massey location.



Diane Cole is busily organizing the collection we inherited from the Research Department at the HWDSB

June Deans has taken on a role organizing the Archives'

collection of memorabilia.

Ted Jarman is our first volunteer to be "in charge" of the school Yearbooks collection.



Veteran Volunteer Ken Snell organizes textbooks.

Archives Now A Registered Charity

It's official: The Friends of the Archives of the HWDSB has been granted official charitable status. In a communication dated November 2, 2001, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency notified our managing organization, The Friends of the Educational Archives and Heritage Centre, that we qualify for tax-exempt status as a registered charity, effective October 1, 2001..

This is good news for our organization. Our ability to raise revenues and assume even more independence will be greatly enhanced by this designation. Donations to the Archives will now qualify for a tax-creditable receipt. The Archives Steering Committee will continue to explore new fund-raising ventures to help sustain the important work of our organization.

Under Construction: New Display Area



The Archives at Vincent Massey will soon house a large display center that will provide an area for interested visitors to see what the Archives collection is all about.

The area, being built in the former school gym will consist of display modules and storage areas. The HWDSB has agreed to oversee the project and provide the Archives with the steel studding and electrical items.

A floor plan of the proposed display area has been completed and construction got underway in January with completion scheduled for February of 2002.

Newsletter 2 Page 2

Making A Query

The Archives exists to serve the needs of those who wish to learn more about the educational system in this area, and to locate information of a more personal nature. Clients may wish to locate information regarding birthdates, school attendance, or family history.

To make a query of the Archives, call 905-318-3046 or drop in at Vincent Massey. Be as specific as possible in your request. A charge plus photocopying costs will apply to each query. At present, the Archives charges \$5.00 to open up a file and provide two hours research. After that time, a charge of \$2.00 per hour of research will apply.

The Photo Archives

The Archives at Vincent Massey comprise many collection areas or departments. The area of photographs is one that interests those who would like a pictorial glimpse into the past life of our educational community. The Photo Archives are maintained in several file drawers and cabinets at VM and recorded on a computer database.

When photographs arrive from schools they are labelled, stamped with our ownership, dated and then filed by school or topic. If there are identifiable educators in the photos their names are entered into the database, along with other descriptors for the photos. Among our files, we have a vast collection of portraits of Board personnel dating back to the late 19th century, class and staff photos from almost every decade, a special collection of beautiful black and white prints taken of every student and teacher at every Hamilton school as a city-wide project in 1927, and hundreds of colour slides from schools, community facilities and Outdoor Education Centres. We also have a collection of school-made videos that awaits cataloguing.

This intriguing and informative collection continues to grow and provides an invaluable resource for researchers and planners of school anniversaries.

Surfing the Past: The Archives on the Web

Over the past few months, we have been developing a website on the internet to introduce the Archives to members of the wider community with an interest in educational history.

The website, which should be up and running by the end of January, can be found through the website of the HWDSB at hwdsb.on.ca

Visitors to the website will find out what the Archives is all about and will be able to read this newsletter on-line and in colour, as well as editions past and future. Those interested will have access to the Minutes of our Steering Committee and to some of our databases. We also include links to some other websites of similar materials. You are encouraged to find out more about the Archives by visiting our site – open 24 hours a day of course!

School Anniversaries Our Specialty

The Archives is your most valuable resource in planning school anniversaries or re-unions. The Archives continues to serve schools by sending out **Anniversary Date Reminders**. We also have the **Handbook on Running Reunions** available on loan to school committees.

Money Matters



Our latest accounting shows that the *Friends of the Archives and Heritage Centre* continues to function in a fiscally sound manner. With investments, expenses and cash inflows, we ended the year 2001 with an overall balance of just over five thousand dollars (\$5007.69).

A Profile of The Friendly Giant



Bob Cruickshanks is a big, friendly man. He has a warm and inviting presence; to know him is to like him. Bob is one of the reasons that working as a volunteer at the Archives is a pleasure for so many of us. And Bob is one of the Volunteers who proves the adage: *You can make a difference.*

About five years ago, Bob was approached by John Aikman --- when both found themselves on the same holiday, a Mediterranean cruise through the Greek islands. Maybe it was the sun and the sea or just the general feeling of well-being engendered by the holiday that encouraged Bob's positive response to John's request that he join the small coterie of volunteers trying to bring order and accessibility to the Archives in its early days. He has worked here ever since, contributing hours of his time each week on tasks large and small. Mostly large.

Bob might be called Archives Manager John Aikman's right-hand man. He is largely responsible for what he calls "intake" -- sorting all the new materials, artifacts large and small as well as pictures and documents, that arrive from schools, or that he and John go out to retrieve. He recently spent a couple of days removing large pictures from their frames, in order that they might be catalogued and filed. He describes his basic job as "culling files" -- no small task when one witnesses the volume of material that arrives at our doorstep. Bob is largely responsible for the construction of the hall display area at Vincent Massey.

Bob feels good about what he does at the Archives. He is especially proud of the way the rooms at VM have been organized with his input

and the "Hall of Honour" display area. Over the next year, Bob will be closely involved with the construction of the new display area in the gym

Having taught at many Hamilton schools in his career, from Queen Victoria to Robert Land to Dalewood and Cardinal Heights, Bob has been a well-known, and respected, member of the teaching community for many years. Besides his volunteer work at the Archives, Bob has found time to contribute time to the RHLI as "assistant curator of trivia", to Ronald Macdonald House with his wife Kathleen, and to the McMaster Alumni Gallery. In his (so-called) retirement, he has found time to enjoy life with Kathleen, visits with his five children and twelve(!) grandchildren and to do more than a little travelling.

In the future at the Archives, Bob would like to see the VM gym display area finished, and to see the Mohawk Trail Museum School re-opened in association with the Archives, ready to welcome student visitors from area schools and members of the general public. With volunteers like Bob Cruickshanks, such dreams can come true.

Questions? Questions? Questions?



Many requests for information or "queries" have been received by the Archives over the years. (See *Making A Query*, page 2) We are always glad to pursue information on behalf of clients and charge a nominal fee to cover the time required and the materials (usually photocopying) used. Over the last few weeks, a number of queries were completed, including some that were initiated over 12 months ago! In the period October to December, queries brought in over \$166.00 to the Archives.

Our problems are time and human resources. We continue to **need more volunteers** to carry out these research tasks and others at the Archives. If you are interested in volunteering some time, or you know someone who is, contact John Aikman at the Archives, 905-318-3046.

Newsletter 2 Page 4

You Are Welcome at The Archives

The hours that the Archives Centre at Vincent Massey School is open are listed below. To be certain, call ahead and leave a voice-mail message to make sure someone will be on hand to offer you assistance.

Educational Archives and Heritage Centre

**155 Macassa Avenue,
Hamilton L8V 2B5
Telephone: 905-318-3046**

Regular Hours: Sept. – June

Mon and Wed 9-12 Tues 9-3
Other times by appointment

Special Summer Hours (on call):

Mon – Fri 9-12 Call ahead!

Executive Steering New Path in '02

At our Annual General Meeting in October, the new Executive for the Friends of the Educational Archives began to take shape.

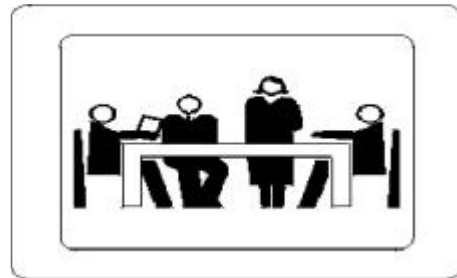
Fred Cliffe who had served us in exemplary fashion as Treasurer since the beginning decided it was time to pass the torch (and the bank book). Fred will be missed at the Executive table, both for his acumen in maintaining the Archives accounts and as a storyteller extraordinaire, and enthusiast in area history. Thank you Fred for a job well done, and best wishes for the future.



Bill Lister has volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer. Bill is a retired accountant (and husband of Alma, one of our volunteers in School Registers) and brings with him a wealth of expertise and an attention to detail demanded by this important position.

Karen Baxmeier, of the HWDSB has agreed to work on a volunteer consulting basis for the Archives. Her valuable experience in grant-writing will enable Karen to assist us in acquiring independent funding.

Margaret Robinson, one of our long-serving Executive members has found it impossible to attend as a full-time member while continuing to hold down a demanding job in the Purchasing Department of the HWDSB. Margaret has agreed to continue to provide us with important liaison with the Board, but will no longer serve as an Executive member.



Our Steering Committee for 2002:

Chair: Murray Aikman

Vice Chair: Bob Williamson

Treasurer: William Lister

Secretary: Gary Gibson

Executive Members: Walter Moir, Alma Lister, Donna Iler, Ken Snell and one vacancy.

Also participating are: Supt. Wayne Joudrie (Liaison with the HWDSB), Margaret Robinson (Special liaison), and Archives Curator John Aikman.

One For The Archives

is the Newsletter of the
Friends of the Educational Archives
and is published periodically to keep you
informed about this important resource
facility.

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