

“To understand the evolution of law and society in Alberta is to understand our past...”

The Legal Archives Society of Alberta is your link to this understanding.”

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< **Society Profile**

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The Legal Archives Society of Alberta (LASA) is dedicated to preserving, promoting and understanding the evolution of law and society in Alberta by establishing and preserving a complete and accurate historical record of the legal profession in Alberta. Incorporated under the *Societies Act of Alberta* in 1990, LASA is governed by an independent Board of Directors.

In fulfillment of its mission, LASA operates a legal heritage program and facility for the private sector legal community. LASA’s principle objectives are to:

- preserve the documentary heritage of lawyers, judges, and legal organizations in Alberta
- provide services for the legal community to identify, retain, and use their archival records
- provide source material for legal and public research in the history of law and society in Alberta
- enhance awareness of and celebrate the role of the law in Alberta’s history

LASA’s seven program areas are:

- Archives
- Exhibits and Interpretation
- Research Services
- Records and Archives Consulting
- Legal History Library
- Publications
- Oral History

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< President's Report



The Legal Archives Society of Alberta received some very significant records in the past year including those of the Edward M. Bredin, Q.C., the Hon. William A. Stevenson, Q.C., and The Hon. William Gordon N. Egbert.

We are pleased that the legal profession continues to choose LASA as its repository for preserving its history. LASA's staff work diligently to provide archival and research services and promote Alberta's legal history through LASA's various programs.

Once again, the Law Society of Alberta provided our core funding. Our annual campaign and the generosity of our donors provided the financial assistance that allowed us to meet our project goals. We would like to thank our donors for making 2009 another successful year for LASA.



Ken Mills
Acting President

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< Executive Director's Report



2009 was a year of changes for LASA. Graham Price, our long-time President, resigned after 19 years. Work continues on updating the 2nd edition to *Lords and Ladies of the Western Bench* and a publication detailing the history of the Court of Appeal. LASA continues to receive and process personal records from members of Alberta's legal community. Displays detailing Alberta's legal heritage were installed in 11 courthouses across the province.

Ewa Gniazdowska replaced Kim Horner as the Administrative and Development Officer in October 2009.

We look forward to developing our programs further in the coming year. Our holdings continue to increase and our finances remain stable. Increased funding will become necessary as our records and demand for our services increase, but we continue to meet our objectives and plan for the future.



Stacy F. Kaufeld, M.A.
Executive Director

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< Key Statistics



Administration and Finances

- received \$125,000 from the Law Society of Alberta in operating grants
- received \$12,160 in special project grants
- received \$6,500 in special project donations
- \$43,655 raised through annual campaign
- received \$2,296.40 in publication sales
- received \$12,363.39 in Endowment fund income
- received \$72,742 from Casino proceeds

Archives

- acquired 30 accessions amounting to approximately 16.68 metres of textual records
- holdings consist of over 575 metres of records by the end of the year

Exhibits and Interpretation

- LASA participated in “Law Day” in Calgary and Edmonton.
- LASA is installed displays in 10 regional courthouses.
- LASA participates annually in the Archives Society of Alberta virtual exhibit (archivesalberta.org).
- LASA’s website (legalarchivessociety.ab.ca) includes upcoming events and includes a virtual exhibit component.
- LASA has completed the Court of Appeal Bust project and soon all busts will be installed at the courthouses in Calgary and Edmonton.

Research Services

- received 119 requests for information

Historical Publications

- LASA continues work on updating the 2nd edition of *Lords and Ladies of the Western Bench* and developing a history of the Court of Appeal of Alberta.

Oral History

- Update to be provided when available for Edmonton
- 3 oral histories were completed or are in progress in Calgary

Library

- 36 titles were added to the library

< Administration and Finances

In 2008/2009, LASA operated on a budget of \$230,000. The Law Society of Alberta provided the core grant of \$125,000.

LASA is a registered charity and holds category “A” status under the Cultural Properties Export and Import Act.

Project Funding

For the fiscal year of 2008/2009 LASA received a total of \$12,168 in project funding or commitments from outside sources to fund specific projects.

Archives Society of Alberta

\$4,950 was received from the ASA (Access to Holdings Program) to prepare records for the the late Hon. A.Milton Harradence, Q.C.

Community Initiative Program

\$5,218 in funding was received by LASA for general collections management and archival support.

National Archives Development Program

\$2,000 was received to transfer oral history interviews to a more archivally suitable format.

2009 Annual Campaign

The purpose of the annual campaign is to raise funds to cover operating expenses for the current and next fiscal year. Staff and volunteer supporters normally set out to achieve the 2008/2009 goal of \$50,000 (before expenses) through two major projects: a direct mail campaign, and the Historical Dinners and auctions. The total of the 2009 campaign was \$43,655 before expenses.

Direct Mail Campaign

LASA mailed out over 8,500 appeal letters and donor cards to the Alberta legal community in April 2009. Combined with other contributions throughout the year, the profession responded with \$43,655 in direct donations.

Historical Dinners

LASA held it's annual Historical Dinners in 2009 in Edmonton and Calgary. Aritha van Herk discussed some of the Mavericks of the Alberta legal community. She told about their careers, hobbies, interests and some idiosyncratic quirks of several well and, not so well, known people in Alberta legal history. Due to some unforeseen expences and lack of a silent auction, LASA was unable to make a profit on this year's historical dinners.

Alberta Legal Heritage Fund

In 1997 LASA established the Alberta Legal Heritage Fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Calgary Foundation and the Medicine Hat Community Foundation. In 1998, funds were established in the Community Foundations of Red Deer, Lethbridge and Grande Prairie. Funds from casinos held in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004 were also added to the Alberta Legal Heritage Fund in each community. The income from the funds is used to ensure the future preservation of legal archives in Alberta. In the past year \$12,363 was received in Endowment Income.

Casino

LASA held a charity casino at Elbow River Casino in Calgary on July 11 and 12, 2009. Casino profits are first deposited in a city-wide pool and then distributed. LASA's portion of this profit was received during the 2008/09 fiscal year and amounted to \$72,742.56. LASA's next Casino is in early 2011.

Membership

Membership stood at 210 on December 31, 2009, an increase from last year's total of 197. Revenue from annual campaign donations for 2008/2009 was \$43,655 an increase from last year's amount of \$39,605. The average donation in 2007/2008 was \$201; in 2008/2009, it was \$208.

Contributions were distributed among the following categories:

Honourary Members - 18	Sustainer (\$250 - \$499) - 42
General Member (up to \$99) - 5	Advocate (\$500-\$999) - 20
Contributor (\$100 - \$149) - 75	Patron (\$1,000 - \$4,999) - 3
Friend (\$150 - \$249) - 65	Benefactor (\$5,000 to \$9,999) - 0

A listing of donors above the General Member level for 2008/2009 can be found on the back pages of the Annual Report.

Annual General Meeting

On March 3, 2009, LASA held its Annual General Meeting at the Lougheed House in Edmonton. Members of the current Board of Directors, David Bickman, Catherine Christopher, Q.C., Dennis McDermott, Q.C., James Muir, Ken Mills, Wayne Schafer, Q.C. and Neil Watson allowed their names to stand.

Speaker Brian Lester spoke about the legacy of his Great Grandfather, Paddy Nolan, K.C., and Grandfather, the Hon. H.G. Nolan, C.B.E., M.C. He spoke about the life and times of this pioneering Calgary legal family.

LASA operates a province-wide archives program and facility based in the Law Society of Alberta offices in Calgary. The main components of the archives function are:

- acquiring and appraising records of the legal community
- arranging, describing, and constructing finding aids for records
- storing and conserving records

Facilities and Conservation

LASA's administrative and research offices and storage vault is limited. In 2006 there was approximately 100 metres of records stored at Iron Mountain. In 2009 LASA had 500 metres of records stored at Iron Mountain and 300 metres of records onsite. 140 boxes of archival records were transferred to Iron Mountain for permanent storage in August 2009.

LASA still requires a long-term solution to archival storage space. Investigation on installing mobile shelving onsite in LASA's office is underway. Recently, LASA was successful in amalgamating/transferring its offsite storage lease agreement with Iron Mountain to the Law Society of Alberta account number, thereby securing a far more reasonable monthly storage rate.

Acquisitions

LASA acquired 30 accessions in 2009, amounting to nearly 16.68 linear metres of textual records, over 283 photographs, 12 videos, 2 cultural historic items (1 wooden gavel + plaque and 1 ceramic plate), and 1,342,656 MB of audio (digital WAV format). Currently LASA's holdings exceed 800 metres. Noteworthy acquisitions in 2009 include:



Donation from Edward M. Bredin, Q.C.
LASA Accession 2009-004

Archives

Edward M. Bredin, Q.C.

Accession numbers 2009-004

Extent: 1.6 metre of textual records; 10 photographs

Date Range: 1930-2008

Acquisition includes papers acquired from Ed Bredin consisting of background research and draft chapters for Bredin's book about Calgary lawyer Leonard Brockington, Q.C., the former Calgary City Solicitor during the 1930s. Of note, there are some original images obtained from family members of Brockington that are included in this acquisition.

The Honourable William A. Stevenson

Accession number 2009-003

37.5 cm of textual records

Date Range: 1970-1992

Consists of notes, background material, copies of publications, newspaper clippings, memorandum, reports, and correspondence all relating to the unification and reorganization of the Supreme and District Courts of Alberta. Correspondence from the key stakeholders is included along with correspondence from other proponents and opponents of the 1979 amalgamation. Stevenson was very involved in the amalgamation process.

The Honourable William Gordon N. Egbert, Q.C.

Accession numbers 2009-023

2.4 metres of textual records

Date Range: 1980-1996

Consists of 73 judge's notebooks written by Justice William G.N. Egbert during his career as a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench. The notes cover trials that took place between 1980 and 1996.

Arrangement and Description

The activity of arranging and describing archives involves: accessioning the records to gain physical control; completing a preliminary listing of the material to facilitate access to the holdings; storing material for long-term preservation; and producing finding aids compliant with the *Rules of Archival Description* to aid researchers. A group of records from one person or organization is described in archival terms as a Fonds. Detailed descriptions of all acquisitions received by LASA are available on the automated ACCESSION database. Approximately 75% of LASA's holdings are archivally arranged and described at the fonds and series level on the FONDS database. Of the 116 fonds described, most are processed to the file and item level and include a finding aid available for researchers.

Contract Archivist Ewa Gniazdowska was hired to complete two short-term archival contracts with LASA during the summer of 2009. In that time she completed the preser-

vation and migration (digital WAV format and Gold CD-Rom reference copies in MP3 format) of 54 LASA oral history interviews conducted by Susie Sparks (Calgary Bar Association) during the early 1980s.

This project was funded by the NADP (National Archives Development Program). With funds provided by the Community Initiatives Program (CIP), Ewa's contract with LASA was extended through the summer to provide general archival support. Work duties included accessioning and various other collection management tasks. Several metres of records were transferred and/or relocated from LASA's vault during the summer.

Reference Services

LASA maintains an automated reference system which provides access to information on lawyers, legal organizations, and judges in the province and supports research projects such as family histories, case law, and biographies. Staff perform limited searches and interpretation of material in response to reference inquiries.

LASA received 93 requests for information relating to or taken directly from its holdings. Some of these requests involved extensive in-house research of archival material over a period of weeks; others were simple requests for information provided in a matter of minutes over the telephone. The information has been used for locating practice files, to complete genealogical research, or to produce historical publications. The types of researchers were broken down as follows: Donor/Depositor - 21; Legal Community - 35; Academic Community - 18; Private Researchers - 33; Media - 1; Other Archives/Libraries - 11.

Exhibits and Interpretation

An exhibit featuring the life and legal career of Alan Hunter, Q.C. was created by LASA at the Palliser Hotel in conjunction with the retirement function held in his honour on June 11, 2009.

A legal Mavericks display was erected in Calgary and Edmonton to complement LASA's historical dinner events on September 24, 2009 (Calgary) and September 30, 2009 (Edmonton).

In collaboration with other archival repositories across Alberta, a contribution to the virtual exhibit was prepared by LASA for the Archives Society of Alberta (ASA) - see www.archivessocietyalberta.org. The 2009 virtual exhibit theme 'Athletes in Alberta Archives', included the production of a 2010 calendar.

The province-wide exhibit program came to fruition in 2009 with LASA mounting displays in each Queen's Bench courthouse throughout Alberta. The exhibits focused on the history of the Courthouses of Alberta, highlighting the unique history of each locale. In recognition of these events, photographs (and video) recorded the occasion at each courthouse and updated images were taken of each facility. Plans are underway to include photographs of the journey as a virtual display on LASA's website. Exhibits were deployed to the following courthouses: Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, St. Paul, Wetaskiwin, Drumheller, Medicine Hat, and Lethbridge.

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< Other Heritage Programs

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Publications

LASA continues work on updating the 2nd edition of *Lords and Ladies of the Western Bench* and a history of the Court of Appeal of Alberta. Both publications are slated for release in 2009.

Architypes

Two issues of LASA's newsletter, *Architypes*, were distributed to members of the Law Society throughout the year. Volume 18, Issue I featured the third in a four-part series written by the Hon. Justice W.E. Wilson detailing the history of his father's firm, Cairns Ross Wilson & Wallbridge. This issue also included a book review of *Carnal Crimes: Sexual Assault Law in Canada, 1900-1975* by Constance Backhouse. Volume 18, Issue II included the fourth in a four-part series featuring Justice W.E. Wilson. This four-part series was concluded with a letter from Ed Bredin, Q.C. to Justice Wilson about his own personal reminiscences of L.Y. Cairns. This issue also featured a summary of LASA archivist Brenda McCafferty's trip around Alberta to install historical exhibits in various courthouse. Also featured was a book review of *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta* by Aritha van Herk, which provided background for this year's historical dinner where van Herk was the guest speaker.



Members of the Lethbridge Bench and Bar, 1990
-donation from The Honourable Glen Morrison, Q.C.

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LASA Accession #2009-005

Oral History

LASA has initiated a province-wide series of recorded interview projects preserving the memory of the legal community for posterity. Most of the previous year's oral histories have now been transcribed and copies have been sent to the interviewees for a final edit.

Calgary Project

LASA interviewer David Mittelstadt continued work in 2008/2009 on Calgary's oral history program. Recently accessioned interviews include: Cheryl Gottselig, Q.C., Douglas A. McGillivray, Q.C., the Hon. Mary M. Hetherington and Judge Sandra Hunt McDonald.

Ken Mills is the Chair of the Calgary Committee and David Mittelstadt conducted most of the interviews.

Edmonton Project

Work continues in Edmonton led by Garth Fryett, Q.C. and Don Bishop, Q.C.

Legal History Library

LASA received several donated books in 2008 and would like to thank all of those people who generously contributed to LASA's growing collections. Some of the highlights added to LASA's library include: Robert Sharpe, *The Last Day, the Last Hour: The Currie Libel Trial*; Barry Wright and Susan Binnie (eds.), *Canadian State Trials, Volume III: Political Trials and Security Measures, 1840-1914*; R. Blake Brown, *A Trying Question: The Jury in Nineteenth-Century Canada*; William Kaplan, *Canadian Maverick: The Life and Times of Ivan C. Rand*; Peter W. Hogg, *Constitutional Law of Canada, 2009 Student Edition*; and Jack Sissons, *Judge of the Far North: The Memoirs of Jack Sissons*. The Edmonton firm of Schwab, Schwab & Schwab LLP generously donated several volumes of the *Alberta Law Review*.



Graham Price, Q.C.
Receives LASA honorary membership from
Perry Mack at LASA's Historical dinner,
September 2009

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< **Personnel**

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Brenda McCafferty, Archivist
Kim Horner, Administrative Assistant
Ewa Gniazdowska, Administrative Assistant



LASA's oral historian, David Mittelstadt, converses with LASA Board member Denis McDermott, a recent oral history interview candidate, June 2009



Perfectly preserved courtroom inside Medicine Hat's historic courthouse, July 30, 2009



Archivist Brenda McCafferty outside the Red Deer Courthouse, March 20, 2009. First stop on LASA's cross-province provincial courthouse journey.



Lethbridge Courthouse display panel. One of eleven QB Courthouse exhibits installed by LASA in 2009.



**To BE INSERTED
WHEN
AVAILABLE**

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