

Architypes

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

Annual Newsletter

Volume 22, Issue 1 Spring 2013

Historical Dinner 2013

Join LASA and John Martland, Q.C. for an entertaining and historical evening.

Page 1



From the Vault

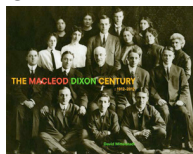
Recent donation to LASA of archival material from the Prowse family.

Page 2

Macleod Dixon Century

Review of the recently released book on the history of the Macleod Dixon firm.

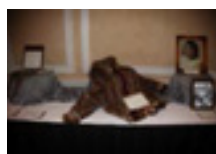
Page 3



Historical Dinner 2012

Recapping the Hon. John Vertes, Q.C. and justice North of 60°.

Page 4-5



Meet LASA's New Board Members

LASA introduces new Directors while saying Good-Bye to long-serving Directors.

Page 7

What is the Legal Archives?

Background on what it is that the Legal Archives Society of Alberta does.

Page 8

Reminder

October 24, 2013

Reception ♦ Dinner ♦ Silent Auction

6:00 pm

Fairmont Palliser Hotel, Calgary

Crystal Ballroom

John Martland, Q.C.

Reflections: from a childhood in the Supreme Court of Canada to Bennett Jones to The Wild Colonial Boys

We have been lucky to be able to commit John Martland to spend an evening with us reflecting on his broad experiences and insights, as a young son of an esteemed jurist from Alberta serving amongst the various personalities of the Supreme Court of Canada and then as someone who went on to many adventures, both as an esteemed litigation lawyer with the Bennett Jones law firm, as President of the Law Society of Alberta and beyond as he pursued a musical avocation playing double bass and singing in The Wild Colonial Boys. Fortunately his more recent mountain adventures narrowly escaped the torrents of the upper end of Cougar Creek in Canmore, which came incredibly close to sweeping away their family home.

Tickets are available from the Legal Archives Society of Alberta for \$150/person, \$1,100 for a table of 8

Tel: 1-403-244-5510; Fax: 1-403-244-5510; Email: lasa@legalarchives.ca

From the Vault

LASA is pleased to announce a donation of family photographs, artifacts and memorabilia from the family of Master John T. Prowse, Q.C. of Calgary relating to his father, the late Hon. David Clifton Prowse, Q.C.



Prowse & Lyons Frontier Law Office,
Taber, Alberta, ca. 1910.

Accession #2012-012

Justice D.C. Prowse was born in 1920 and raised in Taber, Alberta to a prominent southern Alberta family of lawyers. He was a WWII veteran, law partner at the Fenerty law firm in Calgary, and was later appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Appellate Division. Other prominent southern Alberta Prowse family lawyers represented in this donation include great-grandparents John Harper Prowse, Abner Gladstone Virtue, and Clif's brother Hubert S. Prowse. Photos abound with images of family and friends connected to the Lethbridge Bar and extended Prowse family.

Interesting (hair-raising) artifacts donated include the left black, fur-lined leather shoe worn by Clif Prowse the night he bailed out of his Lancaster bomber and tragically lost his right foot - the propeller narrowly missing his left foot as evidenced by the deep scuff on the surviving shoe. LASA also received Clif Prowse's WWII



RCAF leather wallet.

Other significant documents include a paper memoir (43 pgs.) written by D.C. Prowse relating incidents of his life; and a biographical sketch of his father-in-law Abner Gladstone

Virtue, a prominent Lethbridge lawyer who was among the first recipients of the LL.B. from the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law. A copy of Virtue's manuscript relating his experiences during the First World War is entitled: 'Field Diary of Lieut. A. G. Virtue, 61st Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, 1918' (29 pgs.). His noted war service is heralded in published sources within these papers.

THE OLD FENERTY FIRM CELEBRATES ITS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN 2012! MARKING THE END OF AN ERA

Recently, LASA was brought on board to contribute a historical display for the 100-year law firm anniversary celebrations happening at the Calgary office of Fraser Milner Casgrain (now 'Dentons', but formerly fondly known as the 'Fenerty' firm). A big part of the law firm story centered on prominent lawyers of the firm including the Honourable David Clifton Prowse, Q.C.

Son of lawyer J. Harper Prowse and his wife Elizabeth, 'Clif' (as he was commonly referred), was one of six children, many of whom went on to practise law. Clif Prowse married Edythe Virtue, daughter of A.G. Virtue, early Lethbridge lawyer - thereby uniting two southern Alberta legal dynasties. Together, Edythe and Clif had four children, three who went on to become lawyers.



D.J. Prowse and Edythe
Virtue on their wedding
day, 1946.

Accession # 2012-010

WAR VETERAN AND HERO

While attending the University of Alberta at the outbreak of World War II, D.C. Prowse left his studies to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force (bomber squadron navigator). He spent two years as a Prisoner of War after his plane was shot down over Germany. Returning to Canada following the war, Prowse resumed his studies at the University of Alberta, graduating with a B.Comm in 1947, and an LL.B. in 1950 for which he received the prestigious Horace Harvey Gold Medal as the top student in his graduating year. He was admitted to the Alberta bar on May 30, 1951, joining the Fenerty firm soon after. Prowse

was a prominent litigation lawyer who was appointed to the Bench in 1972. He died in Calgary on July 25, 1988.

LANCASTER BOMBER INCIDENT

During WW II on April 27, 1944 in a raid over Schweinfurt, Germany, Clif Prowse was shot down and was the sole survivor of his crew. By ironic coincidence, the following night his brother Hubert Prowse was one of only three of his aircrew to bail-out and survive over Frederikshaun, Denmark. When Clif bailed out of his falling Lancaster bomber, one foot was tragically torn off by the propeller. He spent six months in a German hospital where his leg was amputated in two successive operations, to stop the spread of gangrene.

The Prowse family received two telegrams on successive days informing them that David (Clif) and Hubert were 'Missing in Action'. They also received another telegram informing them that their other son J. Harper Jr. had been

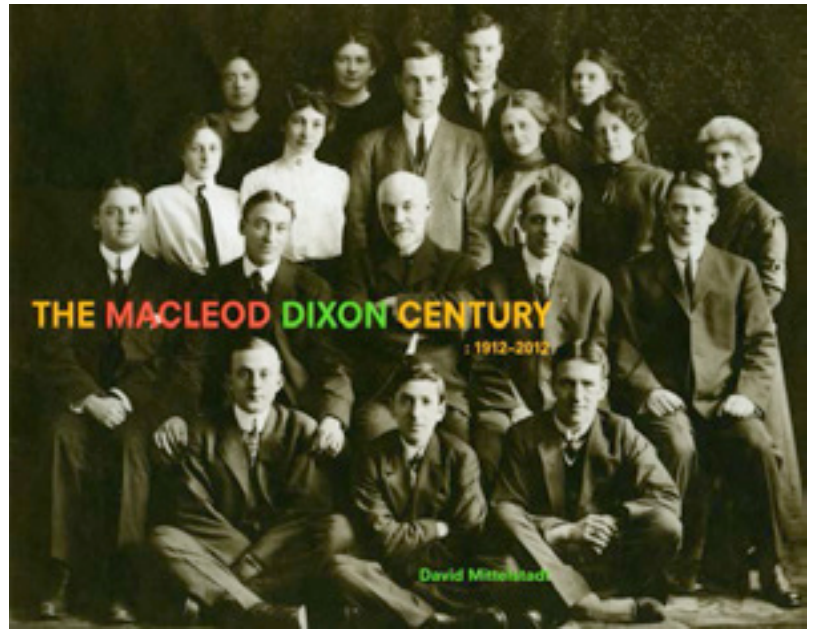
wounded in Action (for the second time), in Italy. The Prowse family recalls these tragic incidents were accompanied by the disappearance of the family dog. All absent family returned home, though the dog unfortunately did not.

Following the Second World War in 1945, an influx of many veterans entered the legal profession. Clif and his brother Hubert Prowse were two of these vets. Clif joined the Fenerty law firm in 1951 and became partner in short order. He received his Q.C. in 1963 and was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Appellate Division in September 1972. Clif Prowse is remembered as an icon of the old Fenerty law firm and was a much beloved teacher and mentor to his articling students - many of whom went on to brilliant careers of their own.

Brother Hubert Samuel Prowse was also a successful lawyer in Lethbridge for many years. He was named QC in 1968 and moved to Calgary in 1972 upon the urging of his brother D. Clifton Prowse to take up practise with the firm Fenerty, McGillivray, Robertson, Prowse, Bennan & Fraser. His appointment to the Court of Queen's Bench came on November 27, 1979 and he passed away in 1999.

The Legal Archives is grateful and indebted to the Prowse family for choosing LASA as the repository for these important family papers. We look forward to retelling more fascinating family stories in future issues of *Architypes*.

David Mittelstadt, The Macleod Dixon Century: 1912-2012. Calgary: Norton Rose Canada, 2012.



Before the merger with the Norton Rose Group, Macleod Dixon was already well on their way planning the celebrations commemorating their centennial in 2012. Part of the commemoration included a written history of the firm. Along with the Legal Archives Society of Alberta and author David Mittelstadt, the book project (already well underway at the time of the merger) continued without delay.

The result is an impressive, well-written book with no lack of photographic evidence illustrating the growth of the firm, the city of Calgary and the province of Alberta. Mittelstadt, author of an earlier work on Alberta's legal history, *Foundations of Justice*, carried out extensive archival and documentary research, as well as interviewing many of the individuals who practiced or worked at the firm over the years.

This is not your typical firm history that almost exclusively centres on the development of the firm, the key players and business development. Though this volume does, obviously, contain those elements, Mittelstadt has placed the firm within the social and culture development of Calgary and Alberta. It may have morphed into an international firm with offices in Moscow, Kazakhstan and Venezuela, but Macleod Dixon remained a Calgary-based firm. The author chronologically follows the firm's development through the century, examining in great detail the good and not so good times.

The years between the two world wars were not the firm's finest. Though there was a sense of 'life returning to normal' in the years immediately following World War I, that quickly changed when the slowdown in wartime production led to an economic vacuum that wasn't being filled, which was further exacerbated with falling agricultural prices and increasing unemployment among returning veterans. Prospects for recovery came in

the mid- to late-1920s, but were quickly dashed with the Great Depression. It was during these turbulent times, Mittelstadt writes, that a number of key partners left the firm – still in its infancy – to pursue their other objectives.

In contrast was the economic boom in the aftermath of World War II. Though many predicted a similar situation that followed the end of the First World War, a discovery of oil at Leduc in February 1947 made western Canada a key player in post-war economic development. Macleod Dixon benefited significantly from this discovery, including having Eric Harvie as a client. Not only did Harvie bring a great deal of oil and gas work to the firm, he retained the firm's services for his philanthropic pursuits, which include opening the Glenbow museum and starting the Devonian Foundation.

The book illustrates that neither Calgary nor the firm was immune from international trends. The author opens chapter six with discussion of the war in the Middle East in 1973 and the resulting oil embargo that caused considerable success at home. It was this boom, Mittelstadt argues, that introduced Calgary as an energy and corporate centre on the rise. As a result of the growth and changing nature of the practice of law, the firm nearly tripled in size and the work became more complex.

The author does a commendable job dealing with the business and practice of law, but the volume isn't only filled with the inner-workings of a growing law firm in the city of Calgary. Mittelstadt also details the social atmosphere at the firm, which includes a number of raucous tales of boozing and partying. An atmosphere that was no doubt prevalent beyond the confines of Macleod Dixon. The author attributes this new atmosphere in the firm with the rise of the baby boomers. Mittelstadt also details the many other changes like the

introduction of technology, women joining the firm as lawyers, and many partners who went on to become prominent judges and politicians.

The story of Macleod Dixon cannot only be summed up with words. The photos included in the book tell a story themselves. A story about the firm. A story about Calgary. A story about Alberta. Two photos that tell the best tale are, in fact, on the front and back covers. The front cover is a picture of Macleod Dixon in 1912. We can surmise that the women in the photo are not lawyers, but secretaries. The photo on the back cover is the firm in 2012. In my opinion the photos are so much more than just an example of firm growth. They are an illustration of the continually evolving practice of law and legal culture. In addition these photos also represent the continual growth in social, cultural, political and economic changes in Calgary. Rather than go into further detail, it is best to allow the readers to draw their own conclusions.

Lastly, in a recent review – for another publication – it was claimed that this book was a "publicly-funded private history." The author of this review is only partially right. It is true that the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation contributed funds. However, those funds were contributed to the Legal Archives Society of Alberta, not Norton Rose Canada. As a non-profit organization whose mandate is to promote Alberta's legal heritage, LASA falls squarely within the purview of AHRF. As such, LASA feels it was important to be as closely involved in the publication it whatever capacity possible. Without getting into financial details, the grant from the Alberta government only partially funded the project. Further, it is incorrect to say that the book is being restricted to distribution within the firm and to its clients. Both Norton Rose and LASA have provided many copies – free of charge – to individuals and organizations interested receiving a copy.



Calgary Historical Dinner goes North of 60°

The 2012 Historical Dinner was held in Calgary on October 18 with the Hon. John Vertes, Q.C. chronicling his thirty-four year career in the Northwest Territories (NWT), first as a lawyer for fourteen years and then as a judge on the Supreme Court for twenty years. His speech focused on the changes he observed during this time, and the future challenges he envisions for justice in the north.

Throughout his speech, Mr. Vertes articulated the differences between present-day Northwest Territories with the place he first arrived in to practice law back in 1977. The changes are equally stark and subtle.

In 1977, the Northwest Territories was 1.3 million square miles in size with a total population of 60,000 spread across some fifty communities comprising twelve aboriginal groups. Yellowknife was the capital with a population of 8,000. There were two gold mines, one hockey rink, one television channel, one radio station, two schools and seven or eight bars. The starkest change during his thirty-four year tenure in Yellowknife was the reduction in the physical size of the Northwest Territories with the

establishment of Nunavut in 1999. Presently the NWT has a population of 50,000 comprised of five aboriginal groups that speak eleven Dene languages. Yellowknife remains the capital city having grown to 20,000 people. The gold mines were replaced with three diamond mines, and there are more television stations.

Mr. Vertes shifts focus to the political state in the NWT when he arrived in 1977. Prior to his arrival in the north, the Territory was governed by a territorial council that was composed of three elected individuals and five Ottawa-appointed officials. Everything was controlled by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, who was appointed by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs in Ottawa. Shortly after Mr. Vertes arrived in Yellowknife, the NWT became a representative government with a fully elected legislature.

He then proceeds on to the legal profession in the NWT and the changes between 1977 and the present. When Mr. Vertes first arrived there was no law society. Instead the profession was regulated by the Commissioner. There were forty lawyers north of 60° with two medium-sized firms and a few

smaller firms. The work usually consisted of general practice and legal aid cases. According to Mr. Vertes, "[a]ll the lawyers knew each other and there was a very collegial spirit." In more subtle contrast, today, there is a law society, there are 140 members at the bar -- mostly federal or territorial lawyers, and a legal aid staff that focuses mainly on family and criminal work. The small- and medium-sized firms have been replaced by branches of larger, national and regional firms.

As a result, the former justices states "[i]n many ways, I am sad to say, there is less access to legal services -- access to justice -- today than there was 35 years." In his opinion, this is the number issue facing the legal profession today.

In 1977 there was one resident superior court judge and two magistrates. Today there are four resident judges on the supreme court bench, and four on the territorial court. It should be noted that all four judges on the higher court in the NWT are women. Mr. Vertes believes that this is likely the first all-female superior court in the English-speaking world. The increase in the number of judges is the result of mounting caseloads, growing complexity and the length of the cases before the courts.



The circuit system started in 1955 with the first resident superior court judge Jack Sissons, which would regularly travel outside Yellowknife to hold court in the more remote regions of the Territory. Shortly after his arrival Mr. Vertes went on his first circuit for three weeks to the eastern Arctic in October 1977. For the first time in his career, he recalled, he was doing criminal work. The DC-3 which took the party on circuit was equipped with executive-style seating, but had no washroom facility and the rubber seats froze at minus twenty degrees. Despite these conditions, the plane, which flew at a top speed of 150 mph was the only mode of transportation for circuit court.

Mr. Vertes remembers 1977 being an exciting time in the NWT. It was the time when land claims were first discussed with the discovery of natural gas at Prudhoe Bay, and the subsequent application from the Canadian Arctic Gas Pipelines Limited for a pipeline through the Mackenzie Valley. Tom Berger, a judge on the Supreme Court of British Columbia, was appointed to head an inquiry that concluded that land claims should be settled before the construction of any pipelines. Despite the settlement of nearly all the major land claims in the NWT, as well as support from many aboriginal groups, discussion about building the Mackenzie Valley pipeline continues 35 years later.

Mr. Vertes explains that there was historical context to the above report. In 1973 Justice Morrow handed

down his decision in what became known as the Paulette's Caveat Case. It was a case that questioned the validity of registering a caveat with the Land Titles Office on unpatented Crown land. Sixteen Dene Chiefs, led by Chief Francois Paulette, registered caveats asserting their title rights -- under treaties 8 and 11 -- on over 400,000 square miles of NWT land. Although Justice Morrow's favorable decision was overturned by the court of appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, it together with the Berger report prompted the federal government to get serious of land claims in the North.

As a result, almost all the land claim disputes in the NWT have been settled with all but one major aboriginal group. Moreover, these settlements also included agreements for self government. These arrangements, Mr. Vertes argues, are the most considerable challenge for the NWT courts in the future.

The former justice explains that the courts will have to rethink how it will apply jurisdiction in the north when dealing with aboriginal government and land claims institutions. These agreements broaden the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the NWT to determine all disputes, challenge the validity of laws passed by aboriginal governments, decide proceedings alleging the violation of laws, review decision by any board or tribunal, and resolve how the Charter of Rights and Freedoms applies to these new governments.

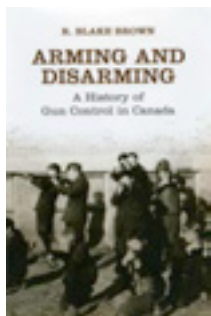
Yet, the greatest challenge, according to Mr. Vertes, will be "looking beyond our understanding of Anglo-Canadian law," and reflect on the culture and customs of the First Nations group in question. He continues that the "challenge to interpret new laws with the parameters of the self-government agreement and the large Canadian constitutional order, to take into account the customs and culture of the particular First Nations, and to reconcile the aboriginal law-making authority with common law tradition." Mr. Vertes concludes that "this will require balancing rights and resolving disputes within a new paradigm and an ongoing consideration of law, culture and politics."

I would like to thank, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff at the Legal Archives Society of Alberta, all those who came to support LASA's Historical Dinners. I would like to thank all the speakers who added their own noteworthy contribution to the evening. And, last but certainly not least, I would like to thank the Honourable John Vertes, Q.C., who helped make the Calgary dinner a great success.

The Historical Dinners for 2013 are scheduled for Thursday, October 17 in Edmonton at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald, and Thursday, October 24 in Calgary at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel. Please mark your calendars, and join LASA for what promises to be another enjoyable, entertaining and enlightening evening.



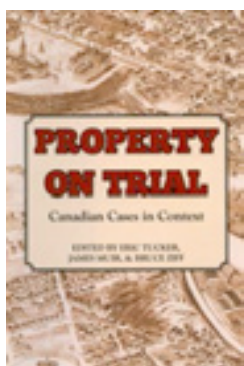
Ex Libris



In view of gun control being a recent topic in the media, this timely book is the first detailed history on the subject in Canada. The author details the history of gun control in Canada from the early European settlers to the present day. The result is an exhaustively research

and well written chronological tome that covers the changing social, political, cultural and legal characteristics of the history of gun legislation in Canada.

If you are looking for a book detailing the emotional, and often polarizing debates, on gun control. Be forewarned, look elsewhere. The author clearly states in the Introduction that this a legislative history of gun control. The book largely examines the regulatory provisions for possession, use, sale, transfer and registration of weapons, as well as the criminal laws that are in place when individuals intentionally or unintentionally misuse firearms.



This book is an excellent resource for both historians and legal scholar interested in the history of gun control in Canada. Given the issue of gun control will not disappear anytime soon, it is important to understand how

and why our society got to this point.

This is an edited collection of several smart, interesting and instructive essays on an arguably unfamiliar feature of Canadian legal history. The main aim of this anthology is to reveal the importance of property law, not only historically but also for the present, as the editors argue the law of property plays a crucial role in most peoples' lives.

This collection is essential reading for anyone interested in legal history in Canada. It deals with varied topics that cover a broad period which allows the reader to gain tremendous insight in the history of property law in Canada. In addition, each respective author situates their topic within the social, political and legal context giving the reader further familiarity with the always evolving legal climate.



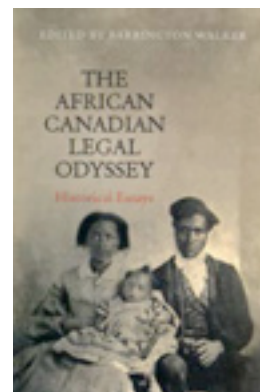
This book examines the law and criminal justice system in the prairie west at the end of the nineteenth century. The author makes excellent use of primary source material including newspapers, penitentiary records, Indian Department

files and records of Stipendiary Magistrates. The result of combing through all these records is an excellent historical analysis the legal affect on the Aboriginal peoples within the context of changing political reality.

The book is filled with tables, maps and illustrations, which presents the history of the development of what is present-day Saskatchewan

from the perspective of the people who signed and lived under Treaty 6. The author argues that the last quarter of the nineteenth century was a "period of profound social, economic and legal transformation for the First Nations of the region."

This is an extensively researched, well-written volume and is an important addition to the growing history of Aboriginal development in the region west of Hudson Bay.



Until recently, Canadian historiography has neglected many of the more negative episodes in the history of Canada. We tend to consider slavery and racism towards Blacks as a troublesome slice of our southern neighbor's history. However, this significant

contribution to the history of racism in Canada reveals that this country was not immune from racial insensitivity.

This anthology explores the history of Blacks and the law in Canada. The editor writes in the introduction, "the social history of Blacks in Canada is inextricably bound to the question of law."

The essays that follow cover nearly 300 years of the history of racism in Canada. With eleven essays – many original, including the Introduction – this collection covers Black history from slavery to the twentieth century. This collected works will be of importance and interest to both historians and legal scholars

LASA Welcomes New Directors

At the Legal Archives Society of Alberta's Annual General Meeting on March 6, 2013, five new Directors were elected for a two-year term. We welcome the following new Board members to the Legal Archives Society of Alberta.



Susan V.R. Billington, Q.C. is Policy and Program Counsel at the Law Society of Alberta in Calgary. Susan was admitted to the Alberta bar in 1986 and practiced as both a barrister and as a solicitor until joining the

Law Society in 1994. Susan has been involved with the development of many key initiatives including the Western Law Societies Conveyancing Project, the continuing professional development program, development of the pro bono initiative and regional pro bono clinics and equality initiatives. In 2007, Susan was seconded for 2 years to be the founding Executive Director of Pro Bono Law Alberta, the 100th anniversary legacy project of the Law Society. In the broader community, Susan is a proud graduate of the University of Calgary (BA '82; LLB '85) and has served on the University of Calgary Alumni Association, the U of C Senate and with the Faculty of Law's mootung and debating program. Susan has also served as President of her community association and provided leadership in many other community endeavours. She is also a Councillor for the Kananaskis Improvement District with the mandate to manage Kananaskis Country to ensure its recreational use for generations to come.



James T. Neilson, Q.C. is a Partner at Parlee McLaws LLP. Since joining the firm in 1981, Jim has practised in the area of civil litigation. His preferred

area of practice is insurance litigation, defending life and disability, property loss, and professional errors and omissions claims. He also has extensive experience with negligent misrepresentation, product liability, and general corporate and commercial disputes. He has represented major insurers and corporations at all levels of the courts in Alberta. Jim is the past president of the Edmonton Bar Association and has been a volunteer instructor in civil litigation for the Legal Education Society of Alberta Bar Admission Course since 1993. He was a sessional chair and instructor at the Lake Louise Civil Litigation Refresher Course sponsored by the Legal Education Society of Alberta, and he is a volunteer legal advisor with the Edmonton Community Legal Centre. He is a member of the Alberta Arbitration and Mediation Society. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2010.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at the Legal Archives Society of Alberta, I would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to Ken B. Mills, Don Bishop, Q.C., James Muir, the Hon. Willis O'Leary, Q.C., the Hon. Judge Charles Gardner, and Rick Klumpenhower for their dedication and commitment over several years to the work of the Legal Archives. Their individual insights and contributions to the Society of greatly appreciated.



The Honourable Justice Dallas K. Miller was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench in Lethbridge in 2006. He received his law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1984 and was admitted to the bar in 1985. He has degrees in history

and theology and has studied human rights in Strasbourg, France. Prior to his appointment, Justice Miller served on the Provincial Court Nominating Committee and on the Environmental Appeal Board.



WHAT IS THE LEGAL ARCHIVES?

Now in existence for over 23 years, the Legal Archives Society of Alberta continues to strive to expand its programs and continues its active role as archivist for all branches of the legal community in Alberta.

I would like to take this opportunity to communicate with LASA's long-time supporters, as well as newer and potential supporters.

LASA is dedicated to preserving, promoting and understanding the evolution of law and society in Alberta by establishing and maintaining a complete and accurate historical record of the legal profession in Alberta. LASA provides a direct link between current practitioners and their predecessors and their varied services to the public. LASA's programs are an excellent resource for anyone who wishes to further their understanding of the development and progression of the legal profession in Alberta, whether it's members of the general public, scholarly academics, or members of the legal and judicial communities.

These objectives are met through seven program areas:

Archival Preservation: the archival program is LASA's core mandate. With over 850 metres of documents, photographs, audio-visual and sound recordings generated by the Law Society of Alberta, and the legal and judicial communities throughout the province. These archival holdings represent the most extensive, authoritative evidence of the legal profession in Alberta. Legal records are an untapped source of significant historical value. Original documents from the actual date of events being described and analyzed allow historians to reconstruct with greater accuracy the full character of past events.

Exhibits and Interpretative Displays: these displays have been constructed in the courthouses

throughout the province. These exhibits make use of documents and artifacts to celebrate and educate the public about the role of the legal community in the history of our province. In addition to the historical displays at our annual dinners, we are increasingly doing work to produce displays for private law firms and legal organizations highlighting significant milestones or achievements.

Reference Services: LASA maintains an automated reference system which provides access to information on lawyers, judges and legal organizations associated with the province's legal heritage. Demand for LASA's research services continues to grow. This past year LASA received 137 requests for information relating to or taken directly from its archival holdings. While a majority of research requests emanate from the legal community, information is also sought from private researchers, academia and the media.

Historical Publications: LASA, through its historical publication program, provides publications of historical studies, biographies, firm histories, and record and reference works from Alberta's legal past. In 2013, LASA, in conjunction with Norton Rose Canada, published a firm history of Macleod Dixon LLP. In 2014, the Society is publishing a history of the Court of Appeal of Alberta for that court's centennial.

Oral History: this program is a province-wide initiative that involves interviewing retired and practicing judges, masters in chambers, lawyers, legal assistants and secretaries, and court reporters. The oral histories shed light on the development of Alberta law and specific cases which are useful for understanding and establishing legal precedence for current law. The knowledge and experience passed down from senior to junior members has always been a significant part of legal education. Oral histories are an indispensable resource for legal

historians. Meant to complement documentary sources, oral histories provide a personal context to the history of the legal profession. Recognizing the importance of capturing the voices and stories of the Alberta bench and bar, LASA has to date interviewed and preserved almost 300 interviews.

Legal History Reference Library: LASA maintains a significant library of monographs, rare books, reference materials and database information on the history of the legal profession in Alberta.

Records and Archives Consulting: the Society provides an archival and consulting service to firms and organizations to help with their information retention and storage concerns. The purpose is to aid with the identification of files that are of historical and archival value.

There is a fundamental relationship between the law and history that is intricate, varied and largely unexplored. History is not irrelevant, only to be left to "a few fact-obsessed zealots." History is our guide between the past, present and future.

Legal records are an untapped source of significant historical value. With the evolution in Canadian historiography, and the increasing interest in Canadian legal history since the 1980s, there is a growing demand for access to archival legal records. It is necessary that a proper historical investigation seeks to illuminate the intrinsic relationship between law and society, and this can only be done using primary and archival sources.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the legal and judicial communities for their continued support. I look forward to your continued participation with the Legal Archives Society of Alberta in our collaborative role in preserving and promoting Alberta's rich legal heritage.

Exhibit Packages for your next Celebration



Recent examples from LASA Exhibit Program
for Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP (now Dentons)

FEATURE A HISTORICAL DISPLAY AT YOUR LEGAL EVENT OF SPECIAL OCCASION!

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(up to September 30)

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- **Please mark your calendars.** LASA is working with the Court of Appeal of Alberta to host dinners in 2014 to celebrate that Court's centenary. Thursday, April 10, 2014 in Edmonton. Details for Calgary's dinner in October 2014 will be forthcoming shortly.
- We are happy to report that LASA is taking steps to become more earth friendly, and we are moving toward electronic notifications and communications. If you would like to assist LASA in our effort to go green, please contact us with your email address.
- Members are reminded to check out the Archives Society of Alberta website at www.archivesalberta.org. Archival descriptions to LASA's textual holding and our scanned/digitized photograph collection are available by keyword searching on the ANA and Alberta Insights databases.
- Did you know that LASA's 2013 annual fundraising campaign is underway? Please consider making a donation to preserve legal history!

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