

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES
BULLETIN

Regional News

Compiled by Martin Chandler

Alberta

Rhys Stevens

University of Lethbridge Library

I've recently joined up with a number of Western Canadian map library colleagues as a member of COPPUL SPAN Phase 6 Working Group (Topographic Maps). We're laying the groundwork for identifying the various map (including series maps) that are held in Western Canadian academic libraries for physical preservation purposes. Thanks to several ACMLA members who have already provided responses to our initial inquiries! Another initiative that is ongoing has been the scanning of aerial images of the Southern Alberta region which are being uploaded into our Southern Alberta Aerial Photographs digital collection. These photos came to us as part of a donation we received from one of our Department of Geography faculty members after he became aware of the digital collection.

Ontario

Colleen Beard

Librarian Emeritus, Brock University

News from an ACMLA retiree! If I'm not on the golf course, I am hiking the historic Welland Canals with fellow advocates through my [Historic Welland Canals Mapping Project](#) AGOL web app! In July 2019 I retired from Brock Map, Data & GIS Library with the status of "Librarian Emeritus". I have been grateful to remain connected to Brock as I continue my research on the historic canals and benefit from its resources I could not do without. It has been quite remarkable how this project has embraced the community and generated public interest of all ages. I continue to provide talks (19 thus far) to local groups, city agencies, and in-class lectures, and find great joy in leading hikes to reveal the many surviving remnants that remain of this 200 year old engineering marvel. But that's not the most exciting part!

I am one of five researchers (mapper and data manager) involved with a SSHRC grant (*Visualizing Past Landscapes: Toward Reengaging the Local Historic Environment*) to ultimately unearth a buried ship – the James Norris – in the basin of the Shickluna Shipyard of the Second Welland Canal c1845 located in downtown St. Catharines. Headed by our captain, Dr. Kimberly Monk, Marine Archaeologist, Brock University, one "dig" so far has revealed over 3000 artifacts from the shipyard. From tea pots to toilets, data management has been a fun challenge. I have made good friends with Portage and the DMP Assistant!

I remain deeply invested in new technologies as I create learning objects to showcase the HWCMP and Shickluna content to a diverse audience – mainly the general public and my many golf friends who have become my UX web appraisers. Although a devoted user of Esri Story Maps, I welcomed Barb Znamirowski's Bulletin article on the new Story Map Builder as I transform boots-on-the-ground canal hikes to armchair.

I might be discreet, but I do keep an eye on all you do to capitalize on my new adventures!

Thank you, Martin, for remembering the retirees!

Carina Xue Luo

Academic Data Centre, Leddy Library

After the pandemic lockdown, the Leddy Library's Academic Data Centre (ADC), University of Windsor, have been offering daily virtual labs through Blackboard Collaborate for student consultations Monday to Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. The virtual labs allow students to access help without booking an appointment. The platform also allows the centre to host a virtual classroom to share study materials, discussions, and announcements with students. The centre also continues to make contributions to the local community. The Geospatial Data Analyst, Carina Luo, has created two GIS map applications for the Windsor-Essex region: [Windsor's Neighbourhood Walkability Map](#) and [Windsor-Essex COVID-19 Vaccine Pharmacy Locator](#). The walkability map application brings together a variety of information from population density, residential density, land-use mix, street connectivity, destination accessibility, and transit availability to display the walkability indexes for Windsor neighbourhoods and links it to residents' community behaviour and socioeconomic characteristics. The Windsor-Essex COVID-19 Vaccine Pharmacy Locator helps people to locate a COVID-19 vaccine pharmacy close to them and review their detailed information to book an appointment. It also provides users the option to overlay the pharmacy locations with demographic information at the neighbourhood-level (e.g., the percentage of people aged 60-64) to identify if there are any service gaps. This can potentially help improve the local vaccine distribution planning and implementation. Both map applications have received positive feedback from the local community.

Eva Dodsworth

University of Waterloo Geospatial Centre

The winter term has been surprisingly busy with data requests. The ease of being able to deliver data using OneDrive (10 Gb limit) has increased subsequent data requests. We can transfer large amounts of orthoimagery and Lidar requests, something that we couldn't do before without an external hard drive. Reference requests come in via email or web form and usually one of four Geospatial Centre staff will tackle it within the same day. We've been pretty fortunate that most of the cartographic requests are for material that we have already scanned. For the first time this week we required library staff to go into the library to physically scan some air photos that were requested. That's not easy to do when the scanning staff are not familiar with the map collection!

With our Library Associate's retirement last December and his position currently open, we have been relying on geomatics co-op students. We're thinking of continuing with this for a few more terms or until we're back at the office before we consider a permanent replacement. The co-op students are helping Markus and I with reference questions as well as with our city directory project (see article published about this project in this issue). It's been a great term and Spring is looking good as well with two new co-op student hires. Due to COVID staff have banked a lot of vacation days and we've been told we must take them soon, so spring and summer should prove to be spent doing anything but work!

Compiled by: Erika Reinhardt
Library and Archives Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

While many librarians and archivists at Library and Archives Canada continue to work remotely, we continue to offer digitization and reference services to the public, and process access to information requests. See the [Reopening of Library and Archives Canada](#) site for updates on the status of our public services by region. Despite the disruptions caused by Covid-19, LAC's cartographic collections and subject matter experts continue to highlight Canada's cartographic heritage to the public.

Earlier this year, the We Are Here: Sharing Stories project added a reference map to the Digitized and Described Indigenous Heritage Content portal on LAC's website to help researchers browse for indigenous content within LAC's holdings. This user-created Google map provides a geographic representation of digitized archival materials using colour-coded pins to navigate First Nations, Inuit, Metis and the Government of Canada collections. You can [check out the map](#) on LAC's website.

Historian Dr. Zac Robinson and glaciologist, Dr. Alison Criscitiello were featured guests on [the Discover Library and Archives Canada podcast](#) to discuss the 2021 Mount Logan Ice Expedition which will utilize records and photographs from LAC's collection as a key component of their research to collect ice core samples and measure environmental changes to glaciers using repeat photography. Also featured is Lead Archivist, Jill Delaney who discusses surveyor records at LAC and the field books and photographic collection the 1925 expedition to Mount Logan led by Howard Lambert. The 2021 expedition team will be using these photographs to create a data set of the paired images that will be publicly available through the [Mountain Legacy Project](#). If you have not heard the podcast, you can find the episode and transcript on the LAC website.

Canadian Geographic magazine highlighted several maps from LAC's collection in issues this past fall and winter. These maps include a 1947-school map of the United Nations in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN; Jan Jansson's 17th century map of the Arctic; original 19th century sketches of the Hogs Back Dam break and construction; and one of the first topographic maps of the Rocky Mountains created using photogrammetry.

Special thanks to all our colleagues who continue to work hard and deliver services during these unusual times.