



FRIENDS OF THE **camh** ARCHIVES

NEWSLETTER

A not-for-profit, charitable organization of hospital volunteers

Fall 2020 Volume 28, No. 2

A Retrospective on our Auditoriums, Looking Forward to the Latest

Soon to be proudly unveiled –



New CAMH Auditorium – in progress, Sept. 2020 while nearing completion. (CAMH photo)

Now undergoing finishing touches, the new auditorium on the second floor of Queen Street's McCain Complex Care & Recovery Building features state-of-the-art audio visual

equipment and lighting, with retractable seating for up to 300 people.

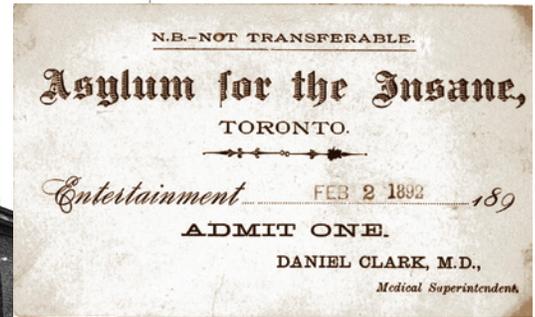
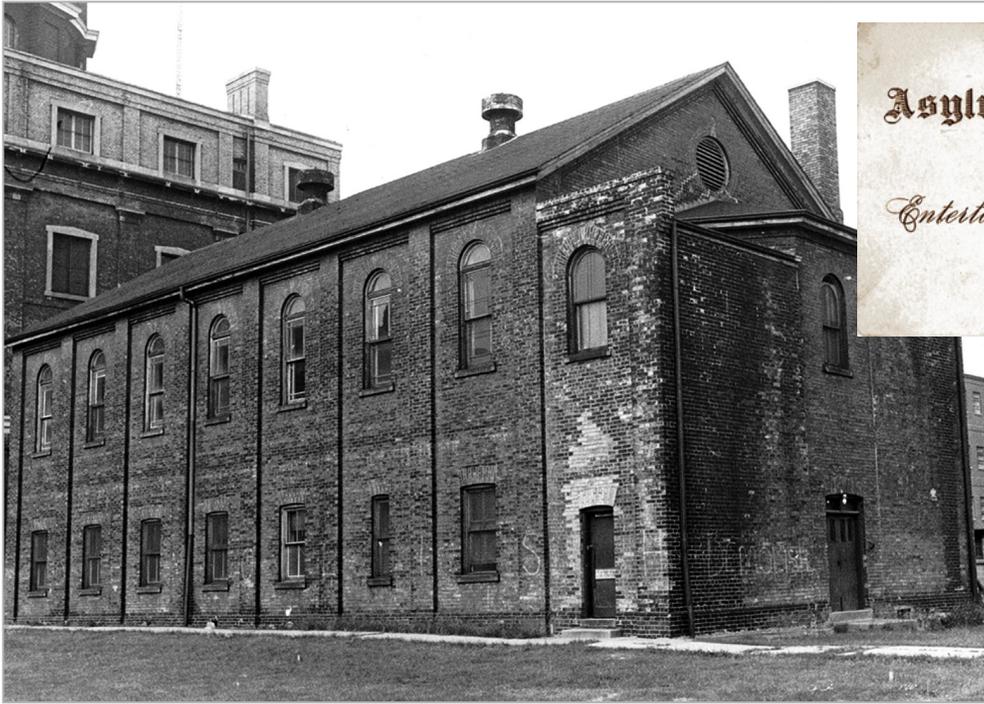
Retrospective

In 1890, the first of CAMH's original (pre-merger) facility auditoriums was created in Queen Street's courtyard, designed by the noted Provincial Architect, Kivas Tully. It was soon put to varied and popular use. As one example, a concert was presented on February 2, 1892, by Toronto's Holy Trinity Church Choir for Queen Street's patients, staff

and friends.

Superintendent Daniel Clark's annual report later that year made grateful note concerning this and 22 other concerts that year – noting "that our city friends are many, and as energetic as ever in their efforts to give pleasure to our patients in so many ways." This vital facility hosted a year-

(continued)

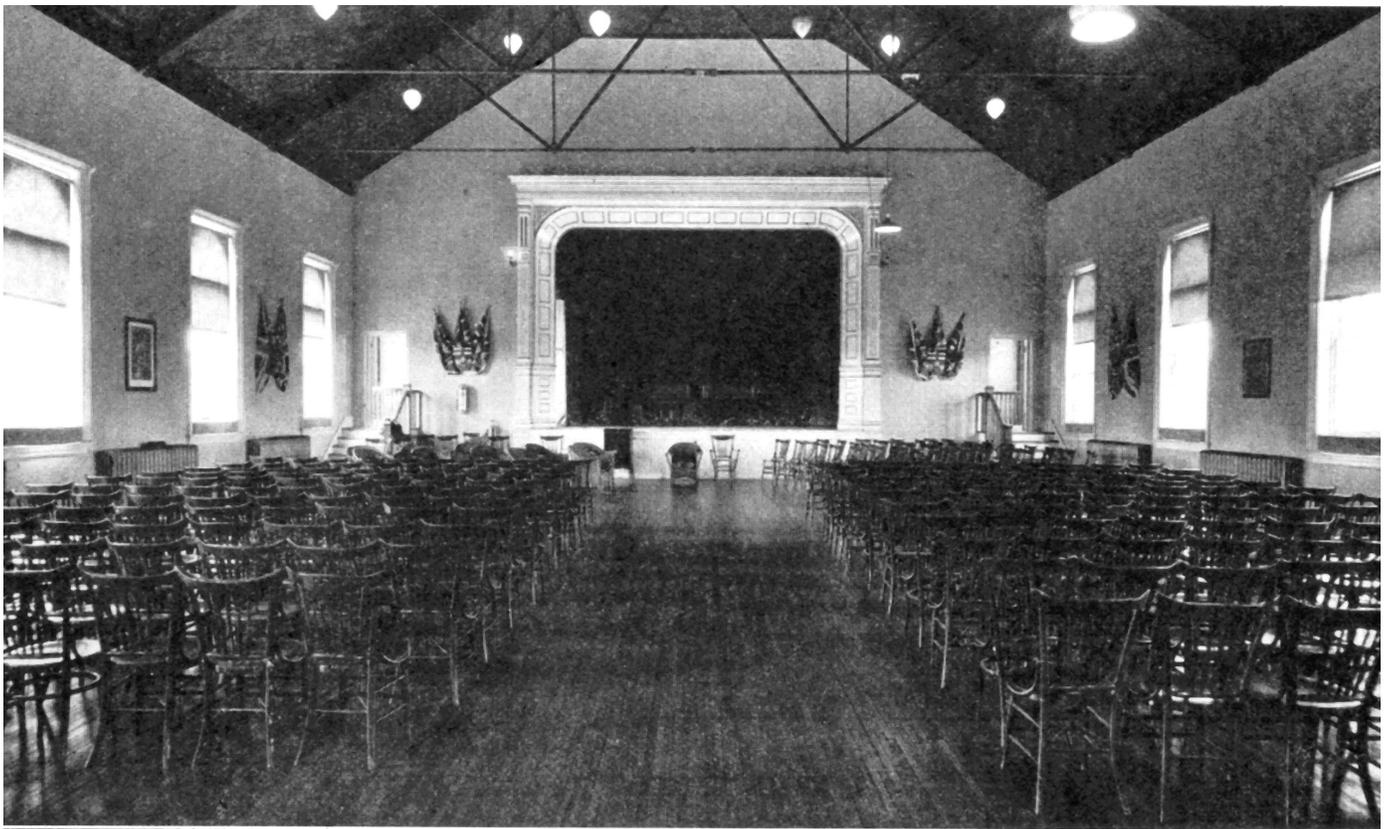


Photos: CAMH Archives

Structures for the same architect's Mimico Asylum (1890 – later Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital until 1979) still survive today in adaptive educational re-use on their scenic 60 acres beside Lake Ontario. In 1898 the Province added an Assembly Hall and

round variety of entertainments along with events such as nursing course graduation ceremonies, until taken down in 1970 for construction of Queen Street's new "mall" – the Paul Christie Community Centre, still in active use today.

Chapel, as a separate annex structure – still operating today for weddings and other private functions. In his Annual Report that year, Superintendent Nelson Beemer proudly reported on the early success of their new building:



AUDITORIUM, ONTARIO HOSPITAL, MIMICO

“The Assembly Hall was used for patients’ dances during the last six weeks of last winter’s season, and it has been used ever since on Sundays for divine service. The accommodation furnished by the Hall is ample for the needs of an institution of this size, and the whole structural arrangement and location have proven to be convenient and satisfactory.”

The next cycle of auditoriums that were added to pre-CAMH facilities appeared in the 1960s-70s, beginning with the public-theatre-style Stokes Auditorium for the 1966 Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. As well came a lecture hall in 1971 with the Addiction Research Foundation’s new headquarters. Another is seen here in 1967 at the Donwood Institute – a high, yet intimate room with a style and flexibility for a variety of gatherings.

At Queen Street in the 1970s, the historic asylum structures were replaced, less monumentally – while capped off in 1979 by the fully-equipped, 300-seat Joseph Workman Auditorium, accessed from the front entrance. As Nurse Lisa Brown came to realize that her 1980s’ after-hours volunteering with patients interested in music, dance and drama began to affect their recovery, she set about establishing the unique Workman Theatre Group (today’s Workman Arts). Along with academic presentations, staff acknowledgement functions, and performances such as the annual Christmas Carols led by the Centre’s talented dentist, Dr. Paul Zung, this theatre hummed continuously with the arts, lectures, celebrations and public festivals.

LA PIZZIA
A Wonderful Postmortem
Translated in The Canada Concert, October 1882
by Doctor Joseph Workman,
retired superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum
Queen Street, Toronto

&
Directed by Anne Steacy
Starring Debra Courchesne

Male Readers *David Henry*
 Jon Rowland

Stage Manager *Kim Nichols*

Projectionist *Stannan Sperry*

Production Manager *Robert Chambers*
Production Asst. *Mark Gutteridge*
Carpenter *Barry Brown*

Produced by Lisa Brown
25
January 14 to 15, 1998
Queen Street Mental Health Centre



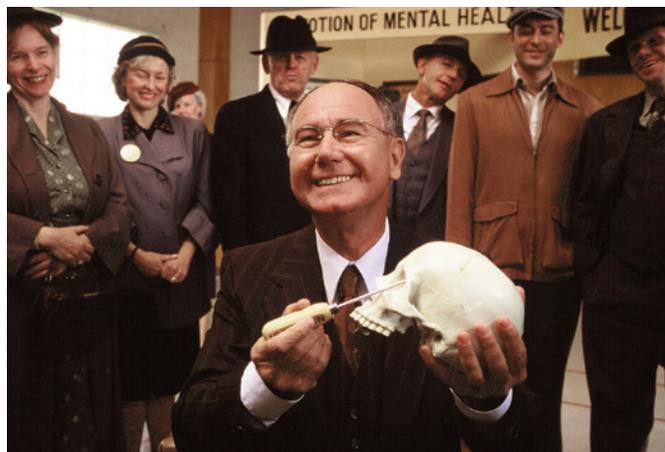
Donwood Institute Auditorium, 1960s - 70s



The annual Courage to Come Back Awards were inaugurated in the Clarke Institute’s Stokes Auditorium, 1993.



Joseph Workman Auditorium, 1979 – 2009



“A Hole in One” at Workman Arts’ annual Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival – at the Joseph Workman Auditorium, 2004.

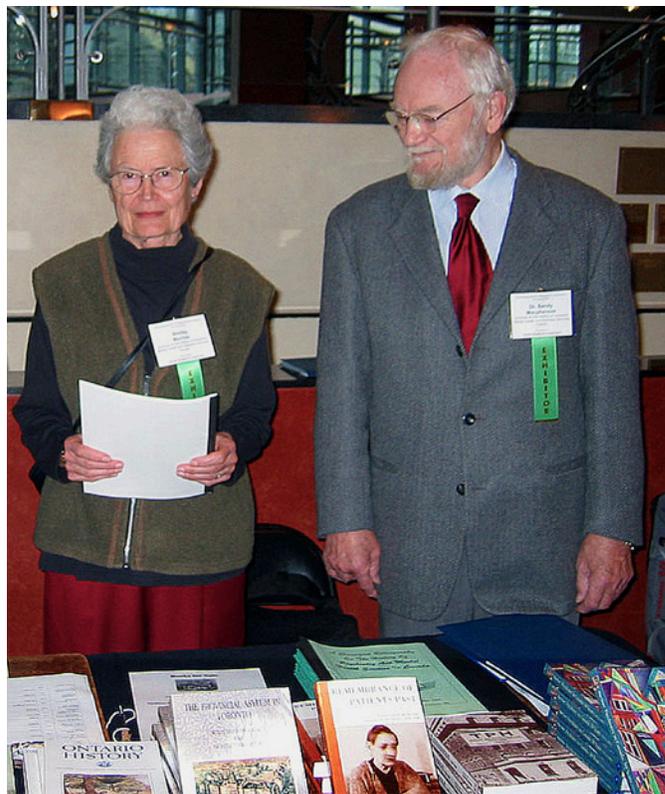
Board of Directors' Membership Update

One of our long-serving FoCA board members, Vice President Shirley Morriss, has indicated her intent to retire from the board following the next Annual General Meeting.

Shirley joined the board in 2007. Her interest in historic architecture and architectural preservation led to the publication of several works related to the original Provincial Asylum and its architect, John George Howard. Shirley edited *The Journal of John George Howard, 1832-49*, published by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and contributed a chapter to *The Provincial Asylum in Toronto*, published by the Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy. For several years, Shirley took a leadership role in the publication of this newsletter. In 2015 she addressed the Toronto Preservation Board with fellow board member Ed Janiszewski, succeeding in securing the continued preservation of the northernmost bay of the historic Boundary Wall at the corner of Shaw and Queen Streets. In 2016, she nominated the Lakeshore Asylum Cemetery Project, spearheaded by Ed, among others, which won both the 2016 Members' Choice Award and the Community Heritage Award (Etobicoke-York Area), awarded by Heritage Toronto.

Shirley's wise counsel and enthusiasm will be missed.

As well we are expressing profound thanks to board member Jamie Laidlaw, also retiring at this time, for his considerable contributions! Similarly a lifelong heritage advocate of considerable renown, and long-serving member of other boards including the Laidlaw Foundation and Ontario's Natural Heritage League, Jamie was influential in helping our Board in transferring one major endowment fund to the Vancouver Foundation's Socially Responsible Investment



Friends of the CAMH Archives (FoCA) Board members Shirley Morriss and Dr. Sandy Macpherson, representing us at a community educational forum. (Photos: CAMH Archives, FoCA fonds.)

Fund. He also encouraged the Laidlaw Foundation to provide seed funding in 2019 and 2020 to honour the contributions to the Foundation and to our Board of the late Professors Quentin Rae-Grant and Cyril Greenland.

Our Board will certainly miss Jamie's good-natured enthusiasm and profound dedication!



FoCA information booth at Queen Street for CAMH's educational fair, 26 June 2008. (L. to R.) Cyril Greenland (1919-2012), Thelma Wheatley, Shirley Morriss, Syd Jones.



2020 Rendezvous with Madness Festival

FESTIVAL RUN: 15-25 October 2020

FILM: *Les heures heureuses (Our Lucky Hours)*

DIRECTED BY: Martine Deyres

COUNTRY: France / Switzerland / Belgium

TRAILER: <https://youtu.be/x7H7XihsKF0>

Join us at this year's Rendezvous With Madness festival for the virtual screening of *Les heures heureuses (Our Lucky Hours)* directed by Martine Deyres. This film program will be available for online viewing Mon, Oct 19, 8:45pm - Wed, Oct 21, 8:45pm.

Weaving recently discovered archival materials with current interviews, this captivating documentary presents the instigators of such unconventional approaches between 1936 and the mid-1970s: Spanish Dr. Tosquelles, a communist persecuted by Franco, and his colleague Lucien Bonaffé, both pioneers of 'institutional psychology'. They emphasized social and cultural activities that supported patients in different ways – a fruitful approach that has since fallen out of favour, but which was also a source of inspiration for surrealists like Paul Éluard, Art Brut pioneer Jean Dubuffet and trailblazer of de-colonisation theories, Frantz Fanon. Although over 45,000 psychiatric patients died in French hospitals between 1939-1945; *Les heures heureuses* is a testament and urgent appeal to apply courageousness and inventiveness in today's mental health healing spaces.

Ticket and further event information can be found on the Workman Arts website: <https://workmanarts.com/rwm-events/les-heures-heureuses/>



New Markers At The Lakeshore Cemetery

By Edward Janiszewski

In January 2019, Ms. Ellen Philp sought information about the resting place of Lemuel Burkett at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery, intending to have a marker placed on his grave. In researching the history of the Sugar Lake region Ms. Philp learned that "Mr. Burkett was a resident farmer of nearby Orrville from 1935 to 1957. Mr. Burkett was a direct descendant of American slaves who had traveled northward to the Dresden, ON area and had been part of Josiah Henson's community of New Dawn. Many of the original residents have left fond memories of him helping them with their properties, building structures, and amusing the local children with rides on the back of his horse-drawn wagon. He was hardworking and honest."

The Sugar Lake Residents' Association collectively raised the funds necessary to provide a marker at the Lakeshore Cemetery for Mr. Burkett. Ms. Philp is planning to write a more thorough history for publication. After negotiations and planning, a marker was placed on his grave in June 2020. This is the first new marker since 1973!

The Last Post Fund (1), a national not-for-profit organization submitted an article about its work in the October 2019 issue of the OHS Bulletin. It described their mandate "to ensure that no Veteran is denied a dignified funeral and burial, as well as a military headstone, due to lack of funds at their time of death". Founded in 1909, it has served some 15,000 Veterans from Canada and Allied countries. Upon reading

about this organization, I contacted the organization about the likely possibility of WW1 veterans having been buried at the Lakeshore Cemetery. With the assistance of Ed Pahud, Executive Director and Serge St. Martin, Counsellor, a researcher was assigned to scour the 1,511 names for possible veterans.

Ms. Judy Stockham devoted countless hours searching the Library and Archives Canada website (2) for the WW1 Veterans' information to authenticate their service and even sought out records in England regarding a veteran. Her research has uncovered 23 men who had served – 19 of whom do not have a grave marker. Arrangements in coordination with Infrastructure Ontario to install 23 markers are in progress. It is hoped that they will be installed by the end of October in time for a dedication ceremony during the week of Remembrance Day, November 2020. The veterans' names and links are available at the CAMH Archives.

As the privacy restrictions for WW2 Veterans' information permit future release, it is hoped that they, too may receive dignified recognition at the Cemetery with their own markers.

(1) The Last Post Unmarked Grave Program:

<https://www.lastpostfund.ca/EN/UGP.php>

(2) The Library and Archives Canada WW1 Veteran Records:

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/personnel-records.aspx>

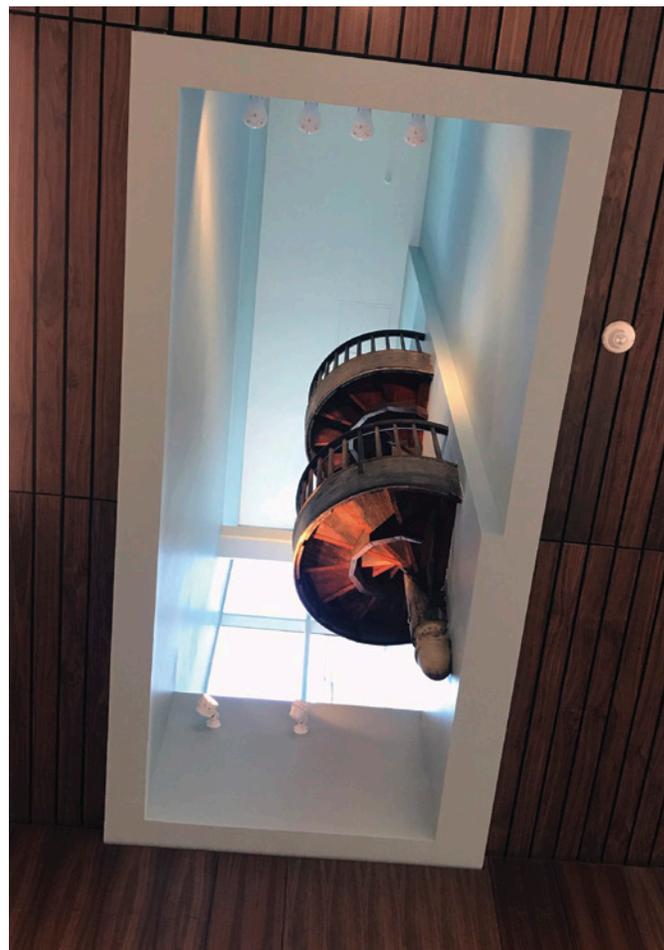


Restoration and Installation of the Historic Asylum's Spiral Stair (1850)

As announced in our previous editions, CAMH's iconic Spiral Stair preserved from the original, 1850 Asylum has now been restored and installed in CAMH's Crisis and Critical Care Building – soon to be opened for active service. This unique feature had been imaginatively designed by the asylum's architect, John G. Howard for providing interior access to the lookout cupola at the dome's peak.

In 1976, one-half of the stair was installed with a plaque in Queen Street's Paul Christie Community Centre ("the mall"). This now-permanent location continues the soaring-above perspective of the two previous locations, while still brightly visible from the main lobby below.

CAMH Education's Andrew Johnson who took this photo has eloquently added: "I was thrilled to see the inspired placement of the staircase: at the peak of the building in a skylight. It beautifully echoes the placement of the original staircase in the dome of the original asylum. In doing so it creates a tangible connection to the original intention of the asylum as a place of refuge for people who are in need of care and safety, and brings that ideal forward into the 21st century."



The Great White Squirrels of CAMH

By Sean O'Malley, Senior Writer – CAMH

When Sarnia, Ontario native Brandon Vickerd moved to Toronto's west end 16 years ago, he didn't know much about CAMH. But as the professional sculptor explored his new neighbourhood near West Queen West, he heard a lot about the legend of the white squirrel.



Photo courtesy of the sculptor and CAMH Public Affairs, 2020

“That was one of my first experiences of Toronto, running into people and having conversations about whether we had seen the white squirrel,” says Vickerd, who is also a visual arts professor at York University. “It was a way of breaking down social barriers. I remember having conversations about the white squirrel with people I would have otherwise not been in contact with.”

The first-known, recorded archival mention of the white squirrels of CAMH's pre-merger Queen Street Mental Health Centre appeared in Oct., 1987 – now without an image or details. The next sighting was documented with a colour photo by a staff member in the early 1990s.

In the intervening years, the legend of the white squirrel became part of CAMH lore. It was believed by some that the possibly albino white squirrel—that had been sighted in the neighbourhoods immediately surrounding CAMH—was the only one in the world. When a grainy photo of what appeared to be a white squirrel electrocuted by power lines above nearby Trinity Bellwoods Park appeared in the media, some residents of West Queen West thought that was end of the legend.

Reports of the white squirrel's death, however, have turned out to be exaggerated. Turns out that there was not just one white squirrel in the neighbourhood, and that white squirrels do exist elsewhere in Canada and the United States. But by then the legend had taken on a life of its own. It became the unofficial “mascot” of CAMH. In 2006, CAMH named one of the new roads on the Queen street site, White Squirrel Way.

Flash-forward to the present and thanks to a winning design submitted by Vickerd to CAMH's Therapeutic Art Installation project for the third phase of the Queen Street Redevelopment Project, a six-foot tall sculpture of a white squirrel now permanently graces the new TD Commons

(formerly Shaw Park) at CAMH.

“If you are on the streetcar passing Queen Street West you will have the perfect eye-line to see it,” says Vickerd. “It really pops because it is so big and white and surrounded by all this greenery. I don't think anybody is going to be able to miss it.” The completed sculpture now situated in the TD Commons, made of bronze and granite, weighs over 5,000 kilograms.

Vickerd acknowledges that the statue will invariably become “selfie bait” for people who live in or are visiting the area or who are members of the CAMH community. He hopes it will become a wayfinding point in which people going for a night out in the area will say ‘Let's meet in the park by the white squirrel’.

While Vickerd respects the seriousness of the Therapeutic Art Installation project and its intent to foster an environment at CAMH conducive to patient recovery, he acknowledges that the very idea of making a large bronze statue with a white patina of a squirrel is inherently whimsical.

“The idea of erecting a monument, not to a historical figure but to a rodent, is kind of fantastic and absolutely ridiculous at the same time,” says Vickerd. “It is not a monument to squirrels of course, but to the way it has become a cultural touchstone in the community.”

While Vickerd does not have lived experience of mental illness himself, he has seen first hand the impact of mental illness on the people in his life.

“One of the most challenging aspects of mental illness in my experience is that sense of isolation. That feeling that you are going through something that no one else understands. You feel distanced from your community. I want this work of public art to be a touchstone between people – something that facilitates social cohesion and breaks down that sense of isolation.”



CAMH Archives photo, 2008

Hewton and Griffin Funding Awards to Support Archival Research in 2021

The Friends of the CAMH Archives (FoCA), dedicated to the history of Canadian psychiatry, mental health and addiction, have established two endowment funds. These endowments annually provide funding in memory of their late colleagues, Ms. E.M. (Lil) Hewton and Dr. John D.M. (Jack) Griffin, OC, MD, MA, FRCPC.

These funding awards will provide financial assistance to students, and others not necessarily associated with an academic institution, who propose to undertake archival research on an aspect of the history of mental health, including addiction, in Canada. The FoCA Board at its discretion may approve awards to a maximum of \$5,000 each.

There is no application form. Candidates are invited to submit a letter of intent, not exceeding 500 words, together with a budget and résumé, not later than November 30, 2020. These research awards are conditional on the recipients agreeing to submit progress reports within one year, and a final report including a financial synopsis within two years of receiving their financial allocation.

For examples of the archival research projects (formerly “Bursaries”) previously awarded, please refer to that feature as included in the SPRING editions of our past years’ Newsletters, indexed at: <https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/camh-library/camh-archives/friends-of-the-archives>

To apply for a 2021 award, please submit an application by the November 30, 2020 deadline to:

Sydney Jones – President, Friends of the Archives
CAMH, 1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4
Please note that electronic submissions are preferred, via:
John.Court@camh.ca



Dr. Charles K. Clarke and Margaret deVeber Clarke (née Andrews) at Hamilton, Ontario. Charles was serving, 1880-82, as Medical Assistant to the Superintendent of Hamilton Asylum. W. Farmer, Photographer, carte de visite No. 35, ca.1880. Clarke Family fonds, 2018 Accrual, File 8-2, CAMH Archives.

Friends of the CAMH Archives (FoCA)

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Membership Renewal Notice for 2021

New & renewal memberships and donations are preferred via our safe, secure, online partner:



www.canadahelps.org or by surface mail

Name: _____ Prefix: _____

Address: _____

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* Membership: \$30.00 or \$25.00 for students & seniors, on a calendar year basis (currently valid through Dec. 31, 2021)

* Donation: \$ _____ (optional, at your discretion) Total: \$ _____

** An Income Tax receipt will be provided for your membership remittance plus any additional donation.*

*Please consider remitting online or, alternatively, by mailing this form together with a cheque, payable to "Friends of the CAMH Archives"
Surface mailing address: Friends of the CAMH Archives, 1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4*