

# Friends of the Archives Newsletter

Vol.18, no.1, Spring 2010

## TIME CAPSULE, 1954 – 2009



*CAMH Vice-Chair, Michael Burns, Manager of Spiritual Care and Volunteers, Michael Taylor and FOA volunteer, Aden Roberts study the Archives' display of the Admin. Building's Time Capsule contents, installed in 1954 and supplemented in 1977. Photo: Sharon Kelly for CAMH Archives.*

The Administration Building's closing celebration on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 was an interesting afternoon. The Friends of the Archives (FOA) were well represented by Shirley Morriss, Sandy Macpherson, Syd Jones, Aden Roberts, John Court & myself.

Dr Garfinkel, soon-retiring CEO, welcomed everyone and introduced the panel:- Gaby Golea (Manager of Psychogeriatric Services), Lisa Brown (Workman Theatre Project Director), and myself, Vivienne Gibbs (retired Laboratory Manager).

We had fun talking about the old days, when I terrorized the Nursing staff (according to Gaby) and we three were CPR Instructors. I told a few carefully selected tales about my early years were like in the old Asylum

building – including the plays my theatre group put on in the Auditorium and the wondrous bread from the brick bake ovens. In the end we left them laughing.

Katie Soegtrop (Nursing, Volunteer, retired), Pauline Hill (Occupational Therapy Volunteer, retired) and I placed Volunteer Pins from different eras into the Time Capsule's 2009 supplementary collection.

There was a slide show of what many of the new buildings will look like, narrated by Michael Burns, CAMH Vice-Chair.

And, as is traditional at Queen Street and CAMH, a lively interchange and light refreshments were heartily enjoyed by all.

**Vivienne Gibbs**

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*A ground-breaking ceremony for the next phase of Queen Street's Redevelopment was held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The CBC's Andy Barrie traced the site's evolution from the original 1850 building to those anticipated in 2012. Photo: CAMH Archives.*

## “WORDS ON THE WALL”



*The former North Boundary Wall adjacent to Queen Street, about 1907, with the daughters of Head Groundskeeper William Strickland; courtesy of the Strickland family descendants and CAMH Archives.*

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the oldest southern section of the surviving Queen Street Site Boundary Walls. CAMH’s surviving walls and the two abutting Historic Workshop Buildings are protected through the City of Toronto’s Heritage Designation bylaw, enacted in 1996 under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and by the Heritage Easement Agreement subsequently concluded between CAMH and the City.

In the early 2000s, the Psychiatric Survivor Archives of Toronto (PSAT) conceived the idea of placing descriptive plaques along the extant, patient-built walls to the south, east and west of the property. The FOA has supported the proposal and attended planning meetings, offering ideas and practical support such as helping to record

available information by phoning a CAMH number: 416-535-8501, ext. 1530.

Six photos selected from the holdings of CAMH Archives, as well as two chosen by PSAT and a wall map suggested by Ed Janiszewski – each matched with texts – are in the final stages of costing, material selection, and proposed positioning. They will provide a self-guided tour of the site’s periphery to educate the public about the walls and the history of people within them.

During the PSAT-organized fundraising evening of Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Gladstone Hotel, artfully decorated bricks were auctioned. They were drawn from the 1956 Administration Building (recently demolished), including historic bricks pre-dating its construction that had been fired at the Mimico Correctional Centre brickworks.

### Ed Janiszewski

“**TABLE 7:** Structural Work Completed with Male Patient Labour at the Toronto Hospital for the Insane, 1871-1904”: notations reflect that in 1889, “*Boundary walls, 1600 to 3000 feet [in length], average 16 feet in height*” were built. Under “Estimated Outlay Saved” – “*tens of thousands of dollars saved*”.

These quotes from Superintendents Workman and Clark refer specifically to savings as a direct result of inmate labour. (*Remembrance of Patients Past*, by Geoffrey Reaume. Oxford University Press, 2000, reprinted U.T.P., 2009, p.147, 149.)



## President's Message

Since my last report we have set up an Acquisitions Fund to benefit the Archives. We made an original donation and all contributions would be most gratefully received.

Although our investments in the present climate have not done well, we have managed to award one Hewton and one Griffin Bursary for 2010.

We made a contribution as usual to the Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival. Our film this year was a very interesting documentary on E.C.T. It was well attended and was followed by an excellent panel discussion.

We have also made a contribution to the fund for Wall Plaques to commemorate the labour of inmates in the farming, grounds work and upkeep of the original Asylum.

This will be the first newsletter in the new internet format. Printed copies will now go only to paid-up members who prefer one, reducing the newsletter print run by at least 70%. (The final killer was the postage.)

By the time you read this we should be well into spring and then SUMMER!  
Have a good one.

**Vivienne Gibbs**

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### *Hewton and Griffin Bursaries*

#### **Lucas Richert – Hewton Bursary**

Lucas has been a student at the School of Advanced Study (Institute for the Study of the Americas), in the University of London, U.K., now finishing his program at the University of Saskatchewan. He has submitted his dissertation on *Pills, Politics and the Food and Drug Administration During the Reagan Years*. He plans firstly to examine asylums in Upper Canada during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and, secondly, to focus on two asylums in Saskatchewan in the 1950s, Weyburn and North Battleford. Lucas has been a lecturer in Government and Politics at the University of Portsmouth, U.K., and a Historical Researcher and Copy-editor for the Literary Encyclopaedia, U.K., for which he still serves part-time.

#### **Michael Da Silva – Griffin Bursary**

Michael is a degree student in the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. His prior university study included King's College, Halifax (B.A.), Stanford U., and the CEGEP Marie-Victorin, Montreal.

Michael's research project will examine the impact of the Community Mental Health movement (notably the CMHA) in Canadian institutions, focussing on Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Mental Health Services' "Nicholls Building," committed to the movement in the late 1970s.



## Archivist's Update

by John Court

### Collective Memories from the Queen Street Admin. Building, 1954 to 2009:

As reported in the last issue, CAMH's former Administration Building will be superseded by new structures, roadways and landscaping that will comprise Phase 1B of the Redevelopment Project; please see details at < [www.camh.net](http://www.camh.net) >. Along with documents and photographs, selected historic artifacts have been re-displayed as temporary exhibits; others are securely stored to integrate with the new structures after 2012. The "collective memory" contents of our 1954 Time Capsule have been supplemented, and preserved for re-enclosing in a future time capsule which will be integrated into one of the new structures.

**Archives Interns:** I would like to acknowledge and personally thank two current Archives Interns for their volunteer contributions. Nana Robinette (photo, right) has been processing the historic materials of CAMH's President-CEO Office, dating up

to the retirement last year of Dr Paul Garfinkel, O.C. Also included are extensive academic materials from Paul's postgraduate residency at U. of T. and his pioneering specialty studies on eating disorders. Nana was recently appointed to the Archives of Ontario's regular staff, following which we were joined by Adrienne Coffey, a master's student in Archival Studies at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information.



### Web Version of this Newsletter:

The FOA newsletter has been uploaded as a link on the CAMH web site:

[http://www.camh.net/About\\_CAMH/Guide\\_to\\_CAMH/Information\\_Services/guide\\_friend\\_archives.html](http://www.camh.net/About_CAMH/Guide_to_CAMH/Information_Services/guide_friend_archives.html)

This link also provides a digital archive of links to the four preceding issues of the newsletter.

### Friends of the Archives

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 1001 Queen St. W., Toronto, ON M6J 1H4.

Tel: 416-535-8501 x 2159; fax: 416-583-1355; e-mail: < Friends\_Archives@camh.net >  
or < John\_Court@camh.net >.

### Board Members:

Vivienne Gibbs (President), Carol Hopp, Edward Janiszewski (Recording Secretary), Shirley Morriss, (Newsletter Co-editor), Aden Roberts, Thelma Wheatley (Newsletter Co-editor).

**Friends' Support People:** Yves Boissel, John McClellan, Marshall Swadron.

**CAMH Liaison:** John Court, Syd Jones.

## Hewton and Griffin Bursaries for Archival Research in 2011

The Friends of the Archives at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), devoted to the history of Canadian psychiatry, mental health and addictions, have established two endowment funds. These funds annually provide bursaries in memory of their late colleagues, Ms. E.M. (Lil) Hewton and Dr. J.D.M. (Jack) Griffin, O.C.

The main purpose of the bursaries is to 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 or addictions in Canada. The FOA board at its discretion may approve bursaries to a maximum of \$2,500.

There is no application form. Candidates are invited to submit a letter of intent not exceeding 300 words, together with a budget and résumé, not later than November 30, 2010. These awards are conditional on the bursary holders agreeing to submit progress reports within one year, and a final report including a financial synopsis within two years of receiving the bursary.

Please submit an application for the year 2011 by the November 30th, 2010 deadline to:

Vivienne Gibbs, Pres. – Friends of the Archives  
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
1001 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4

Or by e-mail: John\_Court@camh.net



Occupational Therapy Studio – Queen Street Administration Building, 1959

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### Membership Renewal Notice for 2010

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\* **Membership:** \$ 20.00 (valid through December 31, 2010)

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

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* **An Income Tax receipt will be provided for your membership remittance plus any further donation.**  
Please complete and mail this form together with a cheque, payable to “Friends of the Archives”

**Please remit:** Friends of the CAMH Archives, 1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4