



# *Archival Connections*

*Newsletter of the Catholic Archivist Group*

Volume 5, Number 1

**February 2008**

**From the Chair – Éloi DeGrâce** (Archdiocese of Edmonton Archives)



Last November, Cardinal Marc Ouellet published an open letter to the Catholics of Quebec in which he reflected on Quebec's religious heritage. He wrote: "The Catholic Church has no lack of exemplary figures that have marked our society's history. Secular people, men and women, religious people, have left behind memorable traces, a precious heritage in the fields of health, education and evangelism." The Cardinal further stated that "a just and enlightened exam of our past" would help nourish our pride and confidence in the future.

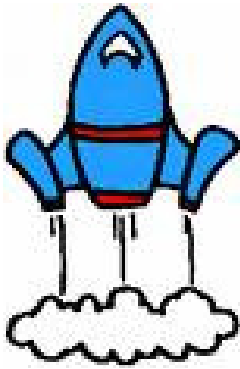
In my opinion, the "enlightened exam of our past" can only be achieved by consulting documents of historical value in our archives with the assistance of archivists.

In our task as archivists, we often wish that those before us had kept more documents on local "exemplary figures" that have marked our society. One does not need to be an "old person" to have known or met such people. In fact, we encounter many such good and faithful stewards who are a source of inspiration for us and for others. Researchers can only hope that our archives preserve the memory of their work and activities. On rare occasions, archivists are also proud to share with researchers documents that bear testimony to the spirituality, faith and devotion of these "exemplary figures" that have impacted our lives.

On May 18, 2005, Cardinal Ruini, Vicar General of the Diocese of Rome, signed the Edict which opened the cause of sainthood of the late Pope John Paul II. With this document, the Cardinal asked the faithful to communicate "any information that could be favourable or contrary to the fame of holiness" of John Paul II. Cardinal Ruini is looking for evidence in support of a reputation for holiness in "any manuscripts, diaries, letters, and the personal writings" of John Paul II.

What kind of documents do we need to keep concerning our local “exemplary figures” among the deceased priests and religious of our diocesan and/or religious communities? The same kind needed for the beatification of a Pope, i.e. “any manuscripts, diaries, letters and personal writings.” Only with an abundance of such documents on file can historians undertake an “enlightened exam of our past”.

**Blast off! Something to brag about!**



# CAG Website Launched!

Our thanks to Jo-Anne Allison and Mag-Net for the fine teamwork! Log in to [www.catholicarchivist.ca](http://www.catholicarchivist.ca) today!

**Diane Kelly** (*Keewatin / The Pas Archives*)

Going to the Montreal CAG convention was very rewarding for me. That was my first CAG experience and I was a bit apprehensive, but I met some really nice people who made me feel part of the group. I’ve been in contact with a few of you since, and you have been able to answer my questions or direct me to the proper sources. Thank you!!! We have a wealth of knowledge among our group and the connections we make at gatherings (such as our conferences) are often more beneficial than we sometimes realize.



Charlebois chapel

At the present time, our diocese is looking at opening up the Bishop Charlebois Heritage Museum. It's the little chapel that Bishop Charlebois built here in The Pas in 1897. It has been restored and now awaits materials for the Museum which will be displayed inside. You can imagine how surprised I was in Montreal, to talk to Sister Thérèse Bilodeau m.o. of the Saint Boniface Diocese, and to realize that she had met Bishop Charlebois when she was 4 years old. She is now working on an article which will become part of our historical display.

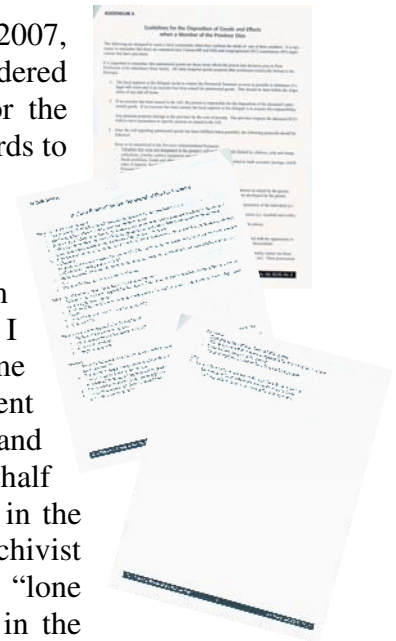
Currently our diocese serves 49 missions in Northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba and one mission in Northwestern Ontario. Please visit our website at [www.dioceseofkeewatinlepas.ca](http://www.dioceseofkeewatinlepas.ca) if you would like more information about the diocese.

Since I now have your attention, I would like to ask for your help. Father Jacques Monet is already helping us look for what we need, but I'm going to take a chance and open it up to all members of the CAG. Our diocese has an extensive stamp collection, and we are looking for a **reliable** stamp collector (philaterist) who would be available to evaluate and appraise our collection. Do you have anyone to refer? Please let me know by email at [archives@keepas.ca](mailto:archives@keepas.ca) so that I can contact him/her. Expenses could be covered by the diocese. I look forward once again to seeing many of you at the conference in Edmonton next September.

### **Archival Guidelines - Wayne Jenkins, SCJ** (*Sacred Heart Province Archives*)

With the death of Rev. Charles Kelly, SCJ, on September 23, 2007, the Provincial Council at their meeting from October 15–16, wondered whether there were policies regarding what should be kept for the archives following an SCJ's death. Policies were in place in regards to the contents of the personnel file that is kept at the Provincialate Offices, however, there weren't any guidelines in regard to one's personal effects. I was requested to research what other religious congregations have done, so I contacted several archivists from the Catholic Archivist Group who shared their policies with me. I presented these policies to the Provincial Council along with some examples of how I presently deal with personal effects. The present policy takes into consideration what things need to be saved and who makes decisions regarding how items are dispersed. On behalf of the priests of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the US Province, I wish to thank the members of the Catholic Archivist Group who helped in the creation of these guidelines. As a "lone ranger" in our archives, I know that I have wonderful friends in the profession.

For a copy of the pictured article contact [provarch@poshusa.org](mailto:provarch@poshusa.org)



### **An Archival Tidbit from "Crafting your own Heritage Album" by Bev Kirschner Braun**

Lignin is a chemical compound which is largely responsible for the strength and rigidity in plants. Its presence in paper, however, is believed to be a contributing factor in chemical deterioration. Paper with less than one percent lignin is considered to be lignin-free. Lignin has also been proven to be more harmful to photographs than acid.

## New Members – CAG is a “growing concern”!



**Marie-Andrée Fortier** – Archives des Ursulines de Québec

**Yvette Gareau** – Prince Albert RC Diocesan Archives

**Diane Kelly** – Archdiocese of Keewatin/Le Pas

**Richard McQuade** – St. Michael’s College School Archive

**Magdalen Stengler, OSU** – Ursuline Sisters of Prelate, SK

## Logo – **Monica Plante, SCIC** (*Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception Archives*)

One suggestion would be to use the logo from this newsletter for the website with the addition of the words, Catholic Archivist Group. (see attached illustration)

(Editor’s note: Remember that the logo contest is still underway. Your suggestions will be announced in this newsletter, and there’s still the prize of a free membership up for grabs, so keep on thinking!)



## Outreach Committee Report – **Jo-Anne Allison** (*Diocese of Prince George*)



Who would have thought that just a year and a half after the Outreach Committee began looking into the possibility of a website, we would see the launching of our very own Catholic Archivist Group website?!

I wish I could say that this has been due to extremely hard work and diligence on our part, but really the truth must be told – the realization of the CAG website is due to lots of conversations resulting in valuable input from everyone, but mostly it has been lots of fun! Also, credit for the development of the

graphics for the site must be given to Pam Liu of [www.Mag-Net.com](http://www.Mag-Net.com) , who took all of our comments and concerns and designed a fantastic site for us.

At our Annual General Meeting in Montreal in 2007 we discussed various options for software and features which we wished to have included in a future site. Outreach was given the mandate to implement these suggestions by a resolution from the CAG AGM, and our hope was to have a site on-line by Christmas 2007. Some minor glitches hampered our initial work, however, which moved the projected completion date to early 2008.

Mag-Net created a basic static site which has allowed us to have a fully functioning and attractive site at a reasonable cost and in a relatively short time frame. The site will be maintained and updated by Mag-Net on a quarterly basis, but special updates may be done at any time. Prospective members will be able to find out about our organization and have an e-mail contact for more information. Should they decide to join or renew their membership, it will be possible to print out a membership application form and mail it directly to the Secretary.

Other features include the Events page which will feature information about prospective Annual Meetings, the password protected membership directory, and a photos page. Eventually all of our publications will be accessible to the general public in .pdf format.

Mag-Net and their designer, Pam Liu, have proven to be a highly customer conscious company. Pam has been attentive to deadlines and extremely patient when things didn't work smoothly from our end. In addition, Pam is anxious to have the site suit us and our needs.

As a full-service web provider and design company, Mag-Net understands that our needs may change in the future. Pam and I have already discussed the possibility that CAG may wish to have a higher level of user interactivity than the existing site affords, and it will be possible to integrate new software into our site whenever we decide our requirements change.

The design of the site was greatly assisted by the adoption of a provisional logo at the Montreal meeting. Unfortunately, the "provisional" nature of our design also caused a few problems. Pam was initially hesitant to design a site around a logo that had not been adopted as permanent. However, after a number of discussions, Pam decided to choose colours that compliment and harmonize rather than simply emulate the "provisional" logo palette. We felt this worked very well giving us a visually striking and richly textured site.

Websites are by their nature works in progress, and we welcome comments and suggestions on design and content. We would like to thank Sister Gayle Desarmia, sp and Éloi DeGrâce for all their help and involvement as Ex-Officio members of the

Outreach Committee. We hope you enjoy the site and that you love it as much as we do. See you at [www.catholicarchivist.ca](http://www.catholicarchivist.ca) !!!!!

## Edmonton 2008 – Diane Lamoureux *(Planning Committee Chair / OMI Grandin Archives)*



Edmonton is probably best known for two things – West Edmonton Mall and the Edmonton Oilers, but there is far more to the City than shopping and hockey. In preparation for your trip to CAG 2008, I have prepared a summary of historical information on the City of Edmonton, and of course, the Catholic Church. I have used various sources to draft this document, and will be glad to share a bibliography with anyone who may have an interest in reading more.

### Edmonton – a (very) Brief History

Edmonton was established as a Hudson’s Bay Company Fort in 1795. The original location of the Hudson’s Bay Fort was on the north side of the North Saskatchewan River approximately where the Alberta Legislature Building sits today. The original Fort was torn down many years ago, but the re-creation was built along the River starting in 1969. Later other buildings were moved to the Fort grounds and early Edmonton Streetscapes were created. Today, Fort Edmonton includes the Fort, 1885 Street, 1905 Street and 1920 Street.

By 1892, Edmonton had a population of 700, and was incorporated as a town.

In 1897, the discovery of gold in the Yukon (Klondike) had a huge impact on the town of Edmonton. It was a major stopping and provisioning point for those going to the goldfields. The population increased by 6 times during this period.

In 1904, with a population of 8,350, Edmonton became a city. The next year, 1905, the Province of Alberta joined Confederation, and Edmonton was named the Provincial Capital in 1906.

The discovery of oil in 1947 (Leduc No. 1) to the southwest of the city had a huge impact on the economic development of the city, and to this day, the economic impact is still felt. More recent work in the Athabasca tar sands (Northeastern Alberta) have also had an impact on the city of Edmonton – it is still a major access point for the goods and people going to and from the Fort McMurray area and the oil industry..

Today, the population of the metro area of Edmonton is over 1,000,000. In 2007, it was the Cultural Capital of Canada, and is often referred to as “Festival City” because of its large array of festivals celebrated each year (over 30). Among the best known are: **The Fringe Theatre Festival**, which runs every August and is one of the largest of its type in the world, as well as being the oldest in Canada, the **Capital Ex** (formerly Klondike Days), the **Street Performers Festival**, and the **Folk Music Festival**. Edmonton is also known for **West Edmonton Mall**, the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the world.

## **The Early Catholic Missionaries**

The Catholic Church and its various religious communities had a great deal to do with the settlement and development of the Province of Alberta.

The first Catholic Missionaries (Fathers Blanchet and Demers – both Diocesan priests) traveled through what is now Alberta in 1838 – stopping at Fort Edmonton and other major Forts along the way.

In 1842, another diocesan priest, Father Jean-Baptiste Thibault left the Red River Country to travel west – and also stopped in Fort Edmonton. He continued to travel through the west, performing baptisms and marriages in many locations, before he returned to Red River. In 1844, a second diocesan priest, Father Joseph Bourassa, left St. Boniface to head west. He too made a stop at Fort Edmonton before continuing to Manito Sakahigan (Spirit Lake) where he established the Mission known as Lac Ste. Anne. Father Thibault returned later that year to help with the building efforts.

Meanwhile, the Missionary Oblates arrived in Canada in 1842, at the request of the Bishop of Montreal, and started their trek west and north shortly thereafter. They arrived in St. Boniface in 1845, and by 1847, a young Father Alexandre Taché had established a Mission at what is now Ft. Chipewyan in Northeastern Alberta.

By 1852, Father Albert Lacombe, initially a diocesan priest, arrived at Lac Ste. Anne. He invited an Oblate, Father René Rémas, to come from Lac la Biche as his Novice Master. Father Lacombe took his vows as an Oblate in 1856.

In 1859, Father Lacombe, OMI built the first Chapel in Fort Edmonton – St. Joachim. It was later used as the first school in Alberta. The current site for St. Joachim, its third, is located not far from the Alberta Legislature Building.

In 1861, Alexandre Taché, OMI, now Bishop of St. Boniface, visited the territory, and he and Father Lacombe, OMI stopped on a hill near the Sturgeon River north of Fort Edmonton and decided to build a new mission there - to be known as St. Albert, after Father Lacombe's Patron Saint. The old mission building is still standing – it is the oldest wooden building in Alberta and operates as a Provincial Historic Site from May to September.

In 1871, another Oblate, Father Vital Justin Grandin, OMI was named Bishop of the new See of St. Albert. By this time, the majority of Catholic missionaries working in Alberta were Oblates, and they had established missions and parishes in every part of the Province. The Bishops and Vicars Apostolic were also all Oblates until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Numerous communities and other geographic features in Alberta are named after these missionaries, including: Lacombe, Grouard, Jousard, St. Albert, Vegreville, Leduc, Legal, Falher, Desmarais,

Father Emile Legal, OMI succeeded Mgr. Grandin, OMI as Bishop of St. Albert in 1902, and became the first Archbishop of Edmonton in 1912 when the See was moved to Edmonton.

The Women Religious arrived soon after the Missionary Priests, with the Grey Nuns coming first to Lac Ste. Anne and shortly afterwards, moving to the newly established mission at St. Albert. Other religious communities of women followed soon afterwards, including the Sisters of Providence, Sisters of Assumption, Filles de Jesus, and many others.

These Catholic Missionaries, both men and women, were responsible for establishing hospitals, schools, newspapers and printing, radio, and many cultural organizations (especially Francophone). They were working with the Aboriginal communities throughout Alberta before the Reserves were established and continued on to provide education, healthcare, and spiritual assistance.

Today, the documentary heritage created by these missionaries is valued by all sorts of researchers – especially genealogists, academics, authors, historians and linguists. I can proudly say that the Oblate Archives is one of the largest and most-used private collections at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

For further tourism information on the City of Edmonton, please visit the Edmonton City Webpage at: [www.edmonton.com/tourism/](http://www.edmonton.com/tourism/)

### **Databases: their value and place in Archives Research: the case of Prince George – Jo-Anne Allison (*Prince George Archives*)**



When I first accepted the position of Archivist for the Diocese of Prince George I discovered numerous paper lists containing information about the priests and religious who have served and are serving in the Diocese. I further discovered that these lists were produced from a number of electronic databases, most of which were unusable due to changes in computer hard and software. Typically the lists contain the names, religious name, place of residence, dates of service and position or job in the community for all those who have served in the Diocese since its creation. In the case of priests, their order, the nature of their appointment and when and where they performed marriages, baptisms and burials is also included.

The Diocese of Prince George covers a large area but is much smaller geographically than when priests and religious first came to minister to this area. Initially the Diocese included all of northern British Columbia and Yukon and was administered out of the port city of Prince Rupert. By the early 1900's many parishes and missions had been established and a number of priests served as itinerant or traveling missionaries to the camp dwellers along the railway line, to miners along the creeks and to First Nations peoples living outside of established towns.

As is the case with many Archives, my most frequently asked questions concern people – who they were, where they served and what they did when they lived there. Therefore the need to preserve the data contained in these paper lists is paramount. Unfortunately, in the past no effort was made to amalgamate the various lists into one searchable system. Equally unfortunate is the fact that most of the data is stored on old fashioned and unusable floppy disks. While I am thankful that a previous Archivist had the foresight to make paper copies of all the materials and no data has been lost, there is no denying that the paper lists are cumbersome, unwieldy and time consuming to use.

The one exception to this bleak picture is the priests' database, which was converted to Microsoft Access a number of years ago and which has been updated and maintained over the years. This database proves just how valuable the paper-list information is to researchers.

Many of you are familiar with the “Dictionnaire Biographique des Oblats de Marie Immaculée au Canada” which is an incredibly valuable resource given the Oblate history of the Diocese of Prince George. However, Prince George’s priest database has proven that this wonderful resource is incomplete or inaccurate as regards certain individuals. For example, according to the “Dictionnaire”, Fr Honorius Rivet, OMI served in Dawson City, Yukon from 1911 to 1914 while our database has him in Whitehorse for the whole of 1912. Investigation of correspondence files for those years has substantiated that our database is correct. Thus, because of the priests’ database, researchers can know of Fr Rivet’s valuable contribution to Whitehorse’s development!

Another example of the usefulness of the priests’ database to historical research concerns Fr Gottfried Eichelsbacher, OMI and Fr A. Godfrey, OMI. Entries in the database were traced back to the manuscript records with the result that these two prolific priests were proven to be the same person!

Who knows what other stories will be told and what other mysteries solved when the data in the other paper lists is finally computerized and accessible. There is no doubt that access to this information will not only complement but will also enrich the quality of historical research about the Diocese of Prince George.

### **Sojourn in Windsor – Sue Malette** (*SNJM Archives*) & **Wayne Jenkins**, (*SCJ Archives*)

A year ago on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Third Sunday of Advent, Rose-Marie, Sue and Wayne met in Montreal to plan the CAG Conference. This year on the Feast of the Holy Family, we met in Windsor to celebrate our anniversaries in religious life: 50 years as a RHSJ, (*Rose-Marie Dufault*) 50 years as a SNJM (Sue Malette) and 40 years as a SCJ (Wayne Jenkins). This was a good time to reconnect from where we left off last September at Villa St. Martin.



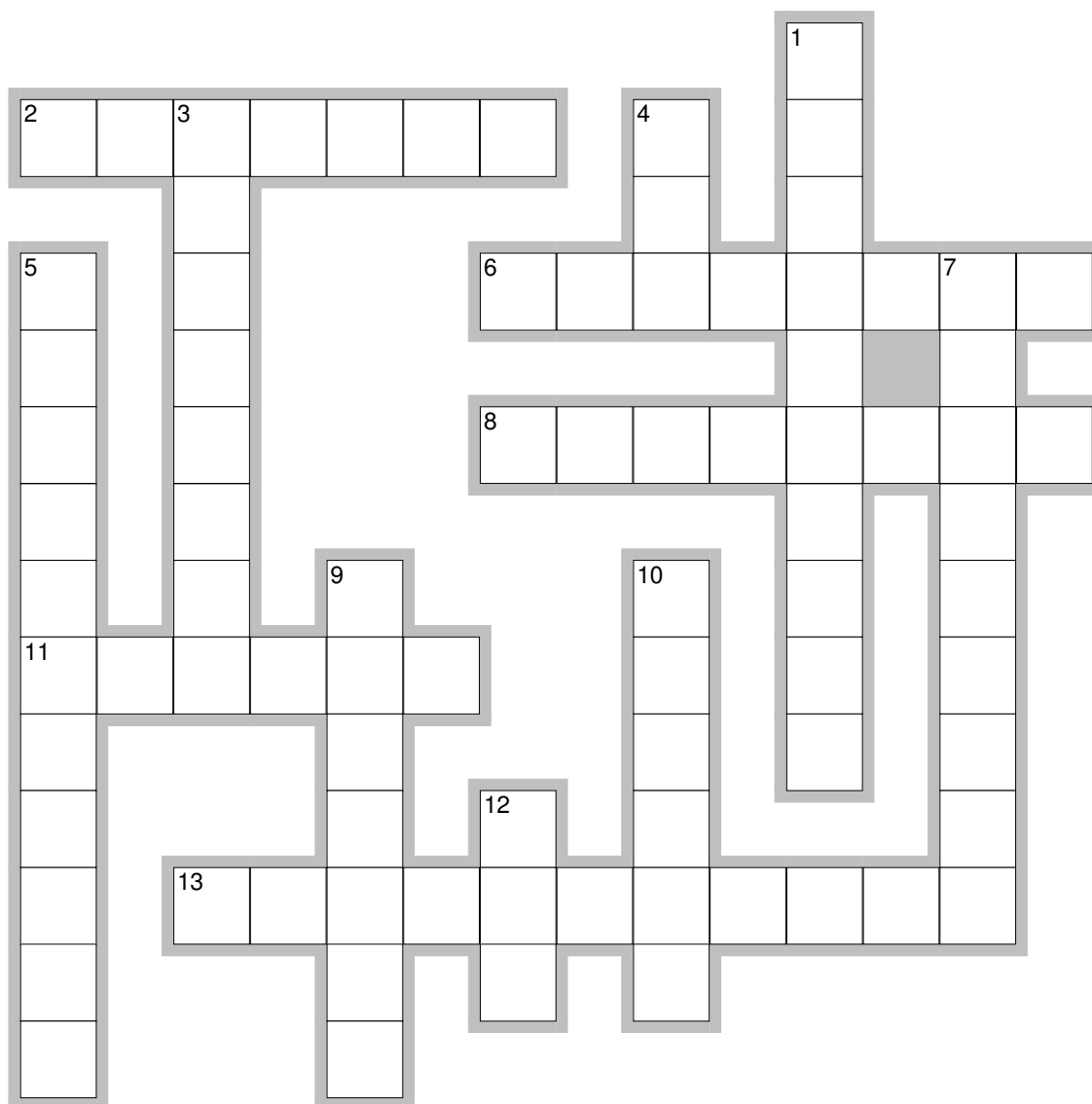
We met first at Sue's apartment that was decked with its holiday apparel overlooking the Detroit River. Her dining table was graced with many delicious hors d'oeuvres. As we shared stories, we enjoyed these home-made delicacies. Before leaving the Lion's Manor for dinner, Sue gave us a tour of these marvelous facilities. For our anniversary dinner, we drove to the Pomegranate Restaurant where we received a royal welcome from the owners who knew Sue very well. Each of us chose a Chinese entrée which we shared.

The evening was capped off with a tour of the SNJM Windsor Mission Centre on Randolph where Colleen Duffy and Sue moved the SNJM archives last April. Sue showed us the spacious basement archives room, the office and the storage/work room. We retired to the second floor of the administrative building where we shared our hopes and dreams as wells as our concerns for the future of our religious archives.

This whole sojourn in Windsor was a real shot in the arm, full of encouragement to follow "our hearts".

# CAG Crossword

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## ACROSS

2. Québec's Cardinal
6. 2007 CAG Conference venue
8. Committee in charge of Communications
11. Keynote speaker at Montreal Conference
13. Stamp Collector?

## DOWN

1. Small chapel built by a Bishop
3. Venue for our 2008 Conference
4. Doing the CAG Crossword is -
5. The "Exam of our Past" should be -
7. Grouard-McLennan is still looking for one
9. [www.catholicarchivist.ca](http://www.catholicarchivist.ca) for example
10. Our website designer
12. Mag-Net contact person

## Archivist wanted – Urgent 2<sup>nd</sup> Appeal!

The **Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan** is still in need of a full-time permanent Archivist to begin work by Spring 2008. Anyone interested in applying for the position should contact the following for a copy of the job description:

The Chancellor  
Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan  
210, 1<sup>st</sup> Street West  
Box 388 McLennan, AB Canada – T0H 2L0  
Email: [jrjcmj@serbnet.com](mailto:jrjcmj@serbnet.com)

Upon receipt of the job description, please submit your resume in writing or by email, along with the names of three references, including your pastor, no later than March 1, 2008 in confidence to the address above.

*We thank all applicants; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

## From the editor's desk



No, my desk isn't as messy as the one pictured above, (well, almost), but I firmly believe that chaos and creativity go hand in hand in bringing about a sense of order. The fact that this newsletter has gone to press on time is evidence that I'm not doing this alone. Sincere thanks are due to those who contributed to this edition of the newsletter, especially those who so willingly and promptly answered my SOS when time was running out and the pickin's were slim. God bless and reward each of you! Submissions for the May 2008 issue of the newsletter are due "on my desk" by April 15<sup>th</sup>. I should be out from under by then!

## Publication Schedule

The newsletter is published three times a year: November, February and May. Deadlines for submissions to the newsletter are October 15, January 15, and April 15, respectively.

Email your news items, articles and photographs to Sister Laurette Couture, cssf at either [lcouture@mcsnet.ca](mailto:lcouture@mcsnet.ca) or [couture1939@hotmail.com](mailto:couture1939@hotmail.com) . All submissions will be subject to editing; however final approval from the author will be obtained where possible.

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### SOLUTION TO CAG CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
2. OUELLET	1. CHARLEBOIS
6. MONTREAL	3. EDMONTON
8. OUTREACH	4. FUN
11. HUNTER	5. ENLIGHTENED
13. PHILATERIST	7. ARCHIVIST
	9. WEBSITE
	10. MAGNET
	12. PAM