

ARCHIVES REPORT 2007

The annual meeting of the Anglican Archives Network for the Ecclesiastical Provinces of Canada and Ontario was held at the Ottawa Diocesan Archives on 3 and 4 November 2006. Seven dioceses were represented – Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Montreal, Ottawa, Ontario, Algoma and Toronto - as was the General Synod Archives. As usual, the opportunity for exchanging information, successes, failures and frustrations was greatly appreciated by all. A wide variety of topics were considered including clergy registers, Episcopal election and consecration certificates, websites, privacy policies, microfilm and digitization policies, electronic record issues, sound and moving image collections and ACPO record retention. There was also an update on the Residential Schools by the General Synod Archivist. A guided tour of the renovated parliamentary Library took place on Friday morning. On Friday afternoon there was a screening of "A Day in the Life of An Archivist" and in the evening there was the world premiere of "MISFILED: An Archival Murder Mystery". Both films were produced by the Ottawa Diocesan Archives and were greatly enjoyed. The 2007 meeting will be at the Toronto Diocesan Archives on 2 and 3 November and will bring together the diocesan archivist from all four ecclesiastical provinces for the first time in many years. The funding provided by the Province for travel each helps make it possible for diocesan archivists to attend these meetings and is greatly appreciated.

The Canadian Church Historical Society organized a conference on 19 June 2007 in Montreal on "Anglican Libraries in Canada". There were five papers and numerous written communications. This material will be published in 2008 in the *Journal of the Canadian Church Historical Society*. The subject of Anglican libraries in Canada is one that has been little explored and yet after Roman Catholic libraries they are among the oldest in the country. Records exist for clerical (Bray) libraries, episcopal libraries, college and school libraries, and private libraries, all of which deserve detailed scholarly study. It is hoped that the conference will stimulate research in this aspect of our heritage.

The Chancellor and the Prolocutor will present to Council a draft of a proposed Archives Policy for the Province. I commend it to you and we would welcome suggestions for amendments and improvements. The orderly preservation of the records of the acts and actions of the Province is important for both administrative and historical purposes. The history of the Province of Canada is still to be written.

Dr. Richard Virr
Provincial Archivist