

## ARCHIVES REPORT 2008

The annual meeting of the Anglican Archives Network took place in Toronto on Friday and Saturday, 2 and 3 November 2007 and was hosted by the Diocese of Toronto. This year the diocesan archivists from all four of the ecclesiastical provinces met together and at least sixteen dioceses were represented. The last time that there had been a national gathering of diocesan archivists was in 2001 at the conference celebrating the three-hundredth anniversary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, also in Toronto.

The 2007 meeting was preceded on 1 November by a half-day workshop on residential school records and the settlement agreement. This was an opportunity, particularly for those archivists whose dioceses had residential schools, to exchange information and to be updated on the latest developments.

On the evening of 1 November the Canadian Church Historical Society held its annual general meeting followed by a reception and dinner to which the archivists were invited. The guest speaker was the Primate, the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz. At the conclusion of his remarks, the Primate presented to Nancy Hurn, General Synod Archivist as the representative of all Anglican archivists, a certificate commending the work of the Church's archivists and their dedication to preserving the records that witness to the Church's history and mission.

Friday and Saturday were devoted to working through an agenda that covered a wide variety of topics. Among these were descriptive standards, electronic records (a perpetual topic of discussion and anxiety), retention schedules especially for administrative and financial records, and personnel records and privacy. These two days also provided many opportunities for each diocese to report activities, problems and successes.

Other business included a report from James Sweeny (Quebec) on the photographic archives of the SPG at Rhodes House, Oxford. The rumour had been that it was extensive and held views of many Canadian churches; the truth is that it is not extensive and does not hold much in the way of church views. There was also discussion of maintaining a proper register (in a bound volume) of the clergy in each diocese; the more and more common experience being that with the wide use of electronic databases for clergy records only current information is available and the records of clerical careers are disappearing into cyberspace.

Finally, there were tours of the St. James Cathedral, the archives and lunch, and of the General Synod archives with Archbishop Peers. The 2008 Canada / Ontario meeting will be in Fredericton.

As has been the case with every other annual meeting, what remains with one is the pleasure of having the opportunity to share with one's colleagues from all across the country information and successful programmes and the delights and frustrations of being a diocesan archivist.

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