

Friends of the Archives Newsletter

Vol. 19 no. 2, Fall 2011

Psychiatric Survivor Archives of Toronto (PSAT) wins a Community Heritage Award from Heritage Toronto



Don Weitz and Geoffrey Reaume display PSAT's Heritage Toronto citation and cheque. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Jackson)

About PSAT:

Founded in 2001, PSAT collects and preserves archival material created by those who have had, or are having, direct experience in psychiatric treatment. In collaboration with the CAMH Archives, PSAT began the plaque advocacy campaign in the

early 2000s so as to preserve and make known the history of the brick boundary walls built in the 1860s and 1880s at CAMH. In 2010, PSAT and CAMH unveiled nine plaques adjacent to the surviving perimeter walls, and an accompanying audio tour.

Geoffrey Reaume, Chair of PSAT, comments:

PSAT was a winner of a Community Heritage Award at the 2011 Heritage Toronto Awards ceremony, Oct .4. They also received a \$500 cheque and a very nice citation was read out at the event (see below) about the importance of preserving the history of the patient-built walls and creating plaques and an audio tour telling about the unpaid psychiatric labourers. Don Weitz accepted the award on the Archives' behalf and another PSAT board member, Kevin Jackson, recorded the event in photos while a third board member (me) cheered from the balcony.

Thanks again very much to CAMH Friends of the Archives for nominating PSAT for this award, which we are delighted to have received – an exciting night in our history, and a wonderful public acknowledgement from the wider community.

– Geoffrey Reaume

The Citation (excerpt)

The jury felt this group accomplished a lot with very little, using creative ways to fund-raise and make their cause known. The jury also commended the work of the Psychiatric Survivor Archives in recognizing the significant contributions that a marginalized community has made to the City's fabric, shedding light on a little known dimension of Toronto's history.

NEW BOOKS

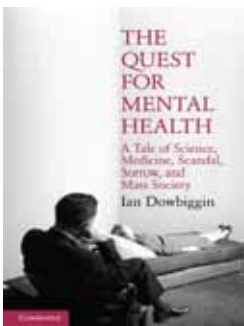
Dr. Jack Griffin and Prof. Cyril Greenland were first drawn together by their “shared passion” for the history of Canadian psychiatry. In the course of collaborative research, fearing that important material relating to the history of mental health might be lost or destroyed, they gradually accumulated studies, personal histories, artifacts, photographs, and whatever else they deemed of significance, to create a Documentary History of Canadian Psychiatry.

Their growing body of material necessitated a search for a permanent location for the collection and eventually in 1982 led to the establishment of the Archives for the History of Canadian Psychiatry and Mental Health Services, forming from 1998 a major component of the CAMH Archives. That the Archives is succeeding in its founders’ desire to create a valuable resource for researchers and authors is witnessed by the following recently published books in our fields of interest. Each author made use of the Archives for some part of his/her research.

Fine books such as these have tremendous scholarly and public interest. Our Archives and others serve a broad base of researchers’ requirements – academic coursework, research and publishing; journalism; organizational activities and records of past transactions; and independent study. In the repertoire of archival research that advances and conveys knowledge, along with the books outlined here we are especially pleased to support a continuing sequence of students’ theses, major papers and doctoral dissertations. New Ph.D. graduates who have recently completed the latter milestone, with the aid of a Hewton or Griffin Bursary as well as archival resources, include Doctors Jason Ellis (History, York U.), Krista Maxwell (School of Public Health, U. of Toronto) and Mary Okin (Canadian History & Women’s History, U. of Maine).

– Shirley Morriss and John Court

Ian Dowbiggin, *THE QUEST FOR MENTAL HEALTH: A Tale of Science, Medicine, Scandal, Sorrow, and Mass Society* (Cambridge University Press)



(Cover photo:
courtesy CUP)

In this thought-provoking book about society’s search for wellbeing, Ian Dowbiggin traces the development of the mental health movement in the West to its current absorption with consumerism and what he calls “therapism” – basically an exaggeration of the emotional challenges of everyday life, assumed to require expert help.

This attitude has triggered the rise of a loose coalition of psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, therapists, and lay “life coaches.” He was curious as to how many vested interest groups, from drug to insurance industries as well as patients and their families, now have a stake in the system

Dowbiggin does not deny that many suffering from mental illness have been helped by psychiatric drugs, but he claims that they are over-prescribed. The result is escalating health care costs threatening to bankrupt governments. He recalls that in the past people were expected to

deal with emotional problems by themselves and “get on with life”. Perhaps we need a “new stoicism,” he concludes, to “grin and bear it” with the same fortitude as our ancestors.

– *Thelma Wheatley*

Judith Friedland, ***RESTORING THE SPIRIT: The Beginnings of Occupational Therapy in Canada 1890 – 1930*** (McGill-Queen’s University Press)



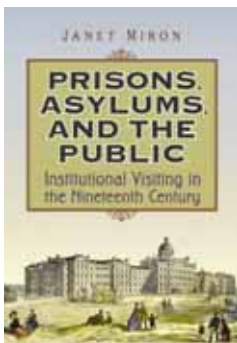
(Cover photo:
courtesy M-QUP)

Professor Emerita in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Judith Friedland illuminates the origins of occupational therapy in Canada and women’s role in this essential area of health care. Recognizing the needs of First World War soldiers convalescing from injuries and trauma, these pioneering “ward aides” used simple craft activities to raise their morale and self-esteem.

From this beginning they became involved in the Mental Hygiene, Arts and Crafts, and Settlement House movements, going on to establish professional associations and educational programs. Today, their important work is carried on in both rural and urban environments reaching those from different economic and ethnic backgrounds.

– *Aden Roberts*

Janet Miron, ***PRISONS, ASYLUMS, AND THE PUBLIC: Institutional Visiting in the Nineteenth Century*** (University of Toronto Press)



(Cover photo: UTP)

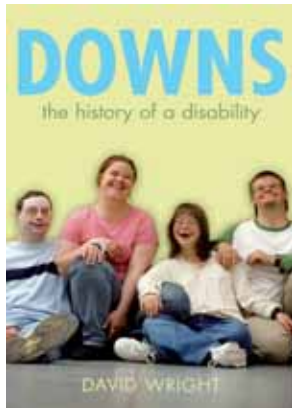
An assistant professor in the Department of History at Trent University, Janet Miron tells how the prisons and asylums of Canada and the United States were a popular destination for institutional tourists in the 19th century. Thousands of visitors entered their walls, recording and describing the interiors, inmates, and therapeutic and reformatory practices that they encountered, in letters, diaries, and articles. Surprisingly, the vast majority of these visitors were not medical or legal elites nor visitors of friends or relatives, but members of the general populace who were drawn for various reasons that the author explores.

The book argues that, rather than existing in isolation, these institutions were closely connected to the communities beyond their walls. Challenging traditional interpretations of public visiting, the author examines the implications and imperatives of visiting from the perspectives of officials, the public, and the institutionalized. Finding that institutions could be important centres of civic activity, self-education, and ‘scientific’ study, *Prisons, Asylums, and the Public* sheds new light on popular 19th century attitudes towards their insane and criminal inmates.

– *Carol Hopp*

David Wright, *DOWN'S: The History of a Disability* (Oxford University Press)

As explained by medical historian, David Wright, the last decades of the 20th century saw a “dramatic shift” in the relationship between individuals with Down’s Syndrome and society. He describes attempts to classify it as it slowly emerged from its long dark period. By the 1860s it was categorized by John Langdon-Down, largely on the basis of physical anomalies and intellectual shortcomings, as “Mongolism”, notably in his 1867 report, “Ethnic Classification of Idiocy”. The racial overtones inherent in the term diminished with the mid-20th century genetic discoveries of Jérôme Lejeune, leading to the charting of the human chromosome – and, in the case of Down’s Syndrome, to an extra copy of chromosome 21 – the answer to the puzzle.



Wright moves on to discuss the gradual efforts to lead Down’s Syndrome individuals from limited education and institutionalism to integration with the mainstream. Ethical issues, in particular relating to prenatal screening, still complicate the improvement. Yet it happens that many now live well into adulthood and, as Wright reports, are finding satisfying outlets for their social needs, such as employment, and even occasionally marriage.

– Shirley Morriss

(Cover photo: Courtesy OUP)

And to come in 2012:

Thelma Wheatley, *AND NEITHER HAVE I WINGS TO FLY: Labeled and Locked Up in Canada’s Oldest Institution — A True Story*
(Inanna Publications & Education Inc., York University)



Premier Dalton McGuinty opened the new \$100 million Research and Development wing of the multinational vaccine manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur in Toronto, June 22, 2011. On the occasion, author James FitzGerald, grandson of Dr. J.G. FitzGerald, the founder of the Connaught Laboratories in 1914 (now Sanofi Pasteur), presented a copy of his award-winning family memoir, "What Disturbs Our Blood" to the Premier.

Photo courtesy of Sanofi Pasteur

Workman Arts Presents:

19th Annual Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival

November 4 – 12, 2011

Featuring over 40 programs, works by over 100 artists in film, video, multi-media, visual arts, performance, sound poetry and music, with discussions involving panelists from the arts and mental health communities.

For further details see <http://www.rendezvouswithmadness.com/>

Between the Temporal and the Shadow

Installation by Raja Moussaoui at Workman Arts, Lower Hall, 651 Dufferin St.

Co-presented by CAMH Friends of the Archives and Workman Arts

Opening Reception: Monday, November 7th, 5 – 7 pm. **Please join us!**

Raja Moussaoui graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Masters of Architecture in Jan. 2011. The Friends of the CAMH Archives have been pleased to grant her a special exhibition bursary to help finance this installation, which focuses on the 19th century patient-built boundary walls at CAMH. The work attempts to reveal how the existence of the walls over time connects us emotionally and physically to a significant part of Toronto's history, allowing us the opportunity to reflect on issues surrounding mental illness, while appreciating the beauty that is expressed in life through built form.



Friends of the Archives

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Hewton and Griffin Bursaries for Archival Research in 2012

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 to 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, 2011. 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 2012 by the November 30th, 2011 deadline to:

Vivienne Gibbs, Pres. – Friends of the Archives
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M6J 1H4
Or by e-mail: John.Court@camh.net



During demolition in 1976 of the original Queen Street asylum structure, built 1846-50, a crane extracted the “flying staircase” for preservation as an artifact. Photo print: CAMH Archives, Queen Street fonds, 32-21.

Membership Renewal Notice for 2012

Name: _____ Prefix: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____

* **Membership:** \$ **20.00** (valid through December 31, 2012)

* **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

History Takes Root in a New CAMH Building

On August 22, 1846, 165 years ago, the cornerstone of the original 'Provincial Lunatic Asylum' was laid by the Honourable Chief Justice John Beverly Robinson. Over the next century and a half, various psychiatric institutions evolved on this Queen Street site; and in 1998, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health was established in this same location.

Today, there is yet another evolution underway on this site as three new buildings near completion and CAMH prepares to move in spring 2012.

In the June issue of this newsletter, we shared the new artwork that will adorn the lobbies of the Bell Gateway Building and Intergenerational Wellness Centre, which will also be reflected in way-finding and signage throughout the two buildings. Here, we share with you the visual theme for the Utilities and Parking Building – the history of CAMH.

The story of CAMH is the story of two centuries of Canadian mental health history in its every aspect, including attitudes towards addictions, mental health, the treatment of patients, the provision of services, patient community activism, and medical and civil community responsiveness.

This legacy will be prominently displayed as a photomontage of archival imagery, which will run approximately 80 linear feet throughout the main floor of this modern facility.

The 1868 photo of the 'Provincial Lunatic Asylum' taken by the Notman & Fraser Studio will be featured in the photomontage and in way-finding and signage throughout the Utilities and Parking Building.

For full details on the history of CAMH and the Queen Street site, visit the CAMH website at www.camh.net. Then, click on 'Queen Street Redevelopment', and then, on 'History'.



This photo of the 'Provincial Lunatic Asylum' was taken in 1868 by the Notman & Fraser Studio and is provided courtesy of the Toronto Reference Library, Baldwin Room.

It's All New



A 'New Street' and a New Name

CAMH recently received approval from the City of Toronto to apply the name Stokes Street to 'New Street' (south of Queen Street West, between White Squirrel Way and Shaw Street).

Stokes Street is in honour of Professor Aldwyn B. Stokes who held many notable positions within the field of psychiatry and is known as a leader in the establishment of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, which opened in 1966. The Clarke was one of four institutions that merged to form CAMH in 1998; the other three were the Addiction Research Foundation, Donwood Institute, and Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

As well, Stokes Street complements nearby streets also named in honour of historic leaders in addictions and mental health: Workman Way (after Joseph Workman, the visionary medical superintendent of the 'Provincial Lunatic Asylum', the precursor of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre) and Gordon Bell Road (after the pioneering addictions physician who founded the Donwood Institute).

With the naming of Stokes Street, CAMH is pleased to announce that the winner of its Street Naming Contest is John Court, CAMH Archivist. More than 170 people participated in this contest with many individuals submitting more than one name. CAMH thanks everyone for their suggestions and participation.



Professor Aldwyn B. Stokes, 1965

A New Name for Freedom Street – Renamed Lower Ossington Avenue

CAMH also received City of Toronto approval to rename Freedom Street to Lower Ossington Avenue. It had come to CAMH's attention that many within the CAMH community, especially clients, did not consider the name, Freedom Street, to be appropriate. For clients who feel "trapped" by their addiction or mental illness and those who are at CAMH involuntarily, the name was perceived to have a cruel irony. This name change to Lower Ossington is also in keeping with CAMH's vision of integrating our Queen Street redevelopment with the neighbouring community.

New Buildings and New Addresses

With a new street and new street names within the redevelopment of the CAMH Queen Street site, come new addresses. Upon the opening of the three new buildings in spring 2012, the following addresses will apply:

- Bell Gateway Building – 100 Stokes Street
- Utilities and Parking Building – 101 Stokes Street
- Intergenerational Wellness Centre – 80 Workman Way

The existing buildings on the Queen Street site will retain their 1001 Queen Street West address.



New Street, the subject of a CAMH street naming contest, will be renamed Stokes Street in honour of Professor Aldwyn B. Stokes