

# Friends of the Archives Newsletter

Vol. 19, no.1, Spring 2011

## ST JOHN'S HOSPITAL



*St John's Hospital for Women, Toronto.*

St John's Hospital for Women was built in 1889 by the Anglican Sisters of St John the Divine at 28 Major Street, and opened with thirty beds. Its purpose was "the relief of women suffering from diseases peculiar to their sex," particularly those who were poor and immigrants from the slums. As such it was a pioneer in Canada. Those who could afford it were expected to contribute towards their keep. Cost of a bed was \$3 per day. (An average wage-earner made forty-five cents per hour.)

There were three surgeons on staff. Typical operations included salpingectomy, oophorectomy, treatment of vaginal abscess and retroversion of the uterus.

Of particular interest, cited in the Medical Report for 1897-8, was the psychiatric care provided by the Sisters. As Dr H.T. Machell, Medical Inspector, noted, "*One class of medical cases is never refused here – the neurasthenic one.*" Poor women unable to pay the fees of a private clinic could find themselves in the Provincial Lunatic Asylum or even in goal. It was to be years before Dr Charles Clarke opened his first public psychiatric clinic in the Ward, in 1909. St John's was a haven.

Thus, in 1895, a young woman, "Miss B.", age 27, Anglican, from Toronto, was treated for neurasthenia for fourteen days in May. Treatment might involve bed rest, cold baths, drugs. A "Hysteric", age twenty-two, single, Methodist, from Lindsay, was treated for 70 days.

In 1897, one hundred eighty-four patients received medical treatment, eighteen of whom were treated for "Neurasthenia," one for "Melancholia", and one for "Hysteria". There were seven deaths reported. Twenty-seven beds were in use.

As Dr Machell noted in his 1897 Report, St John's Hospital for Women provided "homelike surroundings and comforts, still commented on by many of the patients."

### *Report of the Government Inspector*

*I visited this Hospital on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, when there were fourteen patients in residence. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of October there were 151 admissions and six deaths. The Hospital was clean and in well-kept order throughout. There is a good Medical Staff, and efficient nursing. The cost of dietaries was, for the year, \$3,313.15. Average cost of dietaries per inmate per day, \$1.*

E. Langton, Trustee. Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1899

*From a Work-In-Progress.*  
– Thelma Wheatley

References:  
*Admissions Book, 1888-1901*, St John's Hospital for Women.  
*The Operations Book, 1885-1917*, *ibid.*  
*St John's Hospital Report, 1897-8.*

## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

### - WHY PETERBOROUGH?



Nicholls Building, Peterborough

My Griffin Bursary project focused on community mental health care and the health care services of Peterborough, in particular, as well as health care legislation in Ontario.

Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Mental Health Services' Nicholls Building became a mental health institution in 1978 when community mental health care was well established. I chose to use the Nicholls Building's commitment to the movement in the late 1970s as a possible barometer for the health movement in Ontario.

As Dr Don Wasylenki notes in "The Paradigm Shift from Institution to Community," deinstitutionalization initially was supposed to be integrated into existing medical models. General psychiatric units, however, failed to serve the population they sought to protect. Hence, non-hospital-based programs followed.

The question of whether they remained institutional or were viewed as distinct from the hospital remained open. In the 1993 Mental Health Reform: A Report, the initial institutional versus community spending model had to be abandoned. Community

organizations that did not receive government funding required looking outside government records.

Despite funding of these organizations by provincial governments in the 1970s, the 1978 reformed Mental Health Act did not regulate it. Community mental health took on juridical form in 2000 with the establishment of Canada's first community treatment order regime requiring outpatients to follow prescribed treatment plans. Section 33 of the act obliges psychiatrists to follow certain procedures to order community treatment. If this order is to be fulfilled, adequate community mental health services must be available, but a government duty to provide them is not explicit.

The community treatment order remains controversial. In his contribution to the Fall 2010 edition of Health Law Review, Peter Carver suggests that the community treatment order is a suspect legal device because it "holds out a promise of compulsion where compulsion is largely unnecessary, impractical or illusory" but nonetheless notes that community treatment orders "contribute to improved mental health orders."

Given controversies surrounding the recent building of Peterborough's new hospital, it has been interesting to examine the last major restructuring of the health care institutions in the city.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, I will present "Community Mental Health in Central Ontario in the 1970s", at the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science's annual conference.

– Michael Da Silva.

*Michael received a Griffin Bursary, 2010.*



## President's Message

– Vivienne Gibbs

In September, we attended the Wall Plaque Dedication acknowledging the work of the former inmates of the Asylum. The Friends of the Archives and CAMH partially funded the plaques, with lead funding from the Psychiatric Survivor Archives of Toronto (PSAT) and private donors. Board member Shirley Morriss is in the process of nominating the plaque project's lead organizers, PSAT, for a Heritage Award.

In November we funded a "Rendezvous with Madness" Film Festival reception and book launch for Dr Harry Karlinsky's *The Evolution of Inanimate Objects*. Dr Karlinsky was a previous recipient of a Hewton Bursary from the Friends.

We would be delighted for all members to join us for the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Have a great summer!  
– Vivienne.

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## Hewton & Griffin Bursaries 2011

### Griffin Bursary: Nicki Darbyson, Canadian History (PhD candidate) University of Guelph.

In 1967, the Ontario Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, in conjunction with the Junior League of Toronto, undertook a survey of Canada's troubled children, broadly defined as children with emotional and learning disabilities, as well as behavioural problems. Nicki Darbyson's intent is to visit the CAMH Archives to further explore the belief that Canada was experiencing a postwar epidemic in childhood mental

illness. The CMHA's archival records will be examined in terms of its historic concern with youth, while the vast resources on legal and illegal drug use will help shed light on the generational, racial, class, and gender complexities of the mental health movement. This research is part of Ms Darbyson's doctoral dissertation..

### Hewton Bursary: Krista Maxwell, School of Public Health (PhD candidate), University of Toronto.

Kenora in northwestern Ontario has hosted important developments in First Nations-led approaches to addictions and mental health treatment. They established the 'Native Healers' program at Lake of the Woods hospital, which their Coordinator described as providing 'primary mental health services to traditional Native people.' Krista Maxwell has been awarded funding to enable her to delve further into this important history, primarily through a research trip to Kenora. In particular she proposes to conduct oral history interviews. This work will be conducted while Krista is a SSHRC-sponsored postdoctoral fellow in Social Sciences, Scarborough Campus.

### Hewton Bursary: Sean Springer, Dept. of History (M.A. candidate), Trent University.

Sean Springer's project, Eugenic Legacies in Canada, will examine connections between the eugenics movement and its ideologies with later developments in health and mental health services, especially into the 1970s and early 1980s. This will include sterilization, consent and segregation/institutionalization issues.

Sean has chosen to focus on Ontario which, in his view, has often been overlooked in the eugenics discourse, as those studying Canadian eugenics have tended to look westward, where official provincial programs existed. The CAMH Archives are seen as vital for his research, particularly the CMHA fonds, Dr Donald Zarfes fonds, and the Griffin-Greenland fonds.

## Archivist's Update

– John Court

The CAMH redevelopment project is the bricks-&-mortar aspect of reconfiguring our historic, 27-acre Queen Street hub to integrate with the wider community. New CAMH facilities will interweave with shops, residences, businesses, parks and thoroughfares. They will be joined by artworks and exhibits alongside our historic vestiges – commemorative plaques, cornerstones, time capsules with refreshed contents, and the like.

First to undergo restoration, linked with the initial phase of new structures along White Squirrel Way in 2008, was the north-west segment of our surviving boundary walls – now also protected by a civic Designation Bylaw and Heritage Easement agreement. All sectors of the boundary walls are now vividly placed in historical context through the nine interpretive plaques installed last year.

The 2012 phase of three new buildings will incorporate elements of our various pre-merger institutions' storied past, with a blend of preserved and restored physical elements and new educational, interpretive displays. Representatives of the Friends of the Archives' volunteer Board have joined with CAMH clients and staff to plan for, and carry out these creative installations. One notable new exhibit will be installed among new meeting/ assessment rooms and learning/ gathering spaces on the main floor of the Utilities & Parking Building.

This second phase of new structures will be traversed by a “New Street,” as so far demarked. We have proposed to the

City that it be re-named, “Stokes Street” in honour of a former U. of Toronto Psychiatry Chair, 1947-67, who was the far-sighted visionary and founding director of the former Clarke Institute – Prof. Aldwyn B. Stokes, seen on this 1957 *Saturday Night* cover:



### Web Version of this Newsletter:

The FOA newsletter is hosted 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)

### Friends of the Archives

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

Tel: 416-535-8501, x.2159

email: Friends\_Archives@camh.net or  
John\_Court@camh.net

### Board Members:

Vivienne Gibbs (President), Carol Hopp, Edward Janiszewski (Vice-president), Shirley Morriss, (co-editor), Aden Roberts, Thelma Wheatley (co-editor).

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

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

**The Friends of the CAMH Archives**  
Incorporated as the  
**Museum of Mental Health Services (Toronto) Inc.**

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4  
416-535-8501, ext. 2159

**Notice of Annual General Meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011**

NOTICE is hereby given that the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the CAMH Archives will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Training Room, Paul Christie Community Centre of CAMH, Queen Street Site. All members are cordially invited to attend. Light refreshments will be available.

**Item Included:**

- Spring Newsletter, including President's Report

**Items to Follow:**

- Audited Financial Statements for 2010
- Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting
- Nomination Form for the Election of Directors, 2011

**Proposed Agenda:**

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda
2. Review of Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting
3. Business Arising
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Appointment of Honorary Counsel and Auditor
7. Other Business
8. Retirement of the Board of Directors
9. Election of the incoming Board of Directors
10. Adjournment of the Annual General Meeting

A brief meeting of the new Board will follow for the election of officers and any other business.

Web-archived earlier issues of the FOA Newsletter are available online:

[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)

## 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 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.

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### Membership Renewal Notice for 2011

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

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

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

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

\* **Membership:**                    \$ **20.00**      (valid through December 31, 2011)

\* **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