



NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2013

camh



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Friends of the CAMH Archives

A not-for-profit charitable corporation of hospital volunteers

SUMMER FIELD DAY AND OTHER RECOLLECTIONS – 1947

Ms. Beverley Roger Fine (right - in 1947), with the support of her daughter, Robin Roger, has just donated to the CAMH Archives a fascinating and personal photographic glimpse into our history.



In 1947, Beverley Roger took a six-month position as a psychology intern at “999 Queen Street.” She was newly graduated from her program in psychology and philosophy at the University of Western Ontario, and newly married.

During her time at the Queen Street site she harvested experiences and anecdotes, before leaving to raise a family.



These examples of Beverley’s photos show the Summer Field Day as a time for relaxation and fun: races, egg-on-spoon relays, and general conversation. It was an opportunity to enhance friendly contact among patients and staff.

Beverley’s main assignment was to administer the rudimentary Stanford-Binet intelligence tests. She recalls having to test two patients who didn’t speak English, so had to depend on her knowledge of French (which wasn’t then mandatory in school). On another occasion she resorted to Yiddish, which her grandmother spoke. Beverley found patients’ files fascinating to read.



Another duty was to accompany patients to and from their shock treatments. She remembers patients as being docile – probably following treatment. From her time at “999” she concluded that patients required more help than was available to them.

Beverley did not pursue a career in this field but went on to concentrate on home and family. At the death of her husband she remarried to become Beverley Fine.



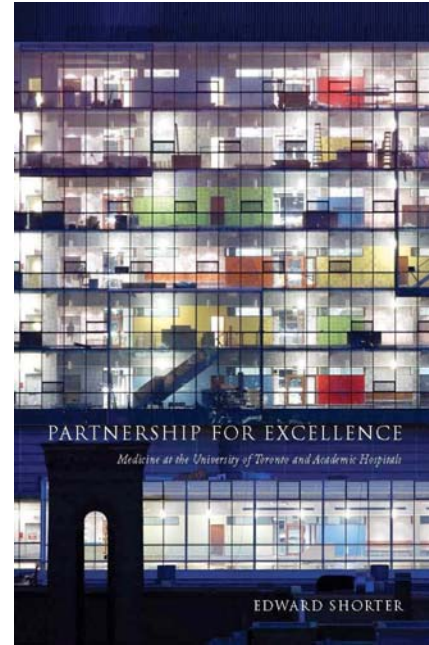
– Shirley Morriss

READER'S CORNER

Edward Shorter, *Partnership for Excellence: Medicine at the University of Toronto and Academic Hospitals* – published by the University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division, 2013.

Edward Shorter, Hannah Professor for the History of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, is a senior medical historian and award-winning author. His latest book details the Faculty's history beginning as a modest institution, and ties this to the general history of medicine since that time, emphasizing the intellectual energy that has made the Faculty the dominant force in Canadian medicine and home to a legion of medical pioneers and achievements.

(book cover courtesy of University of Toronto Press)



Thelma Wheatley, *“And Neither Have I wings to Fly”*: Labelled and Locked Up in Canada's Oldest Institution is now available in bookstores.

And also: Please see Megan J. Davies, “History from the Dark Side: Junk science, injustice and the value of public memory” (Literary Review of Canada, September 2013) in which she discusses the “imaginative life” that Wheatley has given to a “largely forgotten chapter in Canadian history” through a partial memoir. As well Davies endorses Wheatley's critique of the role that prominent members of the Canadian medical community played in introducing eugenicist policies. She adds other examples of “institutionalized injustice” and the efforts to draw attention to them through documentary film and she questions the methods of Canada's “At Home/Chez Soi” study created as a basis for providing mental health services to the homeless.



ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, ORILLIA.

“Asylum for Idiots, Orillia” – an engraving by Toronto Engraving Company, circa 1890s. Copy loan from the Archives of Ontario, courtesy CAMH Archives. Later known as the Ontario Hospital School, more recently as the Huronia Regional Centre, closed in 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

A welcome infusion:

The Friends of the Archives are pleased to announce receipt of a grant of \$1000. from the Coalition of Canadian Health-Care Museums and Archives, coming as the Coalition brings its activities to a close. The sum will go to support the research scholarships that FOA offers through the Hewton Bursary Fund, established in 2000, and the Griffin Bursary Fund in 2007.

FOA has granted forty-one such bursaries since they were inaugurated.

Ontario Volunteer Service Awards:

“In recognition of their commitment and dedication” the Province's top award for volunteering was given to the following board members, along with a lapel pin and certificate, in a ceremony at Toronto's Isobel Bader Theatre, on the evening of June 27:

Marshall Swadron – 20 years service

John McClellan – 5years service

Yves Boissel – 5 years service

Aden Roberts – 5 years service

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS – The CAMH Story – located in the CAMH Doctors Association Building, has newly enhanced lighting for the westerly section, the better to appreciate the photomontage that explains the two centuries of Canadian mental health history (*see photo below*). Thanks to the support from the CAMH Redevelopment Unit.



The CAMH cornerstone: a reminder and a legacy

Watch this brief video clip that tells of the return of the asylum plaques and trowel, and shows how the Queen Street Site is being redeveloped.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98VFIaeGxwc>

And back to the beginning:

We can now enjoy viewing an exhibit of the original artifacts from Queen Street's 1846 Cornerstone Ceremony – the two silver plaques (left, below) and the silver trowel used for the laying of the cornerstone, in CAMH's Hearing Room, located in the Doctors Association Building, ground floor. A replica of the silver plaques is also mounted in the Archives/FOA Reading Room.



Plaque Replica label:

This replica copy of the 1846 Cornerstone Plaque for the Provincial Asylum was presented by the Friends of the Archives, at their 2013 Annual General Meeting in honour of their President Vivienne Gibbs, commemorating her quarter-century of distinguished service as asylum volunteer and officer.

The plaque's inscription bears witness to the Asylum's celebratory Cornerstone Ceremony of 22 August 1846. Long missing, the plaque was discovered off-site in 2010 and ultimately restored to CAMH – in part through Vivienne's expert testimony, as well as through financial support by the Friends of the Archives.



workman arts 21st annual **RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS**

November
11th to 16th

Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival returns to Workman Arts Theatre at 651 Dufferin Street for its 21st year with incredible cinema that deals with issues of addiction and mental health.

Friends of the Archives are sponsoring a rare screening of Chester Wiley's 1916 silent film:

THE DEVIL'S NEEDLE



Banned in its original release and long-thought a lost film, *The Devil's Needle* tells the story of a young heroin addict and artist's model (silent film superstar, Norma Talmadge) who for fear of being replaced by another woman, recommends to her employer and object of her affection that he use heroin to find his long-absent inspiration.

Presented with an original score composed by Kerry Westell, performed live by Justin Hayes

Saturday, November 16th, 6:00pm, Workman Arts Theatre, 651 Dufferin Street.

Tickets are on sale at www.rendezvouswithmadness.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of the Archives have donated \$300. to "Rendezvous With Madness" towards the screening of "The Devil's Needle", a silent film on addiction (see above).

Also as in past years, we have been pleased to receive a Heritage Organization Development Grant for 2013-14 from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Our thanks to the Elmhirst/Robinson family for the indefinite loan of the Silver Trowel now on display.

As we near the Holiday season may I wish joyful celebrations to all of our friends and members!

– *Vivienne Gibbs*

