



FRIENDS OF THE **camh** ARCHIVES

# NEWSLETTER

*A not-for-profit, charitable organization of hospital volunteers*

*Autumn 2023 Volume 31, No. 2*

## *Making the Case for the Madness Canada Website*

*by Megan Davies, Erika Dyck, Cindy Jiang, Marina Morrow*



Sharing stories about mental health through art and collaboration is a part of Madness Canada’s strategy for advancing a more equitable model for community support. Madness Canada profiles grassroots community-connected projects, successful innovative initiatives, and work in conjunction with communities that support professional development. We believe that our site’s educational resources encourage self-reflective practice and openness to learn cross-cultural and user-directed care options among mental health professionals. We also support Canada’s Mad Studies scholars:– global leaders who deserve a national stage for their valuable and original research about rights, culture and lived experience in mental health.

decades, later becoming an advocate for her peers when returning to live in the community.

Inasmuch as we wanted learners to better engage with the various community experts’ stories, we supported these experts in using art, writing, and drama to document their experiences. These contributions gave valuable authenticity to the teaching tools’ resources. Their impact is evident in one student’s review: “Because of my culture, we don’t talk about mental health. I used to believe it wasn’t real. Lanny’s story made me realize that ignorance is shown throughout society when it comes to mental health issues. I want to learn more about mental health.”

## *Welcome to Madness Canada*

<https://madnesscanada.com>

The origins of this project began as a website about the history of mental health in Canada, and our most ambitious exhibit reflects this legacy. *After the Asylum* was drawn from a five-year national study of deinstitutionalization and includes a wide-ranging set of topics and products. Of note is *The Inmates are Running the Asylum*, a historical documentary about Canada’s first patient-led mental health organization, which premiered in 2013 and has over 22,000 views on YouTube. The film project became a road map for working collaboratively with communities.

In 2011, we mobilized a group of community experts having direct experience with mental health services to ask them what students, as future mental health professionals, would need to learn. They had no trouble coming up with an extensive shopping list. We also asked educators what kind of resources would be useful. The original idea was to repurpose research from *After the Asylum* as teaching materials on our educational site, finding powerful personal stories to illuminate the teaching points that our community experts emphasized. One example is of Albertan, Doreen Befus, a victim of sexual sterilization who was institutionalized for



*Doreen Befus standing in an institutional garden, 1960s.*

*(continued)*

In 2018, Madness Canada was officially launched for collating the research, stories and activism art collected over the years. Recognizing privilege of those whose history gets shared, we have begun the work to address the intersections of ethnicity and race, and their experiences of racialization and ‘psychiatrization,’ on Madness Canada. Where we have been most successful is in our teaching materials where our colleague, Cindy Jiang pivoted in the first winter of the pandemic



*"Thank You" from a Movie Monday fan, Victoria BC.*

onto social media to recruit young, racialized artists who identified as mad. Collectively and independently, the group created art and reflected on mental health, race, community, and art as healing. River - a mad, gender-nonconforming/gender-fluid, biracial person of colour - used a typewriter, a traditional daily Chinese lunar calendar in Chinese script, fire and ink, to document life events and their mental health, and to show how their racialized identity is inexplicably embedded with daily mental health. They then opened up a conversation about alternative, intersectionality-attuned accessible mental health supports. This project has proved revolutionary for the teaching site, requiring a realignment of all our module “takeaways” (learning objectives). We renamed the Stigma Module, *Oppression and Stigma*.

Madness Canada’s Resources portal includes archival material, hard to find publications, photos, records, and video. Most recent is the creation of the Movie Monday Collection by community curator and former patient Bruce Saunders. Movie Monday highlights the records of a weekly free film night that ran for twenty-six years at Victoria’s local psychiatric hospital. It got community into a stigmatized space, cost very little, and brought a diverse group of people together for post-film discussions. Movie Monday also

provided its instigator, Bruce, with an activity that literally kept him alive in the period immediately following hospitalization. Over time, Bruce found himself working on the edge of the formal mental health system.

When the pandemic hit, Bruce decided to shut down the Movie Monday project. Through Megan Davies, we agreed to put the project into the Madness Canada archives because he liked our broad public accessibility, our lack of jargon, and the fact that he got to create the pages

himself with our support. He used the last of his Canada Council funding to ensure the project would live on in public memory and be studied by future researchers.

As a vibrant academic-community coalition of allies and people with lived/living experience of mental health, we want to extend the scope and impact of our work across the country, creating positive change and improving understanding of and responses to mental health. Our mission is to work collaboratively to create accessible and challenging educational resources, provide thought-provoking displays, support innovative research, and cultivate community and social capital. Our vision is that people and organizations engaged in building equitable, inclusive mental health supports will use Madness Canada as a nationally recognized source of reliable information, experiential educational resources, and insights from a history that is both troubling and inspirational.

*Authors’ affiliations and article references are available upon request*  
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## JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE CAMH ARCHIVES TODAY!

It's easy, just click on the link below to join online  
or fill out the form on page 4!

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-museum-of-mental-health-services-toronto-inc/>

## Career Announcements

### *Friends of the Archives' Treasurer, Tim Tripp – Recently Retired from UHN*

On August 23rd, UHN staff gathered to celebrate the retirement of Tim Tripp, Director of Library and Information Services. Tim's last day at UHN was August 31st, 2023. During his term as director at UHN Libraries, Tim has led many initiatives that have truly been transformative.

His dedication to the profession and contributions earned him the Canadian Health Library Association Hospital Librarian of the Year Award (2019), and his work was integral to the UHN Library Network's receipt of the Health Sciences Information Consortium's Langlands Innovation Award for the Science of COVID Portal in 2020.

Tim has made a significant and positive impact on our library team, across UHN, and beyond these walls to professional communities of practice across the province and Canada.



Congratulations and Happy Retirement!

Courtesy of UHN Libraries Newsletter:

<https://guides.hsict.library.utoronto.ca/UHNvirtuallibrary/>

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### *CAMH Corporate Archivist, Jackie Edwards*

In June 2023, Jackie Edwards was appointed as the new Archivist at the CAMH Archives. Jackie is a graduate of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, specializing in Archives and Records Management. Prior to that she studied art history, also at the University of Toronto.

After graduating in 2016, Jackie completed a number of contract positions assisting with archival projects in various institutions in the city, including the Ontario Heritage Trust's Ashbridge Estate, the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, and Butterfield and Robinson, a bicycle travel company.

In 2018 Jackie became the Archivist at Exhibition Place, an agency of the City of Toronto. She spent six years there managing the archival records of Exhibition Place, which detail the history of the grounds and various events and trade shows, including the Canadian National Exhibition. Her portfolio also included the many heritage buildings on the grounds, dating from 1794 to the present, and management of the public artwork.



## Hewton and Griffin Funding Award Grants for Supporting Archival Research in 2024

The Friends of the CAMH Archives (FoCA), dedicated to the history of Canadian psychiatry, mental health and addiction, have established two endowment funds. These endowments annually provide funding in memory of their late colleagues, Ms. E.M. (Lil) Hewton and Dr. John D.M. Griffin, OC.

These funding awards will 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, including addiction, in Canada. The FoCA Board may at its discretion approve awards to a maximum of \$5,000 each.

There is no application form. Candidates are invited to submit a letter of intent, not exceeding 500 words, together with a budget and résumé, not later than November 30, 2023. These research awards are conditional on the recipients agreeing to submit progress reports within one year, and a final report including a financial synopsis within two years of receiving their financial allocation.

For examples of the archival research projects previously awarded (formerly “Bursaries”), please refer to that feature as included in the SPRING editions of our past years’ Newsletters, indexed at: <https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/camh-library/camh-archives/friends-of-the-archives>

To apply for a 2024 award, please submit an application by the November 30, 2023 deadline, preferably via e-mail, to: [friendsofthecamharchives@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthecamharchives@gmail.com)

Or by surface mail:

President, Friends of the Archives, (FoCA), 1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4



Lucy Strang and Ethel Turtle, Community Mental Health staff, Sioux Lookout Project at Pikangikum First Nation, 1970s - CAMH Archives

### Friends of the CAMH Archives (FoCA)

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
1001 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4  
[friendsofthecamharchives@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthecamharchives@gmail.com)

### FoCA Board of Directors:

Lisa Brown Gibson, John Court (President), Megan Davies (Vice President), Carol Hopp, Ed Janiszewski (Recording Secretary), Arthur McCudden, Tim Tripp (Treasurer)

**Board Support Volunteers:** John McClellan, CA, CPA, Marshall Swadron, LLB

**CAMH Liaison:** <https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/camh-library/camh-archives>

**Newsletter Design:** Ted Smolak Design  
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## Membership Renewal Notice for 2023-2024

*New & renewal memberships and donations are preferred via our safe, secure, online partner:*



[www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) or by surface mail

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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\* Membership: \$30.00 or \$25.00 for students & seniors, on a calendar year basis, currently valid through Dec. 31, 2024)

\* Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (optional, at your discretion) Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\* An Income Tax receipt will be provided for your membership remittance plus any additional donation.*

*Please consider remitting online or, alternatively, by mailing this form together with a cheque, payable to “Friends of the CAMH Archives”  
Surface mailing address: Friends of the CAMH Archives, 1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4*