



PROBUS Club of Central Edmonton Newsletter

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May 5 tour and presentation

We toured the U. of A. Research and Collections Resource Facility - Archives. We started with a presentation from Jim Franks, University Records Archivist. The Archives go back to 1951 with the establishment of an Archive Room in Rutherford Library. It was more formally established in 1967 with the hiring of the first Archivist. In 1994 a new facility was established, and all material was moved to the BARD facility, a rented warehouse. The University outgrew the BARD, and it was decided to build the current Research and Collections Resource Facility (RCRF). The archives moved into the RCRF, and it was opened in January 2018. RCRF holds over 10,500 linear meters of Archive materials. So, what do they do?

- Identify, Acquire, Preserve & Make Available (Records)
- UA Institutional Records
 - Faculties, Departments, Business Units, Central Administration
 - Quasi-University (Institutes, Associations)
- Non-University Records
- Private Donations

As well as Moveable Cultural Property (MCP), these are collections of historic significance. They also share the space with the University Library Deposit team and with an international NPO named Internet Archives.

The U of A Archives consist of:

- Over 10,000 meters of record
- Over-sized (Maps, Plans, Drawing)
- Photos (10s of thousands)
- Audio-visual (Film, Micro-film/fiche, Cassettes, Umatic, Beta, VHS)

It was important RCRF obtain and then retain a highest possible designation for movable property from Heritage Canada. To do this RCRF had to meet the highest standards for storage and security. Their main focus is on supporting primary research by providing materials is a significant historic nature.

The library team hold infrequently requested materials, which could include books and periodicals, etc. The library continues to acquire material, for example when university libraries are shut down, the materials are transferred to RCRF. Internet Archives digitizes media, such as books dissertations, thesis, Journals, etc. and uploads it onto the internet. All that they have is available to the public through the Internet Archives website – <https://archive.org>. I ran a search on University of Alberta and came up with 267,973 results.

Essentially, all parts of the University create records, these are retained pursuant to a policy. Eventually, these records will be destroyed. Archives step in identifying records of lasting significance and these are then stored by Archives. Archives works with departments to assist in identification. They also must consider privacy rules, etc. The key measure is records associated with the University and can be used for research purposes. After this fascinating and informative presentation, we were turned over to the University Archivist, Anna Gibson Hollow, for a tour. One word that can be used to describe the archives is vast.



Pictures show one row of 30-foot-high shelves, 2 photos showing shelves both ways. Interestingly most of the shelves are full of books from libraries. A Shelf holds 10 kilometers of materials.



Picture of the librarian's work area. This is where they sort books for storage on the above shelves. Next is a picture of a workstation for digitizing material. This one is being used to digitize a bound copy of academic papers. In addition to the above, the Archives have a cold room and a freezer, each is used for specialized storage.

Check the www.library.ualberta.ca/archives for more information and some of the pictures the Archives hold. We thank the staff of the Archives for their time and willingness to share their knowledge. It was an interesting tour.

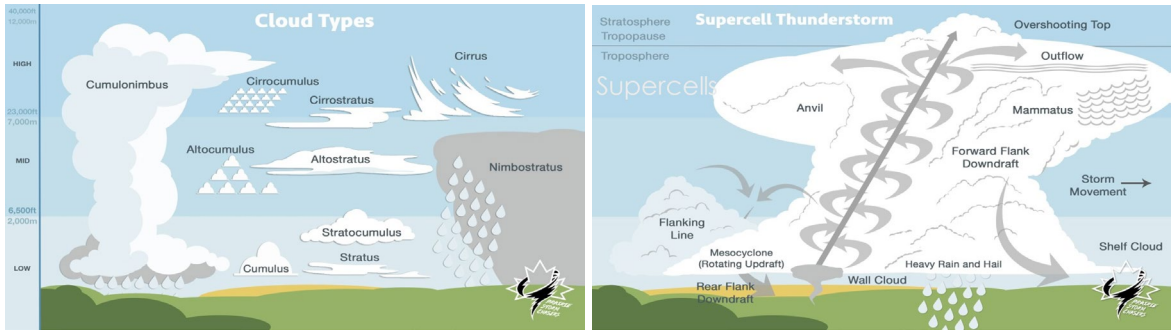
May 16 Presentation



Nevin de Milliano being introduced by Mel. Nevin spoke to us about storms and storm chasing. Also, the talk included discussion on the Edmonton tornado.

Nevin is part of a group of storm chasers named "The Prairie Storm Chasers". The Storm Chasers include 6 people who have worked together since 2012. The presentation included numerous videos which informed us of storm science. These videos can be viewed on their YouTube Channel – Prairie Chasers. I encourage you to watch them. Storm Chasing starts with studying the clouds and looking for the ones that have the potential of forming a major storm, typically

Cumulonimbus clouds. You can learn more about them by visiting their website – prairiechasers.com.



These are the various cloud types. The people who chase clouds include scientists, photographers, and tourists. Next is the parts of a storm.

Storm Chasers use a great many tools in their work including specialized website, radar, and the vehicle. Apart from the core risk of a tornado, there are other risks such as hail, some the size of softballs. He showed a video of the destruction of a wind shield by hailstorm.



One important tool is the vehicle they named the Dominator. This is a picture of it. It is a highly modified F350 truck. It is armor plated, with specialized skirting and air shocks. One risk of being in a vehicle is that winds get under it and will flip it. The shocks lower the vehicle and along with spikes, work with the shirting to prevent the winds getting under it. It has an array of instruments to monitor and measure the weather.

So why chase. He does because of a fear of storms in his childhood, which led him to learn about the storms. One of the most important roles is to inform, they send information to Environment Canada. The storm chaser can see the storm under the radar.



Elie, MB Canada's ONLY F5
June 22, 2007

© Justin Hobson - 2007



REMEMBERING THE BLACK FRIDAY TORNADO
EDMONTON JULY 31, 1987



Canada has only had one F5 tornado. The one that hit Edmonton was an F4. It should be noted that the rating system for tornadoes has changed. Now Tornadoes rate on the degree of damage vs. just the strength e.g., RF4.

One of factor in storm chasing is the uncertainty of what will happen, either storm or nothing. They get very busy or do nothing. When chasers see a cloud, it may change very quickly to a storm and can be deadly. Oddly tornadoes will be there even if there is no visible funnel. You may just see the dust on the ground. So, what do you do if you see one. Well, if it is not seeming to move then it is likely coming straight at you. So, get away! Storms seem to normally move northeast, but not always.

Some general rules for surviving a tornado, go into the basement, don't hide in a tunnel, stay away from trees. You can lay down in a ditch. When a storm hits you can experience heavy hail, lightning, very high winds, and extreme rain followed by flooding. Again, this can be summed up in one word "danger". He prepared this:



With modern technology they have been able to expand the understanding of weather in the past and revisit events such as the Edmonton Tornado. This expanded understanding of the weather helps with deeper understanding of the climate and how it is changing over time. We thank Nevin for his remarkable presentation which was both entertaining and informative. I think now I will just retire to the basement.

Interesting aside:

1. I put my grandma on speed dial. I call that Instagram.
2. Why did the scarecrow win an award? He was outstanding in his field.
3. I was wondering why the frisbee kept getting bigger and bigger...Then it hit me.
4. Whiteboards are remarkable.
5. How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it.
6. I went to a seafood disco last week. I pulled a mussel.
7. I bought the world's worst thesaurus yesterday. Not only is it terrible, but it's also terrible.
8. Life is like a diploma. As in my parents keep telling me to get one.
9. Did you hear about the ATM that got addicted to money? It suffered from withdrawals.
10. What goes, "Oh, oh, oh"? Santa walking backward.
11. What do you call a sleeping dinosaur? A dino-snore.
12. Why did the picture go to jail? Because it was framed.
13. Have you played the updated kids' game? I spy with my little eye...phone.
14. Did you hear about the crook who stole a calendar? He got 12 months.
15. I asked the IT guy, "How do you make a motherboard?" and he said, "I tell her about my job."
16. Why are art collectors such big fans of gasoline? Because it makes their Van Gogh.
17. I don't suffer from insanity — I enjoy every minute of it.
18. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on the list.
19. Did you hear they arrested the devil? Yeah, they got him on possession.
20. What do you call a hippie's wife? Mississippi.

Have a Great month –can't wait for May flowers...not smoke!