

# EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

NEWS FROM THE

## CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



### FEATURED FONDS

<i>Inez Elliston: Educational Policy</i>	2
<i>Coming soon: Gina Feldberg</i>	2
<i>John Moss: Canadian literary correspondence</i>	2
<i>CEAC: Art and rebellion</i>	3
<i>The Music Gallery</i>	3
<i>Rita and Robert Greer Allen: CBC pioneers</i>	3

Academic archives can be exciting sources of primary documentation that can build on secondary research and provide evidence, counterpoints and more texture to scholarly writing. In addition to acquiring, preserving and providing access to the corporate records of York University, the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections also collects the records of private individuals, families and organizations to support the teaching and learning of our scholarly community.

As a result, narrative threads can be found throughout our holdings with subjects, themes and relationships traced across multiple archival fonds.<sup>1</sup>

Take, for example, the **Canadian National Exhibition (CNE)**, a summer tradition spanning almost 135 years. Not only does CTASC hold ephemera related to the CNE dating back to the late nineteenth century in the **Sheldon Esbin Collection**, but we are also the custodians of photographic images taken by

staff photographers of *The Toronto Telegram* from the early and mid-twentieth century. In addition to publications and images, we have the perspective of individuals such as **Lloyd Mackenzie** whose diaries cover his social activities across the city, including his annual trip to the CNE, over seven decades.

You might be surprised at what CTASC has that could support your teaching and lectures, and your own research.

Browse our finding aids, search the catalogue, or contact an archivist for an in-depth discussion of your subject interests.



Your scholarly adventure awaits!



For more information about our holdings, visit us at: <http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/archives/holdings/>

<sup>1</sup> A fonds, or *fond d'archives*, is the whole of the records, regardless of form or medium, automatically and organically created and/or accumulated by a particular individual, family, or corporate body in the course of that creator's activities.

## INEZ ELLISTON: EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Dr. Inez Elliston is an educator, writer, policy consultant, and leader in community volunteerism. Born in Jamaica, Elliston received a BA from the University of London/University of the West Indies in 1961. She subsequently received a Diploma in Education in 1961 from London University, a M.Ed from Boston University, and an M.Ed and PhD from the University of Toronto in 1972 and 1976.

Elliston was the first coordinator of the **Multiculturalism and Race Relations Committee** for the Scarborough Board of Education. She was responsible for implementing 14 major policy recommendations, including multicultural training for staff and

improved assessment of immigrant children in the school system.

She was Coordinator of the **Adult Day School and Multicultural Centre** from 1978-1982, vice principal of **Continuing Education** from 1986 to 1990, and from 1994 to 1996, an Education Officer in the **Ministry of Education and Training**. Elliston played key leadership roles in several national and international organizations involved in multicultural education and anti-racist efforts. The Elliston funds will be available to researchers in early 2015.

## COMING SOON: PAPERS OF GINA FELDBERG

### Archival Research Tutorial

The Archival Research Tutorial has been refreshed and updated as a new resource guide.

If you have never visited an archive before, or if you want to familiarize yourself with York's holdings, go to :

<http://bit.ly/NIVw8H>

Our guide is also a great introduction to archival research for undergraduate students in your tutorials.

Prof. Gina Feldberg (1956-2010) was a historian whose focus on the history of science and medicine garnered her the Jason Hannah Medal from the Royal Society of Canada in 1995 for her book *Disease and Class*, on the topic of tuberculosis.

Donated in 2014 by her family, Feldberg's research material, which focuses on women's health in Canada and the history of salads, will be available to researchers in 2015.



## JOHN MOSS : LITERARY CORRESPONDENCE

John Moss co-founded *The Journal of Canadian Fiction* with David Arnason, in the early 1970s. He taught at Concordia University, the University of British Columbia, and Queen's University before settling at the University of Ottawa from which he retired in 2005 as professor emeritus. He was also elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2005 for his work in the areas of Canadian literary criticism and the advancement of Canadian literature.

His donation includes correspondence with numerous Canadian literary figures such as **Margaret Atwood, George Bowering, Matt Cohen, Timothy Findley, Northrop Frye, Robert Kroetsch, Hugh MacLennan, John Metcalf, Farley Mowat, Michael Ondaatje, James Reaney, Sinclair Ross, Ruby Wiebe, and George Woodcock.**

Finding aid can be browsed at: <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000645.htm>

## CENTRE FOR EXPERIMENTAL ART AND COMMUNICATION

The **Centre for Experimental Art and Communication (CEAC)** was created in Toronto in 1975 by the **Kensington Arts Association**, an avant-garde artists collective. The Centre acted as a studio, resource centre, museum, gallery and performance space for the collective. It also acted as the host for visiting acts and artists in the areas of performance art, behaviour workshops, contextualism, visual arts (especially video art) and other post-modern art forms. The Centre was the sight of **Crash and burn**, a punk-rock musical venue in the mid-1970s.

The Centre alienated funding bodies in the late

1970s when *Strike*, a journal associated with CEAC, was charged with promoting the violent overthrow of authority, and CEAC was forced to close in 1980.

There has been renewed interest in the history and impact of CEAC, including an exhibit curated by **Philip Monk**, director of the **Art Gallery of York University (AGYU)**, that draws on the collective's archives. The exhibit will launch 17 September 2014.



Finding aid can be browsed at: <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000285.htm>

## THE MUSIC GALLERY

The Music Gallery is a musician-run forum in Toronto for the performance of electronic music, multimedia productions, dance, contemporary jazz and world music. Through the 1980s and 1990s the gallery was the home for **Canadian Creative Music Collective (CCMC)** formed in 1974 in Toronto as a composer/improviser collective initially aligned with the free-jazz movement.

As part of an ongoing program of digitization and preservation of analog recordings, original live recordings of Music Gallery performances have been digitized and gradually migrated into digital repositories to facilitate access. A selection of digitized recordings can be accessed by York University researchers (and outside researchers by request) using Passport York through the Libraries' digital portal at: <https://digital.library.yorku.ca/yul-f0119/music-gallery>.

Finding aid can be browsed at: <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000119.htm>

RITA AND ROBERT GREER ALLEN:  
CBC PIONEERS

Rita and Robert Greer Allen were Canadian broadcasters, scriptwriters and freelance researchers first known for their dramatic and documentary scripts written for radio and television. During WWII, Robert worked for the **Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps** and also worked with the CBC to produce a radio program for the Dominion Network, *Servicemen's forum*, where he travelled throughout Canada, the UK, France, Holland, Germany and Denmark. Robert and Rita married in 1941 and the couple were successful producers, writers and broadcasters for **CBC Radio**. In 1952 Allen helped launch **CBC Television**. The Allens were key figures at CBC throughout the 1950s to the 1980s, with Robert working as a producer on much of CBC's original dramatic programming, including *Sunshine Sketches*, *Playbill*, *Festival*, *Opening Night*, and *The Way We Are*. He became executive producer of CBC Drama, retiring in 1990. Rita was a writer, producer and on-screen presenter for the program *Take 30*. The couple's records reflect the diversity of their work and their significant impact on Canadian broadcasting, television and culture.

Finding aids can be browsed at: <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000596.htm> and <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000611.htm>.

## ALL ABOUT US

The Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections of York University Libraries collects primary source material to support research and learning by the university's faculty and students, a community of international scholars, and the public.

New materials are acquired from a wide variety of sources, including antiquarian book dealers, researchers working in the field, and the general public. While York University has always specialized in research collections relating to Canadian literature, politics, fine arts and social reform, generational change in York's faculty has opened new horizons in our acquisition activities.

Recent acquisitions pertain to a wide diversity of disciplines and topics including: broadcast communications, environmental history, sexual diversity, social and constitutional reform, film and theatre production, and the multicultural experience.

Visit our website, email us, or drop by during our research hours to explore our rich collections!  
Visit soon, visit often!



# CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*In 2005, the York University Archives (established in 1970) was renamed in honour of Dr. Clara McCandless Thomas (1919-2013), Professor of English at York University from 1961 to 1984. The Clara Thomas Archives has been a beneficiary of Dr. Thomas's extensive literary connections, moral and financial support, and goodwill for many years.  
Donations can be made in her honour at:  
[ForClara.ca/](http://ForClara.ca/).*



Hours : Monday—Friday, 10:00 am — 4:30 pm.

Telephone: 416-736- 5442

Email: [archives@yorku.ca](mailto:archives@yorku.ca)

Homepage :

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/archives/>

Follow us on twitter at:

[@ASCYorkU](https://twitter.com/ASCYorkU)

Keep up to date about new acquisitions with our blog:

<http://deantiquate.blog.yorku.ca/>

**Image credits:** Page 1. Image of two boys going down the giant slide on pieces of carpeting at the CNE, 22 August 1970. Photographer: Dick Loek. Toronto Telegram fonds, F0433. ASC06881. Image of two children (in striped shirts) on the Conklin Mighty Flyer roller coaster at the CNE, 22 August 1970. Photographer: Dick Loek. Toronto Telegram fonds, ASC06884. Samples of CNE related ephemera from the Sheldon Esbin collection from 1916, 1929 and 1938. Call numbers: SEC 1080, SEC 0668 and SEC1084. | Page 2. Portrait of Gina Feldberg, courtesy of YFile, York University. <http://research.news.yorku.ca/2010/07/14/passings-professor-gina-feldberg-led-the-york-centre-for-health-studies/>. | Page 3. Masthead from issue of *Strike*, 1978. Call number: AP 5 A67. | Page 4. Portrait of Clara Thomas, York University Libraries fonds. ASC00502.