

## Champion of Oral History at Canadian Archives Retires

*Film and Broadcasting Section, Library and Archives Canada*

Richard Lohead, former manager of the Film and Broadcasting Section, retired on January 11, 2010, after 35 years of service at Library and Archives Canada.

After attending university in the late sixties, Richard joined the Sound Section of the National Archives of Canada in 1974. He was soon attracted to the newly formed oral history movement as a means of making the Canadian archival record more representative (“a form of affirmative action for the historical record”). He became involved in the fledgling oral history program at the National Archives and then became editor of the Canadian Oral History Association (COHA) *Oral History Forum*. As editor and later President of COHA, he gained experience in fund-raising for and organizing conferences. These conferences provided a means of obtaining papers for the *Oral History Forum*, as well as bringing oral historians together from across Canada.



Richard Lohead (LAC 2003)

In 1989 and 1990, Richard organized and hosted two conferences at LAC - Beyond the Printed Word symposium and the international Documents that Move and Speak symposium - whose proceedings were both later published. During this period, Richard broadened his work experience with secondments at the Archives of Ontario and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. He became manager of the Audio-Visual Division (formerly Moving Image and Sound Archives) in 1994 and was confronted with the challenge of government cutbacks. However, he was fortunate to be able to extend existing production funding for Telefilm Canada productions to include archival preservation. In June 2008, he accepted a pre-retirement assignment to write a report on the status of audiovisual heritage in Canada.

Richard’s significant contributions to archival practices and theories in the areas of oral history, audio-visual archives, and copyright resonate on a national and international scope. He has been, and will remain, a valuable colleague, friend, and advisor to many of us. His sense of humour and unique “Richard” ways will be missed.