

CONSERVATOR HACKS

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Welcome to the first edition of Conservator Hacks, a source of practical advice for museum staff, volunteers and conservators.

Some of you who are newer to the AMM may wonder who I am while older members may wonder where I've been. So, before I get into this month's hack, allow me to respond to both groups.

I am a British-trained conservator who has been working in museums and archives since the age of 16, which was a **very long time ago**. I have seen a lot of disasters during my career, and for the past three years I have been taking formal courses in *Applied Disaster & Emergency Studies* at Brandon University. I believe that the knowledge gained from this formal training will allow me to be a better advocate for members of the AMM in disaster planning and emergency management.

Whether or not you subscribe to the concept of Global Warming, the world is experiencing extremes in weather and here in Manitoba, we have seen heat and cold waves, tornadoes, heavy rain and floods. It is the risk of water damage that concerns me most as so many heritage institutions are located on or near a body of water. Even if you are not near a body of water, there is always the risk of overland flooding, and a museum built in an area with a high water table can experience basement water seepage. Coincidentally, flood events are now the most common natural hazard in Canada.

My goal is to assist the AMM membership in understanding and mitigating flood hazards, and in increasing resiliency during a flood event. And if you're not having a flood, I would be more than happy to visit your institution, offer advice, lend a datalogger or some bug traps, and talk about any issues you may have. With most of my courses finished, I am able to catch up on reports and begin planning for summer visits.

I realize that I haven't provided a hack! I promise to include one next time. In the meantime, here is a link to a short video, *Top Five Facts About Clothes Moths*. Please note that it has an 'R' rating around the 1 minute mark!

[Top Five Facts About Clothes Moths](#)

For more on the [Cultural Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)

Would you like Jane to visit your museum? [Submit a Request](#)

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