

President's Message



Rhonda Lamb

"Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be."

Khalil Gibran

As I look out my window on the wintery brilliance of the outdoors, I can't help but think of how exciting it was as a child to go and make marks in the snow. Creating new trails and climbing the new snow my dad had piled in the yard were mandatory childhood activities. It was amazing how the everyday landscape and each nook and cranny was transformed by being able to view it from different vantage points through the accumulation of new, fresh 'whiteness'.

While admittedly, I don't embrace the concept of bundling up and throwing myself into a snow bank to make snow angels the way I did in Grade 3, there is a connection between looking at new opportunities like a fresh blanket of snow as to what trails we can make and what vantage points we look from.

Your Board has been diligently working away at identifying areas where we want to not only enhance how the Board works, but looking ahead at what 'trails' we can establish for future boards to follow to provide

our membership, our staff and our organization with long-term consistency and stability.

We have identified 6 key areas where we want to focus our work and have already begun some steps to move forward. These areas tie into MAS' ENDS (or goals) and our Strategic Plan, as well as working in tandem with the operational plan generated by the staff. The six key areas the Board is focusing on are:

1. Board and Executive Director Relations
2. Strategic Leadership and Guidance
3. Board Competencies and Skills
4. Leadership and Generative Discussion
5. Member Relations (between the Board and our membership)
6. Board Succession and Recruitment

We have decided to focus primarily on the *Board and Executive Director Relations* and the *Strategic Leadership and Guidance* areas this year. We will be meeting again in early 2013 to lay out our plans to develop our trails in these areas. Ultimately this will result in developing written processes and procedures in place to help the Board enhance its role in supporting the organization.

While these are our two areas of focus this year, we will continue to look at opportunities to do some work in the other key areas as they arise.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the networks which welcomed various Board members to speak at your meetings this past fall. We appreciated the chance to meet with you and to hear your comments. It is important for the Board to have a dialogue with our membership and to hear what your priorities and needs are. The Board will continue to work towards our organizational goals and to make MAS relevant to you and your communities and rely on your feedback to do so.

I would also like to note that we had to sadly accept the resignation of Board member Flo Miller. Flo had been managing the Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site and was an active member both within her network and on our Board. With the restructuring taking place within Parks Canada, Flo has now accepted a new position in Winnipeg. While it is an exciting opportunity for her, she had to unfortunately

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

Board & Staff Quarterly Report



Board of Directors

Rhonda Lamb - President
 Crystal Craig - Vice President
 Chad Debert
 Heather Englebert
 Robert Hubick
 Stephanie Kaduck
 Carol Peterson
 Joan Searle

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan's Board & Staff Quarterly Report is published 3 times a year. The Annual Report is issued once a year.

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Canadian Heritage

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President's Message

resign from her position on the MAS Board. We are currently searching for an individual to fill this vacancy on an interim basis.

We would like to welcome Chad Debert, Assistant Manager of Government House onto the Board. Chad joined us this fall filling a previous vacancy on the Board. Many of you will know Chad from his previous work with MAS and we appreciate his willingness to again become involved in the governance of the Association. Both Chad and our other new Board member will be filling

their positions which will be filled by election at our 2013 Annual General Meeting.

At this time, we can all look out the window to see the fresh blankets of snow as we huddle in for another winter season. I hope all of you can see the paths and snow angels that you are making in your communities and in the heritage field. It is important to not only recognize what is already there, but to see new opportunities you can create into the future. Winter is one of those seasons that can remind us to explore

different ways or vantage points. You just have to look to see potential and to make a new trail.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend sincere wishes for a wonderful Christmas season and the very best to you and your organizations in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Lamb
President
Board of Directors

Staff Report

OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Well, the snow is falling and it's getting colder but that hasn't stopped your intrepid MAS staffers from getting out and about on your behalf. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between September 1st and December 1st.

Community Leadership

MAS was well represented, by both the President and the Executive Director, at a consultation meeting with staff from the Canadian Museum of Civilization (soon to be the Canadian History Museum) and Canadian War Museum. This was part of an initiative to develop a new research strategy for the two institutions. The discussions ranged from what those present would like to see in new exhibits at the two museums to the kinds of partnering

and collaborations may be possible. The results of the consultations will be made available in the coming year and we'll keep you posted.

Wendy Fitch, ED, and Dan Holbrow, PD Coordinator took part in a meeting in October about the possibility of developing ecomuseums in Saskatchewan. This is an initiative coming from Dr. Glen Sutter, Curator of Human Ecology at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Ecomuseums have been around since the 1970's mainly in Europe but also a few here in Canada. Ecomuseums are community driven heritage projects that support sustainable development. An ecomuseum encompasses the whole community – the residents, landscapes, collective memories, traditions, architecture, businesses, etc. as it explores and celebrates the local identity and sense of place within its boundary. Because this initiative relates so closely to the Museums & Sustainability Initiative MAS will be a participant on a new advisory committee established to explore the concept further and, eventually, oversee a pilot project.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Mark Your Calendars!

The **2013 MAS Mini-Conference and Annual General Meeting** has been scheduled for **May 24th** in Saskatoon. Our **Educating for Sustainability Symposium** has also been scheduled for the day before the conference on **May 23rd** in Saskatoon. Both the conference and the symposium will be held at The Saskatoon Inn. Keep an eye on E-Phemera and our website for all of the updates and for your opportunity to register.

Promotional Ads

MAS has actively been seeking more opportunities to increase public awareness for our organization. In doing so we took the opportunity to place a print ad in Urban Voice, the official print publication of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. We also took part in the Regina LeaderPost's "I Will Volunteer Campaign" where we publically thanked the many volunteers in museums across Saskatchewan for their important contributions. These ads will help increase awareness of the Association and its members and we will be pursuing more advertising initiatives in the future.

Staff

Wendy Fitch - Executive Director
Brenda Herman - Director of Finance
Dan Holbrow - Professional Development Coordinator
Brittany Knudsen - Communications Coordinator
May-Lin Polk - Museums Advisor
Eleanor Radbourne - Administration Assistant

Networks

The fall Network meetings came to an end on November 21; May-Lin or Wendy managed to attend each of the 11 Network meetings. Several MAS Board members were in attendance as well. Many Network wide issues were identified at the meetings, such as summer student funding and hiring, succession planning, and volunteer recruitment. Much discussion surrounded the new Museum Grant Program application. The North West Network celebrated their 20th anniversary as a Network on October 13!

The November 23 Networker meeting in Saskatoon was unfortunately cancelled due to poor weather and road conditions. The South East Network was dissolved due to the lack of a Networker. If you were in this group and would still like to be in a Network, please contact May-Lin. (780-9266)

Culture Days

MAS was pleased to be able to participate in Culture Days again this year. We took every opportunity to promote the event with members and we were happy to see so many member museums taking part in this celebration. We also put together a special issue of Megaphone that highlighted 2 of this year's Culture Days Animateurs: Danica Lorier and Sylvia Chave. The animateurs provided us with great insight on what Culture Days is all about and the impressive contributions that the museum community makes to this event each year.

MAS Blog

MAS is also pleased to announce that we will be coming out with our very own blog in the new year! The blog will profile many exciting topics including book reviews, staff profiles, information on MAS courses, conservation tips and tricks, a series on social media and much more! Our hope for our

blog is that it facilitates learning, engages our membership and supports the advancement of the museum community, among other things. Keep an eye on E-Phemera and our website in the early new year for details and a link to where the blog is located.

Events

Humboldt Post Office Building Provincial Heritage Designation Ceremony

On September 20th Wendy Fitch, ED attended the designation ceremony of the Humboldt Post Office building, home of the Humboldt & District Museum and Gallery, as a Provincial Heritage Property. The event took the form of a block party on the street beside the Museum and included cake and home made bread & jam for those attending. Congratulations Humboldt & District Museum & Gallery!

ADVOCACY

SaskCulture

Wendy Fitch attended the SaskCulture Gathering "The Changing Face of Saskatchewan" October 26 & 27 along with the President - Rhonda Lamb, Vice-President - Crystal Craig and Board member Stephanie Kaduck. The focus on the changing demographics of the province provided interesting, thought provoking sessions about the increasing population diversity that organizations, large or small, rural or urban need to adapt to as we move into the future.

Saskatchewan Network of Nonprofit Organizations

Wendy Fitch and Rhonda Lamb attended a summit on November 6th which brought together the leaders from across the non-profit sector in Saskatchewan to discuss the development of a sector wide organization to address issues common to all non profit organizations in the province. Discussion at the summit



MAS would like to wish everyone a happy holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Just a reminder that the MAS office will be closed for the holidays from December 24th, 2012 to January 2nd, 2013.

moved from cautiously interested to supportive over the course of the day. The records of discussion will now be taken by the Steering Committee and, along with research already underway, it will be synthesized prior to next steps being taken. We look forward to seeing the forthcoming recommendations.

Heritage SK

Heritage Saskatchewan hosted two events which MAS participated in.

- In September a Municipal Engagement session took place which brought together representatives of the 7 Municipal Heritage Advisory Committees, Main Street Projects,

and Municipal Cultural Planning Committees. Wendy Fitch participated in the session in her capacity as a Heritage SK board member. The purpose of the session was to provide networking opportunities for those in attendance and to build upon the capacity of the municipal heritage community to address concerns strengthen community and build awareness about heritage throughout Saskatchewan.

- In October a Provincial Heritage Engagement session took place which brought together representatives of provincially based heritage organizations and institutions. MAS was represented by Board Member Heather Englebert and Executive Director Wendy Fitch. In addition to providing networking opportunities for those in attendance, similar to the municipal engagement session, Sandra Massey presented the preliminary findings of her research project "The Case for Heritage" Phase One. This timely research will provide the heritage community in Saskatchewan for the first time with solid information about how the sector impacts the quality of life of communities. The full report is expected to be released in the new year.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

This fall, we've offered a number of great learning opportunities.

On September 7, Clayton McLain Memorial Museum hosted our *Projectile Points in Cultural Perspective* workshop. Facilitator Audrey Dreaver did an outstanding job in equipping workshop participants to provide a more respectful and accurate account of the role of projectile points in Aboriginal cultures.

Greg Hill of the Canadian Conservation Institute presented a workshop on the care of photographic materials on October 18 at the Saskatoon branch of the Western Development Museum.

This great two-day workshop provided a useful mix of informative presentations and hands-on techniques for photo conservation.

Finally, our second online Museums 101 course has just wrapped up. Participants learned about the roles of museums, guiding principles for museum activities, and the key functions of a museum.

We've also been busy behind the scenes preparing new learning opportunities and resources. This spring, look for a newly revised Museums and Education course (both in person and online), an online version of our Museums and Community course, and a symposium on educating for sustainability, along with a number of other great activities. You'll find details of these and other opportunities in our forthcoming winter calendar, so stay tuned!

Advisory Services

With Advisory Services back up and running, many of you have contacted May-Lin for various information and concerns. Requests can be regarding anything, such as grants, conservation and program information, or strategic planning. Since July 16, 51 of these requests have been made (and hopefully increasing!). Please spread the word that this service is once again active.

Resource Library

Several new books were purchased for the library this quarter; including *Ecomuseums: A Sense of Place* and *Museums and the Disposals Debate*. In 2013, we are eagerly anticipating the start of our subscription to the *Museum Management and Curatorship* journal.

Interested in borrowing a book from our resource library?

Visit the Resource Library listing on our website: www.saskmuseums.org/resources/library_resources.php

Mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming events!

Educating for Sustainability Symposium

May 23rd, 2013

2013 MAS AGM & Mini-Conference

May 24th, 2013

Keep an eye on E-Phemera and our website www.saskmuseums.org for all of the updates and for your opportunity to register!

OPERATIONAL

Funding

We are very pleased to report that our application for Annual Global Funding for Eligible Organizations through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust was successful. This fund is administered by SaskCulture on behalf of SaskLotteries Trust. MAS gratefully thanks both SaskCulture and SaskLotteries Trust for ensuring the Association will be able to provide Saskatchewan museums with programs and services designed to assist them in fulfilling their individual missions.

An application was submitted for funding through the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage in October for 2013/14. As this program funds the bulk of MAS training events we eagerly await word regarding our application.

We wish you all a happy, safe holiday season and look forward to an exciting, productive new year!

