

President's Message



Crystal Craig

What a wonderful late summer and fall we have all had to enjoy! Finally the hustle and bustle of harvest, gardening and fall work is almost behind us. For those seasonal museums another year to look back on and a winter to plan for new things ahead. Those facilities open year round will have ongoing projects and school groups to work with. Many of you will have participated in Culture Days and hope your communities enjoyed your events. Already the leaves are changing colours, a sure sign that change is right around the corner.

Change, that constant in our lives! We are all trying to adapt to change on a regular basis be it through technology, changing demographics, trends and influences. By networking with other cultural and heritage organizations and with the assistance of the MAS staff, your board is kept updated on what is happening in our community. We are striving to allow time at our board meetings to look at the issues that arise out of this influx of information.

We had a great orientation meeting in mid - August and welcomed Yvonne Hotzak and Evelyn Siegfried onto the board. We then reviewed the MAS ENDS policy and Strategic plan together to ensure that they mirrored one another and reflect the direction the Board wishes MAS to take in the next three years. Our Strategic Plan is an Evergreen model and is reviewed on an annual basis.

The Board and staff at MAS planned for an Advisory Council meeting to take place in Nov. or late Oct. The

topic chosen was "The Museum's Role in Social Change". This meeting was designed to focus on the topic at hand and brainstorm to identify the changes that lie ahead and what the role of the museum could or should be. Participation was by invitation only. Unfortunately, the response to this gathering was not enough to warrant having it at this time.

We have been working with staff towards our annual conference and AGM next spring in Swift Current. It is wonderful that one of our board members, Stephanie Kaduck, is from that area and can give us help as the host community. Fall Network meetings are in full swing and board members have been invited to attend most of them and hear what members have to say about their museums and galleries.

Wendy Fitch and I met with Roy Anderson, consultant for SaskCulture in September in regards to their Multicultural Strategy. They are looking at the changing demographics of our communities and how our organization is meeting this challenge or at least addressing the situation as it affects the membership.

The MAS Board always has two standing committees: Nominations and Audit. We have added four ad Hoc committees to help fulfill the work that we decided to do this year towards these six key areas:

1. Board and E.D Relations: we have set up a committee to develop a Procedures manual for the Board.

2. Board to Members Relations: a Stakeholders Linkage Policy and Advocacy policy are being developed.

3. Board Competencies: We are about to do a skills assessment of the board and identify those areas that we need to improve in through training or recruitment.

4. Generative Discussion: We have worked out processes for our board meetings so that more time will be dedicated to discussion about issues that affect our membership.

5. Strategic leadership and guidance: We continue to evaluate how our Board is functioning and meeting the goals that we have set.

6. Board Succession and Recruitment: We have a committee set up for Board Risk Management and that along with the skills assessment and the nominations committee work will try to meet the challenges of this area.

Yes, this is the season of change. But what a positive position to be in, with a growing economy and population. So different from the topics of discussion ten years ago! As we identify the challenges that this growth brings to our sector, your Board will continue to work towards the best fit for our organization in this new environment.

Sincerely,
Crystal Craig
President
Board of Directors

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

Board & Staff Quarterly Report

Board of Directors

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

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OFFICE ACTIVITIES

“Two sounds of autumn are unmistakable...the hurrying rustle of crisp leaves blown along the street...by a gusty wind, and the gabble of a flock of migrating geese.”

– Hal Borland

Summer holidays have come and gone and we're rolling up our metaphorical sleeves in anticipation of a busy fall season. Read on and see some of the things we've been doing between August 1st and November 1st.

Community Leadership

SaskCulture

Crystal Craig, President and Wendy Fitch, Executive Director participated in a 90 min consultation session with one of the consultants working with SaskCulture on the development of a Multicultural Strategy. During our conversation we were able to provide our input and thoughts on the changing demographics of the province and how MAS sees itself positioned to work within these demographic changes. SaskCulture is intending this process will shed some light on how the cultural sector can best position itself to respond quickly and skillfully to address the needs of the people of Saskatchewan.

The Executive Director and seven members of the Board attended the SaskCulture Gathering “Assess & Address for Continued Success” in

Moose Jaw. Overall the Gathering provided participants with a variety of concurrent sessions many of which focused on the opportunities and challenges in the workplace of the growing cultural diversity in Saskatchewan. Sessions noted were the Intergenerational Workplace, Inclusion= Diversity + Engagement (Todd Odgers – Norquest College), Embracing, Utilizing and Connecting Cultural Diversity, Be Time Wise, Effective Evaluation and Effective Ways of Working in the North (Allan Adam - NORTEP).

Intangible Cultural Heritage Symposium

Wendy Fitch attended the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Symposium in Edmonton, co-sponsored by the Alberta Museums Association and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, which preceded the AMA annual conference. The Symposium, and the AMA conference which followed, were prompted by the fact that 2013 is the 10th anniversary of UNESCO's adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. For more information check out - <http://en.unesco.org/themes/intangible-cultural-heritage>

While Canada is not yet a signatory of the Convention the symposium presentations provided an overview of the research, which has taken place in this country on ICH topics mainly in Newfoundland & Labrador and in Quebec. UNESCO states that ICH consists of: oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship amongst

other things. It became apparent that the museum sector can and should play as big a role in the safeguarding of the province's intangible cultural heritage as it has safeguarding its tangible cultural heritage.

Networks

All eleven Networks held their fall meetings in October and November in Bengough, Grenfell, Nipawin, Kamsack, Elbow, Lashburn, Langham, Eston, St. Brieux, Wawota and Briercrest.

A lot of great discussions were had at each meeting including the Collections Management project, youth engagement, demographic change and volunteer recruitment – all of which fall within the MAS Conference theme. Finally, museums presented reports on what happened at their sites during the summer season.

The Network program exists to present an opportunity for member museums to meet twice per year and share information. As well, it also allows MAS board members and staff to meet with membership. Networks receive \$600/year to operate; funds are used to pay for the cost of meeting as well as complete projects that are beneficial to all in the Network. Projects that have been completed include brochures, geocaching, and advertisements in travel magazines. If you are interested in being a part of a Network, please contact May-Lin Polk at 306-780-9266 or email advisor@saskmuseums.org

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Courses and Workshops

We held a variety of courses and workshops this fall, including Museums 101 in Esterhazy on October 18th and a Temporary and Traveling Exhibits workshop in Humboldt on September 20th. Our Modern Information Carriers conservation workshop has been rescheduled to the spring (March 26). We're also hard at work finalizing

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

spring programming and planning more for 2014-15. Watch for our Winter Calendar in the coming weeks for more details.

Advisory

May-Lin Polk, Museums Advisor, handled 32 requests for assistance including 3 site visits; requests varied from governance issues to collections management questions.

If you require assistance in any area, feel free to call May-Lin at 306-780-9266 or email advisor@saskmuseums.org. All consultations are confidential.

As always, we'd also like to hear from you about your museum development needs. If you have any ideas or training requirements, or any questions about our education programs, contact Dan at 306-780-9241, or email pdcoordinator@saskmuseums.org.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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

Conference 2014

Planning is underway for the 2014 MAS Annual General Meeting and Conference on May 22-24 in Swift Current at the Palliser Pavilion. This year's conference is entitled Re-Forming the Museum: Changing Communities + Changing Expectations = Changing Museums.



**RE-FORMING
THE MUSEUM** | Changing Communities
+ Changing Expectations
= Museums Changing

MAS AGM & Conference . Swift Current . May 22-24, 2014

A schedule of events is slowly forming and members are encouraged to keep an eye out in E-phemera and the MAS website for conference developments. Recently a call for proposals has been sent out. A tour of museums in the Swift Current area is being planned for May 23rd during the conference.

If you are planning on attending, there is a block of rooms saved under MAS at the Holiday Inn Express in Swift Current.

Publications

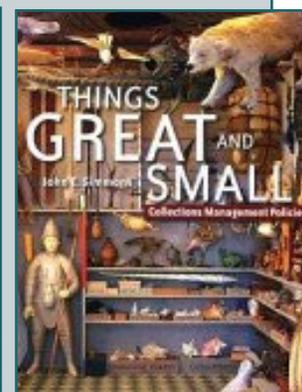
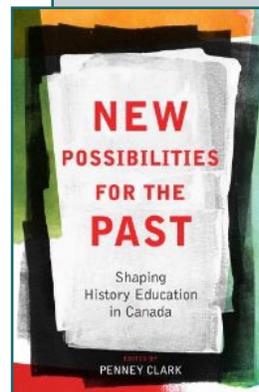
Work has begun on the next instalment of *Museums and Sustainability*. This issue will look at social sustainability—the role museums play in holding the social fabric of their communities together. We are also in the process of preparing several more tip sheets on topics ranging from mission-based collecting to making effective use of oral histories. *Museums and Sustainability* and the tip sheets will be available this spring.

Promotional Ads

MAS has continued to place print ads in hopes to increase public awareness of the organization and our members. Recently MAS participated as a sponsor of OSAC's (Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils) Showcase 2013 on October 18-20th. In recognition of our sponsorship the MAS logo was displayed on the OSAC website and an ad was printed in the OSAC Showcase Program Guide. An ad was also placed in the 2014 SUN (Saskatchewan Union of Nurses) Handbook.

Resources

New to the Resource Library this quarter are *New Possibilities for the Past: Shaping History Education in Canada* and *Things Great and Small: Collections Management Policies*. New resources are being continually added. Visit the Resource Library section on our website to see our listings: www.saskmuseums.org/resources/library_resources.php



MAS also has a section on our website entitled *Links and Online Resources* linking with other great resources that exist only digitally. New on *Links and Online Resources* is the MAS produced Provenance Tip-Sheet.

If you would like to know the impact of Temperature, Humidity, UV, and Visible Light has on your collection, Environmental Monitoring Equipment is available for use by member institutions. We will lend you the equipment and instructions on use. When you send it back we will analyse the data and send you back a report on the findings.

If you would like to borrow the Environmental Monitoring Equipment or see particular resources available, please contact May-Lin Polk at 306-780-9266 or at advisor@saskmuseums.org.

Events

An Evening with the Saskatchewan and South Saskatchewan Rivers

On September 16th, Wendy Fitch attended the evening, which included presentations by Dr. Graham Strickert – Water Science in a Changing Climate, Dr. Margaret Kennedy - Archaeological Investigations at the Red Deer/South Saskatchewan Rivers Forks and Cabri Lake Regions of SK, and Ken Lozinsky – Draft Management Plan/Legacy Document – Designation the South Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Rivers A Canadian Heritage River

Lt. Governor’s Arts Awards Gala

On September 25th, Wendy Fitch attended the Saskatchewan Arts Board’s Lt. Gov. Arts Award Gala’s which celebrates the arts in Saskatchewan.

In addition to the above, Megaphone was sent out as scheduled and the website and MAS Facebook page were updated regularly. You can also follow us on Twitter. You may have noticed that our E-Phemera newsletter arrived less frequently over the summer months. It was decided that as there was less material to share, it would revert to bi-weekly distribution for the summer months and into the fall. As of November, it returned to

the weekly schedule. If you have any timely news items for E-Phemera please email Brittany with the details at communications@saskmuseums.org

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Enterprise Risk Management

The MAS Operational Plan identified the need to develop a risk management plan for the organizations. As a result of staff research it has been decided to undertake what is called Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). ERM is an organization wide, holistic approach to the identification, assessment, and management of risk. Often the focus in an organization is on financial risk however that is only one of several categories of risk including: compliance (legal), external, governance, IT, operational, reputational, and strategic. In order to undertake effective risk management it was decided to work with a consultant with expertise in this field. MAS will be partnering with Heritage Saskatchewan and SaskCulture on this project as all three of our organizations are pursuing ERM and see the benefits of working together on this project.

Canadian Revenue Agency Charities Audit

MAS underwent a CRA Charities Audit in September. Just as they do with individuals, CRA randomly selects

charities for audits and MAS was chosen this year. However, unlike a regular audit (the type we undertake annually prior to the AGM) this one was much more comprehensive and covered the previous two years and included both financial and charity compliance analyses. While this audit required significant preparatory work, as well as, the 4 days the audit team was on site, it ended up providing us with significant information regarding our charitable status. We’re looking at it as having been an opportunity to ensure we are in full compliance with the requirements of a registered charity.



Discover. Learn. Create. LIVE!

To find out about cultural activities, benefits, cultural funding programs, professional development opportunities, resources and more, visit www.saskculture.sk.ca or call (306) 780-9284.

Sask **Culture** Saskatchewan **LOTTERIES** CULTURE BUILDS COMMUNITY

Cultural Activity

Craftmaking Visual Arts
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 Museums Anti-racism Awareness Heritage Conservation Folklore Music
 Band Playwriting Languages French heritage Festivals
 Drama making Band
 Diversity First Nations heritage Theatre
 Native Grasslands