

# President's Message



Rhonda Lamb

*"The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found but made, and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."*

**John Schaar**

I would like to thank everyone who attended MAS' 2012 Conference and AGM in Melfort. On behalf of the Board we would like to extend my congratulations to the Host Committee for providing everyone with a terrific environment for learning, networking and having fun!

Feedback from the conference this year was very positive overall and a summary of your evaluations was brought to the Board by MAS staff. The Board and staff met to discuss the event and reviewed all comments received as the basis for the assessment. MAS will take your suggestions forward into the planning for our next conference.

Our Members' Forum was extremely engaging. The Board appreciated the open

dialogue and hearing back from our members. In the Board's role, we focus on providing the organizational direction (our ENDS or goals) for our Association so that the staff, through the Executive Director, can determine the best way to achieve these. The ideas, input and feedback from the membership is crucial to the Board for us to help set a direction that will meet your needs. We want to thank everyone for the time you took to consider the questions we had posed in the conference package and for attending the Forum to have this very important discussion. Your ideas and comments will feed into the Board's meetings this year that I will describe below.

Soon after our AGM we received a resignation from Don Stein due to other commitments on his time. We would like to extend our thanks to Don for the contribution and work that he did for the Association this year. Immediately following the AGM the Board was approached by several individuals who expressed an interest in

becoming more involved in the Association.

Following the terms of our organization's bylaws we are now in the process of filling this vacancy for the remainder of Don's term and an election for the position will be held at the 2013 AGM.

The Board has had its first meeting of the year to set out our roadmap for the upcoming year. This year's Board has again confirmed its commitment to spending time beyond our fiduciary responsibilities and will be holding 'think tank meetings' to carry on with the work we started in 2011-2012. Last year we held several Board development sessions to identify gaps in what the Board could be doing better. We will be developing a plan and processes for the Board to address these gaps. This will help the Board to progressively govern the Association and to fit in tandem with the administration in moving our Strategic Plan forward. The Board is dedicated to

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

## Board & Staff Quarterly Report

### Board of Directors

- Rhonda Lamb - President
- Flo Miller - Vice President
- Crystal Craig
- 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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becoming a high performing governing body that is functioning to advance both MAS and our membership.

As the quote above notes, the Board is working to create a strong future for the Association. We are committed to rolling up our sleeves again this year to work through the "what's", "why's"

and "how's" of governing MAS for not only now but in the time ahead. We are dedicated to providing resources for the current and future Boards to be accountable and forward thinking to benefit our members. We will keep you informed as we clarify which priorities we will focus on this year and our plans to move forward on these topics.

Thank you again to everyone for your ideas, comments and input. It is greatly appreciated and we will keep you informed of our progress.

Sincerely,  
Rhonda Lamb  
President  
Board of Directors

## Staff Report

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The 'lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer' haven't been as lazy, hazy or crazy this year as one might think - at least not at the MAS office. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between May 1st and September 1st.

### OPERATIONS

#### General

As members will no doubt recall MAS undertook a very comprehensive survey of the institutional membership during this quarter. A thorough survey of MAS members had not been done in over 10 years so it was way pass time to find out what the sector looks like today. The information gathered will be very useful in providing MAS with a clear picture, backed by statistical analysis, of the current situation faced by the museum sector in Saskatchewan. We will utilize this information in our internal planning activities, as well as, in developing our advocacy strategy on behalf of our members. The final report, including analysis of the data, will be available on the MAS website this fall.

In August the staff developed a 3 year operational plan which is intended to enable MAS to achieve the goals set out in the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the

Board's ENDS. A secondary purpose of undertaking the development of an operational plan has to do with funding. We will now be able to ensure that the two major grant applications we prepare - general operations: SaskLotteries Trust/SaskCulture; and capacity development: Museum Assistance Program/Canadian Heritage, are based on a clear plan created to address the needs of our member museums.

#### Staffing

MAS is pleased to welcome May-Lin Polk as the newest addition to the team. She took up her new position as Museums Advisor on July 16th. May-Lin is a prairie girl, born and raised in Oyen, Alberta where she held her first museum job at the Oyen Crossroads Museum as a summer student. This experience set her on the path to a career in museums. Between the Oyen Crossroads Museum and arriving at MAS May-Lin attended the University of Calgary, where she studied archaeology and geography, and Fleming College where she studied Collections Conservation and Management. She has worked at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, the New

Brunswick Museum, the University of Alberta Museums, and at the Glenbow Museum.

If you have a question or problem May-Lin could help with, or even if you just want to say hello, please drop her a line. You can phone MAS toll-free at 1-866-568-7386, call May-Lin's direct line at 306-780-9266, email [advisor@saskmuseums.org](mailto:advisor@saskmuseums.org), or look for her at your nearest network meeting this fall.



## Funding

We are very pleased to report that our application to the Museums Assistance Program – Department of Canadian Heritage was successful for the 2012/13 training year. President Rhonda Lamb, Executive Director Wendy Fitch and PD Coordinator Dan Holbrow attended the official funding announcement with Tom Lukiwski, MP for Regina-Lumsden-Lake Centre and Shelley Glover, MP for St. Boniface, on behalf of the Honorable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage. This funding will enable MAS to provide training and professional development activities throughout the province which, in turn, enables museums to serve their communities better.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### Conference

The 2012 Conference & AGM was held in Melfort, SK from May 31st to June 2nd. A huge thanks goes out to everyone who attended. We hope everyone had a great time and learned a lot about museums and technology. For more information on what happened at the Conference & AGM please check out the June issue of Megaphone on our website: [www.saskmuseums.org](http://www.saskmuseums.org) Links to content by our presenters are also available on our Annual Member Conference page: [www.saskmuseums.org/annual\\_member\\_conference](http://www.saskmuseums.org/annual_member_conference)

### Publications

We were pleased to publish *Museums & Sustainability: The Environment* this spring. The publication features a number of museums' environmental sustainability initiatives, from exhibits and educational programs to renewable energy and sustainable

building practices. *Museums & Sustainability: The Environment* was the second in a planned series of publications focusing on sustainability in the areas of environment, economic, social and cultural sustainability. We're planning to publish the third publication, on economic sustainability, in spring 2013.

### Resource Library Listing Change

We are continually making changes to the website to make it more user-friendly. One recent change has been to our Resource Library listing. A new search box function has been added that allows visitors to search books by keyword, title and/or author. This feature narrows down your search results, which makes finding your favourite books even easier!

#### Interested in borrowing a book from our resource library?

Visit the Resource Library listing on our website: [www.saskmuseums.org/resources/library\\_resources.php](http://www.saskmuseums.org/resources/library_resources.php)

### Events

#### Briercrest Museum Official Opening

On June 29th Wendy Fitch, Ex. Dir. participated in the Official Opening of the Briercrest Museum's new home – the former Briercrest school. The museum's event coincided with the 100th Anniversary of Briercrest and homecoming and because the museum was used as the sign-in location

#### 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

everyone attending was able to enjoy the new exhibits. Congratulations Briercrest Museum!

#### Wishart Time Capsule Opening

On July 11th Wendy Fitch attended the unveiling of the 125 year old time capsule as it was taken from the cornerstone of the Wishart Stone Church. It was wonderful to see the number of people attending the ceremony – from babes in arms to the 94 year old granddaughter of the woman who had placed the time capsule in the cornerstone in 1888.

#### Moose Jaw WDM – “Food for Thought” Exhibit Opening

On July 19th Wendy, Dan Holbrow, PD Coord. and May-Lin Polk, Museums Advisor attended the Official Opening of the travelling exhibit “Food for Thought” at the Moose Jaw WDM.

In addition to the above, Megaphone was sent out as scheduled and the website was updated regularly. You may have noticed that our E-Phemera newsletter has been popping up in your inbox more frequently. It was decided that in an effort to shorten the newsletter, making it easier to read, it is now sent out on a weekly basis rather than every second week. If you have any timely news items for E-Phemera please email Brittany with the details at [communications@saskmuseums.org](mailto:communications@saskmuseums.org)

## ADVOCACY

### SaskCulture

Rhonda Lamb, President and Wendy Fitch, Executive Director attended the SaskCulture AGM June 15th as they have changed their year-end to April. There will be a fall Gathering in October focusing on the multicultural nature of Saskatchewan.

The new Minister of Parks, Culture & Sport Kevin Doherty addressed the delegates at the banquet.

### Canadian Museums Association

Rhonda Lamb, Heather Englebert and Wendy Fitch attended the CMA conference in Gatineau, QC June 4-6. This provided a great chance to reconnect with colleagues from across the country. There were also a number of excellent sessions that were attended by MAS reps.

### CHIN Provincial/Territorial Museums Association meeting

Wendy Fitch, Executive Director was able to attend the meetings of the provincial and territorial museums associations sponsored by the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) in Ottawa the week of June 4th. In addition to the CHIN meetings delegates met with staff from the Canadian Conservation

Institute. All but one of the provincial territorial associations was present which enabled us to move forward on a number of fronts. In particular discussions took place on ways to work more closely together.

**Mark your calendars for the 2013 MAS AGM & Mini-Conference!**

May 24, 2013  
Saskatoon, SK

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

We wrapped up our 2011-12 programming in April with pilots of our newly revised Collections Management course at the Mann Art Gallery in Prince Albert and the Yorkton branch of the Western Development Museum, and a do-it-yourself electronics workshop in Moose Jaw. Participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with our courses and workshops, and we're grateful to our instructors and the hosting institutions for helping everything go so smoothly.

Since receiving confirmation of funding for our 2012-13 programs, we've taken advantage of our members' busy summer season to do some planning. In the coming year, we're going to offer a wide range of professional development

opportunities. We'll be offering courses in the Certificate Program in Community Museum Studies (including an update to the Museums and Education course), and adapting more courses for online delivery. We've got exciting mid- and advanced-level courses, from workshops on the exhibition and interpretation of projectile points to mould management to a symposium on educating for sustainability. And we're continuing popular programs like our Art of Grant Writing workshops and Standards: Tools for Good Governance workshops for museum boards. Stay tuned for more details in our Fall Calendar and in E-phemera.

