

# President's Message

It is hard to believe a whole year has passed since my first quarterly report as President last year and how things can change in a year. It was just a year ago where everyone was talking about how much rain we were getting and this year it has been the exact opposite. Life in Saskatchewan is never dull to say the least.

As the summer busy season sadly begins to wind down it is time for all of us to look back at all the events and activities that took place in our community and to begin to start looking ahead to Culture Days in late September and onto next year as well.

If you have been too busy with all of your activities and you haven't heard yet the Canada 150 Fund was announced a while back by the Federal Government as a way to celebrate Canada's 150 birthday, make sure to check out their website for grant opportunities. Celebrations like these only happen once in a lifetime so this is a great opportunity to be part of this historic event.

Make sure you let the MAS office know about any of your future events that you plan we can promote your events on our website and in E-Phemera. Also, if you would like a board member to attend any of your upcoming community events, once again just let the office know and we will try our best to accommodate your request. This is another way that we are trying to find different ways to better support our members.

On a sad note, we lost the Pelly museum a couple of months ago due to a fire. Tragedies like these remind us just how vulnerable our collections can be and how important it is to have a plan in place to help prevent such tragedies and what to do if something like that does happen. We haven't heard yet if the community plans to rebuild but MAS is here to support them in any way we can.

Our annual conference was held this past May in Regina, it was our mini-conference this year which was only one day long. Once again it was a huge success and we sold out for the first time in a very long time. Each year we alternate between the mini-conference and full 3-4 day conference. Next year's full-conference will be held in Prince Albert in early June of 2016. If the last 2 conferences were any indication I would expect another huge turnout so mark your calendars, watch for further details and register early to avoid disappointment.



I would like to extend a huge thank you to Joan Searle for her years of dedication and commitment to the board. Joan has decided not to return to the board this year and to pursue other local opportunities instead. Also leaving after one year is Corinne Bokitch, she and her husband have decided to take the opportunity to be closer to their children in Canmore, AB. I wish both Joan and Corrine nothing but the best in their new adventures. I would also like to thank Gailmarie Anderson for her interest in joining the board this year, but due to personal reasons Gailmarie is unable to fulfil her commitment. With the recent resignations the Nominations Committee is actively looking to fill 1 or 2 of these positions as soon as possible. If you are interested in joining the board, or a committee just to see what it might be like, feel free to contact Wendy at the MAS office.

With summer it is tough for the MAS board to meet because of everyone's schedule; our first meeting of the new board will be taking place in late August. Our first meeting is always our yearly planning meeting and it also gives us an opportunity to determine what committees are necessary to complete our objectives. Our yearly plan is always based around our strategic plan and our END's documents which are reviewed on a yearly basis. One committee which we are all very excited about is the Awards Committee that was recently announced at our last AGM. The board has decided that it might be a good time to start recognizing groups and individuals for the fabulous work they do. We are currently doing our research on what these awards might look like and we hope to have something in place for the 2018 AGM which just happens to be MAS's 50th Anniversary.

This year's C.M.A. Conference was held in Banff in April and Wendy Fitch and I once again had the opportunity to attend. Each year we always have the opportunity to meet with their executive along with our other counterparts from the other provinces. In the past the meeting lasted only a couple of hours and it was tough to discuss all the issues or to brainstorm new ideas; but this year it was a day-long meeting with some great discussion on how we can

all better support each other. We hope to be able to continue with this format each year if time and space will allow.

Well that is about all for now until next time, have a great rest of the summer everyone!!!

Regards,  
Robert Hubick  
President

### **President**

Robert Hubick, Regina

### **Vice President**

Yvonne Hotzak, Fort Pelly Livingstone Museum, Pelly

### **Directors**

Rhonda Lamb, RCMP Historical Collections Unit - "Depot" Division, Regina

Chad Debert, Government House, Regina

Carol Peterson, Deep South Pioneer Museum, Ogema

Stephanie Kaduck, Swift Current Museum, Swift Current

Dr. Evelyn Siegfried, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Regina

Julie Jackson, Western Development Museum, Saskatoon

# Staff Report

*We need to broaden our sympathies both in space and time – and perceive ourselves as part of a long heritage, and stewards for an immense future.*

- Martin Rees

As expected May was a busy time for all of us in the MAS office with the mini-conference & AGM taking place at Government House in Regina on May 22 being a prime example. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between May 1st and August 1st.

## Community Leadership

### SaskCulture

Wendy Fitch, Executive Director, along with President Robert Hubick attended the SaskCulture Eligible Organizations for Lotteries Trust Annual Global Funding (AGF) meeting on May 4th.

Attendees discussed upcoming proposed changes to the Annual Global Funding program and reports from the first group of organizations who have developed diversity plans with the assistance of SaskCulture.

The Executive Director will be participating on a SaskCulture Working Group assisting with the revisions to the AGF application forms.

Wendy Fitch, Executive Director, President Robert Hubick and Board member Chad Debert, attended the SaskCulture AGM June 12th.

### Staff

Wendy Fitch – Executive Director

Brenda Herman – Dir. of Finance

Eleanor Radbourne –

Administration Assistant

Dan Holbrow – Professional

Development Coordinator

May-Lin Polk – Museums Advisor

## Canadian Museums Association

Both the Executive Director and President attended the Canadian Museums Association Conference in Banff, AB April 13 to 17.

This year's theme was "Public Engagement...Not a Trend but the Future". The ED and President attended a pre-conference meeting of the Provincial & Territorial Museums Associations and CMA which included a special session with Dr. Robert Janes on Museums and Climate Change. Cynthia Thorne-Whitely, Dept. of Canadian Heritage provided information on the Canada 150 Fund.

The CMA Strategic Plan 2015-2018 was debuted at the AGM. To download a copy of the Strategic Plan go to the CMA website [www.museums.ca](http://www.museums.ca) and click the about tab.

## Saskatchewan Eco-Museum Initiative

MAS continues to participate in the provincial Eco-Museum Initiative with the ED a member of the steering committee along with representatives of The National Trust for Canada (formally Heritage Canada), SaskCulture, Heritage Saskatchewan, Nature Saskatchewan, SK Parks & Recreation Assoc., and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. For more information about eco-museums and the work currently underway in Saskatchewan please go to: [www.heritagesask.ca/resources/saskatchewan-ecomuseum-project](http://www.heritagesask.ca/resources/saskatchewan-ecomuseum-project).

Members of the Eco-Museum Steering Committee were invited to participate in the Ecomuseum For a Day event on June 19th held in conjunction with the Nature Saskatchewan Spring Gathering held in Saltcoats June 20th & 21st. This event was organized by the school and provided a wide variety of heritage experiences including a visit to the local museum, nature walks, a visit to the volunteer fire hall and an opportunity to meet Cricket one of the Ambassadors from the Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre.



The Executive Director was invited to attend the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Network meeting in Ottawa on June 3rd. Attendees discussed what is currently being done regarding ICH across the country with presentations from the most active provinces – Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia – Cape Breton and Quebec. As well, a presentation on ICH in relation to Indigenous Heritage provided some very interesting insights to those in attendance.

A steering committee was struck to move this new organization forward which includes the MAS Executive Director.

## Public Engagement

### Conference

The 2015 Conference & AGM was held Government House in Regina May 22nd. This year's one day event attracted 79 delegates plus staff and speakers. A huge thank you to everyone who made our conference a success, including the wonderful Government House staff and our sponsors – SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Lotteries and Canadian Heritage. A special thank you to Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Mark Docherty

and Deputy Mayor Bob Hawkins for joining us for lunch and bringing greetings on behalf of the Province and City of Regina respectively.

We hope everyone had time to network with colleagues and were able to take home lots of ideas about how to reach out to different demographics in their community. Thanks again to everyone who attended and helped make this year's conference a success. We hope to see you next year at the Conference & AGM in Prince Albert!

2015 Conference & AGM



## Events

### Heritage Fairs

Dan Holbrow, PD Coordinator, and May-Lin Polk, Museums Advisor, conducted workshops at each of the regional fairs in Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw and Swift Current which were very well received by the Heritage Fair participants.

ED Wendy Fitch took part as a judge at the Regina Regional Heritage Fair at the First Nations University, while PD Coordinator Dan Holbrow was a judge at the Provincial Showcase at Government House. It was inspiring to experience the enthusiasm these young people in grades 4-8 had for learning about heritage.

### Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN) Year-End Celebration – May 25

The Executive Director attended the VSSN Year End event at Luther College – University of Regina. Over its first year VSSN learned about a) the voluntary sector in Saskatchewan, b) the role that VSSN can play in growing nonprofit talent and capacity with/for/in the sector, c) key elements required for academic programming in the sector and finally, d) how to share and grow ideas with the public conversations including the launch of a new website where you can learn more about this important initiative - [www.luthercollege.edu/vssn](http://www.luthercollege.edu/vssn). To cap the celebration it was announced that the VSSN will receive \$209,888.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund to support its work over the next two years.



May-Lin Polk engages youth at the Regional Heritage Fair in Moose Jaw (photo courtesy of Heritage Saskatchewan)

Mark your calendars for the 2016 MAS Conference & Annual General Meeting to be held in Prince Albert, June 2nd – 4th.

Keep an eye on E-Phemera and our website [www.saskmuseums.org](http://www.saskmuseums.org) for information.



**Historic Sites & Monuments Board of Canada reception – June 8**

The Executive Director attended a reception at the Delta Bessborough in Saskatoon hosted by the Canadian Historic Sites and Monuments Board. The Board holds one meeting outside of Ottawa each year with this year’s meeting being held in Saskatoon. Invitees were recognized for their personal and/or organizational contribution to heritage conservation and commemoration in Canada.

**Lieutenant Governor’s Architectural Heritage Awards - June 9**

The Executive Director attended the awards ceremony at which four MAS members – the city of Humboldt, the town of Indian Head, the Sukanen Ship Pioneer Village and Museum, and Wanuskewin Heritage Park – received recognition. The 20th Annual Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Architectural Heritage Awards was held at Government House in Regina. For a more detailed description of the award winners go to [www.saskmuseums.org](http://www.saskmuseums.org) and click on the blog tab.

**Indian Head Museum Exhibit opening “Federal Agriculture Stations of Indian Head” – June 27**

The Museums Advisor attended the opening of the Federal Agriculture Stations of Indian Head exhibit which explores the long connections Indian Head has had with the Research Farm (often referred to as the ‘Experimental Farm’ and the Forestry Farm. The exhibit is in the Museum’s main building – the 1907 firehall.

**Claybank Brick Plant National Historic Site announcement – July 9**

The PD Coordinator attended the announcement that the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation has partnered with the Prince’s Charities Canada in an effort to conserve one of the province’s most unique heritage sites. Together, they will undertake a full review of the operations at Claybank Brick Plant National Historic Site. The partnership will benefit from the expertise of the Prince’s Regeneration Trust which will, for the first time, be undertaking a project outside of the United Kingdom. The Executive Director participated in a stakeholder consultation with representatives of the Prince’s Charities Canada, The Prince’s Regeneration Trust, The National Trust for Canada and the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation as part of this multi-partner project.

In addition to the above, E-Phemera was sent out as scheduled, two issues of Megaphone were published, and the website and Facebook pages was updated regularly.

## Capacity Development

### Advisory Services

Advisory Services was in full force this spring, with numerous consultations including 4 site visits. If you are interested in discussing any matter with May-Lin, contact her at 306-780-9266 or at [advisor@saskmuseums.org](mailto:advisor@saskmuseums.org). All discussions are confidential. Sites visits are also available. Referrals are also available to specialists in various areas of heritage work.

### Courses and Workshops

#### *Oral Histories – May 1 & 2*

The Oral Histories workshop with Emily Burton of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 led participants through the best practices of oral history collection. It featured topics including: conducting effective interviews for oral history collection, ethical and legal considerations, recording oral histories; audio file types and storage; transcription; research with oral histories; and using oral histories for education and public programming.

#### *Formative Evaluation for Exhibit Designers – May 8*

This full-day workshop with Beverley Serrell was postponed at the presenter's request.

#### *Collections in the Community Symposium – June 19*

Museums and archives have a responsibility to preserve collections which sometimes seems at odds with their responsibility to provide

public access. This gathering of conservators, programmers, curators and exhibit designers examined current best practices in artifact conservation and object-based education, and explored how museums and archives balance these sometimes conflicting responsibilities.

Our Fall 2015 Education Calendar was produced and distributed in August. In addition to our Certificate Program courses, we're pleased to offer workshops on a range of topics, from Telling Difficult Stories to Introduction to Collections Digitization.

### Networks

The last three Spring Network meetings took place in May with a staff member attending all 3 meetings.

The Network Knowledge Exchange presentation this year was on "Building & Maintaining Sustainable Museum Collections". This learning opportunity built on last year's session – "Mission Based Collecting" and discussed some of the strategies involved in building and then maintaining a sustainable museum collection. It touched on key museum practices such as: collection policies, documentation, preventive conservation, and artifact storage. This learning opportunity generated a lot of productive discussions; if any members would like to discuss it more in depth, they should contact May-Lin at 306-780-9266 or [advisor@saskmuseums.org](mailto:advisor@saskmuseums.org).

There was a Networker Meeting on May 21, which was well attended by 12 Networkers and Co-Networkers. This time allowed the Networkers to meet and learn the ins and outs of running a Network. Wendy Fitch attended the meeting and provided information to the Networkers to share with their groups. If you are interested in being a part of a Network, please contact May-Lin at 306-780-9266 or [advisor@saskmuseums.org](mailto:advisor@saskmuseums.org).

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## Resource Library

New books are always being added to the Resource Library. We are working to make the website more searchable, however, in the meantime, please give us a call if you cannot find the resource that you are looking for. We are also open to suggestions if you think a book should be added to our collection. Among the numerous new titles added this quarter is *Judging Exhibitions: A Framework for Assessing Excellence*.

Also operating within the Resource Library is the Environmental Monitoring Equipment program. Four pieces of equipment are available for borrowing by members to monitor and record the conditions in which their collections live. Aspects that can be monitored include Relative Humidity, Temperature, UV, and Visible Light. Please call the MAS office if you are interested in borrowing a Environmental Monitoring Equipment kit.

New to the Resource library is the Oral History Kits loan program. Each kit consists of a field recorder, accessories, and instructions. Two types of kits are available

– audio-video recording; or audio recording. The equipment will be loaned to members in a manner modeled on our successful Environmental Monitoring Equipment Loan Program. This program would

be an effective, efficient way to help our member museums realize their goals, and to encourage the collection and preservation of oral histories across the province. Please call the MAS office if you are interested in borrowing either type of Oral History Kit – audio-video recording or audio recording.



## Database Project

As part of our Collections Management Initiative we're working toward providing a low-cost collections database for members who require it. In preparation for this, we asked members to apply to be part of the pilot phase of the project. Currently pilot sites are being selected based on project criteria. Please watch for more information on this important project as it unfolds over the coming months.

**Social Media Stats: Twitter Followers, 702, up from 307 in May 2014. Facebook "Likes", 421, up 308 from May 2014.**

## Operations

### Staff Professional Development

The Museums Advisor attended the Canadian Association of Conservation annual conference May 28-31 in Edmonton.

### Staffing

With the departure of Eric Bell in March communications has been handled extremely well by the rest of the staff. However, the communications position will not be filled immediately. We are undertaking an evaluation of Association needs in relation to the planning currently underway both generally as we prepare for our upcoming Annual Global Funding application and more specifically relating to potential changes necessitated by the Diversity Planning.

In the meantime Jan Morier has been hired on contract to assist with regular communications activities.

All staff have taken well-earned holidays during the reporting period.