

President's Message



community is celebrating its Centennial!

I would like to thank all the Board members for their dedication and committee work that will ensure that future boards have a clear map to follow. A Board Procedural Manual is being developed to assist the board in processes covering all our policy and committee work. We have two standing committees- nominations and audit and have added one more- Risk Management which will be developed next fall. I have enjoyed being part of such a high functioning board and an association that offers skill development opportunities. As I am finishing my last term, I would encourage any of you to spend time on this board as you will benefit from the experience, both personally and professionally. We have a great organization and I am proud of our Board and Staff for our achievements. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you the members.

Sincerely,
Crystal Craig
President
Board of Directors

Yes, it is still winter and although it has been cold enough to freeze your body and soul there have been some bright spots! We were very pleased with the Provincial Government's continued support through the renewal of the 5 year Lotteries license agreement. This ensures that MAS and its membership can meet their goals and make our communities a better place to live. Thanks to SaskCulture for their efforts during the negotiations on our part.

We have just reviewed the outcomes of the Board skills assessment and how it fits within our Board Strategy Plan. This has been an annual review and we now have three years of data to compare our growth. Thanks to Roy Anderson for his professional help and clarity. Through our committee work we have achieved some of our goals and have had a chance to adjust the remaining work. The key focus is the Advocacy piece which needs to be examined closely. CRA audited our association last fall and out of that came the following information. We cannot teach our members how to fill out a grant application if they do not have charity status. We can only spend 10% of our budget towards advocacy.

We are working on how we can fit advocacy within stakeholder

relations and member relations so our Ends will change to reflect this. We had a great session with Bruce Anderson from b-creative Inc. which helped us look at processes for this to happen. It is a start and we will be asking you the members for input on this subject at the upcoming conference. We need to know what issues you face and find out how we can address them in a timely fashion. The staff will be part of this development piece. The member's only portion of the MAS website may be a venue for us to share information in regards to this.

The Board appreciates all the work that Wendy and her staff are doing to keep the association running smoothly, creating relevant educational programs and professional development workshops for specific topics or member groups.

They are working towards the Annual MAS Conference in Swift Current which will be engaging as we look at our changing communities. Our keynote speaker Brenda Robinson is dynamic and worth the drive to hear her presentation. With lots of great sessions and networking chances, it will be a very positive event for all of us. Please join us when the weather is warmer and where our host



MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

Board & Staff Quarterly Report

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OFFICE ACTIVITIES

“When the snow is still blowing against the window-pane in January and February and wild winds are howling without, what pleasure it is to plan for summer that is to be.”

– Celia Thaxter

Winter holidays have come and gone but we’ve been busy getting ready for spring. Read on and see some of the things we’ve been doing between November 1st and February 1st.

Community Leadership

University of Regina Anthropology project

The Executive Director and the PD Coordinator attended Dr. Tobias Sperlich’s Work in Progress seminar regarding “Thinking with Artifacts: Investigating Museums, Objects and Narratives in Treaty 4” held on, November 20 on the U of R main campus. MAS staff have been consulting with Dr. Sperlich on this project.

CMA/CHIN meetings

On November 27, the Executive Director attended the annual Provincial/Territorial Museums Associations’ meeting sponsored by CHIN (Canadian Heritage Information Network) and CCI (Canadian Conservation Institute). This year’s meeting was scheduled to take place the day after CMA’s “Hill Day” in Ottawa. The new Deputy Minister of

Dept. of Canadian Heritage was able to attend almost the entire day and participate in the discussions.

Museum Grant Program (MGP)

On December 16, the Executive Director and Museums Advisor participated in the Museum Grant Program Adjudicators Orientation session. Both had been asked to make specific presentations at the session – the Executive Director gave an overview of the history of the MGP and the Museums Advisor presented an overview of Standards.

Ecomuseum Advisory Committee

The Executive Director participated in the January meeting of the Ecomuseum Advisory Committee, which discussed the next steps in the project including the need to select four pilot locations interested in developing as ecomuseums. As well, the need to include a research element in this pilot phase was agreed to by the Committee.

Networks

Not much movement during the winter months in regards to Networks. The very last Network meeting was held on November 6th in Briercrest. Networker meetings are no longer happening in the fall/winter due to time and budget constraints, instead there will be a yearly meeting before the annual conference.

All dates are now set for the Spring Network meetings. Locations and dates will be announced in E-phemera as those meetings grow closer.

If you want to be a part of a Network, please contact May-Lin at 306-780-9266 or advisor@saskmuseums.org.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Courses and Workshops

Certificate Program

The Collections Management course was held in North Battleford November 15th. We also offered Museums 101 and Museums and Community as online courses during this period.

Peer Exchange

The pilot Peer Exchange session took place Nov. 24th. This session provided an opportunity for SK museum professionals to come together and share work on new projects, techniques or challenges faced with their peers from all parts of the museum sector. While the number of participants was low, the response from those attending was very positive. This program will be offered on an annual basis as one way of engaging the professional component of the museum workforce.

University of Regina - Introduction to Museum Ethnography (ANTH 242 ME)

Professor Tobias Sperlich consulted MAS staff in the development of this distance-learning course. It provided an introduction to the history, purposes, transformation, as well as theoretical and ethical considerations of and for culture-historical museums. Its immediate and more practical focus is on local museums in Saskatchewan. This course combined theoretical issues discussed in the museum world today with practical skills required for research and work in museums. The Executive Director was a guest lecturer for the January 29th class and provided an overview of the museum sector in Saskatchewan and the curatorial challenges they face.

Planning and Development

Staff continued the developmental work on various projects including the next Museums & Sustainability publication,

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 - Administrative Assistant

the Collections Management Manual revision project, Tip Sheets on Mission Based Collecting and Oral Histories, and preparations for spring training sessions.

We're also hard at work finalizing spring programming and planning more for 2014-15.

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.

Advisory

44 advisory requests came through between November 1, 2013 and February 1, 2014; there was also one site visit. Topics discussed ranged from board succession planning to newspaper management. A lot of requests for information came through regarding the by-law portion of the Museum Grant Program administered by SaskCulture.

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.

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 Pavillion. This year's conference is entitled Re-Forming the Museum: Changing Communities + Changing Expectations

= Changing Museums. 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. In December, a call for proposals was put out with a great response rate; almost all time slots were filled! Brenda Robinson is set to be the keynote speaker and will be speaking about "The Intergenerational Workplace: Differences are Not Difficulties". A tour of museums in the Swift Current area is also being planned for May 23 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. This block of rooms will be released on April 21, 2014.



RE-FORMING THE MUSEUM | Changing Communities + Changing Expectations = Museums Changing
MAS AGM & Conference . Swift Current . May 22-24, 2014

Publications

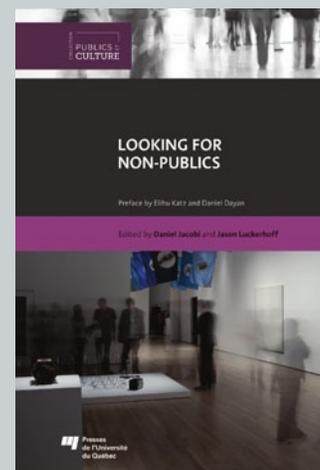
Work continues on the next installment of Museums and Sustainability. This issue will look at social sustainability—the role museums play in holding the social fabric of their communities together. We are also in the process of preparing several more tip sheets on topics ranging from mission-based collecting 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 to increase public awareness of the organization and our members. We

Resources

New to the Resource Library this quarter *Looking for Non-Publics* Edited by Daniel Jacobi and Jason Luckerhoff.



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.

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. Equipment was borrowed twice this quarter.

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.

