

President's Message



Board & Staff Quarterly Report

Once again Winter is upon us but I don't think we can complain about how the weather has been in Saskatchewan this past year. Soon enough spring will be here and once again we will be focusing on the summer ahead and all the work that needs to be done in our museums.

The fall has been a busy one for the board as we continue to work together to make this a productive board. I would like to welcome Teresa Carlson onto the board. Teresa has agreed to a 2-year term and she will fill the spot that GailMarie Anderson vacated for personal reasons. Teresa is the Curator and Collections Manager at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and we look forward to having Teresa share her knowledge and experiences with the rest of the board.

As you may all know the board is always working towards its ENDS and one of our ENDS is Community Leadership which includes member relations. Each year the board tries to attend as many fall network meetings as they can. Unfortunately with a smaller board this year

it wasn't possible to attend them all but we will try and do our best to come to your spring meeting instead. The network meetings are on

opportunity to share ideas, gather feedback and to learn all about the exciting things that are happening in your museums.

Each year the board identifies 3-4 key areas that we would like to focus on for the year and they are always based on our strategic plan. This year we identified 3 areas we thought were important:

- 1) Board Member Recruitment
- 2) Board Competencies
- 3) Generative Discussion

Board recruitment is so important to any organization and it is no different for MAS. The Nominations Committee is working hard to develop a more comprehensive work plan around board recruitment and board competencies. Our long term goal is to ensure that we always have great candidates to fill the vacant positions on the



board and to ensure that the candidates also meet the competencies that are required to having a strong board who represents its members well. Speaking of board recruitment if you think you might be interested in sitting on the board the Nominations Committee has posted information on the MAS website about the requirements for Board members. Make sure you watch for it as nominations will be closing in mid March, 2016. Feel free to contact

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For more information, please contact us at:

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one of the board members or the MAS office for more information. Our 3rd focus is generative discussion. We identified this as an important topic a few years back so that we continue to have time at each meeting to discuss topics of concern for the members and to be forward thinking.

Our other committees are also hard at work in particular the Awards Committee. Last May at our annual conference we announced plans to introduce a set of awards for our members. Our goal is to have this all in place for our 2017 Annual Conference but we will be announcing something at this year's conference to kick off the program.

The annual conference will be taking place in Prince Albert from May 26-28. It is our larger conference lasting 3 days as opposed to the one day conference we had last year in Regina. Wendy and her staff are working hard to line up speakers that we know will be of great interest to everyone. Each year the conference grows in numbers and last year we sold out so don't wait to the last minute to register. Wendy and her staff will have a formal announcement about the conference in the next little while so watch our website for more information.

At each board meeting the board tries to incorporate a professional development component to our meetings. At our meeting in October Flo Frank came in to discuss the next steps in the Diversity Plan with the board and staff. Wendy and her staff introduced the first draft of the Policy around diversity and inclusion which was reviewed by the board. We are very excited to be part of this pilot program and we look forward to the work ahead. We will be sharing our successes with our members for diversity is something that we all need to look at in our organizations. At our January meeting we had the pleasure of having Kristin Catherwood come in and talk about Intangible Cultural Heritage. Kristin has been hired by Heritage Saskatchewan to work with various communities on this topic. Her presentation was very enlightening and we look forward to seeing the fruits of her labour.

Have a happy and healthy 2016 and I hope to see everyone in May at the conference in Prince Albert!

Sincerely,
Robert Hubick
President
Board of Directors

Board of Directors

President

Robert Hubick, Regina

Vice President

Yvonne Hotzak,
Fort Pelly Livingstone
Museum, Pelly

Directors

Teresa Carlson,
Diefenbaker Canada
Centre

Chad Debert,
Government House,
Regina

Julie Jackson,
Western Development
Museum, Saskatoon

Stephanie Kaduck,
Swift Current Museum,
Swift Current

Rhonda Lamb,
RCMP Historical
Collections Unit Depot
Division, Regina

Carol Prentice,
Deep South Pioneer
Museum, Ogema

Dr. Evelyn Siegfried,
Royal Saskatchewan
Museum, Regina

Conference 2016

The Inclusive Museum

Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Museums
Association of Saskatchewan May 26 - 28
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Staff Report

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."
- Barbara Winkler

Unlike all seeds and bulbs sleeping away MAS staff have been busy through the winter! Read on and see some of the things MAS staff were up to between October 1st and January 31st.

Community Leadership

SaskCulture

The ED participated as a member of a SaskCulture committee/ working group of EDs reviewing the AGF (Annual Global Fund) program application process and forms in advance of the launch of the on-line application for the next 3-year Lotteries grant run.

The ED attended a meeting of Eligible Organization Ex. Directors held by SaskCulture to introduce the new online version of the AGF program application. The AGF deadline is February 1, 2016.

Saskatchewan Eco-Museum Initiative

The Executive Director continues to sit on the SEI Steering Committee. In partnership with Heritage Saskatchewan MAS co-published *The Ecomuseum Concept: A Saskatchewan Perspective on "Museums without*

Walls." To view the document visit: saskmuseums.org/files/FINAL_Web_Ecomuseums_Report.pdf

Saskatchewan Digitization Alliance

PD Coordinator Dan Holbrow is a member of the Steering Committee of the Saskatchewan Digital Alliance (SDA). This is a group established by the Multitype Library Board to facilitate greater digitization of libraries, archive and other organizations resources and collections in the province. Its vision is to develop a locus of knowledge and support that enables the public to find, locate, and utilize Saskatchewan knowledge and information created through co-operative Saskatchewan digitization initiatives.

Canadian Associate for the Preservation of Cultural Property (CAC-ACCR)

The Museums Advisor is co-chairing the CAC-ACCR conference that is to be held in Regina on June 6-10, 2017. Along with co-chairs Alyssa Becker-Burns (RSM) and Shannon Cunningham (RCMP Historical Collections). The event will consist of 2 pre-conference workshops, a 3 day conference, and the CAC-ACCR AGM. Attendees will include museum conservators from across Canada.

National Trust for Canada

The Executive Director attended

the National Trust for Canada Moh-Kins-Tsis Indigenous Roundtable which immediately preceded the NT Annual Conference in Calgary. Speakers described the relationships created between the City of Calgary and local First Nations relating to two City projects. As well Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe gave a presentation [The Dual Paradigms: Indigenous and Western Ways of Knowing](#). The ED also participated in the NT National Council Meeting which brought together a range of provincial and national heritage organizations.

CMA/PMA meetings

On January 25, the Executive Director attended the Canadian Museums Association Provincial/ Territorial Museums Associations' meeting in Ottawa which was held in conjunction with CMA's Museums on the Hill Day. A half-day focus group discussion took place with Department of Canadian Heritage to discuss the recent evaluation of the Museums Assistance Program and potential future direction for this and other museum programs within the Department.

Networks

All eleven Networks met in October or November with MAS staff attending all of the meetings.

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

The Introduction to Collections Digitization workshop was held on November 6 in Saskatoon.

Certificate Program

Two Certificate Program courses were offered in October - Care of Collections and Museums & Education.

Peer Exchange

The Peer Exchange was held in Saskatoon on November 20. Unfortunately the session scheduled for November 27 in Regina was postponed to the new year to accommodate individuals who wanted to participate but were unable to due to scheduling issues.

Advisory

The Museums Advisor was kept very busy during this quarter. In addition to fielding advisory questions via email and telephone she made two on-site visits and attended most of the fall Network meetings around the province. In addition she was editing *Standards for Saskatchewan Museums 5th Edition* and taking the Lead on the Collections Documentation Management Program – database project.

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.

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 are available digitally.

If you would like to know the impact of temperature, relative 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.

Planning and Development

Staff continued the developmental work on various projects including:

Collections Management Initiative

Museums Assistance Program (MAP) funding having been received for the next phase of our Collections Management Initiative. Staff have been working with the software developers and pilot locations on the database.

ICH Initiative

In partnership with Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society and Heritage Saskatchewan MAS will be participating in the new Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Initiative. Kristin Catherwood has been hired as ICH Development Officer by Heritage Saskatchewan, with MAS contributing approx. 1/3 of her contract salary. MAS has become a partner in the ICH Initiative because it will enable us to address two objectives. First, it is the next logical step in moving museums from a focus solely on material history to a focus which includes both tangible and intangible heritage equally; and second, it will assist in raising awareness of the value of intangible heritage which is significant with respect to Indigenous and Newcomer heritage which is the focus of the Diversity Policy and Plan. If you are interested in contacting Kristin contact Heritage Saskatchewan directly at www.heritagesask.ca.

For upcoming Professional Development and training activities check the Education Calendar which is sent to each institutional member upon publication. Alternatively you can find it on our website: mas@saskmuseums.org.

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.

Network Survey

The members survey on the Network program ended November is being conducted over October and November 30. Data collected is being analysed and is assisting the development of the next 3-year operational plan.

Staff

Wendy Fitch
Executive Director

Brenda Herman
Director of Finance

Eleanor Radbourne
Administration Assistant

Dan Holbrow
Professional
Development Coordinator

May-Lin Polk
Museums Advisor

Collective Voice

Publications

The fifth publication in the sustainability series - *Museum & Sustainability: Cultures of Sustainability* has been published. Hardcopies have been distributed to member institutions. This issue ties nicely into the Diversity Planning work to be undertaken over the next few months. Work has begun on the next publication which will be on sustainable museum collections.

The editing and layout/design for the 5th revision of *Standards*

for *Saskatchewan Museums* are nearing completion. As with past revisions this one will ensure our standards continue to reflect the best practices for museums provincially, nationally and internationally. All institutional members will receive a free copy of the new 5th Edition upon publication.

National Trust for Canada Conference

The Executive Director attended the National Trust for Canada annual conference, October 22-24, in Calgary, AB. She attended because HCNT is the other national heritage organizations able to speak to issues important to Saskatchewan museums. It is considered important for MAS to become more active with HCNT as it expands its mandate from focusing almost exclusively on buildings to include landscape and intangible heritage as well. The ED moderated, along with the CEO of Heritage Saskatchewan, a panel presentation entitled - The Power of Safeguarding a Sense of Place: Bridging Tangible and Intangible.

University of Regina Community Research Unit Showcase

The Executive Director attended this year's event on November 6th at the Core Ritchie Centre in Regina. The Showcase again profiled groups who work towards positive social change in communities through action and advocacy based on community-created research. This was a great opportunity to share knowledge with other community members and the university community who

may not see museums as potential partners in their work.

Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan

The ED attended the MCoS Multicultural Honours Awards hosted by the Lt. Governor at Government House. This year's award winners were Janelle Pewapsconias and Jebunessa Chapola both of Saskatoon.

Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN)

The Executive Director attended the January VSSN 'Koffee Klatch'. The purpose of the Koffee Klatch is to provide the opportunity for university students, non-profit organization staff and volunteers as well as university faculty/staff to connect, talk about the needs of the Saskatchewan non-profit sector in a relaxed environment. The topics discussed at this Koffee Klatch were: potential research, environmental scan, available learning opportunities, new university certificate in Non-profit Sector Leadership and Innovation, and June, 2016 conference ideas.

Canadian Museums Association "Museum Day on Parliament Hill"

The ED took part in this year's Hill Day as one of fourteen teams of museum sector representatives meeting with Parliamentarians to discuss three key issues of importance to the museum sector nationally – increasing funding to the Young Canada Works program, creating a program to match donations to museums similar to an existing program for

the performing arts and a thorough review/revision of the national museum policy and associated programs.

Operational Capacity

Annual Global Funding (AGF)

Staff spent considerable time completing the application for the AGF which is administered by SaskCulture on behalf of SaskLotteries Trust, and is MAS's main operational funding source for submission by the February 1st deadline. This was the first time the three-year AGF applications was a completely online process. The results of the adjudication are expected in March.

Operational Plan

Staff have developed a preliminary 3-year operational plan. The plan corresponds to the Global Ends Policy and Strategic Plan and forms the basis for the AGF Application for the next 3-year period 2016-2018.

The MAS office was closed December 24th to January 4th.

Education Calendar Highlights

Certificate Program in Community Museum Studies

Special Topic Courses:

Front-end and Formative Evaluation for Exhibit Designers

Introduction to Collections Digitization

Museum Governance Support Program

Online Summer Staff Training Course

Social Media Stats:



Twitter Followers 806



Facebook 'likes' 478



MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION *of*
SASKATCHEWAN



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

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