



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am excited to be able to bring you my first quarterly report as President of MAS, time sure has gone by fast since our annual conference in May. Spring has been a challenging time for many communities in our province; let's hope that the weather remains good for the rest of the summer.

Our annual conference in May in Swift Current was a huge success with attendance up from the past few years and many attended for the first time. Our keynote speaker Brenda Robinson spoke about "The Intergenerational Workplace: Differences are Not Difficulties". Her delightful and funny stories educated us on what we can do to encourage intergenerational understanding and how to celebrate them.

Breakout sessions included presentations by Shawn Bauche, "Linking Creative Kids to Your Community" and Stephanie Kaduck on "Programming for Modern Senior," just to name two.

Also, during the conference we introduced an updated version of our END's which can be found on our website. Next year's mini-conference will be held in Regina in late May 2015, so mark your calendars and watch for further details.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Crystal Craig for her years of dedication and commitment to the board and for taking on the President's role this past year. Her shoes will be tough to fill. We will miss

I would also like to thank returning board member Rhonda Lamb for committing to another 2-year term and welcome aboard Corinne Bokitch and Julie Jackson who are joining the board for the first time.

In June Brenda Herman, Chad Debert and I attended SaskCulture's Annual General Meeting. At their meeting they introduced their new 3-year strategic plan and lawyer Troy Baril of Miller Thompson gave a presentation on the new email privacy laws that came into place on July 1st. Prior to their AGM, Wendy Fitch and I attended SaskCulture's members meeting in Regina while Crystal Craig participated in the Saskatoon meeting. The members meeting allowed selected members the opportunity to participate in the discussion of their bylaw changes and strategic plan prior to their AGM.

The CMA Conference was held in Toronto in April and Wendy Fitch and I had the opportunity to attend. We once again had an opportunity to meet the executive along with our other counterparts from the other provinces. During the meeting Nicholas Gauvin of the Canadian Museum of History talked about how the Virtual Museum of Canada will be transferred to the Canadian Museum of History later this year and the Museum is working with representatives from Dept. of Canadian Heritage to ensure



Robert Hubick

that the Canadian Museum of History will continue to fund virtual museum initiatives across the country.

In late June board member Yvonne Hotzak brought greetings on behalf of MAS at the re-opening of the Wynard Museum and I had the opportunity to participate in the Ruby Rush days at the Harris Museum. If you would like a board member to attend any of your upcoming community events this year 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 and staff.

This coming year the board will be focusing on the risk management side of the association; financial, reputational and succession planning as well as working towards ensuring inclusiveness and diversity into everything we do. Our Strategic Plan is an Evergreen model so as such will be reviewed along with our new version of our END'S as well. We will continue to find ways to better serve our members and staff.

Have a great rest of the summer!

THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN'S BOARD & STAFF QUARTERLY REPORT IS PUBLISHED EVERY THREE MONTHS. THE ANNUAL REPORT IS ISSUED IN MAY.



STAFF REPORT

Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.
~ Pauline R. Kezer

OFFICE ACTIVITIES

As expected spring was a busy time for all of us in the MAS office with the conference & AGM in Swift Current being a prime example. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between April 1st and July 1st.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SaskCulture

Wendy Fitch, Executive Director, along with President Robert Hubick attended the SaskCulture information session April 24th. Attendees discussed upcoming proposed SaskCulture bylaw changes, diversity and inclusion initiatives and had input into their next strategic plan.

Brenda Herman, Director of Finance and President Robert Hubick attended the SaskCulture Eligible Cultural Organizations meeting and AGM June 13th. SaskCulture provided information regarding liability insurance changes. It should be noted that MAS members are not included under our group insurance program but are eligible for insurance at reduced rates if they use Henderson Insurance. As well, information was provided regarding the annual submission and follow-up requirements for those of us who are eligible to apply for SaskLotteries Trust funding.

Further discussion on the diversity/inclusion initiative took place including how provincial organizations will be assisted by SaskCulture to integrate diversity/inclusion plans into their on-going organizational plans.

Finally, there was a brief discussion regarding how organizations intend to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Confederation in 2017.

Canadian Museums Association

We were well represented at the Canadian Museums Association's annual conference April 7th to 11th in Toronto, including, Vice-President Robert Hubick, ED Wendy Fitch, and board member Chad Debert. There were four other Saskatchewanians in attendance as well.

This year's theme was "The Future of Museums". The ED attended a pre-conference workshop entitled "Leading Change & Designing for Innovation" which focused largely on "Design Thinking," which is a creative problem solving process that balances analytical with creative ways of doing things. Keynote speakers and conference sessions offered a diverse look at how museums need to change in order to meet the challenges the future holds. As well, there were plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues from all parts of the country.

Both MAS Board members and ED attended a meeting of all of the Provincial/Territorial Museum Associations able to send representatives, along with representatives from the CMA Board and staff. A number of items were discussed including: changes to CHIN (Canadian Heritage Information Network)/ Canadian Museum of History particularly with respect to the Virtual Museum of Canada. As announced in the federal budget, an update on other federal programs including the Museums Assistance Program, as well as CMA and Provincial Association updates.

There was also a brief discussion regarding ways to improve the effectiveness of this important national partnership.

Eco-Museum Initiative

MAS continues to participate in the provincial Eco-Museum Initiative with the ED as a member of the steering committee along with representatives of Heritage Canada – The National Trust, SaskCulture, Heritage Saskatchewan and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. For more information about eco-museums and the work currently under way in Saskatchewan please check out the most recent **Museums and Sustainability** publication.

Members of the Eco-Museum Steering Committee were invited to participate in the Regional Centre for Expertise (RCE) symposium held at Government House in May. The RCE is part of an international network of centres based in institutions of advanced education that focus on education for sustainable development.

MAS STAFF

WENDY FITCH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BRENDA HERMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

DAN HOLBROW
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR

MAY-LIN POLK
MUSEUMS ADVISOR

ERIC BELL
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

ELE RADBOURNE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



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STAFF REPORT

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Conference

The 2014 Conference & AGM was held in Swift Current May 22nd to 24th. This year's conference and AGM attracted 86 delegates from more than 50 Saskatchewan museums and cultural organizations. A huge thank you to everyone who made our conference a success, including all of our Swift Current hosts and, of course, our sponsors - SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Lotteries and Canadian Heritage.

On Friday morning we hit the road for our bus tour. We visited the museums in Mortlach, Morse, Herbert, and Doc's Town in Swift Current. Thanks to everyone at each museum for making us feel so welcome and special thanks to the ladies at the Morse Museum for putting out a lovely lunch for us to enjoy.

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 in Regina!

For more information on what happened at the Conference & AGM please check out the June 3rd issue of Megaphone.

SAVE THE DATE!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THE 2015 MAS
MINI-CONFERENCE
& ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING TO BE HELD IN
REGINA MAY 22ND.

KEEP AN EYE ON
E-PHEMERA AND OUR
WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION.



Keynote Speaker Brenda Robinson opens up the conference in Swift Current.



A group of conference attendees on the bus tour at Doc's Town in Swift Current.

Publications

We were pleased to publish *Museums & Sustainability – Social Sustainability* this spring. In this issue we look at how museums can play an important role in creating strong, vibrant communities. With articles from Royal Sask. Museum Curator Glenn Sutter, author Candace Savage and SaskCulture's Dean Kush and numerous Saskatchewan case studies we look at many of the ways museums bring people from different ages, cultures, interests and identities together helping to foster a broader and more inclusive sense of community in our increasingly diverse province.

EVENTS

Youth Heritage Fairs

Dan Holbrow, PD Coordinator, and May-Lin Polk, Museums Advisor, conducted workshops at each of the regional fairs in Saskatoon, Regina and Moose Jaw which were very well received by the YHF participants. The workshops introduced the students to the 10 Agents of Deterioration and what makes ordinary objects museum quality. The students were given the opportunity to make their own light meters to demonstrate the differences between light sources and the damage that they might cause.

ED Wendy Fitch participated as a judge at the Regina Regional Youth Heritage Fair at the First Nations University in Regina while PD Coord. Dan Holbrow and Communications Coord. Eric Bell were judges at the Provincial Fair at Government House. It was inspiring to experience the enthusiasm these grades young people had for learning about heritage.



STAFF REPORT

Briercrest Heritage Day

On June 14th Dan Holbrow and Eric Bell attended Heritage Days at the Briercrest Museum. The event featured live heritage displays such as rope-making, soap-making and blacksmithing. The blacksmith even made Dan his own barbeque poker, which we are told is working quite well. The event was well-attended, and it was great to see all the hard work everyone at the Briercrest museum has been doing with their building- formerly the old school. Their displays are interesting and well laid out. If you are in the area, be sure to check them out. Briercrest is just a short drive from Moose Jaw.

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



Dan Holbrow brings greetings on behalf of MAS at Briercrest Heritage Days.

We are in the process of finalizing our 2014-2015 Professional Development Calendar, which is due out in early August. In addition to our Certificate Program courses, we're pleased to offer workshops on a range of topics, from pop-up museums to CCI's Storage Reorganization. The calendar is coming soon, so stay tuned for details!

NETWORKS

Spring Network meetings came to an end on May 31. May-Lin or Dan managed to attend all 11 meetings. The Network Knowledge Exchange presentation this year was on Mission Based Collecting. This learning opportunity was based upon the two new MAS Tip-Sheets, **Acquisition Evaluation** and **Mission Based Collecting**, as well as the new **Collections Management Documentation Handbook** for Saskatchewan Museums, which was released in April. All members have received these resources; they are also available online under Links and Online Resources on the MAS website. 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. Order forms from the handbook can also be found online.

There was a Networker Meeting on May 21, which was well attended by 12 Networkers. The time allowed the Networkers to meet and learn the ins and outs of running a Network.

Wendy Fitch also 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.

BY THE NUMBERS:



FACEBOOK "LIKES":

314



TWITTER FOLLOWS:

313



WEB VISITS (JUNE):

6,397 VISITORS

ADVISORY SERVICES

Advisory Services was in full force this spring, with 34 consultations including 1 site visit. If you are interested in discussing any matter with May-Lin, contact her at 306-780-9266 or at advisor@saskmuseums.org. All discussions are confidential. Site visits are also available. Referrals to specialists in various areas of heritage work is available as well.

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Youth Engagement

April 11, Prince Albert. This one-day workshop examined what motivates youth engagement with community organizations, and assisted participants in understanding what is involved in developing strategies for cultivating the involvement of young people.

Inquiry Based Learning

June 6, Moose Jaw. This one-day workshop introduced participants to inquiry-based learning and demonstrated how it can be applied to improve engagement levels and learning outcomes in museum educational programs.

Volunteer Management

April 24, Biggar. In this course, participants learned about the scope of volunteerism across the country and the province, volunteer trends and motivation.



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 books added this quarter is ***Museum Origins: Reading in Early Museum History & Philosophy.***

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 give us a call if you would like to borrow them.

DATABASE SURVEY

As part of our Collections Management Initiative we're working toward providing a low-cost collections database for members who require it. In preparation



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OPERATIONS

STAFFING

With the departure of Brittany Knudsen in April after almost 4 years we are pleased to announce that Eric Bell has joined the MAS team as our Communications Coordinator. Eric comes fresh from the University of Regina's Journalism program, and has done stints as a reporter at CBC Saskatchewan and the Prince Albert Daily Herald. Eric had the opportunity to meet many members at the conference and looks forward to getting out and meeting more members in the coming months. You can reach Eric at: communications@saskmuseums.org



Communications Coordinator Eric Bell

2014 MAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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