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MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN
**BOARD AND STAFF
QUARTERLY REPORT**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well winter has finally set in and grabbed a hold of us, but the days are starting to get longer and before we know it spring will be upon us!

This past fall the MAS board attended as many network meetings as possible to share ideas, gather feedback and learn all about your museums and communities. I had the opportunity to attend three of the meetings where I got the chance to visit museums in Willow Bunch and Wilkie too see the work they are doing in their communities. As well I also learned a little bit more about the progress of the museum currently being developed in White City. Unfortunately there were three networks that Board members didn't get a chance to attend but we will do our best to attend your spring network meeting instead.

As part of the board's ongoing work on the Board Strategy Plan, each year we ask three questions of the members at each network meeting. This year we focused our questions on National issues, specifically:

- 1) Are you a current member of Canadian Museum's Association (CMA)? Why or why not?
- 2) Are you aware of and use the Community Memories program that allows you to develop online exhibits? Do you use it?
- 3) What plans do each of you have to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Confederation in 2017?

The results of this mini survey were a little surprising. We learned that Network members have little awareness or understanding of CMA or its programs and services. They are slightly more aware of or have participated in the Community Memories Program of the Canadian Heritage Information Network. Finally very few Network participants have anything planned at this time for the 150th Anniversary of Confederation.

We have gathered the feedback and we will be sharing this information with CMA and the other provincial associations at the National conference in April. I do encourage everyone to learn more about both CMA and the Community Memories Program and the services they provide, because their programs and services could be of interest to you.

I also encourage everyone to start thinking about the celebration around the 150th anniversary of confederation in 2017. There still haven't been any official announcements on funding surrounding this event, but we expect funding announcements to occur sometime in the near future.

THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN'S
BOARD & STAFF QUARTERLY REPORT IS PUBLISHED
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MAS will keep you posted on funding programs as they are announced, but now is the time to start planning.

The board has also discussed introducing some kind of awards program for our members. There are a number of other organizations across Canada that recognize individuals who have done outstanding work and we feel that maybe it is time we do the same. We have formed a committee with Carol Peterson as the chair. The committee will gather some information on different types of awards and we hope to be able to share some of this information with you the members at the next Members Forum – part of the mini-conference in May, 2015.

The Nominations Committee has also been hard at work looking to recruit new board members. If you happen to know of anyone who might be a good fit or you are interested in learning more about what the board does and the time commitment required, please feel free to contact any of the board members or Wendy at the MAS office. It is a great experience both personally and professionally and I encourage you to get involved.

This past fall the board was pleased to learn that the Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Initiative (SEI) won an International Award in Japan. They received the highest level of recognition by UNESCO for their contributions to application of an eco-museums model to enable communities to conserve and learn from their natural and cultural heritage. At our last board meeting in December we were delighted to have Steering Committee Chair and Royal Saskatchewan Museum Curator of Human Ecology Dr. Glenn Sutter provide us with an update on the project and what lies ahead for the committee. Currently there are four demonstration sites around the province, and several other communities interested in exploring the concept further.

MAS is represented on the SEI Steering Committee by the Executive Director. When the Board receives further updates from SEI we will be sure to pass it onto our members.

As I mentioned in my last report, the board has created a Risk Management Committee. MAS has partnered with Heritage Saskatchewan and SaskCulture to undertake Enterprise Risk Management in all three organizations. While each organization is significantly different we do share similarities in some key areas including policy governance structure and having provincial mandates. We will be working with a consultant from KPMG to develop a process for identifying, categorizing and mitigating key risks to the organization over the next year to eighteen months. Once this process is complete, we will be able to share our findings with our members and hopefully allow you to incorporate the process into your organizations.

The MAS staff are working hard on putting together the Annual Conference in May. This year it is the one day mini-conference and it will be held in Regina on May 22nd. Further details on the conference will be out shortly, we hope you can all join us!

Have a happy and healthy 2015!

Sincerely,

Robert Hubick
President
MAS Board of Directors



OFFICE REPORT

Winter is the time for stories, staying fast by the glow of fire. And outside, in the darkness, the stars are brighter than you can possibly imagine.”

-Isabel Greenberg

Winter has definitely arrived but we didn't go into hibernation! Read on and see some of the things MAS staff were up to between October 1st and December 31st.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Saskatchewan Eco-Museum Initiative

The Executive Director continues to sit on the SEI Steering Committee. The Saskatchewan Eco-Museum Initiative received the United Nations University RCE (Regional Centres of Expertise) Award in the category of “Bridging Local Knowledge and Global Perspectives on Sustainable Development.” The Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Project was recognized as an outstanding RCE Flagship Project before a global delegate body of over 150 international delegates including over 70 Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, representatives from UNESCO and other UN Agencies, along with a great many local attendees and dignitaries in Okayama, Japan.

MCoS Bridging Consultation

On December 5th MAS Executive Director Wendy Fitch was invited to attend a half- day facilitated session on the relationship between First Nations/Metis and Newcomers at the community level. A report and framework for moving forward is to be developed and distributed based, in part, on the various consultations undertaken around the province.

University of Regina Community Research Unit Showcase

The Executive Director attended this event on November 14th at the U of R. The Showcase 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.

Multiculturalism Forum

The Executive Director attended this full day forum hosted by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) and the Cultural Branch of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport. The forum was held at the First Nations University of Canada. The main focus of the event was on the 40th Anniversary of Saskatchewan's Multiculturalism Act. A series of presentations were made highlighting the experiences of members of newcomer communities. In addition there were facilitated sessions where Forum participants explored the concept of multiculturalism in more depth.

Continued on next page...



The comments from the facilitated will be part of a larger project currently being undertaken by MCoS addressing the need to create bridges between cultures.

CMA/PMA meetings

On November 17, the Executive Director attended the Canadian Museums Association's Provincial/Territorial Museums Associations' meeting in Ottawa which was held in conjunction with CMA's Museums on the Hill Day. Presentations were made by the staff from the Department of Canadian Heritage, CHIN (Canadian Heritage Information Network) and CCI (Canadian Conservation Institute).

Museum Grant Program (MGP)

On December 11, 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 and their part in the Museum Grant Program.

Volunteer Sector Study Network Koffee Klatch

The Executive Director was invited to the first in a series of VSSN 'Koffee Klatches' on December 15. The purpose of the Koffee Klatch is to provide the opportunity for students, voluntary organization staff and volunteers as well as U of R faculty and staff to connect, talk about and begin sketching the VSSN in a relaxed environment. The theme of this first Koffee Klatch is "Imagining what the VSSN can/should be."

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.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Courses and Workshops

Certificate Program

The Organization and Management course was held in Saskatoon at the Gabriel Dumont Institute October 3rd.

We also offered Museums 101 both in person on October 21st in North Battleford and online during November.

Canadian Conservation Institute

The 2-day CCI Storage Reorganization workshop was held at the Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery October 21 & 22.

Participants learned how to assess the condition of a storage area using the ICCROM-UNESCO RE-ORG methodology; how to identify key risks and mitigation strategies and develop an convincing project proposal for storage reorganization.

Pop-Up Museums: Creating Conversation and Building Community

The Smithsonian Institution's Spark! Lab National Network Manager Michelle DelCarlo led the workshop October 24th in Assiniboia.



Michelle DelCarlo of the Smithsonian Institution instructs a course on Pop-Up Museums at the Assiniboia Museum in October.

Participants learned how pop-up museums are a temporary, participatory exhibit designed to maximize community participation and engagement at low cost.

Peer Exchange

The second annual Peer Exchange took place Nov. 7th. This session provided an opportunity for Sask. 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. The response from those attending was very positive.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Staff continued the developmental work on various projects including the next Museums & Sustainability publication, the Collections Documentation Management project, and the upcoming symposium – “Collections in the Community”.

For upcoming Professional Development and training activities check the Winter Calendar which was sent to each institutional member in the fall. The calendar can also be downloaded on our website. Find it under the “Education and Professional Development” tab.

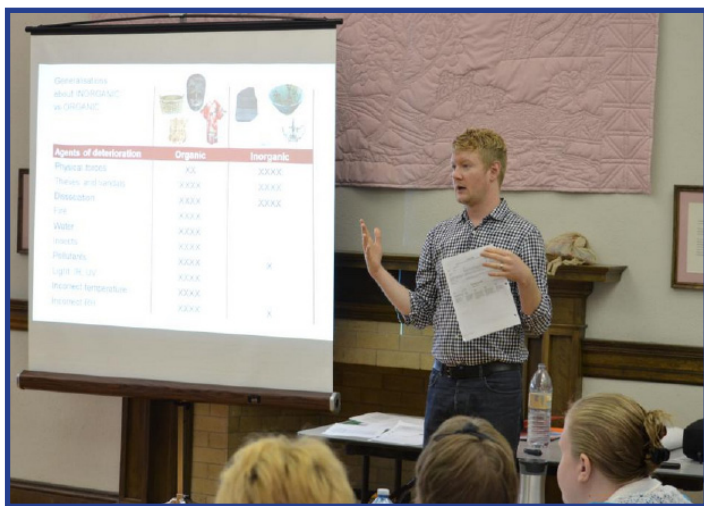
As always, we’d also like to hear from you about your museum development needs. If you have any ideas or training requirements, or any questions about our education programs, contact Dan at 306-780-9241, or email pdcoordinator@saskmuseums.org.

Advisory

The Museums Advisor was kept very busy during this quarter. In addition to fielding advisory questions via email and telephone she made one on-site visit and attended most of the fall Network meetings around the province.

In addition, the advisor participated in the seven Sask Culture Museum Grant Program workshops explaining how using Standards for Saskatchewan Museums will help MGP applicants improve their museums and in the process enhance their grant applications.

If you require assistance in any area, feel free to call May-Lin at 306-780-9266 or email advisor@saskmuseums.org.



Simon Lambert of the Canadian Conservation Institute instructs a course on storage reorganization at the Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery in October.

BY THE NUMBERS

TWITTER FOLLOWERS:
528, UP FROM 420 IN SEPT.

FACEBOOK LIKES: 373,
UP FROM 329 IN SEPT.

WEBSITE VISITS: 6,454
(SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER)

Resource Library

MAS is always adding new books to our resource library. New books added this quarter include:



“Programming for People with Special Needs” and “A Practical Guide to Costume Mounting” were both added to the Resource Library this quarter.

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.

COLLECTIVE VOICE

MAS Conference

Planning is currently underway for our 2015 mini-conference and AGM. The conference will be a one-day event with a lunch on Friday, May 22, 2015 at

Government House in Regina. The cost of the conference will be \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. Lunch is included in the cost and extra luncheon tickets may be purchased for \$30.

MAS has reserved a block of rooms at the Wyndham hotel in downtown Regina for those in need of accommodations. Rooms are available for \$135/night and reservations can be made by phoning the hotel at 306-584-7400 and quoting group number CGMS15 before April 21.

More information on keynote speakers will be available soon. Registration is expected to open in March and conference packages will be mailed in early April. Keep an eye on our website and in E-Pamera for more information.

Publications

Work continues on the next installment of Museums and Sustainability. This issue will look at the link between sustainability and collections. It will discuss collections' economic, ecological, social, and cultural sustainability in a range of articles sharing best practices and lessons learned by Saskatchewan museums and museum professionals.

We are also in the process of preparing several more Tip Sheets on topics ranging from artefact labelling to collections digitization to sharing difficult knowledge. Museums and Sustainability and the Tip Sheets will be available later in this year.

We are currently working on the 5th revision of Standards for Saskatchewan Museums. As with past revisions this one will ensure our standards continue to reflect the best practices of museums provincially, nationally and internationally.

Promotional Ads

MAS has continued to place print ads as one way to increase public awareness of the organization

and our members. We will be renewing our ad contract with Prairies North Magazine due to the great exposure it gave MAS in 2014. This contract will allow us to submit four print ads, two e-newsletter banner ads, an online box ad and two Facebook posts.

MAS also placed an ad in the Leader-Post for Multicultural week, which ran in November in honour of the 40th anniversary of the Saskatchewan Multiculturalism Act.

EVENTS

Heritage Canada Conference

The Executive Director attended the Heritage Canada National Trust annual conference, October 2-4, in Charlottetown, PEI for the first time this year. She attended because HCNT is the other national heritage organizations able to speak to issues important to Sask. museums. It is considered important for MAS to become more active with HCNT as it expands its mandate from focussing almost exclusively on buildings to include landscape and intangible heritage as well.

100th Anniversary of Canada's 1st National Internment Operation 1914-1920

On October 28th The Executive Director attended the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the implementation of Canada's first National Internment Operation at the site of Saskatchewan's only internment camp located for less than one month just outside of Saskatoon at Eaton SK, the site of the Saskatchewan Railway Museum. For a full description of this event please read the blog post on our website.

Lt. Governor's Arts Awards Gala

On Oct 28th the Executive Director attended the Arts Awards dinner in Saskatoon. This event is presented by the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

Stories of Courage: SK Second World War Veterans Remember

On Oct 28th the Communications Coordinator attended the launch of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport's military heritage project to preserve the oral histories of WWII veterans.

Voluntary Sector Studies Network Launch

On October 30th The Executive Director along with the President attended the launch of the VSSN at Luther College U of R. The VSSN is intended to bring together faculty, students and community organizations to create opportunities for dialogue among the various groups with the goal of creating a formal post secondary program of voluntary sector studies which does not currently exist in Sask.

Ogema Heritage Hall Official Opening

The Executive Director and President attended the official opening of the Ogema Heritage Hall on November 15. The Executive Director spoke at the event commending the community for how it has recognised the value of its heritage assets as part of its economic development activities.

Saskatchewan Archives Board Remembrance Day Event – "From the Prairies to the Trenches"

The Executive Director attended this event on November 6th at the Saskatchewan Legislature commemorating the start of the First World War. Diary entries, letters and an oral history interview from SK WWI veterans were presented.

As well, the SK Archives digital newspaper project was launched with the years 1914 & 1915 chosen in honour of the 100 Anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. They are working with Sask. History Online to put the collection online.

Qu'Appelle Valley Eco-Museum Launch

The Executive Director attended the launch of the Qu'Appelle Valley Ecomuseum on December 4th at the Treaty 4 Governance Centre in Ft. Qu'Appelle.

The Eco-museum working group consists of the Calling Lakes District Planning Commission, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, Kairos and The Friends of the Katepwa Park. They came together with members of the community to celebrate the launch of Saskatchewan's second Eco-museum. An added pleasure came with the official presentation of the UN University RCE Award Certificate to members of the SEI Steering Committee.

ADVOCACY

CMA Hill Day

The Executive Director participated in this year's annual "Museum Day on the Hill" in Ottawa Nov. 18th. She was one of approximately 40 participating museum representatives from across the country taking part in this year's event. Participants were placed in teams of three people who attended individually scheduled meetings with the approximately 40 Members of Parliament and Senators over the course of the day. The three topics discussed were funding to Young Canada Works, a review of the Federal Museum Policy and associated programs and the creation of a short-term matching donation program for museums.



The Reynold Rapp Museum in Spalding on a recent frosty day.

OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Operational Plan review

The staff began the formal review process of the 3-year operational plan in November. This is done annually at this time to coincide with the budgeting process in order to complete the Annual Global Funding Submission to SaskCulture and SaskLotteries Trust in January.

OTHER NEWS

Website Redesign

The MAS website has been redesigned by Derek Hogue of Amphibian Design in Winnipeg. MAS staff are currently busy updating information on the new website, with the goal to launch it in February.

Megaphone Stories

MAS is currently accepting story suggestions for the upcoming editions of the Megaphone Newsletter. Is your museum doing something new? What are your plans for the spring season? Let us know! Send an email to communications@saskmuseums.org with your story suggestions.



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