



MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION OF
SASKATCHEWAN
MUSEUMS ARE MORE...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone has enjoyed our short winter thus far! I was fortunate to spend two warm weeks in Mexico, so I missed the super cold snap on the prairies! It's great to be back home though.

I am hearing from some of you that you are looking forward to getting back into your respective museums and preparing for another great summer. Let the spring cleaning begin!!

We have had a very productive year so far on the board. We have produced policies on Ownership Linkage and Stakeholder Relations. We have also been working on Nominations, and setting up forms and recognizing needs to expand our knowledge on the board.

We appoint a board buddy for each new board member to become more comfortable in their new position. There is a lot of information to consume and it helps to have someone guide you through it all.

Our awards committee is working on the awards that we will be presenting and to whom. The Governor General's Award has also called for nominations, so please submit your nominations to the MAS office by February 24.

The board has also been working on our Governance Pulse Tool to evaluate the work we do. Our progress on the Board Work Plan will also continue throughout the year. We continue to monitor our practices to ensure that we are following our policies and protocols.

The MAS staff and Board have gotten to know each other better this year, as we have had two professional development sessions and shared an evening together prior to Christmas.

Board & Staff Quarterly Report

The Museums Association
of Saskatchewan's Board & Staff

Quarterly Report is published in July, October,
and January. The Annual Report is issued in
May.

For more information, please contact us:

mas@saskmuseums.org
306-780-9279
1-866-568-7386

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2016

Our professional development sessions were on Diversity, Inclusivity, First Nations, and Newcomer Cultural Awareness.

We have all gathered information from these sessions, and we are prepared to help out where we can, passing on any information that you may find helpful.



In April, Wendy and I will be attending the Canadian Museums Association Conference in Ottawa. The MAS conference this year will be a one day mini-conference in Regina on May 26 at the RCMP Heritage Centre. I hope to see as many of you as possible.

We're already planning this year's Member Forum. We need to know just what you require from us! And we look forward to letting you know what the future may hold.

All the best in this new year, 2017!!

Yvonne Hotzak, President
MAS Board of Directors

2017 MAS MINI CONFERENCE

**The 2017 conference will be on May 26th,
at the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina**

For more information and to register,
visit our website: saskmuseums.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Fort Pelly Livingstone
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“A NEW YEAR BRINGS NOT ONLY HAPPINESS, IT MAKES US HAPPY WITH A HOPE TO FULFIL OUR DREAMS OR A NEW BEGINNING OF OUR LIFE. SO, A NEW YEAR IS VERY SPECIAL TO EVERYONE.” – SANTONU KUMAR DHAR

STAFF

Wendy Fitch
Executive Director

Brenda Herman
Director of Finance

Eleanor Radbourne
Administration
Assistant

Dan Holbrow
Program Director

Kathleen Watkin
Museums Advisor

Emma Morris
Community
Engagement
Coordinator

OFFICE REPORT

As the year began to turn, the MAS staff were busy preparing for the new year. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between October 1st and December 31st, 2016.

Community Leadership

SaskCulture

The Program Director attended a meeting of Eligible Organizations participating in the SaskCulture Diversity Initiative in October. This was a welcome opportunity for sharing information between the various organizations at different stages in our own Diversity and inclusion work.

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 Heritage Canada – The National Trust, SaskCulture, Heritage Saskatchewan and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Work has begun on the development of a set of criteria to be used in describing ecomuseums in Saskatchewan.

Networks

The Networks held their fall meetings during this quarter with MAS staff and Board members attending all of the meetings. As well, a representative from SaskCulture attended all of the meetings and gave a presentation on the new application form and online application process for the Museum Grant Program. Dates have been set for the Spring meetings and will be announced in E-Phemera as those dates grow closer.

The Network Knowledge Exchange session at the spring meetings will be on the Collections Self-Assessment Workbook. If you want to be a part of a Network or want to know more about the program contact Emma Morris at 306-780-9451 or communications@saskmuseums.org

National Trust for Canada

The Executive Director attended the National Trust for Canada Hamilton Indigenous Roundtable – Going Beyond Consultation: Navigating Worldviews in the Search for Meaningful Engagement. She also attended the National Council Meeting which brings together senior national and provincial heritage organizations. Both of these meetings immediately preceded the National Trust for Canada's annual conference 2016 – Heritage Rising.

Capacity Development

Courses and Workshops

The *Telling Difficult Stories* workshop was held on October 19 in Saskatoon.

Certificate Program

The course *Museums 101* was offered online November 1-30.

The course *Museums and Community* is being rescheduled to the new year due to scheduling issues

unexpectedly emerging for the instructor.

The course *Marketing the Museum* had to be cancelled due to low registrations.

Advisory

The Museums Advisor was kept busy during this quarter. In addition to fielding questions via email and telephone Kathleen made a SaskCollections site visit to Melfort. Kathleen is also actively involved on the Canadian Association for Conservation (CAC) conference planning committee in preparation for the conference in June, 2017 in Regina.

Resource Library

New books are always being added to the Resource Library. Visit the Resource Library section on our website to see our listings.

We are also open to suggestions if you think a book should be added to our collection. Also operating within the Resource Library is the Environmental Monitoring Equipment program. Four pieces of equipment are

available for loan to 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 use them.

In addition, we have two types of Oral History kits available for loan through the Resource Library. One contains both audio and video recording equipment while the other contains only audio recording equipment.

Please call us if you would like to borrow one of the kits.

SaskCollections – Collections Management Initiative

Phase two of the project has begun with the addition of 5 members to the user group. A meeting of the initial pilot users took place November 18 in Saskatoon. Kathleen has been developing a SaskCollections Users Manual to assist new users navigate the database. For more information about SaskCollections, contact Kathleen Watkin 306-780-9266 or advisor@saskmuseums.org

For information on spring

Professional Development and training activities check the Education Calendar which was mailed to all MAS members. Alternatively you can find it on our website: www.saskmuseums.org

Museum Governance

MAS has developed training modules on a range of topics including - *Roles & Responsibilities of a Museum Board, Museums on a Mission to Introduction, Museum Governance Models, Introduction to Human Resource Management and Introduction to Strategic Planning.*

MAS Program Director Dan Holbrow will work with an individual museum board to select the modules best suited to their needs and will then come to the community and deliver the training selected. To date Dan has conducted sessions in Carlyle and Indian Head.

For more information on the Governance training, contact Dan Holbrow at 306-780-9241 or pdcoordinator@saskmuseums.org

Planning and Development

Staff continued the developmental work on various projects including:

- *Museums & Sustainability: Exhibitions*
- *Collections Self-Assessment Tool Kit*
- *Tip Sheets – Deaccessioning; Photographing Collections*

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

Social Media Stats



Twitter Followers:

1,282, up from 1,176



Facebook "Likes": 572, up from 548



Instagram Followers: 53



Website Visits: 5,850

Follow us on social media @SaskMuseums

Collective Voice

Events

In addition to the above mentioned activities MAS staff attended the following events during this quarter:

- SK Sports Hall of Fame exhibit opening *Those Who Served* – Wendy & Emma
- Main Street Saskatchewan Conference – Wendy & Emma
- Guest Lecture Ecomuseum course U of R Luther College – Wendy

- Retirement celebration for Delores Cutler (Rusty Relics Museum) – Wendy

- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan Awards Ceremony – Wendy & Emma

In addition to the above, *E-phemera* was sent out as scheduled, and the website and Facebook pages were updated regularly.

Operations

Staff continue to develop risk management policies and procedures with a consultant from KPMG. Operational planning is underway for the next three-year cycle in line with the MAS strategic plan. A consultant has been hired to assist in the development of a comprehensive Communications Plan for the association.

The MAS office was closed from December 26, 2016 to January 3, 2017.

Stay up-to-date on MAS news

Subscribe to the MAS e-mail list to receive our weekly newsletter *E-phemera*, as well as special news releases and funding reminders. Members can promote museum events on the MAS website by logging on to the members' section and filling out the form on the *submit an event* tab.



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