

Board & Staff QUARTERLY REPORT

Fall 2018

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Summer went by in a flash, and here we are in the middle of October! For some, this means closing your facilities for the winter, while for others it's a time to shift your focus from summer events to fall and winter programming. As you do your planning for next year remember that the MAS office has resources that can assist you. Also, the online MAS "Members Area" section on the website provides valuable information such as free publications, a museum services directory, access to the resource library, advisory services. Also, new this fall, you no longer need to login to the members area to submit jobs or events, there are now easy to find links on the MAS home page.

As Board Directors, we feel it's important for us to take every opportunity to connect with you – the MAS membership. Some of

us have already attended your fall network meetings and the rest will meet with you by early November. Thank you for being so welcoming – we enjoy hearing about your accomplishments and how we can assist with your challenges. Don't forget that we are your Board, and we encourage all of you to stay in touch. We are always available for your feedback, questions, and concerns, so feel free to reach out through the MAS office.

This past September I was able to attend the "Construction of Mannequins for Historic Costumes" course, which was offered by MAS in conjunction with the Canadian Conservation Institute. It was a great chance to see colleagues and learn new skills in a fun and educational environment. There are many opportunities to attend classes and workshops that help keep museum staff and volunteers current on various topics. Check out the most recent edition of "E-Phemera" for updates on these events.

This fall we have been busy continuing our work on a refresh of our ENDS, Vision and Values. We also have a new Board Calendar and Task List that will keep us on track and busy for the next year. As you know, we are an all-female board at the moment and we are

always keeping an eye out for new Board members. Please consider joining us and help us ensure that we have directors who represent diverse and inclusive communities. Contact the Board's Nominations Committee if you're interested or would like to nominate someone you know.

Finally, we've started planning for the MAS mini-conference, which will be in Saskatoon at the WDM on the 31st of May 2019. I know how busy we all are, especially at that time of year when seasonal museums are opening again, but this is only one day. It's your chance to attend sessions and listen to speakers, to reconnect with each other, and to meet and vote for your Board of Directors. So, mark your calendars and see you there!

Enjoy the rest of fall, and stay warm and safe over the next few months.

Until next time!

Teresa Carlson, MAS President

The MAS Board & Staff Quarterly Report is published in July, October and January. The Annual Report is issued in May.

For more information, please contact us:
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Saskatoon

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Regina

OFFICE REPORT

Summer seems to have flown by and not just because of holidays. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between July 1st and October 1st.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

SaskCulture

Wendy Fitch, Executive Director (ED) and Kathleen Watkin, Museums Advisor met with SaskCulture's Grants Administrators to review the Museum Grant Program (MGP) application prior to it going live in mid-September. We had a few suggested word changes which were accepted and incorporated into the final versions of the three application forms. MAS is very pleased that we have a good working relationship with SaskCulture Grants staff which results in being able to serve the MAS members accessing the MGP better.

“Two sounds of autumn are unmistakable...the hurrying rustle of crisp leaves blown along the street...by a gusty wind, and the gabble of a flock of migrating geese.”

~Hal Borland

The ED was invited to present at the Rivers West Sport, Culture & Recreation District's Cultural Gathering in Herschel at the Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre. While there weren't as many participants as anticipated those that were there were interested and engaged.



CCI Mannequin Making Course in Prince Albert, SK. Photo by Kathleen Watkin.

Saskatchewan Eco-Museum Partnership

MAS continues to participate in the provincial Eco-Museum Initiative Partnership 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. The partnership with U of S professors Dr. Tobias Sperlich and Dr Glenn Sutter, where MAS has been involved in a research project looking at how the ecomuseum model could benefit communities address significant change began during this quarter. Four communities agreed to participate in the project – Gravelbourg, Humboldt, Saltcoats, and Wolseley and hosted meetings with Dr. Sperlich & Sutter along with graduate student, Leah O'Malley, and a MAS staff rep. The second set of meetings are to take place this fall with a final report with recommendations is expected by the end of the year.

The ED was approached to make a presentation to the Nova Scotia Heritage Conference on ecomuseums. The presentation was on Saskatchewan's experiment with ecomuseums including an explanation of what an ecomuseum is; what they can do; why MAS sees this as a viable alternative to traditional museum models for a community to consider; and finally, how ecomuseums can contribute to the sustainability of the community. In order to limit the costs and also to demonstrate a higher level of environmental sustainability the presentation was made remotely via Skype.

Networks

The first of the fall Network meetings was held in late September. The remaining fall meetings will take place through October. As usual, a staff person will be in attendance along with a Board member. Dates and locations for the Fall meetings can be found on the [Museum Networks page](#) of the MAS website. If you want to be a part of a Network or want to know more about the program contact the MAS office at 306-780-9279 or mas@saskmuseums.org.

Voluntary Sector Studies Network

The ED has been appointed to a two-year term on the VSSN Advisory Committee. The VSSN is under the auspices of Luther College at the U of R. The VSSN offers the only certificate in Non-profit Sector Leadership and Innovation.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Courses and Workshops

The Certificate Program course *Museums and Community* was offered on-line this quarter.

In addition, we offered a two-day *CCI session – Construction of Mannequins for Historic Costumes* in Prince Albert.

Advisory

The Museums Advisor was kept busy during this quarter. In addition to fielding questions via email and telephone Kathleen made several on-site visits including several with SaskCollections participants. In addition she is also the Saskatchewan lead of this year's *Re:Org Prairies & North* project with the Canadian Conservation Institute.

Resource Library

New books are always being added to the Resource Library. We are currently adding many new titles to the library listings on the MAS website. Watch for new book reviews in E-Phemera through the winter. Or just give us a call if you cannot find the resource that you are looking for on the members only section MAS website. We are also open to suggestions if you think a book should be added to our collection.

STAFF

Wendy Fitch
Executive Director

Brenda Herman
Director of Finance

Dan Holbrow
Program Director

Kathleen Watkin
Museums Advisor

Michelle Brownridge
Community Engagement
Coordinator

Terri Morris
Administrative Assistant

Resource Library (continued)

Also operating within the Resource Library is the Environmental Monitoring Equipment program. Equipment is 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 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

In addition to adding Phase five participants to SaskCollections we have begun to add existing participants to the publicly accessible piece of SaskCollections. Up until now the focus has been on the creation of solid collections databases for the participating museums now, as they become ready, we will be assisting them to use the public interface. This will allow the participating museums to share images and information about objects in their collections with researchers, colleagues, students and the general public. To see what the public can view, [check out the SaskCollections area on the MAS website](#).

Museum Governance

The MAS training modules which make up the Museum Governance program cover a range of topics including - Roles & Responsibilities of a Museum Board, Museums on a Mission, Introduction, Museum Governance Models, Introduction to Human Resource Management and Introduction to Strategic Planning.

MAS staff work with an individual museum board to select the module(s) best suited to their needs and then will come to the community and deliver the training selected. For more information on the Governance training contact Dan Holbrow at programs@saskmuseums.org.

Planning and Development

Staff continued the developmental work on various capacity development projects including:

- the *Education and Interpretation Self-Assessment Workbook* is in the final piloting phase prior to being published in the new year
- development of new tip sheets for publication in the new year
- the next issue of the *Museums & Sustainability* publication – *Museums and Indigenous Engagement*
- finalizing details for the fall PD/training offerings
- planning the 2019/20 PD/Training year

As always, we'd also like to hear from you about your museum development needs. You can fill out the request form which is available online here: <http://bit.ly/mascourserequest>. A hard copy was included in the Fall Education Calendar or if you have any ideas or training requirements, or any questions about our education programs, contact Dan at programs@saskmuseums.org.

COLLECTIVE VOICE

Publications

We were pleased to introduce a new publication [*Making the Connection between Museums & Education*](#) which had been titled *Getting the Most Out of Museums: A Teacher's Guide to Rewarding, Stress-free Museum Visits*. As well we have revised and published a second edition of *How to Train Your Summer Staff Manual*.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the 2019 MAS
Mini-Conference &
Annual General

Meeting
to be held at the

**Western
Development
Museum**

**in Saskatoon
May 31, 2019.**

Events

MAS staff attended the following events during this quarter:

- Regina Public Library – Hot Topics Storytelling session - Wendy
- Melville Museum Strawberry Tea – Michelle
- Regina Indian Industrial School Prov. Heritage Property dedication - Wendy
- Royal Saskatchewan Museum reno project announcement – Wendy
- Meeting with Cumberland House Comm./SaskCultre/Heritage SK – Wendy, Dan, Michelle
- Non-profits Summer Institute (U of R Community Research Unit) – Wendy
- Canadian Police Museums Conference presentation - Dan
- #ZOOMRSM exhibit opening reception – Wendy
- Museum Hack workshops – Dan, Michelle
- Dept. Canadian Heritage/CMA meeting – Wendy
- Voluntary Sector Studies Network Conference - Kathleen
- SaskCulture Member consultation/ AGM & UNDRIP workshop – Wendy
- National Indigenous Peoples Day events – Wendy, Kathleen, Michelle
- RSM First Nations Gallery 25th Anniversary celebration – Wendy
- VSSN Orientation session – Wendy
- Pier 21 (National Museum of Immigration) Public Meeting & reception – Wendy

In addition to the above, E-Phemera was sent out on the new bi-weekly schedule and the Fall Education Calendar was produced and distributed in August.

We gratefully
acknowledge the
support of...



OPERATIONS

Planning

The Board Orientation meeting July 27 & 28 took place in Regina with staff in attendance to do brief presentations to the Board on their programs and activities.

Staff also undertook their annual operational planning for the next 3-year period (2019-2021). Because this is an evergreen plan each year staff review the previous year's activities and use that information to finalize the next year and add a third year to the plan.

Staffing

Dan returned to the MAS office July 9th from his year in Winnipeg. We all went for lunch to celebrate have the team back together again!

Thanks for being patient if we weren't in when you tried to contact us as we all took much needed holidays at various times over the summer.



CCI Mannequin Making Course in Prince Albert, SK. Photos by Kathleen Watkin.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS...



Twitter Followers

1,669

up from 1,640



Instagram Followers

369

up from 290



Facebook "Likes"

763

up from 715



Website Visits

16,703

Sessions

Jul. 1 - Oct. 1



CONTACT US!

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