

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



For years, volunteers and staff have worked hard to create the great variety of heritage institutions in our province – every one of them containing and preserving the unique histories and traditions of our distinct communities. Saskatchewan is currently undergoing great changes, and as we continue to grow, new stories are constantly being added to these earlier narratives. Today, our challenge is to be inclusive of

our province's new voices while maintaining a connection to our more established Indigenous, Métis, and settler heritages. This new year presents us with fresh opportunities to find innovative ways to share our stories with each other, to create ties between the past and the present, to bring together the familiar and unfamiliar, and to deepen our community roots while helping newcomers to establish theirs.

Museums are, by definition, places of learning. For me, that means not just teaching the public, but enabling the continued learning of everyone in the heritage field. If we passively watch the changes happening all around us and don't take part in welcoming and embracing new experiences, we can't ensure that our ever-changing communities will come to appreciate what we share and to respect what makes us different.

Our cultural institutions have the transformative power to unite and advance the understanding and appreciation of change – to draw people together in a shared pride that will ensure stronger, long-lasting communities.

Creating inclusive and progressive museum facilities may seem a daunting task, but MAS can assist us in developing new initiatives by equipping us with the tools we need to face the challenges of tomorrow, and take advantage of emerging opportunities. As you plan, prepare and look forward to the coming months I encourage all of you who have questions or concerns to contact MAS staff or your Board of Directors through the MAS office for resources and advice.

Until next time!

Teresa Carlson, MAS President



Above: The MAS Staff & Board had a Holiday Gathering in November.

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:  
[mas@saskmuseums.org](mailto:mas@saskmuseums.org)  
 (306) 780 - 9279  
 1-866-568-7386

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Diefenbaker Canada  
Centre, Saskatoon

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## OFFICE REPORT

Autumn, as usual, has flown by with all the Network meetings and training events. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between October 1st and December 1st.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

### SaskCulture

MAS facilitated the SaskCulture's Grants Administrators' ability to attend most Network meetings via telephone to answer questions regarding the Museum Grant Program (MGP) application which had an application deadline of November 30th.

### 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, continued during this quarter. A second meeting to discuss the project research results has taken place in two of the four participating communities – Gravelbourg and Saltcoats. The remaining meetings are to take place over the next few weeks with a final gathering in the spring where the final report with recommendations is expected to be presented.

“Well, we have a whole new year ahead of us. And wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all be a little more gentle with each other, a little more loving, and have a little more empathy, and maybe, next year at this time we'd like each other a little more.”  
- Judy Garland

## Networks

The majority of the fall Network meetings were held in this quarter. As usual, a staff person was in attendance along with a Board member. Dates and locations for the Spring 2019 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](mailto:mas@saskmuseums.org)

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

for the 2019 MAS Awards!

- **Young Professional Award**

- **Award of Merit**  
(Individual & Institution)

- **Lifetime Achievement**

**Apply online by April 15!**

[www.bit.ly/masawards2019](http://www.bit.ly/masawards2019)

## Non-profit Voluntary Sector Studies Network

To better reflect the focus of the network the name has been changed to include Non-profit. This addresses the misconception that only all volunteer organizations were involved. The Executive Director (ED) has attended two meetings of the NVSSN Advisory Committee. The NVSSN is under the auspices of Luther College at the University of Regina. The NVSSN offers the only certificate in Non-profit Sector Leadership and Innovation in Saskatchewan.

## National Trust for Canada

The ED attended the National Trust for Canada (NT) annual conference in Fredericton in October. In addition to the actual conference, the ED also attended the inaugural Rural Heritage Roundtable. The purpose of this half-day gathering was to set the stage for future discussions. It was an opportunity for individuals from across the country to begin to define rural heritage in the Canadian context and what the common themes and issues are in rural heritage. The ED also participated in the National Council Meeting which brings together senior national and provincial heritage organizations annually.

## Ontario Museums Association

The ED was asked to give a presentation on the MAS Network program to the first meeting of the Ontario Network of Regional Museum Networks in Toronto immediately prior to their annual conference.

Because the date of the Ontario Museums Association (OMA) conference was so close to that of the National Trust the logistics allowed for this opportunity.

While many of the regional museum networks in Ontario have existed for several years, they have not been a sanctioned part of the OMA as the MAS Networks have always been. The OMA ED had noted the MAS system at the CMA/Provincial/Territorial Museums Association meeting in April and wanted their networks to hear about another province's approach. This was a full day meeting with presentations from the ED of the Ontario Non-Profit Network and MAS. The rest of the meeting was used by OMA to provide updates, primarily on their current planning process. The network representatives also participated in a session where they were essentially a specialized focus group assisting in the fine tuning of an upcoming Ontario Museum Impact Survey.

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### Courses and Workshops

Certificate Program courses Museums and Education, Museums 101 and Volunteer Management took place in October and November.

The Introduction to Art Handling course was offered twice. In October as a Special Topic Course and in December for the Remain Modern staff.

It should be noted that the attendance was up this fall which is attributed to the coordinated promotion activities via social media along with email blasts/reminders.

## Advisory

The Museums Advisor has been busy answering requests for information from institutions applying to the Museums Grant Program (MGP). As well she will be the liaison with CCI for the RE:Org program in which two Saskatchewan institutions – Mackenzie Art Gallery and Prince Albert Historical Museum, along with institutions from Manitoba and the NWT will work closely with CCI staff to analyze and reorganize their storage facilities.

## 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

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 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 use one of the kits.

## SaskCollections

The latest intake into SaskCollections is complete bringing the total number of participating institutions to 23. As well, the next intake into the publicly accessible portion of SaskCollections of participating institutions is underway. The Museums Advisor continues to provide staff support and training to participating institutions. To see what the public face of SaskCollections looks like you can browse the institutions that [are currently online here.](#)

In addition, the Advisor took part in a teleconference bringing together several provincial and territorial museums associations either currently using Collective Access (the software basis for SaskCollections) or planning to in the near future. For more information about SaskCollections contact Kathleen Watkin at [advisor@saskmuseums.org](mailto:advisor@saskmuseums.org)

## New Course Request Process

Does the course you want just never seem to be offered in a place you can get to it? Now's your chance to request particular courses and locations for the training offerings. Just fill out the [Request a Course Form](#). The deadline for the Fall course session is June 1. Questions? Contact Dan at [programs@saskmuseums.org](mailto:programs@saskmuseums.org).

## Museum Governance

MAS has developed training modules on a range of topics including - Roles & Responsibilities of a Museum Board, Mission Statements, 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 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](mailto:programs@saskmuseums.org).

## Planning and Development

Staff continued the developmental work on various projects including:

- 4 tip sheets published in January 2019, to be mailed out and distributed online in February.
- the next issue of the Museums & Sustainability publication
- Museums & Sustainability: Indigenous Engagement
- initial discussions about the Network Knowledge Exchange for Spring 2019
- initial discussions on expansion of on-line training offerings
- reorganization of the resource library's database with a better web-based interface

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 [programs@saskmuseums.org](mailto:programs@saskmuseums.org).

**SAVE THE DATE**  
for the 2019 MAS  
Mini-Conference &  
Annual General  
Meeting  
to be held at the  
**Western  
Development  
Museum**  
in Saskatoon  
May 31, 2019.

# COLLECTIVE VOICE

## Events

MAS staff attended the following events during this quarter:

In addition to the events below, E-Phemera was sent out as scheduled, and the website and social media channels were updated regularly.

## OPERATIONS

A Museums Assistance Grant application was submitted to the Department of Canadian Heritage to support a portion of the 2019/20 Professional Development/ Training activities.

Staff completed the working version of the updated annual operational plan.

A refresh of the MAS Strategic Plan will be undertaken prior to the new fiscal year.

The MAS office was closed for the holidays from December 24, 2018 to January 1, 2019.

### OCTOBER

- North East Network meeting – Michelle
- Prairie Trails Network meeting – Michelle (cancelled)
- South Central Network meeting – Kathleen
- North West Network meeting – Michelle & Wendy
- Qu'Appelle Valley Network meeting – Kathleen
- OSAC Showcase 2018 – Dan
- Quill Plains Network meeting – Michelle
- National Trust annual conference & meetings – Wendy
- Gravelbourg Eco-Museum community meeting – Dan
- U of S Galleries meeting – Kathleen
- Introduction to Art Handling workshop – Michelle
- Museums & Education CP course – Kathleen
- West Central Network meeting – Michelle
- Seneca Root Network meeting – Michelle
- Ont. Museums Assoc. Conference & Network meeting – Wendy
- Museums 101 – Dan
- Parkland Network meeting – Michelle
- Saltcoats Eco-Museum community meeting – Dan

### NOVEMBER

- Volunteer Management CP course – Michelle
- Heritage Heartland Network meeting – Kathleen
- Citizenship Ceremony – Wendy & Dan
- CMA Marketing & Fundraising Symposium, Calgary - Michelle
- Re:Org meetings – Kathleen
- Prairie Trails Network meeting (rescheduled) – Michelle
- SK Digital Alliance Meeting – Dan

### DECEMBER

- SK Ecomuseum Partnership meeting – Wendy
- NVSSN Advisory Committee meeting – Wendy
- Government House Exhibit opening – Wendy
- Civic Museum of Regina/Heritage Regina X-Mas Party – Wendy
- Annual Christmas Arts agencies reception – Michelle
- Art Handling Workshop – Remail Modern

### CONTACT US!

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We gratefully acknowledge the support of...



## SOCIAL MEDIA STATS...



Twitter Followers

**1,684**

up from 1,669



Facebook "Likes"

**795**

up from 763



Instagram Followers

**426**

up from 369



Website Visits

**15,000**

Sessions

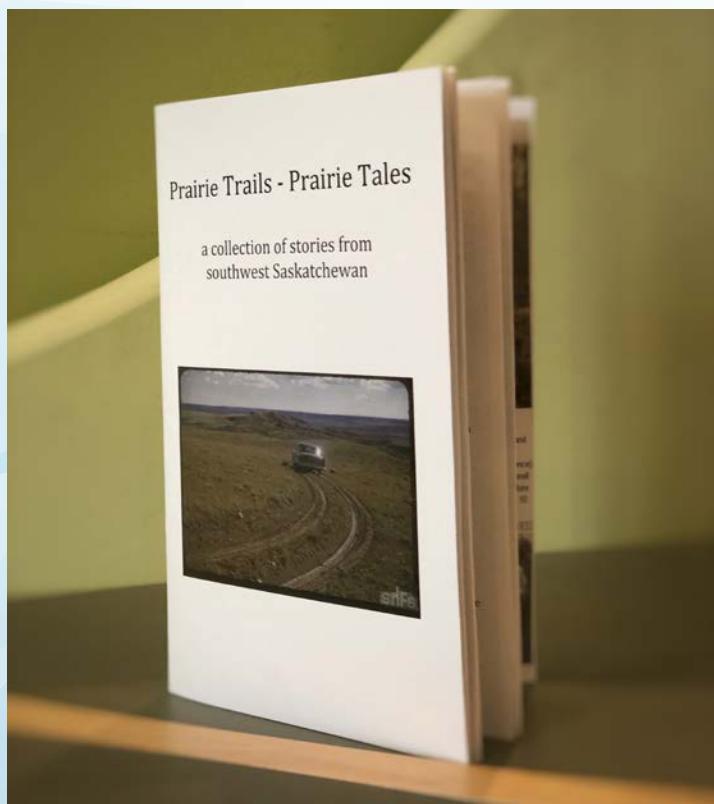
Oct. 1 - Dec. 1



## FROM THE BLOG...

Prairie Trails Chapbook Initiative...

By: Michelle Brownridge



The Prairie Trails Museum Network, a group of museum staff and volunteers from across South West Saskatchewan, undertook an innovative network project in 2018, creating a chapbook that tells stories from the collections and archives of their museums and their local area. [Read the full blog post here!](#)

Digitalization of Video Tapes...

By Kathleen Watkin



Why Digitalize?

Many museums have video tapes in their collections.

Whether they contain images of the community's 1987 Santa Claus parade or the private home videos of a local celebrity, these videos contain a wealth of knowledge and memories for the community.

However, with changing technologies, these videos are no longer accessible. Preservation of the information on the video tapes is important and thus migration of the information into a newer more accessible format is key. The best option for preservation of video tapes is to digitally migrate to data files. This is because data files have greater flexibility and can be stored and played on a variety of media sources. [Read the full blog post here!](#)