

# President's Message



Crystal Craig

It is hard to believe that the first quarterly report is due! Spring is always a busy time for all of us, with summer students to train and the opening of many seasonal museums. A lot of your communities will celebrate centennials this year and the best of luck with your events!

Thank you to those members who attended our annual conference at the end of May in Saskatoon. Dean Kush gave a presentation on the Changing Face of Sask. and Dr. Glenn Sutter on Growing Eco-Museums – both addressing the new demographics and environment that we are all working within today. The Member Forum was well received with Board support noted and advocacy as a key task at hand.

I would like to thank Rhonda Lamb for her dedication and commitment to the role of President over the past year. I also want to thank our board members who committed to another term and to Evelyn Siegfried and Yvonne Hotzak for coming on the board.

In conjunction with its AGM. SaskCulture hosted a special 'Board to Board' meeting which touched on the topic of looking at the needs of our changing population. They also spoke about the SaskLotteries trust and that it will be renegotiated this year. It is important that we thank Sask. Lotteries for the funds they provide to help all of our organizations with our operations.

Executive Director Wendy Fitch and I attended the CMA Conference and met with their executive and board of directors along with our counterparts from other provinces. MAS is in an enviable position, as most provinces do not get lottery dollars. So be a flag waver for your organization and thank SaskLotteries at every opportunity for their support to the heritage sector. Let them know how much it is needed and appreciated.

This upcoming year we will be continuing to work on Board and ED relations through the development of processes for communication between both parties. We are also working on the development of a Board procedural

manua l to guide policy and committee work . Our Strategic Plan is an Evergreen model so as such will be reviewed along with the Ends.

We will be looking at how to better support our members and staff and advocacy will be at the top of our list. We will look at the skills we have within our current board and plan for succession and recruitment. Board linkage to its members is very important and we will try to meet your needs through visits to Network meetings, Member Forum and Advisory Council later this fall. The courses being offered this fall by MAS are exciting and with the announcement from the Minister of Heritage 's office, we will have more grant funds to access at a local level. Until then, have a great summer season and enjoy the warm weather while it lasts.

Sincerely,  
Crystal Craig  
President  
Board of Directors

## Board & Staff Quarterly Report

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

### Board of Directors

Crystal Craig - President  
Heather Englebert - Vice President  
Chad Debert  
Yvonne Hotzak  
Robert Hubick  
Stephanie Kaduck  
Rhonda Lamb  
Carol Peterson  
Joan Searle  
Evelyn Siegfried

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan's Board & Staff Quarterly Report is published 3 times a year. The Annual Report is issued once a year.

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### OFFICE ACTIVITIES

*“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time”*

– John Lubbock

While all of us, in the MAS office, have taken time to rest and recreate over the past few months we certainly haven't been idle. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between April 1st and August 1st.

### Community Leadership

#### SaskCulture

Brenda Herman, Director of Finance attended the SaskCulture Eligible Cultural Organizations meeting and AGM June 14th. SaskCulture provided an update on the status of the Lottery License Renewal process between the provincial government and SaskLotteries Trust. A new 5 year agreement is expected to be signed by April, 2014. The three partners in SaskLotteries Trust are SaskSport, SaskCulture and Sask. Parks & Rec. Assoc. each of whom supports the huge array of volunteer run sport, culture and recreation groups who run everything from our kids sports programs, to funding museums to Communities in Bloom.

It was also announced that 4 Culture Days Animateurs have been hired and will be traveling the province helping participating communities get ready for this year's Culture Days – September 27-29. Contact Marion Donnelly, Culture Days Coordinator [mdonnelly@saskculture.sk.ca](mailto:mdonnelly@saskculture.sk.ca) for information.

The next artsVest Saskatchewan deadlines were announced. They are: Monday, Aug. 12: pre-approval applications and Mon. March 17, 2014

for artsVest sponsorship confirmations. For more information about artsVest and its funding programs please contact: Colleen Ostoforoff, Program Manager [c\\_ostoforoff@businessforthearts.org](mailto:c_ostoforoff@businessforthearts.org) (306) 361-2312.

The rest of the Eligible Cultural Organizations meeting was spent discussing the Annual Global Funding program – the operational funding program MAS applies to for funding support. This was the first year a new application process was used so there were a number of technical questions discussed.

#### Canadian Museums Association

Saskatchewan was well represented at the CMA annual conference May 27 – 30 in Whitehorse, Yukon. Including newly minted President, Crystal Craig and Executive Director, Wendy Fitch, and board member Chad Debert there were nine Saskatchewanians in attendance.

The President and Executive Director 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: federal programs affecting museums, CMA updates and Provincial Association updates. The status of Museum Assistance Program funding was discussed. It was noted, with considerable regret, the cancellation of the annual Prov./Terr. Museum Assoc. meeting sponsored by the Canadian Heritage Information Network. This

### Staff

Wendy Fitch - Executive Director  
Brenda Herman - Director of Finance  
Dan Holbrow - Professional Development Coordinator  
Brittany Knudsen - Communications Coordinator  
May-Lin Polk - Museums Advisor  
Eleanor Radbourne - Administration Assistant

meeting is important because it enables the provincial associations to share information and pursue partnership opportunities. It was agreed that the Department of Canadian Heritage needs to be reminded of the important service this CHIN meeting provides to the national museum community. CMA encouraged as many PMAs as possible to participate in 'Hill Day' – Nov. 26 – this event brings together museum professionals, trustees and volunteers to discuss the importance of museums in Canada with Parliamentarians and key decision-makers. CMA is planning a full day meeting to coincide with 'Hill Day' for PMA representatives and CMA to discuss issues of mutual concern, share ideas and pursue partnerships.

Check out the July 8th, MAS Blog for other highlights of the 2013 CMA conference. <http://www.saskmuseums.org/MASblog/>



“The Whitehorse Horse” by Daphne Mennell at the Whitehorse Public Safety Building Crystal in blue jacket

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### Conference

The 2013 Mini-Conference & AGM was held in Saskatoon on May 24th. A huge thanks goes out to everyone who attended. We hope everyone had time to network with colleagues and learn something about ecomuseums and the changing demographics in the province. For more information on what happened at the Conference & AGM please check out the June 6th MAS Blog <http://www.saskmuseums.org/MASblog/>

Prior to the conference we also launched a Twitter account. Visit <https://twitter.com/museumsassocsk> to follow us!

### Promotional Ads

As you know, MAS has been actively seeking more opportunities to increase public awareness for our organization and our members. To continue with this initiative we have placed 3 print ads this summer. These ads were seen in the Prairies North Summer 2013 Issue, Saskatchewan History Magazine (June 2013) and the Southern Saskatchewan Vacation Guide 2013/2014. We hope that these ads encouraged readers to visit Saskatchewan museums this summer!

### Publications

We were pleased to publish Museums & Sustainability – Economic Sustainability this spring. In this issue we look at how museums facing economic challenges have turned those challenges into opportunities to re-evaluate, and to contribute to sustainable communities in new ways. This was the third in a planned series of publications focusing on environmental, economic and social sustainability and museums.

We're also preparing a number of learning resources. The copyright resource distributed at this spring's

Network Knowledge Exchange will also shortly be available to all members, and have begun work on a new tip sheet on mission-based collections.

### Events

#### Youth Heritage Fairs – Regina

##### Regional Fair

On May 3rd President Rhonda Lamb and Executive Director Wendy Fitch participated, as judges, in the Regina Regional Youth Heritage Fair at the RCMP Heritage Centre. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm these grades 4-8 young people had for learning about heritage.

#### Lt. Governor's Canada Day Garden Party – Government House

On July 1st Wendy Fitch, Executive Director attended the afternoon events at Government House celebrating Canada Day.

#### 125 Anniversary of the Wishart Stone Church

On July 20th Wendy Fitch, Executive Director participated in part of the 125 anniversary celebrations of the Wishart Stone Church. It was wonderful to see the community come together to celebrate this place with such significance. We also celebrated the fact that they won the Lt. Governor's Heritage Architecture Award of Excellence in the category of Exterior Rehabilitation. Congratulations Wishart!

In addition to the above, E-Pamera was sent out as scheduled and the website was updated regularly.

### Networks

Spring Network meetings came to an end on May 6. The brutal spring weather posed many challenges, but

#### MAS ad placed in the Southern Saskatchewan Vacation Guide 2013/2014

May-Lin or Dan managed to attend almost all 11 meetings. Only one meeting needed to be re-scheduled and one meeting missed. The Network Knowledge Exchange presentation this year was on Copyright; copyright affects all museums and they should be aware of how this impacts them. It was well received by the majority, as it is a complicated topic with which there was little base knowledge within membership. The formation of a new Network also occurred this spring. MAS welcomes the River Valley Network to the program!

There was a Networker Meeting on May 22, which was well attended by Networkers. If you are interested in being a part of a Network, please contact May-Lin at 306-780-9266. Looking forward to seeing you all again this fall!

Mark your calendars for the **2014 MAS Conference & Annual General Meeting** to be held in **Swift Current, May 23rd and 24th.**

Keep an eye on E-Pamera and our website [www.saskmuseums.org](http://www.saskmuseums.org) for information.



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### Advisory Services

Advisory Services was in full force this spring/summer, with 51 consultations including 6 site visits. If you are interested in discussing any matter with May-Lin, please give her a call at 306-780-9266. All discussions are confidential. Sites visits are also available but do have a few requirements; such as advisor availability, topic, and ability for a majority of the museum board to be present at the meeting. Referrals are also available to specialists in various areas of heritage work.

### Courses and Workshops

This quarter, we've piloted our newly revised Museums and Education course, both in person (at the Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre in Lloydminster) and online. We also held a symposium, Educating for Sustainability, in Saskatoon. This event, which featured presenters Marni Gittleman and Glenn Sutter, explored how museums can sustain themselves by playing a larger role in sustaining their communities. Partnering with Saskatchewan History Online (SHO), we were able to offer a workshop on collections digitization.

We are in the process of finalizing our 2013-14 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 traveling exhibits to youth engagement. The calendar is coming soon, so stay tuned for details!

### Resource Library

New books are always being added to the Resource Library. 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 are Museum Registration Methods 5th Edition and The National Trust Manual of Housekeeping.



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.

## OPERATIONS

### Funding

We are very pleased to report that our application to the Museums Assistance Program – Department of Canadian Heritage was successful for the 2013/14 training year. This funding will enable MAS to provide training and professional development activities throughout the province which, in turn, enables museums to serve their communities better.

## Discover. Learn. Create. LIVE!

To find out about cultural activities, benefits, cultural funding programs, professional development opportunities, resources and more, visit [www.saskculture.sk.ca](http://www.saskculture.sk.ca) or call (306) 780-9284.