

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to a new year and a new decade! Looking back over the past ten years, there has been so much change that has impacted heritage, culture and natural science institutions. Changes in technology and social media platforms has meant that many museums now have websites, Facebook pages or Instagram accounts... things that they may not have imagined having ten years ago. Because of these

digital platforms, today we are able to connect Saskatchewan heritage and culture institutions with people around the corner and around the world. MAS staff have done an excellent job using these technologies to promote the work of MAS and its members.

Ten years ago, the Ecomuseum concept was not well known in Saskatchewan but by the end of the decade the model is alive and well. Thanks to the efforts of the Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Partnership, of which MAS is a founding organization, there are more communities around the province exploring this "museum without walls" model. These sorts of changes have been exciting for MAS and its membership.

The next 10 years are bound to be just as interesting as the last. On December 13, 2019, we saw

positive progress to support the work of museums and galleries as the federal government released a mandate letter outlining priorities related to heritage and culture. A few of the priorities included a review of the outdated national museums policy, co-developing with Indigenous Peoples a framework for repatriating Indigenous cultural property and ancestral remains, and making the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina a national museum. While the wheels of government often move slowly, hopefully it won't be long before we see these and other positive changes.

We look with optimism to 2020 as we plan for the Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held in Estevan from June 5 – 6. There are many fantastic benefits to attending the Annual Conference. It's a chance to connect with museum and gallery folks from around the province. Attend learning sessions led by your peers, and also check out local history and the arts scene in Estevan.

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
 (306) 780 - 9279
 1-866-568-7386



Above: Letterpress tools from the newspaper/print shop at the Wilkie Museum, Wilkie, SK
 Photo by: Em Ironstar

As a Board, we love to do all of these things too, but most importantly, the conference is a chance to hear from our membership. The Member Forum is your opportunity to share your successes and concerns with the Board and membership.

Elections for the Board of Directors will take place during the General Meeting. We will have three Directors up for re-election plus a vacancy to fill. Our Nominations Committee have been busy chatting with members about the work of the Board and opportunities to serve with us. If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please let the MAS office know.

More conference details will be coming soon. Look for them on the MAS website and in E-Phemera. I hope you will plan to join us in Estevan for two days of learning, sharing and camaraderie.

Corinne Daelick, President – MAS Board of Directors

OFFICE REPORT

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Saskatchewan Eco-Museum Partnership

MAS continues to participate in the Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Partnership (SEP) with the ED serving as a member of the steering committee, along with representatives of Heritage Canada – The National Trust, SaskCulture, Heritage

Saskatchewan and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. The ED attended both meetings of the SEP during this quarter.

Canadian Museums Association

The ED participated in two conference calls of the Provincial/Territorial Museums Associations (PTMA) hosted by the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) during this reporting period. The first was a debrief of the joint advocacy effort during the federal election. The second call focused on the CMA's Reconciliation project which will focus on the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #67:

"We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to make recommendations."

There has been a commitment on the part of the CMA to continue to focus towards a more collaborative approach nationally which is much appreciated by the PTMA.

Networks

The fall Network meetings took place throughout October. As usual, a MAS staff person attended along with a Board member. Dates and locations for the Spring 2020 Network 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 Em Ironstar at 306-780-9451 or community@saskmuseums.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Corinne Daelick

Western Development Museum, Saskatoon

Vice - President

Merissa Scarlett

Regina

Past - President

Yvonne Hotzak

Fort Pelly Livingstone Museum, Pelly

Directors:

Karen Grenier

Hudson Bay Museum, Hudson Bay

Kaiti Hannah

Saskatoon

Tracene Harvey

Museum of Antiquities, Saskatoon

Katrina Howick

Moose Jaw Public Library, Moose Jaw

Vincent Houghtaling

Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery, Moose Jaw

Jennifer Matotek

Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina

“

Whether we want them or not, the New Year will bring new challenges; whether we seize them or not, the New Year will bring new opportunities.

– Michael Josephson

”

National Trust for Canada

The ED attended the National Trust for Canada's annual conference – Oct 16-18, 2019 in Winnipeg. In addition to the conference the ED attended the National Council meeting which brings together representatives from national and provincial/territorial heritage organizations for a day-long session where topics included heritage advocacy, Indigenous heritage and the need for collaboration beyond the built heritage segment of the heritage sector. The conference itself included a number of Indigenous focused sessions along with sessions looking at how heritage properties can be revitalized in non-traditional ways and wide-ranging spark sessions.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Courses & Workshops

One Certificate Program course was offered in November, Marketing the Museum, held in Melfort at the Melfort & District Museum. The course instructor was Kerry Lubchenko, Director of Marketing at the Western Development Museum Corporate Office.

Resource Library

New books are always being added to the Resource Library. [Visit the Resource Library section on our website to see our listings.](#)

Watch for the new, easier to use, MAS Library database later in the new year.

In the meantime, please give us a call if you cannot find the resource that you are looking for on the members only section MAS website.

We're 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. 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

Staff continue to assist SaskCollections participants with both their database and public portal needs. In addition, MAS undertook some much needed technical upgrades to ensure the system meets the needs of participants.

To see what the public can view go to the [SaskCollections](#) area of the MAS website.

Museum Governance

The MAS training modules which make up the Museum Governance program cover a range of topics including

Strategic Planning Basics, Governance Models, Board Roles and Responsibilities, Mission Statements and Human Resource Management.

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. During this reporting period two members took advantage of this training opportunity. For more information on the Governance training contact Dan Holbrow at programs@saskmuseums.org or phone 306-780-9241.

As always, we'd also like to hear from you about your museum development needs. You can fill out the course request form or if you have any ideas or training requirements, or any questions about our education programs, contact Dan Holbrow at programs@saskmuseums.org or phone 306-780-9241.

STAFF

Wendy Fitch
Executive Director

Brenda Herman
Director of Finance

Dan Holbrow
Program Director

Em Ironstar
(Formerly Michelle Brownridge)
Community Engagement
Coordinator

Terri Morris
Administrative Assistant

COLLECTIVE VOICE

The Conference Planning Committee met once via teleconference to begin work on the upcoming conference and has set the theme – Stuff to Stories 2.0. The Call for Presenters went out in December so if you are interested in sharing your ideas and insights with colleagues from across the province, please go to see the [Call for Presenters online](#).

Community Engagement Coordinator Em Ironstar (formerly Michelle Brownridge) had an article she wrote - "Pursuing Reconciliation" published in the CMA magazine MUSE. It can be viewed [online](#) if you are a CMA Member.

OPERATIONS

Staffing

It was with heavy hearts that we said farewell and good luck to Kathleen Watkin when she left Saskatchewan to return to Ontario to take the position of Culture and Heritage Program Coordinator for the town of Tillsonburg. MAS is currently in the process of hiring a new Museums Advisor early in the new year. In the meantime, if you have questions you'd normally send to Kathleen please contact mas@saskmuseums.org and another staff member will be happy to help you!



Planning

Staff finalized the annual operational plan for the next 3-year period (2020-2023) which is how we will achieve the updated Strategic Plan developed by the Board and staff. As well, staff developed a 3-year budget to accompany the operational plan.

All three documents were used extensively in completing the SaskCulture/Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund Annual General Funding (AGF) application for the next 3-year period which was submitted on the due date - December 2, 2019. AGF funding provides the majority of MAS's operational funding.

The MAS office was closed from December 23, 2019 to January 2, 2020 so we could all recharge our batteries and be ready to tackle the new year and new decade!



Events

MAS staff attended the following events during this quarter

- South West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation Cultural Gathering – Em
- 9 Network meetings – Em & Kathleen
- Board/staff Christmas dinner
- Board meeting – Wendy & Brenda
- U of R Living Heritage Research Hub gathering – Wendy, Dan, Em

Staff also attended the Certificate Program courses offered during this quarter. In addition to the above, our e-newsletter, [E-Phemera](#), was sent out as per the bi-weekly schedule.

CONTACT US!

Phone:
(306) 780-9279

Toll-Free in SK
(866) 568-7386

Email:
mas@saskmuseums.org

424 McDonald Street
Regina, SK S4N 6E1

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS...



Twitter Followers
1,735
up from 1,719



Facebook Followers
1,087
up from 1,057



Instagram Followers
549
up from 516



Website Visits
17,902
Sessions
Oct. 1 - Jan. 1



Participants tour the Bengough Museum at the South West District for Sport Culture & Recreation Cultural Gathering.
Photo by Em Ironstar.

We gratefully
acknowledge the
support of...

Canada  Sask 

FUNDING PROVIDED BY
