

# President's Message



Céline Perillat

Welcome to all of our members from the MAS Board of Directors. We hope you have had busy and successful summer season, and are looking forward to fall.

In this our first Quarterly Report of the 2010/11 fiscal year, you will read about the 2010 Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Saskatoon May 26-28, as well as updates on board and staff activities over the last few months.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, April 1st, 2010 the board has held two regular meetings, two special board meetings, an orientation session and a board/staff strategic planning session. In addition to the details on our board activities I would like to highlight two main results of the Annual General Meeting of May 27th in Saskatoon:

◆ the members approved

a bylaw change, proposed by the board, which changes the way the President is chosen. Instead of electing the President separately that position will, from now on, be chosen by the board from within their membership by a majority vote for a period of one year just as the Vice President has been chosen. The reasoning behind the bylaw change is that as the President is a member of the Board of Directors and because the board speaks as a whole for the membership it was no longer necessary for the President to be elected separately.

◆ a new Board of Directors was elected at the AGM. Rhonda Lamb, Heather LeGars and Janette Hamilton were all newly elected for two year terms. Returning to the board were: Crystal Craig (2 year term) and Celine Perillat, Ingrid Cazakoff and Gordon Steele each

for 1 year terms. They will be joining the two board members who are in the middle of their terms of office: Wayne Fennig and Gary Young. It was felt necessary to have 3 people stand for a one year term in order to get back into a balance between returning and new board members. Normally terms are for two years.

Between Quarterly reports you can find full board summaries, posted regularly, on the MAS website.

I encourage you to read the Board and Staff Reports included in this Quarterly Report, and contact us with any comments or questions. You can reach any of the board members by contacting the MAS office.

Sincerely,  
Céline Perillat  
President

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

## Board & Staff Quarterly Report

A reminder that the annual report provides information for the final fourth quarter of this year, as well as summarizing our entire 2009-10 fiscal year.

The annual report is available on our website: [www.saskmuseums.org/annual\\_report](http://www.saskmuseums.org/annual_report)

In response to member feedback we will be mailing every MAS institutional member a copy of the Quarterly Reports this year.

Of course they will also be available on the MAS website: [www.saskmuseums.org](http://www.saskmuseums.org)

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan's Board & Staff Quarterly Report is published in September, January and March. The Annual Report is issued in May.  
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Canadian Heritage

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# Board Report

This Board Report includes the April 13th, May 25th, May 27th, and June 16th Board meetings, as well as the other activities undertaken by the Board since April 1st, 2010.

## Executive Elections

At the first meeting of the Board, May 27th (immediately after the AGM) Céline Perillat was elected President for a period of one year and Wayne Fennig was elected Vice-President also for a one year term.

## Strategic Plan

Ken Alecxe of Alecxe Business Consulting has been hired to work with MAS in the development of our new Strategic Plan. Ken led the session offered during the MAS Conference, May 27th outlining the process we would be following to develop our new plan to be presented at the mini-conference in May/2011. The Board has appointed a steering committee - Wayne Fennig & Ingrid Cazakoff from the Board and Co-Manager Wendy Fitch will work with Ken overseeing the process. A very productive all day Board/staff session facilitated by Ken Alecxe was held June 17 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park to get things started.

Preparations are underway to hold meetings where members will have an opportunity to have their say in setting the direction for MAS. Five regional meetings are being planned later this fall. Also this fall, meetings will be held in Saskatoon and Regina where Special Interest Group members will have an opportunity to bring their thoughts forward. We encourage as many members as possible to attend the meeting of their choice so you can voice your ideas about where

MAS should be going and how we should get there together.

Watch for more information about these meetings in the next few weeks.

An Advisory Council meeting is planned for October 16 where Network and SIG Reps, Board, Staff and stakeholders will be invited to offer their insights as part of the process.

We would like to thank SaskCulture for agreeing to provide significant financial assistance for this project.

## GPS Heritage Tour Pilot project

The Board of Directors has, after much consideration, decided, by unanimous vote, to withdraw the Virtual Museums of Canada application for the GPS Heritage Tour pilot project – effectively ending the project.

The Board regrets having to make this decision because they do feel it is a worthwhile project with the potential to provide museums, as part of the greater heritage community with a new way of marketing themselves to new audiences with cutting-edge technologies.

However, the Board no longer believes that it is a project for MAS to undertake for several reasons:

First, the timing is no longer compatible with MAS organizational priorities. Had the original, much smaller project, to develop and test new mobile GPS technologies as a means of marketing/promoting heritage resources, taken place

## Board of Directors

Céline Perillat - President	
Wayne Fennig - Vice-President	
Crystal Craig	Gary Young
Gordon Steele	Heather LeGars
Janette Hamilton	Rhonda Lamb
Ingrid Cazakoff (to Aug/10)	

when it was first discussed, the MAS Board of Directors would have happily supported it. However, the six month start delay places it in direct conflict

with an extensive strategic planning process MAS has just begun which will require significant allocation of already limited financial and staff resources over the next year.

Second, the extensive expansion of the project, in order to meet Virtual Museum of Canada funding criteria, moved it further beyond the mandate for MAS than the Board was comfortable with. The changes also create the possibility of significant fiscal risks to the Association. The addition of a number of extensive web-based educational resources and the doubling of the time commitment from one to two years was problematic for the Board.

Third, the Board was as concerned with the potential risks once the pilot was completed as they are for the pilot itself. They fully believe the pilot would be successfully completed however they fear that the resources would not be forthcoming to either properly maintain or to expand the GPS Heritage Tour throughout the rest of the province.

Finally in making their decision, the Board returned to their strong belief that the GPS Heritage Tour, while a wonderful project, does not fall within the current mandate of the Museums Association of Saskatchewan.

MAS would like to thank their partners in this project for their

assistance and support for the GPS Heritage Tour Pilot project and hope that this difficult decision does not adversely affect our working together on projects in the future.

### **Board Orientation Session**

The Board held a full day orientation session facilitated by Corrine Bokitch of CPSolutions. This session gave both the three new members, as well as, those returning to the Board, a very good overview of what their roles and responsibilities are as members of a policy governance board.

### **Nominations Committee of the Board appointed**

Céline Perillat, Crystal Craig, Janette Hamilton and Heather LeGars have been appointed as

the nominations committee for this year. They will be developing a new process to ensure that the best possible slate of nominees for the Board is presented to the membership at next year's AGM. We will be seeking new board members for the 2011-12 fiscal year. If you are interested in serving on the MAS Board or know of someone you think would be a good candidate please contact the MAS Office for more information on the process.

### **Audit Committee of the Board appointed**

Crystal Craig has been appointed Board representative and Chair of the Audit Committee. Joanne Grant and Allen Lefebvre have been reappointed for another year.

Brenda Herman provides staff support to the Committee.

### **Policy Review Committee of the Board**

The Board has reappointed the ad Hoc Policy Review Committee in order to continue the review/revision process begun by the previous Board. They will be fine tuning the changes approved in principle to the governance policies. In addition they will begin to develop, with staff, monitoring report formats in order to ensure the Board has the facts it needs to make informed decisions without imposing unreasonable demands on staff time. The Committee consists of: Wayne Fennig, Ingrid Cazakoff, Gary Young and Janette Hamilton.

## Staff Report

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The contracts for both Jessica Leavens, Professional Development Coordinator and Lisa Thomson, Communications - came to an end on June 30th. The PD Coordinator's position continues to be funded through MAP and until we have received the details of our application this contract cannot be renegotiated. We anticipate that this will be completed by September 1st. The Communications contract is on hold for summer as we re-evaluate the Association's needs and determine the best way to proceed.

### **Conference**

This year's Conference theme was Community Engagement, and the theme for the banquet and tour was the 125th Anniversary of the Northwest Resistance.

The conference began with the Member Forum where the proposed bylaw change was discussed prior to being introduced at the AGM. Rose Gilks, SaskCulture's Manager provided an update and took questions on the Museum Grant Program - Thanks Rose! The Member Forum was followed by the Annual General Meeting. Both were very well attended.

This year we added a trade show to the conference activities which was well attended. Ken Alecxé gave a plenary session outlining how we will proceed with the development of our new Strategic Planning over the next few months. Wendy Thienes, Grand Coteau Cultural & Heritage Centre, gave a session on Museums and Community Engagement using her

own experiences in Shaunavon as case studies. Marjorie Beaucage, Dizaines, gave a session on Dizaines' work with the Batoche Development Co-op.

During the banquet we honoured our two retiring Board members – Lucille Bullerwell and Susan McKenzie and welcomed our newest Honourary Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Kate Davis. We were so pleased she was able to be with us for the evening and share some words of wisdom. To round out the evening we were treated to a presentation from Métis author Maria Campbell, accompanied by musicians John and Vicki Arcand. Thanks go out to the Gabriel Dumont Institute for sponsoring their appearance.

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The final day of the conference was a day-long tour of Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre and Batoche National Historic Site.

### FUNDING

#### **Museums Assistance Program – Department of Canadian Heritage**

We were notified that our application for funding to support 2010-11 Museum Development projects was successful, although we did not receive full funding. Staff is currently looking at the information from MAP to see the impact on our plans.

#### **Capacity Building Grant – SaskLotteries Trust**

We were successful in applying for funding to assist in the consultation portion of the strategic planning project. These funds will help to offset the costs of the regional meetings, Special Interest Group meetings and Advisory Council.

### MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT

#### **Education & Professional Development Calendar**

The Fall/Winter 2010/11 calendar will be created and distributed in September 2010. The calendar provides information about the educational and professional development programs and services to be offered over the next few months. Each Individual, Institutional and Honourary member will be mailed a copy of the calendar. It is also available on the MAS website and will be sent by email to everyone on the MAS email list.

#### **Standards**

The revisions to the Standards document will be completed by the end of September. Initially we had planned to have the revisions completed by the middle of June however in order to allow those

individuals who had been asked to provide feedback on the proposed changes more time to respond, and to accommodate holiday schedules, the deadline was pushed back.

### ADVOCACY

#### **CHIN PMA meeting**

In late March Wendy Fitch and Lisa Thomson attended meetings of the provincial and territorial museums associations sponsored by the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) in Ottawa. In addition to the CHIN meetings delegates met with staff from the Canadian Conservation Institute and the Canadian Museums Association.

#### **MGP**

MAS staff and Board representatives met with SaskCulture staff in June to discuss issues raised by members regarding the 2010 MGP grant run. SaskCulture has just hired several new staff members one of whom will be responsible for the MGP. MAS staff will be meeting with this new staff person to discuss the program.

#### **Professional Development**

Brenda Herman, as well as Board representatives, attended a Risk Management session offered by SaskCulture. Information learned will be invaluable as we begin the development of our risk management policies and procedures in the next few months.

Jessica Leavens successfully completed the evaluation course she was taking through the U of R. She and her Alberta Museums

### Staff

Brenda Herman - Co-Manager/Dir. of Finance  
Wendy Fitch - Co-Manager/Dir. of Museum Dev.  
Jessica Leavens - Professional Development Coor.  
Tammy Blancher - Administration Assistant  
Lisa Thomson - Communications (to June/10)

Association colleague Jennifer Forsyth, made a joint presentation at the Taking Stock: Museum Studies and Museum Practices in Canada conference held at the U of T in April, 2010. They are currently preparing their presentation for publication.

#### **The Arts Professions Act**

MAS members are reminded that as of June 1, 2010, The Arts Professions Act requires written contracts to be used between professional artists of all types, including performers and anyone wanting to hire, engage or contract them for their work or performance. The Act also recognizes the artist as a professional and emphasizes the importance of fair compensation.

When drafting contracts be sure to include not only the fees to be paid but also things such as: who is responsible for paying for things such as insurance, invitations, promotional material, receptions, preparation (framing), shipping, etc.

For more information on the Act please visit:

[www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/arts-professions-act](http://www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/arts-professions-act)

Additional information is also available on the CARFAC Saskatchewan website:

[www.carfac.sk.ca/?s=artistsfees&p=contracts](http://www.carfac.sk.ca/?s=artistsfees&p=contracts)