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MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

Board & Staff Quarterly Report

President's Message



Rhonda Lamb

The future is literally in our hands to mold as we like. But we cannot wait until tomorrow. Tomorrow is now.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Welcome to this edition of the Board and Staff Quarterly Report. Congratulations to those of you who made the extra effort to participate in Culture Days this year! Saskatchewan had a very respectable showing, with a very good showing by MAS members. We know that this involved many hours of preparation and effort. Your work really helped to bring museums and heritage a higher level of visibility in our communities. Thank you!

Our Board held its second meeting and Board training session on September 9 and 10. On September 9, Board members and staff had a one day facilitated session related to Board governance and examining ENDS (or the goals) as part of an organization's planning responsibilities. This helped the Board to

agree on how to review MAS' ENDS as they relate to our new Strategic Plan. The following day – September 10, was the regular September meeting of the Board. A Board committee had reviewed the feedback related to the Strategic Plan provided by our members at the May 26th AGM in Regina and clarified and simplified the wording of the value statements. The Strategic Plan is near completion and will be brought back to the Board for final approval at our next meeting.

The Board struck three committees at the September meeting: Nominations, made up of Carol Peterson, Joan Searle plus an additional person; Audit, made up of Carol Peterson, Allen Lefebvre and Robert Hubick; and an ad-Hoc, ENDS Policy Review Committee, consisting of Heather LeGars and Flo Miller were struck for this year. The ENDS review committee will be reporting to the full Board at the next meeting.

An extra Board meeting has been scheduled for November to focus on the completion of the Strategic Plan document, and to move forward on how our ENDS will reflect the direction outlined in this plan. The Board is also moving forward with the hiring of a permanent Executive Director for the organization – more information will be coming out in the near future.

I encourage you to read the reports enclosed in this document and to contact us if you have any questions. You can reach any of the Board members through the MAS office.

The Board is committed to moving ahead, being open to our members and an exciting future for MAS. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,
Rhonda Lamb
President
Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Rhonda Lamb - President
Crystal Craig - Vice President
Heather LeGars
Janette Hamilton
Carol Peterson
Flo Miller
Joan Searle
Donald Stein
Stephanie Kaduck

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Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Staff

Brenda Herman - Co-Manager/Director of Finance
Wendy Fitch - Co-Manager/Director of Museum Development
Brittany Knudsen - Communications Coordinator
Dan Holbrow - Professional Development Coordinator
Eleanor Radbourne - Administration Assistant

Coordinator. He is busy learning all he can about MAS - including attending as many fall Network and Special Interest Group meetings as possible.

Several staff members have attended professional development sessions in September and October which focused on various aspects of our respective activities.

Fall has been busy this year in the MAS office. The following are the highlights of what we were doing between July and October:

Staffing

GENERAL

Staff is working on the final draft of the new Strategic Plan adding the background information which will provide the context for the values, goals and objectives approved by the Board in September. The complete document will be presented to the Board at their November meeting.

We have successfully negotiated a new five year lease for our office space. The new lease will cost more per square foot but is lower than current market rates in Regina.



MAS welcomed a new team member in September. Dan Holbrow has been hired as our Professional Development

Professional Development Questionnaire

Get the workshops you want in 2012-2013!

Whether you have a specific program request or a general topic, whether it's basic museum operations or highly specialized topics you want to learn more about, we want to hear about it.

That's why we're asking you to fill out our Professional Development Questionnaire. You can access a link to the survey on the Education and Professional Development section of our website:

www.saskmuseums.org/professional_development

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 or call (306) 780-9284.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Culture Days

MAS was pleased to be able to participate in Culture Days this year. We took every opportunity to promote the event with members and were happy to see a significant increase in the number of member museums taking part in this celebration of our cultural heritage. MAS staff also participated in the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society's Culture Days event CHARM at the U of S. where we were able to discuss the role of museums with faculty and students in the Archaeology & Anthropology Department.

FUNDING

Museums Assistance Program – Department of Canadian Heritage

We are pleased to report that MAS received word from the Museums Assistance Program that our application for 2011/2012 was successful. We would like to take this opportunity to again thank MAP for its continued support of our activities to improve the professional knowledge, skills and practices in Saskatchewan museums.

We now have newly designed portable display units which MAS will be able to use at both our own events and at tradeshows.



Mark your calendars for the
2012 MAS Annual General Meeting & Conference
 to be held in Melfort, May 31st - June 2nd.

Keep an eye on E-Phemera and our website www.saskmuseums.org
 for all of the updates and for your opportunity to register!

MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT

Now that we know that our application has been approved we are hard at work organizing sessions so that we can complete and distribute this year's Professional Development and Training calendar.

MAS has developed and distributed the professional development questionnaire members recently received either electronically or by mail. We hope everyone completes and returns this short survey so that we can better meet your professional development and training needs.

Staff has been able to attend most of the fall Network meetings this year which ensures that we can stay current with the issues and activities of a large portion of our membership. Staff also attends as

many of the Special Interest Group meetings as possible for the same reason. A meeting of the Network Representatives has been set for December in Saskatoon.

ADVOCACY

Provincial Election

As part of our ongoing partnership with Heritage Saskatchewan MAS had included the Heritage Saskatchewan election card with our own election mailout for this election. Our goal was to raise awareness of museums, and heritage generally, with candidates, political parties and the public. We encouraged members who were interested go to the Heritage Saskatchewan website <http://www.heritagesask.ca/> and take part in election discussions on their Facebook or Twitter pages.

Tourism Saskatchewan

Staff attended a meeting with Tourism Saskatchewan's Cultural Task Team in September. In addition to MAS a number of other provincial cultural organizations were present to learn what the Cultural Task Team sees as the main issues facing cultural tourism in the province. It was agreed by all present that there is a need to develop a strong voice for culture within in the tourism sector. A follow up meeting has been set for November to continue the discussion.



MAS is offering a range of learning opportunities this spring, including:

Mount-making

This Canadian Conservation Institute course teaches practitioners how to build exhibit and storage mounts for objects in their museum collections

Exhibit Design and Planning

An interactive two-day course that guides practitioners through the exhibit development process

Art of Grant Writing

This course takes learners through the grant adjudication process so that they can better understand the elements of a successful grant proposal

Standards: Tools for Good Governance

This one-day program shows museum boards how to use Standards for Saskatchewan Museums to improve their organizational effectiveness

