

The Megaphone

Edition # 27 – Posted On-line May 5, 2009

meg·a·phone [meg-uh-fohn] –noun
1. a cone-shaped device for magnifying or directing the voice, chiefly used in addressing a large audience out of doors or in calling to someone at a distance.
www.dictionary.com

Hello everyone!

Have you heard that May is Museums Month? Well, it's true – at least in some jurisdictions. We thought it was a great idea, so we're now researching the possibility of having one designated here in Saskatchewan too!

Do you remember those words from our March 31 Megaphone? Well, we've done it!

[May is officially Museum Month in Saskatchewan!](#)

Hon. Christine Tell, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, officially proclaimed May as Museum Month in a news release issued May 1, 2009, after MAS requested the designation. Here's part of what the news release said:

"This month will be a great opportunity to build awareness of the rich and diverse heritage of Saskatchewan people and communities," Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Christine Tell said.

"With more than 200 organizations, including museums, art galleries, parks, historic sites, interpretive centres and cultural centres, the Province of Saskatchewan has more communities that support museums, per capita, than any other province in Canada."

Museums provide an exception to today's focus on electronic reproduction and distribution technologies. Museums continue to offer precious product; the opportunity to experience nature, art, technology and history of the world.

Isn't that great?! We also received an official Certificate of Recognition from the Government of Saskatchewan. You will receive copies of both the news release and the certificate in the information package we popped in the mail to all members yesterday.

With this proclamation, Saskatchewan joins with others who have established this date elsewhere across Canada and in Europe, making use of the International Museum Day focus.

So, now that we have officially received this recognition, let's have some events to celebrate!

You may recall two possible events I suggested in the March 31 edition of *Megaphone* – celebrations surrounding International Museum Day, May 18, and Doors Open Day. It's not too late to get involved in either one!

International Museum Day – May 18

The theme for the 2009 International Museum Day is "Museums and Tourism", so this would be an ideal opportunity to showcase the tourism strengths of our province, and the important role museums play in our tourism industry. And, it would raise awareness in our communities of the launch of the summer museum season!

This event has been celebrated since 1977, and is organized by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) around an annual theme. This year, May 18 is also Victoria Day, so it's a good day for tourists to be in town!

Some activities you could consider include:

- a free BBQ hot-dog lunch or celebration tea;
- poster campaigns;
- a community heritage fair;
- planning a cultural event or educational activity to get kids involved; or
- a public lecture from someone with heritage knowledge about your community!

For more ideas, check out the ICOM website – http://icom.museum/imdact_2002.html

Doors Open Day

This is an activity being promoted by the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN). It can happen any time during May.

The idea behind this activity is to have a day – or a weekend – when the doors to our cultural heritage buildings are thrown open to the public for free, and special events, tours or activities are planned to bring our communities into our museums to enjoy and celebrate our heritage.

There are lots of things we could do, and we still have a few weeks to pull something together – even if it's a small activity this year, like having a walking tour of your community, a special tour of your exhibits, or a tea, it could grow next year.

I hope you all decide to join in the festivities and have a "Museum Month" event. If you do, we'd love to hear about it!

Talk to you next week! - Lisa