

# *The Megaphone*

*Edition # 31 – Posted On-line June 2, 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 again everyone!

Well, it seems our AGM and Mini-Conference last week was a great success, thanks to the participation of so many of you!

We held the conference on Thursday, with pre-conference activities such as the feast and network representatives' and SIG meetings on Wednesday. A sweat lodge ceremony was also held on Thursday evening at Wanuskewin. All were well-attended, and your conference evaluations showed you enjoyed them! We had 84 people registered for the event.

Thanks to everyone who filled in an evaluation form – from them, we were able to determine that you found the food, hotel and conference organization up to snuff, and that you enjoyed the presenters. Also, given the great response to the new Member Forum, I think this is something we are going to need to continue with next year! Many of you also appreciated the opportunity to speak directly with SaskCulture, so we thank Rose Gilks and Jon-Paul Suwala very much for participating in a spontaneous question and answer session at the conference.

And, of course, to our presenters – a huge thank you! Every single one of our sessions received at least one vote as the “most beneficial” on the evaluation, so I’d have to say you all did very well! Everyone’s comments in this section will help us choose our presenters for next year’s conference (sounds like it might be in the Battlefords, and might be focused on an 1885 theme – stay tuned for more!)

Of course, we also got some business done. You can read about the results of the bylaw discussion at the end of this *Megaphone*. MAS has a new nine-member board – you can read the list by clicking here [http://www.saskmuseums.org/board\\_members](http://www.saskmuseums.org/board_members) There’s a great mix of new and continuing board members; an election was not required at the AGM.

Congratulations go out especially to:

- MAS’ new President, Céline Perillat (Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre)
- Vice President, Lucille Bullerwell (Clayton McLain Memorial Museum – Cut Knife)
- MAS’ three new board members:
  - Ingrid Cazakoff (Grand Coteau Heritage and Cultural Centre)
  - Wayne Fennig (Western Development Museum – North Battleford), and
  - Gary Young (Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Saskatoon).

Thanks also to Royce Pettyjohn for agreeing to stay on the board in a Past President role, and to Brenda Barry Byrne for her seven years of service to the board!

We also thank everyone for sharing their email addresses. We have incorporated those we didn't have into our email list; if you do not wish to be on our list, please just send me an email and let me know.

At the conference, we distributed our 2008-09 Annual Report. We have some hard copies of the report we can mail to anyone who was unable to attend the conference and would like a copy. You can also access the annual report from our website at this link [http://www.saskmuseums.org/annual\\_report](http://www.saskmuseums.org/annual_report)

The last thing I wanted to talk to you about today is the Communications Survey. This was distributed to conference attendees, and we wanted to share the opportunity for feedback with all members, so I've included a Word version of the survey in my email to you all today. The deadline for response is **Wednesday, June 10**.

The survey asks for your feedback on MAS' current communications tools (*Megaphone*, *Ephemera*, website, etc), the frequency and manner of this communication (how often should we send it out? how should we get it to you?) and also asks for your input on the types of information to include on the new MAS website. If you have a few minutes to fill it out, it would be really appreciated, to assist us in planning for the coming year's activities.

You can print the document and fax it back to us at (306) 780-9463; email it back to me at [lisa.thomson@saskmuseums.org](mailto:lisa.thomson@saskmuseums.org); or, if you are concerned about confidentiality, email it to someone you know at another institution and ask them to send it to us, indicate it is from someone else, and not tell us who it came from.

We are not posting the Communications Survey to our website because we want to ensure only our members are able to fill it out and return it. If you know of someone who needs a copy, just let me know! Remember, the deadline to return the survey is **Wednesday, June 10**. We'll tell you about the results in the June 16 edition of *Megaphone*.

Talk to you next week! - Lisa

## BYLAW DISCUSSION RESULTS AT AGM

There were three proposed bylaw changes presented to this year's AGM, with respect to:

- increasing members' opportunities for absentee voting;
- the proportion of the Board of Directors which does not need to be affiliated with a museum; and
- the amount of time required to pass before a former board member can become an employee of the association and vice-versa.

All three proposed bylaw changes were defeated. It was decided, instead, as a result of the discussion which had taken place during the Member Forum regarding the bylaws of the association, that a comprehensive review of the bylaws was needed.

A motion was passed which directed the Board of Directors to establish a bylaw review committee to look at the MAS bylaws and to make recommendations for any changes to the 2010 MAS AGM.