

The Megaphone

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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

WE'RE BACK!!

Hello everyone and welcome to a second year of *The Megaphone*! I'm really pleased to be rejoining you in this space.

We have lots to tell you about all of our activities over the summer season, and we want to hear about your summer too! Just send all your information - and your photos, if you have some - to lisa.thomson@saskmuseums.org, so we can tell everyone else too. We look forward to hearing from you!

So, to start things off, let me fill you in (if you haven't already seen it in the board meeting summaries we've posted on the website) about one of our most important summer activities – SaskCulture has offered to fund an organizational audit and review for MAS, and we have gratefully accepted this offer!

This organizational audit and review will include everything from a review of MAS documents and reports and discussions with the staff and board, to determining goals, resources, processes, a governance structure, and an implementation plan. Very comprehensive!

The board meeting summaries advise that members will be kept informed of the progress of the review and asked for input at an appropriate stage in the process. In the meantime, MAS will continue to conduct its usual activities, including applying for its annual grants and providing education, museum development, networking and communication opportunities to its members.

Board meeting summaries will be posted on the website after each meeting – you can read them at this link <http://www.saskmuseums.org/from-the-board>

In staffing news, Brenda Herman, MAS Director of Finance, and Wendy Fitch, MAS Director of Museum Development, both long-time employees known to most of you, have agreed to co-manage MAS over the next period of time, while the organizational audit is underway. They're already doing a great job!

Tammy Blancher is back in our office as our Administrative Assistant (thanks Tammy, for everything you do!), and Jessica Leavens has rejoined us as Professional Development Coordinator (hope you are all looking forward to some great educational and professional development sessions!) I am also back doing MAS Communications, as you can see, though it will only be on a half-time basis; I will be spending the remainder of my time coordinating the exciting GPS Heritage Tour Project we're finally able to get underway!

The GPS Heritage Tour is a pilot project that will be taking place in the southwest corner of the province, and MAS is planning to sign our first funding contract for it this week. So, I hope to be in contact with all of our members in that area shortly with more details. We're hoping to launch the tour by July 2010, so there's lots of work to do! I'll also tell all of you more about the project in a future edition of *Megaphone*. It's a really exciting project and we have a great group of partners!

In other good news, our office will be moving – but only right next door, so you won't have any trouble finding us. We had more space than we needed, and the tax business next door to us didn't have enough, so we are switching spaces in early November. We anticipate this is going to save MAS about \$10,000/year, so, we think you'll agree, that's great! We will fill you in when we've firmed up the move dates – we don't plan to close our doors, but you might have some trouble reaching us on those days if our phones and computers are unplugged...

We are also working very hard on grant applications right now, to both the SaskLotteries Trust and the Department of Canadian Heritage's Museums Assistance Program. We're sure you are also working on your Museum Grant Program applications for SaskCulture! Wendy will be trying to get out to as many of your network meetings as she can; and Jessica's already posted the Fall Education and Professional Development Calendars to our website – check this link for more information http://www.saskmuseums.org/professional_development It's definitely a busy time of year!

Throughout it all, we are going to keep in touch with you, and keep bringing you information, member features, and more. We will be alternating weeks between *E-Phemera* and *The Megaphone* this year, so you will be receiving each information item every two weeks (previously, *E-Phemera* was issued every two weeks, and *The Megaphone* every week). I hope you all received *E-Phemera* last week; it has a new format, and we're very interested in hearing your views on it. Please send them to us at mas@saskmuseums.org We love your feedback!

We have also streamlined the format of *MAS En Masse*, the quarterly report from the MAS board and staff to members, so it will be an action-packed (and email-able) economical four pages in length. I think it's a great design, and the first issue will be coming to your email and mailboxes – and our website - within the next week. The report will also have a new name - the *MAS Board & Staff Quarterly Report* - so keep an eye out for it!

We would also encourage you to stay in touch with us through our website, as we work to improve it and make it more beneficial to you. You can click on www.saskmuseums.org at any time, and check out all of the interesting professional development activities and sessions we're planning, as well as checking up on all the member events and news that affects you! You can also find archived copies of *The Megaphone* there as well.

I'll talk with you again on *The Megaphone* on October 14 – in the meantime, feel free to drop me a line at any time at lisa.thomson@saskmuseums.org

Have a great Thanksgiving weekend!

- Lisa