

# *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](http://www.dictionary.com)

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break and enjoyed great times visiting with family and friends, getting out and enjoying the (mostly) great weather, or just relaxing in front of a cozy fire!

The MAS Office is back in full swing, with a new Winter-Spring Education and Professional Development Calendar coming your way early next week, and a new Board and Staff Quarterly Report the week after.

Also, for the new year, we have changed the *Megaphone* and *E-Phemera* publication dates to alternating Thursdays, instead of Wednesdays, to accommodate some staff scheduling changes, so look for us each week on Thursdays. Our website is also again being updated regularly each Wednesday, and we'd love to post your events, so please remember to let us know when you have something planned! You can email your events to [mas@saskmuseums.org](mailto:mas@saskmuseums.org)

In this first *Megaphone* of 2010, we wanted to share some information with you about our upcoming Annual General Meeting and Conference. As you may know, this is the year for our full two-day conference, and we're very excited about all of the planning that has taken place so far.

First, we want you all to save the dates! **The AGM and Conference will be held May 26, 27 and 28 in Saskatoon, at the Saskatoon Inn.** We'd love to see you all there, and we have lots of great plans underway already!

On **Wednesday, May 26**, we will start our conference with meetings of the Network and Special Interest Group Representatives during the day at the Saskatoon Inn. More details on the times and specific rooms will be forthcoming to those of you involved in those groups.

On Wednesday evening, we will have a reception for everyone, generously hosted by the Saskatoon Western Development Museum. There will be snacks, a cash bar, and, we're planning some entertainment in keeping with our conference tour and entertainment theme, which is recognizing the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance. As you may know, the province has also proclaimed 2010 the Year of the Métis in Saskatchewan, and we think our conference will be a big boost to all of the celebrations!

On **Thursday, May 27**, the main conference begins with the Member Forum and Annual General Meeting first thing in the morning. Some new board members will also be elected, so if you're interested in serving on our board, give us a call or email us here at the MAS Office, and we'll send you the nomination package.

On Thursday afternoon, we will be offering professional development sessions on the theme of Community Engagement; we'll keep you posted as plans move forward.

Thursday evening, we have a very exciting evening planned with our banquet. Gabriel Dumont Institute, which is leading our local organizing committee, is sponsoring the entertainment for the evening - thank you so much, everyone at Gabriel Dumont! We're very pleased to announce that they have booked **Métis author Maria Campbell**, who will be accompanied by **famed musicians John and Vicki Arcand**! It should be a wonderful evening, and I hope you will all make plans to join us!

On **Friday, May 28**, tours of the Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre and Batoche National Historic Site are being organized for those who wish to take part. We will have a bus leaving from the Saskatoon Inn in the morning, or people will be able to take their own transportation and meet up with the tour. Lunch will be in Duck Lake, and the afternoon will be spent touring the Batoche National Historical Site. Many thanks to those on our organizing committee taking on the tour preparations! We will share more information as plans proceed.

In addition to the formal schedule, we are planning to have a trade show. If you are interested in signing up for the trade show, please contact Amy Briley at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, (306) 657-5719, or let us know here at MAS, and we'll put you in touch with her. We are also very much in need of sponsors for nutrition breaks, lunch, etc, so if you are able to consider sponsorship, we would love to hear from you!

We have not yet finalized the delegate cost to attend the conference, nor the additional cost of the tour, but more information will be coming to you as soon as we are able to accept registrations. We are anticipating an early-bird cut off date of April 30, so we will be in touch with you before mid-March with more details.

Finally, MAS would like to thank those participating in local organizing and arrangements – we could not do it without you! Our local organizers are:

- Karon Schmon and Amy Briley from the Gabriel Dumont Institute, which is leading the committee;
- Céline Perillat, from the Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Centre;
- Kristine Montgomery and Tom Waiser from the Western Development Museum; and
- Rose-Marie Carey and Ray Fidler from Batoche National Historic Site.

I am serving as the MAS Office representative on the organizing committee, so if you have any questions about the conference that we can answer at this point, you can contact me at [lisa.thomson@saskmuseums.org](mailto:lisa.thomson@saskmuseums.org) or call (306) 780-9451.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

- Lisa