

The Megaphone

April 21, 2011

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,

Tomorrow, April 22nd, is Earth Day, the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for change and provides the opportunity for positive actions and results.

As part of our celebration of Earth Day, MAS is pleased to release our new publication - ***Museums and Sustainability***: a “quick-start” guide showcasing Saskatchewan museums, best practices, and resources. It is available on-line and in print! Please note that a print version will be sent out to all of our members shortly.

What do we mean by sustainability? How are museums involved? How can museums contribute to local conversations about sustainability? In this issue of Megaphone, we will tell you a bit more about what you will find in the publication! We will also highlight various stories and events that we have been made aware of.

Museums and Sustainability is part of the *Museums and Sustainability Initiative* – a set of projects, activities, and resources to assist museum integrate sustainability into all areas of practice. Our new publication focuses on Saskatchewan communities, museums, and museum practitioners and the innovative projects, programs and activities that are happening right now!

Perhaps your museum is already engaged in sustainability work or perhaps you want to get started - we hope the stories, tips, and resources inspire and encourage you to promote sustainability and integrate responsible planning and action into all areas of your museum and community!

Sustainability is a buzzword but what does it actually mean? Sustainability is a challenging concept and arguably the most significant issue facing humanity today. Most people are familiar with the concept of environmental sustainability, but the model of sustainability is used in other areas. MAS has chosen a model that is holistic – it encourages us to think, plan and act in ways that foster ecosystem health, economic development, cultural vitality and social justice. We introduce the mode and key concepts in Dr. Glenn Sutter’s essay, *The Sustainability Challenge*.

Community engagement and sustainability

Our communities are facing pressing social, environmental, and economic concerns that require innovative and sustainable solutions – museums are a key partner. We spoke with museum practitioners throughout the province who are engaged in innovative initiatives,

ideas, and practices related to sustainability.

Our in-depth features showcases four communities and their museums:

- Cultural Connections: Aboriginal Elders Vital to Allen Sapp Gallery
- McCord Museum a Catalyst for Community Development
- The Museum as Messenger: Royal Saskatchewan Museum Highlights Sustainability Issues, Promotes Discussion
- An Invitation to Talk: Melfort & District Museum Encourages Cultural Vitality

Each feature highlights a different way that the museum has engaged with community and focused on sustainability issues such as intercultural sharing, health and wellness, education, and community conversations about history and place.

You will also find practical tips and short stories from other museums across the province. If you want to learn more, there is a glossary and a list of resources - books, websites and organizations. And check out the funding sources - there are a number of agencies interested in this work.

To help museums plan and evaluate with sustainability in mind, we offer the Critical Assessment Framework - an easy-to-use evaluative framework to guide your planning and evaluation processes.

Let us know what you think! Be inspired! Take action! And let's celebrate together as we address the pressing issues of our time with innovation and creativity.

Our Thanks

And our deepest appreciation to our members - for providing the inspiration and support for the work we do! We extend our gratitude to those who shared their stories, thoughts and best practices. We know there are many others who are engaged in sustainability work and we look forward to hearing your stories.

We also extend our deep appreciation to the Museums and Sustainability Committee: Gailmarie Anderson, Melfort & District, Dr. Glenn Sutter, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and Wendy Winter, MacKenzie Art Gallery. They provided expertise and guidance every step of the way.

Remember that both print and online versions are available. You can order a print version by [contacting MAS](#) or by visiting our website: <http://www.saskmuseums.org/publications>. An online version of the publication is also available on our website: http://www.saskmuseums.org/Museums_and_Sustainability_Initiative

Bolivia Grants Nature Same Rights As Humans

Bolivia, one of South America's poorest countries is seeing its rural communities suffer with failing crops due to climatic events such as flood and droughts. Due to these struggles the Bolivian government has decided to pass a law called la Ley de Derechos la Madre Tierra (The Law of Mother Earth). This law will grant nature the same rights as humans.

The law will aim to shift attitudes towards conservation and to reduce pollution and the exploitation of natural resources. New rights will be established for nature such as the right to life, the right to water and clean air, the right to repair livelihoods affected by human activities and the right to be free of pollution.

The Bolivian government will also establish a Ministry of Mother Earth and commit to give communities the authority to monitor and control the industries and businesses that are polluting the environment.

Although it is currently not clear how this legislation will be implemented we believe that it is a step in the right direction.

For more information on this article please visit:

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2011-04/11/bolivia-law-of-mother-nature>

Meadow Lake Museum and Historical Society Presents New Exhibit

Meadow Lake and District Museum and Historical Society will be holding the opening of the CJNS Radio exhibit on **May 9, 2011 at 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.** at the Meadow Lake Museum at the corner of Highway 4 and 9th Ave., south of the Mall in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan.

The exhibit features the 1240 AM equipment with the now out of date turntables, 8 track tapes, microphones and equipment used from 1977.

Donors David Dekker and Harry Dekker Jr. of Rawlco Radio owners of CJNS and CJNB North Battleford will be presenting along with Ken Sciller, a former announcer who was very instrumental in getting the equipment for the exhibit. There also will be greetings from other former and present announcers.

CJNS began November 1, 1977 as 1240 AM at 1000 daytime watts and 250 night time watts. In 1985 the night time power was increased to 1000 watts. On Nov. 30, 2004 CJNS was converted to 102.3 FM. With 30 hours a week of local programming and the balance originating in North Battleford CJNB.
