



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013 - 2014

Annual Conference 2013 - a Resounding Success!



Enjoying the Gimli Art Club

This year's conference was held from October 3rd to 5th in Gimli. The weather may not have been ideal, but the conference was fantastic.

Attendance was high at over 60 delegates at each day's sessions and banquet. These numbers are second only to last year's 40th Anniversary Conference. Most of the delegates attended the Opening Reception, which was held at the New Iceland Heritage Museum. Delegates learned, shared, ate, laughed, and let their hair down a bit. We were even visited by actual Vikings looking for plunder!

We had entertainment courtesy of Kate Ferris, and the fundraising auction was presided over and made successful by Jacques Bourgeois (Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre) and Pierrette Boily (Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum).

Conference 2013 facts:

- 85 conference participants
- 14 Speakers
- 4 Exhibitors
- 30% of the people were from small volunteer-run museums
- 25% of the conference attendees were from museums with less than two staff
- 25% of the attendees were from larger museums or government bodies.
- 20% of the people were not associated with any one museum (self-employed, retired, etc.)

Mennonite Heritage Village News

*Submitted by Barry Dyck
 (October 10, 2013)*

The Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Association of Manitoba Museums took place in Gimli, October 3 - 5. Gimli, the home of the New Iceland Heritage Museum, provided a warm Icelandic welcome to the delegates and guests, including a visit by a couple of Vikings in authentic costumes.

A reception on Thursday evening gave delegates the opportunity to socialize and to hear greetings and words of gratitude and encouragement from Flor Marcelino, Minister of Culture, Heritage, and Tourism, James Bezan, Member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake, and Lynn Greenberg, Mayor of Gimli.



Vikings looking for plunder

On Friday and Saturday speakers addressed a variety of topics such as Heritage Fairs; "Protection, Priorities and Practicalities of our collections"; Self-guided Tours; "The Museum Store"; "Mould - The Bad Side of Warm and Fuzzy"; and others.

The Keynote address was given by Colin Ferguson, Chief Executive Officer of Travel Manitoba. Colin talked about a new advertising campaign designed to rebrand Manitoba's tourism industry.

The dinner on Friday night included several awards ceremonies. Dr. Philippe Mailhot, Executive Director of Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum, received an Honorary Lifetime Membership. Nancy Anderson and Patricia Bovey were both recognized with the Award of Merit for their contributions to the museum industry.



Award Winners Nancy Anderson, Philippe Mailhot, and Patricia Bovey

Spending time with other museum staff periodically is useful and interesting. Many new ideas and practices come up in presentations or in conversations. Connections with other museum staff often prove useful down the road when an issue needs to be resolved.

Sometimes it's good to get out of the trees in order to view the forest from a distance.

Next year's conference is being planned for the Parkland region. Hope to see you there!



Taking a health break and visiting the trade show

The Association of Manitoba Museums (1972) Inc, as the voice of our museum community, is dedicated to promoting excellence in preserving and presenting Manitoba's heritage.

Success Leads to Hard Work Ahead

Conference Success

After a very successful conference in Gimli where our delegate list was one our longest, second only to the 40th Anniversary conference last year, the Council is looking forward to greeting some new faces to the board. Lorne Roder (Drop Dead Design) is our new Secretary, and Rachelle Tabor (Manitoba Children's Museum) is the new Winnipeg Region Councilor.

I would like to say that it has been wonderful working with our departing Councilors Alanna Horejda and Ashleigh Czynnyj. Alanna has been our meticulous Secretary who kept our updated Bylaws on track in 2012. Winnipeg Region Councilor Ashleigh has established our Trivia Night as a highlighted event of the winter and a most successful fundraiser for the AMM.

Plans and Strategies

While the AMM may seem to go from a roar to a steady hum between conferences, there is much we plan to accomplish this year. Adèle Hempel is chairing our new Strategic Planning Board and Jimm Simon is providing experienced leadership in guiding the board through this process. This will be a fully integrated document for both the use of our board and staff, but be available to our membership to provide

information and input over the coming months. Watch for those Survey Monkeys!

Concern and Advocacy

At this point I would like to express my concern that I am sure is reflected in the thoughts of everyone who has become aware of the challenges faced by Dalnavert Museum in Winnipeg. After a conversation with Jacqueline Friesen, Chief Administrative Officer of the Manitoba Historical Society, I wrote an email to James Kostuchuk, MHS President, expressing "the AMM's support and positive concern over the challenges that the Manitoba Historical Society is facing while examining the future of Dalnavert Museum."

As there are similar challenges that are being faced by many museums in Manitoba, I will share with you the further content of this letter. The outcome of such expression by the AMM to any museum in similar circumstances must be an enhanced communication between our members and the AMM so that our organization may act as liaison and advocate on behalf of our members. Recently I requested a meeting with Minister Ron Lemieux, the new Minister of Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection, to introduce myself, the AMM and our Executive Director to him. It is my wish that this meeting will lead to renewed communication between our organization and the provincial government,

which will enhance the AMM's position to represent our members and heritage preservation in the Province of Manitoba.

With this in mind, I will share with you the balance of my correspondence with Dalnavert as it applies to this role that AMM plays:

"It must be a time of concern, frustration and sorrow for your organization as well. Our own Association has had to deal with crisis of funding loss which must necessarily mean a re-examination of primary mandate and mission in order to regroup and move the organization forward."

"I would welcome any suggestions that you might have in ways that the AMM might assist you. Information exchange would be an excellent start as we are in this heritage business together. We are beginning a Strategic Planning process for the AMM, which includes reviewing and consolidating our role as Advocate and resource centre for Museums in this province."

"We would welcome being kept informed as you move forward with these issues. We will also keep in touch as we build upon our Mandate as an organization which is here to support and advocate for the Museum community in Manitoba."

Kathleen Christensen
President, AMM Council

Call for proposals for Dalnavert Museum:
http://www.mhs.mb.ca/news/dalnavert_rfp.shtml

Monique's Musings

A friend recently asked me "What exactly do you do at the AMM?" So, I told her about our conference with interesting, informative speakers, our Regional meetings, and how we provide our members with a chance to network with each other.

I told her about our Professional Development Program that introduces participants to the basic skills needed to run a museum. I told her how we revamped this program, introduced new courses, and how we hold courses around the province.

I told her about the Cultural Stewardship Program that gives hands on, practical advice in preventive conservation and how we provide advisory services to our members. If we can't answer a question, we'll help find someone who can.

I told her about our meetings with politicians and other heritage groups and how we advocate for all museums.

I told her about our newsletter, broadcast emails, website, Facebook page, Twitter account, and all the ways we communicate with our members and tell "tout la monde" how wonderful museums are.

I told her of the proposals we write to find money to support our programs, keeping

them affordable, and the reports we write on how we use the money. I told her of accounting systems, and juggling funds, all to find the most efficient and effective ways to use the money on our members' behalf.

As her eyes started to glaze over, she said "But what do you do?" Aha, I thought. I get it, so I told her:

"The AMM represents almost 200 museums in Manitoba including community museums, art galleries, cultural and heritage centres, historical societies, buildings, sites and parks, natural history and science museums, and nature centres. With collections ranging from art and history to science and nature, from sports and leisure to transportation and industry, they are found in every region of the province.

Our museums focus on Aboriginal people and European immigration, on pioneer settlement and urban sprawl, on agriculture, fishing, mining, and forestry. They deal with plants, animals, minerals and people.

Manitoba museums are an important part of the health and well-being our society. They are part of our education system – providing educational opportunities to thousands of school children annually. They are a keystone of our tourist industry - initiating tourist visits and encouraging visitors to stay.

Manitoba museums contribute to the workforce, employing hundreds of people. They are supported by thousands of local volunteers.

Manitoba museums provide a picture of our past, a forum for today's issues, and a foundation for our future.

We want Manitoba's museums to be engaged in their communities, financially viable, ethically caring for their artifacts and their buildings, and reflecting the great diversity of this province."

So what do we do? We help museums, big or small, be the best museum they can be.

Monique Brandt
Executive Director, AMM

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Ask a Conservator

Welcome to our newsletter column, "Ask a Conservator" in which our CSP conservator responds to your conservation-related concerns. Got a question? Don't be shy! Send your questions and comments to the Association of Manitoba Museums at conservator@museumsmanitoba.com.

Avez-vous une question ou commentaire concernant la restauration ou la préservation de votre collection? Contactez nos professionnels en restauration à l'Association des musées manitobains à conservator@museumsmanitoba.com.

Q) *We have on display a leather dog collar that had been buried in the ground until dug up in the 1950s. It has recently developed a white "bloom" on the surface that we think might be mould. What can be done to clean and preserve the collar?*

A) It can be difficult to tell at first glance whether the white bloom is mould or a surface deposit that is efflorescing on the surface of the leather. However, it is most likely a white surface deposit known as "spew". A leather artifact affected by spew may also shrink or become distorted.

Spew on leather is thought to be the result of an over-application of leather dressing, or the use of poor quality or homemade dressings. As the leather dressing ages it can redeposit on the surface of the leather it was once applied to. Alternatively, an improperly applied leather dressing can leave a surface residue that forms spew.

Spew does not always look the same. It has been found on wooden artifacts, where it often has a crystalline appearance. The appearance of spew is determined by the fats or oils present in the artifact, the formulation of any finish or dressing that has been applied, and the storage conditions. Environmental conditions (temperature and relative humidity) are thought to play a role in the migration and crystallization process that results in spew. Spew is usually found on areas of an artifact that are exposed to air. Ironically enough, your dog collar may have been safer when buried in the ground!

Surface spew can be carefully wiped off with a soft cloth and the aid of Q-Tips to clean out any nooks and crannies. It must be done on a regular basis as it will return. It is possible to remove spew so that it does not return, but that is a procedure best carried out by an objects conservator due to the chemicals involved. If the collar is otherwise in good condition it is not necessary to do anything further than wipe it over carefully whenever necessary. Be sure to take the same precautions that you would with any cleaning process, using latex or nitrile gloves and disposing of the cleaning cloths and gloves in a sealed garbage bag.

At one time, it was considered a good thing to apply leather dressing to leather objects. Studies have indicated that the dressing does not actually do much good and can actually cause harm as it ages. A discussion of this subject can be found in a Conserve-O-gram: <http://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/consveogram/09-01.pdf>.



If you are interested in reading more about this condition, the following report by the British Museum shows that you are not alone in your experience with spew: http://www.britishmuseum.org/csrmellonpdfs/AR2002-14_u.pdf.

Training from Other Sources

Training in your chosen profession, paid or volunteer, is always a good idea and we encourage you to seek whatever training you can find wherever you can find it.

Here are links to some organizations that offer some great training opportunities that can range from FREE to Not-so-free:

ACI (Creative Manitoba): <http://www.creativemanitoba.ca/training/workshops-courses-seminars>

Manitoba Tourism Education Council: http://mtec.mb.ca/workshops_we_offer.aspx

Volunteer Manitoba: http://volunteermanitoba.ca/workshops_and_events.php

American Alliance of Museums: <http://www.aam-us.org/resources/online-learning>

This is not a complete list. If you'd like to add an organization let us know.

Professional Development Report

The seventh and final course to be added to the line-up in the Certificate Program in Museum Practice (CPMP) is nearly ready for its debut.

Organizing and Managing Museums is being planned for January 2014 in Winnipeg, and then again in the fall in the Northern Region. This one-day course covers:

- Roles and responsibilities of the governing authority: board and individual members, board renewal, committees
- Definition and impact of public trust on museum activities
- Risk Management
- Board decision making: role, barriers, decision making process
- Policy development: purpose, types of policy, evaluation
- Planning: short and long-term planning, who is involved, responding to the environment, planning cycle
- Financial management: relationship to planning, budget cycle, fundraising

With this final course being added the courses in the CPMP will resume their two year rotation in the suggested order that they be taken. That order being:

1. *Organizing and Managing Museums*
2. *Museums and the Community*
3. *Collections Management*
4. *Collections Care & Preventive Conservation*
5. *Exhibit Design*
6. *Museums and Education*
7. *The Museum Facility*

We have developed a calendar showing which courses are going to be held in which region from now until June 2015. We will be adding exact locations and dates as they are confirmed.

The calendar is posted on our website (www.museumsmanitoba.com), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Museums.Manitoba>), and will be sent out in broadcast emails.

Software Cheap, Not Cheap Software!

If you're a not-for-profit you could profit by knowing about TechSoup. They're a group that offers name brand software at prices that are a fraction of retail.

Can you imagine getting Microsoft Office for \$25? How about an \$1,800 program for \$165? It's easy to apply and easy to order.

Check out their website at <http://www.techsoupcanada.ca/en>.

News & Events

In Manitoba's Museum Community

The following are member submissions. If you'd like your museum's events and news items to be posted in our next newsletter, please send your submissions to your regional councilor or the AMM office.

Eastern Region

Broken-Beau Historical Society,

Beausejour

We completed our 16th Annual Heritage Day with great success. We would also like to note that our 15th Annual Heritage Day held in 2012 coincided with the Town of Beausejour's Centennial weekend. As a result our attendance on Heritage Day was more than doubled. With all the hard work that we continue to put into the museum it is so rewarding to see so many people, young and not so young, enjoy the site.

Cook's Creek Heritage Museum,

Cook's Creek

Another very busy summer season has ended and although the Museum is closed for the winter we continue to have activity.

The Museum opened in mid May and we were fortunate to have the ability to hire three summer staff. The staff conducted tours, maintained displays, archived, and researched as well as assisted with our events.

In May we created a men's group with the assistance of a grant from the New Horizons for Seniors program. Our Reviving the Past group worked tirelessly from May to the end of October. They did everything from restoration, repairs, cleaning, organizing, identifying and labeling artifacts to repairing broken windows and building ramps. We appreciated their enthusiasm and skill and hope to have them return in the spring.

In the spring we started *Polski Czat*, a casual conversational Polish class that proved to be a great deal of fun. Our major events during the summer were our Pig Roast and Barn Dance in July and our Heritage Day at the end of August. Both were very well attended and a great deal of fun! We also participated in Culture Days in September hosting a display of aprons called *Tie One On* that travelled to our site from Neepawa as well as an *Old Time Photo Shoot* that we will surely repeat next year.

In November we held a Volunteer Appreciation get together for all of those

who contribute to the success of our Museum and its events. We couldn't do it without them!

Midwinter School Heritage Museum,

East Braintree

Midwinter Heritage Site has had a busy and happy year. We held many events, had several tours, and received many antique donations.

The Orchid Society came for a tour of the Reynolds area on a cold blustery May 11th. Midwinter Heritage Museum was included in their tour. They were an enthusiastic and hardy group, posing for pictures and reminiscing about their own school days. The orchids in the area were still asleep, but the group did manage to find some budding bloodwort.

Winfal, a seniors group from the South Whiteshell, came for our signature tea: Midwinter Heritage. They enjoyed steeped tea and sat outdoors in our picnic area under the shady silver poplar trees. Of course they did a tour of our facility, and had many laughs and good memories from their own early days.

There were many rainy weekends this past summer. It proved profitable for our Museum, as visitors and campers at nearby Falcon and West Hawk Lake areas came to tour the Midwinter Heritage Site.

The Heritage Site serves many functions, the latest being a Seniors Drop-in Centre. The building is also a Community Place. This year on June 2nd, 60 years to the day, the Queen was crowned. A Queen Elizabeth Coronation Garden Party was held, with the Right Honorable Vic Toews in attendance.

An Annual Farmer's Market was held on September 7th. Many vendors sold their vegetables and wares. President Margaret Feilberg made three crockpots of borscht, and served up 100 huge bowls along with many Black Russian buns and our own recipe of Boggy River Iced Tea.

Sixty-four people crammed into our building for the Annual Community Pot - Luck, on October 6th. It was the biggest and best so far. However, some people had to eat outside. We need more room

for such events in our one-room school house museum. We are looking forward to purchasing and moving the former teacherage. Once it is back on the Heritage Site we will be able to move most of our homesteading antiques into it.

Many antique farm machines with metal wheels were donated to our Heritage Site. They are placed at the edge of the property and have been mounted on cement blocks, with gravel spread underneath them. One has been painted the original colours. It will be a huge task to sandblast and paint the once horse drawn implements.

The Museum is open year round now, by appointment. We ask for a 48 hour notice, so that the building can be warmed. Many delicate clothing displays have been taken down and stored in a climate controlled building.

Midwinter Heritage wants to live up to its name, and be open for mid-winter snow sports and camp fires. Snowshoeing trails, cross-country ski trails, and snow theme sports will be discussed among the Association directors soon.

Thibaultville Museum of the Enfant-Jésus Heritage Site Corporation,

Richer

This summer we were able to strip, repair, restore and paint 10 church windows and storm sashes. Six of the larger storm sashes (4 x 12 feet) were given in contract to Yarrow Door and Sash and Door while the four smaller windows were repaired by local carpenters and painted by two experienced volunteer members. Now the light will truly shine in our church.

In May the Archdiocese of St. Boniface announced to our heritage committee that the parish would be canonically closing the church and the land would possibly be subdivided. We have existed since 1997 (initially as Friends of Prayer). In 2007 a new Board of Directors was elected with the mandate to maintain, restore, and embellish the centennial church, cemetery, and grounds. In 2009 our committee became administrators of the cemetery and, in 2011, of the former convent. Unfortunately, like some other heritage sites, we do not own the land titles. When the Archdiocese announced the canonical closure we requested more explanation on the closure, procedure, and implications for our heritage site, which now houses our archives and museum centre.

We have requested that we receive the land titles for the 13.3 acres including the cemetery. Up to this time we have received very few documents and seen very little transparency during our meetings and conversations. We, as a

volunteer committee, are disappointed and saddened by this turn of events. My reason for sharing this situation with you is for heritage sites that are under the wing of an Archdiocese, Parish, or other similar organization, to make sure that you have the land titles before you invest your time, talent, and money. Since 1997 we have been the guardians of this beautiful Roman Catholic Church and its grounds. After having invested much work and talent in these 18 years we are now in negotiations to have the land titles of property that our ancestors donated, a church and convent built and paid for by Richer residents, and a cemetery where our loved ones rest.

For us these 13.3 acres represent our history, our identity, as well as our past and future. We are the guardians and we need to protect this historical legacy. In the last four months we have noticed the closure of the LaBroquerie Museum, the destruction of the Redemptorist Bridge, and the Ste. Anne Museum destroyed by fire (in limbo now as they didn't have titles to their building). Heritage structures and organizations are in a delicate balance in our region.

Please see our web page for more info:
<http://www.rc.net/canada/stboniface/enfant-jesus/>

Northern Region

The Sam Waller Museum, The Pas
 We are pleased to present *Arctic Life: Lomen Brothers Photography*, an exhibition from the Glenbow Museum from October 2nd to December 31st, 2013. Drawn to the north by tales of the gold rush and the untouched riches of Alaska, the Lomen family moved from Minnesota to Nome in 1903. Always looking for an opportunity, they purchased a photographic studio in 1908 and a drugstore in 1909. In 1913 they started a successful reindeer business, shipping meat to the lower states.

Brothers Carl, Harry, Alfred, and Ralph were partners in the photography business. Harry managed the studio, but all of them took photographs quickly learning how to keep cameras in working order at Arctic temperatures.

Tragically in 1934 their studio burned to the ground. Over 30,000 negatives and 50,000 prints were destroyed. The stunning photographs in this exhibit are some of their surviving images of the local Yupik people and life in Nome at the start of the 20th century.

This exhibition features 33 historic photographs of striking Inuit portraits, studies of Inuit life, reindeer herding, and the city of Nome.

Western Region

Prairie Mountain Regional Museum (PMRM), RM of Strathclair
 The Museum started the 2013 season by celebrating Manitoba Day at the museum site. The grade five class from Shoal Lake School, along with their teacher, arrived at the site dressed in period costume and carrying their honey and lard lunch pails. They were dropped off at the entrance and ran across the open prairie to the Olha School where they spent the day learning about and experiencing a school day as the children did in a one room schoolhouse.

A retired teacher was invited to talk to the children about the way it was when she taught in a one room school house. The children also learned how to make butter and ice cream, small animals were available for them to pet, and there were horse and carriage rides. The public was also invited to tour the facilities, enjoy the carriage rides, and a lunch which included homemade bread, jam, and pies.

PMRM participated in local fairs and celebrations during the summer months by entering horse drawn carriages in parades in Rosburn, Strathclair, Shoal Lake, Hamiota, and Sandy Lake. They also had informational booths at Shoal Lake

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and Strathclair Fairs with a PowerPoint presentation.

A large garden was planted at the museum site with over 2,000 hills of potatoes as well as other vegetables such as beets, carrots, onions, pumpkins, and squash. In July PMRM held a special event with horse drawn carriage rides and tours as well as a horse drawn scuffer to weed and hill the potatoes in our garden. The garden was looked after by volunteers with help from our summer students.



Horse drawn potato digger

In September we had another event with a horse drawn potato digger to harvest the potatoes. People from the area came to watch and pick their own potatoes, which they purchased in quantities from a grocery bag to 100 pound sacks. The other produce from the garden was available for sale as well.

Fundraising for the completion of the Clegg Building, that will house the Clegg collection of horse drawn equipment and other artifacts, is ongoing and included: an auction, birthday, meeting, craft sales, funeral lunches, baling and selling square bales, a farm project of 30 acres of canola on rented land, a music concert featuring a local pianist who is currently studying in England and who offered to donate all of the proceeds to the museum, the garden/potato sales, and soliciting donations and grants.

We are continuing to work towards the completion of the building as funds become available.

It was an exciting day when the first pieces from the Clegg collection were moved from Arrow River to their new home in the Clegg Building at the PMRM Site. Over the period of two days, 40 horse drawn carriages and other horse drawn vehicles, along with other artifacts were moved on eight trailers by many volunteers at both sites. We hope to continue moving the rest of the collection this fall. With the collection in its new home and work continuing on the building it should make for an exciting 2014 season.

Holiday Hours

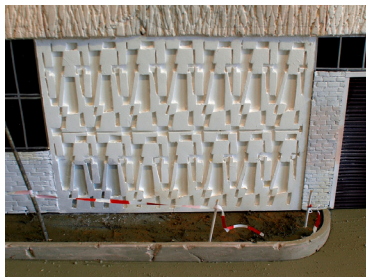
The AMM office will be closed from December 23 to January 3 and re-opening on January 6, 2014.

Winnipeg Region

Gallery 1C03, Winnipeg

Gallery 1C03 at The University of Winnipeg had a busy start to the 2013 - 14 academic season. Along with colleagues in the Anthropology Museum, University and United Church Archives, Virtuosi Concerts, Theatre department, and others, we participated in the first ever campus wide Artsfest that took place September 27th to October 5th. Gallery 1C03 presented two exhibitions: *Contemporary Indigenous Art* in Convocation Hall (with the Anthropology Museum) and *Boys Club*, representations of masculinity. Both exhibitions offered the opportunity to showcase gems from the University's art collection.

In conjunction with *Boys Club*, the Gallery organized the panel discussion *(Re)presenting masculinities*. Future programming includes a solo exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and video by Winnipeg artist Ian August, November 7th – December 7th. Titled *RE: BUILD THEM* the exhibit reflects upon the effects of the Bauhaus school through a (re)imagining of its would be spaces and structures. Affiliated programs include an artist talk on November 13th and a screening of the film *Bauhaus: The Face of the Twentieth Century* with discussion facilitated by art historian and Bauhaus specialist Dr. Oliver Botar on November 18th.



Ian August, Factory

On the facilities front, the University continues to pursue plans for a new space to house Gallery 1C03, the University art collection, the Anthropology Museum, and University Archives.

Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame, Winnipeg

The big news for us is the new slate of inductees for November 2nd, 2013, but from the Museum gallery perspective we plan on launching a special exhibit on curling in the province to be opened in mid-October. We will celebrate our world and national champions in Men's, Women's, Mixed, Juniors, and Seniors, but will also look at the cultural phenomenon that is curling throughout the province from the mother club at the Granite in Winnipeg to the smallest of clubs in rural Manitoba.

Awards Committee

I was pleased to bestow the first ever AMM Award of Merit to two such deserving museum community contributors.

Nancy Anderson and Patricia Bovey were the winners of our 2013 AMM Award of Merit. Their long lasting contribution to our Museum community has been felt in all areas of the province. They have both had a hand in teaching and guiding future museum workers in their careers, and have positively influenced our heritage community working for both small and large Museums during their careers. They received their awards in Gimli at our Annual Conference. The committee commends their outstanding contributions and wishes them continued success in their future heritage community projects.

Do you know someone who is deserving of an Award of Merit or Award of Excellence? Why not nominate them?

The Award of Excellence recognizes outstanding projects and achievements from our institutional members that demonstrate and maintain high standards. Up to five awards may be issued annually. Projects completed within two years of the nomination deadline are eligible.

The Award of Merit recognizes lasting and significant contributions by an individual or group of individuals to the Manitoba museum community that provided leadership, innovation and inspiration in the preservation and presentation of Manitoba's heritage. Up to three awards may be issued annually.

For more information and nomination forms please consult <http://www.museumsmanitoba.com/en/awards-program>, or the AMM office.

Heather Beerling
Vice-President, AMM Council

Copyright Law

I am delighted to share the publication of my book *Canadian Copyright Law*, Fourth Edition, by Wiley. The book is written for non-lawyers and covers everything from discussing the various areas of intellectual property to global copyright from the Canadian perspective, how to protect content and legally use content, an overview of US copyright law and much, much more!

An entire chapter deals with limitations on rights including fair dealing and special provisions for libraries, archives, museums and educational institutions.

See www.copyrightlaws.com/canadian-copyright-law/ or contact Lesley Ellen Harris, editor@copyrightlaws.com

Collection Records Using Computer Database

Submitted by David Gamey

In this age of computers many small museums/archives may be considering upgrading their collection records to a computerized database. While I am certainly not an expert on the subject, the following provides some information based on the experiences of the Strathclair Museum Association over the last two years. The decision to computerize our collection records was made because, as our collection grew in size, it had become increasingly difficult to maintain hard copy records which could be easily accessed and which provided the range of detail we wanted. Advice was sought from other small museums in Manitoba and a number of trial applications were reviewed and evaluated before we reached a decision on which one was the best match to our needs.

The simplest and most inexpensive database, which can be used for museum/archive purposes, is Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet application). Its advantages are that it is in common use, easy to learn, relatively inexpensive and may already

be installed on the computer you want to use. With some customization work an Excel file can meet most requirements for smaller collections. On the negative side it does not easily support linking image or data files to records, data can be fairly easily corrupted or changed by inexperienced users and, of course, it was not really designed for the purpose of a museum database.

At the other end of the spectrum are much more complex (and expensive!) databases custom designed for large museums. One example is PastPerfect. This is a "Cadillac" in the museum database world. They are very comprehensive and meet a wide variety of needs and purposes. On the downside, they involve a considerable learning curve for users, data entry is slow due to the details each record may require, and their costs are in the thousands of dollars.

While a "Cadillac" is a beautiful sight to behold, sometimes what you really need (or can afford!) is a "Ford Pickup". Accordingly we chose a more modest database which seemed a good fit to our needs, was custom designed for small museums and archives, and which fit our limited budget. We have now had over two years experience using "Musarch" and on the whole are very pleased with

it. We are currently partway through the upgrade and have entered about 2,400 objects and over 2,600 photographs and documents. Musarch enables and supports the following features which we have found useful.

- Each record has sufficient fields for all the information we wanted to record and more.
- The application can generate ID tags with selected information to attach to objects.
- Linking image/data files to an accession is quick and easy
- It has good search capabilities to help you find things

Of course planning and executing a collection records upgrade process involves various stages with a number of DOs and DONOTs. These are beyond the scope of this article. Do take the time to investigate, research, and get advice before undertaking the process.

Musarch has a free basic version, and offers the premier version for free if you buy the accompanying book. Check them out at <http://www.musarch.com/>

David Gamey is a consultant/volunteer with the Strathclair Museum Association and coordinates the collection records for the museum and archives. He can be contacted at davidgamey@mymts.net.



**DIMENSION
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Member Benefits:

- Basic courses in the Certificate Program in Museum Practice (at a discounted fee).
- Specialized courses that meet the expressed needs of members (at a discounted fee).
- An annual conference (at a discounted fee).
- Regional Meetings with other museums in your region.
- Use of a resource library that contains books and videotapes covering every aspect of museum work.
- A newsletter (three editions per year).
- Various publications available for purchase, *Museum Standards, Ideas, Other People's Heritage*, etc., (at a discounted fee).
- Free listing on our website for all Manitoba Institutional members
- A discount of 5% to 12% at Carr McLean for museum, archival, and conservation supplies.
- Access to the Cultural Stewardship Program for FREE.

INDIVIDUALS

Individual

Open to any resident of Manitoba
(One voting privilege)

Family

Open to any family in Manitoba
(One voting privilege)

Student

Open to any student in Manitoba
(One voting privilege)

Individual Associate

Restricted to individuals outside Manitoba
(No voting privileges)

INSTITUTIONS

Institutional

Open to museums and heritage institutions
in Manitoba (Two voting privileges)

Membership fee based on museum's
annual budget.

Institutional Associate

Restricted to heritage institutions outside
Manitoba, or libraries inside Manitoba.
(No voting privileges and not available to
museums in Manitoba.)

AMM Membership Categories & Dues

Individual Category

Individual Category	Dues
Individual	35.00
Family	45.00
Student	25.00
Individual Associate	50.00

Institutional Category

Institutional Category	Due
\$ 100 – 2,000	40.00
\$ 2,001 – 20,000	60.00
\$ 20,001 – 40,000	75.00
\$ 40,001 – 80,000	100.00
\$ 80,001 – 160,000	140.00
\$ 160,001 – 250,000	175.00
\$ 250,001 – 1,000,000	200.00
\$1,000,001 – 5,000,000	250.00
\$5,000,001 – 10,000,000	300.00
\$10,000,001+	400.00
Institutional Associate	50.00

Membership Application

Name _____

Museum _____

Mail Address _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (home) _____ Telephone (work) _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Membership Category _____

Membership Dues \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

The AMM gratefully acknowledges
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