

THE FRIENDS | ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM

Our Vision

We will be valued partners in the enhancement of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, increasing its visibility and access to vital resources in the community.

Our Mission

The mission of the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum is to promote the knowledge and understanding of Saskatchewan's natural history through active support of the Museum, and by encouraging public involvement and financial support of the Museum and its educational and scientific activities.

Our Values

The values and guiding principles of the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum are:

- 1: Integrity** -- trustworthy, ethical, honest, honorable, quality
- 2: Fairness** -- consistent, reasonable, compassionate
- 3: Committed** -- responsive, efficient, productive
- 4: Accountable** -- responsible, transparent

At a Glance

Formed in 1985 by a group of dedicated volunteers, the **Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum** is a nonprofit charitable organization that provides support and services at the **Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM)**. It does this through tax-deductible donations received from individuals, corporations and businesses; grants from governments and agencies; bequests and planned giving; memberships in the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum; and proceeds from the Gift Shop and Facility Rentals.

The Friends work in partnership with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum to provide educational opportunities and services, and to help preserve Saskatchewan's rich natural and human history for generations to come

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There are many ways you can support the Friends:

Visit us! Come. Visit. Bring your family and friends. You'll have a great time.

Donate. We welcome donations of any amount, either as cash in our donations box, or by cheque or credit card. You can also give online at royalsaskmuseum.ca.

Give an unrestricted gift. To be used where it is most needed.

Help a scientist. Donate to the RSM Graduate Scholarship Fund, and help a future scientist.

Sponsor an exhibit. All of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum exhibits are crafted in-house, and are truly unique.

Bequest. Remember us in your estate plans. When making a bequest, we recommend you consult your lawyer.

Become a Friend. For \$50 per year, you can become a family member.

Social Media. Like and share our Facebook and Instagram page. Follow us on Twitter. Make a review on Trip Advisor.

Email. Keep up to date by signing up and receiving our emails.

Shop at the Museum Gift Shop or the Discovery Shop. From holiday and special event gifts to souvenirs, the museum shops have that item that is just right.

Special events. Rent our auditorium for your special event or program, or attend one of ours.

Thank you for helping the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.



PRESIDENT REPORT

Nathaniel Day
President,
Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Board of Directors

I would like to begin by thanking my fellow board members for their tremendous efforts in what has been another challenging year for the Friends.

Since the last AGM, the COVID-19 global pandemic brought with it another series of lockdowns and restrictions which impacted the ability of the Friends to operate. However, the Organization has again persevered despite these difficulties. With restrictions finally lifting, we look forward to a return to normalcy for the Organization, and are keen to begin work on bringing back Artifact/Artifiction this fall.

As many of you reading this will know, Matthew McGillis resigned from his position as the Friends' Interim Executive Director at the end of June in order to pursue other opportunities. The Friends were very well served by his dedication, hard work, and valuable insight which he provided on a daily basis. We are saddened to see him go, and would like to again thank him for his many years of service to the Organization.

Given Matt's departure, the Friends created a new sub-committee with the sole focus of recruiting a full-time Executive Director. Under the guidance and leadership of Iuliia Khimchak, the Friends located and interviewed several impressive candidates for the position. At the end of its search, the Board was excited to retain Craig Perrault as its new full-time Executive Director. Craig brings a wealth of experience to the Friends, and the Board is looking forward to working with him as we continue to grow the Organization.

A special thanks to Matthew McGillis, Craig Perrault, Barb Neal and all of our volunteers. It would have been impossible for the Friends to have succeeded this year without you. The Board considers itself very fortunate to have had such passionate and dedicated people working for the organization over the past year. Thank you for your commitment to the Friends.

The Friends would not exist without the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and its staff who tirelessly conduct research, develop exhibits, and work to share Saskatchewan's history with the people of the province. I have personally spent time in the field with some of their staff members, and was inspired by the passion that they brought to their work.

Finally, a special thanks to the members and supporters of the Friends.

It has been an honor to serve as your Board President, and I look forward to the seeing many more amazing things from the Friends and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in the years to come.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Craig Perrault
Executive Director
Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum

Development

Amidst the pandemic, our sponsors and key relationships remain intact. We are appreciative of their support and contributions during this time. FRSM understands the importance of maintaining these relationships with communication and commitment to the ideals of serving the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and its patrons.

The Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan look forward to continuing their path to connecting to the community while growing our relationships with individuals and organizations who share the same appreciation of and participation with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Retail

With the pandemic, sales in the Museum Shop as well as Discovery Shop decreased compared to previous years due to being closed for public safety during Covid restrictions. Great work was done by Matt McGillis and Barb Neal during this time ensure the gift shop remained in working order while preparing for the notice of re-opening.

Upon return to business, protocols and safety measures were installed for staff and patrons. Traffic was regulated, however, the continued experience of retail quality and excellence for guests continued. Although the year was different than could have been anticipated, the retail business continues to serve customer connection to the Museum as well as seek innovative ways to keep the shop interesting.

T.rex Discovery Centre

As with so many things during the pandemic, the TRDC was impacted. This season, along with the assistance of Dean Bauche, Programming Supervisor of TRDC, the gift shop has taken a new approach. Enlisting the interpretive staff to conduct day to day sales as well as the assistance of Trea Jensen for cash procedures, the gift shop has instituted a pop-up shop to serve visitors with items that are fan favourites. After the season, FRSM will evaluate next steps in how to best be involved with the amazing facility, staff and experience at the T.rex Discovery Centre.

Facility Rentals

Facility rentals will no longer be managed by the FRSM as the RSM will conduct bookings on their own behalf. The Friends will always be available to lend a helping hand for major events and promotions as our mandate is to serve the staff of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Nature Regina continues to maintain the Native Prairie Garden located on the south side of the museum. In return, the group will continue to be offered the auditorium for their monthly meetings.

Supporting the RSM...

The Friends of the RSM said farewell to Matt McGillis, interim Executive Director and long time staff member, in June 2021. Matt joined the Friends in 2006 and was instrumental in building the culture, customer service and staff relationships as well as working with the Board to create a stronger, more sustainable organization. We would like to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication in making the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum what it is today.

MUSEUM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Peter Menzies
Executive Director
Royal Saskatchewan Museum

There is not a great deal to report regarding the 2020-21 operating year at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum

The first quarter of the year was one which involved all but a couple of staff working from their homes, only coming to their offices whenever necessary. Other than administration, the primary reason to be in the office was to produce online programming as we continued to fulfill our mandate to serve the public even while the museum and its research and collections facilities were closed.

At the RSM, we were able to open on a limited four-day-a-week capacity beginning July 17, 2020 and in doing so were among the first facilities of our kind in the province to re-open. The reason for the limited opening was that due to the extra Covid-19 health guidelines (62 of them for museums and galleries) we didn't have sufficient numbers of personnel to fulfill all duties and open fully. As of Labour Day 2020 the RSM was open only 3 days a week except on long weekends when we managed a fourth. On March 22, 2021, the museum was closed for a second time due to Covid-19.

While this was disappointing, even more troubling was that we were not able to open the T.rex Discovery Centre at Eastend at all in 2020. Unfortunately, museums and galleries were in the final phases of re-opening in Saskatchewan and by the time permission came to open it was too late to hire there for the summer.

Throughout the year, we were proud of the innovation shown by staff who still managed to reach out to a virtual public. Among the largest successes was the live-streaming of our Orange Shirt Day presentations from the museum galleries to schools across the province.

We were also able to refocus some of our resources in order to renovate the boardroom, launch construction of the HOME exhibit (opening Earth Day 2022) and invest in 3D printing technology that will allow us to recreate dinosaur (and other) creatures for exhibit for literally pennies on the dollar compared to previous costs. This makes it possible for us to dream that with fundraising support from the Friends we will be able to fulfill our dream of opening Phase One of a new Paleo gallery in the museum as soon as 2024.

Also of significance last year was the launch of construction work necessary to prepare for the creation of a new major exhibit – HOME (Life in the Anthropocene) that is currently scheduled

to open on Earth Day (April 22) 2022. We anticipate that this will mark the post-Covid resurrection of RSM visitation, sponsorship and vitality.

Researchers, meanwhile, continued their work through the year even though the pandemic made it impossible for them to be in the field last year.

After 16 years at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum Dr. Evelyn Siegfried decided it was time to retire. The incredibly important role of Curator of Indigenous Studies had Evelyn wearing many hats simultaneously. As curator responsible for the provincial archaeology collection and curator responsible for the Indigenous ethnology collections, she was the museum's lead on caring for Indigenous sacred and culturally important items. Evelyn's last day in the office was April 1st. We all wish Evelyn the very best and thank her for her incredible service.

In December, the RSM welcomed Dr. Ryan Fisher as its new Curator of Vertebrate Zoology. Ryan's specializes in studying birds, particularly the conservation of rare and endangered species. Ryan has a lot of exciting ideas for ecological research in the province and he is fully committed to community and public engagement. On top of all that, Ryan is just one of those super-nice guys!

Ray Poulin (Head of Research and Collections) continues to serve as the Vice President of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada and this year he was also invited by Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change to serve as Saskatchewan's representative on the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Dr. Glenn Sutter (Curator of Human Ecology) organized and delivered the 7th Songs for Nature camp (this time online). This unique experience brings in professional songwriters to guide participants to use their love and respect for nature as inspiration for writing and performing original songs. This event was sold out and is always a big hit for participants!

In the summer of 2020, Dr. Cory Sheffield (Curator of Invertebrate Zoology) described a species of bee that was new to science. As is the case when you discover a new species, you get to name it. As a tribute to his contributions to science and his inspiration to scientists for generations to come, Cory named this new species (*Andrena hadfieldi*) after Canadian astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield. This story received national attention.

In 2020, the RSM's palaeontology team got a big boost to their high tech equipment, purchasing a high-end, hand-held 3D scanner. This allows the palaeontologist to scan and print replicas of their most prized fossils with comparative ease. This technology is expected to put the RSM at the forefront of (relatively) inexpensive fossil-exhibit development.

Also within the Palaeontology unit, Dr. Ryan McKellar (Curator of Palaeontology) received a \$180,000 grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council to continue his studies on fossils within Saskatchewan amber. Competition for this grant is intense and Ryan would be one of the very few (if not the only) museum curators in the country to be awarded this federal grant.

Following our submission of a Business Plan outlining the urgent need for an appropriate new facility for our research, collections and exhibit manufacturing operations, SaskBuilds & Procurement undertook to contract a more advanced business plan and a report is to be in Minister Ross's hands before the end of this month. We are hopeful that the support we have within the ministry for this initiative will lead to broader support as we are now out of space in 11 of 18 categories and will have exhausted the remaining space within four years.

In summary, staff were able to reconfigure their resources and efforts during a very non-public year for the museum in order to prepare for what we expect will be a year of recovery in 2021-22 and a year of full vitality in 2022-23.

OUR PEOPLE**Board of Directors**

Name	Position
Nathanial Day	President
Iuliia Khimchak	Vice President & Chair – Governance Committee
Robert Vancise	Chair – Audit & Finance Committee
Dr. Harold Bryant	Board Member
Kevin Bassendowski	Board Member
Andrea Johnson	Board Member
Katrina Ackerman	Board Member
Carol Bachynski	Board Member
Jennifer Schwager	Board Member
Hun Lee	Board Member
Joan Beisel	Board Member
Jordan Archibald	Board Member

Employees

Name	Position
Matt McGillis	Interim Executive Director
Barb Neal	General Assistant
Carla Aitken	Book Keeper

Our intrepid volunteers

Name
Michael Schmidt (Munchie)

SPONSORS



Taylor Portfolio Management

ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



OUR MEMBERS

Katrina	Ackerman	Justin	Gallagher	Heather	Phipps
Lorne & Helen	Armstrong	Jennifer Dan	Gelowitz Grand	Jack Andrew	Pickering Polasek
Kerry	Babcock	Larry	Hesterman	Gloria	Radomsky
Carol	Bachynski	Paula	Hill	Keith	Roney
Kevin	Barbero	Gayl	Hipperson	Calvin, Ida, Abigail	Sadowski
Joan	Beisel	Crystal	Hitchens	Glenn	Sawatzky
Roberta	Beres	Louise	Hoffert	Herbert	Schulz
Fay	Bobetsis	Donna	Hoppe	Jennifer	Seaton
Jennifer	Boxall	Jennifer	Hval Pytlyk	Delaney	Seiferling
Jocelyn & Michael	Brown	Andrea	Johnson	Shaun	Silzer
Harold	Bryant	Wendy	Johnson	Margaret	Skeel
Gavin	Bush	Iuliia	Koenig	Karl	Skierszkan
Collin	Bush	Wayne	Koskie	Patricia	Smith
Bob	Carbno	Jennifer	Koskie	John	Storer
Leslie	Carter	Hun	Lee	Jennifer	Swager
Monica	Carter	Suzanna	Lendvoy	Claire	Thorseth
Chris	Christianson	Jeff	Loucks	Jonathan	Tremblay
Amanda	Chu	Rielle	MacCrimmon	Robert	Vancise
Janice	Clarke	Victoria	MacDonald	Marin	Waddell
Charlotte	Cole	Jennifer	Marcotte	Jim & Virginia	Warren
Alex & Sara	Cotcher	Donna	McCudden	Rick & Janet	Watson
Maria	Courage	Ciara	Mcllwaine	Tania & Jeremy	Wendling
Nathaniel D.	Alex & Sara	Susan	McLaren	Ella	Wood
Heather	Daubisse	Karen	Meagher	June	Young
Bill	Day	Keith & Rae	Moen	Barbara	Young
Katie	Day	Anne	Morris	Leah & Geoff	Zaparaniuk
Judy	Day	Gwynn	Parsons		
Paula	Dellebuur	Graham	Pettit		
Michelle	Doke	Sandra	Pheet		
	Sawatzky	Brian			
	Eisenzimmer				
	Estin				
	Forand				