



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

FRSM

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THE
FRIENDS

ROYAL
SASKATCHEWA
MUSEUM

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New Strategic Initiative

Since our collaboration with Tesani Designs in Fall of 2022, FRSM purposely aligns with and strives to provide clarity and identify strategic activities with our key stakeholders and the RSM.

Our Vision

We enable the RSM to have greater capacity to educate, preserve the past, celebrate the present and build the future.

Our Mission

We amplify the profile of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum through connections with community and business by raising awareness and funds.

Our Values

The community can count on 'Friends' to be a reliable and trusted funding partner of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Formed in 1985 by a group of dedicated volunteers, the **Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (FRSM)** 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; admission donations; grants from governments and agencies; bequests and planned giving; memberships in the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum; and proceeds from the Gift Shop.

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.

For more information visit

www.royalsaskmuseum.ca/donate/the-friends-of-the-royal-saskatchewan-museum

Support and participate with the Friends:

Visit! Explore. Discover. Bring your family and friends. Guaranteed to be a great time.

Donate. FRSM welcome donations of any amount, in any form of currency such as cash in our donation box or via credit / debit card using our TipTap interface. You can also give online at www.royalsaskmuseum.ca/donate/donate-now.

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. Attend and/or sponsor *Artifact / Artifiction* on November 15, 2024.

Sponsor an exhibit. All 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. With options from \$25 to \$1000, your donation makes a difference. www.royalsaskmuseum.ca/donate/become-a-member

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

Shop at the Museum Shop (Regina) or the Discovery Shop (T.rex Centre in Eastend). From holiday and special event gifts to souvenirs, the museum shops have an item that is just right.

Special Events. Attend one of our events such as *the Friendraiser* or *Artifact / Artifiction*.



*“Thank you for being a Friend!”
- the Friends*

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM

President | Andrea Johnson

The Friends has just completed the second of their three-year strategic plan. It was fast, furious, and fun! During this time, we expanded our interactions with the community through our busiest Artifact / Artifiction on record, helped our great friend MegaMunch to retire, and continued our incredible collaboration with the Museum and SGI on the SGI Solstice Speaker Series. We are honoured to be involved in events like that which enable the Museum to amplify its profile in the community of Regina, the province of Saskatchewan, and beyond.

We have also finalized a new agreement between the Friends and the Museum, which solidifies our relationship. We continue to enjoy working with the Museum's Executive Director, Brie Hnetka, and the entire RSM staff due to their expertise and ability to deliver World Class Programs, Exhibits and Research. We are excited for what the future has in store as we move forward together.

I want to thank our volunteer board members and our Executive Director, Craig Perrault, for another terrific year. Their hard work and dedication helped us reach a new level of success over the 2023/2024 year. It continues to be a pleasure to serve with this team. I also want to thank our sponsors and members, new and continuing, for their valuable contributions and support. On behalf of the Friends, we hope to connect with more of you in 2024-25.



FRSM YEAR IN REVIEW REPORT

Executive Director FRSM | Craig Perrault

People are what make an organization. Thank you to the Friends staff and volunteers, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum personnel, and the Board of Directors of FRSM for another amazing year as Executive Director with the organization.



Quick Overview

The Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum is an incredible organization to be involved with. There are three main facets we focus on concurrent with the partnership we operate in with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Retail

FRSM operates the Museum Shop with Barb Neal acting as Retail Coordinator. For the seasonal Discovery Shop in Eastend, Friends supplies all the stock.

Research & Grant Money Agent

FRSM is the official agent for the RSM for specific funding projects such as Young Canada Works or Eco Canada.

Fundraising | Development

Sponsorships and Donations make a difference to our museum community. A comprehensive list of our great partners is included. Words are not enough, however, thank you for all you do for the Friends. We appreciate it!

Result: Community Access

The work the Friends does contributes to creating new Programs & Exhibits at the Museum for all to enjoy and learn from while keeping it accessible to the community.

*“True friends are great riches.”
- Unknown*



**SOLSTICE
SPEAKER
SERIES**

Sponsored by

SGI

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THE FRIENDS
ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN
MUSEUM

graffiti TV

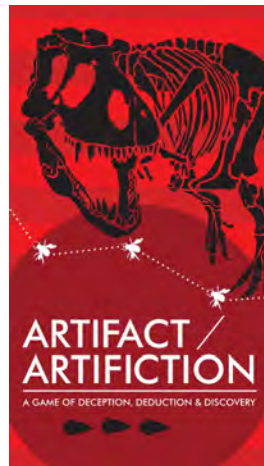
HBI
HBI Office Plus Inc.
making connections for life

Year Three of SGI Solstice Speaker Series

SGI Solstice Speaker Series is designed for participation in a lifelong conversation focused on Indigenous Leaders who share their stories and teachings. Through a generous sponsorship alignment with Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI), this four-part series takes place on or around the Solstice or Equinox. The format is an engaging conversation where the audience can participate meaningfully in Truth and Reconciliation. Year Three was another dynamic year. Special thanks to SGI for creating this opportunity as well as the RSM, Delephine Gall, Aj Thakker at Graffiti TV, HBI Office Plus and CTV Regina for their support.

Community Engagement is an important method to forge relationships and grow awareness about the Friend's framework while learning and evolving along the way.

Artifact | Artfiction



The fun and challenge of **Artifact | Artfiction** returned with a bang! Over 260 attendees tested their knowledge (think boardgame Balderdash) of the Natural World in an evening of fun and fundraising. \$20,000 was raised in support of the Museum Graduate Scholarship Fund. Stay tuned for details on the next installation of this collaborative event! Congratulations to Champion Tammy Taylor!

Review: Looking Back

Spring 2023

The inaugural Friendraiser announced itself to thank our membership, sponsorship and relationship with the RSM. Each May is our chance to put the fun into Fundraising!



Summer 2023

The T.rex Discovery Center opened in May for long weekend. This amazing location provides a showcase of all the region has to offer.

Once again, the Friends supplied inventory at the Discovery Shop in a 'Pop-Up' style with additional collaboration from the RSM team. The shop offers people the chance to take home a Saskatchewan souvenir and remember their visit to the TRDC.

Overall, the summer at TRDC was a success as people traveled to our Province and learned about the World's Largest *T. rex*!



Fall 2023

The return of SGI Solstice Speaker Series for its third season kickstarted the Fall. Led by acclaimed filmmaker & actor Jennifer Podemski, she discussed her award-winning series Little Bird as well as her career. Her experience in Film & Television is vast while putting back into the industry as producer of the Indspire Awards!

The Museum Shop continued to service the RSM with an assorted array of local artwork, books, toys and learning activities (and more!). The incredible staff continue to provide top notch service while connecting to our guests. Consider stopping and shopping for some of our great items, to tour the Museum and learn more about the Friends.

Remember: any time is the right time to come and see your Friends!



Winter 2023-24

The second SGI Solstice Speaker Series took place on December 5th. The Friends were so fortunate to have Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Russ Mirasty in conversation with CTV's Nelson Bird. His Honour discussed his journey through life and shared his teachings. The audience was held captivated and walked away inspired and informed. SGI acknowledged their Harold Johnson recipients who had the opportunity to meet His Honour.

MegaMunch Retirement



A packed house said goodbye to MegaMunch with a concert featuring Brenda Baker. A great celebration for our Friend! Thank you 22Fresh for the limited-edition t-shirt collaboration!

Spring 2024



Michael Linklater, who speaks across the globe, shared his words of advice through his story which motivated and inspired audience members. His athletic gifts and business acumen shone through in an exceptional evening featuring one of Saskatchewan's elite athletes.



Stay Tuned: Looking Ahead

The Friends continue to bolster membership activity, connect to sponsorship opportunities, remain engaged in the museum community, and stay committed to our direction as a board that believes in the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

The Friends look forward to the year ahead building relationships and plotting out the path ahead with the RSM. Mark Artifact | Artificion in your calendar November 15, 2024, consider participating in our Membership Campaign by renewing or upgrading (receive a free invitation to the Friendraiser), watch for a new Donor Wall to showcase our Friends and Sponsors, and feel free to drop by this jewel of Regina anytime. There is always something new to discover at the RSM.

Thank you for another terrific year. See you soon!

Craig Perrault

Craig Perrault

Executive Director | F R S M



ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM

Executive Director RSM | Brie Hnetka

As I look back over the past year, I can't believe it has already been a year since I started at the RSM! Although it has been a whirlwind, it has been a very successful year that also brought great change for the museum and its visitors.

- The RSM experienced its best year yet since the pandemic in terms of visitation. We had over 130,000 visitors and the average donation per visitor increased as well!
- We also celebrated our beloved MegaMunch's retirement! After 37 years at the RSM, MegaMunch has decided to take a well-deserved break and retire from being the RSM's ambassador. He has passed the torch to Scotty, who has been learning the ropes since 2019. Scotty is already doing a great job representing the RSM!
- Another highlight of the year was Artifact/Artifiction. The event was a sell-out this year and hit a record for fundraising dollars that go toward the RSM research scholarship fund. A big thank you to all the volunteers, staff, sponsors, and attendees involved with the event. It was a ton of fun and I can't wait until November 15, 2024, for our next Artifact/Artifiction.
- The Friends and the RSM held four more SGI Solstice Series. This series has become so important for so many in their learning and journey toward reconciliation. All the episodes have been so wonderful and unique. My favorite one was held this past March featuring community leader and youth role model, Michael Linklater. He had an incredibly inspiring message to share, and I feel so fortunate to participate and attend this series. Thank you to SGI for their ongoing support of this Series.
- The completion of a new lobby and welcoming area in the spring of 2023 has been instrumental in better traffic flow, visitor experience and the increase of donations.
- A couple new additions to the museum, the new "Take a closer look" exhibit explores the insects found in Saskatchewan and if you were able to visit the T-Rex Discovery

Centre this year you would have seen a new huge, life-size mural of a Tylosaurus, and an interactive topographic layer table in the discovery lab.

- RSM Research and Collections team continues to hit above its weight class when it comes to making contributions to the world in science and cultural heritage. In the past year, the Research and Collections unit published a total of nine papers, won two awards, attracted graduate students from around the world to work with our team, and were featured in media more than 18 different occasions on different topics and projects.

All this is to say that the RSM and the FRSM teams have been able to achieve a lot! The incredible experiences we can give visitors is because of the help we receive from the Friends of the RSM.

Congratulations on your efforts and successes this year. On behalf of the whole team at the RSM and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, thank you to the FRSM Board of Directors, volunteers and Executive Director, Craig Perrault, for sharing your passion, dedication, talents, and time to help make the RSM the incredible and inspiring place it is for all to learn about Saskatchewan's rich heritage, culture, and natural history.

I look forward to all we can accomplish together in the years to come. Thank you for your support.



Special thanks to Brie for her hard work and leadership. The Friends enjoy supporting the RSM in all their initiatives. Keep up the great work!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Position
Andrea Johnson	<i>President</i>
Colin Rennebohm	<i>Vice President & Chair Governance</i>
Harold Bryant	<i>Treasurer & Chair Audit & Finance</i>
Kevin Bassendowski	<i>Chair Fundraising & Communications</i>
Brad Bellegarde	<i>Board Member</i>
Michael Poulin	<i>Board Member</i>
Bernice Richards	<i>Board Member</i>
Jennifer Schwager	<i>Board Member</i>
Iuliia Khimchak	<i>Board Member</i>
Joan Beisel	<i>Board Member</i>
Logan Fraser	<i>Board Member</i>
Roberta Weisbrot	<i>Board Member</i>
Alen Smajevic	<i>Associate Member Governance</i>

EMPLOYEES

Name	Position
Craig Perrault	<i>Executive Director</i>
Barb Neal	<i>Retail Coordinator</i>
Carla Aitken	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Debb Black	<i>Museum Shop</i>
Sophie Daschuk	<i>Museum Shop</i>
Chelsea Laing	<i>Museum Shop</i>
Linda Potts	<i>Museum Shop</i>
Johnna Parenteau	<i>Museum Shop</i>
Pat Schmidthiesler	<i>Museum Shop</i>
Tammy Ward	<i>Museum Shop</i>

To our intrepid volunteers

THANK YOU!

June Young

Michael Schmidt (*Munchie*)

Jack Perry





Taylor Portfolio Management

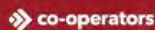
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FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDS

Thank you for your donation and membership support. FRSM appreciates it!

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 Enrique Sanchez
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 Leah Sharpe
 Anton Shmalko
 Avril Skolney
 Devin Skolney



THE
 FRIENDS

ROYAL
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 MUSEUM

FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDS

Thank you for your donation and membership support. FRSM appreciates it!

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 Roseann Strelezki
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 Claire Thorseth
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 Kaylee Tumack
 Alan Valente
 Elizabeth Vanderlinde
 Martina Veneziano
 Vernon Volt Ventura
 Nathan Waldhauer
 Jeremy Weimer
 Roberta Weisbrot
 Tianna Young
 Katie Zerr

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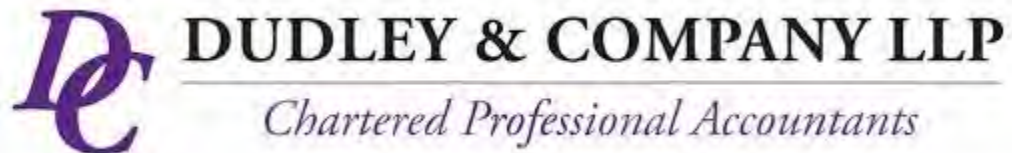


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DUDLEY & COMPANY LLP

We are appreciative of the relationship between the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and Dudley & Company LLP.

Thank you for all your hard work assisting FRSM with completing our 2023-24 year end.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Auditor's Report

Our Audited Financial Statements are included for review and are approved at the FRSM Annual General Meeting being held virtually on June 25, 2024.