



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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*.

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 | Kevin D. Bassendowski

It is with deep gratitude and a strong sense of purpose I reflect on the past year with the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (FRSM). As a volunteer-led organization dedicated to advancing the mission of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM), this year has been marked by meaningful engagement, innovative programming, and thoughtful planning for our future.

This year, we continued to build on the momentum of our past successes while launching fresh initiatives that expand our reach and deepen our impact.

Artifact/Artifiction once again captivated audiences with its unique blend of storytelling and historical intrigue.

The SGI Solstice Speaker Series continues to flourish - drawing larger audiences and attracting an increasingly impressive roster of speakers. The talent we've hosted this year was nothing short of world-class, and the series is becoming a signature cultural offering in our community.

We proudly introduced Birds & Bevvies, a new initiative that brings the joy of learning and discovery outside the Museum's walls. This relaxed, social event series allows us to engage with the community in a new environment reinforcing that curiosity and education can happen anywhere.

This marks the conclusion of our three-year strategic plan, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved together. The growth, resilience, and creativity we've demonstrated have set a strong foundation for comes next.

We are now entering a new strategic planning phase - one that will chart our course for the next three years. Our focus will be on setting ambitious, achievable goals that align with the Museum's evolving priorities and the needs of the community we serve.

Our volunteers remain the beating heart of this organization. Whether supporting events, advising on subcommittees, or providing behind-the-scenes support, their time and talent are essential to everything we do. Thank you for your unwavering commitment. I also want to extend a special heartfelt thanks to our outgoing board members for their service and leadership. Your contributions have shaped the success of this organization, and we're grateful. To our new board members - Welcome! Your fresh perspectives and energy will make all the difference.

To our Executive Director, staff, donors, sponsors, the Museum staff, and every Friend of the Museum—Thank You. Your generosity, enthusiasm, and shared belief in the RSM's mission inspire everything we do. We remain committed to amplifying the impact of the Friends in ways that are smart, strategic, and community driven. We are not just stewards of Saskatchewan's natural and cultural heritage -we are builders of a more curious, connected, and inspired future.

On behalf of the Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, I look forward to continuing this important work together in 2025 - 2026 and beyond.

Thank you - it was my pleasure to serve.



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 SKARTS.

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*

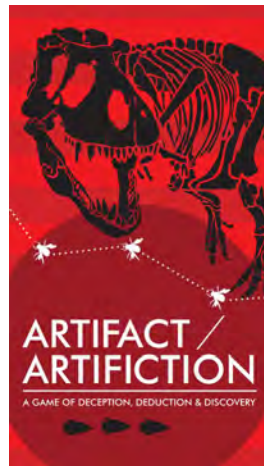


Year Four of SGI Solstice Speaker Series

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 Four 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 Nelson Bird 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 280 attendees tested their knowledge (think boardgame Balderdash) of the Natural World in an evening of fun and fundraising where \$20k+ was raised; including \$1300 donated in Memoriam of Quinnton Weiman to support the Museum Graduate Scholarship Fund. Stay tuned for details on the next installation of this collaborative event! Congratulations to Champion Raphael Frison!

Review: Looking Back

Spring 2024

The second Friendraiser was an opportunity to thank our membership, sponsorship and board members. Each May is our chance to put the fun into Fundraising and showcase the RSM!



Summer 2024

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*! Special thanks to Jen Best and Staff!

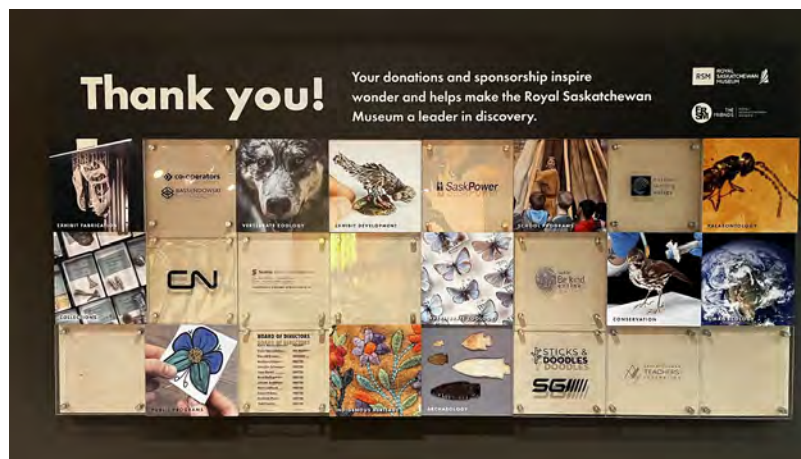


Fall 2024

The return of SGI Solstice Speaker Series for its fourth season was set to begin in the Fall. Our topic of Treaty 4 at 150 years was interrupted when our leader Eber Hampton had some health concerns. Fortunately, Eber is feeling better! The Friends are most pleased with that outcome.

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 2024-25

The second (but first) SGI Solstice Speaker Series took place on December 12th. The Friends collaborated with Songs 4 Nature artists Raven Reid, Jovan Larre, Dave Grandel and Dale Macarthur to share their songwriting skills and commitment to participate in Truth & Reconciliation. *Finding Truth in Music* was the focus. Special thanks to Glenn Sutter RSM Curator of Human Ecology who coordinated the artists. Come and hear Songs 4 Nature songs in the HOME Gallery!

Birds & Bevvies



A packed house at Rebellion Brewing Company featuring Dr. Ryan Fisher was a new outreach event. What a blast! Learning about Birds, sharing food & beverage with Friends, and showcasing the work at the RSM was delightful! Stay tuned for future B&B Series evenings!

Spring 2025



Tom Wilson, musician and author, shared his life quest to find himself and ultimately uncover his identity as a Mohawk Man. Tom shared his melodies, paintings, and words to a terrific crowd at Darke Hall in March. This type of reflection and dialogue is what the SGI Solstice Speaker Series is all about.



Stay Tuned: Looking Ahead

The Friends continue to bolster membership activity, connect to sponsorship opportunities, remain engaged in the museum community, and remain 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. Stay tuned for Artifact | Artifiction in your social and sponsorship calendar, consider participating in our Membership Campaign by renewing or upgrading, visit the 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.

Special acknowledgement to the Board of Directors for sharing the work and direction of the Friends. In particular, the Big 3 who have been with FRSM since my tenure began - Andrea, Harold and Kevin - what a terrific group of human beings!

Thank you for another terrific year. See you soon at the Museum!

Craig Perrault

Executive Director | F R S M



ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM

Executive Director RSM | Brie Hnetka

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what has been accomplished together. In a time marked by both challenges and opportunities, the unwavering support of the Friends of the RSM has enabled us to continue advancing our mission and deepening our impact on our visitors and citizens.

Through the hard work and dedication of the board, staff, volunteers and supporters, we have accomplished a lot in a year.

Some highlights this year include:

- The RSM and Friends of the RSM combined efforts hosting of another very successful Artifact Artfiction, overcoming barriers in advertising because of election restrictions!
- Two exciting exhibits opened:
 - The visually stunning “Saskatchewan North to South” exhibit is situated as you enter the 2nd floor mezzanine and explores the provinces eco zones and regions with beautiful photography and video wall.
 - The new “Animal Sounds” exhibit allows visitors to guess what animal sound they hear. This exhibit has been very popular and inspires a bit of friendly competition between friends and family.
- The programming team has been gaining increased participation in the drop-in programming on weekends and on school breaks in the learning lab. This year they introduced a stuffy sleepover and “Scotty” dance party, both were a bit hit with the pre-school audience and repeat visitors.
- The new initiative “Birds & Bevvies” was a huge hit, selling out! Can’t wait for the next one!
- The RSM was able to permanently hire a new Curator of Archaeology, Dr. Tracy Martins. Already Dr. Martins is engaged in exciting research.

- A washroom renovation has started at the RSM, this construction has affected the use of our auditorium as well. We are looking forward to the construction being completed and our visitors enjoying more accessible and functional washrooms.
- The construction has led to an opportunity to utilize Darke Hall for the SGI Solstice Series, the Friends hosted Tom Wilson in the spring at the alternative location, it worked out well. We are grateful to work with our neighbours, Darke Hall to continue hosting this series while we are under construction.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the work of the Friends of the RSM. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated organization to support our work. This spring, three Friends board members will be leaving the board, as they have served the maximum 6-year term. The contributions of Harold Bryant, Kevin Bassendowski, and Andrea Johnson have been invaluable in moving the Friends through a transitional time with new Friends and RSM leadership. I am so grateful for the passion, dedication, knowledge and expertise they have shared. They will be missed.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on our successes, we are investing in new initiatives, strengthening our infrastructure, and exploring new ideas that will shape the future of the RSM. We know the road ahead will not be without obstacles, but with the Friends continued support, we are confident that together we can meet them head-on.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for your ongoing support.



Special thanks to Brie Hnetka 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 |
|--------------------|--|
| Kevin Bassendowski | <i>President</i> |
| Colin Rennebohm | <i>Vice President & Chair / Governance</i> |
| Harold Bryant | <i>Treasurer & Chair / Audit & Finance</i> |
| Jennifer Schwager | <i>Chair / Fundraising & Communications</i> |
| Brad Bellegarde | <i>Board Member</i> |
| Andrea Johnson | <i>Board Member</i> |
| Janson Anderson | <i>Board Member</i> |
| Todd Kemp | <i>Board Member</i> |
| Kevin Safinuk | <i>Board Member</i> |
| Joan Beisel | <i>Board Member</i> |
| Graham Purse | <i>Board Member</i> |
| Laura Gilson | <i>Board Member</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> |
| Betty Radler | <i>Museum Shop</i> |

To our intrepid volunteers

THANK YOU!

Michael Schmidt (*Munchie*)



THANK
YOU



THANK YOU ARTIFACT SPONSORS



Sean Gawley



FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDS

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

Farhana Akther
Monisola Alashi
Janson Anderson
Kirby Anderson
Wanda Anderson

Lorne & Helen Todd Armstrong

Kerry Babcock
Darci Bailie
Joan Baldwin
Sarah Balog
Carla Beck
Vanessa Birrell
Regina Boehmer
Richelle Bourgoin
Brenda Brown
Brenda Lynn Brown

Jocelyn & Michael Brown

Lois Burch
Michael Burns
Michelle Busch
Megan Byers
Chris Cannon
Collin Carbone
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Todd Greenwood
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Divyesh Halari
Robin & Gary Halbert
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Blaine Hatley
Scott Hellings
Karen Henders
Alex Hermann
Crystal Hitchens
Brie Hnetka
Kai Hutchence
Raagini Jain
Michelle Jensen

Andrea Johnson
Mattick Johnston
Nicholas Jones
Ramanpreet Joshi
Ryan Kalt
Vanessa Keilback
Alana Kilmury
Sheila Kirzinger
Rob Knox
Ed & Linda Lang
Elaina Lawn
Michayla Liski-Ziegler
Victoria & Shawn MacDonald

Josh MacFadden
Anton Mackay
Tannis Marks
Dennis Matheson
Karen Maupin
Rob McCullough
Kyla McEachern
Linda McKenzie
Annie McLeod
Karen Meagher
Don Meek
Dwayne Meisner
Jeff Meldrum
David Mitchell
Jennifer Mitchell
Kenneth Mordi
Dianne Morgan
Gwynn Morris
Megan Morris
Stephen Mottershead
James Nahachewsky
Jason Nestman
Kimberley Newsham
Keisha Nova Nginhena
Patricia Ochuba
Peter Ochuba
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Dwayne Parkes

Sarah Parsons
Hanna Pashko
Ravi Patel
Kevin Paventi
Angelina Pearson
Roger Pedersen
Brian Phee
Heather Pockett
Ronald Podbielski
Christine Polonyi
Shauna Powers
Graham Purse
Samantha Ranger
Beth Reed

Maryanne & Christopher Reed

Virginia Reynolds
Raihan Reza
Bernice Richard
Meghanne Rieder Underwood
Courtney Rink
Joan Rink
Keith Roney
Tara Ryan

Calvin, Ida, Abigail Sadowski

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Enrique Sanchez
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Roland Scheuer
Lyndsey Schmidt
Jennifer Schwager
Christopher Schweitzer
Leah Sharpe
Anton Shmalko
Natasha Skea
Avril Skolney
Devin Skolney
Jennifer Skuse
Bethany Slessor
Patricia Smith
Patti Smith

FRIENDS OF THE FRIENDS

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

Anneke Snow
Iryna Soloduk
Caitlin Somogyi
Destinee Spaleta
Linda Stewart
Roseann Strelezki
Victoria Taras
Chelsea Tataryn
Kevin Taylor
Nikolas Taylor
Aj Thakker
Ingrid Thiessen
Claire Thorseth
Rylan Trithart
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Chelsea Vine
Laura Vocat
Vernon Volt Ventura
Nathan Waldhauer
Sean Weatherill
Jeremy Weimer
Roberta Weisbrot
Debra Wells
Chandra Whippler
Desmond Worfolk (Caliber Coffee)
Bob Yake
Dwayne Yasinowski
Faith Yates
Celeste York
Tianna Young
Hagere Selam "Shimby" Zegeye-Gebrehiwot
Katie Zerr

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STICKS & DOODLES
TAYLOR PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT



THE
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SASKATCHEWAN
MUSEUM

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 2024-25 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 in person on June 24, 2025.

