



2019 Year End Report

PAHS Mission:

To preserve and promote the heritage of Prince Albert and area for residents, visitors, and researchers
to understand the past and inform the future

Thank you to our funders:



Dr. C.H. & Lenore Andrews

Philip E. West



President's Message

Renovating and reorganizing our Historical Museum was our main focus in 2019 with most projects continuing from last year. Our staff and volunteers worked hard to finish reorganizing the archives and artifact storage spaces as well as the renewal of displays in the Connaught Room. Volunteers are at the heart of our organization and show their love of the heritage of this area each day. They preserve and share our stories and the material culture of our people in many creative ways. The citizens of Prince Albert and area are privileged to have such a dedicated group chronicling their history.

It was a year of increased public engagement with our community mural project at the center. Artists Leah Dorion and Kevin Pee-ace each designed panels for the murals and invited students and the public to join in the painting. The murals are now on display as part of the redevelopment of the Connaught Room to highlight the Indigenous people of this area. We received an award from the Museums Association of Saskatchewan and a national honorable mention from the Governor General's awards for community history for this project. A ceremony was held in May with local elders to bless the murals after they were put up.

Another highlight was the dedication of the Diefenbaker House as a national historic site. Diefenbaker died on August 16 40 years ago, so this date was chosen for the ceremony. Dignitaries representing Parks Canada, the City of Prince Albert and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada all spoke, as well as your president and the rain held off long enough for the ceremonies.

Our Knowledge Keepers group met several times during the year to continue the work of redesigning the Connaught Room and also consulted with the City of Prince Albert to develop signage for the Rotary Trail downtown highlighting the five First Nations who lived in our area and the Métis. This project will continue into 2020.

We also began a major fundraising project raising money to reconstruct the Nisbet Church and Blockhouse on the west side of the museum closer to their original locations. The river and River Street were the original thoroughfares of the city when it began and these buildings are the oldest in Prince Albert and among the oldest in the province. This too will continue into 2020.

The ReOrg Canada project to reorganize our archives and artifact storage continued throughout the year but has now neared completion. Along with new shelving and storage units volunteers and staff worked on a huge cleanout of the storage areas. Many loads of garbage and recycling were taken out and a garage sale of unwanted items was held in June. It has made a very positive change for the less visible, but very important, function of the Historical Society to preserve our material heritage.

The Historical Society thanks all the citizens of Prince Albert for their interest and support of our work which is visible through our four museums and our extensive archives.



President, Prince Albert Historical Society

Curator's Message

2019 was another tremendous year of growth and change for the Historical Society, especially at the Historical Museum. It has been wonderful to see the changes in the Connaught Room, artefact storage and archives, which, without the support of the board and volunteers would not have been possible. Those who use those areas will notice a huge difference in the organization and work flow.

We were also lucky in 2019 to have a museum assistant position in the winter months. Cherise Robertson was here from January to May, doing a lot of the tour work and other background for the summer season. In the fall, a summer interpreter Spencer Borotsik agreed to stay on with us. Spencer went to school at Centennial College for Museum and Cultural Management. We are very lucky to have someone here with us as the museums have been very busy!

The Historical Society and City of Prince Albert got two feathers in their caps this year! In August, the Diefenbaker House officially became a National Historic Site- officially it is the John and Olive Diefenbaker Museum, National Historic Site. This was marked by an unveiling event on August 16, the 40th anniversary of Mr. Diefenbaker's death. Secondly, we were nominated for a Governor General's Award in Excellence for Community Programming for our murals in the Connaught Room. Notification came in November that we won one of three Honourable Mentions!

Thank you to all those who were involved in all of our projects and programs this year and thank you for trusting me to choose, run, and participate in programs that make the museums better. I look forward to see what happens in 2020!



Michelle Taylor
Manager/Curator

Board of Directors

Current

President- Connie Gerwing
1st Vice President- John Thompson
2nd Vice President- Fred Payton
Treasurer- Todd Robertson
Secretary- Mary Brown

Shirley Swain
Morley Harrison
Lorraine Brassard
Nancy Pardoe
Harris May
Morris Yelland

Outgoing

Harris May (resigned October 2019)

Staff

Manager/Curator

Michelle Taylor

Office Administrator

Darlene Otet

Museum Assistant

Cherise Robertson (January to May)
Spencer Borotsik (September to December)

2019 Seasonal Staff

(r) returning

Katelyn Lysitza (r)
Nigel Town (r)
Kaitlyn Fossen
Jasmin Otet (r)
Ryan Fontaine
Spencer Borotsik

Kaylee Hoko (r)
Cherise Robertson
Emilie Gobeil
Tessa O'Bertos (r)
Kevin Joseph
Taylor Strauss

PAHS Committees

Audit

Fred Payton
Shirley Swain
Harris May

Building

Garry Prokop
Les Anderson
Lorne Green
John Thompson

Collections

Jamie Benson
Donna Nutter
Ken Guedo
Shirley Swain
Lorraine Brassard

Human Resources

Fred Payton
Connie Gerwing
John Thompson

Marketing

Nancy Pardoe

Nominations

Les Anderson

Governance

John Thompson
Morley Harrison
Harris May
Jim Milliken

Programming

Morley Harrison
Connie Gerwing
Shirley Hamilton
Fred Payton

Herb Bassett Home Outreach

Alma Newman
Morley Harrison
Mary Brown
Ken Guedo
Darlene Otet

Membership

Les Anderson
Doris Lund
Bunny Tatlow (resigned fall 2019)

SK Archaeological Society Rep.

John Thompson

Fundraising

Connie Gerwing
Deb Honch
John Thompson
Fred Payton

Volunteers

The Society's volunteers are the heart of the organization, without the countless hours donated in and out of the museum nothing would operate properly. In order to volunteer, individuals are required to be a PAHS member. In 2019, there were 80 paid members and 10 life members. The President and two other life members nominate up to two individuals for life memberships for outstanding contributions to the Historical Society at the AGM. In 2019, there were no nominees.

This past year had approximately 50 individuals donate their time, giving the Society over 3,667 hours of recorded work, which equates to almost 92 weeks of full time work. Hundreds more hours have not been accounted for and there are likely more individuals that have also contributed to one or many of the projects/openings that have occurred in the last year.

Members volunteer their time on a variety of projects, but most hours are devoted to archives and collections management work. This is not surprising considering all the changes that those areas have undergone. These two programs accession artefacts and documents, conduct some inventory, and answer public enquiries. A smaller group of volunteers deliver tours and outreach programming. Our board members also volunteer their time to help run the Society.

Committee Reports

Personnel

Committee Chair: Fred Payton

The major initiatives undertaken by the Personnel committee in 2019 included revising the job description of the Office Administrator, and changing then upgrading the position of Museum Assistant to Museum Educator. This also required the revision of the job description.

A recommendation was made by the Committee to the Board of Directors regarding an increase in the salaries of our staff to reflect the increase in the cost of living. We also made a recommendation to the Board regarding the payment of a travel allowance (in city) to the Office Administrator.

The Committee reviewed applications from staff regarding training courses, recommending appropriately to the Board of Directors.

In addition, the Committee reviewed concerns from the City of Prince Albert regarding the payment of insurance premiums for staff members who were deemed to be high-risk drivers. A determination was made with respect to who would be responsible for such premiums, as well as what level of risk was acceptable when hiring or retaining such staff.

Building

Committee Chair: John Thompson

There were no formal meetings held by the Building Committee. Work was done to remove old shelving from the storage room in preparation to accept new steel shelving which was assembled on site. The new shelving accommodates the artifacts that were retained and displays them appropriately as well as maximizing the storage space.

The Museum had an unintended lodger in the fenced off area immediately behind the Connaught Room. This individual had constructed a shelter using the tarp from the brick machine and a comfortable abode hidden from view with all the shrubbery masking his presence. Everything was removed including the bushes to prevent this from reoccurring.

Governance

Committee Chair: John Thompson

The Committee met in May to discuss Communications Policy and External Communications Policy' two draft policies were developed and were forwarded to the Board for comment; however they require further work which was intended to start in late summer early fall. The other item that was developed was a "to do" list with PAHS Governance.

Marketing

Committee Chair: Nancy Pardoe

The Marketing area has been busy over the past year. This report describes the major projects the Marketing committee has worked on in 2019.

Web Site: 2019 saw an update to our web site, www.historypa.com. The main page was changed to a three-column format to provide information at a glance. Information includes:

- Our opening dates, hours, and fees
- Pictures and links to descriptions of our locations and museums
- Buttons that link to News, Activities and Contact information
- A map of our locations

There is a new menu structure that provides one-click access to most of the pages on our web site. This updated web site is now mobile friendly.

Banner: A self-standing banner advertising the PAHS and our museums has been purchased. This banner has already proven useful in highlighting our other locations to visitors at the Historical Museum.

Media Advertising:

- **Magnet Signs** - A portable sign was rented from May to August and placed between the Tourism Centre and Highway 2. This sign was updated monthly to advertise our museum locations, exhibits and events, and our tea room. The portable sign also included images of our museums.
- **Tourism Prince Albert:** PAHS advertising included an advertisement in the Visitor Guide, a business card sized ad in the map distributed to visitors and an ad displayed on the Tourism web site.
- **Prairies North:** A 1/4 page ad was inserted into the Summer issue of Prairies North magazine.
- **Prince Albert Farmer's Market** – The PAHS participated in an advertising campaign, Bagvertising, where our ad appeared on reusable bags distributed at the Farmer's Market. 1000 bags were produced for this campaign.
- **Valley News:** A write-up about the 2019 season and an ad were placed in the Valley News. This publication is distributed in the Warman – Hague – Rosthern areas.
- **Sask. Tourism** : The information regarding our museums was reviewed and updated on the Sask. Tourism web site. Some of the updates included removal of the Blockhouse and Church attractions, along with updated the fees for our museums and locations.

For 2020 the Marketing Committee would like to develop a visitor form to determine how our visitors learned about our museums to help inform and direct our marketing efforts.

Programming

Committee Chair: Connie Gerwing

Connaught Room redesign

- Helped with the Indigenous mural project
- Met with the knowledge keepers several times to work on the redesign of the room.

- Replaced and renewed display items for the summer season by mid-May for the summer opening to the public
- Continued to research the early history of Prince Albert to do with the First Nations and Métis people of our area

Summer display

- To coordinate with the ceremony designating the Diefenbaker House as a National Historic site a display was brought in from the Diefenbaker Canada Centre in Saskatoon

Other displays

- Renewed some displays in the Pumper Room to do with Prince Albert City Hall and some temporary displays for the summer season

Outreach

- Regular programs at both Pineview and the Herb Bassett Center continued with volunteers showing photos around a different theme each time.
- Fred Payton began a series of columns for the Prince Albert Daily Herald highlighting our work. Morley Harrison wrote another in a series of skits which were done at the museum and at several schools and seniors centers.
- The Downtown walking tours continued through the spring, summer and fall and Fred Payton developed a West Hill walking tour and also organized our first historic homes tour

Fundraising

Committee Chair: Connie Gerwing

Report submitted by Deb Honch

The committee was tasked with raising funds to re-construct two of Prince Alberts and Saskatchewan's oldest buildings, the Nisbet Church and Blockhouse, on the riverbank west of the museum with a fundraising target of \$200,000. \$9,969.67 has been raised as of the end of Dec 2019.

Several initiatives have been undertaken since the committee started its work in June 2019 and has included the development of marketing materials, writing of grants with more grant writing to come, mail outs and discussions with local businesses and individuals, creation of a "Go Fund me" page, and planning for several events throughout 2020.

Planned events include "A Night at the Museum" to be held April 4, 2020 from 6-11 PM. 100 tickets will be sold at \$50 each. The evening will consist of a Boris Karloff film festival in the lower level of the museum, scary décor (maybe Frankenstein himself!), food and seating in the Serjeant room, a DJ and dancing with a 60's theme in the Pumper room (people are encouraged to dress like the 60's). Morley Harrison and his troupe will be performing skits on the second floor and there will be finger food, beer and wine bar the bar in the tearoom with individual musicians. 50/50's will also be sold.

Other planned events include a Historic House Tour on May 31, 2020, Garden Tour on July 26 and a whiskey tasting proposed for Sept 12th. More detail on these events will be shared as they are finalized.

We invite and encourage all members to support the fundraising efforts for this important project and join us for some great events over the next few months!

Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

Chapter Representative: John Thompson

As a chapter of the SAS, the Historical Society is required to have five people who are members of both societies. At this time, the Historical Society has six. If you are interested in finding out more about the SAS please contact John Thompson.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Davidson on April 27, 2019 with a local field tour to the Arm River Valley to look at tipi rings. The Annual Gathering where papers and posters (student presentations) were presented in Creighton on September 20-22, 2019 with the Manitoba Society of Archaeology also participating.

A bus tour visiting archaeological sites starting at Anglin Lake and north as far as Stanley Mission and traveling by water to see the pictographs on the Churchill River towards Nistowiak Falls as well as visiting the Trading Post in La Ronge was done on the weekend of June 7-9. This tour was limited to Society members and was fully booked.

Sandra Walker conducted three plant walks; one in the spring near Saskatoon, one in the summer near Moosomin in conjunction with the annual summer bar-be-cue and in October near Saskatoon. With the exception of the August tour all participants were non-members and the Society looked upon this as an opportunity to enroll more members since members get a discount on all educational programming and field tours.

A flint knapping workshop (creating spear points and arrow heads) was held in Swift Current in June.

Several artifact collections are being catalogued and identified including one in co-operation with the Melfort and District Museum, which will become part of their permanent display.

Dr. Margaret Kennedy gave a presentation on April 30th. Her topic was 'An Archaeological Perspective on Saskatchewan History'.

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan is working to hire a contract archaeologist who would be able to identify archaeologically significant items in small community museums.

SAS staff member will visit in the winter; Dr. Tomasin Playford, the Executive Director visited the Society on January 9, 2020.

A new chapter was approved at the December 2019 Board meeting. It is a Senior's Chapter open to all but it would meet during the day rather than at night and will hold its chapter meetings around the province. To join one first must be a member of the SAS.

Collections of arrow heads, spear points, scrapers, indigenous pottery do not belong to the collector, they are Crown property and should be given to local museums, the SAS or the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina when being disposed for instance at estate settlements.

Building Upgrades/Maintenance

The City of Prince Albert, in agreement with the Historical Society looks after the care and maintenance of the museums. Much of the work described below was completed by the City.

Ultraviolet filters were installed on all window at the Diefenbaker House and Evolution of Education Museums. This is to provide further protection for the artefacts in our care. The filters were purchased by the Historical Society with the help of a museums assistance grant and the Society and City shared the cost of installation.

The work done at the Diefenbaker House was all completed before the dedication of the House as a National Historic Site in August. Work completed includes re-shingling of the sunroom, repairs to a broken irrigation line in the basement (this happened when City staff were present and did not cause any damage), as well the front of the house was beautified- mulch was laid in the front flowerbed area and trees were trimmed back on the east side of the house. The Historical Society thanks the City for providing the flowers at the Diefenbaker House and the Horticulture class at St. Mary High School for planting them.

At the Rotary Museum of Police and Corrections, the front deck was completely replaced due to rotting wood. Because of this, it was deemed a safety hazard and the museum was closed on August 8 for the season.

The Historical Museum has had regular maintenance over the year including the replacement of two furnaces and the water heater, installation of LED safety lights on the east and north sides of the museum, and some upgrades to the emergency exit lights in the Connaught Room. The City also came and cleaned up the fenced area on the north side of the building removing all the small trees and brush. This was done because individuals had decided to set up camp in that area.

Work that was completed and financed by the Society include floor leveling of the lower level archives room to facilitate the installation of new metal shelves, the changing of lights in the artefact storage room to LED fixtures, installation of data lines for the computer system, and the installation of the laminate flooring in the pumper room.

In the spring, the Society asked the Knowledge Keepers if they would like the cedar branches from the trees on the east side of the building. The Knowledge Keepers removed them and the City came later and cut down the stumps.

Administration

The manager/curator handles the day-to-day operations of the Society but it has been so busy, help was needed to provide better service to members and public. In 2019, the Society approached the Director of Community Services for permission to use the summer student budget to keep Cherise Robertson employed from January to May. He agreed under the condition that we get summer grant to offset any budget overages. Cherise, during that time looked after providing tours at all museums and additional daily duties as needed. Having Cherise was a great help for the Society and we were able to complete more tasks than anticipated. In the fall, there was enough money left in our budget that we could hire a recent graduate in Museum Studies, who was one of the summer interpreters. Spencer Borotsik agreed to stay in Saskatchewan to work as the Museum Assistant. In December, his position changed to Museum Educator. His focus is to create programs to bring more people into the museums in the winter and develop curriculum related content to promote use of the museums in schools.

The office administrator, Darlene Otet, takes care of all financial matters, as well as overseeing the Seniors Care Home outreach programs and the office.

In 2019, there were a lot of programs and projects organized by the Historical Society; many requiring additional funding. The manager/curator applied for 12 grants and bursaries for these projects bringing in approximately \$91,000. The grants include but are not limited to Canada Summer Jobs, Young Canada Works, Museums Assistance Program, City of Prince Albert's Municipal Cultural Action Plan, Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Northern Lights Community Development Corporation and the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists (SCAA). The Society was also successful in securing a larger grant from SaskCulture's Museums Grant Program- a grant that provides operational funding for museums. We are in the highest level of funding and were granted \$22,000 of the requested \$30,000 for the two year cycle! Three travel bursaries were also applied for to offset travel costs of volunteers and staff training. Two SCAA bursaries and a Canadian Museums Association bursary were received amounting to approximately \$1500. These grants and bursaries were normally for specific projects the Society completed in 2019.

The Prince Albert Historical Society and its' manager/curator are becoming well known and respected in the Saskatchewan museum community. Michelle was asked to adjudicate SaskCulture's Museum Grant Program applications and teach two Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) classes. Late in the year, because of our participation in the ReOrg program, MAS also asked Michelle to provide a one hour presentation (completed by video recording in 2020) about ReOrg for the museum network program.

The Historical Society, for the Indigenous Mural Project, was nominated and awarded the MAS Institutional Award of Merit for projects less than \$25,000 at the AGM in May. We were also nominated for a Canada's History Governor General's Award for Excellence in Community Programming. For that, we were chosen as one of the three finalists and Michelle accepted the certificate in Ottawa in January 2020.

Because of our work with the Indigenous Community in creating the Indigenous exhibit area in the Historical Museum. The Society and Knowledge Keepers were asked to participate in two City of Prince Albert initiatives- the Indigenous Naming Initiative and the Riverbank Signage project. These two projects will be completed in 2020 with the installation of signage on the corner of Central Ave and River Street and along the Rotary Trail between 1st Ave W and the museum.

We were also asked to participate in a joint signage project with the City and Prince Albert Downtown Business Improvement District (PADBID), a project like this have been in the 'to do' files of the Historical Society for a decade or more. In 2020, twelve signs will be added to the windows of historical downtown businesses, highlighting the location or building itself.



This year a fundraising committee was started to kick start a campaign to raise funds to reconstruct the Nisbet Church and Blockhouse. Early in the year site plans were drawn up by Butterwick Drafting and presented to the City, however with the removal of the totem pole on the riverbank in the fall, we were able to move the chosen location further west, negating the movement of the bandstand. Fundraising efforts included a successful garage sale of deaccessioned items and a historic homes tour. The garage sale was held over three days in June and a large portion of the items sold. Items that remained were sent to SHARE for their annual garage sale. The garage sale brought in almost \$2000. The historic homes tour saw five community members open their homes to ticket holders on October 27. Participants on the tour put their name in a draw for a one-night stay at the Red Pine Bed and Breakfast. The winner was Nancy Pardoe. This event is scheduled to happen again in 2020.

Michelle worked with the City of Prince Albert and Parks Canada to dedicate the Diefenbaker House as a National Historic Site. This event was planned for August 16, 2019- the 40th Anniversary of Mr. Diefenbaker's death. The day went off without a hitch and the rain stayed away, approximately 50 invited guests and members of the public attended.



August 16, 2019 Dedication of the John and Olive Diefenbaker House NHS
Mayor Greg Dionne, PAHS Pres. Connie Gerwing, Historic Sites and Monuments of Canada Board Member Bill Waiser, Parks Canada Representative

Projects

Knowledge Keeper Consultations/ Connaught Room

It is amazing to think how far this room has come in such a short amount of time....

The pictures below are from February and March, showing the newly dry walled and painted walls as well as the new (temporary) set up of the room. However, you will notice there is something missing from these very bare walls. In consultation with the Knowledge Keepers in 2018, it was noted that we needed to promote Indigenous art. To work with this suggestion, a decision was made to incorporate large colourful murals along the top portion of the wall. In late 2018, we were notified of a successful application for the City of Prince Albert's Public Art Stimulus Fund. That fund help to buy some supplies as well as some of the artists' cost. In 2019, the artists were chosen, Leah Dorion would work on the Metis themed paintings and Cree artist, Kevin Pee-Ace from Saskatoon would create the First Nations Panels. At that time, we also found that we were successful in our application for a Saskatchewan Arts Board- Artists in Communities grant. This grant stipulates that the artwork be created with the community. We had in mind that we wanted to work with a predominantly First Nations school that does not see many projects like this. Mr. Bates' grade 7 and 8 art class from Queen Mary School agreed to be part of the project. The class in the end, worked with Kevin Pee-ace to create two panels of the mural. They did a terrific job!



Mr. Bates' class and Kevin Pee-Ace

The public's first chance to work on the murals was at the Historical Museum's Family Day opening. Leah Dorion facilitated work on the two Metis themed panels. The number of people that showed up that day to work on them was overwhelming. For the rest of the February break the museum was open to the public to work on the murals. Most of the work was completed in the Historical Museum, but a panel was taken to Northcote Manor for senior's to paint, a second panel was taken to Wesmor High School to promote recognition and ownership of a piece in the museum.

Over the course of 8 weeks, the pieces were created and completed, culminating in a public unveiling on April 26th. Prior to the event, the murals were smudged and blessed by the Knowledge Keepers.



Family Day



Installation by Society members

The Historical Society would like to say a special Thank You to Kevin Pee-Ace and Leah Dorion for all their hard work and commitment to the project.



Kevin Pee-Ace and Leah Dorion at the unveiling of the murals, April 26, 2019



Metis panels in the SW corner of the Connaught Room



North wall with tribal panels



East wall with history of Prince Albert

Awards for the Mural Project



MAS Institutional Award of Merit, May 25, 2019
MAS President Corrine Daelick, Michelle, and MAS Exec. Director Wendy Fitch



Governor General's Award, January 20, 2020
Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette and Michelle

ReOrg of Lower Level Storage and Archives Room

In 2018, the Historical Society signed up to be part of ReOrg Canada: Prairies and the North. This program is designed to help smaller museums reorganize their collection storage areas. We chose to reorganize our collections storage and revamp the archives area. Some of the work and purchasing of shelving was completed in 2018 with the help of our first Museums Assistance Program (MAP) grant. Because we were part of this program the Society was able to apply for a smaller \$10,000 MAP grant to help purchase needed supplies.

These areas were chosen because we were not sure how full or empty our shelves were, but we knew we were running out of space! As part of the program we had to figure our unit and room fullness. The archives were measured after the installation of the compact storage (rolling shelving units) so our numbers look pretty good. The room was 62% full whereas the unit fullness was 75%. In collections storage (the big store room) the room was 86% full and the unit fullness was 80%.

The ReOrg committee (Donna Nutter, Lorraine Brassard, Michelle Taylor) travelled to Winnipeg in March to take part in a three day hands-on ReOrg workshop at the Manitoba Museum. The fourth day was a mini conference where each participant museum gave an overview of the museum and project, as well a video was presented by the organizers about what we had accomplished in that time.

From March on, things got moving- for the most part.

The floor in the archives storage area was levelled which allowed us to install shelving units, walls were constructed to provide needed support for the shelves. Volunteers installed the shelves, moved cabinets from one room to another and archive documents were moved into storage boxes. The Daily Herald newspaper morgue was also brought over from offsite storage so it could be more useful to us.

In the fall, large artefact units were purchased for collections storage and larger items were returned to the room. One further rack was purchased before Christmas and movement will be completed in January 2020.

Even though the official ReOrg program finished in December 2019, our work will continue for years to come. There is work to be done to change information in the computer as well as many items needed to be (re) accessioned.

There were a few side projects that occurred while waiting for shelving to come in and planned as part of the process.

1. Framed picture room- the wooden shelves were removed and new metal shelving was installed
2. Archives room- new desks were purchased so the room could be turned into the 'work/research' room then network/data lines needed to be installed so everyone could access the network.
3. Collections storage- Lighting was changed to LED to facilitate better/brighter working areas
4. Map Room- City records were taken back by the City of Prince Albert and a large metal shelving unit was installed to house ledgers.

ReOrg has given us a more 'professional' feel and a standard to live up to. It has also opened up more space for us to allow for future growth.

Collections Storage Before



Collections Storage After



Framed Picture Room- now Incoming Donations and Programming



Archives Work Area to Storage- Before



September 2018



After





Volunteer and Staff Training

In 2019, the PAHS members and staff participated in various learning opportunities. In March, as part of the ReOrg program, Michelle Taylor, Donna Nutter, and Lorraine Brassard travelled to Winnipeg for hands-on learning about the ReOrg process. Almost immediately upon her return, Lorraine travelled to Regina for and SCAA sponsored class called “Audiovisual Preservation.” This class talked about proper storage and conservation techniques for cassette tapes, VHS tapes, DVDs, etc. In May, Michelle Taylor and Cherise Robertson attended the MAS AGM and mini-conference in Saskatoon.

Darlene Otet attended two workshops. One in Warman sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce called “Fuel your Business for Success” and another in Prince Albert “Strengthening Communications for Non-profits” presented by Carolyn Carlton of PADBID and also attended by Fred Payton.

Michelle Taylor also regularly attends the MAS Northeast Network meetings held twice a year. At these meetings, museums in the NE region of the province get together to share ideas and update each other on what is going on in their museum. Once a year MAS provides a training or information session on a topic that affects museums. Past programs have been on copyright, accessioning, the Truth and Reconciliation recommendations for museums, etc. These meetings are worthwhile going to, please contact Michelle if you are interested.

Programming and Outreach

This year was an exciting year for programming and outreach, as we have almost 1,300 people participate in our programs throughout the year. This number does not include the 325 people who came through the garage sale or Street Fair attendance (993 individuals).

The Senior's outreach program continued at Herb Bassett Home this year, early in the year Pineview Terrace was added. Twice a month volunteers go to Herb Bassett and once a month to Pineview. In total, in 2019 there were 247 people who took part in the programs over a 6-month period. The committee and residences decided that over summer it was not a good fit. The programs provide the residents the opportunity to see photographs from their youth and promote discussion not only that day but for the rest of the week!

This year we expanded the number and kinds of tours that we can lead; during the summer months the summer interpreters regularly provide the downtown walking tour. This year there were 19 walking tours of the downtown area. Special thanks again go to Fred Payton and Councillor Lennox-Zepp for leading the downtown walking food tour- three tours during the summer months were given. In December, a walking historical tour was given on a Thursday evening and participants visited some of the businesses open late for shopping! Twice a year Fred Payton leads a group through the history of the St. Mary Church and Cemetery, this tour also talks about some of the prominent former citizens and their contributions to Prince Albert. New this year, upon a few requests, a west hill walking tour was created. Starting and ending at the Diefenbaker House Museum, this tour winds its way through the historic west hill neighbourhood. There were three tours given to over 40 participants.

In 2019, the museum held seven FREE days, including Family Day, Canada Day, Remembrance Day, and the Santa Claus parade day, with wonderful attendance. This year on Remembrance Day WWII Veteran Ed Laird talked briefly about his time in the military, and Bob Spracklin gave a presentation about those who were killed at the #6 Elementary Flying Training School in Prince Albert. The programming committee provides goodies those days for attendees. There were over 760 people visiting the museums on those days, all but Canada Day were during the winter months.

The Historical Society participates in two 'trade show' events in the spring- the Model Railroader's Hobby Show and the Family Expo. At each event volunteers operate our booth and promote the Historical Society. This year the 'What is it?' game garnered a lot of interest from both young and old. There were almost 200 interactions with people during the trade shows.

Once again, Don Guedo, filtered through the archives photographs to provide the Historical Society once again with a calendar. This year's pictures focus on lake country. They are available for sale at the Historical Museum.

Our unofficial kick off to summer event is the Crocus Tea. This annual tea is usually held on the first Wednesday of May. This event is open to the public, which brings in many people who we don't normally see.



In the last week of September, the Historical Society took part in Culture Days, as part of the Prince Albert Hub. This year's theme was all about how cultural activities can make you healthier. Spencer and a few volunteers went to two schools on Friday, Sept 27 and showed the students children's games from different cultures. On Saturday the 28th, the Historical Museum was open from 11 to 3pm to the public, and the participants played the same games.



In July, the Society was asked by the Parkland Heath Region to put up a display in the Victoria Hospital for Culture Days and put a focus on Indigenous ways of healing. Volunteers and staff met with the Health Region to discuss what artefacts could go in the display. This display was meant to stay in place for two weeks, but remained for closer to 6. There was a tremendous response from the visitors of the hospital. The Health Region has already asked us to put up another display in September 2020.



L-R: Courtney Ellsworth, PAPHR; Rhona Subchysyn, MaryLou Milliken, Spencer Borotsik; Shannon Pettem, PAPHR

Exhibits

Summer Exhibit at the Historical Museum



This year's summer exhibit opened in July and it was a smaller version of the travelling exhibit "Diefenbaker: One Canada," provided by the Diefenbaker Canada Centre. This exhibit was to coincide with the dedication of the Diefenbaker House Museum as a National Historic Site on the 40th Anniversary of Mr. Diefenbaker's death.

Bill Smiley Archives

The Bill Smiley Archives have undergone significant changes in 2019. Rooms were switched, material was moved and boxed, wiring done and computer stations were changed and added. This work was spurred on by our participation in the ReOrg program, but some changes were planned previously with the use of the Dr. CH and Lenore Andrews bequest.

Even with the area in disarray the archives volunteers have been very busy and has in fact seen an increase in archive requests and researchers they were able to help. The archives, during the summer months had a very normal request from a family in Kentucky, they were looking into their family history and a business owned by the enquirer's uncle. They made a trip up to Prince Albert to visit the archives and City. Jamie and Ken did their

best to help find the information they required and the family left very happy. A week or two after their return to the States, Jamie received the following email,

The weekend after returned to the States, we drove to Clemson South Carolina where we once lived. Among friends with whom we visited was David Wilkins, former US Ambassador to Canada. He introduced us to his guest for the weekend, the Honorable Scott Moe, the Saskatchewan Premier. If I recall correctly, he indicated his home is just outside Prince Albert in Shellbrook (?). I think the last thing he expected was to meet someone who had just been to Prince Albert and Saskatoon. I told him the purpose of our visit and how instrumental the Historical Society had been in ensuring a fulfilling visit. Cheers!

Constantine (Deno) Curris

It is not often that recognition like this reaches us unsolicited, but it helps renew the spirits of the archives and keeps them returning day after day.

Since we have a large Facebook following, the archives receives many requests, usually about buildings on this platform. There were 27 requests were answered through this method.

Over the course of the year, more than 300 documents have been added to the searchable Master Database and 20 new photographs, not including the Daily Herald negatives. To the end of December, there are 20, 987 individual envelopes equating to more than 97,800 individual negatives that have been entered and verified into the database.

Archive renovations- Before



After



Visitation and Statistics

The museums 'usage' numbers include those who have physically visited the museum for pleasure or research, those who have asked a question of the archives, and those who have been actively engaged on our Facebook page. It also counts our documented volunteer occasions. You will notice that the overall number is down from last year, however, most of that is seen in the drop of our Facebook interactions. We can surmise one of two scenarios- people haven't like the posts we put up or we posted less in 2019 than 2018. The second scenario is more likely.

We should not be worried about the drop in visitors as there are various reasons and we had a very successful summer season. This includes the May opening of Heejung's House in the tearoom, Heejung and Junsoek Park, offered Korean food and sushi. They had excellent food and were very well received by the public; approximately 1500 people went up to the tearoom for lunch between May and August. Tearoom patrons are not required to pay museum entry fees. The Park's have also decided to come back for the 2020 summer season and for 2019 won a BOB Award for best restaurant with a view!

2018 vs 2019 Museum Usage Data

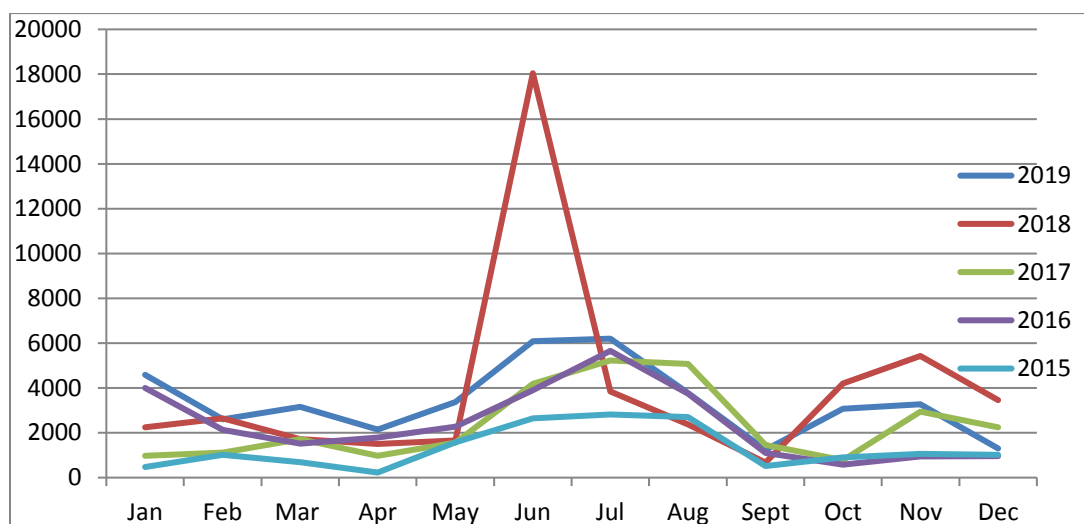
Users	2018	Total 2019
Visitors/Meetings	10,696	10,352
Researchers	31	41
Archive Requests	204	244
Group Tours	61	95
Volunteers Occasions	1,475	1,688
Facebook *	35,346 (714,936)	28, 474 (947,669)
Total Museum Use	47,752	40,799

*Facebook numbers calculated by the number of engaged users and post reach (in brackets) for that months posts. It does not take into effect the engaged users on past posts, which at times outnumber the monthly posts.

Summer 2019 Visitation Statistics (May 22 to August 31)

	2019 Total	2018
Historical Museum	5,328	5137
Diefenbaker House	964	853
Police & Corrections	657	1159
Evolution of Education	554	281
Total	7503	7430

Museums Usage from 2015 to 2019



***June 2018, is an anomaly, a video of the St. Mary Church tour was added to Facebook.

The number of group tours (mostly schools) is up significantly over the last year. Many times schools visited more than one museum per day. Throughout the year there were 43 recorded tours at the Historical Museum, 10 at the Evolution of Education Museum, 13 at the Police and Corrections Museum (the museum was closed after August 8th for the replacement of the deck), and 10 at the Diefenbaker House. There were also 18 walking tours of the downtown and three tours of the west hill, which includes one a spouse tour for the Sask. Party MLA's. Food tours ran monthly through the summer. The total number of tour participants is 1281. From 2018, there was a significant increase in the number of documented walking tours. The Historical Society should be very happy with these numbers.

Summary

This has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding year! Without the help of all the volunteers and Knowledge Keepers and others who were brought in to work on other projects, we could not have done what was done. It is hoped that 2020 will not have quite so many projects but turns out just as well.

There will be continued changes in all the museums but the focus for the next few years will be on the Historical Museum. The changes will bring renewed life and in turn interest in Prince Albert's history.