

REGINA  
PLAINS  
MUSEUM

REGINA PLAINS MUSEUM

# 2010 Annual Report

## **50th Anniversary year!**



Regina Plains Museum 2nd Floor - 1835 Scarth Street Regina Saskatchewan S4P 2G9  
Tel: (306) 780-9435 Fax: (306) 565-2979 e-mail: [rp.museum@sasktel.net](mailto:rp.museum@sasktel.net) [www.reginaplainsmuseum.com](http://www.reginaplainsmuseum.com)

## President's Message



# The Corporation

**The Regina Plains Museum is Regina's Civic History Museum**

- Through exhibiting, collecting and programming activities, the museum reflects the history of Regina.
- The collection preserves the significant cultural, social, political and economic development of the community.
- The Regina Plains Museum collaborates with other museums and organizations to limit duplication of collections and services.

**Board of Trustees**

- Rosemary Makelki**, President  
**Rob Deglau**, Vice President  
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 Secretary  
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**Glenn Gordon**, City of Regina Coordinator of Arts, Culture and Film.

**tions**

- Christa Donaldson, Executive Director  
 Jan Morier, Communications  
 Rose Schmidlechner, Admin. Assistant  
 Allen Warren, Summer Student  
 Shana Hay, Summer Student  
 Iris Howden, Accountant  
 Jim Zatulsky, Auditor
- Volunteers:** Rose Schmidlechner, Loretta Hawkes, Peter Quiring, Yolands Hansen, Gordon Goddard, Julie Mushynsky, Kierin Gorlitz and Kent Fuchs.

**2010 Staff/Contract Posi-**

We extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to our members, sponsors and volunteers for their tremendous support!

The Regina Plains Museum is unique with exhibits and programming that extend beyond its walls. We can only estimate the visitor numbers in high traffic areas such as the Regina Police Station, the Steam Locomotive outside Casino Regina and other public displays.

Our appreciation goes to the **Estate of Gwendolyn Oliver** who generously contributed to our Planned Giving Program. Her gift will be acknowledged for generations to come!

**Thanks to everyone who made 2010 another successful year at the museum.**

2010 Statistics	
Visitors to the exhibit space	
Inquiries	
Tour participants	
Special events	
Website visitors	
Learning and Reminiscence kit loan participants	
Mural and Scarth Street display areas	30,000+
Satellite exhibits and out of the museum displays	100,000+
Volunteer hours	

## Executive Director/

**Gallery Exhibits and displays:** There were 5 main gallery exhibits created and two new digital exhibits. In total, there are 5 digital exhibits and 4 DVD presentations. The majority of exhibits require extensive research which is done by staff, a summer student and volunteers.

The exhibits:

- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year display and newsletter.
- **Warehouse District exhibit**, from the Regina Neighbourhood Series developed by the Regina Plains Museum, with guest curator and volunteer: Yolanda Hansen from the CRU unit, University of Regina. The Warehouse District was essential to Regina's economic establishment. By 1904, the *Regina Leader* boasted that Regina was the "*distribution and wholesale centre of the Territories*" and the local Board of Trade proclaimed Regina as the "Distribution Centre of the West". Breweries, bakeries, creameries - all the necessities of life came from the Warehouse District! In 1927 Regina boasted Western Canada's only car plant! The GM plant produced 1 car every 4 minutes! That's 150 cars a day - 30,000 cars a year! The warehouse now houses the
 
- RPM's collection.
- **"Sitting Pretty" History of the Toilet** exhibition was a popular exhibit that contributed to over half our attendance this year. It was created by Guelph Museums in Ontario and consisted of 7 interactive displays. This exhibit attracted national media attention and good PR for the museum. It attracted hundreds of new visitors and many have become repeat guests. *They came for the toilet exhibit but stayed for the history. Put tpaper photo*
- **1885 Revisited.** This exhibit is an extensive look at the 1885 Rebellion/Resistance and presents two sides: The Military and the Métis. It generated a great deal of interest and tours such as the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatoon. During Culture Days, on September 25, there was a talk presented by Calvin Racette and Major (Ret'd) Gordon Goddard. *Pictured.* Note. This exhibit was filmed by the University of Regina Journalism students as a special project.
- **North Central.** This display explores the village of North Regina that was created in 1914 and grew to 640 acres and 600 residents. It had its own governance structure, schools, churches and businesses. It was annexed by the City of Regina in 1951. This exhibit included the production of **several DVD's** and **information binders** that **were distributed** to the North Central Community Association, the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, the City of Regina Archives, the Public and Separate School systems, Albert School and a few copies available at the museum for loans.
- **Girl Guide 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary** exhibit: In partnership with the local Girl Guide organization this was another exhibit that generated a lot of interest. There were several evening and weekend tours associated with the display. Again new visitors to the museum.

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## Communication's Report

### **Social Media:**

The **website** usage increased its new visits by 61.43% for a total of 5,121 visits to the site and 11,948 page views. There were 3,203 'absolute unique' visitors. There was a noticeable jump in visits to the site between July and September – the major tourist time while we were hosting *Sitting Pretty – the History of the Toilet*.

**Facebook** is holding at 106 friends. These Friends see postings of messages and photos inviting them to museum events and promoting seasonal celebrations. The Museum launched a **Twitter** account in June, 2010 to promote *Sitting Pretty –* In 7 months we acquired 153 followers, with numbers growing rapidly. Twitter allows short messages and the posting of photos. Historical images from old Regina have kept interest up.

### **Television & Radio:**

We continue to enjoy the free promotion on Talk of the Town appearances. The Regina Plains Museum is a favourite guest every second week at the Access 7 Studio. In 2010 we appeared 15 times (6minutes per visit) with museum volunteers and staff celebrating an aspect of the season. The Talk of the Town on Location shoots held 3 20-minute interviews at the museum, including *Sitting Pretty* and the Downtown Walking Tours. CBC Radio and Television conducted interviews on the North Central Regina, 1885 Revisited exhibits and the Riel Downtown Walking Tours. Journalists from Missinipi Broadcast Corp. also interviewed museum staff on these topics. CTV, Global, CBC TV took great interest in covering on *Sitting Pretty, History of the Toilet* during the summer. The CTV report on *Sitting Pretty* received national coverage. Culture Days (Sept. 25) was covered by Global News.

**In celebration of the Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, SCN's 15 Minutes of Fame (Season 4, Episode 6 - "Regina Plains Museum - A History") took a look at the 5 decades of the museum's existence. The feature is aired on rotation on SCN (channel 12).

### **Print:**

The museum was given front page of the December issue, *North Central Community Connection* to promote the North Central exhibit. The museum continued to contribute monthly Whatzit - a photo and back-story of a museum artifact - to *Saskatchewan Senior Living* newspaper. Our events listings were published in *The Downtowner* on a monthly basis (Downtown Business Assoc.) and with the Prairie Dog. *Sitting Pretty – History of the Toilet* and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations enabled the museum to take out paid advertising in the Regina Leader-Post and the Prairie Dog.

**Publications:** There were five newsletters, several posters, brochures produced this year.

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## Collections Report

Summary: There are 17,540 items in the collection. 169 items were accessioned and items were deaccessioned. 14,552 items are currently documented on a computer with 3,000 items to be entered in 2011. Some of the deaccessioned items were:

**Pharmacy collection:** this area was reviewed and 256 items were transferred to the Saskatchewan Pharmacy Association.

### Regina City Police

778 items were catalogued and 773 items were deaccessioned. Some of the artifacts are on display at the Police station.

### Regina General Hospital.

570 items remain in this collection with 315 transferred to other museums over the past few years.

## Education and Public Programming

### Events:

On June 21, for the Year of the Metis & honour of Aboriginal day on June 21 - **In the Footsteps of Riel** an outdoor free public tour on June 21 from 6:30 to 9pm. This was done in partnership with Saskatchewan Writer's Guild, The Regina Public Library and local poets and storytellers. June/July – Regina City hall display – *Tiny Town* or a recreation of Regina in 1885.

Culture Days (September 25) presentation of 1885 Revisited with Calvin Racette (Regina Public School Board Consultant) and (retired) Major Gord Goddard. The speakers offered two perspectives: the Saskatchewan militia and the Métis point of view.

October 21, University of Regina School of Journalism interviewed participants and filmed the 1885 Revisited exhibit.

**Tours:** Three outdoor tours were offered over the summer:

The Louis Riel Hidden Path. This guided tour visits various destinations in and around Victoria Park. Participants can experience the same environment as Riel during his trial and up to his execution at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The Museum also created a self-guided tour guide in French and English. The Louis Riel tour brochure text is in French and English.

Explore Downtown Historic tour: conducted by our summer student and featured on a special Access Communications program – this guided tour explored significant locations in the heart of the Queen City – our downtown area.

The learning kits are revamped annually and are available at no charge to area schools.

sheets, reference books, colour wheels and task sheets.



The History of Victoria Park tour: in partnership with Regina Downtown and the Sask. Military Museum.

**Outreach programs:** In addition to school and group indoor guided tour visits, the RPM offers Reminiscence and learning kits. The museum currently manages and loans out over 18 learning kits as follows:

**School Learning Kit Themes:** Elements of Principles of Design, Citizenship, Fun and Games, School Days, Building Community, Heroes and Heroines and Going to Town.

Each learning kit includes: A teacher's guide with background information on the theme, additional resources, lesson plans and activities.

**Downloads:** Lesson plans and activities are available for download on our website. [www.reginaplainsmuseum.com](http://www.reginaplainsmuseum.com).

**Reminiscence Kits:** The RPM has 11 miniature museum kits are a valuable outreach source and available for senior or group homes. They are: 1. The Old Home Place – My Childhood home. This is a story kit with two DVD's produced to accompany this kit. Home and Farm, The Kitchen, Fashion and Toiletries, Leisure Activities, Health Care, Health and Wellness, My Childhood Home, Put your Glad Rags on, The Mighty Mite Myrt – focusing on one of the Regina Plains Museum's Pioneers and Musical Notes in Regina.

**Community and visitor services:** The museum is conveniently located downtown and accessible to tourists and the local population. We frequently offer guidance to other attractions and ...publications, maps

## **Permanent Exhibits:**

**The Building Community Mural** by **Sherry Farrell Racette** is located in the hallway—downstairs from the museum. It represents a non-traditional view of history, including the men, women and children in the story and development of our community. The mural is also a beginning stop for the Louis Riel tours.

Several items from the RPM collection were transferred to the Regina Police Station and this exhibit is available for public viewing..

The **Steam Locomotive** is RPM's largest artifact and located outside Casino Regina. It is a significant landmark and a tourist attraction.

## **The Glass Wheatfield**

The wheatfield: a salute to Canadian Farmers contains 14,000 individually crafted waist high stalks. This remains a very popular tourist attraction.



*Home of the Glass Wheatfield  
by Jacqueline Berting*

The Regina Plains Museum was registered as a charity on December 15, 1959 and incorporated as a non-profit organization on January 4, 1960. In December, 2009 the RPM will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Operating as Regina's Civic Museum, it is the only museum with a mandate to collect materials related to the cultural, social, political and economic growth and development of the peoples of Regina. This is made possible through collecting, documenting, preserving and exhibiting artifacts and other heritage collections.

### The Collection

The Regina Plains Museum's collection consists of over 17,000 artifacts of historical significance that are held in public trust; the largest being a steam locomotive to the smallest being the size of a lapel pin. The collection includes material related to Regina's economic history and the community's social and cultural life. In fact, the RPM has amalgamated the Regina Police Service's historical collection, and the Regina General Hospital's collection of historical material. As the city's civic museum, the RPM is the only organization within the community with a mandate to collect and preserve historical material directly related to the growth and development of the Queen city.

[www.reginaplainsmuseum.com](http://www.reginaplainsmuseum.com)  
[www.reginatornado.ca](http://www.reginatornado.ca)

A sample of what's on our website...

- Information about museum facilities and staff
- Educational and community programming
- Downloadable teaching materials
- Current and upcoming exhibits
- Related sites
- A chronology of Regina
- Museum news
- 1912 Tornado of Regina project
- Artifact images

#### Funding Agencies

City of Regina | **REGINA**  
Infinite Horizons

ADD SASK. COMMUNITY VITALITY

Sask Culture

Saskatchewan LOTTERIES

Sponsors Add Sask. Heritage Foundation

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Regina Plains Museum  
2nd floor, 1835 Scarth Street  
Regina, SK S4P 2G9

Tel: (306) 780.9435 Fax: (306) 565.2979

Email: [rp.museum@sasktel.net](mailto:rp.museum@sasktel.net)

Web sites: [www.reginaplainsmuseum.com](http://www.reginaplainsmuseum.com) and