



Official Opening of the Plains Historical Museum on the 4th floor of the Old Post Office Building in June 1981.
Regina. L to R: Master of Ceremonies - Doug Lee, Founding President Gordon Grant, President Paul Steer,
Mayor Larry Schneider, Founding Collector Maynard Moser (age 101) Background: Elizabeth Teskey

Regina's Civic Museum

Preserving our history for 50 years!

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I want to acknowledge another promising year at the museum, and thank everyone whose hard work contributed to our continued existence. We thank all of our funding agencies for their help, and in particular, the councilors and citizens of the city of Regina. Without their support we would not exist. Our staff and dedicated volunteers continue to provide us with many interesting and creative exhibits. Their efforts in researching new ideas and exploring funding possibilities keep us up to date and pertinent to our mission.



In the fall of 2009 the Board established a Five Year Strategic Plan. An important goal is to find a more permanent home that will provide us with adequate display and storage areas. We are in serious discussion with Walker Projects Inc. We are hopeful that in the near future we will have an agreement that suits our needs as Regina's civic museum.

Fundraising continues to be a challenge. We are fortunate that our treasurer guides our staff, board members and volunteers in their fundraising efforts. We thank everyone for their contributions. We are all tasked with increasing our work in this area.

We continue to host a variety of school and public tours. We are pleased that learning kits, established by our staff, have been accredited by the Ministry of Education. We continue to provide outreach programs for interested adult groups.

The Regina Plains Museum presents to residents and visitors alike the story of the unique growth and development of Saskatchewan's capital city. It is a record of who we are, where we have been, and where we are going. In 2009 the Regina Plains Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary. We thank our forefathers for the vision and enthusiasm which created the museum. We accept the challenge of ensuring the continued success of their dream.

Rosemary Makelki

The Corporation

The Regina Plains Museum operates as 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

- Natalie Ostryzniuk**, President to June, 2009
- Rosemary Makelki**, President June 2009 to March, 2011
- Keith Knox**, Past-President
- Roy Cullimore**, Vice - President to June, 2009
- Beverly Deglau**, Treasurer
- Gail Charles**, Secretary
- Pamela La Belle**, Trustee
- Terry Ross**, Trustee
- Dr. Diana Zhang**, Trustee
- Fred Clipsham**, *City of Regina Council –Ward 3*

Glenn Gordon, *City of Regina Arts, Culture and Heritage*

2009 Museum Staff

- Christa Donaldson, Executive Director
- Jan Morier, Communications
- Andrew Ruffell, Summer Student
- Financial:**
- Iris Howden, Accountant
- Jim Zatulsky, Auditor

Volunteers: Peter Quiring, Rose Schmidlechner, Loretta Hawkes, Yolanda Hansen, Kierin Gorlitz, Gordon Goddard and Shana Hay.

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

Programming for Regina Plains Museum goes 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.

Thanks to everyone who made 2009 another great year at the museum.

2009 Statistics	
Visitors to the exhibit space	7,326
Guided tour participants	1,583
Website visitors:	12,720
New: 58.82%	
Returning visitors: 41.18%	
Learning and Reminiscence kits loan participants	560
Mural, Scarth Street display areas and satellite exhibits	100,000+
Volunteer hours	3,070

Executive Director's

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of story and theme possibilities in the collection. In 2009 we focused mainly on these topics. Here are some highlights:

Germantown - curated by Yolanda Hansen, Coordinator of the Community Research Unit (CRU), University of Regina.



Germantown was the area of Regina that emerged as a distinct working-class neighbourhood in the early 1900's. It got its name from the large number of German people and Central and Eastern European immigrants who lived there. The district was diverse with residences and many businesses and commercial establishments, including Regina Market Square, an important commercial district.

50th anniversary exhibit. Using photographs from the past, this exhibit recalls some memorable events and unique items collected over the past 50 years

Digital displays:

First Peoples Urban Experience. This is a collaborative project with the North Central Community Association, Scott Collegiate and our summer student: It presents a historical perspective on the Aboriginal settlement experience in Regina.



Photo: Smudgewalk (North Central Regina) by Greg Girard.

Post card: Scarth Street 1910



- **Regina**

Postcards: Historical images from Regina's past from the collection of Gordon Goddard.

- **Pioneers to Professionals:** 75 years of School Teaching in Regina.

Ongoing displays:

- **Regina Site Lines - A Path down Regina's**

The Regina Plains Museum created: "Regina Site Lines - A Path down Regina's History", to reflect our rich and vibrant history. It presents a timeline of events, important figures relevant to understand our history and the city buildings that have endured time. The *Clothes Line* shows how changing fashion trends reflected world events and inventions. *Lines of Distinction* highlights accomplishments that put our city on the map! *Worry Lines* tell the stories of hardships etched into our collective character such as the Regina Riot and the Regina Tornado of 1912. *Punch Lines* outlines how living in Regina develops our unique way of looking at life.

- **Historical room displays:** A kitchen and general store (with a barbershop and post office area) are ongoing exhibits and artifacts were updated throughout the year.
- The **Regina Riot and 1912 Tornado exhibits.**

Outreach programs: The museum maintains and lends 11 Reminiscence and 7 Learning kits to schools, community organizations and seniors' homes in our area. The teachers guides are available for download on our web site: www.reginaplainsmuseum.com. School kits are provided without charge and include the following themes: Principles of Design, School Days, Going to Town, Heroes and Heroines, Building Community, Fun and Games and Citizenship.

Tours: Three outdoor public tours were presented in 2009: the Regina Downtown tour, the Louis Riel Hidden Path and new for 2009—the Victoria Park historical tour. Guides: Shana Hay, Gordon Goddard, Jan Morier and Andrew Ruffell.

Indoor tours: Our volunteer guides: Rose Schmidlechner, Loretta Hawkes and Peter Quiring hosted a variety of indoor tours and shared their unique experiences with students.

Community and visitor services: The museum is a one-stop shop that provides information and guides tourists and local people to other attractions in our area.

Permanent Exhibits:

The Glass Wheatfield by Jacqueline Berting is located in the museum gallery space. The wheatfield: a salute to Canadian Farmers contains 14,000 individually crafted waist high stalks. This remains a very popular tourist attraction

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 point for the Louis Riel tours.

The satellite exhibit at the Regina Police Station is available for public viewing and is of particular interest to members of the Police Service.

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

Engine #5093 built in 1918 by Montreal Locomotive Works Ltd. It is a Pacific type locomotive that is 75 feet long and weighs 287,500 lbs



Artifact 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. Operating as Regina's civic museum, these artifacts include material related to Regina's economic history and the community's social and cultural life. Over the past few years 3,040 items have been deaccessioned to other museums across Saskatchewan. In 2009, due to our limited storage capacity we only acquired 45 items. The condition of our warehouse space remains a concern so the museum volunteers and staff worked toward stabilizing and regularly monitoring the collection.

Facilities: The RPM continues to operate from two locations: the downtown gallery space and the storage warehouse. Our lease, for the warehouse will be renewed until 2011 and we hope to have leased a new space before that time.

Volunteers: We are very grateful to the following volunteers who come in regularly to work on a variety of museum programs. Thanks to Rose Schmidlechner, Peter Quiring and Loretta Hawkes for continuing their work on the museum collection, programming, digitization projects and maintenance. New members who joined our group in 2009 are: Major (Ret'd) Gordon Goddard who, through his various areas of expertise, shared his vast collection of resources, appeared on media interviews, conducted outdoor tours and worked on a *Saskatchewan War Experience* project with the Saskatchewan Digitization Alliance. Thanks also to Kierin Gorlitz who researched and presented various themed displays on Access Communication's Talk of the Town and appeared on other media interviews. Yolanda Hansen (Coordinator of the CRU unit at the University of Regina) curated the Germantown Exhibit and continues to work on the museum's neighbourhood series.

Education and Public Programming



Muriel Knox and (then) elementary students at the Plains Historical Museum 1984

The RPM is an interactive museum that provides a learning environment in which the visitor is an active participant. It provides an educational component that includes guided indoor and outdoor tours. The "Louis Riel: The Hidden Path", for example, is an hour tour that explores areas in and around Victoria Park. Participants experience the same environment as Riel in 1885. Museum activities and exhibits are created to engage our youngest citizens to senior groups. Our displays and programs focus on researching our city's history such as the Regina Neighbourhood series, the First People's Urban Experience and other digitization projects.

We share resources and collaborate with other cultural organizations such as Prairie History Room & Sask. Genealogical Society, Regina Public Library, the Saskatchewan Military Museum, Saskatchewan Digital Alliance with Maj. (ret'd) Gordon Goddard (researcher, collector) using RPM and private collections of images for a web database. These projects will continue into 2010.

Communication

The RPM contributed regular monthly or weekly articles and media appearances. These include the Senior Living newspaper with our "Whatzit" column, the Prairie Dog, the Regina Downtowner, Access Communication's Talk of the Town and on location shoots at the museum. New this year is our street view signage which is in the Scarth Street main floor windows.



Chinese fly trap. An October "Whatzit" item.

The museum's main web site and Facebook site are regularly updated. In 2009 the museum participated in two main tradeshows: Regina Teachers' Convention (Conexus Art Centre) and the Embracing Retirement Showcase at Evraz Place. We also had a booth at the Cathedral Village Arts Festival.

Publications: The RPM produces four newsletters and other brochures to complement exhibits and these are circulated to our members and other cultural organizations.

DVD production: a SCN, 15 minutes of Fame project: Regina Plains Museum—A History. Produced by University students - it looked at the past five decades of the museum. It featured a special interview with Muriel Knox who celebrated her 100th birthday in 2009. (Reference for Muriel Knox: page 6 - Education and Programming).

Accessibility: The museum is open year-round, wheelchair accessible, does not charge admission fees and located downtown with easy access to all bus routes and tourist traffic. The museum strives to accommodate tourists and local residents during the summer months by opening on Saturdays.

Resource Library: There are over 1,700 books and periodicals available to our members for loan or to the public for research purposes in the library on an array of subjects pertaining to Regina's and Saskatchewan's history.

Websites: www.reginaplainsmuseum.com and www.reginatornado.ca - a Virtual Museum of Canada, Community Memories project that contains 113 stories and images.

Gift Shop: The sales area features Berting wheat, other glass items and locally authored books. The sales have proven to be beneficial for the artists and the museum.



The Berting Wheatfield

www.reginaplainsmuseum.com
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 web sites.
- A chronology of Regina history.
- Museum news.
- Artifact images
- Planned Giving information.

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

Regina Plains Museum Mission Statement

The Regina Plains Museum operates as the civic history museum of Regina. 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 services.

The Museum of the Future

The Museum's goal is to tell the Regina's history. It will be housed in a building worthy of being the civic museum for Regina. By recognizing the power of memory to shape present experience, the Museum of the future will be a public space for sharing, discussion, even debating social issues, providing the historical context for community concerns. Neighbours will learn together from the past and move forward with confidence into the future. The RPM will present to residents and visitors alike, the unique growth and development of Saskatchewan's capital city and all will have the opportunity to share in the creation of public culture in Regina.

Funding Agencies



**Regina Downtown Business
Improvement District**



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

Web sites: www.reginaplainsmuseum.com and