



FRIENDS' NOTES WINTER 2010

Newsletter of the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society
Supporting the programs and exhibits of the Royal Alberta Museum

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FRIENDS' NOTES
EDITOR:
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Marla J. Daniels
President, FRAMS

MISSION STATEMENT

FRAMS will support and enhance the objectives and activities of the Royal Alberta Museum through a mutually beneficial relationship.

Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS) is incorporated under the Societies Act and is a Federal Educational Charity registered as #118933225RR0001.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After 12 years of planning and three years of construction, the stunning \$88 million Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) re-opened its doors to the public in January. Congratulations to the AGA Board, staff, supporters and all involved in bringing their 2010 dream to reality!

When planning for future expansion of the Provincial Museum of Alberta (PMA) began in April 2003, it was envisioned that Edmonton would be celebrating the re-opening of two cultural icons by 2010.

More than 42 years of intensive use have resulted in the Museum outgrowing its facilities for collections, exhibitions and public programs. Previously housed in the PMA building, the Provincial Archives of Alberta moved out and opened the doors to its shiny new location on Roper Road in southeast Edmonton in October 2003. In May 2005, the Government of Alberta, with a significant gift from the Government of Canada, announced funding for a *renewed* PMA, the largest single Centennial legacy project in the province. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II graciously consented to assign the designation "Royal" to the Museum, which shall henceforth be known as Royal Alberta Museum.

In November 2006, the Royal Alberta Museum *renewal* design was revealed and an additional \$20 million provincial government commitment was announced – bringing the overall commitment to the first phase of the project to \$170 million of the \$200 million total cost. Along with \$30 million from the federal government, The City of Edmonton had allocated a \$50,000 contribution. Planning continues.

When it opened in December 1967, the Museum was a state-of-the-art facility with a functional and elegant design, excellent visitor amenities and ample gallery spaces. It's still an impressive building with engaging permanent exhibits and inspirational feature exhibitions and programs. For now, *renewal* remains but a dream.

Marla J. Daniels
President, FRAMS

MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As we turn the calendar page to a new year, it is timely to reflect on the Royal Alberta Museum's accomplishments and aspirations.

We've continued to offer you diverse feature exhibitions, including *Arte en la Charrería*, a colourful examination of the Mexican cowboy, and *Ends of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins*, in celebration of International Polar Year. We reached the *Heights of Fashion*, which traced the 500-year rise of elevated shoes; marvelled at flying gems in *Hummingbirds of the Americas*; and we were honoured to host the North American premiere of the winners from 2008's *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*.

For the little *Munschkins*, we provided *Much More Munsch*, a celebration of the work of beloved children's author Robert Munsch. Rounding out the year were *A Northern Alphabet*, featuring renowned Canadian artist Ted Harrison, and *Vanishing Cultures*, a photographic documentary of endangered cultures by Edmonton's own Larry Louie.

One of the most widely marked milestones of the past year was the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin. Over Family Day weekend 2009, we explored *Cool Science*, including an interview with Darwin himself (staged with gusto by Dr. Jim Butler and our own Dr. Alwynne Beaudoin). We attracted 6,712 visitors on Family Day proper, making it the second busiest day in our 42-year history! Our homage to Darwin continued with Darwin as the basis for our annual Time Travellers Lecture Series. All in all, it was a fitting tribute to one of history's greatest thinkers.

A highlight of the year ahead is sure to be a new home-grown exhibition, *Natural Selections*, focusing on research projects undertaken by our natural history curators. As well as a great slate of feature exhibits and programs, we will continue to undertake the day-to-day business of our museum: grow our collections, conduct original research, offer education programs, and work to build our reputation as a centre for the community.

We're all excited about the year ahead and hope you'll join us on our journey of exploration. I extend my gratitude to our Friends, whose support is critical to our ongoing success, as well as to the museum's dedicated staff and volunteers, who make our institution come alive.

Chris Robinson, Acting Executive Director, Royal Alberta Museum

FRIENDS' CALENDAR

Please mark these dates on your calendar!
Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Royal Alberta Museum.
Visit ROYALALBERTAMUSEUM.CA for the latest in exhibits, programs and events or call 780-453-9100.



Continuing to February 16: *A Northern Alphabet* by Ted Harrison
Held over to March 21: *Diamonds: Mined, Refined & Designed*
Continuing to April 5: *Much More Munsch*
February 6 to April 18: *Stone: A Print Exhibit* by Susan Crack
February 13-15: Family Day Weekend Fun – Science and Magic (free admission on Family Day)
February 13 to October 3: *Natural Selections*
February 23: Inside Info – Talk and Tour for Friends members – *Natural Selections*

BOARD BUZZ

- ❖ Thank you to everyone who supported our DIAMONDS VIP Event last November. Welcome to our 72 new members!
- ❖ FRAMS submitted an application in December 2009 to the **Community Spirit Donation Grant Program**. This donor-driven grant program can be used to help fund an organization's operating costs, programs and/or capital projects.
- ❖ Harry Nichiporik and the Fund Development Committee have researched and prepared three foundation funding proposals for the **Discovery Room** educational programs title sponsorships for the coming year.
- ❖ In January 2010, we bid farewell to former Board members Judy Ferguson and Harold Robinson. We thank them for their time and contributions.
- ❖ Due to the success of the **Inside Info: Talk and Tours**, the Membership Committee is working on plans to introduce a Saturday morning event to accommodate members who are not able to attend on Tuesday afternoons. Watch the mail for your invitation!

Inside Info: Talk and Tour

The FRAMS Membership Committee presents its first quarter *Inside Info: Talk and Tour* on **Tuesday, February 23**. Dr. Alwynne B. Beaudoin, Head Curator, Landscape Studies, will lead a tour of the Royal Alberta Museum's new exhibit *Natural Selections*.

Invite a prospective new member and join us for this special tour followed by complimentary refreshments in the Museum Café. Members of the FRAMS Board of Directors will be available to discuss how you can get more involved in the activities of the Friends Society.

Help us grow our membership!

After enjoying this issue of *Friends' Notes*, please forward it to friends, family and colleagues. If you received a paper copy of this newsletter, it means we need your e-mail address! Please e-mail your name and e-mail address to Marilyn@framsociety.ca to receive future newsletters electronically. By helping reduce the number of newsletters we print, you'll also help us reduce greenhouse gas emissions. E-mail us today and stay informed in an environmentally-friendly way.

FRIENDS' GALLERY



More than 500 people attended the annual *Mammoth Pass and Friends Members Appreciation Evening* on November 27, 2009. The Museum galleries were open to explore and activities included entertainment, discounts in the Museum Shop, free beverages and treats in the Museum Cafe, and a "MOE the Mammoth" mascot for the first 100 pyjama-clad children.

Left: Members since 1992, Anna and Richard Fahrion, were among the guests greeted by Board members of the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS).

WANTED: CANDIDATES TO FILL BOARD VACANCIES

Do you have experience, knowledge and skills in committee leadership, fundraising, event planning, business management, or policy development?

We are looking for several conscientious volunteer Board and committee members to provide leadership and strategic direction, and who are interested in getting actively involved with FRAMS in supporting the Royal Alberta Museum.

Requirements include:

- Being a member in good standing of the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society
- Commitment to the Mission of FRAMS
- Attendance at monthly Board meetings and the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Willingness to serve on a committee and attend occasional committee meetings
- Support of and participation in special events and/or fundraising events
- The ability to communicate by e-mail is desirable.

Board members are initially elected for a two-year term, with a maximum of six years.

Standing committees, which are each chaired by a Board member, include: Communications; Fund Development; Membership; and Nominations Committee.

Candidates are requested to submit a statement of 100 words or less, outlining your qualifications and interest in supporting the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society, either by e-mail to marla@framsociety.ca or by mail to the FRAMS Nominations Committee at the address on the cover page of this newsletter.

If you would like to receive more information about this volunteer opportunity, which commences in **June 2010**, please e-mail marla@framsociety.ca or call 780-453-9103.

Explore the Museum with the CURATORS' CHOICES

The combined program collections of the Royal Alberta Museum contain more than ten million objects. In this column titled **Curators' Choices**, *Friends' Notes* profiles some of the outstanding objects in the collections.



The Robert Bell collection is comprised of 20 artefacts collected by Dr. Robert Bell between the years 1873-1899 when he undertook field investigations in northern and western Canada for the Geological Survey of Canada. The pieces themselves are not well documented, but Dr. Bell and his work is well-documented. The collection consists of a jacket, leggings, rifle case, pouches, three pairs of mittens, moccasins, garters, cap, babiche bag, etc. The material is almost all in very good condition and is definitely considered one of the Museum's prize collections. The collection was purchased by the **Friends Society** for the Museum in 1989.





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YES! I want to support the Museum by contributing to the Friends Society.

Title: Mr./Mrs./Ms/Dr. (circle one)

Winter 2010

First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____ Postal code _____

TEL _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

Here's my gift contribution of:

Thank you for your donation!

\$35 \$50 \$100 My choice \$ _____ *

*Your gift is tax deductible. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for contributions of \$20.00 or more.

YES! I want to join the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society as a member.

YES! Please send me information about **Monthly Planned Giving**.

YES, you **DO** have my permission to publish my name as a contributor. **

Signature _____ Date _____

Payment method:

Enclosed is my cheque payable to **Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society**.

Please charge my gift to: _____ VISA _____ MasterCard

Credit card number _____ Expiry Date ____/____

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Signature _____ Date _____

To make a donation online, please visit our website: www.framesociety.ca

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**The Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS) respects the personal privacy of our donors. We do not sell or share our donor list with other organizations. FRAMS uses your donor information to support the processing of your gift and for ongoing fundraising and appreciation activities at the Royal Alberta Museum. As part of our recognition program, we may publish donor and volunteer names in FRAMS publications, such as our newsletter and Annual Report. If you prefer your support to remain Anonymous, please contact us. Your e-mail address will be used to communicate with you directly and to send you the *Friends' Notes Newsletter*.