



## FRIENDS' NOTES SPRING/SUMMER 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:**  
Marla J. Daniels



Kim Lynch-Staunton  
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

FRAMS continues to work on making our Society stronger and more visible to the general public so that we may continue to support existing and future Royal Alberta Museum (RAM) programs. It has been more than a year since we introduced our *Inside Info: Talk & Tour* series to FRAMS members and their guests. Each event has drawn more and more interested supporters. For the next *Talk & Tour* in early August, we are pleased to offer our members a choice of two dates. Please watch for your invitation and invite a prospective new member! If you have ideas or comments about how we can improve your experience for this popular program, please let us know!

In this time of economic uncertainty, FRAMS is being responsible about its plans and operations and will continue to operate as frugally as possible while trying to build visibility and membership and maintain existing support for RAM programs. We are developing a gift membership program which we think will provide members with a nice gift opportunity for their family and friends. We have also submitted proposals to prospects for a \$50,000 *Discovery Room* title sponsorship and are awaiting responses; however, we do have budgeted casino funds to support a *Discovery Room* teacher for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Two corporate sponsors have been identified to approach for a \$5,000 per year title sponsorship of the *GO! Program* -- which in the last year has seen the highest number of people using it than in any previous year! We are also working on a proposal to raise funds for the *Aboriginal Museology Internship Program*. We gratefully accept any donation and/or sponsor leads from our members!

To broaden the awareness of FRAMS, we hope to partner with other Friends' organizations in the near future to strengthen our common interests. As well, we have been researching and writing a series of articles to be submitted to local news media and publications in an effort to capture the interest of people in our communities who are interested in the museum and who might like to join FRAMS. Our museum is as vibrant as ever and FRAMS continues to work to support it!

Kim Lynch-Staunton, President

## MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



About this time every year, the 1966 standard by the Lovin' Spoonful – Summer in the City – pops into my head and won't leave. After a long dark winter, I, like many of my fellow Edmontonians, can't wait to get out and about and take maximum advantage of our too short summer. Happily, Edmonton explodes with events, from open-air farmers' markets to arts festivals for all tastes and ages.

As Edmontonians ponder how they will spend their "summer in the city," I hope they will consider a visit to the Royal Alberta Museum to see the latest installment of *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*. Organized by the Natural History Museum in London, England, and BBC Wildlife Magazine, and sponsored by Veolia Environnement, this year's winning photos were drawn from more than 43,000 entries from 94 countries. This is the fourth time we have hosted this annual exhibition, and each time I am left with a sense of wonder at the quality of the winning and highly commended photos that end up adorning our walls, particularly those created by children as young as 10 years old! These works are sure to leave you awestruck at the artistry and technical abilities of these photographers and at the magnificence of our planet.

You will be equally impressed by our newest home-grown exhibition, *Natural Selections*. The eight displays profile a selection of the important natural science research projects conducted by our curatorial teams. Some visitors might be a little surprised to learn that, in addition to managing collections and contributing to the development of front-of-house exhibits, our curators are busy carrying out world-class research projects of their own, with each contributing new information about Alberta's current and past landscapes and inhabitants. In creating this exhibit, we hope to achieve two objectives: to share a sample of the research that largely takes place outside of the public eye and to spark an interest in science among our younger visitors, exposing them to potential career paths in research. Who knows? Perhaps one young visitor will be so inspired by this interactive exhibit that he or she will one day find himself or herself carrying on the work of one of these curatorial teams – collecting bone fragments deep inside caves or studying bird populations for signs of a new species.

The Friends Society continues to provide our Museum professionals with the tools to inspire young Albertans to explore the world around them, particularly with the continued support of programs like *The Discovery Room*. During the 2009/10 fiscal year, a total of 12,126 kids (from ages four through eight) were exposed to programs that introduced them to mathematics, prehistoric creatures and the people and professions in their communities. This program consistently sells out at the beginning of each school year, and we're most thankful for the Friends' continued support!

It's my fondest wish that all Friends enjoy their well-deserved time in the summer sun, and I hope to see you seek out inspiration of your own within our galleries and around our grounds.

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](http://ROYALALBERTAMUSEUM.CA) for the latest in exhibits, programs and events or call 780-453-9100.



Continuing to July 4: *Reeds & Wool: Patterned Screens of Central Asia*

**August 3 and 8: Inside Info – Talk & Tour for Friends members – Outside Mystery Tour**

Continuing to January 9, 2011: *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*

Held over to January 2011: *Natural Selections*

October 9, 2010 to January 2, 2011: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

## BOARD BUZZ

### Annual General Meeting

Thank you to the Friends members who attended the 2010 Annual General Meeting, which was held on June 22. If you were unable to attend the AGM and would like a copy of the **2009-10 Annual Report**, please e-mail [Marilyn@framsociety.ca](mailto:Marilyn@framsociety.ca) or call 780-453-9103 and a printed copy will be mailed to you.

Special thanks to outgoing director Harry Nichiporik for his contributions to the FRAMS Fund Development Committee over the past two years. Congratulations and welcome to newly elected directors, Daniel Doornekamp and Peggi Ferguson-Pell, and re-elected directors, Marla Daniels, Lois Drew, Manny Isla and Dallas Huybregts.

### Your 2010-11 Board of Directors and Executive are:

President:	Kim Lynch-Staunton
Vice President:	Ewa Burton (July and August)*
*Non-Executive Directors will fill the Vice President position on a two-month rotational basis	
Secretary:	Lois Drew
Treasurer:	Manny Isla
Past President:	Marla J. Daniels
Directors:	Ewa Burton, Daniel Doornekamp, Peggi Ferguson-Pell, Karen Hansen, Dallas Huybregts

### Summer Students

FRAMS has received funding for seven summer students to work at the Royal Alberta Museum this summer. Positions include geological collections assistant, botany assistant, quaternary environments research technician, conservation technician, collections management assistant and Western Canada history registration technician.

### Community Spirit Donation Grant Program

FRAMS received funding of \$9,721 as a result of an application submitted in December 2009 to Alberta's *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.

### Casino

The Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society has been approved to host a casino on July 22 and 23, 2010. This casino is a significant opportunity for the Society to continue to help support the Museum and the Society's charitable activities. Raising funds is difficult and casinos have become an important method of fund raising for community organizations. Thank you to all members who have volunteered!

### Aboriginal Museology Internship

Each year, along with Syncrude Canada Ltd. and the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, FRAMS endeavours to provide aboriginal students, who are pursuing careers in native studies, natural history or Canadian history, an internship at the Royal Alberta Museum. The program has created new links between the Museum and First Nations communities. This summer, Pamela Campiou-MacDonald is working as a curatorial assistant in the Botany Program at the Museum. She is helping the program achieve the goal of reorganizing Botany's entire collection of 165,000 plant specimens which includes vascular plants, bryophytes, liverworts, and lichens. Pamela believes that with this internship, the academic and personal aspirations that she has for museums and Botany will flourish and lead to exciting career opportunities.

## ANNOUNCING NEW FRIENDS DIRECTORS

**Peggi Ferguson-Pell**, who moved to Edmonton from England in 2007, has a background in public relations and extensive volunteer experience on various boards. Wherever she has lived in Canada, the United States, England and Scotland, Peggi's goal has been to make an active contribution to her community. Since 2008, she has been a board member of the University of Alberta Faculty Women's Club and currently serves as the club's newsletter editor.

**Daniel Doornekamp** is an oil and gas industry professional who currently sits on the Board of Directors for the grassroots non-profit agency, the Foundation for Families in Transformation (FFIT). He has a B.A in History and Political Science from Brock University in Ontario and he is currently enrolled in an online MBA program at Aberdeen Business School, Robert Gordon University. Daniel has a keen interest in preserving history and is a collector of WW2 memorabilia. Preserving Alberta's rich history, giving back to his community and enriching our community's learning is very important to Daniel.

## SHARE YOUR GIFT OF TIME AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Every public not-for-profit organization needs a strong vibrant Board of Directors. We bring our "gifts" of leadership, energy and various skills to help meet the needs of the membership. To be able to share your professional lifetime of experience and wisdom is a gift.

### **Do you know a lawyer or someone with event planning and/or fundraising experience?**

We are still looking for one or two 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 appointed for a two-year term, with a maximum of six years.

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

## CONDOLENCES

The Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society was saddened to learn recently that two former FRAMS Board members had passed away in April and June. Our sincere condolences to the families of Andrew (Andy) Stewart and William (Bill) Pidruchney.

## COMINGS, GOINGS, RESEARCH & ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

### **Botany**

Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Roxy Hastings (Curator of Botany) delivered a two-day workshop on species identification in the moss genus *Grimmia* to regional forest officers and biologists in Salem, Oregon. At least two species potentially new to science were discovered in the students' material and several notable range extensions from the Pacific Northwest were documented.

### **Invertebrate Zoology**

On CBC's "Radio Active", Peter Heule (Life Sciences Outreach Technician) discussed invertebrate mimicry of moss and lichens on April 21<sup>st</sup> and followed up with a general discussion of invertebrate mimicry and camouflage on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

The *Bug Room* team received a large shipment of new display critters for the *Bug Room* from Tropical Entomological House in Penang, Malaysia.

### **Quaternary Palaeontology**

Chris Jass (Curator of Quaternary Palaeontology) and Peter Milot (Asst. Curator of Quaternary Palaeontology) hosted a special event for a group from the Kids with Cancer Society. The "My Dream to Be A Palaeontologist" event included a special tour of the museum and hands-on activities where the children got to experience that wish. The event was auctioned off as part of the Society's annual fundraising gala, and raised over \$9,000.

### **Ethnology**

Ruth McConnell (Ethnology Technician) assisted Faye Heavy Shield, Jocelyn Shade, and Marge Smallface of the Kainaiwa Children's Services Corporation, Blood Tribe, with research related to a cultural education program that they're developing for foster children placed with non-Aboriginal families. They toured the *Synchrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture* and photographed children's games, crafts, and other objects in the Ethnology collections.

### **Military and Political History**

The museum has acquired a 19<sup>th</sup> century medical amputation kit attributed to Colonel Frank Hamilton Mewburn, 1858-1929 (namesake of the Mewburn veteran's home, Edmonton). Mewburn was a surgeon, politician, army officer and the first professor of surgery at the University of Alberta Hospital. The 4<sup>th</sup> of six generations of Mewburns to serve as medical surgeons, the kit was used by the colonel and believed to have been brought to British North America (Upper Canada or Ontario) by his great-grandfather in the 1830s.

The Museum provided a small display of military and political history artifacts for the Canadian Navy, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The display was installed at HMCS Nonsuch, the Edmonton-based naval reserve unit on Kingsway Avenue, on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ichthyology**

Mark Steinhilber (Curator, Ichthyology) attended the 25th annual Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) conference in Ottawa. Of particular importance was a workshop on Designing Facilities for Storage of Fluid Collections. This workshop, held at the Canadian Museum of Nature's state-of-the-art collection facility in Gatineau, Quebec, provided a wealth of information to assist with renewal planning.



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

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

Spring/Summer 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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**To make a donation online, please visit our website: [www.framsociety.ca](http://www.framsociety.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*.