



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2014

SMFA Provincial Office
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Regina, SK S4S 7K3



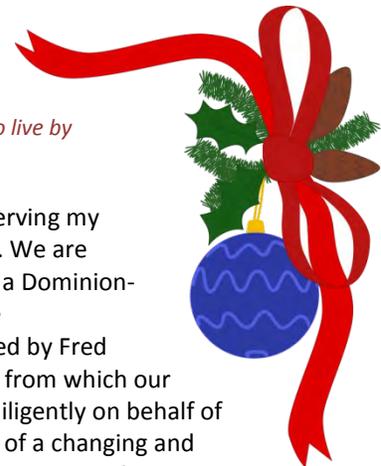
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President's Message

Nancy Toppings, President

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy



I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to begin serving my term as the 72nd President of this fine organization. We are thankful for Governor General Earl Grey's vision of a Dominion-wide festival, and for the founding members of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), led by Fred Chisholm and Frank Laubach, who sowed the seeds from which our present-day festival system has evolved. As a Board, we will continue to work diligently on behalf of the Association and its membership, to honour our history and meet the needs of a changing and growing demographic in this province. We are especially grateful for the many volunteers from each of the 48 District Festivals who have been, and continue to be, responsible for keeping the festival movement alive and strong in Saskatchewan for 106 years.

Another successful SMFA Fall Conference was held in Saskatoon in November, as partners in the annual Saskatchewan Music Conference. The conference theme was "Music For All...Live it! Love it! Learn it!" Keynote speaker Tom Allen challenged us to think in reverse – first to learn music, foster a love for it, and then make it a part of life. "Festival people" model this philosophy naturally; it's virtually impossible for us to imagine a life without music.

I wish to thank retiring board member Anita Kuntz, for her energy and passion during her time on the Board. We will miss you, Anita, but we know that Estevan & District Festival will continue to benefit from your love of music festivals. Joy McFarlane-Burton will be staying on as Ad Hoc member, and we appreciate her willingness to continue sharing her wisdom and expertise. I offer my congratulations to Joy, who was also elected to the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (FCMF) Board of Directors at the AGM in August. We know she will be a huge asset at the National level. A warm welcome is extended to our new Board members, Wendy Thienes and Kelly Stein. You will find their biographies, as well as those of the entire Board, in this issue.

Please be a frequent visitor to our website at www.smfa.ca. There you will find our most important documents, including the current SMFA Syllabus, Rules and Regulations, and Scholarship Information.

Typing of the 2016-2018 SMFA Syllabus has already begun. We are thankful for the expertise of our many music selectors from across the province, to John and Carol Donhauser for volunteer hours dedicated to this project, and to Syllabus Chair Karen Unger for her leadership and investment of time.

We are looking forward to the 2015 Shurniak Concerto Competition on February 21 in Quance Theatre, University of Saskatchewan, where some of our finest young instrumentalists will compete for scholarships and the opportunity to perform with our province's symphony orchestras. Thank you to Mr. William Shurniak, the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras for making this event possible.

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Congratulations to our District Festivals celebrating anniversaries in 2015. We encourage you to submit photos and stories about your celebrations to the Office, for publication in the Festival Focus.

We are grateful for the support of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, as well as the Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture Inc. We also acknowledge the support of PotashCorp, SaskEnergy, SaskTel, the University of Saskatchewan Music Department, and the many donors and patrons whose generosity ensures that music festivals continue to thrive in communities across the province.

2015 Provincial Finals will take place at the University of Saskatchewan June 5-7. Edmonton, Alberta will be the site of the 2015 National Music Festival August 13-15. I encourage serious musicians at the senior level to consider entering the National Senior Class, in their respective disciplines, at their District Festival.

Finally, I wish to thank our incredible office staff, Carol Donhauser and Sandra Kerr, who keep our organization, and our network of volunteers, running smoothly. To say we could not manage without them is a vast understatement.

Best wishes to each of our 48 District Festivals, as you carry on the important work that you do! I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a successful and memorable Music Festival season. And remember...there is always something to be thankful for!



Shurniak Concerto Competition

February 21, 2015
University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)

Sponsored by Mr. William Shurniak
Presented by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association in partnership with
the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras

For details visit www.smfa.ca

SASKATCHEWAN
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Meet the New SMFA Board Members

Wendy Thienes - Shaunavon

My love affair with music festivals began half a lifetime ago when I was a summer student in 1993 for Sharon Penner, the Executive Director of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals. Within weeks of moving to Shaunavon 20 years ago, I became Secretary of the Shaunavon & District Music Festival Association and have been involved in various roles over the years, particularly on the Scholarship committee, as teacher, parent, and most recently as President. My husband Michael and I have two children, Logan (14) and Auburn (11), both of whom continue to perform in festival in voice, piano, and speech arts. I taught beginner piano for over two decades and operated my own Kindermusik program for 10 years. I have my Grade 8 Piano certificate and a diploma in Business Administration. In the past I served on the local Credit Union board and United Church board. While SMFA is the first provincial board of which I will be part, I have been employed by provincial organizations such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association. Locally, I volunteer with other cultural groups including Shaunavon Arts Council and Shaunavon Creative Kids and work full-time as the Director of the Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre which houses our local museum and art gallery. In my spare time I enjoy reading, camping in the summer and curling in the winter. I really admire the work that SMFA does and look forward to contributing my skills to this great organization and to meeting other festival 'folks' from across the province!

Kelly Stein - Simpson

Kelly has been involved with music festival as a student in piano lessons for years and joined the Watrous Music Festival in 1983. Having previously served as President, Kelly currently serves as a volunteer committee member. Kelly has taught private piano lessons since 1983 as well and Music for Young Children since 2005. Kelly has a Grade 9 RCM in piano and has loved singing forever. She has led choirs in the past and has been a choir member for years. Currently living in Simpson and married to a wonderful farmer, Kelly has 3 grown children, 2 grandkids and one on the way!!



SMFA Board Fall Visitation and Meeting

Submitted by Joy McFarlane-Burton

September 26 was a beautiful day to point our vehicles north, enjoy the Fall colours, and drive to the Meadow Lake Provincial Park. Our September meeting was held in the newly opened "Waters Edge Eco Lodge". Thanks to our host, Shelly, the location and hospitality were outstanding! The tranquil atmosphere of this facility along the shore of Greig Lake was a place conducive to decision-making, business, and forward planning.

On Saturday we welcomed volunteers from the Meadow Lake and Battlefords Festivals to a luncheon. A delicious lunch was enjoyed, followed by discussion, and fellowship. We enjoyed meeting the committee members and learning of their concerns and successes. The Board re-convened its meeting in the afternoon, with adjournment on Saturday evening. We headed home feeling a sense of accomplishment, and refreshed to deal with the year ahead.

A special "Thank You" to our Board Member, Sandra Senga for making the arrangements. If your District Festival would like to host the SMFA September meeting in 2015, please contact Carol at the SMFA Office.





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Obligations of a Registered Charity

The main obligations of a registered charity are to:

- devote its resources (funds, personnel, and property) to its charitable purposes and activities;
- file its annual Form T3010, Registered Charity Information Return, within six months of its fiscal period-end;
- meet its annual spending requirement (disbursement quota);
- keep adequate books and records in Canada, and make them available for review by the Canada Revenue Agency on request;
- make sure that official donation receipts are complete and accurate when issued;
- control and direct the use of all its resources (funds, personnel, and property); and
- maintain its status as a legal entity.

Also, a registered charity should inform the Charities Directorate of any changes to the charity's mode of operation or legal structure. Examples include **a change in address, directors, legal or operating name, purposes, activities, or governing documents.**

For more information on the obligations of a registered charity, see [Checklists for charities](#). If a registered charity does not meet its obligations, it may be subject to a penalty and may have its registered status revoked.



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“Music For All, Live It, Love It and Learn It” – 2014 Saskatchewan Music Conference

Submitted by Anita Kuntz



(l to r): Esther Bangsund, Stacy Grunert, Gayle Brown, Karen Unger, Faye Anderson, and Maren Hantke

The sixth annual Saskatchewan Music Conference was held at the Saskatoon Inn, November 14-15. “*Music for For All, Live It, Love It, and Learn It*” was the theme of this event, a joint partnership between the Saskatchewan Choral Federation (SCF), the Saskatchewan Band Association (SBA), the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association (SMEA), the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association (SOA), and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA). Members of each organization had an opportunity to participate in a variety of relevant workshops provided during this event.

The Awards Banquet was held on Friday evening, emceed by Amber Grant and Chad Huel from SBA. Greetings were

extended on behalf Saskatchewan Culture from James Winkel, Vice President.

Individuals were honoured by their respective organizations for their contributions and achievement. Karen MacCallum, president of the SMFA honoured the following with SMFA Volunteer Recognition Awards: Esther Bangsund (Estevan Music Festival), Stacy Grunert (Estevan Music Festival), Leigh McIntyre (Kindersley Music Festival), Brenda Nightingale (Meadow Lake Music Festival), Terri Prete (Meadow Lake Music Festival), Maren Hantke (Melfort Music Festival), Jane Graf (Naicam Music Festival), Karen Unger (Naicam Music Festival), Gayle Brown (Rosetown Music Festival), Helen Few (Saskatoon Music Festival), Faye Anderson (Shaunavon Music Festival), Judy Tamke (Watrous Music Festival), Karen Muir (Yorkton Music Festival), and Sandra Baron (Yorkton Music Festival).

The SMFA provided workshops on Friday and Saturday specific to the organization. Our first presenter, on behalf of the SMFA, was Glen Gillis. His session focused on adjudication. Glen took us through some practical information each adjudicator should consider before, during, and after the adjudication process. Glen shared some of his own experiences as well some of the experiences he has observed throughout his years.

Saturday was a full day for the SMFA, starting with the SMFA Networking session. We had some time together to meet and greet the people from each district while sharing a continental breakfast.

Larry Johnson was the first presenter on the agenda for Saturday and was a return presenter from the previous year. Larry designed and operates the Music Festival Organizer (MFO) which has a built-in online registration component. There were a handful of festivals that used this program last year and this session was dedicated to sharing our experiences. Although there were some learning curves, and a few kinks to work out, the overall consensus was positive. As more and more festivals start using the MFO, it will be easier to pool our resources for ongoing training and knowledge of the software. We hope to be able to use it to our advantage by reducing volunteer time and easier accessibility to our programs for our users.

The keynote speaker for the Conference this year was Tom Allen, host of the CBC Radio program 'Shift'. Mr. Allen, a musician, broadcaster, author, and concert host, spoke about the power of music and showed us clips from a documentary of which he was a part. He also gave us a brief but powerful demonstration on what television, movies, and life in general would be like without music. Tom Allen can be found on YOUTUBE. It was an honor to hear him speak live.

The SMFA annual board meeting was chaired by President Karen MacCallum with 22 out of 48 district festivals represented. The 2013-2014 Annual Report was presented and 1st Vice-President Nancy Toppings gave a clear and concise presentation of the financial statements. Leander Dueck of Great West Life was in attendance and gave a brief report on the performance over the past year of the SMFA Investment Fund. The attendance of Doris Covey Lazecki, Penny Joynt, and Janet McGonigle were acknowledged as Honorary Life Members of the SMFA.

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director, presented the 2015 Directory information (with Syllabus changes). She explained that this year, the Directory will only contain the “Regulation and Scholarship” Information and will be renamed accordingly. The festival contact information will be only updated and maintained on the SMFA website (www.smfa.ca) on each individual festival page. She also reminded everyone, that this is the last year of the 3-year Syllabus. The 2016-2018 Syllabus is coming along nicely and the timeline is to have it ready for the public to purchase by late summer of 2015.

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Notable items that came out of this meeting:

- Adjudicator daily rates were increased from \$300 to \$350 and travel compensation rates for adjudicators, board, and staff were increased from 40¢/km to 42¢/km, effective **2015/2016 operating year (August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016)**. Please note that his motion will be in effect for the 2016 Festival year, so plan accordingly.

Anita Kuntz made a brief presentation on 'scholarships and fundraising'. She pointed out the importance of keeping individual District festivals financially viable so in turn they can be a part of the larger festival organization. Supporting young people in the arts is a great investment for both community and province.

Laureen Kells, President of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Association brought greetings as a Representative Organization of the SMFA. She noted how closely the two organizations work together and thanked the volunteers of the SMFA who work tirelessly to provide SRMTA members' students the educational performance opportunity through competitive music festivals.

The winner of the Best Program Award for 2014 was presented to Unity Music Festival. They received a \$50 cheque.

Karen MacCallum thanked the outgoing board of directors, Joy McFarlane-Burton and Anita Kuntz, and presented them with parting gifts. A very special welcome was extended to the newly elected board members - Kelly Stein from Simpson and Wendy Thienes from Shaunavon.

The afternoon session began with educator Lisa Packet who shared her knowledge of Speech Arts and how to revive it in our schools. As a parent, school teacher, and performer herself, she reminded us of the importance of the 'art' of speaking which is a lifelong skill every single one of us will use throughout our lives.

Joy McFarlane-Burton spoke to us about the National Musical Theatre Class and how that affects us at the Local and Provincial level. Since Music Theatre is now a National Class, it is a separate discipline from voice. That means, in order to enter the Provincial Musical Theatre class, competition in both Musical Theatre Classes at the Local level is required in order to qualify for a recommendation. It is possible to be recommended for one or both of those classes at the Provincial level. There was ongoing discussion on what is acceptable for props, speaking, and song choices. A reminder was given that the syllabus and directory is online, and all the rules and regulations are posted there.

District festivals are also reminded that the National Class is a separate competition from the Provincial classes. The National Class must be entered at the local music festival in order to proceed on to Provincial Competition and National Competition (please refer to the FMCF Syllabus found at www.fcmf.org).

Our last session of the day was a 'Question and Answer' session led by board members Karen Unger and Nancy Toppings. Each table was given a quiz with questions and examples of situations encountered at the District Festivals in regard to rules, classes, and disciplines. Delegates were then encouraged to find the 'rule' in the directory or syllabus, in an attempt to become more familiar with those books. This proved to be very valuable as we all learned where to find answers when we are not sure!

The final item on the agenda was outgoing President Karen MacCallum's presentation of the gavel to our incoming President, Nancy Toppings. We look forward to working with Nancy as she takes this leadership role.

A very special thank you was given to our Executive Director Carol Donhauser for her incredible leadership of our organization. She, along with Sandra Kerr, runs a very efficient office.

Once again we need to remind each of the district festivals of the importance to have representation at the annual meeting. This is where your voice can be heard and you can be part of the decisions we need to make year after year. We hope that your festival will make this a priority in 2015.

The 2014-2015 Provincial Board is:

- President – Nancy Toppings (Kipling)
- 1st Vice-President – Karen Unger (Spalding)
- 2nd Vice-President – Sherry Sproule (Lafleche)
- Past President – Karen MacCallum (Swift Current)
- Ad Hoc Member – Joy McFarlane-Burton (Saskatoon)
- Directors – Sandra Senga (Meadow Lake), Donna Kreiser (Prince Albert), Robin Swales (Regina), Wendy Thienes (Shaunavon), Kelly Stein (Simpson)





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Where Are They Now?

Since 1979 the SMFA has held a Concerto Competition. Originally it was an annual event but now is held every two years and is sponsored by Mr. William Shurniak. Competitions alternate between Regina and Saskatoon. The first place winner receives a \$2000 scholarship and the opportunity to be a guest artist with both the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. The next Shurniak Concerto competition will be held in Saskatoon on February 21, 2015.

Over the next few issues of *Festival Focus* we will catch up with a few previous winners of this competition to find out “Where Are They Now?”.



Thomas Yu won the Concerto Competition in 1996. He went on to pursue a degree in dentistry at the University of Saskatchewan followed by residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. Throughout his dental training, he continued to take private piano lessons in the evenings and on weekends with Bonnie Nicholson in Saskatoon and Marc Durand at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto. He now owns a private periodontal practice in Calgary.

Thomas tells us that the SMFA Concerto Competition was the first major competition that he had won. He felt that it was a reward for all the hard work and effort that had gone into preparation for that moment. “I would say that my confidence in playing rose significantly after winning this competition.” He also remembers being so excited that he was jumping on his bed.

When asked how music still fits into his life Thomas replied this way. “It fills every bit of free time I have! My life is balanced but the weights are heavy. From a personal standpoint music keeps me pursuing new goals whether it is another competition or just a piece that I always wanted to learn.”

Thomas reflects on the influence that SMFA has had in his life. “I recall a night with my parents before a concert performance in Paris. We were having dinner and I asked them if they would ever have imagined we’d be sitting here in France before one of the biggest concerts of my life. They said it still did not compare to the SMFA competition and performance with the RSO, which remains the highlight in their eyes.

“I learned how to deal with my nerves on stage. Performing is a peculiar beast: one either plays better or worse on stage than at home. It is often unpredictable what will happen. Playing in Saskatchewan Music Festivals allowed my mind and body to focus and excel at one particular moment of time. I would dread the nerves but I would also be addicted to the adrenaline. Looking back, I credit so much of my playing to the wonderful experiences with the SMFA.”

Thank you, Thomas, for this insight into how the SMFA Concerto Competition has been an influence in your life. Thomas came back to Saskatoon in November for a concert with the Saskatoon Symphony. He has upcoming performances on April 10 & 11, 2015 at Jack Singer Hall in Calgary.



SMFA Calendar of Events



February 21, 2015

Shurniak Concerto Competition – Saskatoon

February - May, 2015

SMFA District Festivals (48 Locations)

June 5 - 7, 2015

SMFA Provincial Finals – Saskatoon

August 13 - 15, 2015

FCMF National Competitions – Edmonton, AB

November, 2015

Saskatchewan Music Conference & SMFA AGM – Regina





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**The Importance of:
SPEECH ARTS**

Heather Macnabb of Maple Creek, an active singer, teacher, speech artist, accompanist and adjudicator presents a fun-filled, informative workshop on Speech Arts. Not only does this art build confidence, improve speaking ability and communication skills; it is FUN!

Heather Macnabb

Contact the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association to book a workshop in your area.

www.smfa.ca


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Adjudicator Liaison Report

Sandra Kerr

Adjudicators have been confirmed for 161 of the 168 sessions of the 48 District Festivals, the Shurniak Concerto Competition, and Provincial Finals, with the remaining sessions expected to be finalized before the end of the month. I have begun emailing the "Adjudicator Report Forms" and Adjudicator bios with their contact information for the earlier festivals.

As soon as each Festival's entries are in it is very important to confirm final session dates with the Provincial Office, so that the "Adjudicator Information Form" can be sent to the adjudicators. This should be done at least 4 weeks before the festival begins, especially if there are any changes, to enable adjudicators to make the necessary arrangements with their work, studio, and/or family. The "Information Form" provides the adjudicator with confirmation of their dates, contact for the festival, and accommodation information. **Communication is essential!** If there are any changes or errors, the Provincial Office must be notified immediately, since we are the "hub" of information for all the District Festivals and the hundreds of adjudicators!

Please read the "Festival Committee Briefing Letter" – aka "Care and Feeding of Your Adjudicator" – that is found on our website (http://www.smfa.ca/Administration/Forms_Festivals/Forms_Briefing_Letter_to_Festivals.pdf). This provides valuable and important information for committee members.

Make contact with your adjudicators, even if just to touch base, for example to make sure they have directions to hotel, festival venues, to arrange briefing, and so on. Adjudicator briefing is a must – do not assume these professionals know the procedures of your committee and festival, even if they are an experienced adjudicator! Each festival has a little different way of doing things. Also, please ensure that accommodation is clean, quiet, and comfortable.

In your festival scheduling, be sure to set aside the time for scholarship/award decisions, and let your adjudicator know in advance when that meeting will take place. In order to assist the District Recommendation process, make a note of which District Provincial Classes that feed into each Provincial Competition Class. Likewise, to help the adjudicator to decide scholarship and award winners, make a note of the relevant classes. Be sure to send the District Winner Charts to the Provincial Office, and not to the student, parent, or teacher.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, consult the Provincial office (or the SMFA website). Best wishes for your 2015 festival!



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Invitation

BECOME A "FESTIVAL FRIEND"!

This is your invitation to join us in becoming a "Festival Friend". Since 1908, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) has delivered programs that fulfill our mission. Your donation will help to ensure these programs will continue and that the festival movement in Saskatchewan will continue into the next Century! For every donation of \$10 or more, the SMFA will give half of the donation back to the District Festival of your choice or, if requested, the entire donation will remain with the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association.

YES, I would like to become a "FESTIVAL FRIEND"! Please accept my donation of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code _____

YES, I would like to receive a copy of the **FESTIVAL FOCUS** newsletter

e-mail: _____

Donation to Local (please specify SK festival): _____

Please make your cheque payable to the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and send to:

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

PO Box 37005

Regina, SK S4S 7K3

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$10.00

Charitable No. 11914 0267 RR0001

***TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC AND SPEECH ARTS
THROUGH COMPETITIVE MUSIC FESTIVALS.***

SMFA Friends List to date:

- Sandra Ellis
- Garry Gable &
Kathleen Lohrenz Gable
- Joy McFarlane-Burton
- Lillian Mitchell
- Glena Purdy
- Dave Kalist
- Flo Campbell
- Nancy & Richard Toppings
- Dorothy J. Andrews
- Jason Beutler Realty P.C. Ltd.
- Eileen & Wayne Carlson (behalf of
Jean Bews)
- Theresa Brost
- Mr. & Mrs. K. Towle
- Rick Burton



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2015 FESTIVAL DATE LISTING

<u>Festival Unit</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Entry Close</u>
Assiniboia	March 29-April 2	February 18
Battlefords Kiwanis.....	March 11-27	January 17
Biggar.....	March 8-14	January 31
Borderland at Bengough.....	March 22-25	February 9
Carnduff.....	March 8-12	January 24
Central Sask at Davidson	March 23-24	January 28
Estevan	March 12-27	January 30
Eston.....	March 30-April 2	February 13
Gravelbourg.....	April 19-25	March 6
Hafford	March 23-27	January 23
Humboldt	April 20-May 6	March 1
Kindersley.....	March 8-20	January 23
Kipling.....	April 19-24	February 13
La Ronge	March 23-25	February 5
Lafleche	March 22-28	February 1
Lanigan	April 20-24	March 1
Last Mountain at Earl Grey.....	April 12-18	February 15
Kiwanis Lloydminster.....	April 19-May 2	January 24
Mainline at Indian Head	April 12-18	February 6
Maple Creek	March 16-19	January 31
Meadow Lake	April 19-25	March 10
Melfort	March 8-20	January 21
Moose Jaw	March 23-24; April 18-24.....	February 7
Moosomin	March 8-21	January 30
Naicam.....	April 12-17	February 6
Nipawin	March 16-25	January 31
Outlook.....	March 23-27	February 6
Parkland at Preeceville	March 8-14	January 25
Potashville at Esterhazy.....	March 15-28	January 22
Prairie Sunset at Kerrobert.....	March 16-18	January 13
Prince Albert Kiwanis.....	February 23-March 26	January 10
Qu'Appelle Valley at Balcarres	March 16-20	January 9
Quill Plains at Kelvington	April 19-24	February 6
Redvers.....	April 12-25	February 6
Regina.....	April 15-May 3	January 31
Rosetown.....	March 8-21	January 16
Sand Hills at Leader	April 13-15	February 7
Sask Valley at Waldheim.....	March 22-28	January 30
Saskatoon	March 17-27; April 26-May 1.....	January 19
Shaunavon.....	April 20-23	March 6
Spiritwood	March 30-April 1	February 13
Swift Current	March 8-28	January 9
Twin Rivers at Dalmeny	March 22-28	February 2
Unity.....	April 19-25	February 7
Vanguard	April 13-17	February 13
Watrous.....	March 2-5	January 16
Weyburn.....	March 2-13	January 16
Yorkton.....	March 9-29	January 23



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From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director



I hope this December newsletter finds you prepared for the upcoming holiday season as well as the festival season.

Having just completed weeks of work on follow-up reports to SaskCulture for our Lotteries Trust grant, mailouts to our corporate sponsors (SaskTel, SaskEnergy, and PotashCorp) and provincial final donors, I would like express to you how fortunate we are to have this support within our organization. Without this support, we would not be able to provide the level of programs and services to our affiliate members and festival participants. The support we receive allows us to: hire adjudicators, provide award certificates at no charge, provision of event liability insurance, maintain a provincial website, provide general support to volunteers and interested participants, opportunity for Provincial and National level of competition, participation in Concert/Opera

Competitions, Speech Arts Workshops, Conference and Annual General Meeting, etc. Of course, this support from our donors, sponsors, and funders comes at a cost. Writing proposals/grant applications, anxiously waiting for responses, weeks of follow-up reporting (gathered from stats that are provided) and ensuring fulfillment of promises are made (sponsors advertisements are placed in festival programs, signage with logos prepared, verbal recognition delivered, invitations to event sent, etc.) is required. Is it worth it? Absolutely! Consider showing your support to these organizations or donors by purchasing a lottery ticket or writing a thank you note. As a famous singer/songwriter once sang, "you don't know what you've got, till it's gone".

The SMFA Board of Directors enjoyed our festival visiting last year and we hope that we receive invitations to attend your festival this year as well. Please see the new Board of Directors Liaison Map on this page which will help you direct that invitation to the correct SMFA Board Member.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff we extend a heartfelt thank you to our volunteers, donors, sponsors, funding agencies and associates. We trust this special time of year will be filled with warmth, family, friendship and compassion for others. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

