



ONTARIO MUSEUM ASSOCIATION Annual Report 07/08

April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

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ONTARIO MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DES MUSÉES DE L'ONTARIO

fostering and promoting our museum community

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Looking Back: Year in Review 2007-2008

APRIL 2007

- OMA meets with **Minister of Culture Caroline DiCocco** to thank her for CMOG funding and discuss further funding

MAY 2007

- **May is Museum Month!**
- OMA meets with Culture Ministry staff to advise on **CMOG allocation**
- OMA joins in successful fight to reinstate **Canada Summer Jobs Program** funding

JUNE/JULY 2007

- Research Advisory meets
- OMA meets with Ministry for **CMOG snapshot** and discussions of **CMOG program improvements**

AUGUST 2007

- **Josée Verner** becomes new Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage

SEPTEMBER 2007

- **CMOG 07 allocation details** released to membership
- **Digital Artifacts Project** develops criteria for eligibility

OCTOBER 2007

- **2007 Conference: "Changing Landscapes"** celebrates OMA's 35th Anniversary
- **Aileen Carroll** becomes new Ontario Minister of Culture

NOVEMBER 2007

- Council reviews **Strategic Plan**
- Council starts planning **Regional Museum Clusters**

DECEMBER 2007

- Council confirms **Strategic Priorities** plan to 2010

JANUARY 2008

- OMA presents at **Ontario pre-budget consultations**
- **OMA meets new Culture Minister Carroll** to discuss CMOG, capital & project funding

FEBRUARY 2008

- **Regional Museum Cluster Roundtables**
- OMA lobbies for alternative to **ETS shutdown**

MARCH 2008

- **Museums in the Knowledge Age Symposium** ready for early April

Looking Ahead: Strategic Priorities 2007-2010

ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ONTARIO MUSEUMS

- **Continue advocating for operational funds**
- Lead an advocacy campaign for capital funds
 - Develop and implement a strategic communications plan to support advocacy goals

BUILD SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE MUSEUM COMMUNITY

- Respond to emerging issues:
 - *Develop a mechanism to be responsive (monitoring)
- *Conduct and share sector trends research
- Offer quality professional development opportunities
 - Promote and celebrate the OMA Awards of Excellence program
- Re-assess May is Museum Month program

BUILD THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE OMA

- Advocate for increased Provincial Heritage Organization (PHO) support
- Develop and implement a communications plan to stakeholders:
 - *Council, Task Forces and Staff
 - *Museum community (members and prospective members)
 - *External stakeholders (government, media, public)
 - *Leverage museum networks
- Develop and implement a member recruitment and retention strategy
- Measure and evaluate OMA effectiveness
 - Develop and implement a fund development strategy and plan
 - Develop and implement a human resources strategy

President's Report



The Ontario Museum Association is all grown up! After celebrating our 35th last year, we moved forward this year with confidence, wisdom and focus... yet, still filled with vim, vigour and energy. It's good to be 36.

Council and staff have remained focused on the issues you have identified as priorities for your association.

ADVOCATE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our advocacy task force continued to communicate to government the need to close the gap in CMOG funding, the need for a capital funding program for museums, and the need to address the RST issue. Through meetings with Minister of Culture Aileen Carroll and ministry officials, and through presentations at forums such as Ontario budget consultations and tourism competitiveness study consultations, OMA has brought, and will continue to bring, attention to these issues.

PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

In my opinion, OMA has continued to excel in providing opportunities for us to connect with one another and to learn. The Trillium Sustainability Research Report and the Museums in Digitization initiative, in addition to our regular professional development opportunities, such as the annual conference and the Certificate in Museums Studies program, have been enlightening and have advanced knowledge for and about our sector. The Regional Clusters initiative provided us with another opportunity to connect and exchange ideas and information.

BUILD THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE OMA

As you will see in the financial report section of this document, we had a positive year financially. We continue to operate with efficiency and constraint in order to ensure the financial health of the association. We also continue to advocate for an increase in our operating grant from the province, which would improve our capacity to better serve you, our members.

Much has been accomplished in our 36th year because of the efforts of some really wonderful people. It is truly a joy to work with the outstanding council members and the engaged members who, in addition to taking care of business in their own organizations, find extra time to contribute to the advancement of the sector for the benefit of us all. It is our great fortune that OMA also has very dedicated staff members who consistently go above and beyond the call of duty, and I thank Marie, Cathy, Rebecca and Pierre for keeping us on track and moving forward.

It is a great privilege to serve as the President of the OMA, and I thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,


Tammy Adkin
President, OMA Council

Executive Director's Report

In our continuing efforts to promote a sustainable museum sector, the Secretariat, in consultation with a supportive Council and members researched, discussed and initiated programs and services to positively shape the course of our sector's immediate and long-term future. Building on the priorities of the Association's Strategic Plan 2007-10, a special effort to gather data and map out our sector was undertaken.

SECTOR RESEARCH - A CMOG SNAPSHOT

As part of its efforts to improve the organizational health of Ontario's museum sector, the Association, with funding support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, studied the operations of museums which are funded by the Community Museums Operating Grant (CMOG) program of the Heritage Branch, Ontario Ministry of Culture. The project summarized and analyzed data, especially the financial and visitation information, of 180 community museums who applied for CMOG funding between 2000-2004. During the past year, a project Advisory group of museum professionals representing the sector reviewed the 300 plus pages of analyzed data. In this first endeavour into museum research, the Advisory decided to focus on presenting a summary of findings as a "snapshot" of CMOG funded community museums in Ontario, to obtain a better understanding of our sector to enhance its sustainability, and to identify what future research gaps should be addressed to best serve the sector. With the release at the Ottawa conference of "The CMOG Snapshot", members and the OMA will be able to make a better case for support with factual research findings to back up our need for additional public investments in Ontario's museums.



ASSOCIATION SUSTAINABILITY

OMA Council and Secretariat worked to ensure the sustainability of the organization, in particular focusing on adequate funding and a strengthened membership base. A sustainable OMA can continue to deliver high-quality programs and services to its membership, and will in turn ensure the continued sustainability of the sector itself. The OMA requested that the Ministry of Culture increase its annual operating funding as a Provincial Heritage Organization (PHO), and consulted with other PHO stakeholders to explore a united approach to increasing our stagnant operating funding. The OMA has not received any adjustment in a decade, not even for cost of living and inflationary adjustments. The Association also worked to build its membership base, with particular emphasis on commercial memberships, and a new initiative to recruit larger institutions to "give back" and to encourage individual memberships amongst their employees as Colleagues. Membership renewals have shown steady growth this year, and this combined with the new membership rate, has resulted in a significant increase in membership revenue.

The 2007 Toronto conference was positioned to provide inspiration for members, and promote leadership and innovation in museums with a strong program and keynote speakers, and the Awards Banquet celebrating individuals and projects across the province. This also brought about an excellent attendance with an important and positive revenue impact on the Association's finances. The OMA is slowly moving out of debt retirement and with the help of new auditors expects to bring a fresh perspective to the financial review of procedures to continue to improve our cost effectiveness and enhance accountability.

NEW TECHNOLOGY -RESPONDING TO MEMBERSHIP NEEDS

The continued work and impressive results of the Digital Artifacts Project have shown the benefits of new technology for our sector, not only its ability to safely record artifacts, but also to reach out to a large diverse audience through the internet. The Association also researched technological improvements for better communications with members and to improve internal operations. Staff researched database systems for tracking stats, member interests and program registrations, and to streamline the online Museum Services Directory and the online Guide to Ontario Museums.

The Secretariat is grateful to a strong and committed Council, and to the determination and dedication of task forces and committee members. I would also like to extend my personal thanks to OMA staff members Cathy Blackbourn, Rebecca Gunness and Pierre Bois and our interns and summer students for their unstinting support of our efforts to work for the benefit of the museum community it is our privilege to serve. And thank-you to you, members, colleagues and stakeholders for your belief in the Association, and for your encouragement and support.... Until next year!

Marie Lalonde, Executive Director

Advocacy

The Association continued to focus on advocacy efforts at both the provincial and federal levels.

CMOG FUNDING

Following up on the momentum of the \$2.3 million CMOG funding increase announced by the province in March 2007, **OMA President Tammy Adkin and Executive Director Marie Lalonde met with the Minister of Culture Caroline Di Cocco on April 30th** to thank her and to recommend that the distribution of the additional CMOG funding, per the funding formula in the Ontario Heritage Act, be pro-rated for allocation among recipients. The OMA also highlighted the importance of aiming to close the remaining gap of \$2.7 million between the CMOG envelope now at \$5 million, and the eligible funding amount of \$7.7 million for current recipients, unadjusted for inflation.

In September 2007, the OMA learned that 186 organizations were sent application packages, of which 125 applicants were recommended to receive grants. A further 57 applicants were expected to receive grants once further information was received. In keeping with OMA recommendations, no current recipients received a grant cut; no changes were made to Reg. 877; there was a higher level of scrutiny; new clients were accepted; increased funding was distributed as widely as possible; the level of funding was linked to the size of the museum; historical inequities were addressed and a transparent model was used. All allocations of new funding were made within the funding envelope, all museums which qualified for CMOG funding received an increase, the historical inequities were nearly eliminated, and four new museums were in the program. In the end, museums with eligible operating expenses of less than \$50,000 received 17%; \$50k to \$99k received 15%; \$100k to \$250k received 12%; \$250k to \$550k received 10%; \$500k to \$1M received 8%; \$1M to \$1.5M received 5.5%; \$1.5 M plus received 5%.

The Association continued to urge members to communicate with their MPPs, both to thank them for funding and to keep them informed about the use and importance of CMOG funding to their site.

MIII, STRATEGIC FUND, CAPITAL AND PHO FUNDING, RST EXEMPTION

In December, the Ontario Government announced **Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII)** funds, a \$450 million grant program. Recipients, announced March 28th, included five heritage projects totaling \$32.8 million. In a January meeting with new Culture Minister Aileen Carroll, the Association mentioned that the MII funds were welcome, but requested that the Minister consider a special **capital funding program for museums only**, with an initial investment of \$10 million; and recommended a **strategic fund for museums**, in light of museums' ineligibility for Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Trillium Foundation funding.

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

CMOG funding allocations include \$2.3 million increase

MIII nets \$32.8 million for heritage sites

OMA requests:

- *Closing the CMOG funding gap
 - * Capital Funding Program
- *Strategic Fund for Museums
- * OMA operating fund increase
 - *RST exemption equity

In the same meeting, the OMA reiterated its request for an **increase of its annual operating funding as a provincial heritage organization (PHO)**, given that it has not received any adjustment in a decade, even to mitigate the impact of inflation. The OMA also discussed the inequitable application of the **Retail Sales Tax (RST) exemption** in museums across Ontario.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

The OMA participated in a Canada-wide effort (by pressuring local MPP's and HRSDC Minister Monte Solberg), to ensure that museums across Ontario were given funding for **Canada Summer Jobs** applications that were initially declined. The OMA also joined a coalition of national, provincial, and territorial museums associations in signing a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, cc Heritage Minister Josée Verner, asking for a **one-year delay in the shutdown of the subsidized art-transportation service ETS** to find alternatives for the service. Unfortunately, the ETS service was shut down at year-end. No new cuts were made to MAP by year-end, and there was no sign that the federal government would look at a National Museums Policy.

Professional Development

Several dynamic collaborations this year, with the **Fleming College Museum Management Program, Cultural Careers Council Ontario** and **The Learning Coalition (TLC)**, resulted in outstanding learning opportunities for our members. The Association offered 16 professional development events which were attended by 296 people with follow-up projects continuing from two of our specialized programs, and three new resources were added to the Member's Resource area.

The OMA is grateful to the sites, listed with their respective events, that hosted OMA Professional Development events for their colleagues this year. Online courses and e-workshops are made available on the OMA website, using CHIN's Community of Practice software iCohere, which has been generously made available to support OMA and TLC professional development learning opportunities. For a complete list of faculty and instructors, please see page 13.



SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

HR 101 for Small Cultural Organizations. Apr 3, 2007, Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto. Presented for the OMA by Cultural Careers Council Ontario (CCCO) as a pilot project. **Care of Industrial Collections.** June 12 & 13, 2007, Simcoe County Museum, Minesing. Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) workshop. **Food Handling & Hearth Safety.** Oct 24, 2007, Spadina House Museum, Toronto. Presented in partnership with City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services Unit, Toronto Culture. **Accounting for Non-Accountants.** Online workshop. Jan - Feb 2008. **Grantwriting Think Tank.** Feb 13, 2008, Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto. With support from the Museums Assistance Program (MAP), Department of Canadian Heritage (DOCH). **Front of House: Planning Museum Facilities for Visitors.** March 17, 2008, Doon Heritage Crossroads, Kitchener. With support from MAP, DOCH. **Museums in the Knowledge Age: A Symposium.** Apr 12 & 13, 2008, Fleming College, Peterborough. In partnership with the Fleming College Museum Management & Curatorship Program and with support from MAP, DOCH. A "Managing Change" online support space was created on iCohere for participants in the Symposium.

The OMA received funding support for three mid-career level workshops from the Department of Canadian Heritage. The OMA professional development program manager participated in an innovative CCCO facilitator training program "Art of Managing People" and is now qualified to deliver this workshop using CCCO-commissioned support materials.

THE LEARNING COALITION (TLC)

The Learning Coalition is an alliance of four provincial museums associations – **Alberta Museums Association, Museums Association of Saskatchewan, Ontario Museum Association and the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage** – for the purpose of joint action in individual and organizational development. The Coalition combines the financial and intellectual resources of these associations to accomplish the following objectives: *...continued on p. 9*

CERTIFICATE IN MUSEUM STUDIES COURSES 2007/08

Exhibit Planning & Design

(Stratford Festival Archives, Stratford)

Museums & the Community (Dundas Historical Society Museum, Dundas)

Care of Collections

(Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto)

Education Programs (Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, Southhampton)

Museums in Historic Buildings (Facilities Management)

(Chatham Cultural Centre, Chatham)

Organization & Management of Museums

(Simcoe County Museum, Minesing)

Museums in Context (Online)

Artifacts (Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto)

Collections Management

(Mill of Kintail, Almonte)

GRADUATES 2007/08

**Melissa Collver, Emily Duff, Janice Hubbs,
Katie Huddleston, Jacquie Johnson,
Shannon Prince**

Membership Services



The Association continued to respond to members' preferences for services and programs in the key areas of **advocacy, networking** and **professional development**.

While serving the needs of all members, the Association gave particular focus to developing and expanding the **Commercial Member** category. The category is comprised of individuals or corporations which either derive income from selling products or services to the museum sector, and/or which are interested in supporting the mission and objectives of the OMA.

A brochure entitled "Promise & Opportunity" was sent to potential members, outlining the benefits of Commercial Membership as follows: a **free listing in the online Museum Services Directory**, a **free ad in an issue of e-Currently or Current e-News Alert**, **first choice and discount for Conference tradeshow space**, and a **discount on national media ads**. By year-end, information was being collected for the Museum Services Directory, and several issues of email newsletters had been supported by Commercial Member ads. The Museum Services Directory is to be available online in Spring 2008.

Communications

The OMA continued to build relations with the media, the heritage community and the public at large throughout 2007/08. **The OMA website** (www.museumsonario.com) kept issues of concern to museums and the heritage sector on the home page. Advocacy calls to action, resource listings and professional development course offerings were also available and current on the home page. Monthly visitors averaged 22,000 – 30,000 visitors per month, with the Online Guide to Ontario Museums and the Museum Event listings pages topping the list of visited pages. The Job Board, which is accessible to members only, also achieved a high rate of visitorship

The OMA issued a **media release** regarding the May is Museum Month event, which was distributed broadly to both English and French media, and garnered press response online and in print. Toronto media were also contacted directly about the OMA Annual Conference in October.

Beginning in May 2007, **e-Currently**, the electronic version of the Association's newsletter, was sent bi-monthly, with issues in May, July, September, December and February. The bi-monthly format was adopted to allow for a more in-depth, feature-style approach to the advocacy and news items of interest to the membership. Regular **Current e-News Alerts** were sent to the membership to address time-sensitive news and advocacy issues, and to remind the membership of important deadlines for May is Museum Month, the Annual Conference and grant applications. Twenty-three of these Alerts were sent from April 2007 to March 2008, or an average of two per month. The **OMA listserv** continues to be a vital way for members to share information and opinion and to source advice and suppliers. The OMA posts critical time-sensitive information to the list, and OMA staff members respond to list member inquiries, as appropriate.

A **special print edition of Currently** was printed and distributed at the Annual Conference in Toronto, featuring 35th anniversary reminiscences along with feature stories and current news.

Regional Museum Clusters Program

The concept of **Regional Museum Networks**, which the OMA assisted in initiating in the 1980s, was re-visited and renewed in Council discussions, and then at roundtable discussions in February. With support from the Ministry of Culture and the Department of Canadian Heritage, the **Regional Museum Clusters Program** was explored as a partnership between a geographical grouping of museums and the OMA, while also fostering links between institutions in different regions of Ontario. The Program was envisioned to bring Association programs, resources and services to under-served areas, promote “best practices” in the sector for the benefit of all museums, and to provide opportunities for museum workers to network across the province, and share ideas with local colleagues.

At the February Roundtable, discussions centered on museum sector stakeholder roles, including that of the OMA, to facilitate meetings and connections between regional museum clusters to strengthen our sector, and in helping museums within a regional cluster to share resources and knowledge to increase each other’s community vitality and audience development. Both established and new museum networks or clusters were invited to participate in this discussion. The proceedings of the Roundtable gathering of 26 interested museum representatives showed that the Program’s concept was enthusiastically endorsed, and provided invaluable ideas and insights into community aspirations for the Program and clear “next step” suggestions for all stakeholders in the Program. The OMA Council reviewed a Strategic Report on the Regional Clusters initiative and recognized that the level of support needed to fully support such a program was beyond current OMA resources. We presented the option to the Ministry of Culture for its consideration.

In the interim, Association Councillors directed management to seek additional resources to develop and provide better communications tools to support regional museum clusters as part of an overall strategy to build skills and knowledge in the Ontario museum community. Funding applications to this end are pending.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, cont'd from p. 7

- 1.To advance the performance of museum workers and their institutions.
- 2.To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of current and future learning programs.
- 3.To develop the knowledge and skills of the Coalition members.
- 4.To ensure continued financial support for human resource development and open new doors of support.
- 5.To assist provincial associations in moving toward a broader role in human resource management as well as expanding capacity in human resource development.
- 6.To facilitate access into provincial museum communities for national bodies with respect to human resource development and management.

Most importantly, The Learning Coalition strives to facilitate meaningful exchange among museum personnel across the provinces and create new developmental opportunities at an inter-provincial level.

TLC e-workshops: HR Planning for Successful Museums, March/April 2007; Aboriginal Collections: Redefining the Meaning of Care, February/March 2008. **Recent TLC Publications:** Museums Association of Saskatchewan publications “Job Description Toolkit” and “Job Description Workbook” available in the Resources area of our website. Improving Performance Through Evaluation. **TLC Online Resources: Human Resource Planning Tool.** OMA website member’s area and CCCO website. **Storyline Development for Community Museums.** On CHIN website “Knowledge Exchange”. **Project Management for Community Museums.** On CHIN website “Knowledge Exchange”

The Learning Coalition is currently working on a new project entitled, **"Building Responsive Museums: A Discussion Framework"**. When completed this framework will provide museums with a self-assessment process that will help them critically think about their relationship with the community. The process will invite museums to examine all aspects of their organization and then make decisions for the future.

Annual Conference 2007



More than 200 delegates came to Toronto's Delta Chelsea Hotel for the OMA Conference '07 "Changing Landscapes: Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Ontario Museum Association". According to our survey, 95% visited the tradeshow and nearly 80% attended the conference because of the program content.

Plenary speaker **David Crombie** spoke about taking action and maintaining determination against all odds, encouraging OMA delegates to help their cities or communities define themselves, and to provide a leadership role in defining their community's identity.

At the next day's plenary session, **Moses Znaimer** brought the passionate perspective of the private collector to his speech, and suggested that we show innovation and a point of difference in our work.

Our sessions this year covered a wide range of topics of immediate interest to our delegates, including the highly-rated "Changing Landscapes, Changing Communities", "Building Inclusivity in a Small Community Museum" and "Museums in Dangerous Times". Delegates also enjoyed an important session about professional development (Peer Learning in the Cultural Sector) and the rapid change in Toronto's historic areas (Toronto's Changing Landscapes), and learned of the growing vitality of the online community in relationship to museums, looking at virtual museums and digitization of artefacts in particular.

One conference session highlighted the OMA's continuing strong role in advocating with the provincial and federal governments, but reminded the delegates of their individual responsibility in furthering awareness for the museum sector and its ongoing need for support and funding.

The 2008 Conference is scheduled to take place from November 5 to November 7, 2008 in Ottawa.

Awards of Excellence 2007

The Award of Excellence Committee, chaired by Patricia Hamilton (Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol) with members Rachelle Clayton (Museum on the Boyne) and Joan Kanigan-Fairen (Brant Museum and Archives) is pleased to announce the following 2007 Award of Excellence recipients. Awards were presented at the Toronto conference on October 26, 2007.

Grey Roots Museum & Archives: "L'Chaim - To Life: The Story of the Beth Ezekiel Synagogue".

Outstanding contribution to the Ontario museum community. A sensitive look at how the community of Owen Sound rescued a small town synagogue from the brink of collapse to its current revitalized status as the only small-town synagogue remaining in Ontario.

The Town of St. Marys. Outstanding corporate contribution to the Ontario museum community

Contributions from the Town of St. Marys combined with local fund-raising and a Trillium grant allowed St. Marys Museum & Archives to make significant building additions and renovations, and improve accessibility.

Wellington County Museum & Archives: "If These Walls Could Speak: The Wellington County House of Industry and Refuge 1877 - 1947". *Outstanding contribution to the Ontario museum community.*

Features life size photographs and mural of early residents of the poor house" and an authentic scale model of the site ca 1892. Two years in the making, the exhibit was curated by Susan Dunlop.

Digital Artifacts Project

Digital Artifacts, the **collections management project created in partnership with the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN)**, provides on-site training and support for museums to enhance their collections management and digitization practices. Participating museums are shown digital photography techniques and are given help with collection record-keeping systems. The final result is the selection and digitization of 20 existing representative artifacts, which are for the museum's use and for upload to the Artefacts Canada web archive for broader distribution and research.



In September 2007, the Project identified criteria for eligibility in the project, as follows: **site currently has or will soon implement a Collections Management software program; has at least 20 artifacts to digitize with substantial cataloguing information; can supply at least one staff member or volunteer for the Project; has not previously submitted more than 10 digital images to Artefacts Canada.**

The Project developed materials to promote digitization to member museums and hosted eleven information sessions and workshops, including nine on-site. It then selected potential museums for participation, and worked with with eight institutions (**Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, Ruthven Park National Historic Site, Pickering Village Museum, Theatre Museum Canada, Rose House Museum, Timmins Museum, Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Guelph Museums**). In all, 212 records and 411 images were uploaded to Artefacts Canada.

A participant questionnaire indicated that Ontario's cultural institutions understand the importance of including digitization into operational funding, and are ready and willing to initiate digitization projects and potentially match in-house investments with grant funding.

May is Museum Month 2007

OMA's 8th Annual May is Museum Month kicked off at Ottawa's Bytown Museum on May 3rd, with a media conference outlining May is Museum Month events in the Ottawa area, and the unveiling of a flag saved when Parliament burned in 1916. **A special museum advertising feature in the Globe & Mail** included an article featuring Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre, Doon Crossroads (Kitchener-Waterloo) and the John McCrae House (Guelph). Special listings and reduced-cost advertising listings were made available to the OMA membership in this section. The **online events database on the May is Museum Month website** (www.museumsontario.com/mmweb/) was supported with links from the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism websites.

Many member museums participated in the program this year, including, but not limited to: a **May is Museum Month event on May 18, International Museums Day**, at the Brant Museum and Archives, attended by **Culture Minister Caroline diCocco**; a **proclamation** by The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward; **free or discounted admission** at many museums; **May is Music in the Museum Month!** children's musical workshops (London Regional Children's Museum); a **Museum Month Brochure** at several museums.

May is Museum Month wrapped up at an exhibit opening called "From Generation To Generation: Celebrating What Museums Do", featuring an appearance by OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino at the OPP Museum, Orillia, on May 28th.

Auditors' Report

The accompanying summarized balance sheet and statement of operations are derived from the complete financial statements of Ontario Museum Association as at March 31, 2008 and for the year then ended. In our auditors' report on the complete financial statements, dated September 5, 2008, we expressed a qualified opinion because we were unable to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of revenue from donations. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

The summarized financial statements do not contain all disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Association's financial position, results operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Toronto, Ontario
September 5, 2008

Clarke Henning, LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Licensed Public Accountants

SUMMARIZED BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 11,552	\$ -
Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses	45,319	80,915
Investments at fair value	257,506	275,977
	314,377	356,892
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	-	33,706
Accounts payable, accrued liabilities and deferred revenue	113,718	125,436
	113,718	159,142
NET ASSETS		
Endowment funds	214,640	217,539
Internally restricted	30,000	30,000
Unrestricted	(43,981)	(49,789)
	200,659	197,750
	314,377	356,892

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

Revenues		
Government contributions and grants	288,615	361,832
Memberships	69,162	56,325
Professional development and publications	55,063	96,718
Conference	70,873	51,179
Membership programs and other services	30,785	14,859
Miscellaneous	5,690	6,609
	520,188	587,522
Expenses		
Salaries, fees and benefits	252,110	240,902
Financial development and membership	21,669	4,822
Professional development and publications	73,913	139,983
Conference	45,948	21,059
Program delivery, office and general administrative	84,977	108,407
Community and public relations	19,922	28,275
Council and committee	15,841	16,179
	514,380	559,627
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ 5,808	\$ 27,895

PD Faculty and Instructors

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACULTY AND INSTRUCTORS

John Alexander, Thierry Arsenault, Ian Bell, Dave Benson, Cathy Blackburn, Alf Bogusky, Pierre Bois, Marty Brent, Carrie Brooks-Joiner, Lorne Carrier, Irene Chalmers, Cindy Colford, Ann Marie Collins, Melissa Collver, John Dalrymple, Bev Dietrich, Shanna Dunlop, Bev Easton, Jennifer Evers, Tara Froman, Petal Furness, Fiona Graham, Nicole Guthrie, Lorraine Hogan, Ada Hopkins, Julia Howell, Sheila Johnson, Manuela Kerr, Jon Linton, Fiona Lucas, Maureen Matthew, Diarmuid Nash, Bill Nesbitt, Kate Oxley, Brian Porter, George Prytulak, Elizabeth Nelson Raffaele, Brian Rudy, Beverly K. Sheppard, Anne Sinclair, Janice Smith, Gloria Taylor, Christina Tessier, Melissa Wakeling, Ginny Wall, Nancy White, Lori Whiteman, Pamela Woolner, Heather C. Young

Committees and Task Forces

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Carrie Brooks-Joiner, Carrie Brooks Joiner and Associates

Members: Shanna Dunlop, Fanshawe Pioneer Village; Helen Booth, Jordan Historical Museum

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Patricia Hamilton, Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol

Members: Joan Kanigan-Fairen, Brant Museum and Archives; Rachele Clayton, Museum on the Boyne

CONFERENCE 2007 PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chair: Kathleen Powell, City of Niagara Falls Museums

Members: Elka Weinstein, Campbell House; Elizabeth Nelson-Raffaele, Gibson House and Zion Schoolhouse; Lynne Teather, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto; Tony Hushion, Royal Ontario Museum; Helen Booth, Jordan Historical Museum

CONFERENCE 2007 LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Elka Weinstein, Campbell House

Members: Francisco Alvarez, Royal Ontario Museum; Janet Walters, Toronto's First Post Office; Shirley Hartt, Enoch Turner Schoolhouse; Elizabeth Teodorini, Gardiner Museum; Mike Wallace, Theatre Museum of Canada; Iain Newbigin, Soulpepper Theatre

TASK FORCE TO INCREASE PROVINCIAL SUPPORT TO MUSEUMS

Chair: Gilles Séguin

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Front Cover: Regional Museum Clusters Roundtable participants; Queen's Park (Stock); OMA Conference participants. Page 4. OMA Council President Tammy Adkin. Page 5. OMA Executive Director Marie Lalonde. Page 7. Regional Museum Clusters Roundtable participants. Page 8. OMA Council Members Past and Present (Front L-R): Carrie Brooks-Joiner, Tom Lewis, Yves Théoret, John Dalrymple, Christina Selin, Tammy Adkin, Michèle Alderton. (Back L-R): Clark Bernat, Kathleen Powell, Gilles Séguin, Marie Lalonde (Executive Director, OMA). Page 10. OMA President Tammy Adkin, Carrie Brooks-Joiner, OMA Executive Director Marie Lalonde, Keynote Speaker Moses Znaimer. Page 11. Photographer Stephanie Draker and Marilyn Havelka (Ruthven National Historic Site) take photos and prepare them for digitizing. *Unless otherwise noted, all above photos were taken by OMA staff.*

Inside Front and Inside Back Cover: Many thanks to the many OMA members who provided us with photos of their events throughout the past year. For descriptions and photo credits, please see this year's edition of the "Currently at the Conference" newsletter.

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