

# Clayton McLain Memorial Museum

---

January 10, 2014

Dear Friends:

We would like to thank those individuals, service groups and corporate entities who helped to keep our museum and archives operating in 2013. SaskCulture, Sask Archives and Archivists, the Town of Cut Knife and the RM of Cut Knife provide invaluable assistance as well.

Last year we hired two half time museum managers and three museum workers. They welcomed and provided tours for our visitors, helped with the Hi Pie Thursdays, did maintenance work on the buildings, catalogued items, and painted Raymond's Store interior. Thank you to Cathy Hewson, Rennie Clark, Megan Rowat, Emily Rowat, and Aaron Golder.

Our museum exists because of our community's support and because of community volunteers. In 2014 we are continuing without the assistance of four long time Board Members. Thank you to **Orval Ens**, **Lloyd How**, and **Azelia Tesolin** for their many years of dedicated volunteering at the museum. As well we mourn the loss of **Walter Pooler** who will be truly missed in our community and at the museum.

The CMMM mission is not just to **collect** items that reflect the history of this area but also to **preserve** them for future generations. The heritage buildings are interesting in themselves but they are **not** good for preserving what is in them. They allow dust, mice, and bugs to freely enter and interact with artifacts and do a poor job of preserving textiles, leather/fur, wood and paper items. We are noting more and more vulnerable artifacts that are deteriorating. Fur items have been ravaged by mice, textiles are falling apart, and paper items have had water and/or mice damage. Some items are showing evidence of mould. This kind of damage is irreversible!

In 2005 flooding in the basement of our main museum building (Ovenstown) caused moisture damage to many of our artifacts and has caused issues every year since. For the past three years we have had to pack up and remove items in the fall and move them back every spring. Last year we opted to leave them in storage as frequent handling is damaging as well. This means items that attract visitors to our museum are no longer on display.

*Ovenstown (106 years), Gullivan School (95 years), CPR Station (102 years),  
Lou Pascoe House/Medical Building (109 years), Raymond Store (97 years), Carruthers Church (89 years)*

The CMMM Board, Volunteers and Staff have been working against the elements to maintain these buildings. Windows have been covered to keep out sunlight; screen doors installed to try and slow the bug infestation; new shingles and eavestroughing installed; diligent monitoring of possible small animal entrance points; and moving more vulnerable items to safer storage areas. Most of our time, energy, and money have gone towards just maintaining the buildings. This has meant very little improvements and upgrades to the exhibits inside and to programming that we offer to our visitors.

The Cut Knife museum is at a crossroads. There are some important decisions to make that will impact not only the Museum Board of Trustees but the community as well. If we continue the way we have been, there will be many more artifacts that will be damaged. We cannot justify accepting new items that we are unable to store safely. Some valuable historical items may have to be sent elsewhere so they can be preserved in the proper environments. The museum needs space that will help to preserve and display our vulnerable artifacts. Space is also needed to have events year round that will promote and celebrate the heritage of all our residents.

Over the past months, several different proposals have been suggested:

1. Look for an appropriate existing building that would meet the museum's requirements.
2. Build a new building that accommodates more than one community group (including the museum). Each group would have separate and common space within building. Centrally located. Would encourage cooperation in governance, grant applications and event planning.
3. Build a new building in Tomahawk Park that would be used solely for the museum and archives.

## Clayton McLain Memorial Museum

---

***We invite you to the CMMM Annual Meeting on March 24, 2014  
at the MAAC (201 Railway Ave) at 7:30 pm  
to learn more about your community museum.***

Yes, I am interested in volunteering for:

- CMMM Board of Trustees (two year terms)
- Data entry; very basic computer skills needed
- Help with new exhibits – research, design, setting up.
- Museum annual cleanup (usually a day late in May or June)
- Museum building maintenance – hands on or supervision of hired work.
- Pies for Hi Pie Thursdays
- Annual mail out letter – envelope stuffing.
- Fundraising activities

For those of you who choose to donate to the **Clayton McLain Memorial Museum and Archives**, we sincerely thank you for your support. We remind everyone that we are a registered charity and that every penny that you donate is used right here in Cut Knife.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_