

Area museums awarded

By Sherri Solomko
The 2020 Museums of Saskatchewan Association awards included two area museums in a virtual ceremony that took place Sept. 30.

Recognized in the Award of Merit - Institutional category is the Clayton McLain Memorial Museum of Cut Knife, and Valerie Finley of Luseland who was one of three people recognized in the Award of Merit - Individual category.

Clayton McLain Memorial Museum has been honoured in the category for projects with a budget over \$50,000. The project was a collaborative effort among the Cut Knife Museum and Archives, Little Pine First Nation and Lucky Man First Nation.

The summer of 2019 was busy for the museum. Thanks to a grant from the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund the museum was able to partner with the two First Nations on a three-part project called “Move For-



Clayton McLain Memorial Museum in Cut Knife. Photo submitted

ward with Reconciliation.” The idea was put forward by Chief Wayne Semaganis and councillor Richard Checkiosis of Little Pine First Nation.

The first event was held on July 2, 2019 at Fort Walsh to recognize 140 years since Chief Minahequosis (Little Pine) and Chief Papaway (Lucky Man) were coerced into signing an adhesion to Treaty 6, because their people were suffering from starvation. The event was attended by more than 550 people. It connected the attending members of Little Pine First

Nation and Lucky Man Cree Nation to their ancestors and traditional territories by offering a feast and a mini powwow in their honour.

Jimmy O’Chiese of the Yellowhead Tribal College in Edmonton, Alta. spoke and told the Cree creation story and how it is intimately linked to the Cypress Hills, as well as introducing the concept of land-based education to those in attendance.

The second part of the celebration took place in Cut Knife on July 5, 2019 and was attended by more than 350 people. This event connected the local Indigenous people to the sacred artifacts that are held in trust in the collection of the Clayton McClain Memorial Museum. These items are normally kept separate from the rest of the collection and are stored off site in a secure area and are cared for by Elders through ceremony and protocol, but were brought out to be displayed for the day after the blessings of the elders and a smudging ceremony.

This event also included a traditional feast and a much larger mini powwow with dancers from Little Pine, Lucky Man, Sweetgrass and Saddle Lake. The feast and powwow were used to honour the sacred items and the ancestors who used them in ceremonies. O’Chiese again gave a presentation on the Cree creation story and land-based education.

Another focus of hosting the event in Cut Knife was to educate people about the events that occurred 140 years ago.

The third part of the event took place on Sept. 9, 2019 at Fort Pitt and was attended by approximately 150 people. This conclusion to the celebrations connected the Indigenous people in attendance to Treaty 6 Territory and the lands they ultimately came to reside upon.

This three-part celebration heralded many firsts for many of the people involved. Overall, it was an event that should be remembered as a step towards ongoing reconciliation – a journey where there is still much more work to be done.

Jacob Pete spoke on behalf of the project saying the collaboration gave them the opportunity to share history, which didn’t always include

good stories. Their band, due to starvation and other issues, were forced to migrate hundreds of miles to where they are now.

“If it were not for Clayton McLain, who gathered and preserved all of the artifacts, they would have been lost,” Pete said.

A lifelong commitment to community has led Valarie Finley to being honoured with an MAS award.

Finley has always been involved in her community. After raising her family, she earned an education degree and taught at Luseland School. She was instrumental in opening the Luseland Museum in 1992 and at the age of 92 years of age, she is still an active member of the museum board.

Finley has been meticulous over the years in collecting, cataloguing and managing artifacts kept at the museum. Her biggest accomplishment was the Whooping Crane Nature Display and Luseland says they are grateful to her for being the keeper of their local history.

Jean Halliday of Luseland says, “Val was the driving force behind the Luseland museum from the very beginning and she has never waived in the ensuing 30 years. She continues to be



Valarie Finley of Luseland. Photo submitted

a most dedicated member of the board. She is a “walking inventory” of all items in the museum, able to tell who donated them and the history of the articles. Her other passion is writing down history to preserve it for future generations. She has an extensive history of all the Luseland and area men and women who have served in the military over the years. Currently she is working on a history of the business section of Luseland. Each history book is researched and meticulously put together so as to capture both the facts and the lore of our community.”

“She has contributed to our community over the years in a number of ways including directing the community choir, but her greatest legacy to Luseland is her work at the Luseland Museum.”



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Halloween is on its way



Yards and businesses are putting some fun into October in spite of the pandemic by decorating for Halloween. This home’s characters are all smiles on 3rd Ave. East. Photo by Sherri Solomko

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

Form L
[Section 78 of the Act]

Notice of Call for Further Nominations

The Rural Municipality of Mariposa No. 350

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office of:

COUNCILLOR for Division No. 3

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office in Kerrobert, SK at 603 Atlantic Avenue during normal office hours until Wednesday, October 21st, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office at Kerrobert, SK.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2020.

Kathy Wurz
Returning Officer

