



**Saskatchewan
Archaeological
Society**

2020 Annual Report

Fiscal Year: January 1 - December 31, 2020

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About the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

Our Mission

Saskatchewan Archaeology Society's Mission: Connecting Saskatchewan's past to you.

Our Vision

You have a deep understanding of archaeology, recognize its value, and support the preservation of this heritage resource.

Our Values

We value and respect:

Conservation and Preservation

Archaeology helps tell the Saskatchewan story. We are committed to scientific principles and traditional knowledge, and we adhere to the Saskatchewan Heritage Property Act.

Good Governance

We operate with integrity and are transparent in all our actions. We respect one another and are amicable in our relationships with all. We work professionally, selflessly, ethically and democratically.

Indigenous Cultures

We respect Indigenous cultures and encourage First Nations and Metis participation in our programming, services and decision-making. We are mindful of the Duty to Consult and Accommodate, and we consider oral and other cultural traditions in our work.

A Unified Message

We strive to be clear in our messaging about our common purpose.

Clear Direction

Our goals and objectives are comprehensive and are examined periodically to ensure we are on track.

Engaged Audiences

We strive to educate and engage the public in the wonder of Saskatchewan archaeology.

Flexibility

We are open to new ideas and aim to keep our programming current and relevant to our stakeholders.

Diversity

We seek diversity and the inclusion of all cultures in our organization – on our Board and staff, in our membership and in the participants of our programs. A range of expertise and thinking helps us to do our job.

Accessibility

We strive to make information and resources related to archeology widely available to all interested parties.

Our People

The Board and staff work together cooperatively. We trust our staff and value their contributions to the organization. Our members help us to fulfil our mission and are critical to achieving the SAS vision.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

President:	Riel Cloutier
1 st Vice President:	Maria Mampe
2 nd Vice President:	Loni Williams
Treasurer:	Brent Kevinsen
Past President:	Tam Huynh
Member-at-Large:	Cara Pollio
Member-at-Large:	Doug Chisholm
Member-at-Large:	Kris Sullivan
Member-at-Large:	Gabriel Lamarche
Member-at-Large:	Joe Fitzgerald

Chapter Representatives

All Points Saskatchewan Archaeological Society: Verna Gallén
Archaeology and Anthropology Students Association:

Keegan Danylyshen

Pipestone Archaeological Society: Clint Blyth

Prince Albert Historical Society: John Thompson

Regina Archaeological Society: Jack Trusty

Saskatchewan Association of Professional Archaeologists:

Jennifer Rychlo

Saskatoon Archaeological Society: Karmen VanderZwan

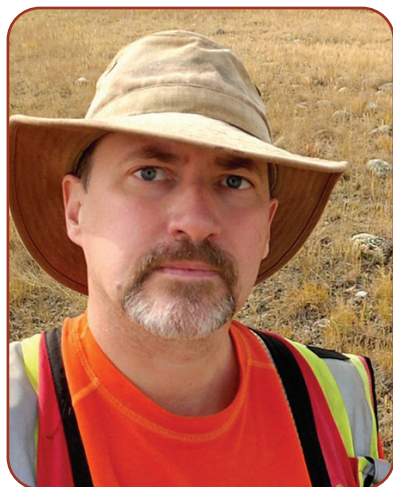
South West Saskatchewan Archaeological Society: Hugh Henry

President's Message

The year 2020 was unprecedented in SAS history. It was the first year we were unable to host an Annual Gathering, or the first time in decades where we did not have a public field school. Most chapters and a few of the committees simply didn't meet, and many of our usual programs and services were suspended. But, rather than review and list all the things we couldn't do this year, I want to focus on what we did do. We successfully transitioned to online meetings! All board meetings this year were virtual. While there was a learning curve, I feel our organization has adapted well to this environment. As our capacity and competency for online meetings increases, the SAS becomes even more accessible and interconnected. It was optimistic to see Chapters not only embrace this technology but work with each other to expand their audiences. Participation is no longer limited by who can make the journey by car or how many people we can squeeze into a venue. While we will be transitioning back to having in-person meetings again once it is safe to do so, I sense there will still be a want (and a need) to continue the online option, perhaps in addition to, or in conjunction with face-to-face interactions. Of course, this presents us with a need to invest in IT infrastructure and learning.

While this year presented many difficulties, we continued to function as a Society. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the fall, and we accomplished updating our bylaws. I want to thank all my fellow board members this year who contributed their time, knowledge, and passion. I know there were many competing priorities in people's lives this year, so I am humbled by your continued dedication and commitment. I would like to acknowledge outgoing board members Drs. Julie Mushynsky and Evelyn Siegfried, whose terms were extended by a few months due to the delayed AGM. I also want to welcome incoming board members this year. Joe Fitzgerald and Kris Sullivan were elected at the 2020 AGM; Verna Gallén is the Chapter representative for our newest Chapter - the All Points Saskatchewan Archaeological Society; Jack Trusty is the Regina Archaeological Society Chapter representative; and Hugh Henry is now representing the South West Saskatchewan Archaeological Society. I recognize joining the board in the midst of a world-changing pandemic was not ideal but I'm confident the board will continue to govern and lead the SAS through this crisis.

With our Annual Global Funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, we are able to maintain our operations. This core funding allowed us the flexibility to pursue additional funding supports through Young Canada Works – Summer Jobs and Building Careers in Heritage, Canada Summer Jobs (Services Canada), and the Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant. We also applied for and received COVID relief funding from Canadian Heritage (federal) and SaskTourism (provincial). Thank you to SaskCulture who not only delivers the Lotteries Trust Fund to the cultural



organizations but is also an ongoing source of information, resources, and guidance.

The following report is an excellent account of what this year was like for the SAS. I know a lot of staff effort was dedicated to understanding the impacts of the pandemic and sharing that information, ensuring everyone's health and safety, and continuing day-to-day operations while working remotely. I also know it was difficult to see a year of program planning transform almost overnight. Some programs had to be cancelled or postponed, but others were moved online, or adjusted in other ways for the pandemic. The tenacity and adaptability of the staff resulted in new initiatives, such as our first ever online lottery and a virtual scavenger hunt for Culture Days. They seized the funding opportunity to continue the much-needed work with collections. They all deserve credit,

recognition, and our gratitude for persevering this year, for being able to accomplish so much when there was so much change and uncertainty, and for keeping their focus on what could be done. Thank you, Belinda, Karin, and Tomasin.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank all the people who continue to support the SAS either through their memberships and/or donations, by participating in our programs and services, or by purchasing products from our store. Others give of their time and/or their expertise. All you do ensures the SAS is here for today, but also for tomorrow. Thank you, and I look forward to a time when we can again come together to celebrate each other and the SAS.

Yours in Heritage,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Riel Cloutier".

Riel Cloutier

Executive Director's Message

This past year has been like none other in recent memory. By now, everyone knows the story. At the beginning of 2020 there was news of a virus in China that spread quickly and caused unprecedented fatalities. By the end of January, it was in Canada, and by mid-March, it was here in Saskatchewan. It's astounding to look back and reflect on all that has changed, and realize how many new things have become 'normal'. I remember those early days of the pandemic, when there was so much unknown, so much uncertainty, and so much to respond to. Almost overnight, what we did, and how we did it had to change. No

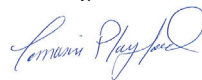


one knew exactly how long it would last and what the short, mid and long-range impacts would be. I am proud how the SAS recognized, right from the beginning, that the health, safety, and wellbeing of our people was the first and highest priority. We realized one of our strengths, hands-on programming like field schools, workshops, and the ArchaeoCaravan activities was suddenly limited. This meant making the difficult decision to cancel or postpone most of our programs. It also meant moving the staff to working from home and providing the resources to make that possible. We also had to postpone our Annual General Meeting. This was all communicated through our website and social media as well as a direct mail-out to the membership.

The following months were spent responding and adapting to the rapidly evolving impacts. Board meetings shifted to virtual as we all learned new technologies. We had to make decisions about summer programming and whether or not to hire summer students. There were also the financial implications to consider. Normally, about 30% of our revenue is self-generated, with the rest coming from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture, and Recreation. We are always thankful the SAS is eligible for, and receives Annual Global Funding from the Trust Fund as delivered through SaskCulture. This funding meant we were able to keep daily operations going and could take the time and energy to focus on building SAS capacity in the areas of governance, management, and resources. This makes for a stronger, sustainable, and resilient organization. SaskCulture provided support, opportunities to connect, and learning opportunities. We were in a position to apply for and receive emergency COVID relief funding from Canadian Heritage and Saskatchewan Tourism. In turn, those supports provided us the flexibility to seize the opportunity of additional funding for three internships through Young Canada Works-Building Careers in Heritage. Thank you to all our funders who made this year possible.

This past year was not an easy one. As a charitable non-profit, the SAS has faced, and risen to many past challenges, but this year was different. Everyone was challenged in their own ways in responding to the pandemic. I am incredibly grateful to the SAS people who gave their time, knowledge, and support to society this past year. The board quickly adjusted as needed to the changing requirements of how to meet and keep the business of the SAS on track. Because of the uncertainty this year, it was also difficult, if not at some time impossible, to predict and plan for even the short-term. This required flexibility and being comfortable with not always having the answers. Thank you to each and every board member for your support and contributions. The staff too were able to adapt and continue serving the SAS in their capacities. Thank you to Belinda Riehl-Fitzsimmons and Karin Steuber for always going above and beyond. I want to thank our two summer students, Keegan Danylyshen and Bailey Pelletier who helped make the summer a whole lot better and the SAS interns, Alexis Bodnar, Brynn Walker, and Jenna Wanner who made the fall and winter a whole lot better! Also because of the pandemic, we were unable to engage with our usual cast of volunteers, from committee members, to outreach helpers, to our Language Inclusion for New Canadian participants. We too are looking forward to the time when we can welcome everyone back. Until that time, please take care of yourself and your loved ones, stay safe, and stay kind.

Sincerely,



Tomasin Playford, Executive Director

Annual Report

The 2020 Annual Report looks a little bit different this year. Normally it includes the SAS activities for the past year in the categories of governance, outreach and communications, programs and services, advocacy and conservation, as well as awards, and support followed by committee and chapter reports. While a few of these activities took place as planned, most didn't. After mid-March, focus was on responding to the pandemic. This year's report will recap some of the key challenges we faced and how we responded. It explains why we chose to focus on strengthening capacity, what that means, and how it is being accomplished. There are successes to be celebrated, but there were also lessons learned and both are highlighted below. As you read through the report, remember the magnitude of what we are experiencing at this place in time. Not only was there a global pandemic that killed almost two million people in 2020, but there were massive wildfires on the West Coast and in Australia, a massive explosion in the Beirut port, and murder hornets. There was a contentious election campaign in the United States, and where the death of George Floyd gained international attention and support for the Black Lives Matter movement. While it was the pandemic that

had the greatest impact on the SAS this past year, these other events affected us both professionally and personally.

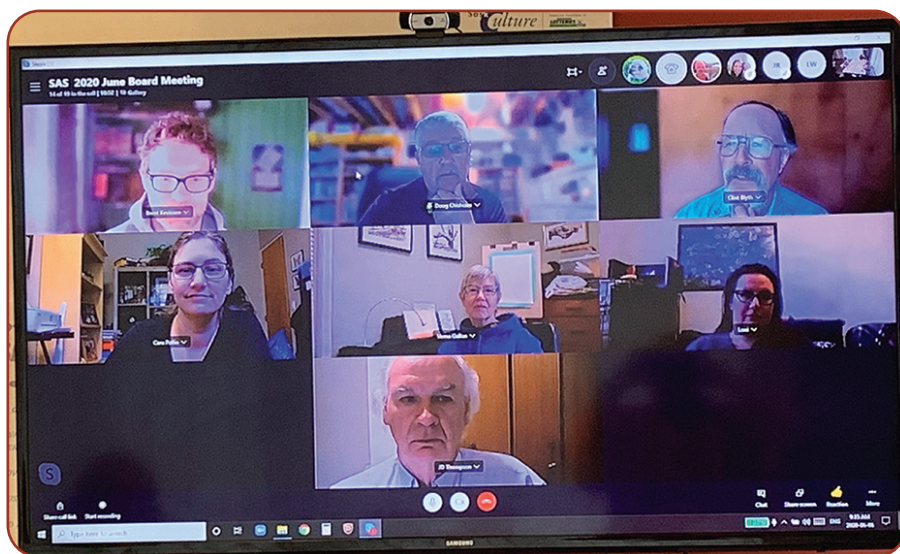
Our year started out strong. Significant progress had been made on the Strategic Plan. A bylaw review had been completed and passed by the board for membership consideration at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). The final stage of an extensive membership engagement process was wrapping up. In addition to a membership consultation event and extensive survey, board and staff were visiting Chapters to hear directly from their members. In 2020, we were able to visit with the Prince Albert Historical Society in January and squeeze in a visit the Saskatoon Archaeological Society as the pandemic took hold. The remaining Chapter visits were put on hold indefinitely as our time and resources shifted to the pandemic.

Before the pandemic hit, we hosted an historic identification workshop with Dr. Margaret Kennedy. Participant feedback referred to the 'hands on' learning – that being able to see and touch the artifacts was the highlight. She graciously donated her historic artifact teaching collection to the Society, so we now have a great reference collection of bottles, beads, ceramics, ammunitions, and cans. Thank you Dr. Kennedy! We had also distributed our Chapter funding grants, delivered



Historic artifact identification workshop with Dr. Kennedy.

outreach at events like the Saskatoon Heritage Fair, and were getting ready for a pretty busy year. We were looking forward to the Annual Gathering and AGM to be held in Kindersley at the end of April. Many people know Mr. Ted Douglas, a longtime archaeology steward and supporter of the SAS. We saw this gathering as a way to honour Ted in his own backyard and his friend Kim Soo Goodtrack was slated to be the keynote speaker. Instead, the Gathering was postponed and the AGM was held virtually in September. Participants of the Study Tour were eagerly waiting for their trip to Malta. This was also to be our first summer of partnering with SaskParks for a public excavation at Fort Carlton. Employment grants had been submitted for summer students and internships as part of the project, as well as for working with collections. We were also really looking forward to finally completing an adapted version of the Bridging Time project and donating Archaeokits to communities in Saskatchewan.



September 2020 virtual board meeting with some of our board members displayed.

But then there was COVID-19. The World Health Organization declared it a pandemic on March 11 and a week later the Province of Saskatchewan declared a state of emergency and initiated a series of restrictions that continued throughout the year. The board was scheduled to have its first meeting of 2020 on March 21, and with only a couple days' notice, was able to hold it virtually. Virtual participation in board meetings had been possible for several years, but usually only two to three board members participated this way. We learned a lot from that first meeting. After research and testing several options, we switched meeting platforms to user-friendly software that was more robust and would serve our needs beyond just board meetings. After a slight drop in board member participation for the March meeting, participation levels were back to normal for the rest of the year.

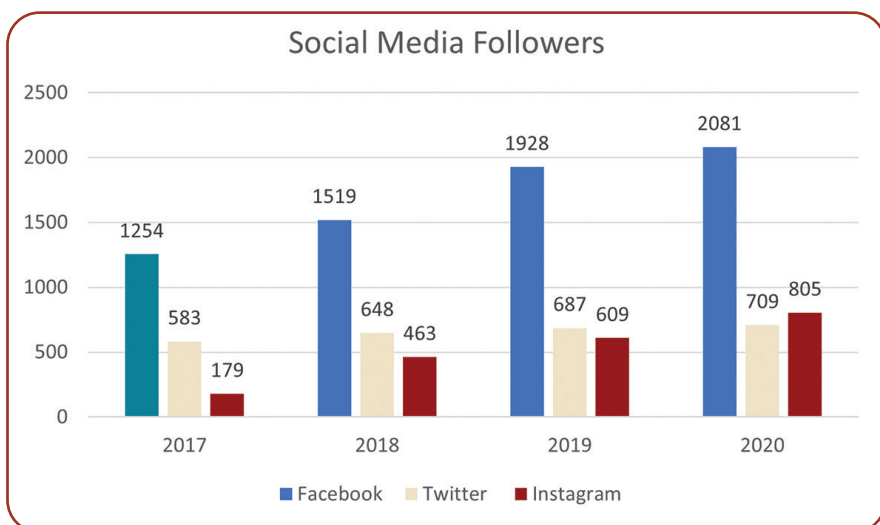
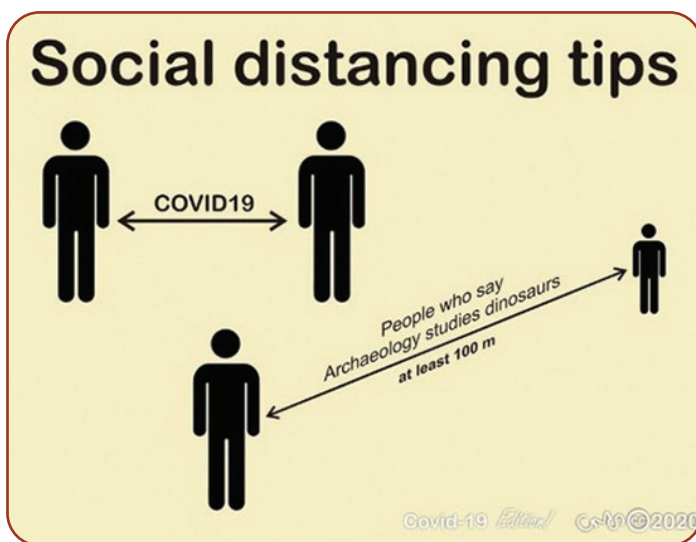
We were also incredibly fortunate to have initiated an information technology (IT) upgrade just before the start of the pandemic. IT complexity is growing exponentially and to maintain operations, we recognized the need for IT expertise. Our server and back-up capabilities were upgraded, and we were in the process of creating remote access for staff when the pandemic hit. This step took a bit longer (because now everyone else also wanted remote login capabilities) but it was accomplished, and this was a huge benefit when staff had to work remotely. It also increases our digital security because we are no longer transferring files between computers using external hard drives. While we were fortunate to have started this process, an ongoing challenge will be to keep up with the fast pace and complexity of technology change. The pandemic has shown that staying current with technology advances is a requirement that needs continued investment and ongoing training.

Another serendipitous occurrence was enrolling Dr. Karin Steuber, our Public Outreach Coordinator, in the Blue Moose Media Digital Marketing Certification course. Again, this had been initiated in early 2020 but was slightly delayed and modified due to the pandemic. For the past several years, we have been building our social media presence as a way to share information and reach new audiences. Entirely self-taught in this regard, Dr. Steuber was keen to learn best practices for content strategy and learn new skills and efficiencies. Funded almost entirely through a Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant, the course helped us develop a strategy and tweak our content right when

Top three Facebook posts of 2020.

it was most important. All our communication channels experienced increased usage this year. The majority (74%) of people connect through our Facebook channel, which had a reach of 195,056 in 2020. By far, the most popular post was "Father's Day Bad Dad Joke" with a reach of over 5,700. Other top posts were COVID related, but humorous – showing to us that people needed some joy during this crisis. We also had almost 6,000 users on our website, with 16,225 page views. In response to a short questionnaire distributed early in the pandemic, we added a kid's activity page to the website with colouring pages created by member Sandra Walker, archaeology-themed word puzzles, curriculum-based activities, and a list of relevant websites.

Some of our programs moved online. We still took part in Saskatchewan's Virtual Heritage Fair. Although we couldn't partner with our Chapters to offer ArchaeoCaravan activities to the participants, we were still able to support the fairs through judging and awarding the SAS prize to Simratia Hamre Wyka of École Henry Kelsey School in Saskatoon for the First Nations award. Check out the presentation here <https://heritagesask.ca/heritagefairs/virtual-heritage-fair?p=2>. Another event moved online was the 2020 Keith Lewis Memorial Student Presentation Awards. The SAS solicited entries from University students across Canada to create and present a short video on an archaeology topic relevant to the prairie provinces. Congratulations to our graduate winners: Zoe Cascadden (University of Calgary), *Interactions with Landscapes: an Alberta Plains Example* and R. Dawn Wambold (University of Alberta), *Weaving Métis History: Using the Métis Sash as a Metaphor to Guide Archaeological Research*, as well as our undergraduate winner: Holly Hastings (University of Calgary), *Prairie Wildlife Conservation*. All three videos were featured on our social media channels throughout the month of August and are all still available to view on our website here: <https://thesas.ca/keith-lewis-memorial-student-presentation-award-history-past-recipients/>. For Culture Days, we hosted a virtual scavenger hunt. From October 10-17, registered teams had to post images of four archaeology related words daily. The event concluded on International Archaeology Day with the 4 Masketeers team accumulating the most points. On the same day, we drew the winner of our first ever online fundraiser, the "Dig Deep" 50/50 lottery. Congratulations to Wendy Fitch who won almost \$600.



Social media followers in 2020.



Simratia in her powwow regalia with her first batch of bannock (Photo credit: Simratia Hamre Wyka).



Summer students Keegan Danylyshen and Bailey Pelletier (left and second from right) with Alissa Philipenko and volunteers Gary and Nathaniel Wowchuk in Ogema.

Community outreach is a big part of our usual activities, especially during the summer. This is important to us because it directly responds to community needs and builds public awareness of Saskatchewan's archaeological heritage. People familiar with archaeology are more likely to care about it. A lot of our efforts focus on youth, either as part of school presentations or during community celebration events. Their interaction with us can be the beginning of a lifelong interest in archaeology. Summer outreach is delivered primarily by SAS summer students. This year, summer student funding results were significantly delayed by the onset of the pandemic and almost all our planned summer events, including the field school at Fort Carlton, had been cancelled. But we didn't want to miss the opportunity to employ students, and in the end, funding amounts were higher than usual. We were able to provide experience to two University of Saskatchewan students, Keegan Danylyshen and Bailey Pelletier. They helped with social media content, worked on the Archaeokits, helped organize digital files, and perhaps most memorable, assisted fellow student, Alissa Philipenko with her graduate research at the Farr site. Another University of Saskatchewan graduate student, Graeme Revering is working on an SAS-related topic, archaeology in the Herschel area for his thesis research.

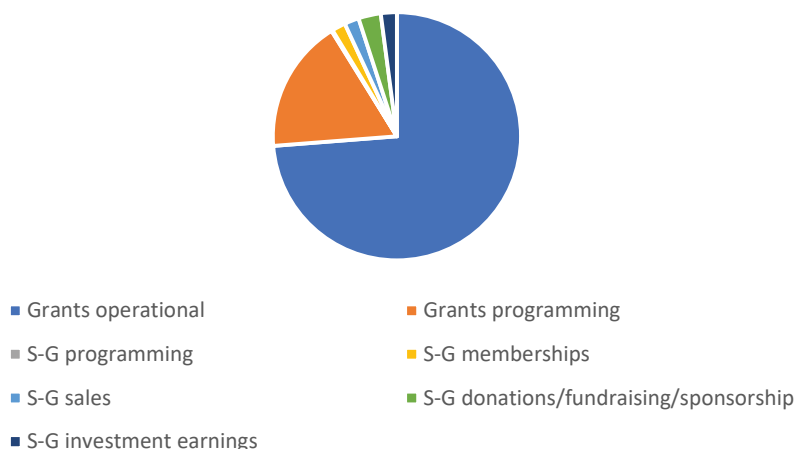
During the early phase of the pandemic, our financial situation was precarious. Our three-year Annual Global Funding (AGF) application (2020-2022) resulted in a \$10,000 increase for 2020, but no projected increases for the following two years. Because there was no increase between 2018 and 2020, that single \$10,000 increase over five years will be less than inflation. At the onset of the pandemic, we took a hard look at our budget and adjusted for projected revenue losses. We correctly anticipated a decrease in donations, both from individuals and corporations, as well as lost sales and fee revenues, in addition to a projected decrease in membership. We also had to return grants for programs that couldn't operate. Our response was to decrease expenditure as much as possible but we were still likely facing a deficit by year-end. There was a lot of confusion around the support programs being put in place. Initially we couldn't apply for any of the federal subsidies such as the loan program, wage subsidy, or rent rebate because of how our payroll is administered. Thank you to anyone who wrote letters asking for this to be rectified. It was, but by then, we found other financial supports we could access. We received federal emergency funding through Canadian Heritage and provincial support through the Saskatchewan Tourism subsidy. The end result was not as dire as the early projections and we are ending this year with a surplus. This is because the increased youth employment funding and the COVID relief measures, rather than our self-generated revenue, covered our operational shortfall. This year a lot of our self-generated revenue is because we expanded the online Den of Antiquity in response to COVID. It saw a 75% increase in online sales compared to 2019 – from people all across Canada! The pandemic has shown that financial resources are integral to strong, healthy organizations. We are fortunate the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund provides operational funding through the AGF, but that funding is tied to lottery sales, which are not always predictable. Our AGF accounts for 65-70% of our entire revenue. The rest is usually comprised of programming grants (~15%), self-generated revenue (~15%), and membership fees (~2-3%). This year, our self-generated revenue was only 7%, but as already highlighted, the shortfall was made up by operational grants and subsidies. Neither of these are likely to be ongoing supports, so we need to find a way to be financially sustainable in the future.

Like other non-essential business, the SAS office closed to flatten the curve from March 15 to August 30. During this time, staff worked remotely. This required developing procedures for working from home and ensuring effective communication. By doing so, we were still able to provide key member benefits and SAS services. There was no disruption to the publishing and distribution of the *Saskatchewan Archaeology Quarterly* or the *E-Voice*. Members continued to utilize the library and our educational resources. During the office closure, we arranged for contactless curbside pickup or even in a few cases – drop offs. Although there was a 50% reduction in the number of office visits and phone calls (1,000 compared to 2,000) the number of emails increased our point of contact by 15% from last year (20,100 compared to 19,300). We also saw an increase in the number of inquiries about sites, artifacts, or general information.

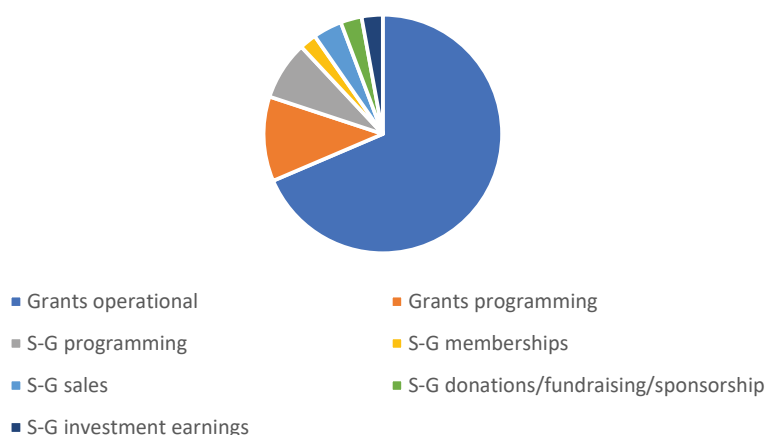
The office reopened September 1 by appointment only. This was to ensure adherence to safety protocols, as one of the significant accomplishments this year was a focus on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). An OHS subcommittee had formed to ensure compliance with legislation, and they assisted with ensuring we were following health directives related to COVID. The pandemic shone a light on overall wellbeing, not just physical health and safety. Numerous studies have correlated a decline in mental health with the pandemic, and employee mental health is consistently listed as a top concern for employers. As part of our weekly staff meetings, we have initiated a wellness check-in and the SAS interns started a mid-afternoon stretch break! While these behaviours don't necessarily solve all the problems, they are positive actions for a resilient team.

Over the past several years, there has been an increase in demand for assistance with personal collections. For one reason or another, a collector can no longer steward their artifact collection and they reach out to us for help, but our policy is not to accept collections for permanent curation. The Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) will accept personal collections and has developed a process to do so. However, the Indigenous Studies program staff at the RSM simply do not have the capacity to identify and catalogue these collections. This is where the SAS can contribute. With employment grants such as Canada Summer Jobs or Young Canada Works, we hire students and/or interns who can spend the time identifying and cataloguing these collections. It is this *information* that tells us the story about the past. Having this information, not just the artifacts, available and accessible is one of the ways we are working towards reconciliation. With the AGF results and the initial internship applications unsuccessful, we thought these plans were shelved. At the time, it was a blessing in disguise,

2020 Diversity of Income



2019 Diversity of Income



Comparison of income between 2019 and 2020. S-G refers to self-generated income.

as a significant amount of time was being devoted to various aspects of the pandemic. However, in the fall, we received notification that there would be funding for three internships. One was to undertake a background study of Fort Carlton and develop a research plan for the field school. The other two were to work with collections. By having a focused but flexible approach, we were able to say yes to this opportunity. Alexis Bodnar was hired for the Fort Carlton research, while Brynn Walker and Jenna Wanner were hired to work with collections.

In addition to these activities, we took this time to begin strengthening our capacity and ensure the Society remains true to its purpose and mission. Right from the start, the objectives of the SAS were: *to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in archaeology; to promote the preservation of the archaeological heritage of Saskatchewan through conservation of sites, objects and data; to promote use of archaeological method; to*

Support

Donations - General: \$3,608

William Armstrong	Cara Baldwin
Muriel Carlson	Ingrid Cazakoff
Kim Cloutier	Harold Gabrielson
Marilyn Hokanson	Oliver Johnson
Alice Kehoe	Lorne Konkel
Dave Miller	Douglas Pegg
Larry Richardson	David Robinson
Kris Sullivan	John Thompson
Wendy Unfreed	Kae Waters
Loni Williams	Jim Worrell
Gerald Yelland	Troy Zimmer

Keith Lewis Memorial Student Paper Presentation Award: \$250

John Thompson

Zenon Pohorecky Memorial Bursary: \$300

David Meyer Douglas Pegg

Research Projects: \$950

Wayne Lerch Wendy Unfreed
Troy Zimmer

Donations in Kind: \$646

Julia Coutts Elmer Lahti
Belinda Riehl-Fitzsimmons

2020 Summer Student Employment Grants

- Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations through the National Trust
- Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations through the Canadian Museum Association
- Canada Summer Jobs (Service Canada)

2020 Intern Employment Grants

- Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations through the National Trust
- Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations through the Canadian Museum Association

Other Organizational Support (COVID-19)

- **Canadian Heritage Emergency Fund**
- **Tourism Saskatchewan**
- **CanSask Job Grant**

We are also thankful for the ongoing Annual Global Funding we receive each year from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture, and Recreation. Their support to societies like ours helps create Saskatchewan's strong cultural environment.



Volunteers

Cara Baldwin	Clint Blyth
Barb Butler	Doug Chisholm
Riel Cloutier	Keegan Danylyshen
Joe Fitzgerald	Kevin Fitzsimmons
Laura Foley	Heath Graham
Tam Huynh	Margaret Kennedy
Brent Kevinsen	Gabe Lamarche
Maria Mampe	Frank McDougall
David Meyer	Julie Mushynsky
Lily Naytowhow	Tim Panas
Alissa Philipenko	Zoya Pohorecky
Cara Pollio	Alysia Reesor
Jennifer Rychlo	Evelyn Siegfried
Kris Sullivan	John Thompson
Alice Trusty	Jack Trusty
Karmen VanderZwan	Brynn Walker
Kim Weinbender	Loni Williams

Committee Reports

Archaeological Conservation

Members: Clinton Blyth, Doug Chisholm, Riel Cloutier, Tim Jones, David Meyer, David Munro, Les Ostryk

The committee did not meet in 2020.

Bylaws

Members: Tam Huynh, Julie Mushynsky, John Thompson (Chair)

The disbanding of the Education Committee required a board motion, as per our policy. The Human Resources Policy was updated and a Remote Work Policy was created and approved by the board.

Education

Members: Keegan Danylyshen, John Thompson (Chair), Alice Trusty, Jack Trusty, Kim Weinbender

The final meeting of the Education committee was February 15, as the committee mandate had been fulfilled.

Finance and Granting

Members: Brent Kevinsen (Chair), Cara Pollio, John Thompson

The Zenon Pohorecky Memorial Bursary of \$500 was awarded to Gabriel Lamarche.

Four member funding grants of \$1,000 each were awarded to:

- Doug Chisholm for "Jackpine Narrows Expedition 2020"
- Julie Mushynsky for "Enduring Objects, Decolonizing Canadian Ethnology Collections"

- Alissa Philipenko for “The Farr Site”
- Graeme Revering for “Archaeology of the Eagle Creek”.

Management

Members: Riel Cloutier (Chair), Brent Kevinsen, Maria Mampe, Loni Williams

The management committee met virtually several times this year, as we would normally, to fulfill our committee responsibilities. Due to the impacts of the pandemic, we had increased communication with the Executive Director through email to help provide guidance and oversight to ensure the Society’s interests were best served. The management committee worked with staff to develop a strategy for how we were going to adapt to the circumstances of 2020. We agreed that a focused but flexible approach would best serve the SAS and that the health, safety, and well-being of our people would remain our top priority. Staff worked with the ad hoc Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) subcommittee to implement relevant COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols. This year, the OHS subcommittee, comprised of Brent Kevinsen, Cara Pollio, and Karmen VanderZwan completed several other action items, including staff supervisor training, developing safety forms for office inspections, safety orientation and meetings, job hazard assessment, and journey management. A job hazard assessment analysis was completed and a draft version of the SAS Occupational Health and Safety manual has been produced.

The Management Committee provided input to adjust our budget in response to the Annual Global Funding application results. This was challenging due to the constantly changing circumstances of this year and the initial uncertainty regarding the rest of revenue - our ability to self-generate revenue, and what financial relief we might be eligible for. I am glad to report we were able to secure relief funding and generated more revenue than originally thought.

Members of the Management Committee, along with staff, participated in the Lifecycles Capacity Lab offered through SaskCulture. I am really excited about the potential for this tool to invigorate the SAS. As part of our strategic plan, we have been gathering feedback from our members and our Chapters to address how to keep the SAS vibrant for years to come. This question was especially relevant this year. The lab looked not only at our programs and services, but also at the capacities necessary to provide those programs and services. A great example of that this year was being able to provide virtual meeting support to our Chapters through the creation of their own Zoom account, and providing the necessary training to use the account. All Chapters now have access to virtual meeting technology at no cost to their organizations. This means they can continue with their activities in their communities but also reach much wider audiences.

Other key tasks and responsibilities completed this year was the annual performance review of the Executive Director and hosting the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September.

Nominations

Members: Tam Huynh (Past-President)

A formal nominations committee was proposed for future board member recruitment, as the Past-President only stays on the board for one year following the new president’s election. This will ensure potential nominees are aligned with the strategic direction of the Society.

2020 Election results:

President - Riel Cloutier

1st Vice President - Maria Mampe

2nd Vice President - Loni Williams

Treasurer - Brent Kevinsen

Member-at-Large (2 positions) - Joe Fitzgerald and Kris Sullivan

Programs

Members: Julia Coutts, Laura Foley, Maria Mampe (Chair), Evelyn Siegfried, Alice Trusty, Karmen VanderZwan

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all scheduled activities that fall under the purview of the Programs Committee were cancelled or postponed for safety reasons and in compliance with Saskatchewan Health Authority guidelines, which largely forbade gatherings over 10 people and mixing between residents of separate households. Pre-planned but cancelled activities for 2020 included: the Annual Gathering in Kindersley, the Fort Carlton field school, the chapter barbecue, and Culture Days.

The 2020 Study Tour which was to visit Malta and Sicily was postponed.

Planning for the combined 2021 Gathering with APALA began in December 2020.

The committee is hopeful that many of these plans can be implemented in 2021 or 2022.

Publications

Members: Robert Clipperton, Heather Frary, Verna Gallén, Gabriel Lamarche (Chair), Joan Soggie

No meetings were held this year. Informal discussions were held about moving ahead with the production of a book on Saskatchewan projectile points.

Chapter Reports

All Points Saskatchewan Archaeological Society (APSAS)

The first meeting of the new chapter was held in January, where we decided on our legal name, approved our constitution, set annual membership fees, and elected a board. We incorporated as a non-profit organization shortly after. A public tour of the Museum of Antiquities at the University of Saskatchewan was held in February; a chapter meeting followed, where we established the Events and Planning, and Promotions and Publicity committees. With the COVID-19 pandemic, any planned public events were cancelled. We transitioned to online Zoom meetings and presentations for the remainder of the year. A fundraiser cookbook was created which documented the APSAS pandemic experience.

Archaeology and Anthropology Students Association (AASA)

We held our APALA (Archaeology, Physical Anthropology and Linguistics Association) Conference in early February. All other in-person activities were sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic. The chapter utilized Facebook posts to keep members engaged. We created a new logo to go on clothing and masks for sale in the fall.

Pipestone Archaeological Society (PAS)

One executive meeting was held in early March, with the remainder of meetings by telephone. We were able to take a few field trips (socially distanced of course) to the Oxbow, Forget and Big Beaver areas of the province to survey some sites.

Prince Albert Historical Society (PAHS)

In January, Dr. Tomasin Playford presented the goals and roles of the SAS at part of the visitation series to chapters. We were fortunate to have a PowerPoint presentation and our Annual General meeting before public health restrictions went into place in mid-March. The Prince Albert Museum was able to open to a limited public in mid-July. Culture Days activities included Indigenous and Métis interpreters giving guided tours along the riverbank. We held two fundraisers, a garage sale and a raffle, which brought in some needed funds.

Regina Archaeological Society (RAS)

In January and February, we had in-person presentations on the topics of ethical life in Papua, New Guinea, and on Cold War secrets in Regina. After a six-month hiatus, the RAS decided to host their Annual General Meeting and other presentations by Zoom.

Saskatchewan Association of Professional Archaeologists (SAPA)

We were unable to hold our Annual General Meeting, usually held during the SAS's Annual Gathering in April, so we held it in November by Zoom. A committee has been established to work with the Heritage Conservation Branch to improve communications between the Branch and consultants, and discuss possible changes to the online client services system. No other social events were held this year.

Saskatoon Archaeological Society (SASC)

We had three in-person events early in the year (a live presentation, a movie night, and a membership engagement initiative), until COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. Our AGM was postponed until October, when it was held virtually. Two additional presentations were hosted virtually to end our year.

South West Saskatchewan Archaeological Society (SWSAS)

We were able to host our Annual General Meeting in January, followed by two presentations in February and March. The remainder of our meetings and public events were cancelled due to COVID-19.