

## **2020 ANSM Award Citation**

The Association of Nova Scotia Museums is presenting the eighth annual Award for Excellence in Museum Practices this year, an initiative that began in 2013. The award acknowledges and celebrates individuals, volunteer or paid, who have made remarkable contributions to a better knowledge of Nova Scotia's human or natural history.

Past winners of the award are Heather Watts (2013), Ken Adams (2014), Lynn Hayne (2015), Maggie MacIntyre (2016), Sheryl Stanton (2017), Peter Crowell (2018) and Lisa Wolfe (2019).

Over the past year, the dedicated work of the ANSM Board of Directors and Awards Committee members—Chair Katie Tanner and members Del Muise, Lisa Wolfe, Lynn Hayne, Ken Adams, Peter Cullen, and our Executive Director Anita Price—have made this year's award presentation possible.

This year ANSM is pleased to present the Award of Excellence in Museum Practices, Individual Contribution to Debra McNabb of the Museum of Industry.

Debra has recently retired as Director of the Museum of Industry in Stellarton, following 32 years of working with the organization in a wide variety of roles. Debra started out as the museum's second permanent staff member while the facility was still under construction. She played a vital part in the creation of the museum's permanent exhibitions and many of its special projects. These projects ranged from the Clairtone Sound Corp. temporary exhibit, to working with Pictou County Safe Harbour to help bring a Syrian refugee family to New Glasgow, to leading a 25-year relationship with the Westray Families Group to support the families of those lost in the Westray Mine explosion, while also commemorating the victims and capturing the history of the disaster.

Debra also served on many committees and working groups within the province's Heritage Division. She led a team to review and enhance the Nova Scotia Museum Collection Policy and started the Collection Management working group. This group, along with the Interpretation working group that she initiated, has successfully continued. She worked on several governance, collections and facilities projects with the Heritage Division, and also led a cross-departmental collaboration to create the travelling exhibit "Gold: A Nova Scotia Treasure."

Debra's colleagues praise her "holistic approach" to museums, her commitment to the industrial heritage of Nova Scotia, and her dedication to best practices. Community members commend her ability to collaborate, her generosity with her time, and her passion for the region. She has left a legacy of lasting projects and programs at the Museum of Industry, as well as in the Nova Scotia museum community at large.

The ANSM Award of Excellence in Museum Practices, Individual Contribution 2020 is presented to Debra McNabb.

## **ANSM Awards Program Update**

We encourage you to start thinking now about nominations for next year, as the awards program is an important way to honour and recognize those who have dedicated their careers to telling the stories of our province and our rich shared heritage. Most of the work in the museum community is done with little or no recognition, so the ANSM awards program pays tribute to us all.

ANSM has also updated the awards program to add a second award category and improve the awards criteria.

- ANSM has decided that, starting in 2021, two separate awards will be offered through the ANSM award program. We have received so many great nominations, that we decided to open up the awards program to include two categories:
  - Award for Excellence in Museum Practices: Individual Contribution— this award is for distinguished service from an individual (paid or volunteer). This award is the same award that is

currently presented by ANSM, but the award will be conferred based on nominees' career achievements to date. The criteria listed online will be changed to reflect this move from a single year's achievements to all career achievements.

- Award for Excellence in Museum Practices: Programming by an Organization—this award is for excellence in programming from an organization as demonstrated by a project within the past year. Any ANSM member museum is eligible for this award based on a recently completed project, regardless of whether the museum is run by volunteers or paid staff, or whether the project contributors are senior staff, volunteers or emerging professionals. Projects completed/fully implemented between June 1, 2020, and June 1, 2021, will be eligible for nomination in 2021. Nominations may include innovative exhibits, interpretation, presentation and visitor experience programs; education programs; community partnerships; new approaches in collections and information management; positive changes to physical facilities; creative or collaborative marketing efforts; and other projects that provide museum resources and programming to the public.
- All award criteria and nomination information will be available on ANSM's website.

Thank you to the current Awards Committee, as well as past committee members Kathy Sullivan and Maggie MacIntyre, for their input on the new awards program structure.

The awards program puts a spotlight on individuals and organizations who exemplify ANSM's values of excellence in museum practices. Stay tuned to the ANSM website and Beacon newsletter early in 2021 when the next round of nominations begins, and make sure to nominate an individual or organization who deserves to be celebrated for their work!



