



President's Letter

International Association of Transport and Communications Museums **March 2016**

Dear members of the IATM family.

Firstly in the spirit of being a Canadian let me apologize for not writing to you sooner. I wanted to take the time to get my first message just right before reaching out and introducing myself as the new president of the International Association of Transport Museums (IATM).

I am very proud to have been asked to take on the president's role for the association. I have just finished seven wonderful years at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum here in Ottawa Canada and have recently taken over the helm of the Canadian War Museum. Both Museums are national museums that deal in large part with extensive and varied transport collections. So I am definitely part of the transport museum family.

I have garnered much knowledge over the course of my career and indeed continue to appreciate just how much more I need to learn as the environment that museums exist in continues to evolve. It is perhaps one of the main reasons that I feel so very strongly and indeed passionately about the continued need for an association of transport museums that caters directly to the breadth of the collections we care for and operate and the often unique issues that we collectively face. I truly believe that only by banding together and supporting each other as an extended family can we continue to remain strong and relevant.

My main reason for reaching out to you as members of the association is to articulate my commitment and that of your Board of Directors to provide value for your membership and ensure that the association is indeed providing the support you expect of it. We are creating programs and exchange opportunities that will help reinforce the network of transport museums and provide access to a wider community of museums. One of the most important programs we currently support is *Skillbridge* which I invite you to access at <http://www.iatm.museum/skillbridge/>.

This strategy is designed to provide the help we need as museums as we all struggle with the continuing lack of resources, changing needs of the collection and new visitor expectations. Added to these issues are the need to identify opportunities for growth and sustainability and continual dialogue among peers to help guide us as we strive for continued relevance in this new twenty-first century environment.



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One of the most effective ways to ensure that we share our expertise and support a dialogue with each other is through our annual conference. The energy and synergy that is generated by meeting as a group is priceless and the greater the number and diversity of participants the more we profit as a group. In view of the importance of meeting on a regular basis to provide a vehicle for open discussion and interchange we have gone back to an annual rather than bi-annual schedule. Each year we endeavour to cover current topics for the presentations and museum visits so that we are adequately addressing the issues associated with running museums in this new world of visitor and partner expectations.

But we can't do this in a vacuum so I would enjoin you to write to us on the list of topics you would like to see at your conference and I would ask you to join us when we meet in Edinburgh in the fall of 2016. In the interim I will be sending regular updates on the subjects we are dealing with and a survey on what you would like to see as a value add from your association.

We as transport museums face specific challenges that are unique to our collections and the stories we tell. We are many but we are scattered around the globe. In remaining as part of the association and especially by attending the annual conference we have a chance to come together and really investigate, dissect, discuss and have the chance to address our issues, our needs and our shared challenges.

I welcome your comments and I look forward to serving you as an advocate and supporter for our museums.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Quick'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen Quick
President of IATM