



SPARKS OFF THE ANVIL[®]



Newsletter Of The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum

April – May 2015 Volume 39, Edition 2

Editors: Corinne Daelick & Kristine Flynn

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

By Joan Champ

2015-2016 Budget

The Government of Saskatchewan announced the provincial budget for 2015-2016 on March 18. As we expected, the Museum received a *status quo* (0% increase) budget allocation (\$4,181,000) from the provincial government for the coming fiscal year. I believe this is the best we could have hoped for given the big drop in oil and gas revenues. The WDM is fortunate not to have received a cut. As you may know, a significant number of programs and organizations did receive cuts to their budgets this year.

Unfortunately, as in past years, a *status quo* budget allocation does not address the realities of inflation such as the rising costs of utilities, goods and services purchased by the Museum. There will therefore be challenges ahead for the WDM. Contingent on Board approval, the WDM's Director of Finance, Cal Glasman, and I have drafted an operating budget which we believe will address this budgetary shortfall through a variety of measures, and sustain Museum operations for 2015-2016.

The Museum's business plan from 2012 continues to provide us with some useful strategies to achieve financial sustainability. These include initiatives designed to increase the Museum's self-generated revenue – initiatives which the WDM Board of Directors will review at its April meeting.

The majority of the financial resources needed to pay for the annual operation of the Western Development Museum – about 80 percent – comes from the much-appreciated support of the Province of Saskatchewan. The rest – about 20 percent – comes from the WDM's self-generated revenue, including admission fees, gift shop sales, food services, facility rentals, exhibit sponsorships, and donations from members and other Museum supporters.

The WDM appreciates the commitment of our Minister, the Honourable Mark Docherty, and his deputy minister and staff for the support they provide to culture and heritage within the Ministry's restricted budget. It is my sincere belief that the provincial government recognizes the fact that the four WDMs are major contributors to the quality of life enjoyed by all Saskatchewan residents – including all those newcomers! Our collective heritage is worth celebrating and supporting.

We are also grateful for the support that people like you continue to demonstrate for the Museum. By maintaining or purchasing memberships, by volunteering, and by coming through our doors to see our exhibits or participate in our programs and events, you contribute towards keeping the WDM vibrant and sustainable. Thank you!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



WDM volunteers contribute hundreds of hours annually to various Museum activities.

WDM Photo

Did you know the first National Volunteer Week was celebrated in 1943? It began as a way to recognize the contribution of women to the Second World War effort. Today National Volunteer Week acknowledges the efforts of volunteers of all ages, genders and cultures. April 12-18, 2015 is National Volunteer Week and the perfect time to recognize the contributions of our over 1200 WDM volunteers. The impact they make on the Museum is immeasurable. Whether they are restoring an airplane, fixing a tractor, making ice cream, cleaning an artifact or assisting with a school program, our volunteers bring the Museum to life with their dedication and enthusiasm. Thank you volunteers for all that you do for the WDM!



MOOSE JAW WDM

By Jackie Hall, Program/Education Officer

The highlight of the spring season at the Moose Jaw WDM is the **Thunder Creek Model Railroad Show**. The Museum was filled to capacity with amazing model layouts in all shapes and sizes. It was a great weekend for visitors and exhibitors.

The **Smarter Science Better Buildings** school program comes to Moose Jaw, April 13-28. This hands-on program allows Grade 7 students to explore the concepts of heat and temperature through the practical application of making homes more energy efficient. During the program students explore energy-themed workstations and tour the Museum looking at energy efficient examples in the artifact collection and at the Museum building itself.

We are looking forward to the **Moose Jaw Youth Regional Heritage Fair** to be held at the Moose Jaw WDM on April 23. While this is a school fair, the public is welcome to come out and view the projects. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the hard work done by the students and to speak with them about their research and displays. We invite you to check it out!

Kindergarten – Grade 6 classes are invited to register for the school program, **Museum Learning Days**, which takes place May 27. Students will experience hands-on activities while exploring the Museum galleries. Contact Jackie to register.

Registration for our **Summer Camps** begins May 1. Every Thursday in July and August we will have a fun-filled camp for 5-8 year olds.

Be sure to mark your calendar for these special events this summer. In conjunction with the Saskatchewan Lego Users Group (SLUG) the Moose



Moose Jaw Youth Regional Heritage Fair participants explain their display to one of the Fair's volunteer judges.

WDM Photo, David Samson

Jaw WDM will host the 4th annual **Brickspo** on July 25-26, a showcase of amazing Lego creations. On August 15 we launch our inaugural steam-themed event, **Blow Off Some Steam At The WDM**. Watch for more details in upcoming issues of *Sparks*.

NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Cheryl Stewart-Rahm, Education/Volunteer Coordinator

The Transcontinental Blues Band will be performing at our **Blues & Brews** event on April 18 from 9 pm-1 am. This annual event is great for all of the "cool cats" who love music, tasty food and beverages. Thanks to our sponsors, Do-All Holdings Ltd. and Rainbow Toyota, for providing a safe ride home from the WDM to any location in North Battleford and Battleford. The Transcontinental Blues Band was formed in the spring of 2009 in Saskatoon. They cover a variety of blues favourites as well as their own original songs. Come out and join the fun at the WDM. Advanced tickets are \$20 each or \$25 at the door.

On May 8 we invite preschools to **Giddy-Up and Whoa** - a new school program at the North Battleford WDM. We will have crafts, wagon rides to the barn, a petting zoo and a bridle demonstration. This program is for pre-booked preschools only. Please contact Cheryl to register your class for this exciting new program.

Smarter Science Better Buildings is slated to run from May 11-29. This two-hour, hands-on school program allows Grade 7 students to explore the concepts of heat and temperature. Students learn by exploring workstations dealing with energy efficiency and by touring selected village buildings. In 2014, this program was recognized by the Regional Centre for Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (Saskatchewan) for educating students about sustainable development.

Reserve your seats now for the **Mother's Day Luncheon** on May 10. Treat mom to a delicious meal and a visit to the WDM.

On June 11-12 we invite students to our annual **Museum Days**. Students will experience many heritage activities such as ice cream making, rope making and farming. Hop aboard your favourite vintage vehicle for a ride through time! Skilled volunteers use artifacts, commentary and stories to provide a first-hand glimpse of how life was lived in 1920s Saskatchewan.

Stay tuned for **ArchaeoCaravan**, presented by the Saskatchewan Archeological Society, coming to the North Battleford WDM on July 8. Details will be in the next issue of *Sparks*. Back by popular demand are **Heritage Farm & Village Day Camps** from July 20-24 and on August 8 & 9, our signature summer event, **Those Were the Days**.

Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship From the Canada Science and Technology Museum

April 11-July 5, 2015
Saskatoon WDM
2610 Lorne Avenue

The exhibit examines Arctic exploration past and present, profiles the mysteries of the Franklin Expedition of 1845, when an entire crew vanished during an ill-fated search. The stories are told using artifacts such as instruments and objects dating from the same period as the Franklin Expedition, as well as contemporary scientific objects. New additions to the exhibition include recent Parks Canada photographs and videos from the discovery of HMS *Erebus*.

FEED

Mindy Yan Miller
April 30-July 2015
Saskatoon WDM
2610 Lorne Avenue

In FEED, Yan Miller takes a familiar form and replaces one material for another. The hay bale: a method of conserving and maximizing crop production, is reimagined here as a way of conserving and maximizing the (over) production of clothes.

E-SPARKS

Are you still receiving *Sparks Off The Anvil* via regular mail? Would you be interested in getting the latest news from the WDM via email instead? Then drop us a line at info@wdm.ca, subject line **Email Sparks**, as we'd be happy to add you to our email list. Don't forget to add this WDM email address to your list of safe senders so there won't be any delays in receiving your next issue of *Sparks Off The Anvil*.



STEAM TRACTION ENGINE OPERATION

Aug. 22-23, 29-30, Sept. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20



STEAM LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE OPERATION

September 26 & 27



The WDM has offered steam operation training courses since the late 1950s. If you have ever wanted to learn about steam power or how to operate a steam traction engine or the WDM's Vulcan locomotive then we have the courses for you. The courses are a combination lecture-practical format and offer training in the basic maintenance and safe operation of steam engines and familiarizes you with antique steam-powered machinery. Contact the WDM Curatorial Centre to learn more: 306-934-1400 or trainingcourses@wdm.ca.

YORKTON WDM

By Carla Madsen, Education/Special Events Programmer

Spring is here! We are looking forward to warmer weather and a new season of activities at the Yorkton WDM. The galleries and gift shop are open Monday-Friday from 9 am-5 pm and weekends from 12-5 pm.

The *York Colony Quilters Guild* will soon be concluding another quilting year. The Guild's wrap-up meeting and potluck lunch will be held on Wednesday, May 15 with weekly gatherings resuming in September. The Guild members will be doing quilting demonstrations at the Show & Festival so visitors will have the opportunity to talk to members and learn a little more about their group. For further information on the *York Colony Quilters Guild*, call Mary Ann Zuk at 306-782-2566.

Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 10 from 2-4 pm. Free carnations will be given to the first 50 ladies in attendance and they will also have their names entered in the door prize draws. All are welcome for complimentary donuts and refreshments while enjoying a relaxing afternoon at the Museum. A similar event will be held on Sunday, June 21 for **Father's Day**.

Our **Movies at the Museum** events are returning for another year. Screenings of entries from the *Yorkton Film Festival* will take place on June 7, June 28, July 5 and July 19. Each showing will begin at 2 pm and those in attendance will also be treated to a delicious serving of homemade ice cream.

Also returning is our Discovery Box Family Programming. Led by our summer staff, these events will give our guests the opportunity to engage in a hands-on learning experience. Dates for the **Discovery Box Family Programming** series are May 24, July 12, July 26 and August 16, all beginning at 2 pm.

The *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* continues to meet each



Members of the *York Colony Quilters Guild* demonstrate their skills during the **Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival** at the Yorkton WDM.

WDM Photo

month with the next meetings scheduled for April 11 at 1:30 pm, May 9 at 7 pm, and June 13 at 7 pm. This is a monumental year as 2015 marks the 60th edition of the **Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival**, which will be held on August 1 & 2, as well as the 60th anniversary of the Club. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents with the Club, new members are always welcome. For more information, call the Museum at 306-783-8361.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our annual **Canada Day Picnic** on July 1, and especially for the kids, **Museum Day** on July 15 and **Children's Pioneer Days** on August 11-13.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MOOSE JAW WDM

Open Daily 9 am-5 pm
Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*
Call 306-693-5989 for information

April 4 Easter Fun Day
April 23 Moose Jaw Youth Regional Heritage Fair
May 18-Oct. 100 Years Ago: Remembering WWI exhibit

NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Open Daily 9 am-5 pm
Shop at *The Loft*
Call 306-445-8033 for information

Dec. 2014-May 1 100 Years Ago: Remembering WWI exhibit
April 18 Blues & Brews
May 10 Mother's Day Luncheon
June 20 Innovation Credit Union presents Family Day

SASKATOON WDM

Open Daily 9 am-5 pm
Enjoy the Boomtown Café Daily specials weekdays
Shop at the *Museum Store*
Call 306-931-1910 for information

April 7-10 Easter School Break programming 1-3 pm
April 18 Pioneer Threshermen's Club Flea Market
April 11-July 5 Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship exhibit
from the Canada Science and Technology Museum
April 30-June 30 FEED by Mindy Yan Miller exhibit
June 20 Motorcycle Ride for Dad

YORKTON WDM

Open 9 am-5 pm Monday-Friday and 12-5 pm weekends
Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*
Call 306-783-8361 for information

May 10 Mother's Day
May 24 Discovery Box Family Programming
June 7 Movies at the Museum
June 21 Father's Day

SASKATOON WDM

By Scott Whiting, Education/Public Programs Coordinator

The first signs of spring are appearing in Saskatoon, and that means that our busy spring school visit season is under way. Just as our volunteers with the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association are switching from sleigh runners to wagon wheels, Grade 2 students are visiting the WDM to take part in **Wheels and Runners** to discover the history of transportation in Saskatchewan. **Wheels and Runners** runs until May 22.

Museum visitors will have the opportunity to see two fascinating exhibits coming to the Saskatoon WDM. From the Canada Science and Technology Museum we welcome *Echoes In The Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship* which looks at the science behind finding the long missing ship, HMS Erebus. The public are invited to the opening of this exhibit on April 10 at 9:30 am. Please rsvp to the Museum Store if you plan to attend. *Echoes In The Ice* will be on display in Saskatoon until July 5 before moving to the Moose Jaw WDM. The exhibit, *FEED*, by Saskatoon-based artist Mindy Yan Miller features five full-size round bales made of used clothing. This eye-catching exhibit will open on April 30.

The week of May 4 will bring preschoolers to our Museum for **Giddy Up and Whoa**. They will learn about the importance of horses to our pioneers, ride on a horse-drawn wagon and meet some farm animals up close in the barn. **Giddy Up and Whoa** runs May 4-10 and is made possible with the support of the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association. This program is for pre-registered preschools only.

On May 26-27 the Saskatoon WDM will be abuzz with activity thanks to the return of our annual **Museum Days**. Students from Grades 2-6 will descend on the Museum for hands-on opportunities to learn some old-fashioned skills. Students will make rope, grind wheat, tote water and more as they learn what life might have been like over a century ago. Parents of home-schooled children from Grades 2-6 who may be interested in attending are encouraged to call our Education Department. Space is limited, so advance booking is required.

With the first glimpses of spring already leading to thoughts of summer, preparations for **Pion-Era 2015** are under way. Fun for all ages will be on offer July 11-12, with indoor and outdoor demonstrations, children's activities, the Story of Threshing, a petting zoo and more. As in past years, we invite antique tractor enthusiasts to display their tractors alongside our own collection. If you are interested in bringing a tractor to **Pion-Era**, please contact Scott at 306-931-1910.

Pioneer Kids' Camps return to the Saskatoon WDM July 20-24 and July 27-31. Over the course of five afternoons, campers discover the life of a Saskatchewan pioneer through hands-on activities, games, crafts and stories. Each session runs 1 pm-4:30 pm from Monday through Friday. The registration fee is \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members. Spaces fill up quickly, so please do not wait to register. For more information, visit our website at wdm.ca.

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twitter.com/SaskWDM
[youtube.com/skwdm](https://www.youtube.com/skwdm)

ARTIFACT DONORS

Recently, the WDM received donations of artifacts from:

Bob Beaman – Saskatoon	Jen Pederson – Saskatoon
Tanya Callaway – Saskatoon	Regina General Hospital – Regina
Scott Edwards – Nipawin	Diana Savage – Saskatoon
Kristine Flynn – Martensville	Melissa Stus – Saskatoon
Beth Hamilton – Saskatoon	John & Kay Williams – Saskatoon
John McGowan Estate – Saskatoon	Alex Wonnemberg – Saskatoon
Isabelle Mills – Saskatoon	Katheryna Zurakowski – Yorkton

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Azzopardi, Chair – Regina	Dennis Naphin – Yorkton
Diana Ireland – Moose Jaw	Raymond Sadler – Biggar
Janice Hobbs – Saskatoon	Dave Whitehead – North Battleford
Susan Lamb – Saskatoon	

