



SPARKS OFF THE ANVIL[®]



Newsletter Of The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum

November - December 2014 Volume 38, Edition 6

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THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

The Board of Directors and staff of the Western Development Museum wish all our members and readers of Sparks, friends and supporters, volunteers and visitors, a holiday season filled with cheer and goodwill, and a healthy, happy 2015.

Children celebrate with Santa at the Canadian National Railway Children's Christmas party in Saskatoon, 1949.

WDM Photo, Leslee Newman Collection



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO *By Joan Champ*

The Western Development Museum is a special place. It is a place where memories begin – where memories are preserved, where memories are shared, and where new memories are made. Since 1949, it has been the WDM's job to save and share the fascinating stories that make up Saskatchewan's unique heritage.

This important role is not without its challenges. The WDM could not survive without the sustaining support of the Government of Saskatchewan for nearly 80 percent (\$4,181,000) of its annual operating budget. The remaining 20 percent (about \$1 million) required to maintain the Museum's exhibits, programs and services comes from self-generated revenue. This includes revenue from admission fees, gift shop sales, food services and facility rentals. It also includes donations from supporters like you.

Donations to the WDM, a registered charity, ensure that the Museum can keep telling Saskatchewan's stories. Money raised for the WDM is used to create and maintain engaging exhibits in all four of our museums. Gifts to the Museum support the conservation and restoration of artifacts that bring Saskatchewan's history to life. They also support the development of educational programs that tell our stories to school groups and visitors from near and far.

WAYS TO HELP

There are many ways to help the WDM and all support is greatly appreciated. In addition to cash donations, the WDM has put into place a number of other methods for accepting gifts. The WDM recently established the Museum Legacy Fund at the Saskatoon Community Foundation. An endowed gift (or endowment) of sufficient size will generate annual interest that can be used to support Museum activities. These gifts are held in perpetuity. Here are some other gifting options:

- The WDM has recently set up a brokerage account at its bank. A donation-in-kind of publicly traded securities is a simple way to support the Museum and may be 100% tax creditable.

- The gift of an existing or new life insurance policy, or the naming of the WDM as a beneficiary, has positive tax implications for donors and their estates.

- The bequest of a specific sum or percentage of an estate through a person's will leaves a legacy of support for the next generation of families who visit the WDM.

- Many WDM supporters choose to make a special donation in memory of a loved one, recognizing that the legacy of the past is the foundation for a sustainable future.

- Various sponsorship opportunities are also available for WDM exhibits, programs and events.

All gifts to the WDM are personally and gratefully acknowledged when they are received. For gifts that require careful planning and decision-making, donors are encouraged to contact their professional financial advisor(s) to discuss their options and giving intentions. A representative from the WDM Development Office is also available to assist with philanthropic decisions. Please call 306-934-1400 for more information about all gift and sponsorship options. You can also visit the Museum's web site (wdm.ca) and click on the [Canada Helps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) button to facilitate your online donation.

The WDM appreciates the commitment of our Minister, the Honourable Mark Docherty, his Deputy Minister and staff, for their dedicated efforts to support Saskatchewan's heritage. We sincerely hope that future provincial funding strategies will continue to be aligned with the holistic view that heritage and culture are major contributors to quality of life in Saskatchewan. The Museum recognizes, however, that in order to remain vibrant and sustainable, it must continue to work hard to generate its own revenue.

Your gift to the WDM – a place where memories begin – will help to ensure that Saskatchewan's heritage is preserved and shared for years to come.



NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Cheryl Stewart-Rahm, Education/Volunteer Coordinator

We hosted many successful events this fall including our Grade 4 Threshing Demonstration, Culture Days, The Great Pumpkin Masquerade & Family Dance and Fright Night. Thanks to all of our hardworking volunteers and staff for their help in making these events a success.

To commemorate the start of the First World War, the WDM created the exhibit **100 Years Ago – Remembering WWI**. Consisting of four small showcases, the exhibit features First World War artifacts from the WDM collection. One showcase was on display at each of the WDM locations until November 10. The four showcases will be brought together as one exhibit to visit each WDM location. On December 1 this display will open at the North Battleford WDM offering visitors the opportunity to see the artifacts together for the first time. Included are two military uniforms, a communion set and a gas mask each with its own Saskatchewan connection. Visit wdm.ca/firstworldwar.htm to learn more about these artifacts.

Our thoughts turn to holiday season as we prepare for our Christmas programs, **A Prairie Christmas** and **Holiday Homecoming** from December 5-7. On Friday, December 5 from 9 am-3 pm we are pleased to offer our **A Prairie Christmas** school program. For Grades 1-4, students can make a craft, enjoy a puppet show, go on a sleigh ride (weather permitting), visit Santa, explore the Museum while on the Winter Wonderland scavenger hunt and get a treat to take home. The cost is only \$4.00 per student. All classes must pre-register by calling the Museum.

On Saturday, December 6 we celebrate **A Prairie Christmas** with families in the Battlefords and surrounding area. The WDM is open from 9 am-5 pm with special activities starting at noon.

- 12-5 pm Crafts, Games, Concession, Scavenger Hunts, Christmas Displays
- 12-2 pm Hot Dog & Marshmallow Roast
- 12-1 pm Sleigh Rides
- 12-1 pm Entertainer, Danica Lorier
Danica has performed in venues across Saskatchewan. She will be performing a Christmas-themed stage show with music and dancing.
- 1-2 pm Visit with Santa Claus
Face Painting
Sleigh Rides (weather permitting)
- 2-3 pm The Puppets of Christmas Past
Funtastic puppets take to the stage telling the Christmas story from the perspective of both people and animals. This humorous, interactive show is suitable for all ages.

Join us for the **Holiday Homecoming** on Sunday, December 7. Doors open at 9 am with entertainment from 12:30-5:30 pm. The day will be jam-packed with local entertainment. Entertainers include: Carmel Country, Jon Sloan & Friends, Keeping It Country, Country Cousins, Dale Updike and Homeward Bound. See our Christmas displays and check out *The Loft* gift shop for your Christmas shopping. Don't forget to buy your tickets for the *Great Escapes Vacation Raffle* and stove raffle. We will be picking the lucky winner of the stove raffle at 5 pm on December 7.

The Museum will be closed at 3 pm on December 24 and 31, and closed December 25 and 26 and January 1. Monday closings will also take place for the months of January, February and March. For more information on any North Battleford WDM events, please call 306-445-8033 or visit our website at wdm.ca. The Western Development Museum wishes everyone Happy Holidays and see you in the New Year!

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Azzopardi, Chair – Regina
Diana Ireland – Moose Jaw
Janice Hobbs – Saskatoon
Susan Lamb – Saskatoon

Dennis Naphin – Yorkton
Raymond Sadler – Biggar
Dave Whitehead – North Battleford

YORKTON WDM

By Carla Madsen, Education/Special Events Programmer



In 2013, students learned about past traditions while taking part in the **Celebrate Christmas Past** program at the Yorkton WDM.

WDM Photo, Carla Madsen

During a three week period in October, the Yorkton WDM hosted the **Smarter Science Better Buildings** program. Students from Yorkton and area used the opportunity to further enhance their study of the heat and temperature unit in the Grade 7 Science curriculum by interacting with hands-on workstations and exploring related artifacts throughout the Museum galleries. The program was very well received by both students and teachers alike and we look forward to its return next fall.

With the last of the fall leaves on the ground winter will soon be upon us, bringing the arrival of our annual **Celebrate Christmas Past** program. From November 24 - December 5 we will be welcoming preschool and elementary students to the Museum to experience the fun and excitement of an old-fashioned Christmas. Students will participate in a winter-themed scavenger hunt through the galleries, create a festive craft, and enjoy the crisp outdoors on a wagon ride given by members of the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club*. Many hours are donated by our elves who paint special ornaments for each child, fill goody bags and cookie trays, help in the craft room, and drive the tractor and wagon. We are grateful once again for the volunteer and financial assistance received from the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* and *Museum Explainers Group*.

The *York Colony Quilters Guild* continue to meet each Wednesday beginning at 10 am. They will be holding their holiday luncheon and social on December 17, then will take a break and return on January 7. Along with their weekly meetings, regular workshops are held throughout the year and new members are always welcome. For further information on the *Guild* and its activities, call Mary Ann Zuk at 306-782-2566.

Members of the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* enjoyed their year-end potluck supper on November 1. The Club's annual general meeting will be held on January 10 at 1:30 pm and anyone wishing to become a new member is welcome to attend. 2015 is a monumental year for the Club as it marks the 60th year of the **Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival**, which will take place on August 1 and 2. Look for more details on this special event in upcoming issues of *Sparks* and for more information on the Club please call the Museum at 306-783-8361.

Winter hours of operation for the Yorkton WDM are now in effect. The galleries and gift shop are open weekdays from 9 am-5 pm and weekends from 12-5 pm (closed on statutory holidays). The Museum will be closed at 3 pm on December 24 and 31, and closed December 25 and 26 and January 1. Monday closings will also take place for the months of January, February and March.

With the end of another year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, WDM members, and all of our visitors for their support and many contributions. Best wishes for the holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!



SASKATOON WDM

By Scott Whiting, Education/Public Programs Coordinator

The unseasonably warm weather we have enjoyed recently has made it difficult to think about winter, but the holiday season will soon be upon us. The staff and volunteers of the Saskatoon WDM have been hard work preparing for the busiest season of the year.

The **Eaton's Once Upon A Christmas** display is a perennial holiday favourite at the WDM, and our staff and volunteers have put the finishing touches on this historic storefront display. It will be on display until January 11, 2015. Boomtown is decked out in holiday style as we begin hosting Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 3 students for our very popular Christmas programs. In 2013, more than 4,000 schoolchildren took part in one of these three school Christmas programs.

The **Festival of Trees** will once again light up the Museum, with this year's event running from 9 am-9 pm daily, November 23-29. In 2014 the Festival will raise funds for the Saskatchewan MS Clinical Research Chair Campaign and the Breast Health Centre at Saskatoon City Hospital. The Festival of Trees Committee has a full slate of special events on offer and daily performances featuring local talent. The Boomtown Café will be open with daily lunch and supper specials. For more information about the Festival of Trees, including ticket information for special events, contact the Festival office at 306-384-9277 or visit their website at www.festival-of-trees.com.

Don't forget to include the WDM Gift Shop in your holiday shopping plans. The Gift Shop is open during regular Museum hours and will be holding its annual sale from November 14-16 with **Children's Shopping Day** on Saturday, November 15. WDM Members are invited to the **Members' Night** on Thursday, November 13 from 5-8 pm with a members-only preview of the Store Sale. The Café will be serving a Christmas Dinner special in two sittings at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and seniors and \$6.00 for children under 12 and must be purchased in advance from the Gift Shop.

The **Shaw Toy Tree** has returned to Boomtown Street. Anyone wishing to help brighten Christmas for those less fortunate is invited to leave a new, unwrapped toy under the tree. *Care and Share Saskatoon* will collect the toys and deliver them to children in need in our city. We would like to thank Museum members, volunteers and visitors along with Shaw for their ongoing support of this program.

The Museum will be closed at 3 pm on December 24 and 31, and closed December 25 and 26 and January 1. We will be closed on Mondays in January, February and March. For more information on these events or anything else at the Saskatoon WDM, please call us at 306-931-1910 or visit our website.

From all the staff and volunteers at the Saskatoon Western Development Museum, we wish you a happy holiday season and all the best for 2015!

THANK YOU MEMBERS

As members of the WDM, you are part of a network of people dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our provincial heritage. Through your membership purchase, you directly support projects in the four WDM exhibit branches and at the Curatorial Centre. Thank you for your support

When it comes time to renew your membership you can help us by tearing off the bottom perforated portion of your renewal letter and mailing it, along with payment, to the Curatorial Centre or take it to your favourite WDM branch.

Gift memberships are a great idea at this time of year! Gift memberships must be ordered before December 12, 2014 for Christmas delivery. Don't delay!

MOOSE JAW WDM

By Jackie Hall, Program/Education Officer

2014 just keeps flying by and soon Christmas will be upon us. At the Moose Jaw WDM, we kick off the Christmas season on Saturday, November 22 with **Kids' Secret Shopping Day** from 10 am-3 pm. Children 10 and under can play Santa. Gifts are all \$15.00 and under (cash only). With the help of a Christmas elf, children can find something for everyone on their list. There will be lots of other Christmas fun that day too. The Girl Guides provide **Breakfast with Mrs. Claus** from 9 am-11 am. Tickets are available from the Girl Guides or at the Moose Jaw WDM. You can also pick up your Christmas baking at the Girl Guides Bake Sale from 9 am-3 pm. And while Santa is too busy getting ready for Christmas to come all the way to Moose Jaw you can talk to him via shortwave radio thanks to the *Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club* from 10 am-3 pm.

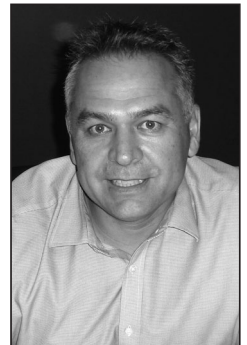
Don't forget to stop by the Museum Store while Christmas shopping this year. The Museum Store carries a varied selection of transportation-related clothing and giftware as well as licensed *Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds* clothing and toys.

If you are in Moose Jaw be sure to stop by to see **The Noble Experiment: Temperance and Prohibition in Canada** on loan from the Peterborough Museum and Archives. Canadians have been arguing about alcohol for at least two hundred years. This bilingual exhibit, explores the debate that affected Canadians on every level from their own homes to the national and international stages. It is a story of crime and smuggling, of action and danger, of humour and morality. The Noble Experiment will be in Moose Jaw until January 25, 2015 before moving to the Saskatoon WDM for February and March.

We are open most days through the holiday season, but will close at 3 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. We will be closed all day Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Starting in January we are open 9 am-5 pm Tuesday-Sunday (closed Mondays from January through March). All the best for the season and we hope to see you at the Museum.

WDM WELCOMES NEW STAFF

At the Curatorial Centre, we welcome Kerry Lubchenko as Director of Marketing. Kerry obtained Marketing and Psychology degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and has worked in marketing and promotions for several years. Born and raised in Saskatoon, Kerry is proud to call Saskatchewan home. He is excited to be at the WDM as, "everyday there is something new to see, do, discover and learn." When asked what he hoped to accomplish at the WDM Kerry said, "I want everyone who visits our Museum to discover and fall in love with the WDM the same way our staff, members and volunteers have." We welcome Kerry, and his energy and enthusiasm, to the WDM.



Kerry Lubchenko
WDM Photo

The Saskatoon WDM welcomes Katrina Howick as acting Museum Technician during Julie Jackson's maternity leave. Katrina, a native of Moose Jaw, comes with a knowledge of the WDM after working as a summer student at the Moose Jaw WDM in 2008 and 2009. Most recently, Katrina worked as Director/Curator at the Souris Valley Museum in Estevan. Katrina holds a B.A. in Archeology from the University of Saskatchewan and a Masters in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester, UK. She is an animal lover who brings a bird, a cat and a dog to her new home in Saskatoon. Katrina is excited to be back at the WDM. Welcome back Katrina!



Katrina Howick
Katrina Howick Photo



UPCOMING EVENTS

MOOSE JAW WDM

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

Aug. 4-Nov. 10 **100 Years Ago: Remembering WWI** exhibit
Sept.-Jan. 25, 2015 **The Noble Experiment** exhibit from Peterborough Museum and Archives
November 11 CLOSED for Remembrance Day
November 22 **Kids' Secret Shopping / Shortwave to Santa**
December 24 CLOSED at 3pm
December 25-26 CLOSED
December 31 CLOSED at 3 pm
January 1, 2015 CLOSED
January - March CLOSED Mondays

NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

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

November 11 CLOSED for Remembrance Day
December 1-April **100 Years Ago: Remembering WWI** exhibit
December 6-7 **A Prairie Christmas**
December 12-13 **Community Christmas Parties**
December 24 CLOSED at 3pm
December 25-26 CLOSED
December 31 CLOSED at 3 pm
January 1, 2015 CLOSED
January - March CLOSED Mondays

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

Aug. 4- Nov. 10 **100 Years Ago: Remembering WWI** exhibit
Sept.-April 2015 **Big Bert** exhibit on loan from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum
November 11 CLOSED for Remembrance Day
November 14-16 **Museum Store Sale**
November 15 **Children's Shopping Day**
November 23-29 **Festival of Trees** 9 am-9 pm
December 24 CLOSED at 3pm
December 25-26 CLOSED
December 31 CLOSED at 3 pm
January 1, 2015 CLOSED
January - March CLOSED Mondays

YORKTON WDM

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

Aug. 4- Nov. 10 **100 Years Ago: Remembering WWI** exhibit
November 11 CLOSED for Remembrance Day
December 14 **Sleigh Rides**
December 21 **Sleigh Rides**
December 24 CLOSED at 3pm
December 25-26 CLOSED
December 31 CLOSED at 3 pm
January 1, 2015 CLOSED
January - March CLOSED Mondays

WDM CURATORIAL CENTRE

Call 306-934-1400 for information.

February 27-28, 2015 Introduction to Sculptural Beadwork
March 10-24, 2015 (Tues & Thurs) Intermediate Sculptural Beadwork

GIVE GIFTS OF SASKATCHEWAN

Shop at one of the four WDM gift shops to find unique Saskatchewan gifts.

Gift Cards - Gift cards from \$5 to \$250 spread the joy of shopping at WDM gift shops and the Boomtown Café in the Saskatoon WDM.

WDM Memberships - Free Museum admission in all four WDM locations, discounts, special invitations, *Sparks Off the Anvil* newsletter.

Heirloom Recipes - *From Saskatchewan Homemakers' Kitchens* - a reprint of the Saskatchewan Women's Institute much-loved 1955 Golden Jubilee cookbook - \$9.95 plus gst.

Training Courses - A rare opportunity to learn skills in blacksmithing or sculptural beadwork. See Training Courses at wdm.ca



COMING SOON

The George Shepherd Library at the Curatorial Centre has an amazing collection of books, brochures and pamphlets with Saskatchewan connections. Would you like the ability to browse or search the 10,000 catalogue entries from the George Shepherd Library?

Yes, it's coming soon.

We are editing our new library software and once we have completed this task, we will open up the PAC (public access catalogue). Stay tuned for the announcement of the launch date.

ARTIFACT DONORS

Recently, the WDM received donations of artifacts from:

Bertha Carnegie – Vanscoy	Gene & Phyllis Kemp – Saskatoon
Heather Carswell – Saskatoon	Vern Larson – Saskatoon
Thom Cholowski – Saskatoon	Margaret McLean – North Battleford
Maureen Cline – Saskatoon	Louise Mock – Saskatoon
Emily Coutts – Saskatoon	Neil Pechey – Saskatoon
Corinne Daelick – Martensville	Diana Savage – Saskatoon
Bob Downey – Saskatoon	Marilyn Sills – Moose Jaw
John Dubets – Saskatoon	Robert Wilcox – Regina
Patricia Hoey – Rosthern	
Del Huyghebaert – Saskatoon	

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*.

Sparks Off The Anvil is published six times a year by the Western Development Museum Curatorial Centre, 2935 Lorne Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7J 0S5. Copyright 2014 Western Development Museum. Phone 306-934-1400 Fax 306-934-4467 Email: info@wdm.ca Website: wdm.ca Please direct all comments to the editors. The WDM is a network of four museums located at Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton. Supported by the Province of Saskatchewan.

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