



# SPARKS OFF THE ANVIL<sup>®</sup>



Newsletter Of The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum

July – August 2015 Volume 39, Edition 4

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

By Joan Champ

### WDM Collections Curator Receives National Recognition



Ruth Bitner (centre) receives a 2015 Award of Distinguished Service from CMA Vice-President Gerry Osmond and President Manon Blanchette, April 15, 2015. *CMA Photo*

The entire Western Development Museum has been beaming with pride ever since Ruth Bitner was presented a 2015 Award of Distinguished Service at the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) National Conference in Banff on April 15. The CMA promotes and fosters the advancement of the national museum sector and represents Canadian museum professionals both within Canada and internationally.

Ruth has been the head of the WDM's collections department since 1977. When she began her career at the WDM, artifact record-keeping consisted of hand-written ledgers recording a bare minimum of facts. Many artifacts were dropped off at the Museum doors without any history or background information at all. Incomplete records from the WDM's early days have been updated, and this "forensic" work continues. Over the past 35 years, Ruth and her staff implemented a computerized inventory management system for the WDM's nearly 80,000 artifacts.

Under Ruth's watch, the WDM has expanded the depth and breadth of its collection through the acquisition of thousands of artifacts. She fostered new directions for the collection, including the acquisition of hundreds of examples of Saskatchewan innovation. Ruth's involvement with Canadian Heritage Information Network established the WDM as a

major player in Canada in the field of cataloguing standardization and inventory management. Her involvement with the national inventory program was beneficial not only to the WDM; it also provided considerable constructive input to the development and enhancement of national collections standards.

In her quest for excellence in museum collections management, Ruth's knowledge of Saskatchewan's history grew. Her knowledge now serves as a cornerstone of the Museum's effectiveness as the custodian of Saskatchewan's contemporary human history. Building on her collections work, Ruth has published dozens of articles, contributed to books about the Museum collection, and curated a number of exhibits about the history of Saskatchewan. Most notably, she co-curated (with Leslee Newman) the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits at Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton. Her curatorial work and publications are just part of the legacy of Ruth's leadership in the field of collections management.

Ruth continues to be a thoughtful agent of change at the WDM, especially as it relates to the management of the WDM's artifacts. She is a dedicated and instrumental leader in the continuing efforts to keep the Museum's collection relevant, accessible and safe. On behalf of the WDM's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, I congratulate Ruth Bitner for this well-deserved national award.

### Fire at the Fort Pelly-Livingstone Museum

The Village of Pelly and the entire province suffered an irreplaceable loss when the Fort Pelly-Livingstone Museum went up in flames during the afternoon of June 13. The RCMP believes the fire was deliberately set. The entire museum building and the adjacent railway boxcar were completely destroyed, along with thousands of artifacts. The Western Development Museum extends its sympathies to the Fort Pelly-Livingstone Museum's board of directors, as well as to the community of Pelly. This fire reminds us of the importance of museums, and also of the need for museums to have emergency plans in place to prevent or minimize damage resulting from either man-made or natural disasters.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE WDM

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

July 12 – September 27, 2015  
Moose Jaw WDM

The exhibit examines Arctic exploration past and present, and profiles the mysteries of the Franklin Expedition of 1845, when an entire crew vanished during an ill-fated search for the Northwest Passage. 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*.

This project is funded (in part) by the Government of Canada.

### Canada: Day 1 From the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

July 26 – December 6, 2015  
Saskatoon WDM

Do you, a family member, or a friend remember your first impressions of Canada? *Canada: Day 1* explores the multifaceted experiences of newcomers on their first day of arrival in Canada, spanning from Confederation to present day.

*Canada: Day 1* is a travelling exhibition produced by the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 as a legacy project of our nation's 150th anniversary in 2017 and supported by RBC Foundation.

### FEED Mindy Yan Miller

August 16 – November 15, 2015  
North Battleford WDM

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 as a way of conserving and maximizing the (over) production of clothes.





## MONKEY BUSINESS

Hey Kids - Monkey Business is back at the Saskatoon WDM! The Museum Monkey is on the loose and he's wanted for monkey business – we need your help to find him!

Until August 30, while visiting the Museum, be on the lookout for the monkey. He could be hiding way up high or way down low!

If you spot the monkey fill out an entry form and enter it in the draw box. If your answer is right you could win your very own Museum Sock Monkey handmade by the WDM Women's Auxiliary.

The monkey's hiding spot changes every week. Good luck!

## SASKATOON WDM

By Scott Whiting, Education/Public Programs Coordinator



The Saskatoon WDM is fortunate to have a great group of volunteers who help bring Boomtown to life as Museum interpreters. *WDM Photo*

The staff and volunteers of the Saskatoon WDM are already hard at work as the summer season begins. Along with **Pion-Era**, our biggest event of the summer, the Museum is featuring daily activities from June 27-August 23. Every afternoon will offer something to discover from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

- Mondays: Pioneer Demonstration
- Tuesdays: WDM Women's Auxiliary
- Wednesdays: Pioneer Demonstration
- Thursdays: Morse Telegraphers
- Fridays: Discovery Box Program
- Saturdays: Themed Craft & Activities
- Sundays: Horse & Wagon Rides and Blacksmiths in the Shop

Come say hello to our Museum volunteers as they stroll Boomtown Street in their finest 1910 apparel.

Do you have family visiting from out of town this summer? Bring them down to the WDM for a taste of our Saskatchewan heritage, enjoy a treat in the Boomtown Café or shop for a souvenir in the Gift Shop. Want a unique family photo or memento of your visit? Visit the Boomtown Photo Studio. Get dressed up in period clothing and pose for an old-fashioned group portrait! The Photo Studio now features some new studio props and will be open daily in July and August. Photo Studio hours are Monday-Friday from 1-5 pm and 9 am-5 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The Gift Shop and Café are open during regular Museum hours. For more information call 306-931-1910.

We extend a warm welcome to Lexi Edmunds who has joined our staff for the summer. Lexi will be helping with public programs as well as working occasionally in the Boomtown Photo Studio.

The Museum is open seven days a week from 9 am-5 pm.

## YORKTON WDM

By Carla Madsen, Education/Public Programs Coordinator

July 15 is the date for one of our annual summer favourites, **Museum Day**. Children are able to get hands-on experience with pioneer activities like ice cream and buttermaking, and our young guests will also enjoy old-fashioned games, crafts, stories and scavenger hunts through the Museum galleries. This year we are especially excited to welcome the SGI Safety Patrol as it promotes safety for children and young families on the road, at home and at play. Museum Day activities will run from 1-4 pm.

Our last **Movies at the Museum** event for the summer takes place on July 19. Join us at 2 pm to view new videos from the Yorkton Film Festival 2015 entries and enjoy a taste of homemade ice cream.

**Discovery Box Family Programming** has three remaining dates on our events calendar. The July 12 and August 16 editions will feature *Seneca Roots and Saskatoons – Traditional Medicines in Saskatchewan* and July 26 will highlight *Tell Me a Story – First Nations Storytelling in Saskatchewan*. Each event begins at 2 pm.

Fast approaching is the 60th **Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival** on August 1-2. The Museum galleries are open at 9 am each day, with Saturday's events beginning at 12:30 pm and Sunday's events starting at 11 am. Sunday also features a hearty pancake breakfast at 9 am. Demonstrations happening throughout both days include grain grinding, threshing, clay oven bread baking, sawmill operation, blacksmithing, quilting and ice cream making. Visitors are encouraged to take part in the stoking competitions, and especially for kids, the pedal tractor pulls. The Museum's back field will be the site of the *Story of Harvest* on Saturday and the plowing demonstration on Sunday. This year's special exhibit will feature a reflective look back on *60 Years of the Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival and the Yorkton Threshermen's Club*. Other highlights this year include the hobby and handicraft sale, antique tractor and auto shows, variety entertainment and horsedrawn rides.

One of the benefits of having a WDM membership is free admission to the Show & Festival! For non-members, admission rates are \$12 per day, \$22 for both days, or a family day pass can be purchased for \$25. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult. Admission includes access to all events and demonstrations as well as Museum gallery entrance. Call the Museum at 306-783-8361 for more details.

Kids who enjoy Museum Day and would like to stay "back in time" are welcome to sign up for **Children's Pioneer Days**. The program will run August 11-13 from 10 am-2 pm each day and is open to boys and girls between the ages of 9-12. We have a full agenda of activities planned including crafts and games, cooking, pioneer projects and more. It will be a blast! The cost is \$45 per child for WDM members and \$60 per child for non-members. Registration is limited to 12 participants. For further information or to enroll your child, please call the Museum.

An event to honour **Grandparents' Day** will be held on September 13. From 12-5 pm, we are inviting grandchildren to bring their grandparents for a time of reminiscing and sharing stories while viewing our gallery exhibits.

Welcome to Dominica Musqua who joined our summer staff in June. We hope that all of our summer students will find working at the WDM a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

The Yorkton WDM is open from 9 am to 5 pm daily until August 9. Fall hours begin on August 10 with the gift shop and galleries open from 9 am to 5 pm weekdays and 12 to 5 pm on weekends, closed statutory holidays.



# MOOSE JAW WDM

By Jackie Hall, Program/Education Officer

There is a lot going on at the Moose Jaw WDM this summer. Register your children for one of the summer camps as they are filling up fast. Five to eight year olds can become swashbucklers at **Pirate Camp** on July 16 or 23 or live like an astronaut at **Space Camp** on July 30 or August 6. On August 13, our last camp of the summer is a surprise. The **It's a Surprise Camp** will include mystery and fun activities for young campers. All camps run from 10 am-4 pm. Please bring your own brown bag lunch. The cost is \$50 per camp for members and \$55 per camp for non-members. Pre-registration is required. Call 306-693-5989 for more information or to register.

*Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship* opens on July 12. From the Canada Museum of Science and Technology, this exhibit highlights recent archaeological discoveries of the doomed Franklin expedition to find the Northwest Passage.

July 19 is the **Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group Show and Shine**. We are all looking forward to the return of **Brickspo**, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Lego Users Group (SLUG), the weekend of July 25-26. What can be done with Lego and imagination is inspiring. New this year, SLUG is hosting a kids' building contest for 8-14 year olds on July 25. For information about the kids' building contest visit [sasklegousersgroup.yolasite.com/brickspo](http://sasklegousersgroup.yolasite.com/brickspo). On August 1-2 we will be celebrating **Saskatchewan Day** with local artists and authors showcasing Saskatchewan's vibrant culture.

Our summer winds down with **Blow Off Some Steam at the WDM** on August 15. Experience live steam, model steam and a variety of demonstrations and activities to show how important steam was in the settlement of Saskatchewan. We hope to see you in Moose Jaw.



Amazing Lego creations will be on display at Brickspo at the Moose Jaw WDM, July 25-26.

WDM Photo

# NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Cheryl Stewart-Rahm, Education/Volunteer Coordinator

The **Heritage Farm and Village Kids' Day Camp** will take place from July 20-24 and is open to 7-10 year olds. The camp aims to put kids in the shoes of early Saskatchewan pioneers with activities all around the village - from the barn and fields to the school house.

You don't want to miss one of North Battleford's most anticipated summer events, **Those Were the Days**, August 8-9. There is something to see and do for the whole family. Don't miss free flap jacks with your admission from 9 am-11 am both days. Children will enjoy the children's activities, dog show, petting zoo and, new this year, miniature horses and fancy drill. For the older crowd, check out the trade show and WDM Volunteer Association garage sale. There are also old favourites such as vintage auto and wagon rides, pioneer competitions and Heritage Village demonstrations. The history of early 20th century agriculture is told in the *Story of Threshing* while each day wraps up with the *Parade of Power* showcasing steam, gas and horsedrawn vehicles at 5 pm. If you need a place to sit down and relax why not join us for great entertainment taking place inside the Museum.

Daily admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and students, and 12 & under are free when accompanied by an adult. Family passes are \$35. Weekend admission is \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students, and 12 & under free when accompanied by an adult. The weekend family pass is \$50.

To close out the summer we will be kicking up our heels with a family **Barn Dance** on September 18 from 7-11 pm. Music will be provided by Leon Ochs and Friends. Don't know how to dance - don't worry. Directions for old-fashioned dance steps including group dances will be offered. There will be a food concession and a non-alcoholic bar open all evening. Advance tickets are \$10 or \$15 at the door. For more information please call 306-445-8033.

The North Battleford WDM welcomes Bob Carnahan to our summer staff. Thanks to the Canadian Museums Association and Service Canada for the funding that helps us employ students for the summer.

We hope you will include our Heritage Village in your vacation plans and join us for our sizzling summer lineup of events.

## ARTIFACT DONORS

Recently, the WDM received donations of artifacts from:

Don Bader – Regina	Kathy Inglis – Sylvan Lake, AB
Scott Edwards – Nipawin	Flora Nelson – Saskatoon
Kristine Flynn – Martensville	Sandy Sorsdahl – Saskatoon
Marie Victoria Gibbs – Moose Jaw	

## 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](mailto: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*.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MOOSE JAW WDM

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

May-October *100 Years Ago: Remembering WWI* exhibit  
July 12-Sept. 27 *Echoes in the Ice* exhibit - Canada Science and Technology Museum  
July 16 *Pirate Camp\**  
July 19 *Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group Show N Shine*  
July 23 *Pirate Camp\**  
July 25-26 *Brickspo - Saskatchewan Lego Users Group Show*  
July 30 *Space Camp\**  
August 1-2 *Saskatchewan Day* programming  
August 6 *Space Camp\**  
August 13 *It's A Surprise Camp\**  
August 15 *Blow Off Some Steam at the WDM*

## NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

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

July 20-24 *Heritage Farm & Village Kids' Camp\**  
August 8-9 *Those Were The Days*  
Aug. 16-Nov. 15 *FEED* by Mindy Yan Miller exhibit  
September 18 *Barn Dance*

## 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

June 27-Aug. 23 Daily *Museum Activities* 1:30-3:30 pm  
July 11-12 *Pion-Era 2015*  
July 26-Dec. 6 *Canada: Day 1* exhibit - Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

## YORKTON WDM

June 22 to August 9: Open 9 am-5 pm Daily  
August 10 to mid-June 2016: Open 9 am-5 pm Monday-Friday and 12-5 pm weekends  
Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*  
Call 306-783-8361 for information

July 12 *Discovery Box Family Programming* 2 pm  
July 15 *Museum Day* 1-4 pm  
July 19 *Movies at the Museum* 2 pm  
July 26 *Discovery Box Family Programming* 2 pm  
August 1-2 *60th Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival*  
August 11-13 *Children's Pioneer Days\**  
August 16 *Discovery Box Family Programming* 2 pm  
September 13 *Grandparents' Day*

## WDM CURATORIAL CENTRE TRAINING COURSES

Call 306-934-1400 for information  
Aug. 22-23, 29-30,  
Sept. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20 *Steam Traction Engine Operation\**  
Sept. 26-27 *Steam Locomotive Operation\**

\*Pre-registration required

# THE SOUND OF SUMMER



The calliope was a favourite at the Spiritwood Heritage Hoopla, June 5, 2015.  
WDM Photo, Ken Lorenz

The whistles of the WDM calliope have been a familiar sound to Saskatchewan parade-goers for years. The WDM is fortunate to have one of only two operating calliopes in all of Canada. For anyone unfamiliar with the calliope, it is a steam-powered musical instrument that resembles a large piano on a wagon. The calliope uses pressurized steam through whistles to produce sound. A musician riding on the calliope presses large keys to create music. Each summer the calliope is heard around Saskatchewan thanks to steam engineer Ken Lorenz and musician Arlene Shiplett.

This summer you can hear the calliope at the following events:

July 11-12: Saskatoon WDM - Pion-Era 2015  
August 1-2: Yorkton WDM - Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival  
August 4: Saskatoon Exhibition Parade  
August 10: 128th Annual Northwest Territorial Days Parade, North Battleford  
August 15: Moose Jaw WDM - Blow Off Some Steam at the WDM

The calliope has performed in many Saskatchewan locations over the years, and was a summer-long attraction in Vancouver during Expo '86. Learn more about the WDM steam calliope at [wdm.ca](http://wdm.ca).

## 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

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