



SPARKS OFF THE ANVIL[®]



Newsletter Of The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum

June – July 2015 Volume 39, Edition 3

Editors: Corinne Daelick & Kristine Flynn

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO *By Joan Champ*

Museums Never Change – Or Do They? New Exhibits at the WDM

We often hear people say, “Museums never change.” The reality is that all museums strive to be relevant – looking for ways to update and enliven their exhibits, keeping them interesting for today’s audiences. The Western Development Museum is no exception and has a number of new offerings for its visitors this summer.

Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin’s Ships



The *Echoes In The Ice* exhibit will be on display at the Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Saskatoon WDMs in 2015 and early 2016.

WDM Photo

The WDM is excited and proud to be the first museum in Canada to host the travelling exhibit, *Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin’s Ships*. This newly refurbished exhibit is a co-production of the Canada Science and Technology Museum and Gone West Productions in Ottawa. It is currently on exhibit at the Saskatoon WDM until July 5 and then it will be moving to the Moose Jaw WDM where it will be on display from July 12-September 27.

Ever since explorers began searching for a Northwest Passage over 400 years ago, the Arctic has been a fascinating and important area of study – rich with drama, adventure and even tragedy. *Echoes in the Ice* uses artifacts, images, audiovisual presentation and art to examine Arctic exploration past and present, profiling explorers involved in the search for the Northwest Passage. The recent discovery of the wreck of the *Erebus*, one of the Franklin Expedition ships, is a significant archaeological and historical achievement. Parks Canada divers are currently exploring this wreck so we can expect to learn more about the mysteries of this 1845 expedition when the crew vanished.

FEED by Mindy Yan Miller



The Saskatoon WDM is hosting a unique exhibit by local artist Mindy Yan Miller, on now until August 9. In *FEED*, Yan

Miller takes a familiar agricultural form – the hay bale – and replaces the hay with textiles. The hay bale, a method of conserving and maximizing crop production, is reimagined as a way of conserving and maximizing the (over) production of clothing.

FEED will be featured at the North Battleford WDM from August 16-November 15.

Edwards Funeral Home



Edwards Funeral Home at the Saskatoon WDM.

WDM Photo

Opened on May 30 at the Saskatoon WDM, this new addition to Boomtown will be in keeping with the representation of a typical Saskatchewan town around 1910. As towns and villages grew in the young province there was a need for undertakers. Many Saskatchewan funeral home businesses began during the period between 1910 and 1920. Funeral home operators often began as hardware store owners or furniture makers. They were required to step in and build coffins and eventually began to arrange funerals to fill a need in their communities.

This new exhibit has been made possible by a generous donation from the W. A. Edwards family. Most of the artifacts and furnishings in the funeral home were also donated by the Edwards family which has been in the funeral business in Saskatoon since 1910 – for five generations.

I am confident that visitors to the Saskatoon WDM will find the *Edwards Funeral Home* exhibit both educational and thought-provoking. The WDM, like all museums, is a comfortable and safe place in which to discuss all kinds of subjects. Perhaps this exhibit will spark conversations about death that are difficult to hold elsewhere and will help people understand some of the traditions and practices of the funeral business.

Watch for more travelling and new exhibits at the four WDMs in the months and years to come. The WDM continues to work hard to showcase Saskatchewan’s – and Canada’s – rich history in ways that our visitors will find meaningful.

SASKATOON WDM

By Scott Whiting, Education/Public Programs Coordinator

On June 20, the WDM parking lot will roar to life with sound of hundreds of motorcycles as we once again serve as the starting point for the **TELUS Motorcycle Ride for Dad**. This annual fundraiser for prostate cancer research kicks off with a pancake breakfast at the WDM. Last year's rally raised more than \$120,000.

It may seem that spring has just begun, but WDM staff are always thinking a season ahead and preparations for our biggest event of the summer are well underway. **Pion-Era 2015**, July 11 & 12, will offer family fun and activities for all ages. *The Story of Threshing* is a first-hand look back into Saskatchewan's farming history with a live demonstration of harvest methods and machines using gas, steam and horsepower. Each afternoon following the show, steam and gas machinery from the Museum's collection and private collectors will be featured in the *Parade of Power*.

The Kids' Tent is a popular fixture at Pion-Era and will once again be joined by a petting zoo with pony rides for young visitors. The Kids' Tent opens at 10:30 am both days with crafts, activities and old-fashioned games in Boomtown Park. Pion-Era also features live musical entertainment on Boomtown Street featuring Malcolm Foster and Company, James Steele and One-Eyed Cat. Back by popular demand, Johnny Cash tribute Cash Back will be the feature entertainment at the Sunday Brunch on July 12.

Saturday events will start with a pancake breakfast from 9 am-11:30 am in Butler Byers Century Hall. On Sunday, the day will begin with the *Hymn Sing and Church Service* on Boomtown Street at 10 am, followed by the Sunday Brunch. Doors for the brunch will open immediately following the church service with brunch being served at 11:30 am. Brunch tickets are \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Brunch tickets must be purchased in advance from the Museum Gift Shop. Space is limited so pick up your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Don't forget to stop by Grandma's Kitchen where the *Women's Auxiliary* volunteers are serving up tasty homemade bread and jam. Grandma's Kitchen and our Food Booths open at 10 am on both days.

Children aged 7-10 are invited to take a step back in time with our **Living History Young Pioneer Camps**, 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 1-4:30 pm from Monday - Friday. The registration fee is \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members. For more information, visit our website or contact our Education Department at 306-931-1910 or via e-mail at saskatoon.ed@wdm.ca.

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

YORKTON WDM

By Carla Madsen, Education/Special Events Programmer

Father's Day will be celebrated with a special afternoon at the Yorkton WDM on June 21 from 2-4 pm. Gentlemen in attendance will receive a special gift and will be entered in door prize draws, and everyone is invited to join us for complimentary donuts and refreshments. While here, it is the perfect opportunity to spend some quality time with your family touring the galleries and sharing your own history together.

Our summer programming series continues with **Discovery Box Family Programming and Movies at the Museum** events. Upcoming **Discovery Box** programs will be on July 12 (featuring "Seneca Roots and Saskatoons") and July 26 ("Tell Me a Story"). Recently released entries from the 2015 Yorkton Film Festival will be shown on June 7, June 28, July 5 and July 19 during **Movies at the Museum**. All events begin at 2 pm.

Canada's 148th birthday will be celebrated in style at our annual **Good Old-Fashioned Family Picnic** on July 1. The WDM will again be teaming up with Tourism Yorkton and the Department of Canadian Heritage to host this fun-filled event from 12-4 pm. Everyone is invited to join us for live musical and dance entertainment, novelty booths, games and races, rides, displays and much more. Free birthday cake will be served and concessions will be open throughout the afternoon with traditional picnic fare. An opening ceremony will be held at 12:30 pm with a colour party of pipers, RCMP, Legion members and local dignitaries. Admission to the grounds is FREE for everyone and WDM members also enjoy the benefit of free admission to the Museum galleries. Celebrate our country's birthday with us and show your Canadian spirit!

Museum Day will be held on July 15 from 1-4 pm. Children will learn about pioneer life by taking part in activities like butter and ice cream making as well as some fun crafts, old-fashioned games, stories and Museum tours. Watch the WDM website for scheduling details to be announced. Children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult paying admission. WDM members also enjoy free admission – another one of your membership benefits!

The 60th **Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival** is fast approaching on August 1 & 2. This year's special exhibit will honour the diamond anniversaries of the Show & Festival and the Yorkton Threshermen's Club.



Face painting at Canada Day 2014 at the Yorkton WDM.

WDM Photo

The organizing groups – including the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club*, *East Central Seniors' Inc.* and *Yorkton Antique Auto Association* – are gearing up and looking forward to another great event.

For the sixth year we will be offering the **Children's Pioneer Days** program, running from 10 am-2 pm each day from August 11-13. Boys and girls between the ages of 9-12 can join us for this camp offering fun and educational pioneer activities. The program will be limited to 12 participants and pre-registration is required. Registrations will be accepted starting July 6.

Until June 21, our Museum hours are 9 am-5 pm weekdays and 12-5 pm weekends. Summer hours will commence on June 22 when the galleries and gift shop will be open from 9 am-5 pm daily.



NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Cheryl Stewart-Rahm, Education/Volunteer Coordinator

In June we will host our annual school event **Museum Days**, June 11 & 12. Schools from Saskatchewan and Alberta will be participating in demonstrations, crafts and activities. Students learn about pioneer life in 1920s Saskatchewan with the help of over 50 Museum volunteers. Teachers interested in attending with their Kindergarten - Grade 7 classes are asked to call Cheryl to register.

June 20 is **Family Day** at the North Battleford WDM. With the help of our amazing volunteers, families can experience old-fashioned activities mixed with modern-day games and shows. Activities include a petting zoo, dog show, wagon and fire truck rides, balloon-tying, waterpark and bouncy castles, crafts, summer games and scavenger hunts. The Heritage Village and Farm as well as our indoor galleries are open throughout the day too. Thanks to Innovation Credit Union, our primary sponsor of this annual family event.

We look forward to welcoming staff from the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society's **ArchaeoCaravan Program** on July 8. Visitors are invited to join in hands-on activities and crafts. This is an exciting partnership at the Museum, where visitors can explore and connect ancient and modern-day history.

The **Heritage Farm and Village Kids' Day Camp** will take place from July 20-24 from 11 am-4:30 pm daily. For 7-10 year olds, the camp aims to put children in the shoes of early Saskatchewan pioneers with activities throughout the village from the barn to the fields to the schoolhouse. Children can register for a day or for the whole week. The weekly fee is \$150 for WDM members and \$160 for non-members. The daily fee is \$40/day for WDM members and \$45/day for non-members.

Thank you to the BATC Community Development Corporation who



The BATC Development Corporation Board of Directors present a donation cheque to WDM staff to assist with purchase of tables and chairs.

WDM Photo

provided funding for the purchase of new tables and chairs for the North Battleford WDM. The light, durable tables have replaced the heavy, wooden tables that have been used for several years. The tables and chairs are a great addition to our meeting and banquet rooms.

Best wishes and safe travels from all the staff at the North Battleford WDM for the summer. We hope you will include our village in your vacation plans and join us for our sizzling lineup of summer events.

MOOSE JAW WDM

By Jackie Hall, Program/Education Officer

We are looking forward to a busy summer with school groups and visitors from across the province and beyond.

Starting July 2 and running every Thursday until August 13, we will be offering our summer camps for 5-8 year olds. Four fun-filled camp themes will be offered - **Pioneer Camp**, **Pirate Camp**, **Space Camp** and on August 13, **It's A Surprise**. We can't tell you what you will be doing but we know you will have fun. All camps require pre-registration so be sure to register early as space is limited.

Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship, an exhibit from the Canada Science and Technology Museum, opens on July 12. This exhibit highlights recent archaeological discoveries from the doomed crew of the Franklin expedition who disappeared in 1845 while searching for the Northwest Passage.

July is a busy month as we welcome back the **Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group Show and Shine** on July 19. We are also looking forward to the return of **Brickspo**, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Lego Users Group (SLUG), on July 25 & 26. Come and check out some amazing creations built by local Lego enthusiasts. For more information visit the SLUG website at <http://sasklegousersgroup.yolasite.com/brickspo.php>.

New this year is our steam-themed summer event, **Blow Off Some Steam At The WDM**, taking place on August 15. Experience live steam, model steam and a variety of demonstrations and activities to show how important steam was in the development of Saskatchewan.

See you in Moose Jaw!

STAFF CHANGES

In the past few months we have bid farewell to some familiar faces, welcomed back others and have seen some staff move into new roles. Garry Hayes, Collections Assistant at the Curatorial Centre has retired after 30 years with the WDM. Welcome back to Heather Englebert who has returned to the Collections Department following a one-year leave of absence. Melissa Stus, who was filling in for Heather, will take over the position vacated by Garry.

Also at the Curatorial Centre, Diana Savage, Exhibits Assistant, will be away on a one-year maternity leave. While Diana is away, Brian Johnsrude will fill in moving from a part-time Exhibits Assistant position to full-time.

Gene Barlow, who worked for 28 years in grounds maintenance and exhibits care at the Saskatoon WDM, retired on March 31. A warm welcome goes out to Bryan Schmidt who has taken over from Gene. Bryan was born in Manitoba but grew up in the Rosthern area where he continues to live. He has a strong connection to farm life and enjoys working with old machines as they take him back to a simpler time. Bryan is excited to be at the WDM. He says, "For me to be able to work at a Museum is one the best things that could happen as I'm working alongside others with similar interests and knowledge."



Bryan Schmidt

WDM Photo

Sarah Engen will continue as Education/Public Programs Assistant at the Saskatoon WDM. Sarah has been at the WDM since May 2014 filling in while Melissa Stus was working at the Curatorial Centre. Melissa's permanent move to the Curatorial Centre made room for Sarah to join our Saskatoon staff permanently.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MOOSE JAW WDM

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

July-October *100 Years Ago: Remembering WWI* exhibit
July 2 **Pioneer Camp***
July 9 **Pioneer Camp***
July 12-Sept. *Echoes in the Ice* exhibit - Canada Science and Technology Museum
July 16 **Pirate Camp***
July 19 **Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group Show and Shine**
July 23 **Pirate Camp***
July 25-26 **Brickspo** - Saskatchewan Lego Users Group Show
July 30 **Space Camp***
August 6 **Space Camp***
August 13 **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

June 20 Innovation Credit Union presents **Family Day**
July 8 **ArchaeoCaravan** - Saskatchewan Archaeological Society
July 20-24 **Heritage Farm & Village Kids' Camp***
August 8-9 **Those Were The Days**
August- November *FEED* exhibit by Mindy Yan Miller

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-June 30 *FEED* exhibit by Mindy Yan Miller
April-July 5 *Echoes in the Ice* exhibit - Canada Science and Technology Museum
June 20 **TELUS Motorcycle Ride for Dad**
July 11-12 **Pion-Era 2015**
July 20-24 **Living History Young Pioneer Camp***
July 26-December *Canada: Day 1* exhibit - Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
July 27-31 **Living History Young Pioneer Camp ***

YORKTON WDM

Until **June 21**: Open 9 am-5 pm M-F and 12-5 pm weekends
June 22 to mid-August: Open 9 am-5 pm Daily
Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*
Call 306-783-8361 for information

June 21 **Father's Day** 2-4 pm
June 28 **Movies at the Museum** 2 pm
July 1 **Canada Day Picnic** 12-4 pm
July 5 **Movies at the Museum** 2 pm
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

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

continued from page 3

And welcome to our new crew of students whose smiling faces you will be seeing around our Museums this summer. Welcome Rachael Feist, Becky Greenwald, Quenten Navarre and Kaitlyn Puffalt to the North Battleford WDM; Breanna Sanson, Daniel Odendaal, and Joseph Jakubowski to the Moose Jaw WDM; Tyla Betke and Nicole Steernberg to the Saskatoon WDM and Lea Burnard and Matthew McKee to the Yorkton WDM. Thank you to the Canadian Museums Association's *Young Canada Works* program and Service Canada's *Canada Summer Jobs* program for the grants that allow us to give these students valuable museum work experience.

Thank you and best of luck to Gene and Garry! Congratulations and welcome to our new and returning staff.

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Janice Hobbs – Saskatoon
Susan Lamb – Saskatoon
Dennis Naphin – Yorkton
Raymond Sadler – Biggar
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ARTIFACT DONORS

Recently, the WDM received donations of artifacts from:

Roger Baron – Calgary, AB
Judith Henderson – Saskatoon
Len McDonald – Regina
Joanna Morrow – Saskatoon
Leslee Newman – Saskatoon
Laura Prescesky – North Battleford
Madelene Smith – Saskatoon
Jane Sullivan – Saskatoon
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E-SPARKS

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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 2015 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.

