



JANUARY – MARCH 2019 VOLUME 43, EDITION 1

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



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CEO'S REPORT

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What's happening at your WDMs

INCLUSIVITY REPORT

Reconciliation and diversity at the WDM

UPCOMING EVENTS



WDM Moose Jaw

January 19	Volunteer Blitz
February 9	Heritage Day
March 23 – 24	Thunder Creek Model Train Show
April 13	Easter Fun Day

WDM North Battleford

Through March 1	<i>Canola: A Story of Canadian Innovation</i> from the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum
February 10	Heritage Festival Sunday
April 13	Blues & Brews

WDM Saskatoon

January 5, 12, 19, 26	<i>Seed Survivor</i> interactive exhibit by Nutrien and Agriculture in the Classroom – SK
January 15 – April 23	Memoir Writing Class, Tuesdays bi-weekly – <i>Pre-registration required</i>
February 2, 3, 9, 16, 19 – 23	<i>Seed Survivor</i> interactive exhibit by Nutrien and Agriculture in the Classroom – SK
February 3	Heritage Festival of Saskatoon
February 19 – 22	School Break programming, afternoons only
February 23 – 24	All Aboard Model Train Show
March 18 – June 2	<i>Canola: A Story of Canadian Innovation</i> from the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum
April 13	Pioneer Threshermen's Club Flea Market

WDM Yorkton

Through February 28	<i>Our Collective Threads</i> , WDM travelling exhibit
February 17	Heritage Day
March 2	The Art of Danish Hygge

Events and dates listed here are subject to change.

For details visit wdm.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Celebrating WDM Successes

Happy New Year! Time seems to be flying by and it's hard to believe we are at the start of another year. This past year saw the completion of three major projects at the WDM. I am proud of the work our staff and volunteers have put into seeing these projects completed and grateful for the support we've received from the community.

First, we completed the track rebuild and the K+S Canada Potash Short Line 101 took to the rails again. After a three-year hiatus, our "little" train was back in action sharing the experience of steam locomotion throughout the summer.

Next, the parking lot at the WDM Saskatoon was completed – re-opening to the public the same day winter arrived with our first heavy snowfall in Saskatoon. I'd like to extend a big thank you to all our supporters who helped make this project possible and to the WDM Saskatoon staff and volunteers who kept the Museum running smoothly during the construction. Finally, the 1158 Locomotive in North Battleford was completely overhauled and restored to what it looked like during its operating life. These were significant projects for the WDM and completing all of them in 2018 has been a tremendous accomplishment for our staff.

Even more importantly, we've continued our work to increase diversity and inclusivity at the WDM with the adoption of our new Strategic Plan* and the release of the Inclusivity Report.* Together, these documents will guide our efforts to improve inclusivity and diversity throughout the organization. As part of these initiatives, we've launched the Saskatchewan LGBTQ2+ History Collection and look forward to opening the Doukhobor Living Book Project exhibit in July 2019.

In the coming year, we will continue seeking ways to include more diverse stories in our exhibits and programs. We are also excited to be able to share behind the scenes stories, useful tips, and much more through our new Museum Stories blog. There is a lot going on at the WDM and with most of our work occurring behind the scenes, we wanted to give you an opportunity to get to know us and our work a bit better. You'll be hearing from our staff as they work on exhibits, collections and conservation projects. We'll also be providing handy tips to make your next museum visit even more memorable. We hope our Museum Stories blog will provide insight into the inner workings of a museum and give you an opportunity to ask questions about the work we are doing. You can check out our blog at wdm.ca.

We are excited about the coming year and look forward to sharing all our province's diverse histories with you.

Thank you everyone for all you do for the WDM!

Sincerely,

Joan Kanigan, CEO

* View the *WDM Strategic Plan* and *Inclusivity Report* at wdm.ca.

FEATURE

Inclusivity Report



For the past year, Dr. Elizabeth Scott, WDM Curator, has been researching how the WDM can become a more inclusive and diverse organization and how we will respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action. Her work began as part of a wider research project undertaken with the University of Saskatchewan's Community Engaged Collaboratorium.

The initial project focused on the WDM's exhibits with subsequent work focusing on all aspects of the WDM's operations. The resulting *Inclusivity Report** provides a deep understanding of where the WDM is today and how to begin moving forward to achieve our vision of a **Saskatchewan Where Everyone Belongs and Histories Matter**.

The *Inclusivity Report* has three aims:

1. To guide the WDM's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action.
2. To guide the WDM's efforts in becoming a more inclusive and diverse organization that welcomes and shares the histories of all Saskatchewan people, especially those who have been, and continue to be, underrepresented in the Museum.
3. To inform the importance of decolonizing the WDM's operations and programs and outline a process for doing so.

The central issue the report addresses is the need to work towards decolonization by weaving Indigenous, non-European Canadian and marginalized perspectives throughout the WDM. For almost 70 years the WDM has provided the Saskatchewan people with a place to learn about Euro-Canadian settlement history. We plan to honour that legacy and tell new stories, so that all Saskatchewan people will see themselves and their histories in the Museum. The WDM looks forward to working in community-led partnerships to facilitate sharing these voices and stories.

Over the past year, the WDM Board of Directors has laid the groundwork for reconciliation, diversity and inclusion at the WDM. The adoption of the WDM's vision; refining the WDM's Ends Policy; and, adopting a Statement of Intent for reconciliation, provides the framework for the recommendations in the *Inclusivity Report*.

The seven main recommendations in the *Inclusivity Report* are:

1. Publicly acknowledge Indigenous peoples and their histories.
2. Provide training and educational opportunities for staff and volunteers including cultural awareness, anti-racism and sensitivity training to improve overall cultural competency.
3. Report on reconciliation and inclusivity activities and progress.
4. Assess collection management practices to ensure they support inclusivity and reconciliation.
5. Develop and implement a plan for exhibit renewal at all WDM locations to increase overall diversity and inclusivity in the stories being told.
6. Review, update and renew all education and public programs to ensure they align with reconciliation and inclusivity goals.
7. Review, update and renew overall WDM operations to align with reconciliation and inclusivity goals.



SUMMER STUDENT TAYLIN DOSCH REVIEWING WDM EXHIBITS FOR THE *INCLUSIVITY REPORT*, 2017
PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

This work is important. The WDM's long-term sustainability is dependent on our ability to reflect all of Saskatchewan's people. Diversity enriches our lives, but only if we make the effort to be inclusive and bring all our stories, good or bad, into our public places. Everyone deserves to feel like they belong, and belonging is seeing yourself reflected in the public institutions around you.

At the WDM, we are committed to inclusivity, one story at a time.

* The *Inclusivity Report* can be found at wdm.ca.

WDM MOOSE JAW



VOLUNTEER MATT WEBER TALKS ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES AT THE WDM

Volunteer Blitz

JANUARY 19, 2:00 PM

As programming grows, so does the need for volunteers. Find out about a variety of interesting and fun opportunities at the WDM Moose Jaw. This session is perfect for those new to volunteering as well as existing volunteers looking for new ways to help. Join us and be inspired to donate your time at the WDM.

Heritage Day

FEBRUARY 9, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

In partnership with local community groups, join us as we celebrate the heritage of our city, province and country. This family-friendly event features Canadian short films, activities, crafts, demonstrations and speakers.

Easter Fun Day

APRIL 13, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

This come and go event is ideal for children aged 7 and under. The afternoon will include games, crafts, a bunny search and Easter egg scavenger hunt.

WDM MOOSE JAW

THUNDER CREEK MODEL TRAIN SHOW

March 23 - 24

Check out one of the best model train shows in Saskatchewan.

CONTACT US

50 Diefenbaker Drive
Moose Jaw, SK S6J 1L9
Phone: 306-693-5989
Email: moosejaw@wdm.ca

JANUARY - MARCH HOURS

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tuesday - Sunday
CLOSED Mondays



WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

Heritage Festival Sunday

FEBRUARY 10

Across Canada, February is recognized as heritage month. Join us as we celebrate with family activities, heritage presentations and booths, demonstrations and show short films from the Yorkton Film Festival.

Blues & Brews

APRIL 13, 9:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Back by popular demand, Saskatchewan's own, The Blue Mules, will entertain. Folks 19 and over are invited to this annual event featuring home-grown blues music and beverages.

WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

CONTACT US

Box 183, Hwys 16 & 40
North Battleford, SK S9A 2Y1
Phone: 306-445-8033
Email: nbattleford@wdm.ca

JANUARY – MARCH HOURS

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Tuesday – Sunday
CLOSED Mondays



"OLD ABE" SYMBOL OF THE J.I. CASE MACHINERY COMPANY ON DISPLAY AT THE WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD



ENTERTAINMENT AT THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF SASKATOON

Heritage Festival of Saskatoon

FEBRUARY 3, 12:00 – 5:00 PM

The WDM Saskatoon welcomes back the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon. The theme of this year's Festival is "Sharing Our Stories." Explore booths with various Saskatoon heritage groups and enjoy entertainment by musicians, performers and children's entertainers on two stages. Admission to this fun family event is free.

Seed Survivor by Nutrien

SATURDAYS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Thanks to Nutrien and Agriculture In The Classroom – SK, over 6,000 Grades 3 - 6 students from around Saskatchewan have visited this interactive exhibit since 2016. The exhibit and accompanying school program teaches students about the importance of agriculture.

You're invited to explore this exhibit on Saturdays throughout January and February. Agriculture In The Classroom staff will be available to answer your questions. *Seed Survivor* will also be open during the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon.

Pioneer Threshermen's Club Flea Market

APRIL 13, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Volunteers with the Pioneer Threshermen's Club are busy preparing for their bi-annual Flea Market that raises funds for the many projects the Threshermen undertake for the WDM. Admission to the Flea Market is free. You'll feel good shopping for yourself while supporting the WDM and the Pioneer Threshermen's Club.

WDM SASKATOON

FEBRUARY SCHOOL BREAK

February 19 – 22

Come see what's happening on afternoons during the school break week.

CONTACT US

2610 Lorne Avenue

Saskatoon, SK S7J 0S6

Phone: 306-931-1910

Email: saskatoon@wdm.ca

JANUARY – MARCH HOURS

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Tuesday – Sunday

CLOSED Mondays



OUT AND ABOUT AT THE WDM YORKTON

Heritage Day

FEBRUARY 17, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Join us for this annual event that celebrates Heritage Week in Canada. Held in partnership with the City of Yorkton Archives, the theme of this year's event is "Heritage: The Tie That Binds." Connect with Saskatchewan history while exploring the Museum galleries. Heritage Day will also feature guest speakers, the Yorkton Chapter of the Saskatchewan Genealogy Society and refreshments.

The Art of Danish Hygge

MARCH 2, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Hygge is a Danish word which means creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people. Come join us for a cozy afternoon with candle making, hands-on Scandinavian activities and hot chocolate. All ages are welcome!

WDM YORKTON

CONTACT US

Box 98 Hwy 16A West
Yorkton, SK S3N 2V6
Phone: 306-783-8361
Email: yorkton@wdm.ca

JANUARY – MARCH HOURS

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Tuesday – Friday
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm Weekends
CLOSED Mondays

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Martin, Chair – Regina
Diana Ireland – Moose Jaw
Susan Lamb – Saskatoon
Gwen Beitel – Spring Valley
Jack Dawes – Saltcoats
Sharon Mohagen – North Battleford
Raymond Sadler – Biggar



FEATURE

WDM Saskatoon Parking Lot Construction Complete

After being closed for nearly three months, the parking lot at the WDM Saskatoon was re-opened on November 9 with a newly designed front entrance and paving. Announced in July 2018, this infrastructure rebuild included installing storm sewers, weeping tile, a new water line, lights and accessible sidewalks. The front entrance was redeveloped with concrete curbs and paving stones. The new parking lot has 154 paved parking spots, including handicap accessible spaces. This is 68 spaces more than before and the entire lot is now paved.



WDM SASKATOON MANAGER JASON B. WALL AND STAFF CUT THE RIBBON OPENING THE PARKING LOT, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

The Blairmore Ring, an important piece from Saskatchewan's mining history, will be installed near the entrance of the Museum. Used in the potash industry, the ring formed a water tight shaft so that mining potash could take place. As it is extremely heavy, the Blairmore Ring will be set into place once the ground has frozen sufficiently and it can be safely moved. In the spring, landscaping around the boulevards and front entrance will be completed.

Thank you to Hamm Construction, ASL Paving Ltd., Diversified Electric, and project managers Catterall and Wright for their effort to complete this project on time and within budget.

Community support came from the Province of Saskatchewan, ASL Paving Ltd., the City of Saskatoon's Cultural Capital Grant Program, and the Community Initiatives Fund's Community Places and Spaces Program. We would also like to thank the very generous donors who wish to remain anonymous.

A special thank you to the staff and volunteers of the WDM Saskatoon. The Museum's programs and services ran smoothly despite the disruption caused by the construction. We also wish to thank our members and patrons who continued to visit.

Thanks to everyone who supported this project in so many different ways. We couldn't have done it without you!

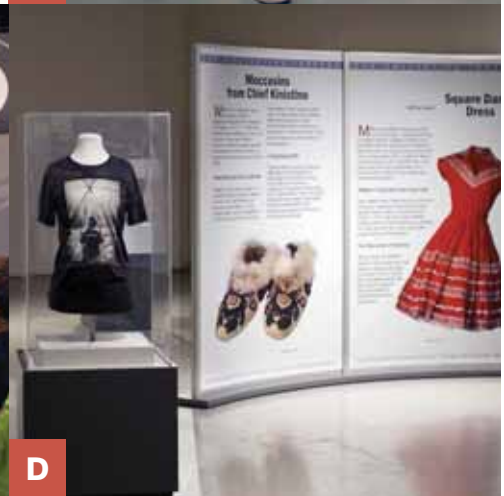


IN THE GALLERIES

A WDM Moose Jaw – *Buchinski Caboose*
WDM Permanent Exhibit



B WDM North Battleford – *Canola: A Story of Innovation* from the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum
Through March 1



C WDM Saskatoon – *Seed Survivor* by Nutrien and Agriculture in the Classroom – SK
Selected dates through February 28

D WDM Yorkton – *Our Collective Threads*
WDM Travelling Exhibit
Through February 28

Western Development Museum – Corporate Office
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Saskatoon, SK S7J 0S5

WDM Corporate Office

For *Sparks* and membership questions please contact us at:

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Toll Free: 1-800-363-6345

Email: info@wdm.ca

WDM Corporate Office Business Hours

8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday

Closed statutory holidays

Sparks Editors: Corinne Daelick and Kristine Flynn

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