



APRIL – JUNE 2020 VOLUME 44, EDITION 2

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



VOLUNTEERING AT THE WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

WDM VOLUNTEERS

By the numbers

A SASKATCHEWAN STORY

Highland dancer
Betty Chan

CHANGING TIMES

Response to
COVID-19

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Dear Valued WDM Member,

The WDM is closed until further notice due to the Covid-19 virus. Administration is monitoring the situation closely and the decision to close is in the best interest of our visitors, volunteers and staff. The WDM Board of Directors and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport support this decision.

We thank you for your support and trust that you understand our decision. Please note the expiry date for all current WDM memberships will be extended by the amount of time the WDM must remain closed.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,
Joan Kanigan, CEO

UPCOMING EVENTS

WDM Moose Jaw

May 10	Mother's Day
May 16	Opening Day – K + S Potash Canada Short Line 101
May 18 – August 23	<i>Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Archival Records of Library and Archives Canada</i> travelling exhibit from Library and Archives Canada
June 13	"Flower Power" Fashion Show and Tea
June 21	Father's Day

WDM Saskatoon

Through July 26	<i>Canada and Germany: Partners from Immigration to Innovation</i> travelling exhibit from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
May 18 – September 27	<i>One Canada: Diefenbaker's Vision</i> travelling exhibit from the Diefenbaker Canada Centre
June 20	Ride for Dad
July 11 – 12	Pion-Era

WDM Yorkton

May 9	"Mommy & Me" Cookies and Tea
May 17	Discovery Box Family Programming
June 7	Movies at the Museum
June 14	"Daddy & I" Coffee and Pie
June 28	Movies at the Museum
July 1	Canada Day

Events and dates listed here are subject to change.
For details visit wdm.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Covid-19 situation has drastically changed how we interact with each other and what we can do in our communities. On March 16, we made the difficult decision to close all WDM locations to the public until further notice. Like many organizations and business, Covid-19 is impacting our visitors, volunteers and staff.

While we are closed to the public, the WDM is committed to supporting all staff within the resources we have available. Those staff able to work from home are doing so. This makes it safer and ensures proper social distancing for those who can't work from home. We are taking this opportunity to work on several projects that we haven't had time to tackle (i.e. deep cleaning areas of the Museum, painting, organizing storage areas, etc.).

We are committed to the health and wellbeing of people in all our communities.

We value the support you have shown the WDM over the years and we look forward to welcoming you back into our Museums when it is safe to do so.

Sincerely,

Joan Kanigan, CEO



IN THE GALLERIES

A WDM Moose Jaw

Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Archival Records of Library and Archives Canada

Travelling exhibit from Library and Archives Canada
May 18 – August 23



A

B WDM North Battleford Heritage Farm and Village

Outdoor village opens May 1



B



C WDM Saskatoon

Canada and Germany: Partners from Immigration to Innovation

Travelling exhibit from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
Through July 26



D

D WDM Yorkton

Horse-drawn gas powered pumper wagon, c. 1904
WDM Exhibit

#MEMORYMONDAYS

Every Monday our Facebook page features a historic Saskatchewan memory. We encourage you to share our post and / or comment with your own memory.

The George Shepherd Library, located at the WDM Corporate Office in Saskatoon, contains many memories of times past. These photos, showcasing friendship, are just a few in our Collection.

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/wdm.museum



TWO UNKNOWN FRIENDS PAUSING FOR A PHOTOGRAPH

DATE: 1931. WDM GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY, TACKABERRY COLLECTION



THIS PHOTO FROM C.1918 SHOWS THREE UNKNOWN YOUNG WOMEN HAVING FUN, LAUGHING AND HOLDING EACH OTHER'S HAT RIBBONS

WDM-1973-Y-6883



THIS PHOTO SHOWS THE SIMPLE KINDNESS OF ONE CHILD HELPING ANOTHER WITH A BOOT OR SHOE. TAKEN NEAR THE BARTON FARM NEAR FLORAL, SK

DATE: BEFORE 1940. WDM GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY, BARTON COLLECTION 03029



THIS PHOTO FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR FEATURES SEAMAN FRANK THOMAS WYSE AT CENTRE, POSING WITH SOME OF HIS SHIPMATES ON AN UNKNOWN SHIP

DATE: C. 1942. WDM-2007-S-161

FEATURE ARTICLE

Highland Dancer Betty Chan

Betty Klepp (nee Chan) was born March 22, 1945 in Saskatoon. According to her family, she was one of the first children born to a Chinese family in Saskatoon. She started dancing at a young age. Originally, her mother enrolled her in tap, jazz and ballet. Her teacher, Mrs. Allingham, also taught Scottish highland dancing, but initially did not teach Betty because she was not of Scottish descent. However, Betty would come to her dance classes early to watch the highland dancers. Her teacher observed her practicing a fling one day and saw her talent, so she decided to teach her highland dance.

By the time she was 9 or 10 years old, Betty was highland dancing. Being a highland dancer of Chinese descent in the 1950s, Betty drew attention from news media. She was featured in many newspaper articles as well as a documentary. She also performed for Queen Elizabeth during her 1959 visit to Saskatoon and danced for the Canadian Centennial celebrations on Parliament Hill in 1967.

The documentary made about Betty caught the attention of the Royal Highland Mills, the primary providers of tartans in Canada. They designed and wove a tartan for her, naming it the McChan Plaid. They sent a bolt of the fabric to Betty, and a skirt was made of the fabric. This skirt has since been donated to the WDM. The designers of the tartan explained they chose the colours of blue, green, and yellow because of their significance to Chinese culture. The blue was selected because the Chinese were the first to develop blue dyes, the green because of the value Chinese culture places on jade and the yellow because of the significance of gold in Chinese religious practice.

Betty remained involved in highland dance through most of her life. She adjudicated dance competitions in the United States and Canada until the late 1990s. In 1993, she retired from her work with the Saskatoon Public School Division and moved to Vernon, BC with her husband.





BETTY DANCING A SWORD DANCE



BETTY CHAN WITH HER TROPHIES AND MEDALS, AGE 14



BETTY IN COSTUME, HOLDING A SWORD



SKIRT (NOT KILT) BELONGING TO BETTY KLAPP (NEE CHAN)
MADE OF THE MCCAN PLAID



VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM

IN 2019

1,207 VOLUNTEERS
GENEROUSLY GAVE
48,672.25+ HOURS

Over the last 5 years, volunteers have contributed 258,000+ hours!

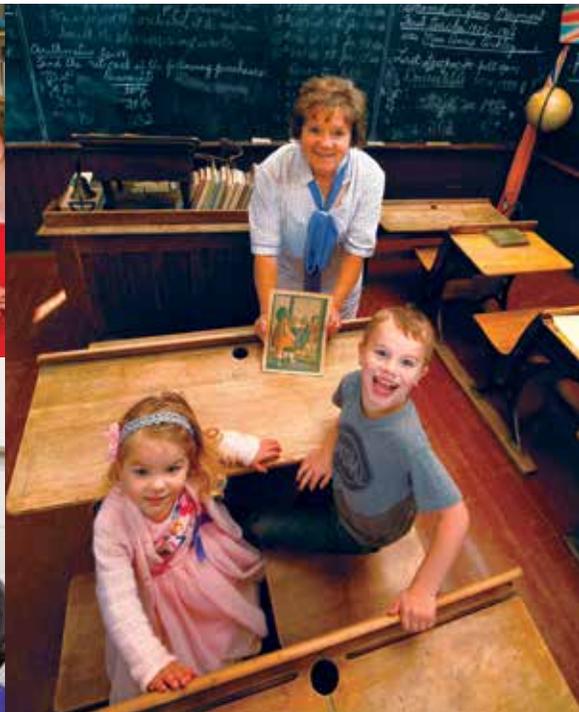
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The WDM is truly fortunate to benefit from the skills and passion that our volunteers have for our Museum and our province. They help us tell so many Saskatchewan-inspired stories. We are so thankful for all they do for the WDM.

CORINNE DAELICK, DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM EDUCATION



Sometimes our volunteers give their time in shows or at events where their efforts are rewarded with cheering crowds. A lot of work is done behind the scenes, too. We applaud all of our volunteers and all of the work they do to support the WDM.



WDM MOOSE JAW



VOLUNTEER IZZY HELPS BRING THE WDM TO MOOSE JAW SIDEWALK DAYS

Mother's Day & Father's Day Fun

MAY 10 & JUNE 21

We're celebrating these special days for parents with family friendly activities. On May 10, join us for a fun, self-led activity and films from the NFB. On June 21, take part in a scavenger hunt and play a game of "Hood Ornament Bingo."

K+S Potash Canada Short Line 101

MAY 16, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM (WEATHER PERMITTING)

Hop aboard Saskatchewan's only steam locomotive train and make some memories that will last a lifetime! Admission: \$5 per ride, \$15 per family per ride (2 adults and dependent children). Tickets can be purchased at the front desk at the WDM Moose Jaw. Please call ahead to make sure the train is running.

Flower Power Fashion Show and Tea

JUNE 13, 1:00 PM

Join us for vintage fashions and fabulous styles from days gone by at this special showcase of floral-patterned clothing. Refreshments will be served following the show.

WDM MOOSE JAW

CONTACT US

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

APRIL – JUNE HOURS

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Daily
Closed: April 10 (Good Friday)

Events and dates listed here are subject to change.
For details visit wdm.ca.



WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD



VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF PROGRAMS LIKE MUSEUM DAYS

Village Opens

MAY 1

Spring has sprung and along with spring comes the opening of the outdoor Heritage Farm and Village. Imagine what settler life was like in Saskatchewan 100 years ago as you stroll along the boardwalks, popping into the Co-op store, blacksmith shop or dentist's office along the way. Walk past the lilacs in bloom as you make your way to the farmhouse and barn to see what life was like on a 1920s farm. You can experience the Heritage Farm and Village from May to October.

Heritage Farm and Village Kids' Camps

JULY 20 - 24

Calling all 7-10 year olds! Do you ever wonder what it was like to live in a time before cell phones, text messages and the internet? Join us as we travel way back in time to 1920s Saskatchewan. Learn about small-town and farm life on the prairies through crafts, games, wagon rides and hands-on activities. Children can register for one day or for the whole camp. Camp registration opens May 19.

WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

CONTACT US

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

APRIL - JUNE HOURS

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Daily
Closed: April 10 (Good Friday)

Events and dates listed here are subject to change.
For details visit wdm.ca.



WDM SASKATOON



VOLUNTEERS LIKE BETTY BRING BOOMTOWN TO LIFE

Ride For Dad

JUNE 13

Once again, the WDM Saskatoon will serve as the starting point for this annual fundraiser to fight prostate cancer. Events kick-off with a pancake breakfast in the Museum from 8:00 – 10:00 am. Following breakfast the parking lot comes to life with the roar of hundreds of motorcycles setting off on their charitable ride.

www.ridefordad.ca/saskatoon/

Pion-Era

JULY 11 – 12, 9:00 AM – 5 PM DAILY

Mark your calendar for Pion-Era 2020. Create happy family memories while you take part in children's activities, enjoy refreshments and entertainment, and learn about settler and farm life in Saskatchewan in days gone-by.

Hands-On Heritage Summer Camps

JULY & AUGUST

Our camps for ages 7 - 10 are back! These week-long camps get campers hands-on with Saskatchewan history. Register for our half day or full day camps.

July 20 – 24 | 1:00 - 4:30 pm

July 27 – 31 | 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

August 10 – 14 | 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Registration opens May 19.

WDM SASKATOON

CONTACT US

2610 Lorne Avenue

Saskatoon, SK S7J 0S6

Phone: 306-931-1910

Email: saskatoon@wdm.ca

APRIL – JUNE HOURS

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Daily

Closed: April 10 (Good Friday)

Events and dates listed here are subject to change.

For details visit wdm.ca.



WDM YORKTON



VOLUNTEERS TAKE CARE OF SPRING SEEDING AT THE WDM YORKTON

Celebrating Parents

MAY 9 & JUNE 14, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate parents with two great events. *Mommy & Me - Cookies and Tea* on May 9 and *Daddy & I - Coffee and Pie* on June 14. Both events are from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Enjoy an afternoon of treats, craft making and a tour of the Museum galleries with our parents or with those who are like parents to us.

Movies at the Museum

JUNE 7 & JULY 5, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Lights, Camera, Action! Join us in June and July for screenings of short films courtesy of the Yorkton Film Festival.

Canada Day

JULY 1, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Celebrate Canada Day at the WDM! Join us for the opening ceremonies at 12:30 pm followed by an afternoon full of fun activities. Enjoy games, hay rack rides, restored fire truck rides, live entertainment, concessions, birthday cake and more. Admission to the Museum grounds is free.

WDM YORKTON

DISCOVERY BOX FAMILY PROGRAMMING

May 17, 2:00 pm

Explore artifacts and stories in this hands-on program.

BLAST FROM THE PAST SUMMER CAMP

Ages 8 - 12 are invited to our camp from August 11 - 13. Registration opens June 1.

CONTACT US

Box 98 Hwy 16A West

Yorkton, SK S3N 2V6

Phone: 306-783-8361

Email: yorkton@wdm.ca

APRIL – JUNE HOURS

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Friday

12:00 - 5:00 pm Weekends & Victoria Day

Closed: April 10 (Good Friday)

Events and dates listed here are subject to change.

For details visit wdm.ca.



FEATURE ARTIFACT

Telling Time

One of the oldest European items in the WDM collection is this sundial (WDM-1973-S-16142) from 1659. It was brought to Canada in 1923 and donated to the Museum in 1961. The base measures 26 x 26cm and the gnomon (the vertical triangle piece in the center) is 13cm high.

Sundials work by utilizing the movement of shadows as the sun travels across the sky to tell the time. This sundial is divided into twelve "hours" to track the time during daylight hours. In most of the world, the length of a day changes throughout the year and so the length of these twelve hours changes as well, with hours being shorter in the winter and longer in the summer. These variable hours are called "seasonal hours." Hours were standardized after the invention of mechanical clocks in the 14th Century.



FEATURE

Time to Get Growing!

With the arrival of spring, Saskatchewan gardeners start planning for the coming growing season. At the WDM Saskatoon, we've been thinking about how to beautify our outdoor space after the resurfacing of our parking lot last year. In September 2019, we reached out to our friends at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) for help. Forty students from Dr. Karen Tanino's Fundamentals of Horticulture Course came to view a portion of the grounds that require a landscape redesign. Each student submitted their design including detailed execution and planting instructions and a project budget. This assignment was worth 15% of their final grade.

Aspects from six submitted designs were shortlisted for feasible implementation at the WDM Saskatoon. The "Client's Choice" USask Student Contributors are:

Shannon Bickley

Kate Petersen

Robert J. Evans

Dylan Saam-Derr

Taylor Johnston

Cary Wilson



JASON B. WALL, WDM SASKATOON (FAR LEFT) AND DR. KAREN TANINO, USASK (FAR RIGHT)

While the students developed the landscape design for the grounds, they do not assemble or plant it. We have the groundwork for a plan at the WDM Saskatoon and are asking for community support to finance this phase one landscape project.

Learn how you can help by calling Sue Scharf, Manager of Philanthropy at 306-934-1409 EX. 236 or sscharf@wdm.ca.

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

In this new feature to SPARKS we are highlighting one artifact on exhibit at each WDM location from our vast collection. Learn more about each artifact – from its history, to when, where and how it was used.

Harris Family House

WDM-1988-NB-58

In 1906, Richard and Hattie Harris moved to Saskatchewan from Nova Scotia for the sake of Richard's health. They opened a joint general/hardware store in Fielding, which flourished until 1915 when Richard's health deteriorated further. Following a doctor's recommendation that he get out into the open air, Richard bought up farmland around Fielding with the intention of moving into a house that had already been built. However, a fire burnt down the house the couple intended to move in to and so they decided to build their own. They moved in the Fall of 1915. The couple lived in the house until their deaths: Hattie in 1931 and Richard in 1956. The Harris descendants continued to live in the house until 1981. It was donated to the WDM in 1988 and can be seen at the WDM North Battleford Heritage Village.



Bennett Buggy

WDM-1973-S-131

On display at the WDM Saskatoon is a Bennett Buggy, a car with the engine removed to make it light enough for horses to pull. Bennett Buggies were used during the Depression when gas was too expensive for most people to afford.

The Bennett Buggy currently on display at the Museum was not originally used as a Bennett Buggy. It was propped up on blocks in a yard through most of the Depression until Johnnie Zelisney purchased it second-hand. Zelisney drove it in many parades and used it as a first aid car on August 15, 1945, VJ Day. Thirty people piled on the car as it drove through the streets in celebration and it didn't break down despite the excessive weight.



Cheshire View Camper

WDM-1990-S-30

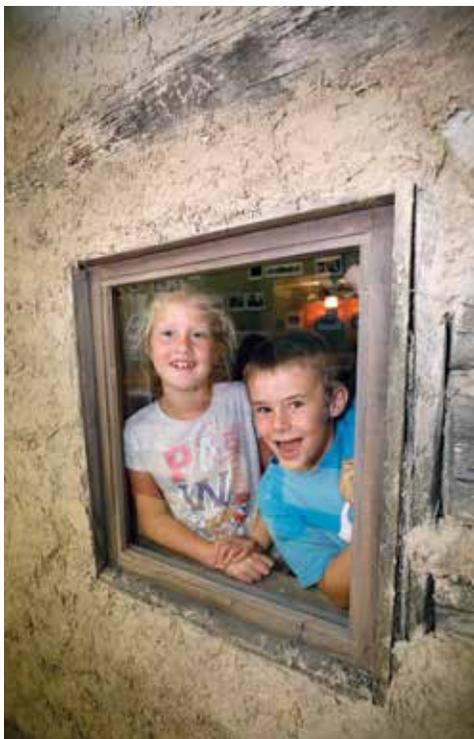
The Cheshire View camper, on display in the WDM Moose Jaw, was made in England just after the Second World War using materials salvaged from buildings destroyed by bombs. It was brought to Canada from England by boat in 1952 and traveled across the country before eventually coming to Saskatchewan in 1979. It was retired from use a few years later and was donated to the WDM in 1990.



Settler House

WDM-2002-Y-12

Built around 1900, this settler's house was small but efficient in its use of space. There was a hatch in the floor leading to a cellar where vegetables, meat, eggs and milk were stored. A piche oven was built in one wall for cooking and warmth. To keep out the cold, wall coverings called *kylmys* were hung as insulation. Originally standing on farmland in the RM of Isinger, this house was carefully moved into the WDM Yorkton in 2002 to preserve it for future generations.



FEATURE

Time Changes Everything: Radios

Everything changes over time - it adapts, it grows, it evolves. It gets better! Technology has evolved so much that it is hard to stay 'up' on the current trends.

In this feature, we showcase how radios have adapted, grown and evolved from the 1930s through the 1990s. These radios all look different, but there are some similarities between them.

The first radio signal was transmitted near the end of the 19th Century. After that, technology and understanding of radio waves advanced to a point where commercial radios became available in the early 20th Century. The popularity of radios as a form of entertainment grew rapidly from the 1920s until television took over in the mid 20th Century.



ADDISON TABLE RADIO C. 1932
WDM-2003-S-323



REALISTIC BRAND RADIO/CASSETTE PLAYER, C. 1970
WDM-2009-S-698



STROMBERG-CARLSON ELECTRIC RADIO C. 1940
WDM-1973-S-5048



PHILCO MANTEL RADIO, C. 1955
WDM-2002-S-431



REALISTIC BRAND TRANSISTOR RADIO, 1993
WDM-2009-S-8

ABOUT US

STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

By Joan Kanigan, CEO

As we head into spring, I would like to welcome Tom Richards and Shauna Stanley-Seymour to our Board of Directors. Tom and Shauna were appointed to the WDM Board by the Honourable Russell Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan in January 2020. Both Tom and Shauna are excited to join the WDM and I'm looking forward to working with them along with our entire Board of Directors to ensure a strong future for the Museum. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing board members Diana Ireland and Sharon Mohagen for their commitment and support of the WDM.

Good governance is important to the Board of Directors. In addition to reviewing governance policies on a regular basis to ensure best practices are maintained, the Board's education is a standing agenda item. Over the past year, the Board has participated in training on museum standards and ethics, how History as an academic discipline is changing, and Treaty rights and Reconciliation in Saskatchewan. The Board has also met with the Museums Association of Saskatchewan and Heritage Saskatchewan to deepen their understanding of trends within culture and heritage both provincially and nationally.

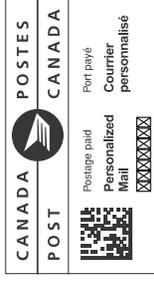
Thanks to support from the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, the Board Chair, CEO and four other Board members have had the opportunity to participate in various governance courses offered through the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. These courses have focused on topics such as leadership and governance in public sector organizations, the role of the CEO and risk management. Good governance is critical to the success of the WDM and we appreciate the support the Ministry is providing to strengthen this important role within the cultural community.

If you have any questions about the work of the Board, please contact me at jkkanigan@wdm.ca or Nancy Martin, Chair of the WDM Board of Directors at nmartin@wdm.ca.

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Martin, Chair – Regina
Susan Lamb – Saskatoon
Gwen Beitel – Spring Valley
Jack Dawes – Saltcoats
Tom Richards – Saskatoon
Raymond Sadler – Biggar
Shauna Stanley-Seymour – Springside

Western Development Museum – Corporate Office
2935 Lorne Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 0S5



WDM Corporate Office

For SPARKS and membership questions please contact us at:

Phone: 306-934-1400
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 Editor: Kerry Lubchenko

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WDM.CA



#SaskInspired

DIONNE QUINTUPLETS PAPER DOLL, C. 1930s
WDM COLLECTION, WDM-2017-S-4