



JULY – SEPTEMBER 2020 VOLUME 44, EDITION 3

# SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



COPING WITH COVID-19

## CEO REPORT

Saskatchewan voices

## FEATURE ARTICLE

Learning from the  
Spanish Flu

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Virtual summer camps



# Saskatchewan Voices

2020 has been a difficult year so far. It started with the COVID-19 pandemic which caused the closure of all but essential services for over two months, creating economic hardship for many in addition to the lives lost because of the disease. This has been followed by the overt racism we are witnessing that has taken the lives of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in communities across the USA and Canada. And it continues with the stories we are hearing about how Black, Indigenous, People of Colour and LGBTQ2+ people experience systemic discrimination every day within our province.

As I write this message, I am overcome with a deep sadness and feeling of helplessness at the injustices in our communities that create such hardships for so many. I am privileged that the colour of my skin and my sexual orientation are not things I need to consider when I make decisions about where to go and what to do. It is difficult for me to imagine what it must be like to endure racism and discrimination daily.

Museums are privileged places. We have the honour of caring for and sharing the collective memories of our communities. Because of this, we are trusted institutions. Trusted by the people we represent to be safe spaces where they can connect with each other and learn about their history. Trusted spaces where they can feel a part of something bigger than themselves, where they can connect to what it means to be human in our world. Museums are privileged places for those who feel they belong.

Museums are also a place of exclusion. Whether we choose to recognize this or not, many museums, the WDM included, are places that share the collective memory of only some in our society. For many, the WDM is a place where their community's collective memory does not exist. For them, the human history museum of Saskatchewan is silent about their lived experiences in our province. They have nothing to connect with, nothing to help them feel like they belong, nothing that says their histories matter.

Some people are afraid of what might be lost if the WDM starts including the stories of those who have been excluded from our provincial narrative. Some believe, as I do, that to fulfill its mandate, the WDM must be a place of inclusion. A place where everyone can see themselves reflected in our provincial narrative. We lose nothing by including the voices of those who have been ignored, silenced, or have yet to be heard. We lose so much more if we choose not to include their cultural vibrancy and rich heritage in our Museum.

As long as people continue to feel excluded, as long as we continue to think of "us" vs "them" and choose not to open ourselves to other people's lived experiences, we will continue to struggle with the systemic injustices happening around us every day, whether we see them or not.

Museums are privileged places. It is time we use our privilege to bring people together. To create spaces that are safe for everyone, spaces that build empathy and understanding, spaces that connect us all to what it means to be human in this time and place.

The WDM is mandated to be Saskatchewan's human history museum and only now are we recognizing the extent of what this really means. The first step has been to recognize whose voices are missing from our provincial narrative. The second has been to start the long journey towards meaningful representation and inclusion.

These are some of the concrete steps the WDM has committed to taking, so that our talk of inclusion is based on our actions and not just our words.

- Prioritizing the collection of artifacts and stories from marginalized communities. The WDM's collection of settler and agricultural artifacts is vast. We are no longer collecting these objects unless they are of exceptional provincial significance.
- Focusing all new exhibit development on underrepresented communities and histories within our province. The *Doukhobor Living Book Project: 120 Years in Saskatchewan* is the most recent example.
- Working closely with Indigenous communities and organizations to bring their stories into our spaces. We have started by working with Whitecap Dakota First Nation, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and Muskeg Lake Cree Nation on three different projects. We are also honoured to be working with the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre to return sacred artifacts to their rightful homes.
- Establishing the Saskatchewan LGBTQ2+ History Collection and partnering with LGBTQ2+ organizations in Saskatoon and Moose Jaw on programs to highlight Pride in Saskatchewan.
- Reviewing and rewriting signs and program materials to ensure the language we use is inclusive and does not misrepresent or misappropriate cultural groups.
- Providing anti-racism and cultural awareness training for staff and volunteers.

These actions may seem small, or at times not enough, but each action is a step towards fulfilling our mandate and becoming a place of belonging for more and more people.

We can have a better world – economically, politically and socially. Where systemic racism and discrimination are part of our history, not our future. The WDM's responsibility is to make room for the voices of those who have previously been left out of our provincial narrative. Voices we need to hear if we want a better future. Voices who will enrich our understanding of ourselves and each other – because after all, together is better.

Sincerely,

Joan Kanigan, CEO

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Virtual Summer Camps

### Have you ever wondered...

How much Mac the Moose weighs?

How to turn Saskatoon berries into ink?

How to measure the wind?

How to communicate in Morse code?

Register for our Virtual Camps and explore Saskatchewan like never before. Most of these online activities are designed for explorers aged 6 – 10, but since curiosity has no age limit, our Virtual Camps are open to all ages.

#### **Week 1** **July 13 - 17, 2020**

In the Air

Explore Saskatchewan's living skies! Discover birds and butterflies in your yard, record-breaking weather like the Regina Cyclone and the history of aviation and the Snowbirds.

#### **Week 2** **July 20 - 24, 2020**

Settler Life 100 Years Ago

What was settler life like 100 years ago? What games did kids play? What did people eat? Today, everything is “cool” - but what slang words were used in 1910? Experience a day in the life of someone a century ago.

#### **Week 3** **July 27 - 31, 2020**

Love This Land

What makes Saskatchewan special? Join in a rap song about Saskatchewan lakes, explore your ideal cross-province road trip, and discover recipes using local ingredients.

#### **Week 4** **August 10 - 14, 2020**

Make Your Own Museum!

What is history? How are exhibits made? Join WDM staff in exploring behind the scenes of the Museum. Learn how to make your own exhibit, create a COVID-19 time capsule, and discover how to care for artifacts.

The WDM values accessibility. Our Virtual Camps are based on a pay what you can model to ensure they are open to everyone. If you don't have access to the internet or a printer, a limited number of pre-printed camp kits are available for curbside pick-up at your local WDM.

For more information or to register, visit [wdm.ca/virtualcamps](http://wdm.ca/virtualcamps) or call

<b>WDM Moose Jaw</b>	639-391-8073
<b>WDM North Battleford</b>	639-389-5307
<b>WDM Saskatoon</b>	639-398-8484
<b>WDM Yorkton</b>	639-391-8127



## #MEMORYMONDAYS

Every Monday our Facebook page features a historic Saskatchewan memory. Feel free to share our post 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 ranching on the prairies, are just a few in our Collection. Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/wdm.museum](https://facebook.com/wdm.museum).



TWO RIDERS C. 1900 HERDING SHEEP IN WHAT BECAME SOUTHERN ALBERTA OR SASKATCHEWAN

PHOTO: GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY, WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM, 1-G-1



THIS COLOURIZED POSTCARD C.1908 SHOWS RANCHERS ROPING CATTLE IN AN UNKNOWN LOCATION

PHOTO: GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY, WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM, 1-G-11



THIS 1922 PHOTO REVEALS CATTLE FROM THE MATADOR RANCH ABOUT TO SWIM IN THE SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER, JUST NORTH OF WALDECK. A NOTE WITH THE PHOTO REMARKS THIS "DID NOT WORK OUT WELL"

PHOTO: GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY, WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM, 1-G-3



A HERD OF CATTLE C. 1905 RESTING BY A SLOUGH WITH RIDERS IN THE BACKGROUND

PHOTO: GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY, WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM, 1-G-2

## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Spanish Flu Pandemic in Saskatchewan, 1918-19

As we live through the COVID-19 pandemic, this feature looks back over a hundred years ago to another difficult time in our history, the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic in Saskatchewan.



It was a disease that changed healthcare in Canada. In October of 1918, Spanish Flu broke out in Saskatchewan, carried home by soldiers returning from war. By the end of 1918, nearly four thousand people in Saskatchewan had died of the disease. The illness highlighted the disadvantages people living in rural areas faced in trying to obtain healthcare. Rural hospitals were few and far between and many communities had no doctor and no means of treating the disease. Early on, farm women such as Violet McNaughton called for an increase in rural healthcare through programs such as nurse training programs, but these calls went largely unheard.

Not only were rural communities unprepared for the pandemic due to the lack of healthcare available, but the treatments they knew of were often out of reach. Alcohol was considered one of the best treatments and preventative medicines for the Spanish Flu, but prohibition was still in effect. In a desperate attempt to treat the Flu, the provincial government permitted pharmacists to dispense alcohol, but for communities without a pharmacist, this did little good. The lack of adequate healthcare meant that death rates from the Flu in villages were nearly twice as high as the death rates in urban centres in Saskatchewan.



# ABOUT US

## Behind the Scenes at the WDM

On March 17, all WDM locations closed their doors to the public until further notice due to COVID-19. While most staff are working from home, there are still a number who continue to work at each location to ensure the Museum is ready to safely welcome you back when we re-open.

When the closure was announced, WDM Saskatoon staff did not want to see any food go to waste, so they packed it up and donated it to the Saskatoon Salvation Army.



Afterward, WDM Saskatoon staff pulled the cabinets and shelving off the walls and painted the catering kitchen. A project like this would have been difficult to do with a kitchen full of staff and fully stocked cabinets and shelves.



Some of the building exteriors in Boomtown are getting a coat of fresh paint.



Staff at the WDM Yorkton show their support for frontline workers.



The WDM North Battleford has a new chick brooder for the *Heritage Village* barn. In planning for 2021 *Museum Days*, one of our WDM volunteers will once again donate chicken eggs to hatch at the Museum. After hatching, the chicks will be transferred to the brooder where they will stay for at least six weeks. The chick brooder gives students an opportunity to observe the chicks without accidentally causing harm to them. After the six weeks have passed the chicks are moved to the chicken coop.



Not even the vehicle interiors are being spared getting a cleaning at the WDM Moose Jaw.

Just like the farmers, WDM North Battleford staff headed out to the field to seed the crop required for harvest demonstrations.



WDM Moose Jaw staff have been busy crack filling, painting floors and gallery spaces and cleaning all the nooks and crannies in the lobby and gift shop areas.



# FEATURE

## Family Volunteer Experience

The WDM is truly blessed to have over 1,200 amazing volunteers who contribute in many ways and for many reasons. Some of our volunteers have been with us for a few years, some for decades. Each one brings valuable experience and knowledge to the WDM.

Today we are sharing the story of the Huculak's, volunteers at the WDM Moose Jaw. This is their story in their own words.



### FROM CORINNE HUCULAK

I was inspired to volunteer after I had my son Evan (he is now seven). When he was younger, he and I loved coming to the Museum to stroll around and check out the trains and planes. Once he was able to stand and walk, the highlight for him was at the front entrance with the toy train set and the truck you can get in and “drive and check out the tires.” I would have to bring snacks and drinks (for the lobby only), as we would spend significant time there, and he did not want to leave.

After being frequent regular visitors, it did not take us long to realize that we should become members. My son and I always enjoyed the children's events. As everyone was so friendly and willing to help, I decided to become a volunteer. Now that Evan is school age and my daughter Evelyn is one, I look forward to when we can come again to the museum and enjoy all the sights, sounds and activities.

There have been a few events that I have helped with, including Halloween, Easter at the craft table making baskets for the scavenger egg hunts, Canada Day at the welcome table, with *Kids' Secret Shopping* events, and with ice cream samples at *Heritage Day*.

## FEATURE

As a volunteer, I enjoy meeting the enthusiastic children (and adults) who come to participate in something new or old, and it amazes me how far some folks travel. I like the creativity that the kids have in making their craft and the excitement with the finished product. It did not take too much effort to get my parents to also volunteer, as they saw how much fun it was for my son with his first few rides on the K+S Short Line 101. My Dad and Evan even had matching conductor caps!

### FROM JERRY HUCULAK

Being recent newcomers to Moose Jaw after a career in education, I succumbed to strong encouragement (more like arm twisting) from my wife, Barb and our daughter Corinne, to become involved in the volunteer program of the WDM.

However, the icing on the cake happened when I accompanied my grandson on the K+S Short Line 101. The smells and sounds of the steam engine took me back to my life as a child who watched the steam locomotives come and go past our house. Seeing the awe in the faces of my grandson along with the many other young and old passengers on the train I was hooked. We subsequently managed to fit ourselves with engineer caps and were ready to board the next scheduled departure.

A year later I took part in an evening training program for conductors organized by Karla, WDM Education & Public Programs Coordinator at the WDM Moose Jaw. Visiting used clothing outlets, I fit myself up with an almost genuine conductor's uniform and became a proud, bonified K+S Short Line 101 conductor.

In my role as volunteer conductor, I have had the pleasure to meet and talk about the history of steam locomotion with people young and old from many Saskatchewan communities, Canada, the United States, South America, Europe and Asia.

The WDM has so much to offer to the citizens of Saskatchewan. We can be thankful for those volunteers and administrative staff who articulated a vision and through dogged determination developed a wonderful 'come-to place'. Barb and I feel fortunate to be part of the volunteer program and look forward to participating in more WDM events and meeting so many wonderful people who share the value of our history.



BARB AND JERRY HUCULAK WERE AMONG THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH KIDS' SECRET SHOPPING

# BRAINBUSTERS

## Word Puzzles

Each of the pictures below represents the name, or nickname, of a Saskatchewan place.

Can you puzzle them out?

1

1. Gan
2. Gan
3. Gan
4. Gan

2



3

knife  
knife

4

hbirmam

5



6

car  
port



## Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol

Hidden somewhere in this issue of Sparks is a Western Red Lily like this one. This lily is Saskatchewan's official flower.

Can you find it?

## Saskatchewan True or False

Which of the 5 "facts" about Saskatchewan are true and which are made-up?

1. Saskatchewan's first Lieutenant Governor, Amédée Forget, had a pet monkey named Jocko.
2. Lorne Calvert, Gordie Howe, and Wayne Gretzky are all famous hockey players from Saskatchewan.
3. A goat named Billy served with Saskatchewan soldiers in the First World War.
4. The Saskatchewan flag was designed in 1925 by a student from La Ronge.
5. Lake sturgeon are the biggest fish in Saskatchewan. They can weigh over 90 kg (200 lbs)!

Answers on page 14!

## Spot the Differences

Did you know... the 1158 Locomotive at WDM North Battleford is over 100 years old? It was built in 1913. It is almost 19 meters long and weighs 77 tons – over 69,000 kilograms!

Look closely to spot **5 differences** between the two photos of the 1158 Locomotive.



Further fun awaits you with spot the difference puzzles, colouring sheets, a train conductor hat craft, connect-the-dots, Story Time at the WDM videos, and more when you visit [wdm.ca/at-home-activities](http://wdm.ca/at-home-activities).

## Button Your Collar

This beautiful collar box (WDM-1988-S-200) is on display in the Bentley Dry Goods Store in the WDM Saskatoon. Made in around 1920, this box was used to store detachable men's shirt collars. First worn in the 1820s or 1830s, detachable collars were in fashion until the 1920s. By the 1930s, men's fashion began to shift away from removable collars.

Because collars were exposed to wear and dirt more than the rest of a shirt, they tended to soil faster. Detachable collars meant that a whole shirt didn't have to be washed when the collar got dirty in a time when laundry was a very difficult and time-consuming task. Detachable collars were generally worn by middle- or working-class men, as upper-class men could afford to wash their entire shirts whenever needed.

Collars were usually made of heavily starched linen or an early form of plastic called celluloid. Celluloid collars, though more expensive than linen ones, did not require regular washing in the way that linen collars did, and so they appealed to men who did not have time or resources to launder their collars regularly.

In the 1926 Spring / Summer Eaton's catalogue, men's collars sold for 25 – 35 cents each.



Spot the Differences

- Saskatchewan True or False**
1. True
  2. False. Gordie Howe is a famous Saskatchewan hockey player. Wayne Gretzky is a famous hockey player, but he is from Ontario. Lorne Calvert is a former Saskatchewan Premier.
  3. True. Visit [wdm.ca/story-time](http://wdm.ca/story-time) to learn more about Sergeant Billy.
  4. False. The Saskatchewan flag was designed in 1969 by a teacher living in Hodgenville.
  5. True

**Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol**

The Western Red Lily is on page 9.

**Word Puzzles**

1. Forgan
2. Shamrock
3. Cutknife
4. Birmingham
5. P.A.
6. Caronport

# SMART FURNISHINGS FOR MEN



**Men's Stylish Knitted Neckwear**  
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**39 CENTS**  
Each

These neckties are made of a soft, comfortable fabric and are available in a variety of patterns and colors. They are perfect for the office or for a night out.



**Radio Dot Ties**  
640-204

75c



**A Smart Bow**  
640-218

45c



**New Style Ties**  
640-209

1.00



This Splendid Tie For Only **50 CENTS**  
Be Sure To Save Color Desired

640-205  
50c



75c

39c



39c

39c

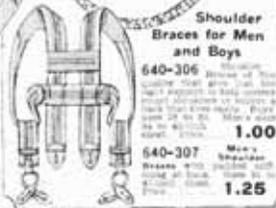


**39 CENTS**

**Extra Good Value in Cord-End Suspenders**

640-301 Each from these cord-end suspenders you get a smart, stylish, and comfortable necktie. They are perfect for the office or for a night out.

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640-307

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640-487 3 for 1.00 35c



3 for 1.00 35c



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# ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

In this feature we highlight 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.



## “Old Abe” Case Eagle

**WDM-1973-S-8879**

In the WDM North Battleford sits a very large Case Eagle, nicknamed “Old Abe.” This eagle was the trademark of the J.I. Case Company, which built farm equipment. This specific twelve-foot-tall Case Eagle sat on top of the Case Building in Regina until it was donated to the WDM in c. 1970.

## Blowtorch

**WDM-1979-S-260**

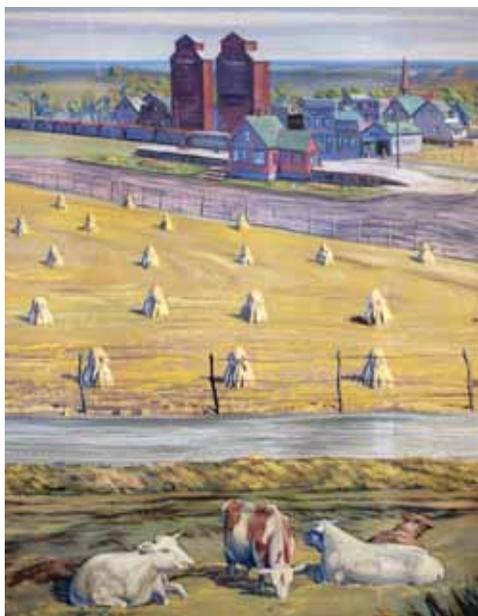
Blowtorch the mechanical horse was made by W. J. McIntyre of Swift Current. One of McIntyre’s many inventions, Blowtorch was the third and final mechanical horse he constructed around 1952. Inside his torso is a 9hp gasoline engine which provided power to the horse. Wheels hidden under the hooves allowed him to move. Blowtorch marched in many parades and was featured in the Saskatchewan Pavilion in at Expo 86 in Vancouver. Now he is on display in the WDM Moose Jaw.



## Lindner Mural

**WDM-2002-S-534**

This mural on display in the WDM Saskatoon was painted by Ernest Lindner c. 1957 and was donated to the Peter Lougheed Centre Palliative Care Unit in Calgary, AB. After some time there it was auctioned to raise funds and purchased by the WDM and Saskatchewan Crown Corporations. The painting is an autumn Saskatchewan landscape featuring highlights such as a farmhouse, barn, grain elevators, train station, and farm animals such as pigs, horses and cows.



## Pysanka

**WDM-74-Y-68.8.C**

“Pysanka” means “written egg,” derived from the Ukrainian verb “pysaty” which means “to write.” Pysanka are exchanged between family and friends at Easter in a tradition that dates back to at least 988 CE. Pysanka in the home were thought to bring good fortune, health, wealth and protection from fire. See the display of some of these eggs at the WDM Yorkton.



# FEATURE

## Time Changes Everything: Bicycles

The first object that could be called a bicycle was invented in 1817 or 1818. The first version had no chain, pedals or brakes, and was instead moved by pushing on the ground with the rider's feet. Few developments occurred in bicycle construction until the 1860s when pedals were attached to the front wheel. The "Penny Farthing" or "ordinary" bicycle with its large front wheel and small rear wheel was invented in the 1870s and quickly grew in popularity. The bicycle as we know it with its equal sized wheels and a chain connecting pedals to the wheels was first created in 1885. This was known as a "safety bicycle."

Take a look at the changes in bicycle form through some artifacts from the WDM collection. The rapid developments in bicycle design in the 1880s and 1890s means that the Penny Farthing bicycle featured is more recent than the first safety bicycle featured.



WDM-1973-S-1037

ORDINARY OR PENNY FARTHING BICYCLE, 1892



WDM-1973-S-1040

SAFETY BICYCLE, 1889



WDM-1983-MJ-20

BICYCLE, 1948



WDM-1992-S-273

BICYCLE, 1974

AS I SEE IT, A MUSEUM IS AN ANSWER TO A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION:  
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A HUMAN BEING?

AMERICAN EDUCATOR, MEDIA THEORIST AND SOCIAL CRITIC NEIL POSTMAN

## ABOUT US

### Care for a Spudnut?

A spudnut is a potato-based donut covered in sugar. Many old world cuisines had a version of doughnuts made with potatoes, which in North America were dubbed spudnuts. Modern versions can be made with potato flour, instant or real mashed potatoes and even a pre-packaged mix. WDM North Battleford staff are using the old-fashioned version with real mashed potatoes.



WDM STAFF MEMBER ERIN COOPER PACKAGING SPUDNUTS FOR PICK-UP

Thinking people might enjoy a comforting spudnut or two during these challenging times, Museum staff decided to start baking and selling them curbside. To show appreciation to front line workers, the WDM North Battleford has made extra batches and donated them to staff at the Battlefords Union Hospital. Who knew they would be so popular? Orders have been coming in non-stop since June 2 via the WDM North Battleford Facebook page. To date staff have made over 3,000 spudnuts.

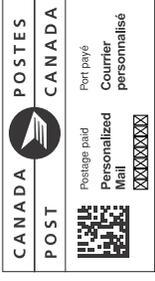
The recipe can be found in the *Out of Old Saskatchewan Kitchens* cookbook, which can be purchased at the WDM North Battleford Gift Shop.

#### WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Phone: 306-934-1400  
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### 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](http://WDM.CA)     #SaskInspired

ROY ROGERS LUNCH KIT AND THERMOS, C. 1950S  
WDM-2017-S-8