



JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022 • VOLUME 46, EDITION 3

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



WDM Programs

Summer camps & events

Saskatchewan People

Dr. William Percy Johns

Feature Article

Wartime rationing

Here is What is Happening at the WDM This Summer

WDM Moose Jaw

July 30 – 31	Brickspo
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July – August	Summer Gallery Pop Up, Sundays
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WDM North Battleford

Through August 27	<i>Refuge Canada</i> Travelling Exhibit
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August 20	History in Motion
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Dates TBA	Kanaweyimik Child and Family Services Tipi Teachings For details contact WDM North Battleford at 306-445-8033
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WDM Saskatoon

July 5	Pop in and Play with the WDM
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July 11 – 15	Hands-on Heritage Camps *
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July 18 – 27	Hands-on Heritage Camps *
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August 8 – 12	Hands-on Heritage Camps *
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August 16	Pop in and Play with the WDM
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September 9 – 12	<i>Métis Cultural Days</i> in partnership with Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.
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September 20	Pop in and Play with the WDM
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WDM Yorkton

July 10, 17, 24	<i>Movies at the Museum</i> in partnership with the Yorkton Film Festival
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July 30	Back to the Farm
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August 6	Crafternoons at the WDM
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August 16 – 18	Blast From The Past Summer Camp *
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August 20	Crafternoons at the WDM
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WDM Virtual Events

September 20	Virtual Coffee Club *
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* Pre-registration is required.

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



Making Saskatchewan Summertime Memorable

With summer around the corner, it feels like we are stepping fully into a post-pandemic world. School groups are once again returning to the WDM for their year end school visits. Planning is underway for *History in Motion*, a new event at the WDM North Battleford. You can also *Pop in and Play with the WDM* in Saskatoon, and *Brickspo* will be back at the WDM Moose Jaw. In Yorkton, check out films from the Yorkton Film Festival and come crafting at *Crafternoons at the WDM*.

We are honoured to partner with Kanawayimik Child and Family Services for a second year and grateful for their generosity in sharing their cultural knowledge with us. Tipis will once again be set up at the WDM North Battleford and Kanawayimik will be offering teachings throughout the summer.

Refuge Canada, a travelling exhibition created by the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, will be on exhibit at the WDM North Battleford through August 27, 2022. **Refuge Canada** explores the refugee experience and provides context for Canada's place in the global refugee crisis. The exhibit is even more powerful given the ongoing war in Ukraine and brings a deeper understanding and awareness to the struggles so many are facing worldwide.

I hope you get to enjoy time with friends and family over the coming months. A visit to the WDM is a great way to connect with each other while exploring our heritage.

Have a wonderful summer everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop for the letter 'J'.

Joan Kanigan, CEO

Sparks is published four times a year and delivered to WDM members. It's a great way to keep up to date on everything happening at all WDM locations.

SPARKS Editor: Kerry Lubchenko

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Meet a Saskatchewan doctor who battled harsh conditions to treat patients across the province for 47 years.



On The Cover

Campers enjoy a lasso contest at the WDM Saskatoon *Hands-on Heritage Camp*.

WDM Board of Directors

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Hours of Operation

- WDM Moose Jaw**
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- WDM North Battleford**
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- WDM Saskatoon**
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Boomtown Café**
Daily 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
- WDM Yorkton**
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

#MemoryMondays

On the first Monday of each month, our Facebook page features historic Saskatchewan memories. Share our post or comment with your own memory.

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

In this issue we feature small settler homes. These very small houses were built by early Saskatchewan settlers as temporary shelters until they could build larger, more permanent homes. To get a feeling for how small some of these homes were, check out the recreated sod house in the WDM Saskatoon or the real settler's home in the WDM Yorkton.



This 1908 photo shows the interior of a settler's home with a bed tucked in one corner. The walls appear to be plastered making it difficult to tell if it's made of mostly wood or sod

WDM GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY BARTON COLLECTION
03013



Though this photo was taken in 1903 the notes on the photo emphasize that the shack was built many years earlier, likely in the 1880s. The walls of the house are wood but the roof appears to be sod

WDM GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY BARTON COLLECTION
12052



This photo was taken in 1907 or 1908 and shows a group of people sitting in front of a small wood shack. The photo references one of the men being hired help for the farm

WDM GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY BARTON COLLECTION
12017



Taken in 1904, this photo shows a small sod house in the middle of the prairie. Two people are standing in the door, which gives a sense of how small this house was

WDM GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY BARTON COLLECTION
12075

In The Galleries

Refuge Canada

WDM North Battleford

Through August 27, 2022

The exhibition *Refuge Canada* was designed to help people understand Canada's place in the current refugee crisis. It does this in two ways: First, by helping people understand the experience of refugees and the challenges they face. Second, by investigating Canada's historical track record of responding to refugees, which is more mixed than people may realize.

Refuge Canada is free with your paid Museum admission.

Former Karen refugee Bwe Doh Soe took a moment to tell us his thoughts on the exhibition and to share some of his incredible story of his journey to Canada.

Watch the full interview at wdm.ca/refugecanada or scan:



Created by



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada

Supported by



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**



Note to Parents: The exhibit is a challenging one, and does contain sensitive content in stories or images that may evoke emotions. It will also prompt questions and lead to important discussions and education. Information is presented in an interactive way that will engage young people, however this kind of emotional experience might not be for everyone, so the decision to bring children through the exhibit is up to the individual parents or guardians who know their children best.

Pion-Era Park Model, c. 1956

As part of the upcoming partnership exhibit with Whitecap Dakota First Nation opening this fall at the WDM Saskatoon, a 1950s vision of the future of the WDM will be on display once again – the Pion-Era Park Model.

In 1956, the WDM Saskatoon planned for a large land development project south of its old 11th Street West location where it could stage Pion-Era. The City of Saskatoon supported the land expansion and planned its own new recreational facilities there too. 'Pion-Era Park' was to include a permanent Indigenous tipi village, "frontier village," racetrack and natural elements like sand dunes and prairie grasses. It would have modern washrooms and ample parking for its thousands of visitors. By 1960, surveying of the site was conducted. In 1968, the model was displayed at the Saskatoon Public Library for residents to see the long-planned vision.

The WDM moved out of the Holiday Park neighbourhood, opening its current location in the Exhibition neighborhood in 1972. Pion-Era Park was never developed to its full potential. Pion-Era Park would have provided permanent urban space for Indigenous participants to showcase their culture and histories, albeit in a way that was defined by the Museum much like Pion-Era.

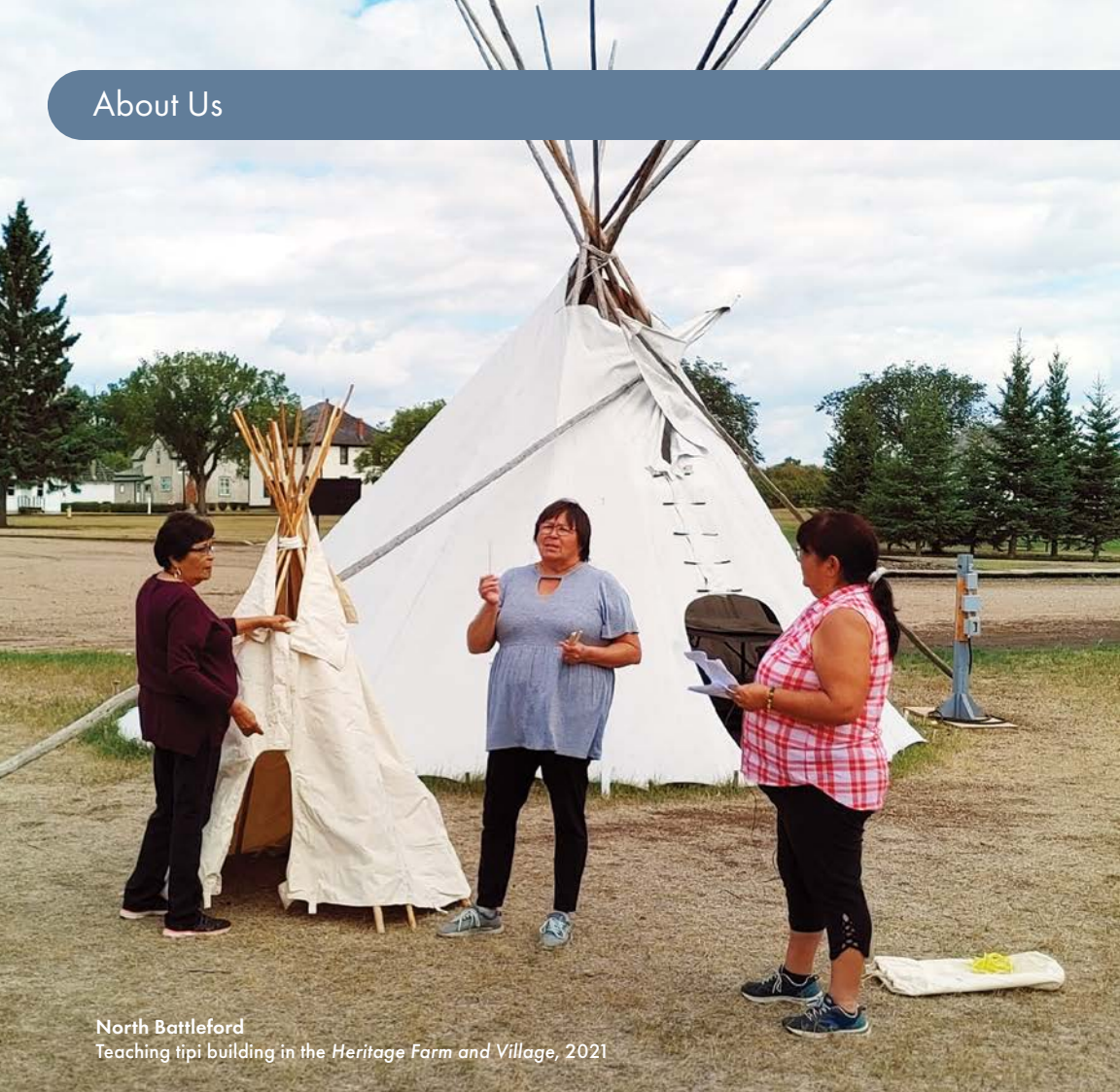
Last year, the WDM Exhibits Department refurbished the model to remember this lost opportunity. Water stains on the surface of the model were covered with new paint, miniature features were restored, and the beauty of the model landscape was brought back closer to its original form. A viewing top was added for visitors to look at all angles of the model. We hope visitors will enjoy looking in on old visions of a never-realized future, gaining insight on the aspirations of the past.



The Pion-Era Park model before restoration by the WDM Exhibits Department, 2021



The recently refurbished Pion-Era Park model, showing the proposed Indigenous tipi camp, c. 1956



North Battleford
Teaching tipi building in the *Heritage Farm and Village*, 2021

In The Good Ol' Summertime

Have you heard the slogan, "Summertime is just memories waiting to happen"? We hope you have and that you'll join us for some memory making moments at the WDM this summer.

WDM North Battleford

Thanks to an amazing partnership with Kaneweyimik Child and Family Services, we have their tipi village set up on the Museum grounds again this summer. On select dates, volunteers with Kanaweyimik Child and Family Services will be sharing their tipi teachings.

On August 20, join us for *History in Motion* when the *Heritage Farm and Village* comes alive with demonstrations and activities for the whole family.

WDM Moose Jaw

Make family memories on Sundays in July and August from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. We'll be popping up in the Museum galleries with crafts and games for youngsters... and the young at heart.

Look for us in and around Moose Jaw at community events like the Moose Jaw Sidewalk Days.

WDM Saskatoon

It's summer camp time! The WDM Saskatoon's *Hands-on Heritage Summer Camps* are back. These day camps are full of history, hands-on learning and Museum fun for ages 7 – 10. Camps take place July 11 – 15, July 18 – 27 and August 8 – 12. Pre-registration is required.

Pop In and Play with the WDM continues with dates scheduled on July 5 and August 16. Pop in between 9:00 am – 4:00 pm to check out the schoolhouse zone, the hands-on zone and cozy story zone. Activities are designed for ages 3 – 6 pm but all ages are welcome.

WDM Yorkton

It's time for a blast from the past with the *Blast from the Past Summer Camps* for 6 – 10 year olds. From **August 16 – 18**, campers will be hands-on with history, learning through activities and crafts. Pre-registration is required.

Come by for matinee screenings of short films from the Yorkton Film Festival during *Movies at the Museum*. Showings are **July 10, 17 and 24** from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Stop by on **July 30** for *Back to the Farm* where we'll have some of our antique equipment operating.

August 6 and 20 are *Crafternoons at the WDM*. We'll be crafting up a summer storm from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Crafts are suitable for children of all ages.

We hope to see you making memories at the WDM this summer.



Moose Jaw
Culture Days



Saskatoon
Pop in and Play with the WDM



Yorkton
Blast from the Past Summer Camp

BRAINBUSTERS

Liar's Club

Cue game show music... the WDM's version of *Liar's Club* is back. *Liar's Club* was an American game show featuring a panel of celebrity guests who offered explanations of obscure or unusual objects. Contestants attempted to determine which explanation was correct.

How good are you at sifting truth from lies? Test your lie-detector skills below.



1. Which of the following artifact explanations is the truth?

- a. This is a mouse trap. Mice and other small rodents could be caught and humanely released back into the wild.
- b. This is a berry crusher. Berries were crushed in this tool to make jelly.
- c. This is a brick mold from Claybank Brick Plant in southern Saskatchewan.
- d. This is a butter press. Using this press, butter could be made into rectangular one-pound blocks.

2. Which of the following artifact explanations is the truth?

- a. This is a bug swatter. Mostly used to swat flies, many people also used them on mosquitos.
- b. This is a fryer. Foods like french fries were loaded into the mesh basket, then dipped in hot oil to cook.
- c. This is a popcorn popper. Popcorn kernels were loaded into the mesh basket, then held over the fire to pop.
- d. This is a cat litter scoop. The long handle allowed people to stand far back from the smelly litter box.



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?

Spot The Differences

Tourism within Saskatchewan took off in the early 20th century. Northern Saskatchewan provided an excellent escape from the prairie south, without a long journey to the mountains or northern Ontario. The rise of automobiles allowed people to travel on their own time instead of being tied to a train schedule. People who ventured into the northern Saskatchewan forests enjoyed camping and picnicking among other activities.

This homemade camper is on display as part of the *Live While You Travel* exhibit at WDM Saskatoon. It was built from blueprints in the 1930s and used by the family for many years.

**Look closely
to spot six
differences
between the
two camper
scenes!**



Five Ways To 'Stretch' Food Like a Wartime Home Cook

During the Second World War many resources were diverted to the war effort. Rationing was introduced across Canada to make sure everyone got their share and to stop stores from price gouging. Restrictions and rationing affected everything from sugar, coffee and milk, to beer, rubber and gasoline. Even with rationing, stores sometimes ran out of items. The WDM Collection has many artifacts that help tell the story of wartime rationing in Saskatchewan. Below are five ways Saskatchewan residents adjusted to and overcame rationing and shortages at home.

MAKE $\frac{1}{2}$ LB. BUTTER INTO 1 LB. SPREAD

Now!
A butter stretcher that keeps true butter flavor

RECIPE
DELICIOUS BUTTER SPREAD
for bread, toast and sandwiches

1. Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. (1 cup) butter (or oleo-margarine) to stand in warm place until soft, but not melted.
2. Meantime, make rennet-custard. Dissolve $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 teaspoon salt in cup ($\frac{1}{4}$ pint) whole milk (not canned), top milk or cream. Warm slowly, stirring constantly. When COMFORTABLY WARM (110°F) not hot, remove at once from heat.
3. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ "Junket" Rennet Tablet which has been dissolved in $\frac{1}{4}$ tablespoon cold water; stir quickly for few seconds only. Let stand in saucepan until firm—about 10 minutes. Do not chill.
4. Add this rennet-custard to softened butter. (If desired, add $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon Dandelion Butter Color.) Beat with egg beater until perfectly blended. Chill until firm. (Do not make more than one week's supply at a time.)

Important—This spread not suggested for frying, sautéing, shortening, or greasing pans.

Save this recipe, it is not in package.

JUNKET RENNET TABLETS
60 Tablets

New Wartime Use for a product famous for 60 years
Doubles butter servings for trifling extra cost. Easy to make. Delicious. Easy to spread. Get "Junket" Rennet Tablets of grocers or druggists.

Send for other tested war-time recipes.
"The 'JUNKET' FOLKS,"
Chr. Hansen's Laboratory,
Toronto, Canada

JUNKET RENNET TABLETS

1. Making butter spread farther

To make butter rations last longer, people thinned butter, used lard instead or made "butter spread" by mixing butter with other ingredients like gelatin. This butter spread recipe was in an advertisement on page 7 of the May 27, 1943 edition of Regina's *Leader Post* newspaper.

WEAR 'EM OUT

WAR TIME IS WEAR TIME!

Patriotic people are "stretching" their wardrobes these days. Careful SANTON'S dressmaking makes this possible. Fine fabrics are carefully burned by the hidden darts that accumulate in them—its abrasive and darts, the colors, G.C. efficient cleaning methods bring back a newness that will surprise you. Get your Fall clothes into our hands now and AVOID THE RUSH. Return spare hours with drive.

Phone 8517
Went Personal Laundry
Queen City
GLOVES & DRESS LTD.
Cleaning & Softening
Dressmakers Open

HEAD OFFICE AND PLANT—1011 AVE. AT GERRY ST.

2. "Use up, wear out, make do"

Civilians on the home front were encouraged to be frugal with and conserve everything, even clothing. In this ad from page 7 of the August 21, 1943 *Leader Post*, a dry-cleaning company in Regina encouraged potential customers to take better care of their clothes with dry-cleaning. People also knitted, patched and darned at home rather than buy new clothes.



A textile patching sample, 1937
WDM-2010-S-68

3. Gardening

Home grown fruits and vegetables weren't rationed. If you lived on a farm, you already grew a garden and preserved the produce. In urban areas the government encouraged people to grow more of their own food by growing "victory gardens" to build and maintain national wartime food reserves.

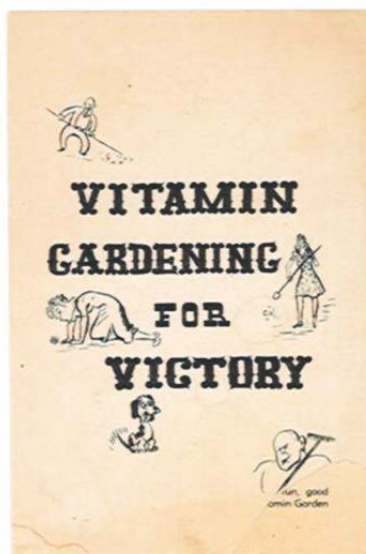


Gardening gloves, unknown date
WDM-2009-S-572



Lux Knitting Book, 1942. This book boasts "23 garments to knit for the Services – styles for all the family – 97 patterns!"

WDM-2008-S-60



Victory gardening book, c. 1943

WDM-2007-S-223

continued on next page

continued from previous page

4. Home Canning

This was a time before home deep freezes. Canning was the best way to preserve whatever you grew or bought. Public canning demonstrations and extra rations of sugar for canning encouraged home cooks. The headline on page 9 of the May 6, 1943 Saskatoon Star-Phoenix declared "Canning of Fruit, Vegetable First Line of Home Defence" and praised home canning as good for your health and your wallet.

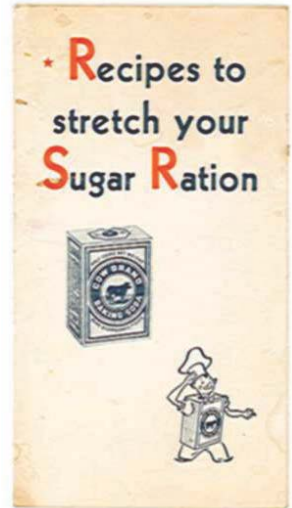


Stevens, Alice. Here's your home canning ration guide, B.C. Fruit Trees Ltd., 1943

WDM GEORGE SHEPHERD LIBRARY

5. Sugarless Recipes

Sugar was the first food item rationed in Canada in 1942. Home cooks were urged to save syrup from canned fruits, add dried fruit to recipes, and use other sweeteners like molasses or corn syrup instead. Some companies published recipe books for low sugar and sugar free recipes, like this one by Cow Brand Baking Soda.



"Recipes to stretch your Sugar Ration" Cookbook, 1943

WDM-2007-S-227



Your Membership Matters

As a WDM member, you are part of a growing number of people from across Saskatchewan making a difference and connecting with Saskatchewan's diverse histories.

WDM membership benefits include:

- Free admission to all four WDM exhibit locations
- Free entry to selected WDM and non-WDM special events
- SPARKS newsletter mailed to you quarterly
- Discounts of 10% on regular-priced items in the four WDM Gift Shops
- Discounts of 10% on menu items in WDM Saskatoon's Boomtown Café
- Discounted registration fee for WDM sponsored classes and workshops.
- Invitations to special events and behind-the-scenes tours
- Information service to answer your questions on Saskatchewan heritage and artifact conservation

Funds raised through the sale of memberships help the WDM make upgrades and purchase much needed equipment. The WDM is extremely grateful for the support of our members. Thank you for your continued support of the WDM and Saskatchewan heritage.



Museum Highlights

WDM MOOSE JAW

CPR Superintendent's Car

WDM-1973-S-1435

This 1934 Buick was used as a CPR superintendent's inspection car. Converted to run on railways instead of roads, it allowed superintendents to inspect CPR facilities without having to wait for regularly scheduled trains. This car was in use until the late 1950s, at which point it was retired. It's said that the superintendents would travel 25,750 to 32,186 km (16,000 to 20,000 miles) every year using this car.

This vehicle was originally based in Winnipeg, but later was relocated to Moose Jaw. After its retirement, it was donated to the WDM in 1964.



WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

1158 Locomotive

WDM-1973-S-3135

The recently restored 1158 locomotive in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village* is tied to the arrival of early settlers in Saskatchewan. Built in 1913, it was initially used to haul passengers across the Canadian prairies, many of them settlers setting up homesteads.

It was later converted from coal to oil and used for freight work. It eventually wound up in Blue River, BC for its final operational days in 1959 - 60. It was then donated to the WDM. A lengthy restoration process began in 2017 and was completed in 2019.



Dr. William Percy Johns

Dr. William Percy Johns was born in southern Ontario in 1882. He traveled to the United States for medical school, graduating in 1907. He first practiced in northern British Columbia for five years before moving to Saskatchewan in 1912. His practice was based in Viscount, but he treated patients as far east as Guernsey, as far west as Colonsay, north to Bruno and south to Manitou Beach. He would remain the area's doctor until his retirement in 1959.

In the winter, to cover the long distances to reach patients, Dr. Johns traveled by open cutter and later in a converted Model T snowmobile. To keep warm, he bundled up in a heavy wool winter coat lined with beaver fur. That coat is now an artifact in the WDM Permanent Collection. It's hard to imagine the energy it must have taken to travel in such a weighty garment. The warmth of his patients' homes must have been a welcome relief.



Academic portrait of Dr. Johns
WDM FILE MATERIAL



One of the snowmobiles used by Dr. Johns for winter travel
WDM FILE MATERIAL

Dr. Johns had two snowmobiles throughout his career. His second snowmobile faced an unfortunate end when, on a trip to deliver a baby, it ran out of oil. Dr. Johns stopped at a nearby farm, but the farmer had no oil. The two decided to use water instead to keep the machine going. Dr. Johns made it to his patient in time, but the snowmobile's engine was damaged beyond repair. After this incident, he traveled in a heated horse-drawn caboose.

Some other facts about Dr. Johns

- Born September 28, 1882
- Studied medicine at Wayne Medical College in Detroit, Michigan
- Worked as a doctor in Saskatchewan for 47 years
- Treated patients during the Spanish Influenza pandemic
- Died April 20, 1975



Dr. Johns' winter coat
WDM-1991-S-212



There are six differences in this image.

Spot the Differences

Brainbuster Answers

Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol

The Western Red Lily is on page 14.

Liar's Club

1. D, butter press.
2. C, popcorn popper.



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WDM Corporate Office

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WDM Corporate Office Business Hours

8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday
Closed statutory holidays



[WDM.CA](http://wdm.ca)



#SaskInspired

Menu from former Chinese restaurant Lorne
Avenue Chop Suey in Saskatoon, c. 1968-1989
WDM-2018-S-23