



JANUARY – MARCH 2023 • VOLUME 47, EDITION 1

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



Calls to Action

Reconciliation in Museums

Feature Article

Marvel Houston & CWAC

Artifact Feature

Dr. Shepherd Marionette

Here is What is Happening at the WDM

WDM Moose Jaw

Through January 8	Snowflake Seek and Find
Through January 8	Holiday Films from the National Film Board
February 11	Community Heritage Day

WDM North Battleford

Through January 7	Light Up The Village
Through March 26	<i>Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Archival Records of Library and Archives Canada</i> travelling exhibit

WDM Saskatoon

Through January 15	<i>Eaton's Once Upon a Christmas</i> exhibit
January 17	Pop In and Play with the WDM
January 20 – 22	Saskatoon Farm Toy and Collectible Show *
February 12	Heritage Festival of Saskatoon *
February 21	Pop In and Play with the WDM – Celebrating Black History Month
March 21	Pop In and Play with the WDM
April 15 – June 25	<i>Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think</i> travelling exhibit presented by The Canadian Race Relations Foundation with the generous support of the Government of Canada

WDM Yorkton

Through January 29	Snowpeople Seek and Find
February 19	Heritage Day
March 4	The Art of Hygge

* Not a WDM organized event.

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

Exciting Changes

Hi Everyone,

I hope you enjoyed the best of the holiday season with friends and family. Over the past couple of months, there has been a significant change at the WDM that I am excited to share with you.

This past fall, we established a Community Engagement Department. The Community Engagement Department has been created by bringing programming, marketing and fundraising together into a single department. We have made this change to better align these activities and improve cross-functional communication.

The focus of our new department will be on how the WDM engages with people in Saskatchewan, both in-person and virtually. This includes,

- Fundraising and Donor Stewardship
- WDM Membership Program
- Education and Public programs and events
- Volunteer Management
- Steam and Operating Equipment Program

Having a single department responsible for engaging with our members, volunteers and communities will enable us to better coordinate our activities and create more value for those we serve. Over the next couple of months, we will be recruiting new staff for key positions in the department.

In the coming months, you will see several new faces at the WDM as the Community Engagement Department gets up and running. I am excited about the opportunities being created by these changes and look forward to becoming even more engaged with our members, volunteers and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



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.

Editor: Corinne Daelick

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On The Cover: Students from Miller Elementary School in Melville take a guided tour of the WDM Yorkton.

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Volunteering can be a chance to try new things and gain confidence. Hear about how Lois Unger used her volunteer experience to find new opportunities for personal growth.



WDM Board of Directors

Orlanda Drebit
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Secretary, Saskatoon

Gwen Beitel
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Hours of Operation

WDM Moose Jaw
Tuesday – Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

WDM North Battleford
Tuesday – Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

WDM Saskatoon
Tuesday – Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Boomtown Café
Tuesday – Sunday 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

WDM Yorkton
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Weekends 12:00 pm – 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

This issue's #MemoryMondays highlights photos of the interiors of houses from the WDM's Barton Collection. These photos all appear to be of houses the Barton family lived in over the years. Some photos show the same room a few years apart, while others focus on one or two pieces of furniture.



1927 photo of a kitchen taken right after dinner

WDM BARTON COLLECTION 12011



March 1919 photo of the kitchen. There is a seam down the middle as it is made of two different pictures spliced together

WDM BARTON COLLECTION 10021



Undated photo of a living room

WDM BARTON COLLECTION 08027



Undated photo of the interior of a living room featuring a wicker armchair

WDM BARTON COLLECTION 12012



Undated photo of a cat beside an old kitchen stove

WDM BARTON COLLECTION 12019

Truth and Reconciliation in Museums

WDM Supports Call To Action 67



Graphic recording of CMA Roundtable discussion, March 14, 2022

CANADIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION, ARTIST – TIARÉ LANI

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released their final report. The report concluded six years of information and story gathering from residential school survivors and engaging with the public to educate and inform about residential schools and their legacy. The report contained 94 Calls To Action. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation says that,

“The Calls To Action are an appeal to mobilize with all levels of government, organizations, as well as individuals to make concrete changes in society. They list specific actions to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.”

In Call to Action 67, the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) was called upon to deliver a report as part of a national review of museum policies and their relationship with United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). For the CMA, they identified that,

“Museums have, from their preliminary existence, been part of the colonial project. How do we acknowledge that truth while also supporting our work as community institutions?”

The CMA invited museums and Indigenous groups from across Canada to be part of the conversation and to provide input. The report “Moved To Action: Activating UNDRIP in Canadian Museums” was released in September 2022.

The WDM and the Indigenous partners we work with, Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Kanaweyimik Child & Family Services and Battlefords Tribal Council, participated in the national roundtables with CMA, giving us an opportunity to collectively inform the CMA’s formal response to Call to Action 67. The WDM was honoured to participate.

“It was a meaningful and honest dialogue, and we wish to thank Elder Malvina Eagle (Whitecap Dakota First Nation) for her guidance in the process. We encourage all Canadians to read the CMA’s final report “Moved to Action: Activating UNDRIP in Canadian Museums” and the museum sector to embrace the recommendations, decolonizing all aspects of museum work and prioritizing Indigenous-led processes and projects.”

Elizabeth Scott, WDM Chief Curator/Director of Collections & Research



WDM and Kanaweyimik Child & Family Services
L–R: Shirley Maze, Delores Beaudry, Marlene Pooyak, Diane Pooyak,
Michelle Sanderson, Joyce Smith.
June 9, 2021

Read the Canadian
Museums Association
report here:



To learn more about
UNDRIP, check out this
video created by the
Government of Canada:



Marvel Houston and the Canadian Women's Army Corps

This scrapbook from the Second World War was made by Marvel Houston (née Paul or St. Paul). Marvel Paul was born in Meadow Lake and raised in North Battleford. The scrapbook contains various pieces of Second World War memorabilia, including numerous cut-outs of newspaper cartoons and documents relating to the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC).

In 1943, at the age of 18, Marvel Paul joined the CWAC and served as a clerk until 1946, when the CWAC was disbanded.

The CWAC was formed in 1941 by a group of women who argued that in a "total war" like the Second World War, all Canadians should have the opportunity to serve, not just men. The men in charge were skeptical of bringing women into any form of military service outside of nursing, raising concerns about what would happen to families if both parents went off to war.

The need for more labour was ultimately what convinced the men in charge to create the CWAC. Women were permitted to take over support roles to free up men to fight on the front lines. Though it was called an "army corps," initially the women were not officially part of any branch of the Canadian military, were not subject to military discipline, and did not follow army military ranks. This changed in 1942 when the CWAC was officially integrated into the Canadian Army. After that point, women and men were in the same ranking system.

Recruits were trained in three locations. Kitchener, Ontario, Vermilion, Alberta, or



Marvel Paul in her CWAC uniform, 1943 – 46
WDM COLLECTIONS 3-H-28

Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec. In 1943, the first members of the CWAC were sent overseas, first to England and later to Italy and Belgium.

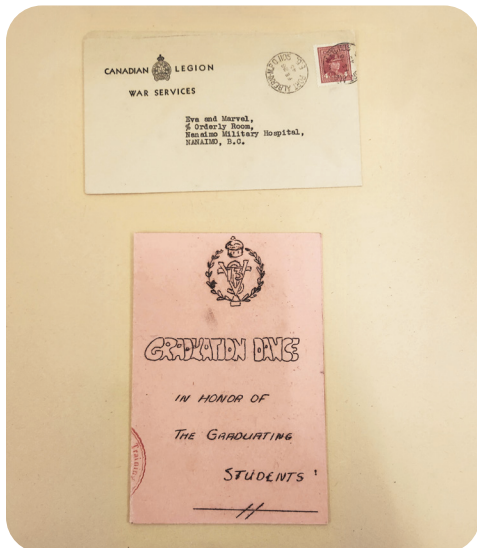
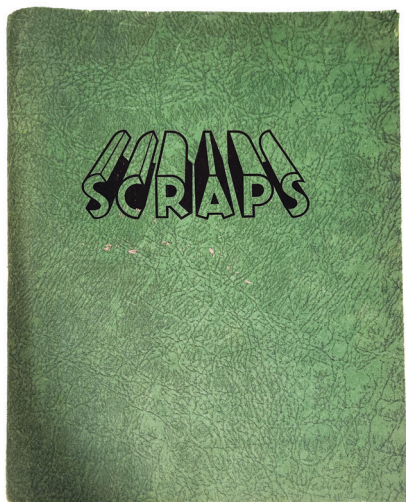
To enlist in the CWAC, women could have no dependents and were subject to strict health requirements. Women in the CWAC did everything from cooking and laundry, to deciphering codes and vehicle maintenance.

Between 1941 and 1946, over 21,000 women served in the CWAC. Four were wounded in active service.



Marvel Paul's scrapbook

WDM-1996-S-40



In 1951, Marvel married Erle Houston and moved to his farm near Ruthilda (a village which was officially dissolved in 2013). In the 1970s, Marvel became interested in archaeology after finding various artifacts on her farm. In 1976, she joined the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society and served as President from 1982 - 86. She also sat on the Board of the Biggar Special Care Home and served as Mayor of Ruthilda. She passed away on June 10, 1995.

Virtual Coffee Club

Is it too cold to go out? Then why not stay in with the WDM and join us for visiting and learning in our Virtual Coffee Club. Sessions take place on Zoom from 10:00 – 11:00 am. The program is free but pre-registration is required. Registration closes at 12:00 pm on the day before the Virtual Coffee Club program. Visit us at wdm.ca/coffeeclub to register.

Check out these upcoming presentations:

Winter Travel

January 31

Anyone who has experienced a Saskatchewan winter knows how tough it can be. Do we hole up and wait for spring? No, we try not to let the cold stop us from getting around. Our presentation takes a look at types of past winter travel in our province.



Black Railway Porters in Saskatchewan

February 14

Co-presented with the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum, join us to learn about the significance of the history of Black/African descent railway porters and some Saskatchewan-specific stories about porters.



Violet's Saskatchewan

March 21

Violet McNaughton's name is not a very well-known one in Canadian history. However, the work she did to advance gender equality for settler women in Saskatchewan left a legacy still felt today. Learn about Violet's story and that of other Saskatchewan women, particularly rural settler women, in the early 1900s.



Shop Local at WDM Gift Shops

Members get 10% off when they shop in WDM gift shops and from the WDM's online store.

You'll find a great selection of giftware, souvenirs, books and clothing plus items created by Saskatchewan artisans, crafters and authors. What a great way to support the WDM and your local community!

Visit one of our gift shops in person or check us out online by visiting wdm.ca/shop.



You can also purchase access to the WDM's Virtual Escape Room program "The Last Key" while shopping online.



WDM Volunteer Experience

An opportunity to grow

Regular readers of *Sparks* will be familiar with the many ways that volunteers help the WDM. Whether it's helping with a program, building and repairing, sewing, acting as tour guides or modelling clothing from our hands-on collection, our volunteers fill many important roles. Volunteers benefit the WDM and enhance the visitor experience. At the WDM, we're excited when our volunteers tell us how the WDM benefits them too. Today we share the story of volunteer Lois Unger. Lois has volunteered as a model in WDM fashion shows in Saskatoon since 2017. Here's her story:

"I had volunteered for a few events at the WDM and loved the atmosphere and people right away. The Boomtown Café is a bonus with amazing food. When I received the email about walking the runway at the fashion show for the annual Pion-Era event, I was higher than cloud nine! It's like the universe collided with my dreams. You see - I had just completed a course about modeling and walking runways. This whole collaboration boosted my confidence and I had the honour of wearing these incredible clothes from past eras. I took this on as a serious venture as I am one to give 100%. I met some amazing women in the dressing room, supporting each other no matter body type or age.

After this event, I started searching for more opportunities. Again, I have been blessed. I have done brand photo shoots, runway modeling for women's shows and fundraisers, model and acting in films and videos, voice over for ads in TV and radio and pursued my love of photography as a photo-artist.

All this from only ONE volunteer shift at WDM. I'm excited for more adventures. I just love how supportive and kind the staff are and they appreciate me. I'm so grateful to the WDM."

Thanks to Lois for sharing her story with us. We're thrilled we could be part of your exciting journey.

OWN



BRAINBUSTERS

Did you know...

Three Canadian Prime Ministers have represented the riding of Prince Albert as Members of Parliament?

John Diefenbaker, Wilfrid Laurier and Mackenzie King all represented Prince Albert at one time in their political careers but only Diefenbaker actually lived in Saskatchewan. Prince Albert is the only political riding in Canada to hold such a distinction.

IT'S A SASK FACT!

True or False

Can you tell which Sask Facts are true and which aren't?

1. By 1905 there were 200 telephones in Saskatchewan.
2. Saskatchewan Highway 11 is also known as the Louis Riel Trail.
3. The largest recorded hailstone in Saskatchewan was the size of a grapefruit.
4. Saskatchewan's first TV station went on the air on December 5, 1955.
5. The Regina Pats, Moose Jaw Warriors, Estevan Bruins and Saskatoon Blades are all part of the Western Hockey League (WHL).
6. In 1923, the Motherwell Homestead at Abernethy was named a national historic site.



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

The *100 Years of Saskatchewan History* exhibit at the WDM Yorkton showcases lots of ways Saskatchewanians have been entertained. In the Let's Have Fun display, you'll find ways to have fun anytime of the year, whether you're inside or outside, with a group or on your own.

Look closely to spot **seven** differences between the leisure cupboard scenes.



Museum Highlights

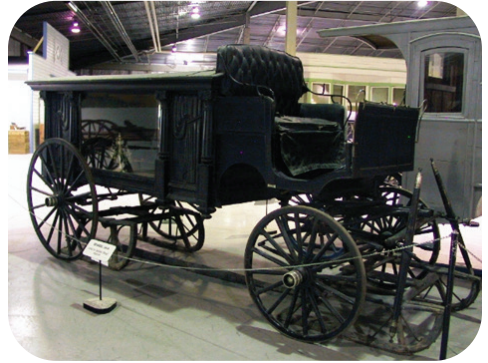
WDM MOOSE JAW

Hearse

WDM-1973-NB-136

This hearse was originally owned by Farrows Funeral Home in Indian Head. Purchased new in 1918 for \$800 from a company in Guelph, Ontario, the hearse served an area within a 50 km radius from Indian Head. Due to these distances, it would sometimes take this hearse two days to travel to a funeral. In the winter, the hearse was put on sleigh runners to be pulled through the snow.

The hearse was used for 25 years before being retired. It is now on display in the WDM Moose Jaw's Land Gallery.



WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

Coffee Grinder

1973-NB-7630

This coffee grinder, on display in the Co-op building at the WDM North Battleford, is from a general store in Turtleford. Opened in 1911 by John Bloom, the store was the only place in the area to get ground coffee.

When the store was first opened, there was no post office or town name for the settlement. Bloom applied for a post office to be opened, but this required the area to have a name. Residents suggested "Bloomville," but the Bloom family rejected this name. Instead, the family suggested Turtleford, named for the Turtle River which the family had to cross to get to town. This was accepted and became the town's official name.



WDM SASKATOON

Tractor Tires

WDM-1973-NB-13891

On display in the WDM Saskatoon is this pair of tires: one steel and one rubber. They were purchased by the Dominion Experimental Farm at Swift Current in 1933 to convert the farm's IHC 22-36 tractor from steel tires to rubber.

These are believed to be the first set of rubber tires used on a tractor in Canada, being purchased just after rubber tires for farm equipment were introduced in 1932. The rubber tires were used for around 8,600 hours to compare them with the steel wheels. When the tests were complete, the tires were removed and put in storage. They came into the WDM Collection in 1948.



WDM YORKTON

Wheat Sheaf

WDM-2007-Y-3

This wheat sheaf was made by Barbara Petracek of Langenburg for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 1972 Field Crops competition in Toronto. She had previously won prizes for wheat and oat sheaves and potatoes in 1967, 1968 and 1970. In 1971, her sheaves were lost in transit to Toronto and so she was unable to compete. Barbara made this sheaf in 1972 and family folklore suggests she won first place with it.

This sheaf is now on display in the WDM Yorkton's local history exhibit.



Dr. George Shepherd Marionette

WDM-2018-S-44



Dr. Shepherd posing with his marionette and a Santa Claus marionette. Date unknown

This marionette from the WDM collection is made in the likeness of the WDM's first curator, Dr. George Shepherd. It was stored in the WDM George Shepherd Library for decades before being formally accessioned into the WDM Collection in 2018.

In the 1970s, puppet shows were regularly performed at the WDM by volunteers. At the time, Dr. Shepherd was a well-known figure in the community, especially with WDM volunteers. Because of this, in 1975, volunteers decided to make a marionette of him that would be used to introduce their puppet shows. A recording of Dr. Shepherd was used for the voice of this marionette.

The woman who made the marionette was initially worried that Dr. Shepherd might be offended by it, as marionettes tend to have exaggerated features, much like caricatures. However, Dr. Shepherd was thrilled to see his marionette.

The marionette is made from sawdust and glue covered in a layer of plaster and painted. Fabric from an old necktie of Dr. Shepherd's was used to make the vest and bow tie on the marionette.

The WDM hosted many puppet shows throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s. The first puppet show performed at the WDM was a circus performance, but after that an effort was made to do more history-based shows.

The WDM received a grant and partnered with the Saskatoon Company of Young Puppeteers (SCYP) to run the puppet shows. All puppets and sets were constructed in-house at the WDM, and the scripts were written by the WDM as well. The WDM partnered with a local theatre company for the puppets' voices. All audio was pre-recorded on a reel-to-reel recorder and then spliced and edited to create the final product.

Shows performed by WDM puppets included the Cremation of Sam McGee, Aladdin and the Ice Worm Cocktail. Original scripts were also performed, such as "Land of the Big Blue Sky," written by Diana Matsuda about a family moving to Moose Jaw from England and then traveling north with Barr Colonists.

Dr. Shepherd's marionette is now safely in storage at the WDM Corporate Office in Saskatoon.

Brainbuster Answers

True or False

1. False. By 1905 there were 2,000 telephones in Saskatchewan.
2. True. In 2001, Highway 11 became the Louis Riel Trail in honour of Louis Riel, one of the Fathers of Canadian Confederation.
3. True. The hailstone was 290 g and 114 mm in diameter. It fell on July 31, 1973 in Cedoux. It held the Canadian record as largest hailstone until August 1, 2022.
4. False. Saskatchewan's first TV station was CKCK in Regina. It went on the air on July 28, 1954.
5. False. The Estevan Bruins play in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. The other teams all play in the WHL.
6. False. Motherwell Homestead became a national historic site in 1966.

Search for the Saskatchewan

Symbol



The Western Red Lily is on page 11.

Spot the Differences



Dr. Shepherd's marionette

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WDM Corporate Office

For SPARKS and membership questions
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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



Gramophone Needles, date unknown
WDM-1973-NB-2434



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



#SaskInspired