



APRIL – JUNE 2023 • VOLUME 47, EDITION 2

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



Volunteering Weaves Us Together

Celebrating volunteers whose enthusiasm and many talents are woven together to strengthen and support the WDM

Here is What is Happening at the WDM

WDM Moose Jaw

April 1 – 30	Museum Nonsense
April 1 – 30	Hood Ornament Bingo
April 9 – 15	Spring Break Films from the National Film Board
June 10	BMO Day at the WDM – Free Admission

WDM North Battleford

June 10	BMO Day at the WDM – Free Admission
June 21	National Indigenous People's Day Traditional Pow Wow
Dates TBA	Kanaweyimik Child and Family Services Tipi Teachings For details contact WDM North Battleford at 306-445-8033

WDM Saskatoon

April 11	Pop In and Play with the WDM
April 15	Pioneer Threshermen's Club Flea Market
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
May 22	Pop In and Play with the WDM
June 10	BMO Day at the WDM – Free Admission
June 20	Pop In and Play with the WDM

WDM Yorkton

April 1 – 30	Spring Into Easter Seek and Find
May 1 – 31	May Flowers Seek and Find
June 1 – 30	Summer Vacation Seek and Find
June 10	BMO Day at the WDM – Free Admission

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



National Volunteer Week

April 16 – 22, 2023 is National Volunteer Week in Canada. It's an opportunity to recognize the generosity, talents and contributions that volunteers make in communities throughout Canada. For us, WDM volunteers aren't just volunteers, they are an important part of the WDM community. Without their support and contributions, much of what brings the WDM to life would not be possible. Their support truly makes a difference and we want to recognize and support volunteering in all aspects of our work.

The WDM recently created a Department of Community Engagement to bring greater focus and resources to how we work within our communities. This department brings together the Education, Fundraising and Marketing departments. An important aspect of this new department will be to support and engage volunteers throughout each of our Museum locations.

For the first time, the WDM will have a Volunteer Engagement Manager who will oversee our volunteer program and ensure that volunteers are partners in our program and service delivery. Kristine Flynn, who has been with the WDM for 15 years in the former Education department, will be taking on this new role later this spring. Kristine has a passion for working with volunteers and has been increasing her knowledge about volunteer management best practices for many years.

The WDM has benefited from the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. But more importantly, so has everyone who has visited the Museum and experienced our shared history.

I am truly grateful for the contributions made by each and every one of our volunteers. To all our volunteers, thank you for sharing your passion for Saskatchewan's history with us. Thank you for your work, your dedication and for being such an important part of the Western Development Museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan".

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: Volunteer Karen Dolan making butter at the WDM Moose Jaw's Heritage Day, February 11, 2023.

In This Edition . . .

- 6

Weaving Us Together
Hurray for WDM volunteers who do so much to strengthen and support our Museum and communities.
- 12

Our Collective Threads: Saskatchewan People in Canada
From the WDM Collection, 20 clothing stories are featured in a new virtual exhibit that reflects the diversity of Saskatchewan's people.
- 18

Carol LaFayette-Boyd
Meet this two-time World Master Athlete of the Year who calls Saskatchewan home.



WDM Board of Directors

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Regina

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
April to May
Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Weekends 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

June to August
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

As we look forward to Summer Fair season, we are featuring images from the WDM's Lewchuk Negatives Collection. Visit the WDM Yorkton or our website to learn more about Professor N.P. Lewchuk's Travelling Midway: wdm.ca/collections/professor-n-p-lewchuks-traveling-midway



Lewchuk's daughters Anne and Elizabeth in front of King Bros. Circus trailers watching the midway being set up (c. 1950)

WDM-2006-Y-77



Lewchuk's wife Nellie, pregnant with their first child (1917)

WDM-2006-Y-94



Wedding of Dora Humeniuk's (Lewchuk's sister-in-law) near Canora (c. 1917)

WDM-2006-Y-281



Lewchuk Midway bustling with activity

WDM-2006-Y-296



Mary Tkatch working a souvenir booth for the Lewchuk Midway in Foam Lake

WDM-2006-Y-243



Volunteering Weaves Us Together Celebrating WDM Volunteers

Since the WDM began in 1949, volunteers have been an integral part of what we do. Whether they are doing work in our galleries and outdoor spaces or helping behind the scenes, volunteer contributions weave together to create a strong and vibrant Museum. We are so grateful to our volunteers for making our Museum the welcoming place it is ... a place where people want to be.

Canada's National Volunteer Week takes place from April 16 - 22, 2023, celebrating volunteers with the theme, "Volunteering Weaves Us Together." As the organization Volunteer Canada says, "Volunteering weaves us together, strengthening the fabric of our community by sharing our time, talent and energy to support one another." We couldn't agree more. Thank you to our many wonderful volunteers who support the WDM!

Keep reading to learn about a few of the hundreds of volunteers who make up the fabric of the WDM volunteer team.

Volunteering Weaves Us Together

Stan Mills

What got Stan Mills interested in volunteering at the WDM was that it provided a great environment to learn about different machines, engines and tractors. He saw it as an opportunity to continue to learn about and develop the skills needed to fabricate machine parts. As a young boy growing up on a farm, he loved learning about how things worked. As there were no welders or tradespeople who came to the farm to fix equipment, it was a necessity to learn how machines worked and how to fix them.

Stan has volunteered at the WDM North Battleford for 35 years. He brought many skills to volunteering but says he has learned a lot too. Even with all he's learned, he continually strives to learn more methods for fabricating and constructing parts. These are his favorite activities at the WDM. He likes that he is able to help the Museum while learning at his own pace and doing what he finds interesting.

Stan also enjoys interacting with his fellow volunteers, staff members and the public. He feels that, "Everyone has a role to play at the Museum and that the knowledge our volunteers have is irreplaceable." Over the years, the WDM has had many talented volunteers use their special skills to benefit the Museum. Thank you to Stan, and other volunteers like him, for all you do. It is truly appreciated!



Stan in the Parade of Power at Those Were The Days

Volunteering Weaves Us Together

Elaine & Louis Lahosky

Elaine and Louis Lahosky of Theodore became official WDM volunteers and members in the early 1980s. However, this wasn't the first time they supported the WDM. They had been volunteering on and off since the 1970s whenever Elaine's uncle Ernest Benfield, a member of the Yorkton Threshermen's Club, would call on them for extra help. Building this connection led them to eventually join the Yorkton Threshermen's Club, a volunteer group at the WDM Yorkton.

Elaine and Louis have always had an interest in history, so supporting the WDM seemed like a natural fit. As a farmer, Louis really enjoyed working with the equipment and helping with farm demonstrations at the Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival. Elaine was asked by another volunteer, Norman Roebuck, to help with the Special Exhibit at the Show. Today, Elaine continues to work on the Special Exhibit which features a display with a different theme each year.



Elaine at Museum Day

While their volunteer experience started as part of the Yorkton Threshermen's Club, Elaine and Louis volunteer in a variety of Museum activities. Louis loves to help with anything agriculture related ... especially if it's John Deere green. They both help with events like the July 1 Picnic and the school program, Celebrate Christmas Past. In the mid-2000s, Louis was on the WDM Board of Directors which he really enjoyed.

Volunteering is not only a great way to help the WDM, but it gives something back to Elaine and Louis as well. Volunteering at the WDM has provided them with a circle of friends. Elaine put it this way, "It's the camaraderie of being with others who have similar interests. It's not just the volunteering but the friends you make." We couldn't have said it better ourselves.



Elaine & Louis Lahosky



Louis helping at the Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival

Volunteering Weaves Us Together

Len McDonald

Len McDonald has seen a lot of Trans-Canada Highway 1 between Regina and Moose Jaw. He travels it as he goes from his home in Regina to the WDM Moose Jaw where he volunteers. Len says, "I'd be there every day if I lived closer."



Helping with repairs to the Short Line 101



At Museum Learning Days

Len's connection to the WDM is thanks to his involvement with the Royal Astronomical Society in Regina. Len was coordinating volunteer activities for the Society when an opportunity arose to be part of the Museum Learning Days school program at the WDM. Len brought some telescopes to the Museum to show to students. He found he enjoyed being at the Museum so he started to volunteer for other activities whenever, as Len put it, "a body was needed."

Len has always loved big machinery. He was interested in becoming an engineer on the Short Line 101 locomotive but wasn't able to take the WDM's Steam Locomotive Operation Training Course. Programs and Volunteer Coordinator, Karla Rasmussen, suggested he try being a Short Line 101 train conductor instead. Len says it's fun to be a conductor as you get to talk to a lot of people from around the world. He has met folks from all over Europe, China and the United States as well as from across Canada.

What Len enjoys about volunteering is that it's a chance to be with other people and do things he's interested in. He also likes giving back to others. He told us, "I do what I can, when I can." Thanks so much for all you do, Len! And thanks to our many volunteers who travel that extra mile to make the WDM a vibrant and welcoming place.

Volunteering Weaves Us Together

Women's Auxiliary to the WDM Saskatoon



Some members of the Women's Auxiliary, November 2023

The Women's Auxiliary at the WDM Saskatoon got their start when the WDM Board asked for a women's committee to be formed to help with household displays at Pion-Era in 1955 and 1956. In 1957, the group met to create the Women's Auxiliary to the Western Development Museum with a mandate to help the Museum collect artifacts and care for domestic exhibits. Later added to their mandate was the demonstration of old-fashioned skills and raising funds to support Museum projects. In the early days of the WDM, the Women's Auxiliary were crucial in collecting and restoring artifacts. One story tells of the women going door to door to ask for donations of items and doing restoration work like stripping paint and refinishing furniture.

For the past 66 years, the Women's Auxiliary have been sharing their many talents and skills at the WDM. You may have seen them busy quilting and crafting in their Parlour in Boomtown or had a chance to taste their homemade butter and bread at Museum events. Besides demonstrating home skills such as sewing, spinning and knitting, they also sell their creations. Over the years, the Women's Auxiliary have donated thousands of dollars to WDM projects. These include purchasing equipment for the Boomtown Café, buying computers, providing funds for gift shop, lobby and exhibit upgrades as well as making annual donations for general use. Their impact can be seen throughout the Museum. Whenever you purchase an item from the Women's Auxiliary, these funds go back into the WDM.

Today, there are 22 active members of the Women's Auxiliary as well as one life member. Besides crafting, they help with school and public programs as demonstrators, guides and helpers. They meet Tuesday mornings to craft together as well as hold learning sessions where they share their skills with each other. They are looking forward to the future where they plan to explore opportunities for more community outreach as well as recruiting more volunteers. The Women's Auxiliary is one of the amazing groups who contribute so much to the WDM.

Volunteering Weaves Us Together

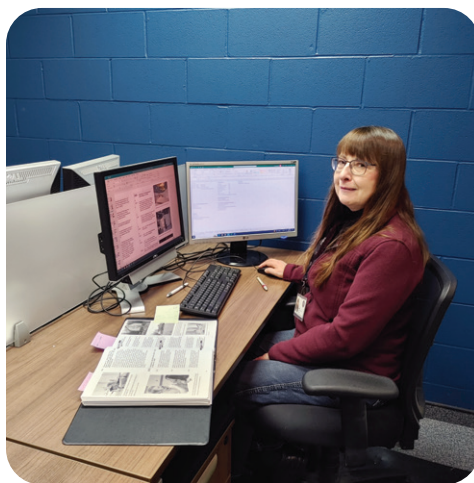
Linda & Randall Simpson

Linda Simpson was looking for something to do when she retired. She had a long list of projects to do at home that kept her busy but she was missing social interaction. A neighbour suggested she contact the WDM. Linda started volunteering at the WDM Corporate Office in January 2018 on a project transcribing oral histories. She then developed a comprehensive school tracking spreadsheet used to gather data about WDM school programs which is an excellent resource for WDM education staff. While she still works on these two projects, Linda also helps with a WDM pictorial history.

While volunteering one day, Linda started chatting with another volunteer about the Women's Auxiliary at the WDM Saskatoon. The Women's Auxiliary baked cookies for one of the Museum programs. As she loves to bake, Linda thought that would be a fun project to help with. She only intended to help bake cookies but the Women's Auxiliary were so welcoming that it evolved into Linda joining the group.



Randall with visitor, Michelle, in the *Eaton's Once Upon A Christmas* display



Linda at the WDM Corporate Office

With Linda spending more time at the WDM, her husband Randall decided to come out to help as well. Randall started by helping at Pion-Era and the Festival of Trees, and eventually became involved with the upkeep of the *Eaton's Once Upon A Christmas* display.

For Linda, volunteering gives her a sense of providing value. She says the projects she does at the Corporate Office, "Keep my brain active and I get a sense of accomplishment out of completing these tasks that will help the staff in their work but which staff would probably never be able to make time to complete." It's great to know that Linda enjoys her volunteer time at the WDM as the work she does is so beneficial to us. Thank You Linda and Randall!

Our Collective Threads

The clothes we wear offer clues to who we are and where we come from. What we wear can often tell others about our hobbies and interests, our skills, our cultural background or our jobs.

The WDM holds an extensive collection of textiles worn by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Saskatchewan people from the 19th century to the present day. From this collection, 20 clothing stories are featured in a new virtual exhibit, reflecting the diversity of Saskatchewan's people past and present.

A virtual school program has also been developed to accompany the exhibit. Created to meet Grades 5 – 7 curriculum outcomes, this program introduces students to the textiles in the exhibit and has them consider how their own clothing choices reflect aspects of their identity.

In this issue of *Sparks*, we are highlighting two garments from this exhibit.

Della Calder's Gown

Truman Frederick Calder, a wealthy Saskatoon financial broker, bought this green satin and black silk gown on a trip to Paris, France in 1912 for his wife Della. The hand-stitched embroidery sets the gown apart as an exceptional example of French couture.

Della's dress transports us back to Saskatoon's first boom time. The entrepreneurial city had not yet felt the hardships of war and economic uncertainty that would shape the next three decades. For Della, her world would change suddenly when she was widowed in 1914.

In order to financially support herself and her three children, Della was forced to sell the Calder house, one of Saskatoon's finest homes. They made a new life for themselves running a boarding house in Saskatoon.



Della Calder's gown
WDM-1994-S-131



Jingle Dress
WDM-2005-S-187



Leg Panels
WDM-2005-S-187

Kobe Goforth's Jingle Dress

This child's jingle dress was made for Kobe Goforth by her mother, Robyn. It was hand-sewn by Robyn in just three days but the beadwork took months to complete. Kobe wore it at her first pow wow in 1999 in Mission, British Columbia

Robyn began beading at 14 years old, a skill she learned from her grandmother. This jingle dress set features beaded hummingbird and butterfly images. Robyn has also passed this skill on to her children.

Sharing Indigenous cultural traditions was not always allowed. In 1876, the Indian Act prohibited wearing traditional clothing and practicing cultural ceremonies. There was resistance to this, which led to the loosening of some restrictions in 1911. It was not until 1951 that the Act was amended to allow free practice of spiritual and cultural ceremonies.

Today, events like pow wows are important for asserting and sharing Indigenous rights and culture and passing on traditions.

First exhibited in 2017 to commemorate Canada 150, *Our Collective Threads: Saskatchewan People in Canada* has been expanded and is now preserved as a virtual exhibit for people to experience anywhere.

Read more about the exhibit online at wdm.ca/exhibits/ourcollectivethreads

BRAINBUSTERS

IT'S A SASK FACT!

Did you know...

In a 2018 Statistics Canada survey, Saskatchewan had the highest rate of volunteering activity in Canada. 55% of Saskatchewan people participated in formal volunteering (volunteer work with an organization or group) and 80% participated in informal volunteering (direct community work not associated with an organization).

True or False

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

1. In 1976, Sherwood Credit Union in Regina tested Canada's first ATM.
2. Saskatchewan was the first province to grant women the right to vote in 1917.
3. Saskatchewan has the most roads per capita of any jurisdiction in the world.
4. Saskatchewan's Bill of Rights was introduced in 1957.
5. Saskatchewan athlete Colette Bourgonje competed in both Winter and Summer Paralympics.
6. Actress Tatiana Maslany, star of Marvel's She-Hulk, was born in Regina.



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?



Look closely to spot **six** differences between the 1920s kitchen photos.

Spot The Differences

The Exhibit Hall at the WDM North Battleford features vignettes that offer a glimpse into life in 1920s Saskatchewan. In the 1920s kitchen, you'll find a lot of items that you don't see in kitchens today. Can you imagine what it would have been like to have no electricity and to use a hand pump to get water?



Museum Highlights

WDM MOOSE JAW

BCATP Training Base Model

WDM-1976-MJ-116

In the Aircraft Gallery you'll find a model of British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) base, No. 5 Bombing and Gunnery School. The base was located north of Dafoe on Highway 6. During the Second World War, it was one of 11 schools set up across Canada to train bomb aimers and aerial gunners from across the Commonwealth. It operated from May 26, 1941 - February 17, 1945. The BCATP took advantage of the close proximity to Big Quill Lake to use the lake as a bombing practice site.

This model was built by Neil Puckett, a hobby model maker from Meadow Lake. He donated it to the WDM in 1976.



WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

Plow

WDM-1973-NB-112

This one furrow breaking plow is like so many used to turn soil for vegetable gardens. A large garden was a necessity for settlers in the early 20th century. Fresh food could not easily be sourced from afar, so having a local source was important. People would either need a garden or be near a store.

Women and children were often responsible to weed, water and harvest the garden. After harvest, produce was preserved for use through the winter. Early settlers could be isolated for several weeks so it was important to have a reliable food source at home.

This plow in the *A Time To Plant* exhibit offers a glimpse into this part of 1920s life.



WDM SASKATOON

Joni Mitchell Album

WDM-2009-S-36

This album is on display in the *100 Years of Saskatchewan History* exhibit. Touted as one of the greatest songwriters of her generation, Joni Mitchell grew up in Saskatchewan. In Saskatoon, she learned to play the piano and guitar, and a teacher at Queen Elizabeth School inspired her to write poetry and paint. After high school, she attended art school and began to perform as a folksinger.

Initially, Joni found success writing songs for others. The release of her second album “*Clouds*” on May 1, 1969, established her as a successful singer. In 2023, Joni received the United States Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, the first Canadian to be awarded this prize.



WDM YORKTON

Bed

WDM-2007-Y-3

In the early 1900s, settlers came to the Canadian prairies from every direction. In 1904, the Forester family moved from New Mexico to Alberta where they farmed before purchasing a farm near Balcarres in 1920. Saskatchewan immigration stories often focus on settlers from Great Britain and Europe but thousands of newcomers arrived from the United States as well. In 1902–03, almost 40 percent of western Canada’s population was made of up people born in the United States.

The Foresters brought this bedroom suite with them to Canada. The suite consists of the bed and mattress, dresser with mirror and a washstand. It is on display in the American Room at the WDM Yorkton.



Saskatchewan People

Carol LaFayette-Boyd



Carol racing in high school

IMAGE CREDIT: CAROL LAFAYETTE-BOYD

Carol LaFayette-Boyd was born on May 17, 1942, and raised on a farm near McGee. The local school was located on her family's farm and was named Oskaloosa after the community in Iowa her ancestors had lived in. She lived on the farm and in Rosetown until 1956, when, at the age of 14, her family relocated to Regina. As she recalls, she was the only Black student attending high school in Regina until she was in grade 12.

Carol's ancestors came to Saskatchewan from Iowa and Oklahoma in the early 20th century, in search of a better life away from the legacy

of slavery. This was a common story at the time; from 1908 to 1911, over 1,000 African Americans from Oklahoma relocated to Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In Regina, Carol participated in many different sports, including track and field. After high school, she trained as a psychiatric nurse at the Saskatchewan Hospital in Weyburn, completing her training in 1965. She earned a certificate in social work in 1977 and completed a bachelor's degree in social work in 1985. She worked in social work and child welfare and corrections until she retired in 2005.

In 1992, when she was 50 years old, Carol took part in the Canadian Masters Track Meet in Regina after having taken up running in her 40s as a way to stay active. Since then, she has broken numerous world records in events such as long jump, high jump and short distance running. In 2022 alone, she broke four world records for the 80 – 84 age group.

In January 2023, Carol was named World Master Athlete of the Year for the second time. She first won the award in 2018 and was the first Canadian of African descent to receive it. She was inducted into the Canadian Masters Sports Hall of Fame in 2012 and the Regina Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Carol has no plans to stop competing in track and field. Outside of sport, she serves as volunteer Executive Director for the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum, a virtual museum dedicated to recording and sharing the histories of people of African ancestry who live or have lived in Saskatchewan.

Virtual Coffee Club

Grab a cup of coffee and settle in as we explore Saskatchewan history and artifacts from the WDM Collection. Sessions take place via Zoom from 10:00 – 11:00 am. There is no cost but pre-registration is required. Registration closes at 11:59 pm on the day before the Virtual Coffee Club. Visit wdm.ca/coffeeclub to register.

Upcoming Coffee Club Sessions:

Our Collective Threads

April 25

Take a glimpse into some of the stories found in ordinary and extraordinary clothing featured in the *Our Collective Threads: Saskatchewan People in Canada* virtual exhibit.

Homemade Saskatchewan

May 30

Hear about a few of the homemade treasures that are part of the WDM's artifact collection as well as the stories of their creators.

Saskatchewan Watercraft

June 27

From canoes and York boats to steamers and pleasure craft, join us as we explore how some Saskatchewan people navigated our province's waterways over the last 100 years.



Spot the Differences

Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol



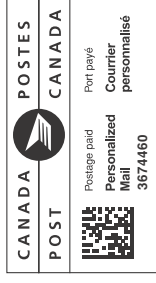
The Western Red Lily is on page 10.

1. True. Sherwood Credit Union (aka Conexus) provided ATM service at two locations in Regina before the technology spread across Canada.
2. False. Saskatchewan women were the second in Canada to receive the vote in 1916. Note, women from visible minorities were excluded from voting.
3. True. Saskatchewan has over 190,000 km of roads. If they were put end-to-end, they would circle the earth almost 5 times!
4. False. Saskatchewan introduced a Bill of Rights in 1947, the first province with a Bill forbidding discrimination based on skin colour, religion or where you came from.
5. True. Collette was the first Canadian to compete in both Winter and Summer Paralympics. She won 10 medals and was the Canadian flagbearer twice.
6. True. Tatiana grew up in Regina, starting her acting career while attending Dr. Martin Leboldus High School.

Brainbuster Answers

True or False

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WDM Corporate Office

For SPARKS and membership questions
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Email: info@wdm.ca

WDM Corporate Office Business Hours

8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday

Closed statutory holidays



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



#SaskInspired



Clothing patch from PFLAG, c. 2000
WDM-2020-S-8