



JANUARY – MARCH 2024 • VOLUME 48, EDITION 1

# SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



## WDM at 75

Sharing Saskatchewan Stories for 75 Years

## Here is What is Happening at the WDM

### All Locations

April 2 **WDM Turns 75!** Join us for 75 cent admission and cake!

### WDM Moose Jaw

February 10	Heritage Day
March 2	Smarter Science Better Buildings Public Open House
March 23 – 24	Thunder Creek Model Train Show

### WDM North Battleford

February 6	Moss Bag Teachings
February 24	Heritage Day
February 27	Moss Bag Teachings

For a list of  
**Virtual Coffee Club**  
dates, see page 18.

### WDM Saskatoon

January 19 – 21	35th Annual Saskatoon Farm Toy and Collectible Show *
January 23	Pop in and Play with the WDM
January 24	Smarter Science Better Buildings Public Open House
February 1 – 29	Li'l Shadd Story Walk
February 4	Heritage Festival of Saskatoon *
February 20	Pop in and Play with the WDM
March 19	Pop in and Play with the WDM

### WDM Yorkton

February 18	Heritage Day
March 2	The Art of Hygge

\*Not a WDM organized event

Events and dates listed here are subject to change. For details visit [wdm.ca](http://wdm.ca)



## Sharing the Past, Looking to the Future

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed the holiday season and are looking forward to the coming year.

2024 marks an important milestone for the WDM.

On April 2, 1949, the Western Development Museum Act was passed, bringing the Museum into existence. While the WDM started with two locations in 1949, the WDM North Battleford and WDM Saskatoon, over the ensuing decades, we've grown to five locations, opening the WDM Yorkton in 1951, the WDM Moose Jaw in 1976, and establishing the Corporate Office in Saskatoon in 1984.

Over the past 75 years, much has changed, but what hasn't changed is the WDM's mandate. Our mandate is as relevant today as it was 75 years ago and that speaks to the foresight of our founders. As the province's largest human history museum, the WDM continues to "stimulate interest in the history of the economic and cultural development of western Canada" (WDM Act, 11 c).

With our founding, the focus was on preserving Saskatchewan's agricultural history. As a result, the WDM has one of the largest collections of steam traction engines in North America and some of the best preserved agricultural equipment from the early 1900s. While we continue to honour this legacy, we have grown to encompass more of Saskatchewan's economic and cultural history. From much loved exhibits like Boomtown and the Heritage Village to new exhibits like *Wapaha Ska Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing Our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 - 69* that are bringing greater awareness to other aspects of our province's histories that have not been shared previously.

While we take time to look back and celebrate what the WDM has accomplished over 75 years, we also look forward with excitement to the many new ways we plan to bring the stories of Saskatchewan's diverse economic and cultural histories to life. Our plans for the coming year include added exhibits on Treaty history in partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and a new exhibit in Jakob Marjan's Shoe Repair Shop in the Heritage Village in North Battleford.

Being a part of the WDM community is an honour for me and I look forward to the many ways the WDM will continue serving the people of Saskatchewan.

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:** Jumping for joy at the WDM Yorkton

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## WDM Board of Directors

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## Hours of Operation

All locations are closed on Mondays in January, February, March and on statutory holidays.

### WDM Moose Jaw

Tues – Sun 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### WDM North Battleford

Tues – Sun 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### WDM Yorkton

Tues – Fri 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Sat – Sun 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### WDM Saskatoon

Tues – Wed 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Thurs 9:00 am – 8:00 pm  
Fri – Sun 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### Boomtown Café (Saskatoon)

Tues – Sun 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

## New Membership Program for Non-Profit Organizations

The WDM is thrilled to unveil a Community Membership for non-profit organizations. This new membership category is specifically tailored to support various non-profit organizations, including group homes, assisted living facilities, advocacy groups and others, in their mission to engage their residents with our shared heritage.

With a Community Membership, non-profit organizations will receive year-round unlimited access for up to 12 guests per visit.

Non-profit organizations interested in a Community Membership can learn more and purchase a membership by scanning the QR code below or visiting [wdm.ca/communitymembership](http://wdm.ca/communitymembership).



"Creating a Community Membership category is a way for the WDM to better support members of our communities served by non-profit organizations. It's one way we are trying to increase accessibility to Saskatchewan's rich cultural heritage."

Joan Kanigan, CEO



### Join us in making an impact:

Become a sponsor for a non-profit organization through a Community Membership. For individuals and businesses, supporting these non-profit organizations not only expands program accessibility but also unlocks new possibilities for community growth.

Contact Ajibike Ogele, Fundraising Specialist at [aogele@wdm.ca](mailto:aogele@wdm.ca) or 306-934-1400 EXT. 227.



# The WDM Turns 75

## Thank You Saskatchewan

2024 is a momentous year at the WDM as we commemorate 75 years of sharing Saskatchewan stories and memories. Thanks to your support, over the years we have added Museum locations and thousands of artifacts, and preserved our collective history and shared experiences.

In the early days, our focus was on seeking out tools and equipment from our agricultural past. With time, this focus expanded to impressive demonstrations and shows, world-class exhibits and a collection of over 75,000 Saskatchewan-inspired artifacts.

The WDM looked for ways to innovate and grow. As a result, we have received a number of accolades including local, provincial and national recognition for our exhibits, programs, staff and volunteers. In 1973, the WDM was among the first to join a national inventory project to share collections information electronically with the Canadian museum community. More opportunity for growth was the release of the *Inclusivity Report: Reconciliation and Diversity at the WDM* in 2019. This Report guides us as we strive to be a place where all stories are heard. We couldn't be prouder of our journey and accomplishments over 75 years.

We extend our deepest gratitude to you - our generous donors, members, volunteers, staff and supporters. It is your support that has contributed to our growth and to supporting our mission of preserving the past for future generations.



WDM Yorkton located at the Yorkton airport, 1959



First membership program at the WDM Saskatoon, 1960



Moving into the Provincial Service Centre (now Corporate Office), 1984



Snowbirds Tutor jet moves to the WDM Moose Jaw, 1995

We invite you to be a part of our 75th anniversary year. Join us for celebrations in April, for events and activities throughout the year, to share your WDM memories, volunteer with us or become a financial donor. 75 years is a milestone built together with the people of Saskatchewan. Let's celebrate together!

## Be a Part of Our Story: Donate to the WDM!

Your donation helps keep the WDM as a place to connect with our shared history—today and into the future.

Donations can be made online at [wdm.ca/donate](https://wdm.ca/donate), or by phone at 306-934-1400 or 1-800-363-6345.

Scan the QR code below to go to our donation form.



Don't miss out on your chance to give and receive. Donations \$20 and over will receive a charitable tax receipt.

## WDM Milestones

It was on April 2, 1949, that the Saskatchewan Legislature gave royal assent to the Western Development Museum Act which created the Western Development Museum. We'll share more about our history in the next issue of *Sparks*. In the meantime, here are a few WDM milestones that we're proud of:

- 1949** The Saskatchewan Legislature gives royal assent to the Western Development Museum Act. The WDMs North Battleford and Saskatoon open to the public.
- 1951** The WDM Yorkton opens to the public.
- 1956** The Saskatchewan Tourism Advisory Council cites the three WDMs as the #1 tourist attraction in the province. This is the first of many times that the WDM would be chosen as the favourite tourist destination in Saskatchewan.
- 1976** A fourth WDM location opens in Moose Jaw.
- 1984** The WDM opens the Provincial Service Centre, now known as the Corporate Office, in Saskatoon.
- 2005** In celebration of Saskatchewan's centenary, the WDM undertakes initiatives including construction of the *100 Years of Saskatchewan History* and *A Saskatchewan Story* exhibits.
- 2015** In April, the WDM welcomed its 10 millionth visitor!
- 2019** The WDM releases *Inclusivity Report: Reconciliation and Diversity at the WDM*.
- 2024** The WDM celebrates 75 years of sharing Saskatchewan stories.

# WDM Staff and Programs Recognized

Like the milestones noted on the previous page, we are excited to share with you recent honours for our Volunteer Engagement Manager Kristine Flynn, our Introduction to Blacksmithing Course and our partnership with the Seniors' Centre Without Walls program.

## Kristine Flynn Receives National Award

Congratulations Kristine Flynn, Volunteer Engagement Manager, on being awarded a 2023 VMPC Exemplary Impact Award from the Volunteer Professionals of Canada, sponsored by Better Impact.

The award recognizes volunteer management professionals who have been in the field of volunteer management for eight years or more and who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and knowledge in the field of volunteer management.

Kristine joined the WDM in 2008 as part of the WDM Education department creating and delivering programs and working with volunteers. Recently Kristine took on the role of Volunteer Engagement Manager, where she manages and supports the work of volunteer coordinators and assistants at all WDM locations.

Outside of the WDM, she is Vice Chair for the Board of Directors for the Council for



Certification in Volunteer Administration and President of the Administrators of Volunteer Resources - Saskatchewan. In 2022, she was recognized with the Dakota Dunes CDC Literacy Volunteer Award from Foundations Learning & Skills Saskatchewan.

Kristine is an amazing advocate, supporter and cheerleader of WDM volunteers. We are thrilled that she has received this well-deserved recognition from VMPC.

## Thank You!

To the Yorkton Threshermen's Club and the Yorkton Exhibition Ladies Auxiliary for their generous donations to the Celebrate Christmas Past school program at the WDM Yorkton.

We'd also like to recognize the York Colony Quilters and the Yorkton Antique Auto Association for their annual donation to the WDM Yorkton.

We are so grateful for their support!



## WDM Honoured by Heritage Saskatchewan

The WDM's Introduction to Blacksmithing Course and the Heritage Presentations Series partnership with Seniors' Centre Without Walls were recognized by Heritage Saskatchewan at the 2023 Heritage Awards in the category of Living Heritage.



Instructor Murray Stachura demonstrating in the Introduction to Blacksmithing Course, December 11, 2023



His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, presents Volunteer Engagement Manager Kristine Flynn and Blacksmith Instructors Rick Dixon and Murray Stachura with Heritage Saskatchewan Living Heritage Awards at Government House in Regina, November 8, 2023

The Living Heritage Awards criteria are based on the goals of the 2003 UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage. This includes projects or programs that facilitate the transmission of intangible cultural heritage knowledge and skills, like blacksmithing, from one person to another. It also includes projects or programs that facilitate community development like economic development activities and community wellbeing initiatives, often but not always related to cultural tourism and small business/entrepreneurship, creating a sense of belonging and place.

The WDM has offered the Introduction to Blacksmithing Course since 1988 from the Corporate Office in Saskatoon. Since its inception over 120 courses have been taught with over 1,000 people participating. In each course, participants learn basic forging techniques, including flattening, squaring,

splitting, bending and welding. Through the course program, blacksmith knowledge and skills have been documented and passed on to participants ages 16 – 65+.

The WDM Moose Jaw was honoured for their participation in the Seniors' Centre Without Walls Telephone Program. The Program engages seniors 55+ in activities and conversation from the comfort of their own home. The WDM Moose Jaw began as a guest presenter in October 2020. Since that time, the WDM has become a regular presenter and has made 23 presentations on a variety of historical topics related to artifacts in the WDM Collection.

## WDM North Battleford

### Heritage Farm and Village opens in 1963



WDM North Battleford, May 1963

The WDM North Battleford started operating in 1947, before the WDM was formally created by an Act of the Saskatchewan Legislature. As the Museum grew through the 1950s, it became apparent that new Museum facilities were needed. The opening of a new Museum location was planned for 1963 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of North Battleford as a city. Museum officials thought it would be fitting to open a new museum while celebrating the city's milestone.

On May 25, 1963, the WDM North Battleford moved to a new location on 60

acres of land at the junction of highways 5 and 40 (now highways 16 and 40) on the southern edge of the city. Newspaper accounts estimate that over 1,000 people attended the grand opening celebrations.

A banquet at the Beaver Hotel launched the opening celebrations. At the banquet, 12 visiting guests were presented with certificates of honorary citizenship. This was followed by a parade which travelled 1.5 kilometres from the CNR station to the Museum, led by the North Battleford City Kinsmen Band. The parade featured antique cars, covered wagons and buggies. Some businesses along



Early Heritage Farm and Village buildings, c. 1963



Parade leading to the opening ceremony, May 1963

the parade route had their employees dress in period costume or decorated their stores to look like old trading posts.

Upon arriving at the Museum, the opening ceremonies officially began. The official event featured several speakers, including North Battleford Mayor Roy Dean and Saskatchewan Minister of Natural Resources Eiling Kramer. Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture I. C. Nollet cut the ribbon to officially open the Museum. Joe Phelps, one of the founders of the WDM, was honoured at the opening with a plaque, which was unveiled by his wife, Eva. Joe Phelps was unable to attend the opening.

The building for the WDM North Battleford was not constructed in 1963. Instead of building something from scratch, a surplus Royal Canadian Air Force hangar from the Second World War was moved piece by piece from Mossbank to North Battleford. There, it was reassembled to create the Museum building. The foundation for the building was carefully built to support the



Dignitaries at the opening ceremony, May 1963

weight of the large and heavy artifacts that would be resting on it.

Over 60 years after opening, the WDM North Battleford is still a local landmark. The Heritage Farm and Village has expanded considerably since 1963 and now features over 30 buildings including 15 artifact buildings.

Scan here to see more photos of the WDM North Battleford from the 1960s:



## My WDM Story with Joyce Goetz, Dalmeny

### "There's something about us!"

As we reflect on 75 years of the WDM, we think about the ways the Museum connects with Saskatchewan people and how your stories and messages continue to encourage us in what we do. As we celebrate 75 years, we will be sharing a few of our supporter stories in *Sparks*. In this issue we're excited to share Joyce Goetz's WDM story. Joyce lives and works on her family farm near Dalmeny. She has fond memories of the WDM from her youth. Today, she creates new memories with her daughter Ashley and daughter-in-law Amanda, with annual visits to the *Eaton's Once Upon A Christmas* display and Festival of Trees at the WDM Saskatoon.

In 2019, Joyce wrote to tell us about her tour through the *A Saskatchewan Story* exhibit at the WDM Saskatoon. Here is some of what Joyce shared with us:

I love history, learning what life must have been like in the past and I am thankful to those who came before us who often endured extreme hardship.

My daughter and I were almost finished going through Boomtown when we came to the end of the street and saw a part of the Museum we'd never seen before. Well, of course, we had to check it out. To our surprise and extreme enjoyment, we found a place close to our hearts. The wonderful surprise we found was an exhibit featuring the history of Saskatchewan [*A Saskatchewan Story*]. This exhibit was so touching, especially the video that was playing. It actually brought tears to my eyes. I'm pretty sure we watched it at least twice, probably more!

Another amazing thing we experienced was the [Magic] Kitchen scene. We looked through a window and listened to the narration, when right before our eyes the scene changed!!!

WHAT!!!?? What happened? How did it do that?? As we watched again, another person stood beside us saying she just had to come back to watch again because she just couldn't figure it out!

We kept watching until we figured out the secret. What a super way to catch a person's full attention!

After we left the museum, we spent at least the next hour telling my son and husband about it all. We were so impressed! My daughter said we really needed to take her grandmother, my mother-in-law, to see this exhibit. I agreed, and we took her within the next month or so. She absolutely loved it and commented on so many things remembering her own childhood. Being a farm wife herself, she also appreciated the wonderful job done showing farm life.

We have enjoyed the Western Development Museum for years, attending weddings, birthday parties and walking Boomtown but now, there's something about us!



Joyce with Amanda and Ashley, 2021  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYCE GOETZ



Joyce and Amanda in the interactive combine in the A Saskatchewan Story exhibit. Amanda had just married Joyce's son so they joked that Joyce was teaching her new daughter-in-law how to drive a combine, 2019  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYCE GOETZ

Thank you to Joyce and the Goetz family for sharing their memories with the WDM. It's such a pleasure to hear how the WDM can bring back memories and create new ones.

What's your WDM story? Share your #WDM memories for a chance to win an exclusive branded WDM prize pack! Terms and conditions apply.

Scan here to share your story:





# Volunteering: A Family Affair



Aspen demonstrates rug braiding, 2013

PHOTO COURTESY OF VAL WRIGHT

People come to the WDM to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For Val Wright, the reason was her son, Terron. Val homeschooled her children, Terron and Aspen. As part of the children's learning, in 2009 the Wright family attended the Grade 4 Harvest Program at the WDM Saskatoon. Train-enthusiast Terron was very interested in the steam-powered traction engines in the program. He and Val had a chance to chat with volunteers from the Pioneer Threshermen's Club (PTC) who operate the steam engines. They encouraged Val to speak to the WDM's volunteer coordinator about volunteering. Even though Terron was too young to be part of the WDM steam program there were other opportunities for him to get involved.

As he was only 14, Terron could not officially join the PTC until he was 16 but they agreed

that if Val joined their club, she could bring Terron along if she supervised him. And with that, Val became a WDM volunteer and member of the PTC while Terron joined as a general volunteer. Val and Terron came out for the weekly PTC work bees. As Val put it, "We filled our Wednesday afternoons working on anything they needed help with. We both tried to be useful."

There were also opportunities to help with programs like Museum Days, and it wasn't very long before 10 year-old Aspen signed up to volunteer too. Aspen was open to trying anything. This work ethic impressed the members of the Women's Auxilliary (WA) who invited Aspen to help them with demonstrations such as rug braiding and clothes washing. One of Val's favourite WDM memories is of the WA members taking Aspen



under their wing. As Val put it, "I think all the volunteers create a community - a positive, welcoming community."

The WDM became a part of the Wright's homeschool curriculum. For Val, "It was a wonderful opportunity for the kids, not just to learn about Saskatchewan history, but take part in presenting that history to the public."

Even though her children are now young adults, Val continues to volunteer. It has been a growth experience for her too, "A great positive is the opportunity to learn some new skills. I have learned a great deal about painting. I worked with Paul Carson and Gus Vols who were great mentors with kind and practical advice. I have picked up the paintbrush as a hobby now outside of the Museum thanks to the confidence gained in the paint room at the WDM." Val also volunteers on the PTC Executive as secretary and assists with programs when she can.

When asked what her favourite thing about volunteering is, Val put it this way, "It has always been the people. Volunteers are a special group of people who want to be there, they are happy to be there and happy to share their time and knowledge. They're not paid, so you know it's a choice and it shows. The PTC welcomed Terron and I from the first day. I never felt out of place or unwelcome. Terron isn't very social, but he was there with me every Wednesday, getting dirty and being around all the machines, equipment and the guys! If I am in a ho hum mood, within minutes my mood is lifted by the greetings, jokes and positive attitude of my fellow volunteers."

Volunteers are a special group of people! We are grateful for volunteers like the Wrights and we're so happy that volunteering has been an opportunity for growth for all of them.



Val using a flail at the Grade 4 Harvest Program, 2017



Terron (middle) learning about the sawmill from volunteers Vic Cookman and Greg Bunko, 2019

PHOTO COURTESY OF VAL WRIGHT

# BRAINBUSTERS

## IT'S A SASK FACT!

### Did you know...

When the WDM was created, it was meant to collect the history of western Canada, not just Saskatchewan.

Later the focus shifted to Saskatchewan only.

### 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?

### True or False

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

1. The WDM Saskatoon was the first WDM location to open to the public.
2. In 1949, admission to the WDM as 25 cents per person.
3. 7,109 people visited the WDM between January - December 1949.
4. The WDM Yorkton opened to the public on June 26, 1976.
5. The WDMs North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton were originally located at their city airports.
6. The K+S Potash Short Line 101 at the WDM Moose Jaw is the only operating steam locomotive in Saskatchewan.

### Spot The Differences

Vibrant colours, moonwalking, cordless phones (in the days before cellular) and Rubik's cubes...all legacies of the 1980s. We take a journey back 40 years in *The Dream of the 80s* showcase exhibit, currently on display at the WDM North Battleford.

Answers on page 21.



Look closely to spot **six** differences between the 80s exhibit scenes.



### Virtual Coffee Club

Grab a cup of coffee and join us for our Virtual Coffee Club. 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](http://wdm.ca/coffeeclub) to register.

### British Home Children

Thursday, January 25

Between 1869 and 1948, an estimated 100,000 children were sent to Canada from Great Britain as indentured farm labourers and domestic servants. Their average age was 12. 70 of the children were placed in an orphanage in Prince Albert. Learn their story with historian Joan Brewerton.

### Small Town Saskatchewan Old Hotels

Thursday, February 22

Join Joan Brewerton as she discusses one of the oldest and most common forms of business enterprise in rural Saskatchewan - hotels. The fact that many of Saskatchewan's tenacious old hotels still stand on the corners of Railway and Main is a testament to the determination of the people who have owned and operated them over the past 100 years.

### Boomers in Outer Space, Muscle Cars, Rock & Roll and Ice Cream???

Thursday, March 21

Join guest presenter Brian Gallagher for a challenging, yet fun, look at the Baby Boomer experience. It is a comparative look at what has happened since the Second World War with focus on Canada's prairies and how the experience of Indigenous and mainstream populations has been very different.

### Public Open House for Smarter Science Better Buildings

Here's your chance to see what Saskatchewan Grade 7 students are learning about energy efficient buildings from new innovations to what they can learn from the past. Join us for an open house showcasing the Smarter Science Better Buildings program, a partner program between the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and the WDM. Explore our program workstations featuring a variety of information including tips to make your home more comfortable and the latest trends in energy efficient buildings that are taking place right here in Saskatchewan.

#### January 24

2:00 – 4:00 pm  
WDM Saskatoon

#### March 2

9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
WDM Moose Jaw



# Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who makes WDM events such a success! Not only do we have great supporters who attend events and wonderful volunteers who bring the Museum to life, there are amazing local sponsors who provide their financial and in-kind support.

## A Boo Town Thank You

Special thanks to our fantastic local sponsors who helped make Boo Town at the WDM Saskatoon such a success.

- Amazing Stories
- Christie's Mayfair Bakery
- London Drugs (Lawson Heights)
- Puzzle Master
- Safeway (Lawson Heights)
- Saskatoon Fire Department
- Save On Foods (Brighton)
- Shoppers Drug Mart (Stonebridge)
- Superstore (8th Street)

## Thank You for Lighting Up The Village

Lighting up the village at the WDM North Battleford would not be possible without these terrific sponsors.

### Super Nova Sponsor Level

- BATC Community Development Fund
- Strathcona Resources Ltd

### Illuminator Sponsor Level

- Discovery Co-op
- Northland Power
- RBC Dominion Securities

### Moonlighter Sponsor Level

- Grey Cat Oilfield Service Ltd.
- H&R Block
- Matrix Law Group
- Oil Can Charlies/Betty Bubbs
- Splish Splash RV
- Twin City Transmission Ltd
- Vantage Chartered Professional Accountants
- Ultra Print Services

### Rising Star Sponsor Level

- Anderson Pump House
- Austin's Saddlery
- Battlefords Animal Hospital
- Battle River Cree Outdoors
- Home Hardware Building Centre (North Battleford)
- Kanaweyimik Child & Family Services
- Kramer Trailer Sales
- Pocket Aces Welding
- TyJac Construction Ltd

### In-Kind Sponsors

- HRO Chartered Professional Accountants
- Pattison Ag
- River Valley Eye Care
- Tingley's Harvest Center

# Digitizing Artifacts at the WDM

## The Lewchuk Poster Collection

On October 4, 2023, a few WDM staff members spent a morning at the University of Saskatchewan's Digital Research Centre to make high-resolution scans of 19 large posters from our artifact collection. 15 of these posters advertise Nicholas Lewchuk's travelling midway and vaudeville shows.



Poster advertising a Lewchuk vaudeville show c. 1925.  
WDM-2006-Y-33

Nicholas Lewchuk was born in Ukraine in 1896. His family brought him to Saskatchewan as a child in 1902, settling near Canora. In 1914, he attended a magic show in Canora and decided that he wanted to make a career as a performer as well. In 1918, just four years later, he performed his first vaudeville show under the name "Professor N.P. Lewchuk," or just "Professor Lewchuk." In 1920, he took his show on the road. This was the beginning of almost four decades of travelling performances.

In the 1940s, Professor Lewchuk added midway rides and other attractions to draw in larger crowds. Lewchuk's midway and shows continued to travel until 1968, when the midway was set up permanently in Canora. Professor Lewchuk passed away in 1989 at the age of 93.

Nicholas Lewchuk was heavily involved in the Canora community. He won Canora Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year in 1982, and in 1983 he received the Canora Community Service award. In 1997, he was posthumously recognized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Saskatchewan Provincial Council with their Nation Builders Award. This award is given to people of Ukrainian heritage who go above and beyond in their service to their communities.

This collection of posters, mostly from the 1930s - 60s, came into the WDM artifact collection in 2006. Due to their large size (one of the largest is 104 x 71 cm, or nearly 3.5 x 2.5 feet), we had previously been unable to make digital copies of these posters.



However, by working with the University of Saskatchewan's Digital Research Centre, we were able to use their oversize scanner to safely scan these artifacts.

Large boxes were made to protect the posters during transportation. In total it took about two hours to set up and scan all 19 posters.

Having access to digital copies of these posters will help us preserve them for the future, reducing how often the artifacts must be handled. It will also allow us to make replicas of these posters should they be needed for exhibits, protecting the originals from the risk of damage from light exposure.

Learn more about Professor Lewchuk and this project at [wdm.ca/digitizingartifacts](http://wdm.ca/digitizingartifacts).



WDM Curatorial Associate Kaiti Hannah operating the scanner



Spot the Differences

Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol



The Western Red Lily is on page 8.

## Brainbuster Answers

True or False

1. False. The North Battleford was the first WDM location to open to the public. The WDM Saskatoon was the second.
2. True
3. True
4. False. The WDM Yorkton opened to the public on June 17, 1951. The WDM Moose Jaw opened on June 26, 1976.
5. True. These WDM locations were originally housed in airport hangars that had been used by the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War.
6. True. As of 2023, the K+S Potash Short Line 101 is the only locomotive powered by steam in Saskatchewan.

### WDM MOOSE JAW

#### Artificial Leg

WDM-1973-S-2483

Plagued by a broken hip, John Marcus of Surbiton had his leg amputated. Without much money and with little medical help available, John made his own leg with help from his friend Jack Bryce. Jack built a crutch type leg from 2 x 4 lumber. John, who was a blacksmith, improved on the design using a door hinge for a knee and a piece of rubber tire to cradle his stump. John finished off the leg with his own boot. He used the leg until his death in 1954. See it in the *100 of Saskatchewan History* exhibit.



### WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

#### 1912 IHC Auto Wagon

WDM-1973-NB-219

In 1907, farm implement manufacturer International Harvester Company (IHC) moved into the motor vehicle business producing around 20,000 vehicles from 1907–16. This included the Auto Wagon which was introduced in 1909. According to IHC, "These cars are made for country towns and rural roads. They are particularly adapted for the individual who wants a machine that can be used for all road conditions, and for pleasure as well as business."

The Auto Wagon resembled a horse-drawn buggy with high wheels made of solid rubber. 1912 was that last year that IHC produced the Auto Wagon before changing its name to Motor Truck.



## WDM SASKATOON

### Telephone Booth

WDM-2003-S-347

In March 2020, Saskatchewan still had 1,199 payphones located in 260 communities. Compare that to 2005 when there were around 5,300 payphones and you notice the impact of the cell phone.

Why do we still need payphones? According to SaskTel, federal regulations require that there be one public access phone in each exchange area to provide a link to essential services such as emergency responders. Payphones are also important in remote and rural communities where cell coverage can be spotty.

This c. 1976 telephone booth was used at the Marquis Downs racetrack in Saskatoon. It is on display in the *Step-by-Step Switching* exhibit.



## WDM YORKTON

### Tabletop Curling Game

WDM-2005-S-416

While curling wasn't declared as Saskatchewan's official sport until 2001, it had been a provincial favourite for much longer. In the 1960s, White Rose Gasoline joined the curling fun with their own promotional tabletop curling game. Made of tin, it represented half of a curling sheet with a house and tiny replica curling rocks. For the uninitiated, the house is the circles or rings on the ice. The goal is to slide your curling rocks to the house to score points. This game was advertised as "Fun for the whole family!"

As for White Rose Gasoline, they were bought by Shell Oil in the 1962. Gradually their White Rose service stations became Shell service stations.



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