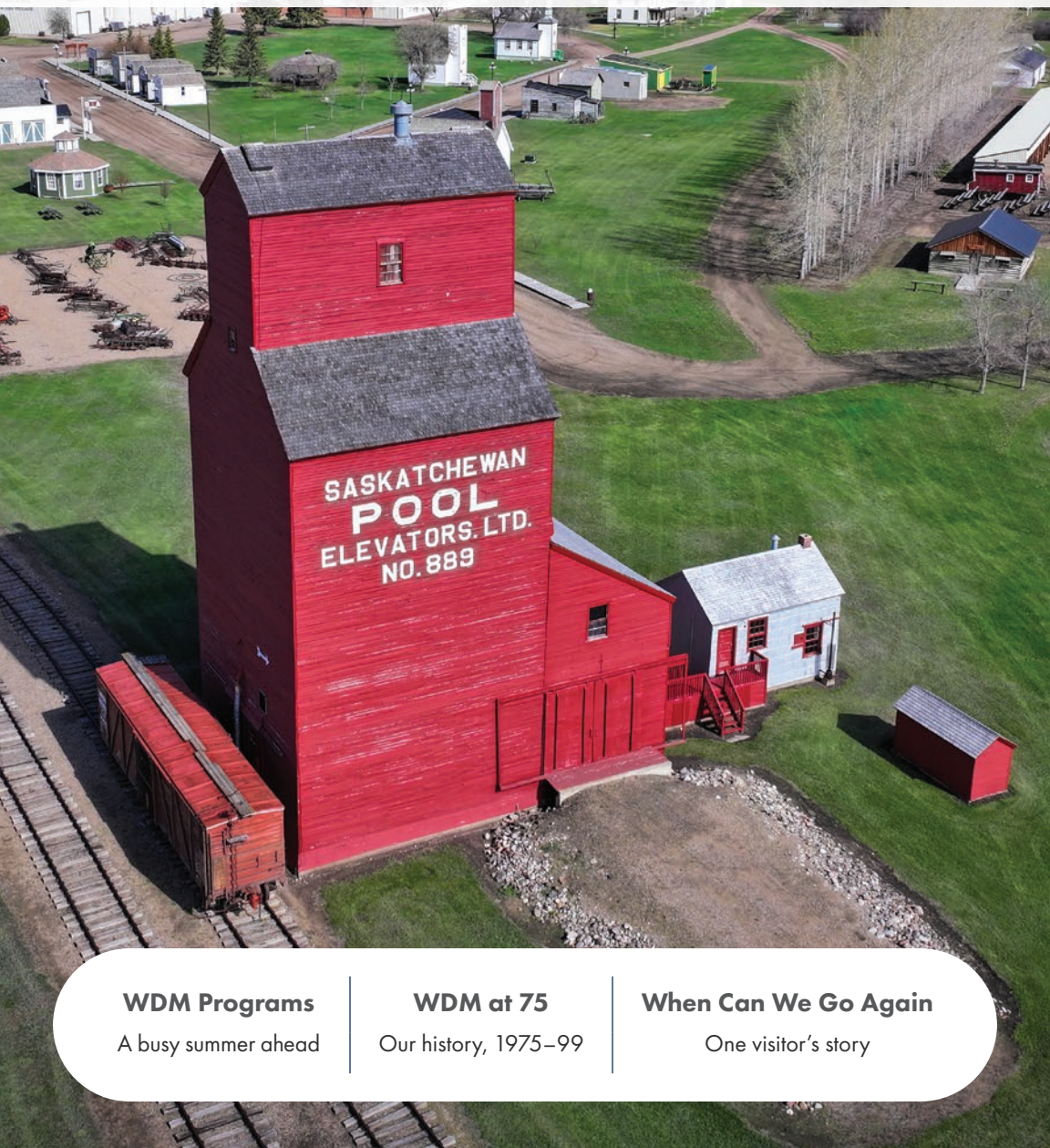




JULY – SEPTEMBER 2024 • VOLUME 48, EDITION 3

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



WDM Programs

A busy summer ahead

WDM at 75

Our history, 1975–99

When Can We Go Again

One visitor's story

Here is What is Happening at the WDM

For more information about summer events (including summer camps), see page 13!

All Locations

September 21	BMO Day at the WDM – Free admission
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WDM Moose Jaw

Through July 14	2SLGBTQ+ Seniors: Storytelling on the Prairies Travelling Exhibit
July 27 – 28	Brickspo
August 10	Blow Off Some Steam
September 7, 8 & 14	Royal Canadian Air Force 100 th Anniversary Activities

WDM North Battleford

Through September 20	<i>Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think</i> Travelling Exhibit
July 1 – August 30	Buffalo Wild Story Walk
August 1 – September 30	Corn Maze
August 17 – 18	History in Motion

WDM Saskatoon

July 13	Summer Fun Day, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
July 16, August 20 & September 17	Pop in and Play with the WDM
September 5 – 10	Métis Cultural Days with Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.
September 12	Past Forward: WDM Through the Decades Gala

WDM Yorkton

July 1	July 1 Picnic and Celebration
July 7 & August 17	Movies at the Museum with the Yorkton Film Festival
July 10	Museum Day, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
August 3 – 4	66th Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival
September 8	Grandparents' Day Programming

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



Summer Vibrancy at the WDM

Dear Friends of the WDM,

I hope this message finds you enjoying the warmth and energy of the summer season. As always, it brings me great joy to connect with you and share the exciting happenings at the WDM. Summer is a time of bustling activity at each of our Museum locations, and this year is no exception. Across all four locations, we've been hard at work preparing an array of programs and events to delight visitors of all ages.

Get ready to unlock the treasures of Saskatchewan's past with the WDM 75th Anniversary Adventure Passport! As we celebrate this significant milestone in our Museum's history, I invite you to embark on a captivating journey through time. Each stamp in your passport marks a pivotal moment in Saskatchewan's rich heritage, guiding you through immersive exhibits and interactive experiences at all WDM locations. With every stamp collected, you'll inch closer to earning your exclusive WDM t-shirt, a cherished memento of your museum explorations.

The thrill of summer extends beyond measure with a diverse array of activities awaiting you. From captivating summer camps and exhilarating seek and find adventures to spontaneous pop-up events and movies at the Museum—our offerings are tailor-made to ignite curiosity and cultivate a passion for learning. Stay in the loop with our latest summer lineup at wdm.ca/events.

I invite you to join us as we embark on a season of exploration, discovery and endless fun! As summer unfolds and the days grow longer, I encourage you to seize the opportunity to create lasting memories with your loved ones at the WDM. Whether you're exploring our exhibits, participating in our programs or simply soaking in the vibrant atmosphere, there's no shortage of ways to make the most of the season.

Wishing you and your family a summer filled with joy, discovery and cherished moments. We look forward to welcoming you to the WDM soon.

Warmest regards,

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

© 2024 Western Development Museum

On The Cover: Heritage Farm and Village at the WDM North Battleford

In This Edition . . .

5 WDM at 75

Check out the highlights of WDM history from 1975 to our 50th anniversary year in 1999.

10 Volunteering for Over 50 Years

Meet Art Vessey, a WDM volunteer since the late 1960s. From operating steam engines to helping with school programs, Art has helped wherever he can.

18 My WDM Story

Six year old Blake Martin of Willow Bunch tells us about the fantastic day he had at the WDM Moose Jaw... and he can't wait to go back!

13

Summer at the WDM & Removable Fridge Calendar

Look for a variety of activities and events taking place at the WDM this summer. From kids' summer camps to pop up activities in our galleries to demonstrations with our Operating Collection, there will be something for everyone.

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 Yorkton
Through September 29
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
From September 30
Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Weekends 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

WDM Saskatoon
Mon – 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)
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

The WDM Through the Years

1975 – 1999

As the WDM marks our 75th anniversary in 2024, we've been looking back over our long history. Welcome to the second part of our three-part series sharing the history of the WDM. In this issue, we look at 1975 – 99 when the WDM opens our fourth location, continues to add exhibits and programs and celebrated our 50th anniversary.



Canadian Pacific Railway locomotive 2634 on its way from Crescent Park in Moose Jaw to the WDM Moose Jaw, March 1976

WDM PHOTO

By 1975, the WDM had grown from airport hangars crammed with artifacts to three purpose-built museums and, in the case of North Battleford and Yorkton, with a sizeable amount of land for programs and exhibits. Construction of the WDM Moose Jaw was an exciting time as plans were made for this new museum to house some of the WDM's largest artifacts — planes, trains and automobiles. As the building neared completion, artifacts were moved from WDM's in Saskatoon and North Battleford where they would be displayed in land, water, rail and air transportation galleries. On June 26, 1976, the WDM Moose Jaw opened on Diefenbaker Drive with Premier Allan Blakeney on hand for the ribbon cutting. WDM Board Chair George Dyck declared that "the highlight of the year was the official opening of the Moose Jaw Transportation Museum."

The WDM introduced one of its first formal school programs — the Grade 4 Harvest Demonstration in 1975. In response to requests from teachers, the WDM Saskatoon partnered with Saskatoon Public Schools to offer the program. In 2000, the WDM North Battleford

began offering the program as well. From 1975 – 2019, over 100,000 Saskatchewan Grade 4 students were educated about early Saskatchewan farming through this program. Over the years, the WDM has offered and continues to offer a wide variety of curriculum-connected school programs on topics ranging from transportation to holiday traditions to building energy efficient homes.

In 1980, as part of celebrations marking Saskatchewan's 75th anniversary as a province, the WDM took on a project to recognize Saskatchewan innovators. *Made In Saskatchewan* exhibits for each Museum were researched, designed and built to showcase patented Saskatchewan inventions from 1905 – 80. To accompany the exhibits, an index of Saskatchewan inventions was printed. The *Saskatchewan Innovations – Patent Index* features an amazing variety of devices – everything from kitchen gadgets and personal gear to agricultural and industrial equipment. Each item speaks to the creativeness and ingenuity of Saskatchewan people. You can view the index at wdm.ca/special_feature/saskatchewan-innovations.

The WDM staged one of its most ambitious programs in 1982. Colony Trek was an 11-day wagon trek from Moose Jaw to Saskatoon. It was organized to commemorate the 1882 trek of Temperance Colony Society settlers from the end of the rail line at Moose Jaw to their new townsite at Saskatoon. Months of planning preceded the event. The oldest trekker was 82 years, the youngest was four. Over 30 wagons with 205 participants from across western Canada



WDM Colony Trek, 1982

WDM PHOTO



Conservation Lab at the WDM Corporate Office

WDM PHOTO

and some from Nova Scotia, along with 140 horses, re-enacted the 260 km journey of the Temperance Colonists. A 30-minute documentary was filmed and aired nationally on CBC. Later that year, the documentary won a Golden Sheaf in the Human Dynamics category at the Yorkton Film Festival and the Saskatchewan Cable Television Association award for the best video production in Saskatchewan.

By the early 1980s, more space was needed for Curatorial staff and for storage. To this point, Curatorial staff were working out of the WDM Saskatoon. In 1984, the WDM Provincial Service Centre opened in Saskatoon. The 12,077 square metre building provided a new home for artifacts that were being stored in the Second World War hangars which had been in use since the 1940s. By 1987, the WDM vacated the last off-site storage hangar.

The Provincial Service Centre also housed administration offices, collections, exhibits and research, the Dr. George Shepherd Library as well as shop space for exhibit construction and training courses. In 1993, a conservation lab was added to better care for artifacts. At the time, it was one of the largest conservation labs in Canada. Also in 1993, the Provincial Service Centre was renamed the WDM Curatorial Centre to better reflect the museum functions of artifact collection, conservation and exhibit design. In 2018, the WDM Curatorial Centre was renamed as the WDM Corporate Office to reflect the curatorial and administrative functions that take place there.

In 1988, the WDM offered our first Introduction to Blacksmithing Course. Designed and led by blacksmith and WDM Exhibits Coordinator, Rick Dixon, and organized by Leslee Newman, it

was originally thought the course would be offered once or twice and that would be it. Little did they know that the course would still be going strong in 2024 and would prove to be one of the most popular courses offered by the WDM. Offered from the WDM Corporate Office, the course has taught the art of blacksmithing to over 1,000 people, ages 16 to 65+. In 2023, the course received Heritage Saskatchewan's Heritage Award in the category of Living Heritage.

The mid-1980s through the mid-1990s was a time of change for the WDM. The Museum saw a decrease in the annual grant from the provincial government in 1987. This led to a decision to reduce hours of operation and close the WDMs Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton from October through April. These winter closures would continue until the mid-1990s. Fortunately, the WDM was able to secure grants from other sources so that some improvements could still



Moving the Keatley grain elevator to the WDM North Battleford, October 1983
WDM PHOTO



Celebrating 50 years of the WDM, the WDM calliope travelled to the Saskatchewan Legislature in Regina, 1999
WDM PHOTO

take place. New permanent exhibits, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Gallery and the Snowbirds Gallery, were added at the WDM Moose Jaw. The Heritage Village in North Battleford grew with the addition of a 1928 Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Elevator from Keatley in 1983. In 1986 and 1987, a barn and farmhouse were added to create a farmstead. With the addition of the farm, the theme of the WDM North Battleford was updated to the Heritage Farm and Village.

In 1995, the WDM received a major donation to the artifact collection. The artifact donation told the story of the Bladon family, a couple and their seven children who farmed near Lang from 1910 – 95. The family members were savers. Five of the seven children lived in the family home for their whole lives. The donation included over 200 toys in pristine condition. The exhibit, *In A Prairie Attic: Bladon Family Toys*, was created and provides a fascinating look at prairie childhood in the early decades of the 20th century. The exhibit opened in March 1997 and is on display at the WDM Yorkton.

With the end of the century looming, focus turned toward the WDM's 50th anniversary in 1999. To mark this anniversary, from October 1998 and running throughout 1999, a series of articles written and prepared by Leslee Newman and Noelle Grosse appeared in weekly newspapers in Yorkton, Saskatoon and Regina. The articles featured interesting stories about artifacts from the WDM Collection. In 2001, these articles were compiled into the book, *Museum Gold – Treasures From The Collection*.

The WDM also celebrated by holding public open houses in April 1999. The week of April 11 – 17, 1999 was declared WDM Week in Saskatchewan and the cities of Saskatoon and Yorkton also declared WDM Week. A gala dinner took place in November which featured the unveiling of a 50th anniversary souvenir book highlighting WDM artifacts, themes and activities.

Stay tuned for the next issue of *Sparks* when we head into a new millennium and prepare to recognize Saskatchewan's 100th anniversary as a province.

WDM SASKATOON



FAST FORWARD

WDM THROUGH THE DECADES

GALA

WHAT:

Join us at the WDM Saskatoon for a gala 75 years in the making! Reminisce with us and dress up in any costumes or clothes representing your favorite decade!

DATE

**12
SEPTEMBER
2024**

**GET
YOUR
TICKET**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE

 WDM.CA/WDMGALA/

 **WDM SASKATOON**

Volunteering for Over 50 Years

"The WDM has been a big part of our lives."

Can you imagine volunteering at the same place for over 50 years? That is what the remarkable Art Vessey has been doing at the WDM Saskatoon. Art grew up in Murray Harbour, PEI so what is it about the WDM that attracted him?

Let's start with how Art got here. In 1955, Art moved to Regina as part of his military service. It was in Regina that he met his future wife, Dorothy. They hit it off and it wasn't long before Art decided to stay and start a new life in Saskatchewan. The young couple settled in Saskatoon.



Art Vessey, c 1973
PIONEER THRESHERMEN'S CLUB



Art receiving the Volunteer of the Year award from the Pioneer Threshermen's Club, 1975
PIONEER THRESHERMEN'S CLUB

Around 1965, Art and Dorothy attended Pion-Era at the WDM Saskatoon. They both loved the atmosphere. A couple of years later, Art and co-worker James "Goldie" DeWitt decided to check out WDM volunteer opportunities as they thought it looked interesting. After helping out here and there, Art decided to join the Pioneer Threshermen's Club (PTC), a WDM Saskatoon volunteer group, in January 1970. He immediately enrolled in the WDM's steam traction engine operation course. By June, Art was a licensed steam engine operator and that summer he was able to help out on his favourite steam engine, the Shady Rumely (WDM-1973-S-233). From that point on Art was hooked on the WDM.

During the 1970s, Art took part in a wide variety of volunteer activities. When WDM staffer Fred Leigh wanted to build a sawmill, he sought advice from Art who had worked in a sawmill in PEI. Art was very involved with harvest demonstrations including threshing competitions

where teams of five people using horses, a threshing machine and a steam engine would see who could gather and thresh grain in the fastest time. In 1975, Art's threshing crew represented Saskatchewan at the World Threshing Championships in Milton, Ontario. Despite very wet weather, the Saskatchewan team won the competition. A proud moment for Art and the WDM. That same year, Art was recognized by the PTC as their Volunteer of the Year.

Something that Art loves about the WDM is the opportunity to meet so many interesting people – whether they are other volunteers or Museum visitors. For many years, Art and Dorothy ran the PTC Cook Car, a place where volunteers could take a break and have a snack during busy Pion-Era weekends. Art loved being able to provide volunteers with homemade food and a place to gather.



Art participated in the WDM's first Introduction to Blacksmithing Course in 1988. This photo shows Art at work in the Boomtown Blacksmith Shop, c 1995



Art with Santa Claus at Carolling Sunday, WDM Saskatoon, 2016

In 1992, Dorothy became a member of the Boomtown Volunteer Association (BVA), a group of volunteers that help with events and projects. Art joined one year later. He took part in many BVA activities including the "Sparks Crew," a group of volunteers who prepared Sparks for mailing. As Art put it, "they had a great time visiting while helping the WDM."

Art has encountered thousands of visitors over the years as a Museum interpreter and tour guide. He could be found helping with school programs as a shopkeeper in Boomtown, helping with hands-on activities or leading tours. No matter the task, for over 50 years Art has brought a positive attitude and joy of helping to the WDM. When asked what his favourite part of the WDM is, Art couldn't pick just one. But he did say that for he and Dorothy, "The WDM has been a big part of our lives." Thank you to Art for all he has done for the WDM. He's been a big part of life at the WDM Saskatoon too!

WDM Volunteers and Programs Recognized



(L-R) Sharain Jones, WDM North Battleford Operations Manager; Heather O'Neill, WDM North Battleford Programs and Volunteer Coordinator and Cynthia Tymorski, Rivers West District Community Development Coordinator



(L-R) Crystal Froese, Moose Jaw City Councillor; Karla Rasmussen, WDM Programs Manager and Moose Jaw Mayor Clive Tolley

WDM North Battleford

The WDM North Battleford was honoured by the Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation with a 2024 Volunteer Recognition Award in the category of Culture—Event. This award recognizes outstanding volunteer service to the community. Representatives from Rivers West presented the award to the WDM North Battleford volunteers on April 18, 2024.

Rivers West District for Sport, Culture and Recreation is an organization whose purpose is to enhance the delivery of lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation programming and services throughout the Rivers West District.

Congratulations to our talented WDM North Battleford Volunteers!

WDM Moose Jaw

On March 11, 2024, the WDM Moose Jaw was honoured to receive the City of Moose Jaw Municipal Heritage Award for Advocacy/Heritage Education for our partnership with the Seniors' Centre Without Walls (SCWW) organization. This award recognizes the efforts of individuals or groups that are advocating heritage or promoting the conservation of a heritage site or are increasing public awareness of heritage issues.

Since October 2020, the WDM Moose Jaw has been delivering Saskatchewan history and heritage presentations by telephone to the SCWW participants. The free program provides opportunities for seniors aged 55+ to socialize, learn new skills and stay connected.

Summer at the WDM

Jazzy July and Awesome August Activities

Look for a variety of activities and events taking place at the WDM this summer. From kids' summer camps to pop up activities in our galleries to demonstrations with our Operating Collection, there will be something for everyone.



WDM Moose Jaw

Summer Pop-Up Gallery Sessions

July 7, 14, & 21, August 5, 11 & 18, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

We'll be popping up in the Museum galleries with crafts, games and interpretation for all ages.

Brickspo

July 27 – 28, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

See amazing LEGO® creations from the Saskatchewan LEGO® Users Group and others from across western Canada. Take in special events and talks plus a LEGO® yard sale.

Blow Off Some Steam

August 10, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Take a guided tour to learn about how the railway was built and how steam trains operated. See our restored 75 Case traction engine and take part in a special steam-themed scavenger hunt and craft.

Royal Canadian Air Force 100 Year Anniversary

September 7, 8 & 14

Take a guided tour of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) gallery at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 pm daily. Try out the BCATP scavenger hunt.

WDM North Battleford

Buffalo Wild Story Walk

July 1 – August 30

Enjoy a leisurely walk amongst the tipi village while enjoying the story Buffalo Wild, where Declan asks his Kokum "Where have all the buffalo gone?" Follow his adventures over one wild night running with the buffalo and learning their story.

Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camps

Children ages 7 – 12 are invited to join us for our themed summer camps. Camps run from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Pre-registration is required.

- **Recipes Around the World**
July 2 – 5 and August 6 – 9
- **Art Around the World:**
July 15 – 19 and July 29 – August 2

History in Motion

August 17–18, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

The Heritage Farm and Village comes alive with demonstrations, entertainment, vintage vehicles, a children's activity area, Kanaweyimik Child & Family Services tipi village and more. There will be an on-site concession.



Summer Fun Fridge Calendar

Take this calendar out of Sparks and stick it to your fridge to keep track of events and activities at the WDM!



WDM Moose Jaw

WDM North Battleford

WDM Saskatoon

WDM Yorkton

Jazzy July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 July 1 Picnic	2 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	3	4	5	6
				Heritage Skills Demonstrations		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Movies at the Museum		Kanaweyimik Child & Family Services Tipi Teachings				Artifact Discovery
Summer Pop-Up			Museum Day	Heritage Skills Demonstrations		Summer Fun Day
Heritage Skills Demos						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Summer Pop-Up	Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *					
Heritage Skills Demos		Pop In and Play		Heritage Skills Demonstrations		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Summer Pop-Up	Hands On Heritage Camp *					Brickspo
Heritage Skills Demos			Artifact Discovery	Heritage Skills Demonstrations		
28	29	30	31			
Brickspo	Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *					
Heritage Skills Demos	Hands On Heritage Camp *					
	Kanaweyimik Child & Family Services Tipi Teachings					

Awesome August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	2 Hands On Heritage Camp *	3 Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival
4 Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival	5 Summer Pop-Up	6 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	7 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	8 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	9 Hands On Heritage Camp *	10 Blow Off Some Steam
Heritage Skills Demos				Heritage Skills Demonstrations		
11 Summer Pop-Up	12 Hands On Heritage Camp *	13 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	14 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	15 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	16 Hands On Heritage Camp *	17 History in Motion
Heritage Skills Demos				Heritage Skills Demonstrations		Movies at the Museum
				Heritage Skills Demonstrations		
18 History in Motion	19 Summer Pop-Up	20 Pop In and Play	21 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	22 Artifact Discovery	23 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	24 Blow Off Some Steam
Summer Pop-Up				Heritage Skills Demonstrations		
Heritage Skills Demos				Heritage Skills Demonstrations		
25 Heritage Skills Demos	26 Heritage Skills Demos	27 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	28 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	29 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	30 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	31 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *

Check out these other activities at the WDM:

- Staff from the **WDM Moose Jaw** will be out and about at various community events
- Come enjoy the Buffalo Wild Story Walk at the **WDM North Battleford**
- Seek and Find activities available at all locations throughout the year



* Note: Pre-registration is required for all summer camps.

Visit wdm.ca/events or [scan here](#) for times and program details.



Summer at the WDM

Jazzy July and Awesome August Activities



WDM Saskatoon

Summer Fun Day

July 13, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Meet antique machines from our Collection, enjoy food, lawn games and face painting plus there is lots to see in the Museum galleries. Admission by donation.

Pop In and Play

July 16, August 20 & September 17

Children can connect with the WDM and our hands-on artifacts in a fun and interactive way. Activities are designed for ages 2 to 6 with visitors of all ages welcome.

Hands-On Heritage Camps

- July 22 – 26, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
- July 29 – August 2, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
- August 12 – 16, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

For ages 7 – 10, campers dive into hands-on activities that bring history to life with crafts, activities and games for museum-loving children. Pre-registration is required.

Métis Cultural Days

September 5 – 10

The WDM plays host to this event put on by Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. It is an opportunity for everyone to come together and learn about Métis culture and arts.



WDM Yorkton

Museum Day

July 10, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

A family friendly afternoon full of crafts, hands-on activities and more. Plus, you can add your name to our friendship quilt and explore the galleries.

Artifact Discovery Family Programming

July 13, 24, August 22, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Explore Saskatchewan history through hands-on artifacts.

66th Annual Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival

August 3 – 4

Volunteers from the Yorkton Threshermen's Club and the WDM will be running vintage equipment from the WDM Operating Collection. Join us for demonstrations of threshing, plowing, flour grinding and rolled oats, blacksmithing, the Story of Harvest, antique tractor displays and parade, and so much more.

Blast From the Past Summer Camp

August 13 – 15

Children ages 6 – 10 are invited to explore history and heritage skills in a hands-on way through crafts and activities. Before and after care is available for an additional fee. Pre-registration is required.

BMO Day at the WDM

Saturday, September 21 marks another BMO Day at the WDM, a chance for everyone to visit the WDM free of charge. Thanks to the generous support of BMO Financial Group, since 2022 the WDM has offered two free admission days per year at all WDM locations.

Like the WDM, BMO has been an important part of Saskatchewan for many years. Did you know that BMO's Regina main branch was the first in Canada to introduce a school wicket program in 1952? This program offered a dedicated bank wicket where school children could open a savings account. The wicket was open every Friday after school with a special teller to serve the needs of BMO's youngest customers.

We thank BMO for recognizing the needs of our province and our people by making Saskatchewan heritage available to everyone.

Scan here to learn more about BMO Day at the WDM:



Kiddie Kounter wicket at the Bank of Montreal - Regina main branch, date unknown

BMO FINANCIAL GROUP CORPORATE ARCHIVES



Lost WDM Membership Cards

To save on administrative costs, the WDM will no longer be replacing lost or misplaced WDM Membership Cards. If you have misplaced your card, on your next visit to the WDM simply provide your name and a piece of identification and we will confirm your membership at the Visitor Services desk.

Thank you for your continued support of the WDM.

My WDM Story with Blake Martin, Willow Bunch

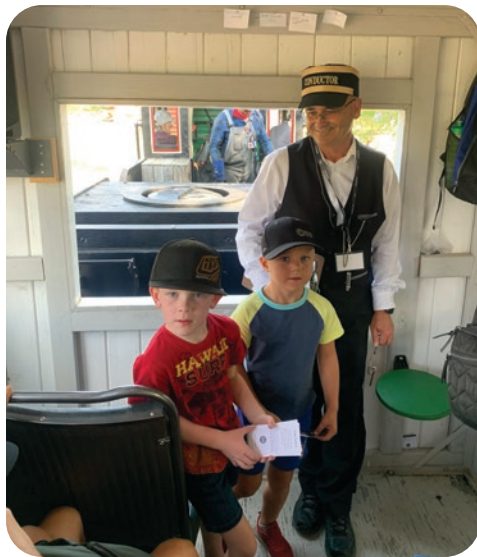
“When can we go again?”

As we reflect on 75 years of the WDM, we think about the ways the Museum connects with you – our supporters. We are pleased to share a few of your stories in *Sparks*. In this issue, we take a look at the WDM Moose Jaw through the eyes of six year old Blake Martin from Willow Bunch who told us about his visit last summer.

On August 27, 2023, Blake Martin was excited to show his little brother Levi and his friend, Chase Gibney from Assiniboia, around the Museum as they had never been there before. After all, Blake had visited once before and could show them all of the cool artifacts and things to do in the Museum. To add to the fun, the friendly visitor services staff gave them a scavenger hunt to work on while they looked around the Museum.

The WDM Moose Jaw is a huge place with lots to see. In the Snowbirds' Gallery, there are two Snowbirds' jets which are Blake's favourite artifacts to see at the Museum. There is also a Snowbirds' cockpit that visitors can sit in so the boys had fun pretending to be pilots. In the Rail Gallery, they found the model railway display where they could press a button and watch the model train go around and around the track.

When asked what his favourite thing to see in the Museum was, Chase said it was the old car in the lobby because he could sit in it and play. Blake liked the car too and had fun showing Levi how to drive it. Hopefully Levi will be big enough to try it out on his next visit.



Blake (left) and Chase on the K+S Potash Canada Short Line 101 with volunteer conductor Jerry Huculak
JANELLE MARTIN



Blake and Chase go for a drive
JANELLE MARTIN



Levi, Chase and Blake become pilots

JANELLE MARTIN

The most memorable part of the visit was that the K+S Potash Canada Short Line 101 locomotive was operating that day. Blake was able to go on a train ride with Chase, Levi and his mom, Janelle. This turned out to be Blake's favourite part of the day. He loved the train ride and really liked the volunteer conductor, Jerry Huculak, who wore a cool outfit and told them all about the train. Jerry even let them hold pieces of coal like the kind that would be used to power a train.

It turned out to be a wonderful visit to the WDM with Chase asking, "Blake! When can we go again?"

Thank you, Blake and Chase for sharing your memories of the WDM Moose Jaw. We are so glad you had a great day and we can't wait for you to visit again.

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:



BRAINBUSTERS

WDM History Quiz

We hope you have enjoyed reading about the WDM in *Sparks*. Let's see how closely you were paying attention with this WDM history quiz.

1. The 2634 locomotive was moved to the WDM Moose Jaw from:
 - a. Crescent Park
 - b. Wakamow Valley
 - c. Bushell Park
2. The Provincial Service Centre opened in:
 - a. 1976
 - b. 1984
 - c. 1993
3. The *In A Prairie Attic* exhibit features over 200:
 - a. Tools
 - b. Toys
 - c. Tables
4. This WDM training course was recognized with a Heritage Saskatchewan Heritage Award in 2023:
 - a. Blacksmithing
 - b. Wheelwrighting
 - c. Wheat weaving
5. The *Made In Saskatchewan* exhibit featured:
 - a. Jams and jellies
 - b. Quilts
 - c. Patented innovations

Did you know...

Enclosed exhibit space at the four WDM locations totals 23,225 square meters (approximately 500,000 square feet).

That's a
Sask Fact!

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?

Answers on page 25.

Spot The Differences

This little home was built by Ukrainian settlers who moved to the area northwest of Theodore over 100 years ago. It was a cozy, family home for 50 years before being abandoned. It sat empty until 2004 when it was moved to the WDM Yorkton and restored as part of the 100 Years of Saskatchewan History exhibit. Look closely to spot 6 differences between the two exhibit scenes.



My WDM Story with Chellan (Shelann) Hoffman, Calgary, Alberta

“Operation Stook”

In our last issue of Sparks, we featured Chellan (Shelann) Hoffman’s connection to the WDM Yorkton. In this issue, Chellan shares her story of determination and triumph in the stooking competition at the Threshermen’s Show and Seniors’ Festival.

“Before I get into my story about stooking, I must explain that I am an only child, and therefore the keeper of all family memorabilia. Additionally, I am the child of Threshermen Club members, so have all sorts of photos and files plus my parents’ trophies. Yes — trophies! I had never won a trophy but for decades I have had to look at the ‘His’ and ‘Hers’ stooking trophies on their shelf, and now my shelf. One day, I took a closer look at one of my mom’s trophies. It was dated ‘1979.’ I did the math. Mom would have been 49 years old when she won it. I started to calculate. This was 2017 and I was turning 50 later in the year. I was still 49 this summer. Bingo! I was going to try to win a trophy just like my mom did. And so began ‘Operation Stook.’

My husband and I arrived in Yorkton on August 6, 2017. I was a little nervous. I had never actually stooked but had watched my parents compete. I stood at the end of a line of sheaves, psyching myself up to assemble six stooks. I was wearing my dad’s Threshermen’s vest and hat for luck. Suddenly from the loud speaker I heard, ‘Hey Chellan!’ It was Carla, the manager of the WDM Yorkton — and yes, we were both Thresher-Kids and knew each other. Carla announced, “Chellan is the daughter of long-time members, Doreen and Ernie Hoffman, who were really involved in the Threshermen’s Club. Good luck, Chellan!” My husband thought this was hilarious that



Doreen (left) and Chellan with their respective stooking trophies won at age 49, in 1979 and 2017
CHELLAN HOFFMAN

someone from Calgary could show up to a stooking competition in Yorkton and be ‘known.’

I was placed in the second heat, so I watched as someone younger than me and with more arm muscles, stepped up to the line of sheaves. She fashioned six stooks in an impressive amount of time. Then it was my

turn. The whistle blew and I started. I tried to make the tidiest, upright stooks I could. Out of breath, my time was good enough for second place. And guess what? The WDM gave out a trophy for 2nd place! I was in tears. I had won my first trophy. I returned to Calgary, excited to share my trophy with my 87-year-old mom.

In 2018, I returned to the Threshermen's Show, hoping to win first place. But I made a strategic error. I brought my cousin's daughter along for the ride, and she decided to compete. She was younger, taller and stronger than I'll ever be. We both fell into the '65 and under' category and so Jessika Guse, descendant of Threshermen's Club members, beat me by two seconds. I graciously accepted my second-place trophy, again.



Jessika Guse (left) and Chellan with Jessika's first place trophy in stooking, 2018

CHELLAN HOFFMAN

It's 2023. I'm now in my mid-50s and had a new mission. My mom had passed away in 2020, and 2023 marked the centennial year of my dad's birth. What better reasons to pay tribute to them by giving the stooking competition another try? I was the only one competing in my category on Saturday. There was another round on Sunday, but since we had to head back to Calgary, I didn't know how it would end. A few weeks later, I couldn't stand the suspense. I phoned the WDM. Carla was able to report that, even though there were two competitors on Sunday, I had the fastest time for the Women's and Men's 'under 65' category.

A week later I received my first-place trophy in the mail! I've had to start a new shelf for our family trophies. Mission accomplished."



Chellan stooking, 2023

CHELLAN HOFFMAN

Why not try your hand at stooking and join us at the 66th Annual Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival at the WDM Yorkton on August 3 – 4.

Saskatchewan Sari-Sari: Filipino Roots, Prairie Growth

Featuring Filipino-Canadian Community History

The WDM is proud to partner with the Filipino-Canadian Association of Saskatchewan (FILCAS) to showcase Filipino-Canadian heritage and history. Visitors to the WDM Saskatoon can learn about the history of the Filipino-Canadian community in Saskatchewan through artifacts and stories on exhibit from community members who arrived in Saskatchewan from the 1960s onwards.

FILCAS is the registered, non-profit umbrella organization serving the Filipino-Canadian community in Saskatchewan. Established in 1973, FILCAS recently celebrated 50 years of connecting and supporting the over 44,000 Filipinos living in Saskatchewan. Their community history showcase is a tangible reminder of the long history of Filipino immigration and settlement in Saskatchewan.



In Filipino culture, *sari-sari* means “variety” and is commonly used to describe the small neighbourhood retail store that is a staple in communities throughout the Philippines. Not only do these stores provide a variety of convenient goods, but also serve as social hubs helping to build community. “The sari-sari store is a symbol of the Filipino spirit of community support,” says FILCAS Co-President, Jenelyn Santos Ong, “it’s only fitting that we mark the end of our year-long celebration of FILCAS’s 50th anniversary by showcasing the immigration journey and contributions of Filipino-Canadians in Saskatchewan.”

“The WDM is thrilled to provide museum support to FILCAS to help increase representation for more of Saskatchewan’s people in the Museum,” says WDM Chief Curator – Director of Collections & Research Elizabeth Scott.

Visitors can find the FILCAS community showcase exhibit, *Saskatchewan Sari-Sari*, in the east wing of the WDM Saskatoon – Come and join us to celebrate and learn about Filipino culture and history in Saskatchewan.

Adopt-A-Bench at the WDM

Support the WDM by adopting a bench at one or more WDM locations. For each gift of \$3,500 you will have a plaque with your name, or the name of someone special to you, affixed to a bench at the WDM location of your choice for 10 years. You will also receive a charitable tax receipt and you will be recognized on the donor walls at all WDM locations.

To adopt your bench or explore other ways you can support the WDM, please contact Fundraising Specialist Ajbike Ogele at aogele@wdm.ca or at 306-934-1400 ext. 1111



Spot the Differences

Brainbuster Answers

WDM History Quiz

1. A – Crescent Park in Moose Jaw
2. B – 1984
3. B – Toys
4. A – Blacksmithing
5. C – Patented Innovations

Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol

The Western Red Lily is on page 8.



WDM MOOSE JAW

1903 Ford Model A Runabout

WDM-1973-S-220

The Ford Motor Company produced their first automobile in 1903 - a two-cylinder Model A. The WDM's Model A was one of the first 650 produced. Unfortunately, it was in poor condition when it was donated. In the 1950s, the WDM rebuilt it using the original chassis, motor and one fender.

Little is known about its history in Saskatchewan. In 1956, former Curator George Shepherd noted that, "Ford of Canada has no record of a Model A of 1903 being imported by the company." We do not know if it was purchased new in Detroit, USA or came to Saskatchewan second-hand. No matter how it got here, it is a rare, excellent example of an early automobile.



WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

Dentist Office

According to the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan, dentistry followed the movement of settlers into western Canada. In 1886, brothers Lorenzo and William Keown set up practice in Regina and were two of the earliest registered dentists to practice in the area that would become Saskatchewan. Later, Lorenzo would move to Moosomin where he practiced for 50 years. The Keown brothers, and dentists like them, brought vital dental care to Saskatchewan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They likely used equipment like that found in the Dental Office in the Heritage Farm and Village.



WDM SASKATOON

Jail

WDM-1973-S-3998

In October 1914, a Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP) detachment was set up in Watson. From this detachment, two officers were assigned to patrol a 3,100 square kilometre area. In December 1914, Watson Town Council approved a payment of \$135 to the Canadian Iron Goods Co. to purchase a steel cell. In 1916, the detachment was closed as officers left to serve in the First World War. The area was then served by the Provincial Police Service from Humboldt and Wadena and a town constable was hired. This jail cell was used in Watson until it was donated to the WDM in 1971. It is on display in the RNWMP building in Boomtown.



WDM YORKTON


Cabbage Patch Doll

WDM-2002-S-580

"Mob scenes, incredible line-ups, punching in the aisles – they're all part of Cabbage Patch fever." This is how an article in the December 2, 1983 edition of the Saskatoon StarPhoenix, described the Cabbage Patch Doll craze. While in Saskatchewan there were no known reports of fights to get one of these dolls there was definitely heavy demand. Major retailers in the province sold out weeks before Christmas. The appeal of the doll was that each was unique with distinct features and came with their own name, birthday and adoption papers.

Each WDM has a Cabbage Patch doll on display in the *100 Years of Saskatchewan History* and *A Saskatchewan Story* exhibits. This Cabbage Patch Doll, named Emanuel Lewis, resides at the WDM Yorkton.



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#SaskInspired



WDM Wheat & wheel logo, c.1995