

JANUARY - MARCH 2021 • VOLUME 45, EDITION 1

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



FEATURE ARTICLE

Silverwood Springs and Factoria

SUPPORT THE WDM

Adopt A Bench

WORKING **TOGETHER**

WDM & partners receive Governor General's award



MUSEUM GALLERY AND GIFT SHOP HOURS

All WDM locations are open Wednesday - Sunday from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Wednesday - Friday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm is reserved for seniors and COVID-19 vulnerable persons.

For more information visit: wdm.ca/covid

BOOMTOWN CAFÉ

Boomtown Café in the WDM Saskatoon is open Wednesday - Sunday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

The Boomtown Café is now featuring delicious homemade SOUP TO GO to warm your insides this winter.



WS TO SERVE

Our homemade pies, cookies and cinnamon buns are available as well for takeout to enjoy whenever you like.

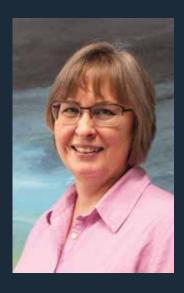
TO ORDER

Call the Boomtown Café at 306-931-1910 EXT 326 or email boomtowncafe@wdm.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to continued concerns about COVID-19, in-person public events offered by the WDM are cancelled through April 30, 2021. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Happy New Year Everyone!

As we look forward to a new year, I hope you and your families are healthy and safe. This past year has brought about challenges that we could not even begin to imagine at the beginning of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone. I imagine we all know someone who has been deeply affected by loss during this past year. People who have lost their loved ones or their health, their jobs, their businesses. People who are lonely and isolated from family and friends.

Despite all the loss this year, one thing I have noticed is that we have not lost our hope and our belief that this will pass, and brighter days are coming. Through all the challenges this past year has brought, I am often reminded of one of my favorite lines in Bruce Cockburn's classic song *Lovers in a Dangerous Time*, in which he so eloquently reminds us that, "You gotta kick at the darkness till it bleeds daylight".

Throughout the darkness of this past year, I am grateful for those moments of light I continually see around me. How WDM staff have come together to create new ways to deliver programs and exhibits virtually. How programming staff have been reaching out to volunteers to stay connected and let them know how deeply they are missed. The support we continue to receive from members, donors and the Government of Saskatchewan even though we had to close for almost half the year. And overall, the ingenuity and resilience everyone at the WDM demonstrates each day.

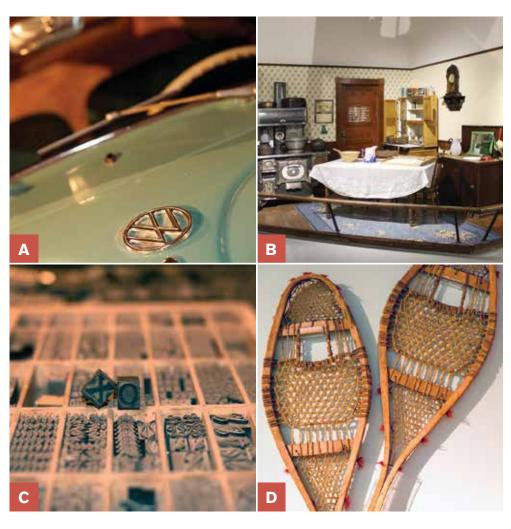
Even though we will likely continue dealing with pandemic restrictions for most of 2021, I am optimistic about the coming year. As an organization, we have learnt how to respond quickly to the changes happening around us without losing sight of what is truly important – A Saskatchewan Where Everyone Belongs and Histories Matter. While no one can predict when the pandemic will be declared over, I do know that with all the creativity and talent we have at the WDM, we will continue engaging our communities and bringing people together, even if it means letting go of what we've done in the past to embrace what is possible right now.

My hope for 2021 is that everyone remains healthy and able to find joy in every day.



IN THE GALLERIES

- A WDM Moose Jaw 1962 Volkswagen Beetle, two-door WDM Exhibit
- B WDM North Battleford 1920s Kitchen Display WDM Exhibit



- C WDM Saskatoon

 Letterpress blocks in the Daily Phoenix print shop exhibit

 WDM Exhibit
- WDM Yorkton
 Child's snowshoes with red wool tufts
 WDM Exhibit

FEATURE

#MEMORYMONDAYS

Every Monday, our Facebook page features historic Saskatchewan memories. Feel free to share our post or comment with your own memory.

The George Shepherd Library, located at the WDM Corporate Office in Saskatoon, contains many memories of times past. These photos, highlight the Dodds Collection.

W. Earl Dodds was a pilot, photographer and employee of the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The images he took show work, life and the geography of northern Saskatchewan c. 1960.

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



EARL DODDS WITH HIS SON DAVID, C. 1960



BILLY FULLER AT FORT SMITH, NWT ON AN ELIASON "MOTOR TOBOGGAN," ONE OF THE PRECURSORS TO SKI-DOO, C. 1960



THIS IMAGE FEATURES TWO UNKNOWN MEN AND A DOG SLED TEAM AT CUMBERLAND HOUSE. THE WHITE BUILDING IN THE BACKGROUND MAY BE THE PARISH HALL. C. 1960



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT PELICAN NARROWS AND SHOWS CF-EOP, A BELLANCA AIRCRAFT. THE PLOW TRUCK TO THE LEFT IS FOR FREIGHTING FROM FLIN FLON. THE LOCAL HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY STORE IS IN THE BACKGROUND. INFORMATION COURTESY OF LES DYSTRYK. C. 1960



THIS IMAGE SHOWS FIVE GIRLS AND A DOG AT CUMBERLAND HOUSE, POSING WITH CF-DMW, A CESSNA 140 FROM THE SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT AIRWAYS FLEET, C. 1953

FFATURE ARTICLE

Silverwood Springs and Factoria:

Saskatoon's Short-lived Industrial Dream

When Saskatoon was founded in the late 19th century, clean water was hard to come by. There were no regulations on disposal of trash and sewage, so wells would often become contaminated. Typhoid fever raged through the city each summer. An average of 100 cases a year were recorded between 1906 and 1910. 1908 was the worst year with 206 recorded cases.

In 1910, Dr. W. J. McKay was appointed Medical Health Officer for Saskatoon. He drafted many bylaws with the goal of improving health conditions in the city. These bylaws included regulations for plumbing, wells and outhouses. By Spring 1911, a water filtration plant for the city was in the works. The water filtration plant was in operation by 1913, leading to a significant drop in typhoid cases in the city.

Before these regulations led to improved water quality, however, William



FRAMED PHOTO OF A SILVERWOOD SPRINGS WAGON PULLED BY TWO HORSES, LIKELY IN SASKATOON WDM-1973-S-12159

Alexander "Billy" Silverwood had his own answer to the city's problems. In 1909, Silverwood purchased land north of Saskatoon in what is now the Silverwood Heights neighbourhood. On his land was a spring with clean drinking water. The presence of the spring was Silverwood's main motivation for purchasing the land. He knew of the city's water problems and, together with his nephew, Clarence Routley, he developed plans to bottle and sell the water to Saskatoon residents.

Early on, the Silverwood Springs sold about 454,250 litres (about 120,00 gallons) of bottled spring water a year. However, by 1912, Silverwood ran into a problem. In addition to his water business, he kept horses and cattle in a barn he had built in 1911 on a hill above the spring. Waste from the barn trickled down the hill and eventually contaminated the spring. In 1913, three cases of typhoid were tied to water bottled at Silverwood Springs, though no deaths were linked to the spring.

The spring on the Silverwood land attracted the interest of a Chicago speculator, R. E. Glass, who wanted to build a brewery and use the spring water in the brewing process. In November 1912. Silverwood sold 470 acres of land to Glass. Glass in turn subdivided some of the land into residential plots and sold them for a profit. This was the beginning of the short-lived industrial town of Factoria. Glass never built his brewery but the land he sold attracted a variety of businesses.

Factoria drew the attention of many businesses due to the natural resources nearby, including clay, sand and limestone. From 1912 to 1914, Factoria expanded rapidly. By 1913, Factoria boasted a flour mill. farm implement manufacturer, a brick-making company, a 66room hotel and a restaurant. A CNR railway line connected Factoria to Saskatoon, and there were plans to incorporate Factoria as a village and build a school and post office.

In 1914, the flour mill at Factoria began negotiating with the City of Saskatoon to extend an electricity line to Factoria. The City of Saskatoon estimated the cost to build the infrastructure would be \$5,000. They asked Factoria to pay for \$3,000 of that cost. The First World War had led to the freezing of credit making this sum



A GINGER ALE BOTTLE FROM THE SILVERWOOD SPRINGS WDM-2013-S-11



THE LABEL FROM A SILVERWOOD SPRINGS BOTTLE OF SPRING WATER WDM-1980-S-412



A SILVERWOOD SPRINGS CRATE USED TO TRANSPORT BOTTLES WDM-1973-S-21813

impossible for the mill or other businesses to pay. By the end of 1914, Factoria had all but collapsed. The flour mill was one of the only businesses to remain there by the end of the First World War.

In 1918, the mill restarted negotiations to bring electricity in to Factoria and agreed to pay \$4,500 to build power lines, but few businesses remained. The mill remained in operation and in 1927 was purchased by Robin Hood Flour. It is unclear when the mill was demolished, but aerial photographs of the area show that it was still standing in the 1950s.

By 1914, Silverwood Springs had ceased operations. By the end of the First World War, Factoria was almost a ghost town. Though the dream of Factoria was short-lived, it speaks to the ambition and dreams of early setters in Saskatoon. Today, the WDM holds some artifacts from the Silverwood Springs, preserving this part of Saskatoon's history.

Factoria and the Silverwood Springs have been forgotten by many Saskatoon residents, but their remnants are still present. The neighbourhood of Silverwood Heights is named for Silverwood, and some steps and foundations of Factoria buildings can still be seen in the neighbourhood if you look closely enough.

SUPPORT

Adopt A Bench

OUR WORLD HAS CHANGED, BUT WE KNOW IT HAS NOT CHANGED THE LOVE YOU HAVE FOR THE WDM

Visitor benches are now available for adoption at all four WDM locations. You may select one or more at any Museum location. A personalized plaque will be affixed to your bench for a period of 10 years. If you prefer, you may make it in memory or in honour of someone special.

Bench adoptions will be joyfully recognized on the donor walls at all WDM locations. For each gift of \$3,500 you will receive a charitable tax receipt and one official bench adoption at the WDM location of your choice.

To adopt your bench or explore other ways you can support the Museum contact Susan Scharf, manager of philanthropy at 306-321-7707 or sscharf@wdm.ca.









Governor General's History Award For Excellence In Museums: History Alive!

Received by the Western Development Museum, Spirit Wrestler Productions and the University of Saskatchewan for The Saskatchewan Doukhobor Living Book Project

The Western Development Museum in partnership with Spirit Wrestler Productions and the University of Saskatchewan is honoured to be the recipient of the 2020 Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Museums: History Alive! for The Saskatchewan Doukhobor Living Book Project.

The Saskatchewan Doukhobor Living Book Project was on display at the WDM Saskatoon in 2019. The exhibit, soundscape and documentary film helped preserve the oral history and spiritual traditions of the Saskatchewan Doukhobors. At its core, was an immersive audio/visual soundscape which documented a typical Doukhobor 'moleniye' (prayer service) as practiced by Saskatchewan Independent Doukhobors. It captured the oral history of Doukhobor elders, and explored how the community has evolved since first immigrating to Saskatchewan 120 years ago. Along with the soundscape, the exhibit featured artifacts from the WDM collection

and the local Doukhobor community. The Independent Doukhobors' unique approach to 'cultural harmonization,' which allowed them to integrate socially, economically, and politically while retaining key features of their religious beliefs and cultural practices, may help us to better understand and support other ethnoreligious minority communities in our province and beyond.

"We are honoured to have been chosen as this year's winners of the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Museums: History Alive!, which recognizes our work in preserving and making accessible intangible cultural heritage in Canada through a unique partnership between members of the Doukhobor community, the University of Saskatchewan and the Western Development Museum." savs WDM Curator Dr. Elizabeth Scott, Founder and Manager of Spirit Wrestler Productions Ryan Androsoff and University of Saskatchewan Assistant Professor of History Dr. Ashleigh Androsoff.







BRAINBUSTERS

Word Puzzles

Each of the pictures below represents the name, or nickname, of a Saskatchewan place.

Can you puzzle them out?









dla**f**ter





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?

Saskatchewan True of False

Which of the 5 "facts" about Saskatchewan are true and which are made-up?

1.	William Martin, Tommy Douglas and Ernie Richardson were all premiers of Saskatchewan.	true	false
2.	Saskatchewan's official motto is in Latin: <i>Multis E Gentibus Vires</i> . In English, that means "Really cold, but really beautiful."	true	false
3.	Lady Victorine was a famous Saskatchewan hen who laid 694 eggs.	true	false
4.	The first woman elected as a Member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly was Violet McNaughton in 1925.	true	false
5.	The three animals on Saskatchewan's Coat of Arms are a lion, a deer and a beaver.	true	false

Spot the Differences

Did you know... Saskatchewan has over 100,000 lakes and 67 different fish species? It's no wonder there are so many anglers in our province! Ernie Backlund was one of them. He also built boats, like the one below. It is on display at WDM Moose Jaw as part of our *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit.

Look closely to spot 5 differences between the two dock scenes.





BOAT BUILT BY ERNIE BACKLUND, 1977. WDM-1997-S-319.

Want more activities like this? Visit wdm.ca/at-home-activities.

À PROPOS DE NOUS



'Partager Notre Histoire'

Sharing our History with CBC Radio-Canada's Pour faire un monde

This past summer, the WDM Saskatoon had the opportunity to share our Saskatchewan stories and artifacts with CBC Radio-Canada. The WDM Saskatoon's Amber Parker, appeared as a guest on the French language radio program, *Pour faire un monde* hosted by Doris Labrie. She gave a series of interviews on some of the Museum's most compelling stories.

Each interview focused on a different period of Saskatchewan's history, bringing to life the challenges and triumphs of Saskatchewan's people.



SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY Local History, LH-2151

Women's Rights

The first interview explored the development of women's rights in Saskatchewan, including the right to vote. In 1916, Saskatchewan became the second Canadian province to grant some women the right to vote. The vote was extended to women by Saskatchewan's first premier, Walter Scott, after Saskatchewan women – including Violet McNaughton – traveled across the province gathering more than 10,000 signatures supporting their cause.

Écoutez ici: ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/pour-faire-un-monde/segments/entrevue/84503/vote-femmes-saskatchewan

5. True.

4. False. That honour went to Sarah Ramsland in 1919.

3. Irue.

2. False. It means "From many peoples, strength."

1. False. Ernie Richardson was a Canadian and World Champion curler.

Saskatchewan True or False



Spot the Differences

The Western Red Lily is on page 8.



Search for the Symbol

wodxO .8

5. Findlater

4. Elbow

3. Cabri

2. Big River

1. Drinkwater

Word Puzzles

BRAINBUSTER ANSWERS

The Spanish Flu Virtual Exhibit

This interview explored the Spanish Flu in Saskatchewan: 1918-19 virtual exhibit launched this summer. The 1918-19 Influenza Epidemic, often referred to as the Spanish Flu, claimed the lives of more than 5,000 Saskatchewan people. Through stories and artifacts, the virtual exhibit showed the experience of the pandemic through their eyes – and explored the similarities and differences to the present-day COVID-19 pandemic.

Écoutez ici: ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/ emissions/pour-faire-un-monde/segments/ chronique/189669/pfum-wdm-amber-aprkergrippe-espagnole

The Hamelin House

We introduced listeners to one of the most interesting items in the WDM collection – a whole house. The house belonged to the family of Dr. Jules Hamelin in North Battleford. An early French-Canadian settler, Dr. Hamelin established one of North Battleford's first medical practices and championed the creation of hospitals. His home gives us an interesting look into the life of an upper middle-class family 100 years ago.

episodes/475157/rattrapage-du-mardi-18-aout-2020





Écoutez ici: ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/pour-faire-un-monde/episodes/473183/rattrapage-du-mardi-4-aout-2020/6

World Refugee Day The last interview explored the stories of refugees to Saskatchewan in commemoration of World Refugee Day. Many groups that left their home countries were escaping oppression and looking for safety for their families. In the interview, we discussed the story of the Doukhobors, who were persecuted in their homeland for their religious beliefs. We also explored the life of Fred Mendel, a Jewish man who fled Nazi Germany and later established one of Saskatchewan's premier cultural centers – the Mendel Art Gallery. Écoutez ici: ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/pour-faire-un-monde/

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

NORTH BATTLEFORD

Jingle Dress and Beaded Set

WDM-2005-S-187

This Plains Cree child's jingle dress and beaded set was made by Kobe Goforth's mother from Onion Lake First Nation, who danced in it at her first pow-wow c.1999-2001. Kobe danced in many pow-wows in the set before she outgrew it. Though the dress was sewn together in just three days, the beadwork took almost a month to complete. The maker began beading around the age of 14, starting with floral patterns following her grandmother's style. The butterfly features prominently in this set. This set is on display at the WDM North Battleford.





MOOSE JAW CPR Rail Car

WDM-1973-NB-345

Built in 1883 in Ohio, this sleeping car was one of 12 delivered to the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1884. By 1905, the car was already undergoing renovations to include two bedrooms, a dining room, a kitchen and an observation room. This car was on the first scheduled passenger train to Saskatoon on the new line from Winnipeg in 1907. The car was renamed many times, from the 'St. Lawrence,' to the 'Brunswick,' to the 'Nanoose' to the 'second Champlain,' and to the 'third Alberta.' In 1929, it took its final name of number '9.' Canadian Pacific used the car until 1957. It now stands at the WDM Moose Jaw.





THIS CART WAS ONE OF 20 MADE IN 1955 FOR SASKATCHEWAN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE. NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE WDM SASKATOON.

SASKATOON

Red River Cart

WDM-1973-S-995

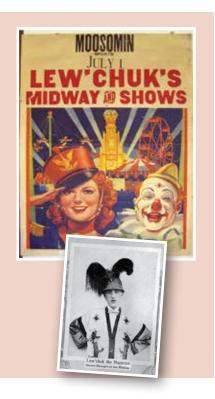
Red River Carts were developed by the Plains Métis to transport people and goods throughout the 19th century. Made entirely of wood, the carts could be repaired with a few tools and wherever trees were available. No metal was used because of the difficulty involved in repairing it in remote areas. Instead, pieces were fastened together with sinew, rope, leather and wooden nails. The wood axles rubbing against the wooden wheels made a loud squeaking noise because the axles could not be greased. The carts were even used as temporary shelter while traveling. In the winter, the wheels could be replaced with runners and the cart could be used as a sleigh. Red River Carts were eventually replaced by steamboats and the railway but are still seen today as a symbol of Métis ingenuity.

YORKTON

Professor Lew'chuk's Traveling Midway Poster

WDM-2006-Y-28

Nicholas Lew'chuk was born in Ukraine. When he was six years old, in 1902, his family resettled to Canada, about six miles east of Canora. Around 1910, Lew'chuk saw a Vaudeville show and decided he wanted to be a performer. Lew'chuk began his own Vaudeville-inspired traveling magic show in 1918, using the stage name Professor N.P. Lew'chuk. The 'professor' delighted audiences with everything from fire-eating to escape artistry to comedy. In the 1940s, he added midway rides to his show, as well as "freaks of nature" such as a stuffed, two-headed calf. It traveled until the 1960s. Learn more about Nicholas Lew'chuk's eclectic life through artifacts like this iconic poster reproduced for the WDM Yorkton.



FEATURE

Time Changes Everything: Winter Travel

Whether it is a bone-chilling wind sweeping across a frozen northern lake or a howling blizzard raging over endless southern prairie, winter weather and the Saskatchewan landscape present lots of challenges. In the early 20th century, settlers who had them could hitch up horses and climb into an open sleigh or a cutter or rely on the services of a neighbour to get around.



This dainty cutter, while it is pretty, left its passengers exposed to the elements. In the days before snowplows and elevated highways, roads often became blocked with snow. Inventive minds dreamed of something better than an open sleigh.

Even after motor vehicles were a common sight in Saskatchewan, horse-drawn vehicles were still a necessity in the winter, particularly in rural areas where road conditions often made automobile travel impossible. The Saskatchewan solution to this problem was the enclosed sleigh, also known as a "caboose," a good example of prairie ingenuity. Most homemade cabooses were of wooden construction, containing a stove to keep the travelers warm. Sometimes neighbours would share a caboose which served to shuttle people over the snow,

deliver mail and bring supplies to outlying areas. In 1934, Mike Buchinski, a blacksmith in the Colonsay area, was granted a Canadian patent for an enclosed cutter with runners and load-sustaining mountings designed for quietness and safety. In his farm blacksmith shop, he made over 200 cutter gears and many complete cutters.



The Buchinski caboose was purchased for \$200 in the late 1940s by the Grey family of Colonsay and was used until the mid-1950s. It features hinged bench seats running front to back for storage; these seats were originally covered with buffalo hide.

In the 1920s and beyond, a few innovators experimented with a motorized vehicle called a snowplane that skimmed over frozen fields and roads, gliding over the snow on its skis. This 1949 Fudge snowplane, built by Fudge Snow Sedans of Moosomin is on display at the WDM Moose Jaw. Robert Fudge built his first "snow sedan" in 1929. Three years later he was building units for sale. His slogan was "Watch the Snow Go By." Before Fudge ended production in 1956, he built about 400 units. He claimed the "tear drop" design on this model offered a "minimum of resistance to the

WELCOME

The Western Development Museum is a legislated agency of the Province of Saskatchewan and operates within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport. On November 9, 2020, Premier Scott Moe appointed Laura Ross, MLA Regina Rochdale as the new Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.



Laura Ross was born and raised on the family farm near Yorkton and attended the University of Regina where she obtained a B.A. in both geography and sociology. Laura has served as Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health, responsible for retention and recruitment of nurses, long-term care and the reduction of surgical wait times. She also served a term as Minister of Government Services, as a member of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee, and the Provincial Capital Commission.

The WDM looks forward to working with Minister Ross. Congratulations on your appointment.





wind, and the arrangement of the windows permits practically all-round vision." This machine was owned by D. A. Cunningham of Kipling and used from 1949 to 1956 to drive to town, to take a United Church minister on his round of country churches, to transport people to hospital and for pleasure drives.

In 1928, Karl Lorch and a friend set about to build a machine that would take them across snowy fields or over blocked roads. They started with a Ford Model T, modified the frame, replaced the front wheels with skis, and put the extra wheels on the back. But it worked only if there was a trail to follow.

Inspired by seeing an airplane on skis, Lorch came up with an idea – to build a vehicle mounted on skis, with a motor and propeller at the back to push it. Lorch's next design used lightweight aircraft tubing for the frame. It had

skis front and back and an old Ford car motor at the rear to power a propeller. The frame was covered with linen fabric, hand sewn by Lorch's mother and sister. Patented in 1935, Lorch continued to improve his designs, making them more streamlined and powerful with airplane engines. In the late 1930s, Lorch set up a plant in North Dakota where he built 418 snowplanes in 20 different models for the American market. One of the last snowplanes built was big enough to carry the Spy Hill hockey team. Production ended in 1958.

This snowplane was owned by a priest from Torquay. Eventually, he sold it to someone who wanted its Continental airplane engine. Lorch's son Wayne, who remembered helping to build snowplanes, spied it in a Lampman area shop in the 1970s and bought it on the spot. It is now on display at the WDM Moose Jaw.

Western Development Museum - Corporate Office Saskatoon, SK S7J 0S5 2935 Lorne Avenue



WDM Corporate Office

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WDM Corporate Office Business Hours

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

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