



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2021 • VOLUME 45, EDITION 4

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



WDM Saskatoon

WDM EDUCATION

Virtual school
programs

JOYFUL GIVING

An innovative donation

FEATURE ARTICLE

Acknowledging racial
inequalities

MOOSE JAW

NORTH BATTLEFORD

SASKATOON

YORKTON



WDM.CA

UPCOMING EVENTS



WDM Moose Jaw

October 1 - 31	Mysteries at the Museum
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WDM North Battleford

October 1 - 31	Spooktacular Museum
December 1 - January 8	Light Up the Village

WDM Saskatoon

October 28 - 31	Spooky Stroll
November 1 - January 6	Eaton's <i>Once Upon A Christmas</i> exhibit
November 19 - 27	Saskatoon City Hospital Festival of Trees

WDM Yorkton

October 1 - 31	Harvest Hootenanny Seek and Find
October 16 - 31	Fright at the Museum Scavenger Hunt

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

Masks are mandatory at all WDM locations per the Government of Saskatchewan.
saskatchewan.ca/masks

HOURS OF OPERATION

WDM Moose Jaw and North Battleford
Open daily 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

WDM Saskatoon
Open daily 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Boomtown Café
Open daily 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

WDM Yorkton
Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 5:00 pm

For holiday hours visit wdm.ca

ON THE COVER

Playing Boomtown Pursuit. Two young visitors use their smartphone to search Boomtown in the WDM Saskatoon for hidden clues, solve location-based puzzles and take pictures of themselves at certain locations as they look for a mischievous horse thief. Fun for friends, family or even a group activity.

Details at wdm.ca/boomtown-pursuit

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Welcome Autumn

I would like to thank all our members for the support you have shown the WDM this past year. We are grateful that our members believe in the Museum and the work we are doing to share all aspects of Saskatchewan's history. Your continued support throughout the pandemic is deeply appreciated. I also appreciate the patience of our volunteers as we work to bring you safely back to the WDM.

We have seen a steady increase in visitation this summer. It has been wonderful being able to welcome more people in each of our Museum locations. We remain committed to the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and visitors. Enhanced cleaning remains in place and staff continue to wear masks to ensure our spaces are as safe and welcoming as possible.

The WDM is now offering a mix of in-person and virtual programming for the public and school groups. A popular virtual program that I encourage everyone to check out is *The Last Key – Escape From The Heritage Farm and Village At The WDM* (wdm.ca/escaperoom). This virtual escape room is a fun way to explore the Heritage Farm and Village and a great group activity.

Thanks again to all our members and volunteers for your continued support.

Have a safe and enjoyable fall season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan', written over a large, faint, stylized 'WDM' logo in the background.

Joan Kanigan, CEO

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

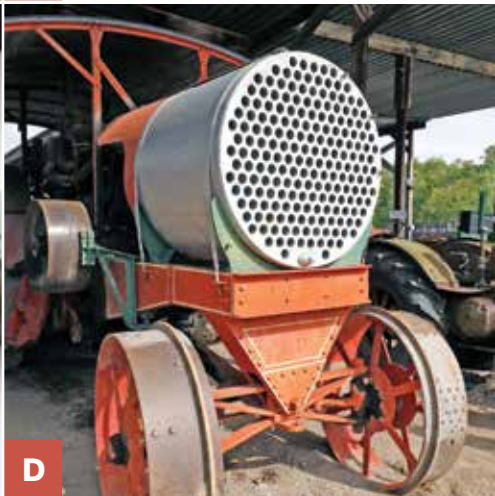
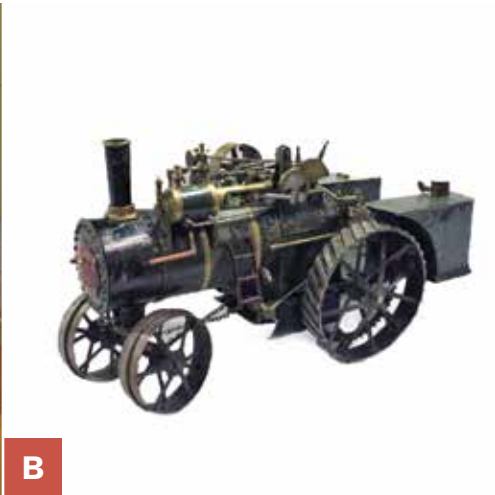
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Shauna Stanley-Seymour – Springside

IN THE GALLERIES

A WDM Moose Jaw
IBM 3624 ATM
WDM-2001-S-98
WDM Exhibit



B WDM North Battleford
Dalby Model Steam Engine
WDM-1997-S-295.2.a.b
WDM Exhibit



C WDM Saskatoon
1938 Minneapolis-Moline Comfortractor
WDM-1981-S-197
WDM Exhibit

D WDM Yorkton
Twin City 60 (Monster Tractor)
WDM-1973-Y-931
WDM Exhibit

#MEMORYMONDAYS

On the first Monday of each month, our Facebook page features historic Saskatchewan memories. Share our post or comment with your own memory.

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

Even though summer has faded into fall, we are still featuring a summer activity for this issue's #MemoryMondays. Boats have long been used to traverse and enjoy Saskatchewan's waterways. Today, most people think of boating as a leisure activity and a way to enjoy hot summer days.

Below are four photos of boating in Saskatchewan from the early to mid-20th century.



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT WAKAW LAKE IN THE SUMMER OF 1953
WDM BARTON COLLECTION 09018



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT BEAVER CREEK IN AUGUST 1921
WDM BARTON COLLECTION 05008



THIS PHOTO OF A GROUP IN AND AROUND A SMALL BOAT WAS TAKEN IN JULY 1932
WDM BARTON COLLECTION 09010



THIS PHOTO FROM 1956 AT AN UNKNOWN LOCATION SHOWS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WADING AROUND A SMALL BOAT
WDM BARTON COLLECTION 10005

THE DANGERS OF Old Taxidermy

Many museums, including the WDM, have collections of old taxidermy. While it may not seem so at first, taxidermy from before 1960 can actually be dangerous. This is because of how older taxidermy was prepared and preserved.

When preparing animals for preservation, one of the major concerns is preventing bugs and other pests from eating the materials. Prior to 1960, the most common elements for preventing pest infestations were arsenic and mercury. Texts from the late 19th and early 20th centuries describe using arsenic to preserve skin and mercury to preserve fur and feathers.

Before the use of arsenic and mercury, mixtures of herbs, spices and salt were used, but these were only effective for short periods of time and soon taxidermy treated with these would begin to break down and smell. Arsenic was used as early as the 18th century to treat animal remains. Sulphur was also used at that time, but it often caused discoloration of specimens or would occasionally burn them and so was not as popular.

By the early 20th century, it appears it was common knowledge that both arsenic and mercury were dangerous to humans to some degree, but the full extent wasn't understood until later. Mercury appears to have mostly stopped being used in the early 20th century, but arsenic was advocated for until at least the 1970s. A 1991 study found that arsenic was the only known preservative that did not damage deer skin.

Because of the likelihood of the presence of arsenic or mercury in old taxidermy, it is important to take precautions when handling items, especially older ones. The WDM has a small number of taxidermy mammals and birds in our Collection, and we have taken many precautions to ensure the safety of staff and visitors.



RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL ON DISPLAY IN THE WDM SASKATOON
WDM-2005-S-866



A PRESERVED OWL WITH HIGH LEVELS OF HEAVY METALS AND ARSENIC IS NOW SEALED OFF AND LABELLED SO APPROPRIATE CARE CAN BE TAKEN
WDM-1994-S-495

In 2015, staff from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum came to the WDM with an XRF machine (X-ray fluorescence). An XRF machine uses non-destructive methods to analyze the elemental makeup of substances. These machines can be used to identify substances like mercury and lead. The XRF machine tested 29 objects in the WDM's Collection over two days. In addition to taxidermy, objects such as face powders and boxes were tested. One face powder compact from the 1940s was found to have lead in it, as did the ink on a cardboard box that held face powder.

About 25 to 50% of the taxidermy in the WDM Collection was tested for the presence of arsenic and heavy metals. Those that tested positive have been tightly sealed in plastic and clearly labeled as dangerous for human contact. Items too big to be fully encased in plastic feature clear, colourful labels warning against touching and are kept away from the public in our Corporate Office. All taxidermy on



WARNING LABEL ON MOOSE HEAD ALERTING STAFF TO THE PRESENCE OF ARSENIC IN THIS ARTIFACT

display in the four WDM locations is completely safe, either sealed away in plexiglass cases or otherwise kept well out of reach of visitors.

Arsenic and mercury pose little threat to people if they are not physically touched. The danger comes from physical contact with the object. Older items may be losing fur or feathers and these pieces should be handled carefully as they may well have dangerous materials on them.



PRESERVED MOOSE HEAD IN WDM COLLECTION

WDM-1973-NB-1599

Virtual School Programs

Whether it is for virtual programs or in-person visits, we're excited to welcome Saskatchewan students back to the WDM this fall. We are ready with Saskatchewan inspired resources and programs educators can trust.



IMAGE ABOVE IS FROM THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM, *HARVEST IN SASKATCHEWAN* WHICH IS OFFERED TO GRADES 3 – 4

Last year, adding virtual options was not just good for schools and homeschools dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, it also provided opportunities to take part for those further from WDM locations or unable to visit in person. So, we have decided to continue, and expand, our virtual offerings.

Brand new for this fall is *One Room, Many Lessons*, a virtual program for Grades 1 and 2. It builds critical thinking and analytical skills by inviting students to identify key characteristics of their classroom or school and then compare them with characteristics of a rural one room schoolhouse attended by settler children in 1910.

The central component of this program is a self-navigated tour of the One Room Schoolhouse exhibit on Boomtown Street at WDM Saskatoon. It uses similar technology to Google Street View to allow students to “move” into and around the building. With integrated video clips, students learn from our costumed 1910 teacher about key objects (like the teacher’s bell and the water pail) and some of the differences between one room schoolhouses and today’s modern schools (like the location of the washroom).

Learn more about this program at

wdm.ca/for_teachers/one-room-many-lessons-virtual-program



IMAGES ABOVE AND BELOW ARE FROM THE *ONE ROOM, MANY LESSONS* VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM



Did you know...

Last school year, over 110 school classes and homeschool groups, including over 2,300 students, from across Saskatchewan participated in WDM virtual school programs.

The Schoolhouse in WDM North Battleford's Heritage Village was once a real school. The Grey School No. 1356 was constructed in 1905 near Maymont.

ABOUT US

2021 Years of Service Recipients

The WDM recognizes and wishes to thank the following individuals for their years of service to the Museum.



Corporate Office

Tori Grenier
Joan Kanigan
Elizabeth Scott

Moose Jaw

Janice Mowkry
Karla Rasmussen

Saskatoon

Irene Baert
Sherralyn Tanasychuk



Saskatoon

Janine Toombs
Jason Wall



Corporate Office

Corinne Daelick

Moose Jaw

Shirley Stenko

North Battleford

Howard Senger

Saskatoon

Marilyn Coakwell
Janice Shaw



Saskatoon

Patrice Shabaga



Moose Jaw

Katherine Fitton

North Battleford

Cheryl Stewart-Rahm

Saskatoon

Michelle Pierlot



Corporate Office

Brian Newman

BRAINBUSTERS

LIAR'S CLUB

Cue game show music... the WDM's version of *Liar's Club* is back. *Liar's Club* was an American game show featuring a panel of celebrity guests who offered explanations of obscure or unusual objects. Contestants attempted to determine which explanation was correct.

How good are you at sifting truth from lies? Test your lie-detector skills below.



Which of the following artifact explanations is the truth?

- a. This is a set of glove stretchers. As gloves dried, they were placed on these stretchers to maintain their shape and did not shrink.
- b. This is a TV antenna. On the first televisions, it was found that a ten-prong antenna provided the best reception.
- c. This is a piece of decorative art. Popular during the late Victorian period, wire art pieces were treasured by many families.
- d. This is an artist's hand template. Turn of the century sign makers used this template for drawing hands on large billboard posters.



Which of the following artifact explanations is the truth?

- a. This is a fly swatter. It was very useful for killing the large flies which lived on the prairies.
- b. This is a piece of armour. It helped protect the neck during battles in 15th century Europe.
- c. This is a pot scraper. It was used to clean dirty pots and pans.
- d. This is a fishing tool. When held in a stream, it would catch small fish as they swam through the metal loops.

WORD PUZZLES

Each of the pictures below represents the name, or nickname, of a Saskatchewan place. Can you puzzle them out?

1

PELICAN

2

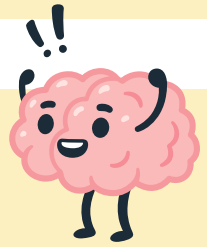


3

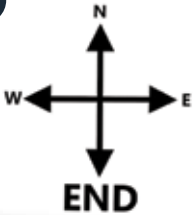


Want more activities like these?

wdm.ca/at-home-activities



4



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

This 1975 Bricklin SV1 is on display in WDM Moose Jaw as part of our *Classy Cars* exhibit. This exhibit highlights 11 “classy” vintage cars which feature innovative design, quality engineering or excellent performance. Some are rare. They span 70 years, from a 1907 Russell to a 1979 Lincoln.

5



Look closely to spot five differences between the two photos.



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 12

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE ... SOLD!

George Dierker's family story is one of perseverance, generosity and practicality. Like so many of us, he became the "keeper" of family treasures from his parents and grandparents, all deceased. Sad irons, kerosene lamps, soldering irons and forges were some of the items that his ancestors used on the family farm in Saskatchewan.

George contacted several museums, including the WDM, to see if he could donate these items as artifacts. Every museum he contacted explained that they already had a surplus of these items in their collections. But George did not let it rest there. Enlisting his cousin, Robert Ross, of Double R Auctions in Ituna, the two of them organized a four-week on-line auction of these family items. The heirlooms were purchased by Canadian buyers from Quebec to British Columbia. Some items were shipped to Idaho, Montana, New York and Wisconsin, sent to people who would appreciate and preserve them. Significant revenue was realized. George generously donated the auction proceeds to the WDM.

In the most challenging financial year that the Museum has ever faced, George found an innovative way to support the WDM. Thank you, George.



JOHN AND MATILDA HAUBER WEDDING, 1900



FRED AND ANNA DIERKER WEDDING, 1935

BRAINBUSTER ANSWERS

Word Puzzles

1. Pelican Narrows
2. Red Earth Cree Nation
3. Antler
4. South End
5. Big Beaver

Liar's Club

1. (a) glove stretchers
2. (c) pot scraper

Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol



The Western Red Lily is on page 19.

Spot the Differences



FEATURE

NURSING IN SASKATCHEWAN

Bernice Sorochan

Margaret "Bernice" Sorochan (nee Ofstedahl) was born on a farm in Scout Lake on June 10, 1921. After completing her high school education in a one room schoolhouse in Scout Lake, she decided to study to become a registered nurse. She moved to Yorkton for her training, which she excelled at and thoroughly enjoyed. She was awarded the Operating Room Technique Award for proficiency in the operating room while in training. She graduated from the Queen Victoria Hospital Nurse's Training Program in 1945, the same year the hospital changed its name to the Yorkton General Hospital.



BERNICE SOROCHAN'S GRADUATION PORTRAIT

WDM-2018-S-38



PHOTO OF BERNICE SOROCHAN WEARING A NURSE'S CAPE

WDM-2018-S-39



BERNICE SOROCHAN'S NURSING CAP

WDM-2018-S-31



NURSE'S CAPE BELONGING TO BERNICE SOROCHAN, SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE CAPE SHE WEARS IN HER GRADUATION PHOTOS

WDM-2018-S-30

While studying at Queen Victoria Hospital, Bernice met and fell in love with Steve Sorochan. However, Steve joined the navy to fight in the Second World War and served aboard the HMCS Lindsay for the duration of the war. Despite the distance, Bernice waited for Steve and they were married on June 10, 1946. The couple remained married for 71 years until Bernice's death in 2017.

Bernice practiced as a registered nurse until 1970, when she took a nine-year break from nursing. In 1979 the couple moved to Victoria, British Columbia, and there Bernice took a part-time nursing position in a private senior care facility. In 1992, Bernice retired at 71 years of age. She was a skilled and passionate nurse and was known for her sense of humour.

The WDM recently obtained artifacts relating to Bernice's nursing career. Collecting everyday objects such as work uniforms are an important part of the WDM's efforts to preserve and share Saskatchewan's history.



NURSING CERTIFICATE FOR BERNICE OFSTEDAHL FROM AUGUST 30, 1945

WDM-2018-S-35.3.B

FEATURE ARTICLE

ACKNOWLEDGING RACIAL INEQUITIES IN OUR SHARED PAST

Whitecap Dakota First Nation at Pion-Era and Beyond

Co-written by Whitecap Dakota First Nation and the WDM

Since 2018, the WDM has been working to renew an historical relationship with Whitecap Dakota First Nation, centered around the Whitecap community's participation in Pion-Era. Every summer for more than 20 years through the 1950s, 60s and 70s, Whitecap members participated in Pion-Era at the WDM Saskatoon.

Considering the important conversations occurring nationally surrounding the destruction caused by the residential school system, as well as other assimilative and racist policies, we are situating the history of the relationship between Whitecap, the WDM and the City within this colonial context.



WHITECAP COMMUNITY MEMBERS (L-R) WILLIAM LITTLECROW, BOB ROYAL, MALVINA EAGLE, THELMA EAGLE AND EVA HAWK AT PION-ERA, 1955

COURTESY OF SASKATCHEWAN HISTORY AND FOLKLORE EVERETT BAKER COLLECTION, 6636

As discussions between the WDM and the Whitecap Dakota community have

continued over the years, the longevity of Whitecap's relationship and contributions to Saskatoon and area have become even more clear. This long-time presence in the city frames their memories of participation with the WDM at Pion-Era. But missing from the archival photographs and newspaper accounts of these events, which celebrate the Whitecap community's presence in town, are references to the colonial controls that shaped their experiences.

Indeed, examples of colonial power imbalances are a part of the founding narrative of our city. In 1882, John Lake and others arrived looking for a location for an administrative centre for the Temperance Colonization Society. Not quite a decade before this, Chief Whitecap and his community were forced onto reserves by the Canadian government, choosing the Moose Woods area for their reserve lands.

After Chief Whitecap and his council advised John Lake on the site best suited for the colony—the initial site of the future city of Saskatoon—settlers to the area received lands that had been long occupied by Indigenous groups. These lands were previously surveyed as Métis river lots.

At a time when the daily lives of the Whitecap community were under Indian Act control, unable to access lands that provided their livelihood, vote, hire legal counsel, practice cultural traditions, gather in groups, or participate freely in the local economy, the Dakota fostered social and economic ties with their Temperance colonist neighbours. Trade with members of the Dakota community at Moose Woods saved many of the Temperance colonists from starving during their first winters on the prairies. Early settler records tell of help and supplies received from Chief Whitecap's wife, Iyopto Wiŋ.

As Saskatoon grew, Whitecap took advantage of opportunities to share their culture with the city, within the limiting controls of the Indian Act. In the first half century of Saskatoon, the Whitecap community accepted invitations to attend the opening of the Bessborough hotel in 1935, the Royal Visit in 1939 and participated annually in the Exhibition parades since the 1930s. Accepting the WDM's invitation to showcase their culture at Pion-Era in 1955, is another example of Whitecap's relationship to Saskatoon.

Forbidden by law to practice their own cultural ceremonies on-reserve, cultural performances for the white settler community were chances to practice these traditions - even if they were in a controlled setting. In order to leave their reserve to travel to Saskatoon for any purpose, the Whitecap community had to get permission from the Indian Agent under Canada's pass system. While all these activities operated within colonial systems and were fraught with unequal power dynamics, the Whitecap community participated on their own terms, asserting their nationhood and culture.

Whitecap's contribution to momentous city events are remembered fondly by the Whitecap and Saskatoon communities alike. Acknowledging the racial inequities that shaped these moments in time does not detract from these memories, but it does bring us a step closer to understanding that race, gender and class shape how each group experiences these moments differently. Whitecap's history is one of the many stories of how First Nations and Métis people contributed to our shared past in the face of, or in spite of, Canada's racist policies toward Indigenous peoples.



SASKATOON EXHIBITION PARADE, LATE 1940S. ON THE TWO LEAD HORSES ARE: (FAR SIDE) HARRY LITTLECROW, (NEAR SIDE) WILLIAM LITTLECROW
COURTESY OF WHITECAP DAKOTA FIRST NATION

For many, acknowledging racial power imbalances that shaped our history can be uncomfortable. But these difficult conversations need to happen for us to move forward in understanding the truth of our pasts. Museums that work in partnership with Indigenous communities, to centre and amplify their voices, can become places to have these difficult conversations more safely, while still celebrating our shared moments of cultural prosperity and wellbeing. In 2022, an exhibit featuring this history will open at the WDM Saskatoon.

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

MOOSE JAW

Road Roller

WDM-1973-S-1080

This 1914 Waterous Road Roller was restored by the WDM in 2017. It was built in 1914 in Brantford, Ontario. Who used it before Saskatoon is a bit of a mystery. In 1926, the City of Saskatoon purchased it from a used equipment dealer in Winnipeg for \$2,950 and it was in active use by the City until 1933 - 34 when it was retired. Waterous was one of the only Canadian companies to make purpose-built steam rollers. Other companies made steam rollers by converting traction engines instead.

The restoration process took about nine months from start to finish. The paint colours were selected from a Waterous steam traction engine in the WDM Collection. Finer details were based off original catalogue illustrations. The finished product is now on display in the WDM Moose Jaw.



NORTH BATTLEFORD

McLaren Family Farmhouse

WDM-1987-NB-25

This farmhouse was built in 1914 - 15 near Rockhaven by James "Jim" McLaren. Jim moved to Saskatchewan from the Dakota Territories in 1906 and quickly applied for homestead. Before building this house, he lived in a 3.6m x 4.2m (12' x 14') shack.

Shortly after he constructed the house, Jim married Luella (Ella) Pearl Mawhinney. Ella gave birth to the first of their ten children in the house in 1917, and at least three more children were born in the house throughout the years.

One of the younger children, Harold, lived on the farm with his mother until around 1970. After this, Harold and Ella continued to live on the farm in the summers but spent their winters in town until 1972 when Ella died. The house sat vacant until 1987 when it was moved to the WDM North Battleford.



SASKATOON

Fire Steam Pumper

WDM-1973-S-309

This steam pumper was used to fight fires in Saskatoon. It was purchased new from Waterous Engine Works Co. in Brantford, Ontario on June 11, 1907 for a cost of \$4,700. It was used in Saskatoon until January of 1925 when it was replaced with newer equipment. The last fire this pumper was used at was the 1925 MacMillan fire in Saskatoon. The MacMillan department store, then housed in the Drinkle Building at the corner of 3rd Avenue and 21st Street, caught fire on January 24, 1925. It took two days to extinguish the flames. At least one life was lost in this fire: the wife of the building's janitor, Thomas Simmons.



YORKTON

Morris Rod Weeder

WDM-1973-Y-2834

In 1929, George Morris patented his rod weeder. It was just the right time for such an invention, just prior to the start of the Dirty Thirties.

The weeder was a horse-drawn device that could uproot weeds with minimal disruption to the topsoil. Morris was an advocate of minimum tillage farming, a practice not widely embraced by farmers at the time. Low-tillage farming became more widely accepted during the dirt storms of the 1930s.

The first Morris rod weeder was sold in 1930 to a farmer in Goodeve for \$148. Morris Industries is still in operation today, almost a century after their first sale. On display in the WDM Yorkton is one of the earlier weeders made by Morris, obtained by the WDM in 1951.



Time Changes Everything: SOUND RECORDING

Music is an important part of human culture. It provides entertainment, tells stories and evokes emotion. However, up until recently there was no way to listen to music other than to hear it live, either performed by others or by performing it yourself. This changed in 1877 when Thomas Edison patented the phonograph. The early version of the phonograph had very low sound quality and was almost unintelligible at times, as it recorded sound onto metal cylinders, which would then be read back by a vibrating stylus following the grooves on the metal. Despite its low quality, this invention kicked off a string of developments that eventually led to the MP3 players of today.



THIS PHONOGRAPH WAS MADE SOMETIME BETWEEN 1892 AND 1900. IT WAS BROUGHT TO CANADA FROM THE UNITED STATES IN 1909. THE CYLINDRICAL RECORDS IT PLAYS WERE EACH FOUR MINUTES LONG

WDM-1973-S-2282



THIS PHONOGRAPH FROM 1912-1920 WAS MADE BY THE THOMAS EDISON COMPANY OF ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

WDM-1973-S-2425



THIS RECORD PLAYER FROM AROUND 1955 WAS ORIGINALLY BOUGHT IN MELFORT. THE FAMILY USED IT UNTIL 1978, EVEN THOUGH THEY ALSO HAD A CASSETTE PLAYER BY THAT POINT

WDM-2013-S-184

In 1887, Alexander Graham Bell and Charles Tainter realized that the metal cylinders which had been invented by Edison were not the best way to record sound. They made a similar cylinder but out of wax instead, which dramatically improved sound quality. However, mass production was impossible, as each cylinder had to be individually engraved.

Between 1887 and 1893, another inventor, Emil Berliner created the gramophone, which used flat discs rather than cylinders to record music. These discs could be mass produced in a way that cylindrical recordings could not, as a mold could be made to stamp the impressions on to multiple discs one after another.

In 1897 the first player piano was patented. These were pianos that were specially designed to use pneumatic devices to play pianos without anyone touching the keys. A paper scroll with holes placed in it to represent specific notes would trigger the internal pneumatic devices to depress the proper keys. Later player pianos had the ability to change the tempo of music played, adjust the bass or treble volume, and use other dynamics such as crescendos.



THIS REEL-TO-REEL TAPE RECORDER IS FROM SOMETIME BEFORE 1965. IT CAME IN ITS OWN CARRYING CASE TO INCREASE THE PORTABILITY OF THE RECORDER

WDM-2002-S-616



THIS C. 1970 COMBINED RECORD AND TAPE PLAYER ALLOWED LISTENERS TO CHOOSE EITHER A RECORD OR A CASSETTE TAPE TO LISTEN TO, FROM THE PERIOD WHEN THE POPULAR FORMAT WAS SHIFTING FROM LPS TO CASSETTE TAPES

WDM-1997-S-95



THIS C. 1905 PLAYER PIANO IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST PLAYER PIANOS IN THE WDM COLLECTION

WDM-2002-S-537

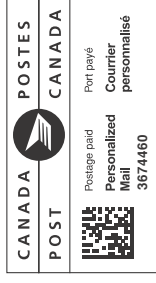
Though these devices allowed for the playing of music without the presence of a musician, they did require a specially made upright piano, making them less portable and accessible than other methods of recording and playing music.

In the 1930s, the LP ("long play") record became commercially available. Similar to Berliner's gramophone record, these records turned at a slower rate and used a different groove width for recording music. This new technology took a while to catch on, as it required expensive, specialized equipment to play. It was released during the Great Depression as well, a time when money was famously scarce. It wasn't until after the Second World War that LP records became popular. By 1948, all major American record companies were releasing music on vinyl.

In 1963 the first commercial cassette tape was released. Prior to this, reel-to-reel players and recorders were used but they were complicated and could unspool without warning, requiring them to be respoiled by hand. Cassette tapes were invented to make this technology more reliable and accessible to consumers. Cassette tapes also had the advantage of being significantly smaller than a reel-to-reel recorder. The first pre-recorded cassettes were released in 1965, and by the 1970s cassette players could be found in most homes and many vehicles as well. The introduction of the Sony Walkman in the 1980s furthered the popularity of this technology, as it was completely portable.

In the 1990s, CDs began to outsell cassette tapes, and in the 2000s MP3s became the dominant music format. Though it's developed only over about 150 years, music recording has come a long way from Edison's original phonograph.

Western Development Museum – Corporate Office
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Saskatoon, SK S7J 0S5



WDM Corporate Office

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Toll Free: 1-800-363-6345
Email: info@wdm.ca

WDM Corporate Office Business Hours

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

SPARKS Editor: Kerry Lubchenko

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



#SaskInspired

TRAVEL TRUNK BELONGING TO JOW TAI CO-OWNER OF REGINA'S EXCHANGE
CAFÉ, c. 1889
WDM-2017-S-111