

WDM History Timeline 1949 – 2019

Written by Leslee Newman, former Education-Extension Director (retired 2013)

Edited by Linda Simpson, Volunteer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

- **This document is intended as an *internal* resource only.**
- This timeline was created by Leslee Newman, former Education-Extension Director. She worked on it during her time working for the WDM and as a volunteer in her retirement.
- It was edited for clarity and consistency by Linda Simpson, volunteer.
- It has *not* been proofread for content accuracy, strict WDM Style Guide compliance or to ensure that tone or language used is in line with current WDM practices.
- Photos used in this document are here: S:\WDM History and Information\Photos for Timeline
- For the WDM North Battleford history, please note that the collection of outdoor exhibit buildings has had many names. For the purpose of this document and ease of searching it, pre-1986 we refer to it as Heritage Village. After 1986, it is referred to as Heritage Farm and Village. Search for “village” to catch all references to it.
- **IF YOU FIND ERRORS**, please add them in comments directly on this document so that others may benefit from your questions or corrections. Edits will be made periodically as volunteer time is available.
- Superscript numbers refer to questions or inconsistencies. See the Addendum – Questions section.
- The Addendum at the end of this document includes:
 - o Lists of Board members, CEOs and Directors
 - o Admission pricing and attendance stats
 - o Questions

For more project information, please contact Kristine Flynn (kflynn@wdm.ca).

A People's Museum...

Dedicated people, working through the *Canadian North West Historical Society* in the Battlefords, begin to preserve early farm machinery. Years later in a letter to the *North Battleford News-Optimist* dated July 9, 1982, Joe Phelps claimed *"I am the sole survivor of the trio of three pioneers who truly and literally made the W.D.M. what may yet be one of the highlights on the western prairies. ... My main partners in this museum project were Billy Wells, a major pioneer road and building contractor from Wilkie, Sask. (our home town). The other one was none other than Professor Evan Hardy, the first instructor for mechanics at our Saskatchewan University here in Saskatoon (I first met him when he was the judge for our annual plowing match). It was a real blessing in the early days to have such a valuable pair of pioneers in their own everyday right to assist me."*

1942

August 28, 1942 - Moose Jaw Times Herald (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

Munitions and supply officials - practical men - today hoped that a government order would send the rusty ghosts of an era of agricultural prosperity clanking towards a useful grave.

Long-dead machinery was expected to move for the last time as a result of the order of steel controller F.B. Kilbourn which makes it illegal to hoard iron and steel, whether in the form of farm machinery or scrap.

Officials said the order, announced August 17, was expected to bring to the scrap heaps bulky machinery which has not been moved in salvage drives so far.

Westerners recalled ponderous tractors brought in the wheat boom during the First Great War, which were later supplanted by smaller, more efficient types. The rumbling old giants were left in the corners of many a wheat field, sometimes sharing a plot with a steam engine which had also been shouldered off the summerfallow.



Early in the 1940s, Joe Phelps, who was called the spiritual sparkplug of the Western Development Museum in Saskatchewan, envisioned a people's museum.

WDM Library



During the years of the Second World War, 1939 - 45, machines across Saskatchewan like this Stanley-Jones thresher were being sought for scrap metal to aid the war effort.

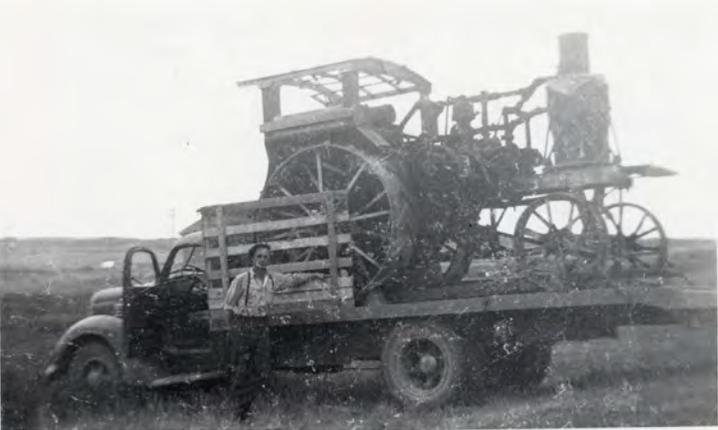
WDM Library



<https://i.pinimg.com/236x/0e/eb/52/0eeb5268b141353e673c3b0b950dfe35.jpg>

"If it is useless and if it is not being used, the farmer must turn it in for scrap," said a supply official. "Without a permit, no person may retain in his possession, after September 15, any scrap metal weighing 500 pounds or more, unless he is a scrap dealer or scrap consumer"

Officials said drastic action had to be taken to ensure that nearly 1,000,000 tons of scrap now needed for ships, guns, tanks, airplanes and other war supplies were provided. When Sept. 15 has passed, the possession of scrap metal weighing 500 pounds or more, and unreported, may mean a fine up to \$5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both, for the owner.



18-36 Avery gas tractor pick-up from the farm of Harry Gwillim of Strasbourg, SK, 1948.

WDM Library - Potter Collection

1943

1943 In the summer of 1969 the WDM in North Battleford printed a *Pioneer Press* newspaper. In an article titled "Western Development Museum In Twenty-Seventh Year" it stated: *In the year 1943, a few interested parties gathered objects together in the hope of starting a museum. The original committee consisted of W.C. Wells, Evan Hardy, Dean of Agriculture and Engineering in the University of Saskatchewan, J.L. Phelps, who was at the time a farmer and MLA. The museum operated as a private institution until the spring of 1950 without provincial grants or sponsorship. Some of the other enthusiastic workers were Frank Swon, Roy Potter, Lydia Mather of Saskatoon, Grant MacEwan, Fred and John Leigh of Choiceland, Garrett Nyholt of North Battleford and many others.*



15-30 hp one-cylinder Fairbanks Morse tractor pick-up from the Engvald Derdall farm near Outlook, SK, c.1948.

WDM Library - Potter Collection

1943 In August 1971, the WDM North Battleford and Turner-Warwick Printers Ltd. printed a newspaper called *Territorial Times*. An article titled "Shades of the Past", stated: *While many people had begun to collect antique items, it was the following three who really got together and started to*

make a joint collection. W.C. Wells, a pioneer farmer and founder and principal owner of Wells Construction Co. Ltd., the late Evan Hardy, Dean of Agriculture and Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan, and J.L. Phelps, a farmer and MLA, and in 1944 Minister of Natural Resources and Industrial Development for the Province of Saskatchewan and Minister in Charge of the Saskatchewan Power Commission.

This trio began their project in 1943 and operated an independent group on their own monies plus small contributions from interested individuals. Through the ensuing years they were greatly assisted by Frank Swon of North Battleford, Roy Potter and Eddie Mather of Saskatoon, Grant MacEwan, then of the University of Manitoba, Mr. Johnah, the prairie representative of the John Deere Plow Company, Paul Helstrom, a farmer at Gray, Sask., Frank Quinn, a farmer from Assiniboia, Fred and John Leigh of Choiceland, Garrett Nyholt of North Battleford, Mr. Marcel Porrez of Saskatoon who acted as Secretary, and later George Shepherd, a rancher from Senate, Saskatchewan.

It was not until the spring of 1949 that the Western Development Museum came into the picture, and with it came regular grants from the Provincial Government to help finance this project which was by that time mushrooming into something colossal.



15-30 hp one cylinder Fairbanks Morse tractor loaded and ready to deliver to the Museum in Saskatoon, from the Derald farm near Outlook, SK. 1948.

WDM Library - Potter Collection

1944

1944 In a May 1993 series of articles "Ramblings from the W.D.M." in the *North Battleford Telegraph*, reporter Jim Richards stated:

... the moving force behind the establishment of a museum as we know today was the work of people of the Battleford area. Campbell Innes, curator of the North West Mounted Police and Indian Museum, reserved the sick horse stable ...

“to tell the story of agriculture in honour of the Mounties’ horses.” Frank Swon while working on the buildings at the Fort began to promote the idea of a museum to display pioneer farm machinery and implements.

In 1944, Laurence Cherry of the National Film Board of Canada, who has produced a film on pioneer gas and steam tractors, raised the subject of a museum with Mr. Joe Phelps. The Regina became involved and ran an article on the subject.

In 1945, Mr. Innes asked Mr. Grant MacEwan if he would head up an agricultural museum. ... Mr. MacEwan agreed to Mr. Innes’ request but requested the assistance of James H. Bridge of North Battleford. Along the way, Mr. Phelps offered a provincial grant of \$10,000.

In 1946, Mr. MacEwan moved to Winnipeg and the new leadership of the Museum (still part of Fort Battleford) set out to gather items of interest. Mr. Phelps began contacting anybody and everybody about acquiring artifacts. The gathering process was on - and the items were being stored in the sick horse barn at the Fort.

In August 26, 1947 the Battlefords News-Optimist carried an item on the necessity of preserving items used by the first white settlers who broke the prairie sod.

An undertaking as large as this required much volunteer work and many volunteers from throughout Saskatchewan. A few names have been mentioned, but space does not permit more... .



Scouring the countryside for field equipment to add to the Museum collection in North Battleford, c.1948.

WDM Library - Potter Collection

1946

July 1946 article in the *Farm and Ranch Review* (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

The people of Saskatchewan and the other western provinces in a few years will have a complete history of prairie farm machinery and development, with museum

pieces illustrating the transition from the days of the prairie pioneer up to the present.

The unusual museum collection will take about five years to complete. Final location of the museum has not yet been decided upon, but at present exhibits are being reconditioned and stored at North Battleford and Yorkton.

... At the North Battleford hangar, the museum pieces are assembled, reconditioned and repainted and, in the case of machines, placed in running order wherever possible.

- 1946** The provincial Minister of Natural Resources and Industrial Development, Joe Phelps, provides \$10,000 for an agricultural museum to the group in the Battlefords.



Equipment was assembled on the tarmac of Hangar No 7 at the North Battleford Airport, c.1948.

WDM Library

1947

- 1947 Phelps obtains former Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) hangar No. 7 at the North Battleford airport to store and exhibit the farm machinery collected.
- 1947 December 11 - First entry in the WDM Accession Register: 15 hp IHC gasoline engine donated by the Taylor brothers of Bresaylor, SK and collected by Frank Swon, WDM North Battleford.



Loading a Minneapolis tractor for the Museum in North Battleford, 1948.

WDM Library - Potter Collection

1948

- 1948 May - October - Roy Potter was made Museum manager in Saskatoon, taking a six month leave from a position on the Saskatoon Police force. The Museum was operating at the Cushing Mill on Duchess



Hangar at the North Battleford Airport used by the Western Development Museum, c. 1947.

Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society - Everett Baker Collection SHFS_5157

St and 9th Ave, with reserve storage at the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) site on the corner of Ave A and 33rd St.

October 14, 1948, article called “These Giants Ruled the Plains” by W.J. Bradley in *The Western Producer*

Joe Phelps, not-so-long-ago minister of natural resources for Saskatchewan, is the man responsible for the collection of these sturdy ties with the early days. Joe may have had some strange ideas when he was in office, but I’ll take my hat off to him for this one. As time goes on, the collection will grow. Already the main links in the farm machinery chain are forged in collections at North Battleford, Yorkton and Saskatoon. The machines are to be put back to repair, painted and identified. Man, it’s a grand plan.

**1949 Attendance 7,109
January 1 to December 31**

February 17, 1949 article called “Treasure of the Past” by Dave Innes in *The Saskatchewan Farmer* (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

At Saskatoon, housed in part of the Federated Co-operatives warehouse, you can find everything in early 19th century transportation...

The museum, originally the idea of J.L. Phelps, former Saskatchewan minister of natural resources, is being built up with the idea of saving what are literally treasures in early-day machinery. ...

Driving forces behind the project now are John Hilton, retired businessman of Saskatoon who acts as lecturer and publicity man, and Edgar Mathers, a bit of a mechanical wizard who is responsible for a good deal of work in seeing the old vehicles and machines are restored.



In Saskatoon, the fledgling Museum stored historic farm equipment at the Federated Co-Op (former Cushing Mill) site at Duchess St and 9th Ave, along with the former Second World War British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) site at the corner of 33rd St and Ave A, now Idylwyld Dr.

WDM Library

March, 1949 article titled “Saskatchewan’s Tractor Museum” by Jas. Wright in an unidentified newspaper (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

... Along with many other ancient items they are in part of a warehouse used by the Saskatchewan Federated Co-operatives. This has become a museum workshop for this winter equipped with a lathe to turn out missing parts. Reconditioning is going on under the enthusiastic direction of gunsmith Eddie Mather, donations are restored insofar as feasible to their original condition. E.R. Potter, Saskatoon City police garage mechanic, whose hobby is collecting data on early machines used in western Canada, gives valuable and voluntary service. Mr. Potter’s old implement catalogs indicate the colors of original paint jobs when these cannot be ascertained by scraping down to what was there when the piece left the factory.

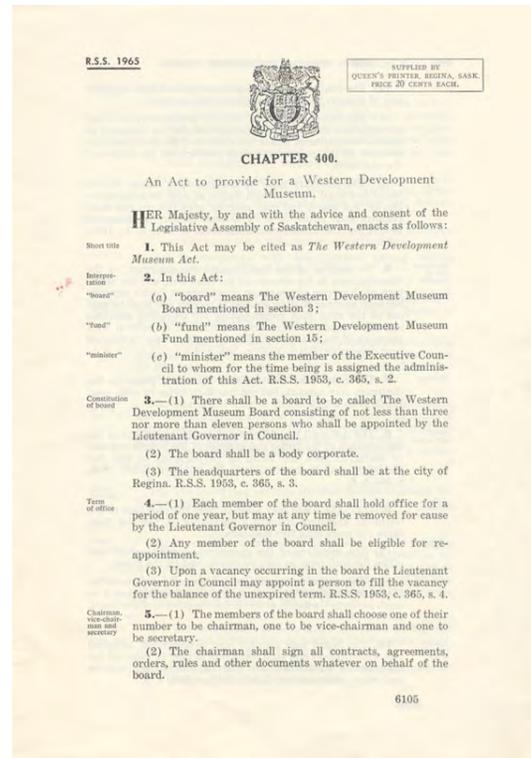
... Initiator, organizer and spiritual spark plug of the machinery museum project is J.L. (Joe) Phelps, former minister of natural resources and industrial development in the Saskatchewan Government. Ardent enthusiast for the preservation of the mechanized giants and midgets that ruled the plains of yesterday, he personally spotted many desirable museum pieces lying idle and uncared-for in farmyards.



15-30 hp one cylinder Fairbanks Morse gas tractor loaded at the Engvald Derald farm near Outlook, SK, 1948.

WDM Library - Roy Potter Collection, WDM_Potter_4

- 1949 April 2 - The Western Development Museum Act was passed in the Saskatchewan Legislature.
- 1949 April 12 - The first Board of the WDM was appointed by Order-in-Council: J.L. Phelps, Chairman; Prof. Grant McEwen of the University of Manitoba as Vice-Chair; Prof. Evan Hardy of the University of Saskatchewan; E. Roy Potter as Secretary; Frank Swon as Treasurer.
- 1949 April 21 - The first meeting of the WDM Board of Directors was held in Saskatoon.





Joe and Eva Phelps at an event at the Western Development Museum - Saskatoon, c. 1959.

WDM Library

1949 April 28 - The first provincial government annual grant was received by the WDM in the amount of \$15,000.

May 5, 1949 article titled “Elegance of Early Days” by W.J. Bradley in *The Western Producer* (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

... Part of ancient means of transport ... are needed. Mr. Potter at 1205 Eight Avenue North, Saskatoon is the man to contact.

May 12, 1949 article titled “Giants Bossed The Frontiers” by W.J. Bradley in *The Western Producer* (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

... Pictures on this page were taken at the Western Canadian Development Museum, North Battleford.

Naming the new Museum took time and thought. This article referred to the Western Canadian Development Museum.

May 19, 1949 article titled “The Surrey with the Fringe” by W.J. Bradley in *The Western Producer* (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

... At present the museum has workshops and displays at Saskatoon and North Battleford, but expects to expand its activities to other centres.

June 8, 1949 article titled “Wanted: One Stage Coach” by Katherine Magill in *Family Herald and Weekly Star* (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

... The directors prefer that such items have been used in the west. However, if none are available from these localities they are interested in obtaining them from any state or province. The exhibits are overhauled (most of those in the museum are in running order) and missing parts built to complete them. This work is carried on in Saskatoon by Mr. E.R. Potter, who is also in charge of the selection of the exhibits.

He is secretary-treasurer of the board of directors.

1949 June 15 - An admission fee of 25 cents per person was introduced at the WDM North Battleford, with a maximum of \$1 per family. A family pass was available for \$1. Children under 12 were free. School children up to 16 years, accompanied by their teacher or supervisor, were also free. Artifact donors were admitted free of charge.

June 16, 1949 article titled “Development Museum to Stay” in an unnamed newspaper (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

“... The section of the Museum, now located here, will remain at North Battleford so long as suitable accommodation can be provided,” said Mr. Phelps, squashing rumors that the Museum would be moved to another spot shortly.

Referring to other sections of the exhibit, Mr. Phelps pointed out that a double hangar had been obtained at Saskatoon, and that a section of the museum would be opened there, as the 350 exhibits now on hand were too many for one place. The Saskatoon branch was started when the North Battleford depot began to overflow. These will both be sections of the same project, he stated.

There is a storage depot at Yorkton, but this is not a branch of the museum, Mr. Phelps mentioned.

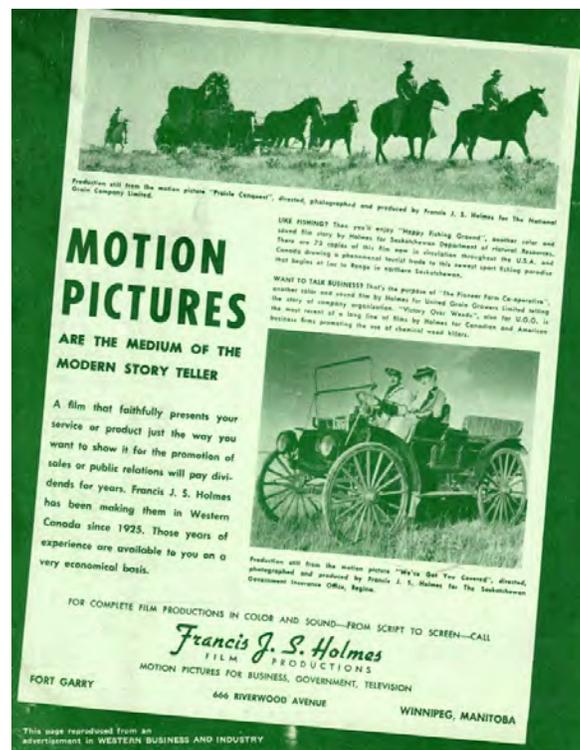
Decentralization is a good thing, especially from a fire hazard point of view. The exhibits could never be replaced, and as time went on it would be a good thing to have even more branches open. Exhibits could be traded between these branches at two or three year intervals, providing something new from time to time.

... Mr. Donald Carruthers will be in charge of the local branch, while Frank Swon of the city is one of the directors.

Starting on June 15, a small charge for admission will be made, amounting to 25¢ per person, with a maximum of \$1 per family. Children under 12 will be free, as



Filming *Prairie Conquest* using WDM artifacts, 1949.
WDM Library



Prairie Conquest was filmed using WDM artifacts for the National Grain Company by Winnipeg film-maker Francis Holmes. Taking over two years to complete, the film debuted in 1952.

<http://povmagazine.com/articles/view/3027>

well as school children up to 16, accompanied by their teacher or supervisor. Persons who have made contributions will have free passes, while others might buy a season ticket for \$1.



1949 The WDM opened another collection of farm machinery to the public at a hangar at the Saskatoon airport.

1949 August 1 - The same admission fee charged in North Battleford was charged in Saskatoon.

October 5, 1949 article titled "Old Cars in Retirement" by Robert Tyre in The *Regina Leader-Post*, Regina (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

... John Leigh is steam engineer and foreman at the museum; Edgar Mather is supervisor ... who directs the work of restoring the exhibits. ... The museum, housed in a hangar at the Saskatoon airport, is financed by the Saskatchewan government.

1949 December - Reported in the WDM Annual Report for 1949:

During the summer months, at North Battleford a small admission fee of 25¢ was made for adults, with children under twelve years of age admitted free, and from August 1st the same practice was followed at Saskatoon.

The North Battleford exhibit is open to the public during the summer months, and by appointment with the caretaker during other periods of the year. The Saskatoon exhibit is open to the public the year round. A small crew is employed during the winter. The main hangar is not heated, but we have remodelled a portion of one of the lean-tos as a workshop and installed a small oil-burning unit for heat, which is proving quite economical and satisfactory.

The Museum has over 300 exhibits, including those donated awaiting transportation. Of these, approximately 71 at Saskatoon and 92 at North Battleford



A former Second World War hangar at the North Battleford Airport was secured to store early farm equipment, c.1949. Public could tour the building at a cost of 25 cents per person.

WDM Library

have been reconditioned and are now on display. There are 73 at Saskatoon and 55 at North Battleford waiting to be reconditioned.

It can now be said that the Western Development Museum is an established institution, the value of which will increase with the years ...” Joe Phelps, Chair, WDM Board of Directors

1950 Attendance 13,264

April 1950 article titled “Pioneers of the Prairie Trails” in an unnamed newspaper (WDM Library - 1947- 53 WDM Scrapbook)

The objectives of the project have gradually extended beyond the boundaries of Saskatchewan and the museum is now operated by a board of directors, of which Mr. Phelps is chairman and Dean Grant McEwan of the University of Manitoba is vice-chairman. Other directors are Prof. E.A. Hardy of the University of Saskatchewan, together with R.A. Mathison, International Harvester Company, Saskatoon and Frank Swon, farmer, North Battleford. E.R. Potter is the secretary.

The museum receives a maintenance grant from the Saskatchewan government and the rest of its funds are obtained from private sources. It is a non-profit organization.

Undated and unnamed newspaper - probably the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* sometime in 1950 (WDM Library - 1947 - 53 WDM Scrapbook)

Members of the Western Development Museum Board were checking all possible accommodation for the exhibits which had to be moved from their present quarters at the airport, J.L. Phelps, board chairman, said today.



A 32-100 hp Case and a Farmall tractor line up at the hangar at the North Battleford Airport, c.1950.

WDM Library - NB Airport 1950s - NB Archives-LC01-02-140



North Battleford airport hangar, c.1949.

WDM Library



Ed Mather at left in the former Cushing Mill, Saskatoon c.1949.

WDM Library

Accommodation under investigation included a hangar at Yorkton which might possibly be moved to Saskatoon; part of a hangar owned by the university and located just east of the campus buildings; a warehouse soon to be vacated by Shelly Brothers; the former R.C.A.F. drill hall, behind the Normal school and now used as a vocational training school and gymnasium.

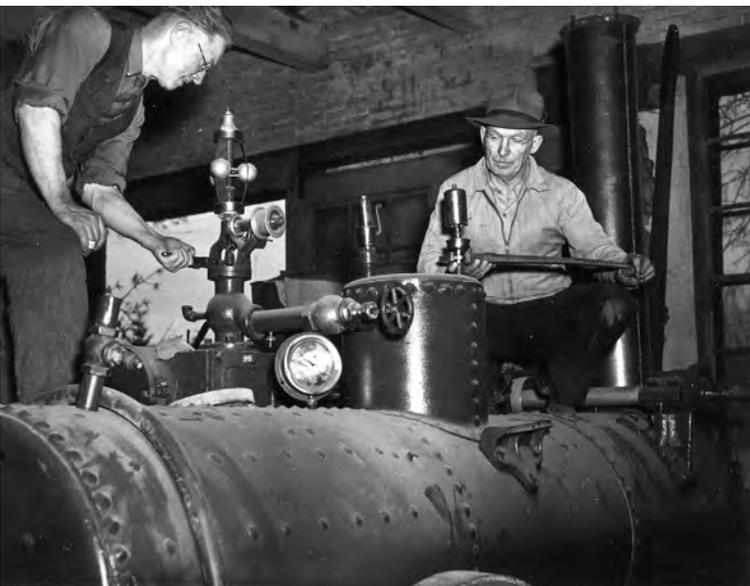
... Mr. Phelps recalled that two years ago when the museum was trying to get other accommodation than the old Co-op warehouse on Duchess Street and before they got the airport hangar, he and Roy Potter had called on Mr. MacEachern but were turned down then on a request for exhibition buildings.

1951 Attendance 19,123

1951 Hangar #35 at Swift Current was dismantled and transferred to Saskatoon. This hangar had formerly been used by the Department of Agriculture. A building grant of \$15,000 was received from the Province of Saskatchewan, with an equal amount coming from the City of Saskatoon. The hangar was reconstructed on 11th St W on land donated by the City of Saskatoon, with the move completed from the Saskatoon airport in 1952.

1951 Artifacts were collected and stored in a hangar at the Yorkton airport. Many artifacts were moved from the Department of National Defense hangar at Moose Jaw; the Moose Jaw hangar was needed by the department. According to the 1951 WDM Annual Report, the number of artifacts collected from around the province during 1951 totalled 461.

1951 June 17 - The WDM hangar at the Yorkton airport opened to the public, with George Sherwood as Curator.



Restoration work at the former Cushing Mill in Saskatoon, 1949.

WDM Library

1951 From the WDM Annual Report for 1951, Board Chair J.L. Phelps wrote:

A very gratifying feature of the year's operation was the substantial increase in the number of visitors at both Saskatoon and North Battleford. Admission fee figures - considerably higher at both places than those for the previous year - plus an estimate of courtesy admissions, would indicate that the Saskatoon display was seen by some 16,000 visitors, and another 7,000 visited the North Battleford Museum.

Visitors from every part of the globe again signed their names in the registers, and were very generous in their praise, not only of the displays themselves, but also of the wisdom and far-sightedness of instituting and fostering a project of this nature. This praise and commendation from many sources and from people in all walks of life has given encouragement and impetus to the efforts which have been made to build this project to the point where it is already assuming proportions of national and international importance.

1951 The Board of Directors included: J.L. Phelps, chairman; Prof. Grant McEwen of the University of Manitoba as vice-chair; Prof. Evan Hardy of the University of Saskatchewan as secretary; Charles Jonah, Paul Helstrom and Frank Swon.



1952 Attendance 16,127

1952 After the WDM Saskatoon moved from the airport to 11th St W, a pioneer show was held to celebrate Saskatoon's 70th Anniversary. (Saskatoon was first settled in 1882.)

For a short time in the early 1950s, the WDM Saskatoon was located on the former site of British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) barracks at the corner of Ave A (now Idylwyld Dr) and 33rd St, c.1949.

WDM Library



Saskatoon Anniversary booklet in the WDM artifact collection.

WDM-2001-S-354

Local History - Saskatoon Public Library
PH-95-78-73-i



In 1952 Saskatoon celebrated its 70th Anniversary, parading a giant birthday cake through downtown streets.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room PH-95-78-73-i



George Shepherd, first Museum Curator appointed in 1953, Saskatoon, c.1960.

WDM Library

1953 Attendance 26,573

1953 George Shepherd was named WDM Curator.

1953 J.L. Phelps in the WDM Annual Report for 1953:

Very generous contributions to the Museum's building fund were received during the year. In addition to its annual grant to defray operating costs, the Province of Saskatchewan donated \$20,000, and the City of Saskatoon gave \$15,000 and a large tract of land as a site for the new building. Because of these grants it was possible to make unexpected and un hoped for headway in the building program at Saskatoon. Not only was the main work of erecting the new hangar building completed so that our display there is now properly housed and protected against the elements, but in addition it was possible to make considerable improvements to the building and grounds.

Repair work of major proportion was also undertaken at the North Battleford building. The old roof, which had deteriorated beyond repair, was replaced with a new 20-year bonded roof, and auxiliary support columns have been erected under the roof trusses. These improvements required a total expenditure of some \$10,000, all of which is being financed out of our operating fund.

... the total number of visitors at Saskatoon during 1953 approximated 23,000, at North Battleford 10,000, and at Yorkton 8,000...

1953 The Museum helped the people of Lloydminster celebrate the Barr Colonists Jubilee with the loan of engines and artifacts.



1953 The WDM Board included: J.L. Phelps, chairman; Prof. Grant McEwen as vice-chair; Dean T.H. McLeod as secretary; Paul Helstrom, Frank Swon, Evan Hardy and George Morris.

Hangar #35 was dismantled at Swift Current and erected on 11th St W in Saskatoon, 1951.

WDM Library

1954 Attendance 28,937

October 4, 1954 article titled "To Film Two Shorts Here" in an unnamed newspaper (WDM Library - 1954 WDM Scrapbook)

The National Film Board is planning to produce two short films in Saskatoon during the first two weeks of October. ...

The first film will feature the threshermen's reunion to be held at the Western Development Museum from October 8 - 11. The production of this film will be directed by Rollo Gamble of the National



A Robert Bell steam traction engine was donated by Ernest T. Olson of Riverhurst, SK in 1953.

WDM Library



Hangar building at the Yorkton airport, c.1954.

WDM Library



The hangar at the Yorkton Airport, c. 1953.

WDM Library



The Saskatoon hangar on 11th St W, c.1954.

WDM Library

Film Board production staff in Ottawa.

The second film will be made at the University of Saskatchewan. ... shooting is expected to take place from October 13 to 17.

October 9, 1954 article titled "Early Days Alive Again at Reunion" Saskatoon Star Phoenix (WDM Library - 1954 WDM Scrapbook)

The Hon. J.A. Darling, Saskatchewan's minister of public works, Friday paid tribute to the province's pioneers when he opened Canada's first Threshermen's Reunion held at the Western Development Museum. The museum, which sponsored the reunion, is under Mr. Darling's department, and he said no money requested in the legislature was given more readily.

1954 October 8 - 11 - The first show of the pioneer past was mounted in Saskatoon over the Thanksgiving weekend. This first Threshermen's Reunion proved to be the curtain-raiser for Pion-Era. More than 5,000 people attended. The National Film Board of Canada filmed a documentary of this first performance. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) sent reporters.

Unnamed, undated newspaper story titled "Attendance Higher At Museum (WDM Library - 1954 WDM Scrapbook)

Yorkton - Attendance at the Western Development Museum has surpassed all previous records with close to 4,000 persons having registered so far this season, G. Sherwood, curator, said here.

...Mr. Sherwood said the material which has been on display in the city hall had been moved to the museum at the airport on a loan basis. The wide range of exhibits, he said, included old utensils of copper and silver, Hudson Bay Co. records at Fort Pelly, branding irons, fossils, a large number of old firearms and Indian stone artifacts.

Saskatchewan Jubilee 1905-1955

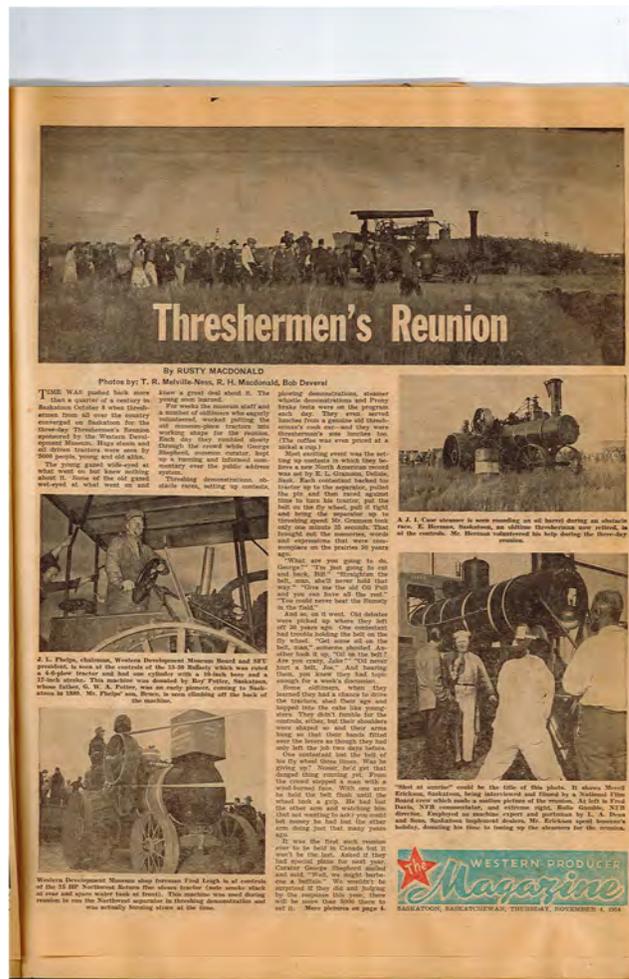
1955 January 28 - The Pioneer Threshermen's Club in Saskatoon was formed. Wes Hamilton was the first president. Norman Allan of Saskatoon was the first secretary. Lawrence Gramson of Delisle and Fred Leigh were put in charge of steam. The first steam class was held. Merrill Erickson and Walter Smith were placed in charge of gas engines. The horse captains were Doug Charles and Gerrit Nyholt.

1955 In February, Joe Phelps and museum staff met with Mr. Justice E.M. Culliton, head of the province's Jubilee Committee to discuss plans for the 1955 show. George LeBeau, museum manager, suggested Pion-Era as a name for the show. Based on earlier threshermen reunions, the first Pion-Era in Saskatoon was held in July to celebrate Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee. It was reported that two wet days cut attendance; still, more than 25,000 people attended the week-long show.

Spring, 1955 article titled "Early Prairie Days to be Recalled at Western Development Museum" in an unnamed newspaper but probably the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1955 WDM Scrapbook)

The early Prairie days will move out of the history books and into colorful, noisy life July 4 to 9 in Saskatoon when Pion-Era, an exhibition sponsored by the Western Development Museum, will be held.

... Thirty-five acres south of the Museum have been sown to oats and brome, and already show a healthy growth. Ground has been brushed and levelled to provide parking space for 5,000 cars. Barns are being built to house oxen and horses. Lumber has been ordered for bleachers. Poles for two enclosures - mile and a half circumference - are laid down. A harness



The first Threshermen's Reunion at the WDM Saskatoon was held October 8 - 11, 1954, as a rehearsal for the Jubilee Show anticipated for Saskatchewan's 50th Birthday in 1955.

WDM Library - 1954 Scrapbook



George Sherwood, Yorkton, c. 1955.

Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society, Everett Baker Collection SHFS 9058



The hangar at the Yorkton airport filled quickly with donations and purchases of early vehicles and farm equipment.

WDM Library

shop and a blacksmith's shop are taking form. Space has been set aside in the hangar to recreate pioneer interiors - kitchen, parlor and bedroom.

Summer, 1955 article titled "MacEachern Says Pion-Era's Success Won't Hurt Fair" in an unnamed newspaper but probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1955 WDM Scrapbook):

Fair Board manager Steve MacEachern is of the opinion that the unprecedented success of Pion-Era will not affect Exhibition attendance this year. When asked to comment this morning, he said: "Every show has its own appeal and will attract its own type of clientele. Farmers are still interested in livestock and the entertainment furnished by the Exhibition..."

Asked about the possibility of combining the two shows, Mr. MacEachern said it had been discussed with the local Jubilee Committee this year but that since they were two different types of shows it would not be advantageous. "It would be impossible to have the two shows staged at the same location," he said, "and held at separate locations, they would be competing attractions."



Western Development Museum Photo

1955 August 17 - The Yorkton Threshermen's Club began, staging the first pioneer threshing show at the WDM Yorkton. This show, on August 17, 1955 was called "Pion-Era Day and Old-Time Threshermen's Reunion." The Yorkton Pion-Era committee included: Jack Parr in charge of the gates; Norm Roebuck - grounds; Bill Ross - publicity; Nick Bryck and Sam Yaremovich - Ukrainian display; Joe Popenoff - Doukhobor display; John Gabel - street dance. Dorothy Marchant was chair of Yorkton's Jubilee Committee.



George LeBeau, Museum Manager, Saskatoon, 1955. It was LeBeau who suggested Pion-Era as a name for the Jubilee year Threshermen's Reunion.

WDM Library

1955 Frank Quinn and Bill Fedellack are part of the WDM Yorkton staff, with G.G. Sherwood acting as caretaker, according to a 1955 article titled "Story of Prairies Told in Machinery."

1955 The Museum sent a travelling exhibit of engines to Class B fairs around the province in honour of Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee. In addition to George Shepherd, WDM Saskatoon staff include George LeBeau and John Leigh.

1955 The WDM Board included: J.L. Phelps, chairman; Prof. Grant McEwen as vice-chair; Dean T.H. McLeod as Secretary; Paul Helstrom, Frank Swon, Evan Hardy, George Morris and J.D. McAskill.



Thunderchild First Nation members participated in the Jubilee Year Pion-Era show at the WDM Saskatoon, 1955.

See 2022 exhibit at wdm.ca/exhibits/whitecap.

WDM Library WDM11-C(c)-24

1956 Attendance 50,961

1956 The WDM Board of Directors: J.L. Phelps - chair; Mayor J.D. McAskill, Saskatoon; Paul Helstrom, Regina; John Archer, Legislative Librarian, Regina; J.H. Poirier, Saskatoon - secretary; George Morris, Yorkton; Frank Swon, North Battleford; T.H. McLeod, Dean of Commerce, U of S, Saskatoon.

1956 Staff included Curator - George Shepherd, Fred Leigh - Shop Foreman, George LeBeau - Museum Supervisor and Gary Crowder - Bookkeeper.

1956 The Board of Directors agreed to make a start on a *Heritage Village* in North Battleford.

1956 The Saskatchewan Tourism advisory council cited the three WDMs as a Number One Tourist drawing card in the province.

1956 Local Committees were established in Saskatoon, North Battleford and Yorkton to assist WDM management.

1956 The Pioneer Threshermen's Club in Saskatoon hosted the first national Threshermen's Convention at the Museum.



Pion-Era captured the imaginations of Saskatchewan residents across the province, like this fellow who came from Melfort to Saskatoon to celebrate the Golden Jubilee, 1955.

WDM Library



In August, 1955 the Museum at the airport in Yorkton staged a Threshermen's Reunion in celebration of the Golden Jubilee.

WDM Library



At the Yorkton show in 1955, left to right, Albert Mantie (behind the wheel), Fred Leigh, Frank Quinn, John Leigh,.

WDM Library



Driving a steam engine up a ramp was a display of skill and steady nerves as this thresherman demonstrated at Saskatoon's Pion-Era in 1955.

WDM Library



Museum vehicles paraded at the Jubilee Pion-Era show at the WDM Saskatoon, 1955. Some of the week-long crowd of 25,000 visitors sat in the newly-constructed bleachers at the site on 11th St W.

WDM Library

1956 article titled “Whole Sweep of Agricultural Revolution Seen in Pion-Era” in an unnamed and undated newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - WDM 1947 - 53 Scrapbook)

“Saskatoon’s Pion-Era is the only place on the North American continent where you can see the whole sweep of the revolution that has carried agriculture from rough, hand tools to streamlined automatic machinery in less than a hundred years.”

That comment by John Fisher, executive director of the Canadian Tourism Association, set the scene for the four-day show that began Wednesday at the Western Development Museum.

More than 5,000 persons in holiday mood crowded the wooden bleachers and stood around the reviewing stand to hear Federal Agriculture Minister Jimmy Gardiner officially declare Pion-Era open....

1956 article titled “20,000 Attended Pion-Era Show, Ends Up in Red” in an unnamed and undated newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1956 WDM Scrapbook)

“Pion-Era,” he [Joe Phelps] commented, “is on its own financially. It does not get the provincial or federal grants enjoyed by the exhibitions.” The Western Development Museum Board got an annual grant to operate the three museums at North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton. But the show had to depend entirely on gate receipts.

1956 article titled “Ambitious Plans For Recreation Centre Prepared” in an unnamed and undated newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1956 WDM Scrapbook)

Dreams of the time when a great athletic centre would be developed in Saskatoon south of the Western Development Museum on Eleventh Street West are out of the visionary stage and on the drafting boards.

City Planner Bill Graham hopes to present

tentative plans for the future project at Monday night's Council meeting.

Two and a half years ago the *Star-Phoenix* ran an exclusive year-end story about the project.

... Commissioner Balfour at that time was thinking in terms of a ball park, a football field, a new rink and other activities located in an area where there would be plenty of room and no parking problems.

... But ideas for the dream centre have grown too. It will be known as a Recreation Centre; will include parks, picnic grounds, playgrounds, and many other features. It is hoped to tie the Western Development Museum into the picture with more room for the annual Pion-Era show ... and to provide grounds for the construction of a pioneer village, an Indian encampment and some typical early farmsteads. ...

1956 article titled "300 Acres Tagged For playing Area" in an unnamed and undated newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1956 WDM Scrapbook)

City Council Monday night ear-marked 300 acres of city-owned property in southwest Saskatoon for a future park and recreation area in which the key showpiece would be the Western Development Museum on Eleventh Street West.

Aldermen at the same time authorized the museum directors to use the 70 acres immediately south of its building as a show-ring and parking space for its annual Pion-Era ... and to start on its expansion plans in the area, including construction of a pioneer village, Indian encampment, a home farm and other features.

... The project, described by City Planner Bill Graham in an interim report, as "Riverside Holiday Centre," will take in the land south of Eleventh Street West and stretching west as far as the CNR railway, taking in Wellington Park and extending south from Avenue P to the river.

City Planner Graham sketched for council some of the possibilities - sports arenas, a golf course, car and steeplechase races,



A Parade of Power at Pion-Era's Jubilee Show, July, 1955 at WDM Saskatoon on 11th St W.

WDM Library



Gary Crowder (far left) looks on as Ralph Keller presents the keys to the winners of the raffle on a new Ford Fairlane, Saskatoon, c. 1955.

WDM Library—Crowder Collection



In the early 1950s, before there were televisions in every Saskatchewan home, people gathered at summer shows like Pion-Era at the WDM Saskatoon. Attendance often topped 15,000 at the annual week-long show, c. 1956.

WDM Library



open air theatre, bandstand, football grounds, baseball field, and perhaps even a boating lake for young Saskatonians. Access would be provided at some future time by such proposals as a bridge across the river south of the Sanatorium and the link with the inner-city highway system.

1956 article titled “Museum Vision” in an unnamed and undated newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1956 WDM Scrapbook)

... Not only is the [Saskatoon] museum hangar to be enlarged and its machine and household exhibits expanded, but the museum board also is planning the



Western Development Museum grounds, 11th St W, Saskatoon, c. 1960.

WDM Library

reconstruction of an Indian encampment and a frontier village (complete with RNWMP post, newspaper plant and livery stable). This outdoor development plan, requiring much more acreage to the south of the museum hangar, would be dovetailed with the city's development plans for the southwest area, ideally provided with sand dunes and natural vegetation. These latter plans may include the future provision of a sports or athletic centre.

The vision conjured up by these proposals is one all Saskatonians would work with a will to bring to reality. The provincial government should continue its assistance too..."

September 20, 1956 - article titled "Province Grants \$25,000 to Museum's Three Branches" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1956 WDM Scrapbook)

The provincial government will give the Western Development Museum's three branches two supplementary grants totalling \$25,000 to cover a large overdraft and provide operating funds for the rest of 1956.

... A second request to gradually increase the board's regular annual grant over a period of 10 years until it reached \$50,000 was not decided.

In the past the provincial government has handed various annual amounts to the board. Last year it gave \$25,000, in 1954 \$20,000, in 1953, 1952, 1951 and 1950 \$15,000 and in 1949 \$18,000.

Financial aid also has been received from the federal government, two of the three cities, and private donations in the past.

1956 October - A three-day *Threshermen's Reunion* was first held at the WDM North Battleford, with North Battleford Jay-Cees and 4-H Clubs.



The annual Pion-Era summer show at the WDM Saskatoon drew visitors from around the province, c. 1956.

WDM Library



Model of the proposed 11th St W site development, Saskatoon, c. 1956.

WDM Exhibits Department



Museum tractors on parade at the North Battleford Airport, c. 1955.

North Battleford City Archives LC01-02-142



People of all ages loved the Western Development Museum at the North Battleford airport, c. 1956.

City of North Battleford Archives LC01-02-144



Members of several First Nations, including the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, attended the Pion-Era summer show annually, Saskatoon, c. 1956.

See 2022 exhibit at wdm.ca/exhibits/whitecap.

WDM Library WDM11-C(c)-25



Museum hangar at the Yorkton airport, 1955.

WDM Library

1956 article titled “Thousands Throng To Threshermen’s Reunion at N.B.” in an unnamed and undated newspaper (WDM Library - 1956 WDM Scrapbook)

Thousands of farm and city folk swarmed over the spacious grounds of the Western Development Museum here (North Battleford) Friday for the second day of the three-day annual Threshermen’s Reunion and 4-H Club Rally which was officially opened by Mayor H. James Maher.

October 24, 1956 - “Museum Directors Accept City’s Offer of Property” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1956 WDM Scrapbook)

Directors of the Western Development Museum , at a meeting here Tuesday, formally accepted the city’s offer of 72 acres of land adjoining the museum on Eleventh Street, west.

*Chairman of the museum board, J.L. Phelps, this morning told the *Star-Phoenix* they would proceed immediately to acquire title. His directors had given the “go ahead signal” for construction of a pioneer prairie village and authorized a survey of grounds to select the best location.*

Mr. Phelps announced the money raised by citizens to move Saskatoon’s first house to the proposed village had been placed in a special fund. More than \$1,000 had been raised and several contributions had come in after the objective was reached.

A report to the meeting on the museum’s general work indicated that restoration of exhibits had proceeded rapidly in the last two years.

Since the province’s Golden Jubilee in 1955, many rare and interesting machines and other items had been donated, the museum board chairman commented, and the board was planning to take delivery of most of them in the near future, even if central storage sheds had to be built to house them until museum space was available.

Meanwhile, negotiations with the provincial government were continuing, to acquire another hangar for the museum here.

1956 October - In Saskatoon, Colony House moved from 526 Main St (just west of the Broadway corner) to make room for the O.K. Economy parking lot. It was moved to the Western Development Museum grounds on 11th St W.

1956 Fire destroyed a Museum barn and storage shed, destroying a number of artifacts at Saskatoon.

1956 article titled “About \$5,000 Damage In Fire at Museum” in an unnamed and undated newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1956 WDM Scrapbook)

About 12 irreplaceable pioneer relics, wagons of different sorts, were enshrouded with flames and destroyed when a fire of unknown origin raced through two barns back of the Western Development Museum Monday night.

Nothing was saved from the blaze, which ate through the two buildings in half an hour. Joe Phelps, chairman of the museum board of directors estimated at least \$5,000 damage was done.

... Mr. Phelps said most of the antiques, which included two water wagons, four wagons and hayracks, and two grain tanks, dated from about 1910 or 1915.

1956 Joe Phelps in the 1956 WDM Annual Report noted:

During the year the Board of Directors, at the request of several ethnic groups and civic associations as well as individuals, have agreed to make a start on a pioneer village in connection with the Western Development Museum. There has also been a request for a wildlife exhibit at Saskatoon and the general opinion is that it should be established at the Museum. Partly for these purposes, combined with Pion-Era requirements, the City of

Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library
lh-6016



In the fall of 1956, Colony House was moved from its original foundation on Main St just west of Broadway Ave in Saskatoon to the WDM on 11th St W, 1956.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room LH-6016



Interior of the WDM Saskatoon hangar, c. 1956.

WDM Library



The 1955 Jubilee Shows at the WDMs in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton attracted participants from around the province like this pair of oxen and their owner at Pion-Era, Saskatoon, 1955. Riding in the wagon are Paul Littlecrow and Raymond Eagle of the Whitecap First Nation.

WDM Library



Western Development Museum vehicles on parade in Saskatoon, 1956.

WDM Library - Star Phoenix Collection.



Saskatoon has very generously turned over a valuable block of land and some 77 acres for the use of the Western Development Museum. This land is adjacent to the City's newly proposed recreation area, lying between the river and No.14 and 7 highways and the title to this valuable property is now in the process of being transferred.

1956 WDM Annual Report

The Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Celebrations and the splendid work done by the Provincial Jubilee Committee have given great impetus and momentum to recording and collecting material and machines which are part and parcel of the early history of one of Canada's infant provinces. The Western Development Museum is apparently the only institution in Saskatchewan equipped to carry through on the tremendous amount of work resulting from the historical enthusiasm generated by the Provincial Jubilee Committee.

As a result of Jubilee year, several historians have stated that Saskatchewan is possibly the most historically-minded area of any place on the North American continent. We hope the work of the Museum will contribute its share in helping to maintain this interest, as the job of obtaining and retaining the historical documents, the landmarks and tools of production and the pioneer culture of our Province is a precious and urgent work. Time is of the essence if we are to preserve this early history. We cannot afford to neglect opportunities but must press on with all speed to obtain the rapidly disappearing machines which, once gone, will be lost forever. The originals can never be replaced.

1957 Attendance 79,363

March 1, 1957 article titled “Councillors Approve \$5,000 Museum Grant” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1957 WDM Scrapbook)

A grant of \$5,000 toward carrying out permanent improvements at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon was approved with one dissenting vote Thursday night by standing committee of city council.

1957 Pion-Era was incorporated under a public charter, the show arm of the Western Development Museum. New features of the 1957 show included demonstrations of building railway grades using old equipment pulled by horses and mules, increased participation of First Nations, and an essay competition in partnership with the Department of Education and the Teachers Federation.

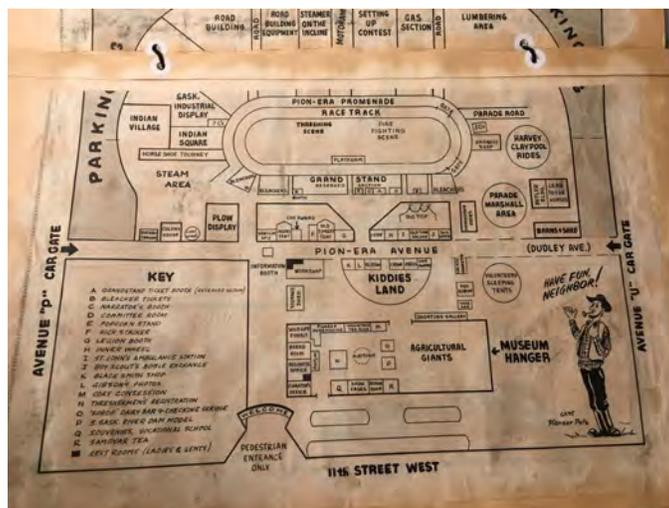
April 4, 1957 article titled “Pion-Era Separate Business” in an unnamed and undated newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1957 WDM Scrapbook)

Directors of the Western Development Museum here today announced that the annual Pion-Era show will become a separate corporation to be managed by its own board of directors.

Named as provisional directors of the new Pion-Era Corporation are Mayor John D. McAskill, chairman; J.L. Phelps, managing director; T.H. McLeod, director, and G.W. Crowder, secretary-treasurer.

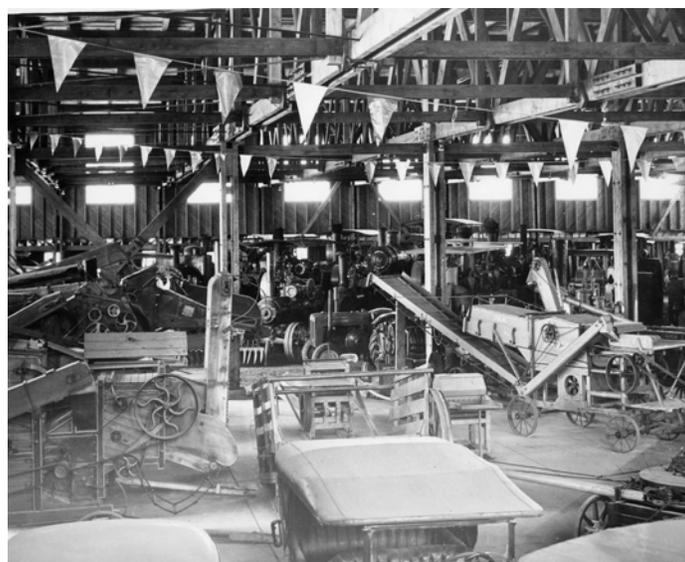
May 24, 1957 article titled “Museum Branch Director Named” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1957 WDM Scrapbook)

J. L. Phelps, chairman of the board of directors of the Western Development Museum of Saskatchewan, has announced the appointment of Gerrit Nyholt of this city, as resident museum director for the



Pion-Era program, WDM Saskatoon, 1959.

WDM Library - WDM 1959 Scrapbook



Interior of the WDM Saskatoon, c. 1956

WDM Library



Farm machines were brought out for visitors to enjoy at the Threshermen's Reunion at the museum in North Battleford, 1956.

City of North Battleford Archives, LC01-02-141



Some of the members of the fledgling Women's Auxiliary to the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon, c.1957.

WDM Library



Loomis Clipper 4 steam drill used in Saskatchewan by the Simpson Oil Company.

WDM-1973-S-1085



Crowds attending the WDM Yorkton Threshermen's Show, 1955.

WDM Library

North Battleford branch.

Frank Swon, a member of the board since its inception, will continue in that capacity.

Mr. Nyholt, a well known breeder of Palominos, and owner of a wild animal and bird park, has done a great deal in the past to stimulate interest in the museum and other attractions in this territory.

The Western Development Museum here, located at the airport, is already open for the summer months with Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Taylor, formerly of Paynton, again in charge.

1957 Hangars at Weyburn (from the Industrial Development Branch) and Swift Current (from the Department of Transport) were used for artifact storage. The collection surpassed 5,000 items.

1957 Women's Auxiliary to the Western Development Museum formed to assist the Pioneer Threshermen's group that had formed at the WDM Saskatoon. Pion-Era was a six-day show, July 1 - 6.

1957 A fireproof repair shop was constructed on the WDM Saskatoon 11th St W site.

1957 A new Museum service was developed, providing equipment and machines for films produced by Provincial Photographic Services, Department of Travel and Information, and the National Film Board.

1957 The WDM's steam-operated well drilling outfit, originally from Simpson, was used on the Peter Martin farm north of Saskatoon for a film sponsored by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SPC). "Progress on the Prairies" was produced and directed by Lawrence Cherry of the film division of the Saskatchewan Department of Travel and Information.

August 22, 1957 article titled “Development Board Group Will Approach City Council” in an unnamed newspaper, probably a Yorkton newspaper (WDM Library - 1957 WDM Scrapbook)

Among a number of decisions made at a local committee meeting of the Western Development Museum held at the airport hangar housing the pioneer relics on Friday and attended by J.L. Phelps, Saskatoon, chairman of the Western Development Museum Board, were two of terrific importance to Yorkton. One of these could entice Yorkton Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition to enlarge fair grounds and provide added attraction, along with the proposed new \$100,000 grandstand to be erected prior to the 1958 exhibition.

The big decision was to approach the City Council for allocation for a new site for the Yorkton Branch of the Museum, closer to the city and ask that council make allocation for such a site in town planning. ... the second big decision was to agree with service club and organizational requests that a historical pageant “show” be held in 1958 in connection with Yorkton’s 75th Anniversary celebrations.

... Termed a “very sound suggestion” by Fair Board Secretary Stan Wood, when apprised of the suggestion Saturday morning, it was mooted that the Western Development Museum Board and the Yorkton Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Association Board get together and have the new site for the museum allocated at the fair grounds, even should the grounds have to be enlarged, and have an annual pioneer relic “show” in conjunction with the Yorkton Fair ...

The Western Development Museum committee appointed to investigate a new site and show possibilities was comprised of George Morris, provincial director; W.R. Pinkering, Fred Hamilton, Gordon Pearce and George Sherwood, Yorkton curator.

1957 August 31 - A Local Committee formed to aid management at the WDM North Battleford.



A Gaar Scott engine in trouble at the Threshermen’s Show at the Yorkton Museum, 1955.

WDM Library



A museum crew in front of a Case 110 steam traction engine at the Western Development Museum hangar, North Battleford, c.1955.

Pioneer Threshermen’s Club



Saskatoon Mayor John McAskill, c.1957.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room PH-94-26-28.



George Morris, developer of the rod-weeder, on his farm at Bangor, SK, c.1930. Morris later became a Western Development Museum director.

Morris Industries Ltd.

September 4, 1957 article titled “Seek New Site For Development Museum” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1957 WDM Scrapbook)

A new location will be sought to house the North Battleford Branch of the Western Development Museum now housed at the city’s airport. J.L. Phelps, chairman of the Western Development Association, said that the project might take several years to complete, but he urged a newly formed local committee to pick out a new site and to approach the city council this year concerning the problem.

Mr. Phelps addressed a meeting of the local museum committee which formed Saturday at a meeting held in the Board of Trade offices on Main Street. Gerrit Nyholt was elected chairman of the committee while Board of Trade Commissioner Rod H. Thompson became secretary.

... The committee discussed suggestions to promote the museum. It adopted a suggestion made by Bill Esaw that a pioneer piece of equipment be displayed near the approaches to the city in an effort to draw more attention to the airport site.

... Other committee members include: H. Gascoigne, Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Taylor, Frank Swon, A. Grobman, H. Dekker and Irwin McIntosh.

September 27, 1957 article titled “\$15,000 for Pion-Era” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1957 WDM Scrapbook)

The provincial cabinet has agreed to supply a \$15,000 capital grant for the Western Development Museum’s 1958 Pion-Era, Mayor John McAskill said today.

The money is to be used for improving the grounds at the museum site. Mayor McAskill suggested some of it might be used to build additional bleachers and for paving the grounds.

1957 The WDM Board of Directors included: J.L. Phelps - chair; Saskatoon Mayor J.D. McAskill; T.H. McLeod, Dean of

Commerce, U of S - secretary; John Archer; Paul Helstrom; George Morris; Gerrit Nyholt; Frank Swon and Alex Cameron.

1958 Attendance 65,867

1958 February 7 - An ad for a shop foreman at the WDM Saskatoon who "must be a welder and be able to supervise and direct works crews" listed the salary range as \$250 to \$300 per month.

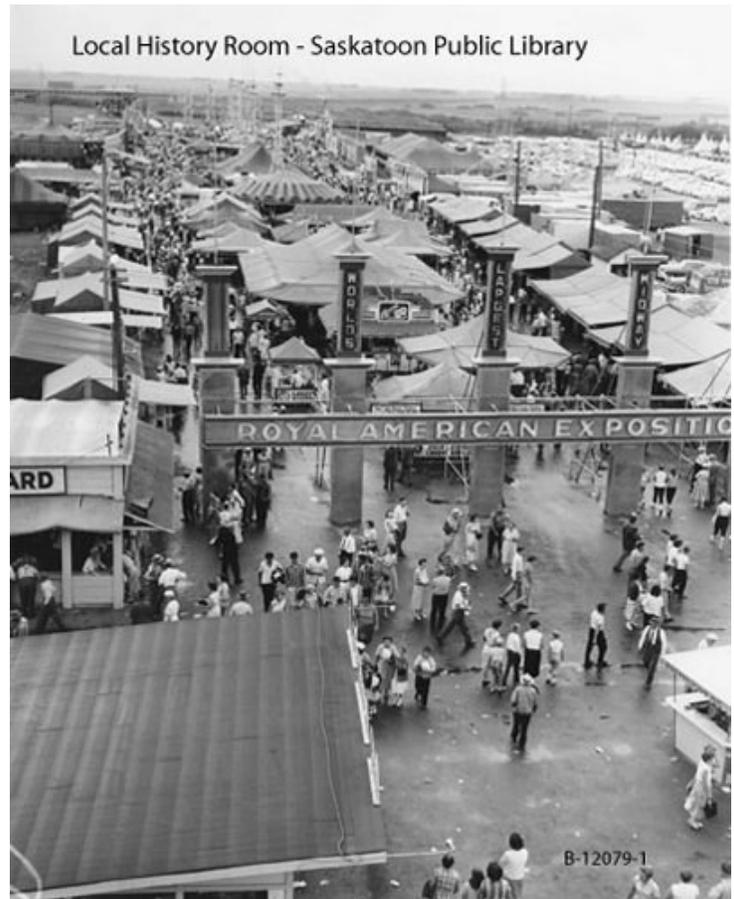
April 28, 1958 article titled "Ex Board Opposes Proposal" in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1958 WDM Scrapbook)

The Saskatoon Exhibition Board's views on the Western Development Museum directors' proposals for locating the museum on the exhibition grounds and developing adjoining Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park] as a centre for Pion-Era shows are scheduled to come before City Council Monday night.

The exhibition board, it is understood, does not favor either proposal. Directors say the 80-acre exhibition ground plant is barely big enough to look after their own building program. Use of exhibition facilities would not be practical, and the exhibition board could not permit control over the use of its grounds by any joint city-museum-exhibition commission that might be set up.

April 29, 1958 article titled "Council Setting Up Committee To Study Plan for Moving Western Development Museum" in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1958 WDM Scrapbook)

City Council will set up a committee to discuss the recent request of the Western Development Museum to be re-located in Jubilee Park [which later became



Saskatoon Exhibition Midway, 1958.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room B-12079



Pion-Era managers, left to right: Oliver Symes, J.B. Millar, Bernice Norman, J.A. Duncan, 1958.

WDM Library - WDM 1958 Scrapbook

was appointed secretary-treasurer.

June 13, 1958 article titled “Museum Attracted 1,311 Visitors” in an unnamed newspaper, probably a Yorkton newspaper or perhaps the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1958 WDM Scrapbook)

Yorkton - The Yorkton Hist-O-Rama, August 14 - 16, had spurred public interest in exhibits at the Western Development Museum with 1,311 visitors registered since the museum opened its doors for the season May 1, the curator, George Sherwood, has reported.

June 30 - July 5, 1958 article titled “Ernest Linder is Pion-Era art patron” in the *Pion-Era Press* (WDM Library - 1958 WDM Scrapbook)

Saskatoon artist Ernest Lindner has painted a railroad building scene typical of early Saskatchewan and presented it to Pion-Era to hang permanently in the Museum Board Room.

1958 July 1 - The Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, blew the whistle to kick-off Pion-Era '58. Commentators for events were Joe Phelps, Hal Lewis, George Shepherd and Oliver Symes.

1958 August 14 - 16 - *Hist-O-Rama*, in celebration of the City of Yorkton's 75th anniversary, was held on the Exhibition grounds. It was organized by three organizations, the WDM Yorkton, the City of Yorkton and the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.

December 3, 1958 photograph titled “Pion-Era, Museum Sign Agreement” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1958 WDM Scrapbook)

Officials of Pion-Era and the Western Development Museum sign a new agreement turning over all assets of Pion-Era to the museum. From left to right:



Linder painting in the WDM artifact collection, currently hanging in Palace Theatre in the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM-1973-S-2066



Souvenir postcards were sold at Pion-Era in 1958.

WDM-1997-S-84



Signing an agreement between Pion-Era and the WDM Saskatoon are left to right: John McAskill, Eric Hughes, Joe Phelps, Bill Knight, Hal Lewis, December 1958.

WDM Library - WDM 1958 Scrapbook

John McAskill, museum board vice-chairman; Eric Hughes, Pion-Era director; Joe Phelps, museum board chairman; Bill Knight, Pion-Era director and Hal Lewis, Pion-Era director.

1959 Attendance 67,036

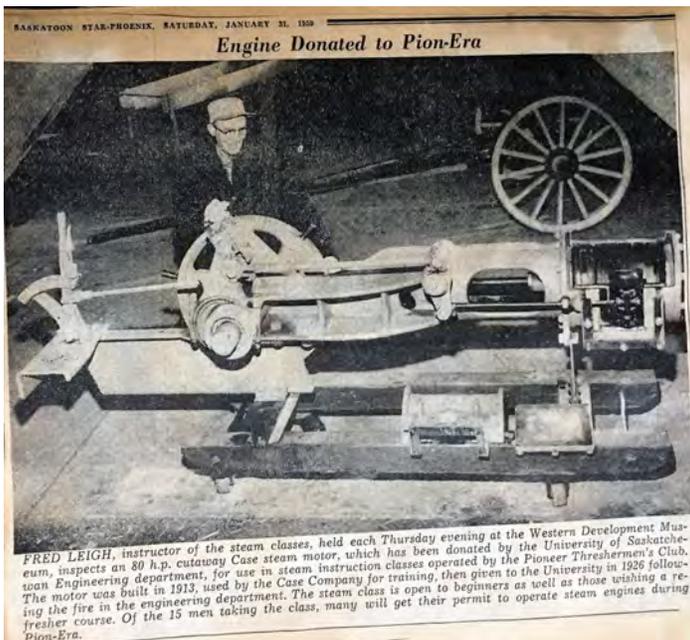
January 10, 1959 article titled “Museum Future For Discussion With Cabinet” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1959 WDM Scrapbook)

The future of the Western Development Museum in this province will be discussed in Regina when the museum board members meet with the cabinet Monday afternoon. Before meeting with the cabinet, members will hold a board meeting during the morning.

Joe Phelps, chairman of the board and director of the museum, said the main problem to be discussed is whether or not the museum will be concentrated in one place, or will continue its present setup of museums in Saskatoon, North Battleford and Yorkton.

January 31, 1959 photograph titled “Engine Donated to Pion-Era” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1959 WDM Scrapbook)

Fred Leigh, instructor of the steam classes, held each Thursday evening at the Western Development Museum., inspects an 80 hp cutaway Case steam motor, which has been donated by the University of Saskatchewan Engineering department, for use in steam instruction classes operated by the Pioneer Threshermen’s Club.



Fred Leigh of the WDM Saskatoon is shown in this article “Engine Donated to Pion-Era” inspecting a 1913 80 hp Case cutaway engine donated to the Museum from the University of Saskatchewan Engineering department, 1959.

WDM Library - WDM 1959 Scrapbook

April 30, 1959 article titled “Yorkton, North Battleford Museums Will Be Open to Public Sunday” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1959 WDM Scrapbook)

J.L. Phelps, chairman of the board of directors of the Western Development Museum has announced that the museum branches at Yorkton and North Battleford would be opened to the public on Sunday, May 3. The two branches have been closed since December 1, 1958.

Mr. Phelps spoke with particular enthusiasm of the Yorkton museum. “The museum at Yorkton has been given a complete face-lifting,” he said. “Many new exhibits have been added and all displays have been completely rearranged to provide for visitors a fresh and exciting look at western history.”

Curator of the Yorkton museum for the 1959 season will be George Sherwood who has held the post for four years.

... Mr. Phelps pointed out that the museum branch at Saskatoon was open the year round.



Sid Dutchak at the WDM Yorkton hangar at the airport, c. 1959.

WDM Library



WDM Saskatoon Curator George Shepherd toured HRM Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip through the hangar exhibits on July 22, 1959.

WDM Library - Star Phoenix Collection



HRM Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip enjoyed a Pion-Era performance at the WDM Saskatoon, July 1959.

Above - Left to right: Mrs. Buckwold, Mayor S. Buckwold, HRM Queen Elizabeth, Bernice Norman, Prince Philip, unknown man with top hat in hand, Mrs. Hamilton, Alvin Hamilton, Member of Parliament.

WDM Library - Star Phoenix Collection

1959 July 22 - HRM Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited the WDM Saskatoon and Pion-Era is dubbed "the show fit for a Queen."

1959 In addition to J.B. Miller, members of the Pion-Era management committee include J.A. Duncan, Professor Oliver Symes and Bernice Norman. Norman was the salaried director of the 1959 Pion-Era show.

1959 For the first time, the WDM steam calliope appeared at Pion-Era at the WDM Saskatoon.

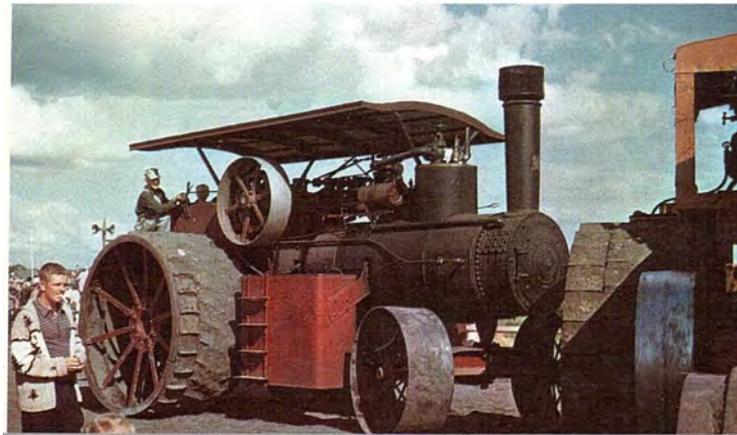
1959 *Power to Live By* was filmed for Federated Co-operatives Limited about events leading to the organization of Consumers' Co-operative Refineries in 1934, using WDM artifacts in some scenes.

1959 The first official WDM steam traction engine training was given by Fred Leigh of the WDM and the Pioneer Threshermen's Club at the WDM Saskatoon, after informal training had begun in 1955.





A steam calliope was added to Pion-Era in 1959.
WDM Library



The first WDM steam traction engine course was held in 1959 at the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Jubilee Souvenir Booklet, 1965.



Saskatoon Mayor Sid Buckwold, 1960.

Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room
QC-1537

1960 Attendance 60,049

1960 The year began with angst between the Pion-Era Board of Directors and the WDM Board of Directors. J. B. Miller, chair of the Pion-Era Board, claimed that *"we have not been able to reach a satisfactory agreement with the Western Development Museum"* (Saskatoon Star-Phoenix, January 12, 1960).

1960 The 1960 Pion-Era Board of Directors included: J. B. Miller, J.A. Duncan, Eric Hughes, Bill Knight, Harry Landa, Helmer Benson, J.D. McAskill - city commissioner, Gordon Taylor, Hal Lewis, Herb Larson and Joe Phelps who was chair of the WDM Board.

1960 With issues resolved between Pion-Era and WDM (issues credited to the two strong personalities of Joe Phelps and Bernice Norman), George LeBeau is named director of the 1960 Pion-Era. The Pion-Era management committee included Saskatoon Mayor Sid Buckwold, George Urwin as chair, J.D. McAskill, Harry Hay, Harry Landa, Gordon Taylor, Eric Hughes, Fred Leigh and Mrs. George Holdstock.

1960 Minister of Agriculture Douglas Harkness opened the 1960 show. *Birth of a City* is staged on five afternoons during the 1960 Pion-Era. Written by Anne Flavelle and directed by Margaret Morrison, the play unfolded the settlement history of Saskatoon. At the end of the week-long show, 82,360 people had passed through the gates.

1960 January - a film of the 1959 Pion-Era was sent to HRM Queen Elizabeth aboard a Trans Canada Air flight.

1960 There was talk of amalgamating the three WDMs under one roof in Saskatoon.



A film of the visit to Saskatoon and the WDM there by HRM Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip was made and air mailed to her in 1960.

WDM Library, Star Phoenix Collection

January 30, 1960 article titled “Saskatoon Pion-Era Rival to Stampede?” in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

... Saskatoon believes the Government should erect a suitable large Western Development Museum in the city and that the relics of pioneer days should be consolidated under this one roof.

The Hub City is not likely to encounter strong opposition from the rest of the province for what appears to be a sensible suggestion, except from North Battleford and Yorkton which would lose their small museums.

The Government is said to favor this plan as an eventual development. But it is sitting back and waiting for Saskatoon to get the snowball rolling.

1960 During 1960 a start was made on the Museum's part in the development of Saskatoon's Holiday Park. Grounds were surveyed for the proposed pioneer village and a wheelwright shop was opened on the site. Tony Burlack was hired as wheelwright.

1960 The Park complex includes the Western Development Museum complete with an outdoor village and homestead farm, a narrow gauge railway, a Pion-Era show ring and racetrack, hockey rinks, practice fields, a stadium, baseball park, golf course with club house and café, a motor racing circuit, a campground and a picnic area.



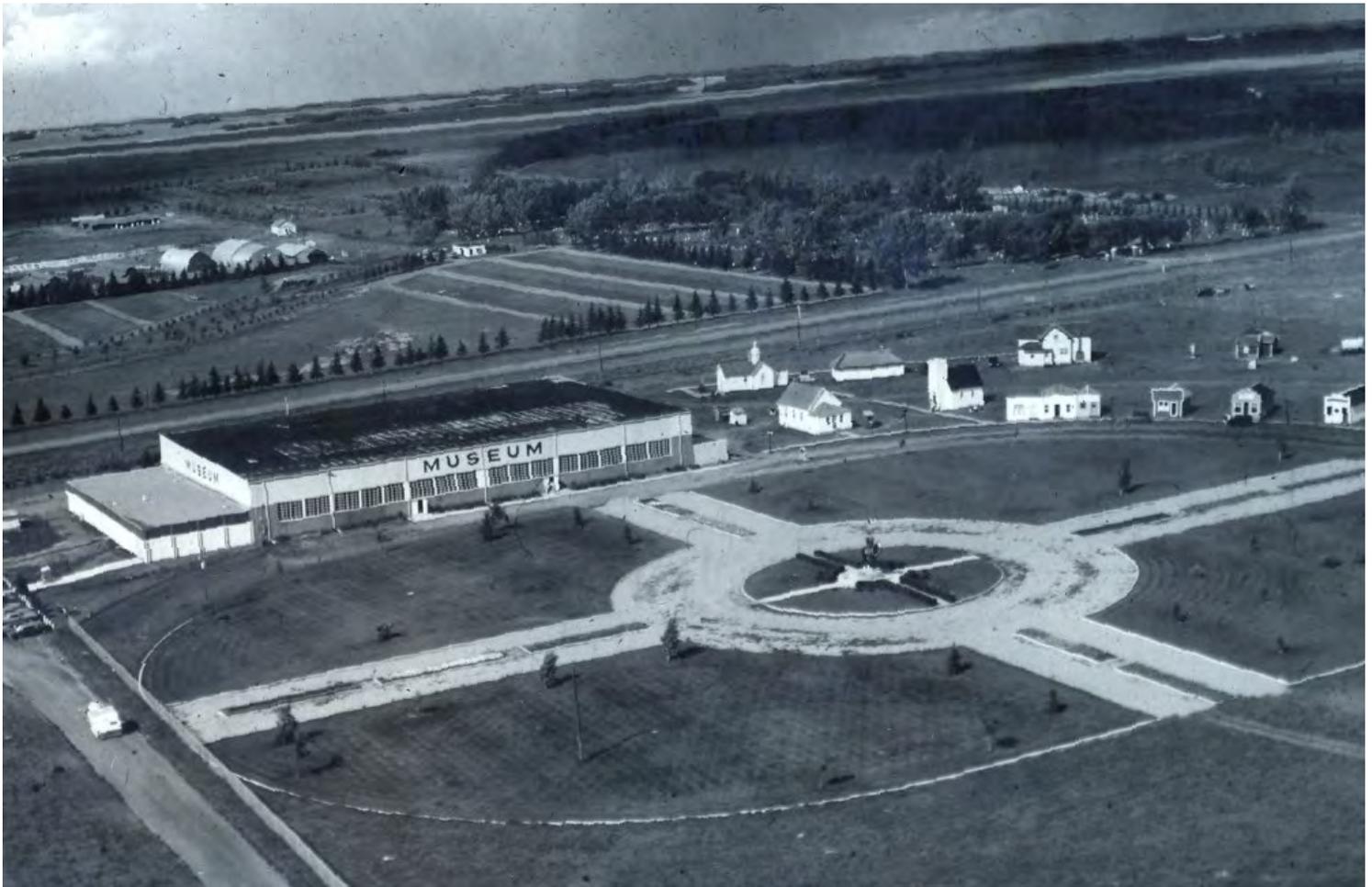
Tony Burlack was hired as a wheelwright at the WDM in Saskatoon, 1960.

WDM Library



Plans for an exciting new heritage complex on 11th St W in Saskatoon were conceptualized in a model showing a homestead farm, a First Nations settlement, a railway around the site, a pond and stream and more.

WDM Exhibits Department



A new site for the WDM North Battleford was chosen in 1960. A few years later, a Second World War hangar had been moved from Mossbank, SK and reassembled on the site. Village buildings had been built.

WDM Library

1960 A new site for the WDM North Battleford was selected at the junctions of Highways 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40, immediately south of the North Battleford Exhibition grounds. Reported in the 1960 WDM Annual Report: *"The project consists of a Museum building for exhibit purposes, an historic rural school, and a combination administration building and living quarters for the curator. These are all in the process of construction at the present time."* Work on the outdoor village progressed.

1960 In August 1971, the WDM North Battleford and Turner-Warwick Printers Ltd. printed a newspaper called *Territorial Times*. An article titled "Shades of the Past," stated: *"... around 1960 a large building was moved from the Mossbank airport and reassembled at the present site as a spacious Museum. It is of interest to note that the committee at that time was made up of Arnold Grobman, Oliver Sandmeyer, Chic Kerr, Harold McKitrick and Boris*

Arthurs. The moving and reconstruction of the building used all the funds available to the committee so they personally underwrote the cost of putting in a cement floor - a total of \$25,000.

The Saskatchewan government had contributed a 65 acre triangle of land and the committee asked for help in designing the layout for not only the museum, but a pioneer village, and hopefully, a full fledged farm, complete with animals.

Keith Bower, a local architect submitted a design, which was later tailored to the needs of the project by Bev and Murray Cheetham, who are presently serving as Chairman and Secretary of the [1971] committee now in charge.

1960 June - Summer hours at the WDM Saskatoon increase to 8 am to 9 pm. Admission is 25 cents.

June 20, 1960 article titled “Thousands celebrate refinery anniversary” in the *Regina Leader-Post* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

A massive crowd swarmed into Regina Saturday to mark the 25th anniversary of the Consumers’ Co-operative refinery.

... Another feature fascinating young and old was the steam calliope, an organ-like musical instrument associated with circuses. The calliope is the only one in Saskatchewan and belongs to the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. It will be part of the Pion-Era show.

1960 The Canadian National Railway commissioned a film of the Museum in Saskatoon and Pion-Era. The film was circulated among 450 television stations in the United States and Canada.

1960 The WDM Board of Directors implemented the first museum membership program.

1960 Members of the 1960 Musuem Board included: J.L. Phelps as chair; H. Benson



The calliope made an immediate splash with the people of Saskatchewan, helping celebrate the 25th anniversary of the refinery in Regina in 1960.

WDM Library



First museum membership drive at the WDM Saskatoon on 11th St W, 1960.

WDM Library



John McAskill, Saskatoon, c. 1960.

Saskatoon Public Library
Local History Room PH-94-26-28



Saskatoon Museum grounds at Holiday Park, 1960.

WDM Library

as vice-chair; John Archer, Paul Helstrom, Gerrit Nyholt, Alex Cameron, J.T. Kyle, T.L. Hill, William Fitchner and D.M. Lyngseth. It was Joe Phelps 14th consecutive year as chair.

July, 1960 article titled "Operating Within Terms of Legislation, Museum Board Has Full Responsibility" in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

... Asked if it was considered unusual that J.L. Phelps, chairman of the Western Development Museum board, had also been employed as paid managing director of the museum, Mr. Brown [Hon. Russ Brown, Minister of Travel and Information] said that was a matter for the board to answer.

... When Mr. McAskill [John McAskill, Saskatoon City Commissioner] was asked if it was usual for a paid employee to be chairman of his own board, Mr. McAskill said, "This is a misnomer. Mr. Phelps has never been anything but chairman of the Western Development Museum Board." He said that Mr. Phelps had been on salary until this August. When the machine shops had been closed, due to finances, Mr. Phelps was off salary until being put on salary again in December. Mr. McAskill said that Mr. Phelps would revert back to being paid on a per diem basis when a new manager of the Western Development Museum was appointed. Mr. McAskill said it was only to be expected that Mr. Phelps would be given remuneration for all the work he did for the museum.

August 5, 1960 article titled "Use of Exhibition for 1961 Pion-Era Talked" in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

Is it possible that the Saskatoon Exhibition facilities can be used to stage the 1961 Pion-Era? This is a question the WDM Board will take up with the Exhibition Board

August, 1960 article titled “Museum Head Disappointed” in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

J.L. Phelps, chairman of the Western Development Museum Board, said today that he was “very disappointed” that the Saskatoon Exhibition Board has rejected a request from Pion-Era that the pioneer show be presented on the exhibition grounds.

October 19, 1960 article titled “Pion-Era Plunked Into Lap of Western Development Museum; Now Their Responsibility” in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum Board got Saskatoon’s Pion-Era show heaved unceremoniously into its lap on Tuesday night by riled Pion-Era shareholders. The heave-ho was done, not because they didn’t want Pion-Era - shareholders treasure the show and want it every year, but they made it clear they thought it time the Western Development Museum Board itself took over responsibility for the robust Pion-Era baby.

October, 1960 editorial titled “Pion-Era’s Problems” in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

Pion-Era, a show which has brought to life the pioneer days of the prairies in a dramatic way in Saskatoon in recent summers, is experiencing its annual blues. In short, it has money woes, and requires \$100,000 for its 1961 show.

The ideal situation would be for Pion-Era to be established on a long-term basis, as has been suggested, and with an eye on 1967, Canada’s Centennial year. It has also been suggested that Saskatoon should adopt Pion-Era as a special project, just as Calgary has achieved fame through its Stampede.

There is a difference though. The Calgary Stampede is based on the Calgary Exhibition which receives substantial



Saskatoon Exhibition midway, c. 1965.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room CP-4160-1



Saskatoon Pion-Era poster, 1960.

WDM Library



Children enjoy barrel riding at the WDM Saskatoon, c. 1960.

WDM Library



The dog wheel was a hit at early Pion-Era shows, WDM Saskatoon, c. 1960.

WDM Library



Acquisition of a narrow gauge locomotive added a new dimension to the WDM Saskatoon's Pion-Era. The Short Line locomotive first made an appearance on the grounds of the WDM Saskatoon, c.1961.

WDM Library

federal and provincial government grants because it qualifies as an agricultural exhibition. It is, therefore, erroneous to suggest that the Stampede is a special project of Calgary and its citizens.

It is this difference that has made accommodation of Pion-Era a difficult problem. The Saskatoon Exhibition Board is in a position that parallels that of the Calgary set-up and the other associations making up the "A" circuit - Regina, Edmonton and Brandon. And recently, Mr. S.N. MacEachern, managing director of the Saskatoon Exhibition, has noted that Pion-Era has had an adverse effect on Farmers' Day at the Saskatoon fair. He also observed that if the museum were located on the Exhibition grounds, people would expect to visit it throughout the year, and this would pose additional difficulties during Exhibition week.

Sponsorship of Pion-Era by Saskatonians to the tune of \$100,000 yearly would amount to a direct tax on Saskatoon ratepayers. We have no way of knowing, but we doubt if they are prepared to assume this burden. It may be feasible for the Saskatoon Board of Trade to explore the whole situation.

In addition, it should be said that Pion-Era is not a Saskatoon show. It is province-wide, and its patrons come from other provinces and from the United States. For these reasons, its seems too much to expect this city to shoulder the total cost of operating Pion-Era every summer.

October 26, 1960 article titled "Pion-Era Show Likely; Museum To Aid Financing" in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

As Joe Phelps puts it, "Pion-Era is now back on the rails!" It was announced today that the Western Development Museum Board will "assume major responsibility" for the needed \$100,000 for capital expenditures and they've asked Pion-Era Incorporated to be responsible for the general operation expenses of preparing for and staging Pion-Era 1961.

1960 On November 10, the Western Development Museum received an honourable mention in the area promotion contest at a convention of the Canadian Tourist Association in Toronto.

November 24, 1960 article titled “Named to New Post in Western Museum” in *The Western Producer* (WDM Library - 1960 WDM Scrapbook)

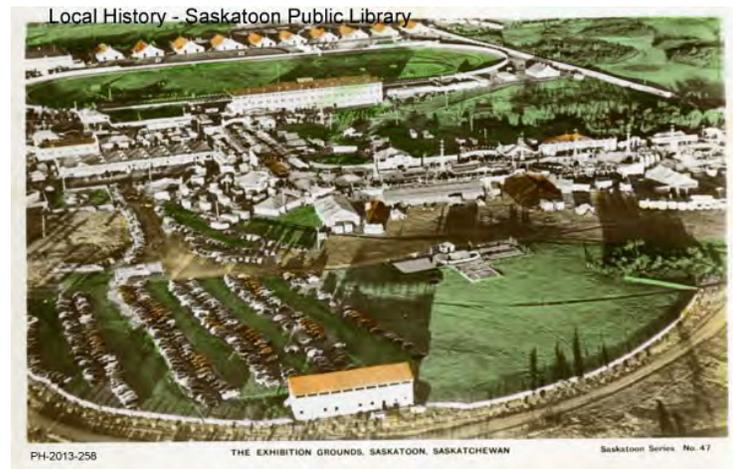
George LeBeau has been appointed development director of the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon, it was announced by J. L. Phelps, chairman of the museum board.

Mr. Phelps said the appointment was made in connection with the board’s decision to inaugurate an extensive capital development program as the museum’s contribution to the creation of Saskatoon’s Holiday Park.

Mr. LeBeau, supervisor of the Western Development Museum for the past five years, has been keenly interested in the challenge of preserving the pioneer culture and history of the Prairies.

He is directing the preparation of blue prints and is laying groundwork for a financial drive to provide funds for new display buildings.

Mr. LeBeau, who was born in Claresholm, Alta, in 1913, was western Canadian supervisor of the National Film Board from 1942 to 1956 and secretary of the United Farmers of Canada from 1947 to 1949. He has also been active as an organizer for the Hudson Bay Route Association.



The Saskatoon Exhibition Grounds, c. 1950.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room PH-2013-258



George LeBeau was Supervisor of the WDM Saskatoon from 1955 to 1960 when he was appointed Development Director.

WDM Library

1961 Attendance¹ 70,985

1961 January - George Bate is appointed director of Pion-Era in Saskatoon, scheduled for July 3 - 8, 1961. Jack McKeown is put in charge of promotion and publicity. Harry Landa is chair of the Pion-Era management committee.



Locomotive 1158 was built by Montreal Locomotive Works in 1913 for the Canadian Northern Railway. In 1960, the 4-6-0 engine was delivered to the WDM Saskatoon on 11th St W. Sometime later, it was moved to the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library

January 5, 1961 article titled “Shift In Emphasis Puts Museum Here In Starring Role” in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1961 WDM Scrapbook)

A decision to concentrate on building one outstanding museum at Saskatoon before any further major development of branch museums at North Battleford and Yorkton takes place was reached by the Western Development Museum Board at a meeting here Tuesday, it was learned today by the Star-Phoenix.

The Saskatoon museum should be developed into an institution of national interest, the board decided, at a lengthy afternoon and evening meeting. To this end the board decided to investigate the possibility of launching a large-scale financial campaign to pay for major capital improvements, it was learned. The board will also meet soon to discuss future developments of the museum.

Following the first WDM Board meeting of the new year, the following resolution was passed by the board: “The board believes that the Western Development Museum has a valuable role to play in preserving the cultural heritage of this nation and that this role can best be served through the establishment of one good central museum, of a unique and attractive character, which will be recognized not just as a local provincial institution, but as a distinctive museum of national interest.”

The board will concentrate its efforts and resources toward the establishment and maintenance of improved central museum facilities, with a view to increasing the effectiveness with which the museum carries out its role, and to establish the museum more firmly as a unique institution of national interest.

The board will not participate in establishing additional museums of an auxiliary or local nature, at least until the primary purpose of establishing a good central museum is completed to the satisfaction of the board.

The policy of the board toward existing auxiliary museums will be to provide for minimum maintenance and operation



Curator George Shepherd guides a visitor through the hangar on 11th St W in Saskatoon, c. 1960.

WDM Library

costs only, for such time at least, as it takes to complete the primary project. However if any local organization or civic government satisfactory to the board wished to take over any existing auxiliary museum, the board will be happy to transfer to such a body the existing facilities, and to make suitable arrangements with regard to loan or transfer of exhibits.

January, 1961 article titled “Saskatoon, North Battleford Museum Plans are Accepted” in the Regina Leader-Post (WDM Library - 1961 WDM Scrapbook)

The board of directors of the Western Development Museum Tuesday approved in principle a model plan of the development program for the museum at Saskatoon. The plan was presented to them by George LeBeau, development director. This plan will be the museum’s contribution to the Holiday Park program at Saskatoon.

... A story that the board had decided to concentrate on the Saskatoon museum before anything was done at North Battleford or Yorkton has been described as “in error” by a museum official at North Battleford.

January 11, 1961 article titled “\$35,300 To Be Raised By Committee For Museum Here” in the North Battleford News-Optimist (WDM Library - 1961 WDM Scrapbook)

A finance committee under the chairmanship of Al Mitchner was given the green light Tuesday evening to raise \$35,300 to keep the Western Development Museum in North Battleford and develop a new home for it at the junction of Highways No. 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40 at the eastern outskirts of this city. About 40 city and district citizens attended the meeting in the Library Hall and voted unanimously in favour of the project.

... The future of the Western Development Museum in Northwest Saskatchewan was at stake, Jack Calvert told the meeting. Unless something is done in our own area, our museum will be lost to Saskatoon, Chairman Calvert said.



In 1961 the WDM Board of Directors proposed making its location in Saskatoon a “good central museum.” At the time, the WDM Saskatoon was housed in a Second World War hangar on 11th St W. Plans for growth and expansion were underway.

WDM Library



The calliope remained a popular artifact in the WDM Saskatoon collection, c. 1961.

WDM Library

... Some 60 acres of land had been obtained from the Saskatchewan Government and a complete plan laid out including a main building, a pioneer village and a picnic park. Trees and grass had already been planted on the site.

A start had been made on the pioneer village. Foundations for a pioneer rural school had been poured and arrangements were being made to move a school from Maymont onto the site this winter.

... Alderman Herb Sparrow said news of the lack of funds came as a shock to the City Council, but obviously the community now had little choice but to press on.

... The suggestion was made at the meeting that the name of the local museum be changed to the Northwestern Development Museum.



A Second World War hangar from Mossbank, SK was dismantled and re-erected on the new site of the Western Development Museum - North Battleford in 1961.

WDM Library

1961 Spring - The future of Saskatoon's Pion-Era show was uncertain when funding challenges again plague the six-day event. Both the provincial government and the Saskatoon City Council were approached for funding support. WDM Chair, Joe Phelps, cited a "lobby of several exhibition boards" for the provincial government's and the Saskatoon city council's refusals to back "a loan of \$150,000 for capital improvements." The exhibition boards, particularly Steve McEachern, secretary of the Saskatoon Exhibition Board, were not in favour of Pion-Era harness race track plans.

April, 1961 article titled "Branch Museums Open on Sunday" in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1961 WDM Scrapbook)

Branches of the Western Development Museum at Yorkton and North Battleford will be officially opened Sunday for the summer season. The museum in Saskatoon remains open the year round. ... George Sherwood, operator of the Yorkton branch and Andy Taylor of the North Battleford branch will be on hand to greet visitors again this year.

April 10, 1961 article titled “\$131,394 Price Of Grandstand” in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1961 WDM Scrapbook)

Piggot Construction of Saskatoon has been awarded a tender for construction of a new grandstand at Pion-Era The grandstand when completed will seat some 5,000 persons, but the first phase of the project, to be completed this year, will only look after the seating requirements of 3,000. The project will include an eight foot concrete fence around the show area, electrical power to site, sewer and water services and landscaping. Officials said the work would not include a racetrack.



1961 A new concrete grandstand is erected in the Saskatoon’s new Holiday Park area for civic and Museum events. It is completed in mid-June in time for Pion-Era in July.

Chariots race at Pion-Era on the grounds of the WDM Saskatoon, c. 1960.

WDM Library

1961 An airplane hangar was acquired from the Government of Canada. It was moved from Mossbank, redesigned and re-erected at a new Museum site at the junction of Highways 5 [which was later renamed Highway 16] and 40 in North Battleford. It contained office space and a suite for the live-in Museum Supervisor.

1961 October - A museum membership program was launched. The annual individual membership fee is set at \$5, and a family membership is priced at \$10/year. A museum life membership costs \$100.

1961 *“An important decision by the Museum Board this past year has been to set up a Capital Account and at the same time to make a start at evaluating our inventory of land, buildings, exhibits and equipment, all of which have been acquired over a period of some 15 years since we began operations - these capital assets we find after evaluation amount to \$2,583,437.95.”*

From the 1961 WDM Annual Report that listed J.L. Phelps as Board Chair and Board Members as: H. Benson, C.J.C. Kerr, W. Fitchner, P. Helstrom, G. Urwin,



The WDM Yorkton at the Yorkton airport in the early 1960s.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.

C.L. McLeod, E. Hughes, J.T. Kyle, D. Dombowsky and A.R. Cameron.



Pion-Era parade in front of visitors in the grandstand, WDM Saskatoon, c. 1962.

WDM Library



When reuse and reclaim were a way of life and not merely catchy slogans, a Second World War hangar was moved from the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) base at Mossbank, SK to the new WDM North Battleford site, 1961.

WDM Library

1962 Attendance¹ 76,246
April 1, 1962 to March 31, 1963

March 22, 1962 article titled “North Battleford Museum Expenditure \$52,000” in an unnamed newspaper, likely the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* or the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1962 WDM Scrapbook)

More than \$52,000 has been spent on the North Battleford branch of the Western Development Museum, located east of the city, at the junction of highways 4, 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40.

At a meeting of the branch executive Wednesday, addressed by J.L. Phelps, chairman of the WDM, Saskatoon and Carl McLeod, a member of the financial committee of the parent body, it was learned that Mr. Phelps and Mr. McLeod had recently discussed matters relating to the North Battleford museum with Premier Lloyd, specifically in regard to obtaining a grant of \$25,000 to complete the North Battleford project.

Included in the \$52,000 already expended in the local project, was \$13,000 raised locally by way of donations, \$19,000 received under the Winter Works program, and \$20,000 from the WDM Saskatoon.

Mr. Phelps recalled the acquisition of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) hangar at Mossbank, its subsequent dismantling and transfer to North Battleford to form the nucleus of the museum building, and some of the difficulties encountered in re-assembling the materials.

The official opening of the museum, initially planned for June, will depend on the amount of money available for its completion and the amount of work that can be accomplished at that time.

Re-elected president of the executive was C.J. Kerr. Others elected were O.W. Sandmeyer, secretary, Boris Arthurs,

treasurer and Arnold Grobman and Alex Boulton, directors.

March 28, 1962 article titled "Museum Seeks Grant To Complete Work" in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1962 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum is negotiating a grant of \$25,000 for the completion of the North Battleford branch project. "To date, \$52,611.81 has been spent," Carl McLeod, member of the WDM finance committee, told a general meeting in the Library Hall last Wednesday.

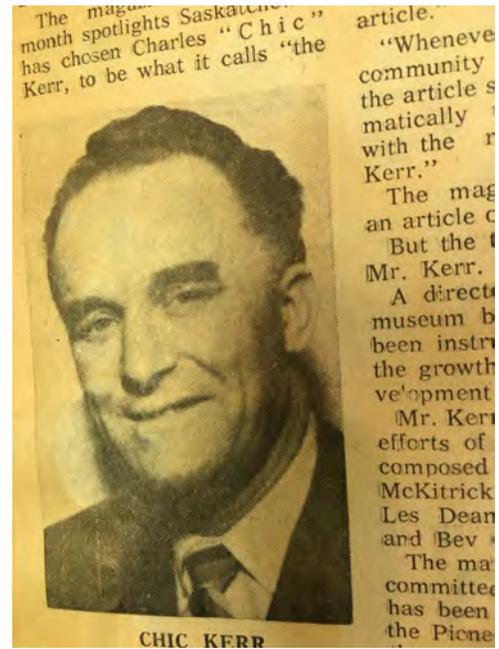
... The WDM is currently housed in a hangar at the local airport. When the new building is ready for occupancy, exhibits will be moved to the new location from the airport. The ideal new site is expected to increase museum attendance records considerably as it will be more conveniently located for tourists.

1962 April - This was the last year Joe Phelps chaired the WDM Board of Directors. He was replaced by George Urwin.

May, 1962 article titled "\$25,000 Aid For Museum N.B. Branch" in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1962 WDM Scrapbook)

A special grant of \$25,000 has been approved for the purpose of completing the construction of the Western Development Museum building at North Battleford, Agriculture Minister I.C. Nollet announced today.

1962 George LeBeau was made Manager of the WDM Saskatoon, with instructions from the Board to operate austerely and frugally to liquidate the debt of \$73,000 within two years. He also assumed management of Pion-Era until a 1963 change in WDM bylaws barred him from serving in a dual capacity.



Chic Kerr, WDM North Battleford, c. 1965.

WDM Library - 1965 - 1968 WDM Scrapbook



To assure North Battleford residents that the future of the Western Development Museum in their community was assured, a British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) hangar was erected on recently acquired land at the junction of Highways 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40, 1961.

North Battleford Archives LC01-04-184



- 1962 All artifacts in the WDM Yorkton were inventoried and photographed.
- 1962 The National Film Board of Canada used WDM artifacts in the filming of *The Drylanders*.
- 1962 June - the Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SPC) advertised "New Appliances for Old." In a Pion-Era Electrical Contest, SPC called for people to turn in their old hand-operated iceboxes, washing machines and vacuum cleaners. The oldest appliance to enter in each category would be traded for a new 1962 deluxe electric model of the same appliance. Old appliances went to the WDM.

Canada's National Film Board (NFB) filmed *The Drylanders*, relying on WDM artifacts for many scenes. It was the NFB's first English language feature film, and was directed by Don Haldane, 1962.

WDM Library

August 8, 1962 article titled "Separate Operation of WDM Branches Proposed" in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1962 WDM Scrapbook)

C.H. "Chick" Kerr of North Battleford today proposed to the Western Development Museum Board here, that the operations of the North Battleford branch be "divorced" from the museum in Saskatoon.

... Some directors thought the North Battleford branch was running its own show and Mr. Kerr agreed that it was, but not to the degree desired.

... Mr. LeBeau had recommended soil cementing of the floor of the new building and other work be done inside the new structure before the exhibits are moved from the old hangar building and the museum opened to the public.

Mr. Kerr agreed the improvements should be completed before the building was opened to the public, but wanted a cement floor laid. He said the cost would be about \$15,000 which could be reduced to \$10,000 if the project was included in a winter works program. The erection of the new building had been part of a winter works program, for which the WDM would recover \$9,000.

New Appliances for Old!

PION-ERA ELECTRICAL CONTEST

- Old Refrigerators
- Old Washing Machines
- Old Vacuum Cleaners

The Saskatchewan Power Corporation is trying to locate old electrical appliances in Saskatchewan for display in the Western Development Museum.

Have you an old refrigerator, washing machine or vacuum cleaner that you think would qualify as the oldest in Saskatchewan? If so, fill in the coupon and mail it immediately.

If your appliance proves to be the oldest uncovered by the Pioneer-Era Electrical Contest, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation will give you a brand new 1962 deluxe model in exchange for it.

Remember once again when the only refrigerator available on the farm was a box in the ground (though a few had the modern electric model) the only washing machine was a tub and the only vacuum cleaner was a hand-operated model. Many appliances made today do not have a guarantee of the type of those of the past. Refrigerators are not just the refrigerator and sitting on top of the refrigerator. In fact many have only three or four feet in size. We are sure there are many more like this in every section of Saskatchewan.

These must be appliances of other times still being used and although having been used, possibly quite valuable as we find in the present showing, movements of the West. There must be old storage washing machines, vacuum cleaners and many other appliances.

It is essential that we, as residents of Saskatchewan, preserve and recognize the problems and difficulties of our ancestors who opened up the West and made it a wonderful place in which to live. To preserve the movement of the electric appliance industry in Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation has determined to collect, with your aid, the old appliances. These old appliances will be replaced by modern ones as we find in the present day. This year, the museum is pleased to have the opportunity to display the old and old-fashioned. There is a coupon at the bottom of this page which you can fill in and mail to the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. If you have any of these old appliances that you feel would qualify for the contest, the preservation of the one appliance to receive them will take place at the Pioneer-Era Electrical Contest in July & August 1962 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Western Development Museum in general, and the Pioneer-Era Electrical Contest in particular, is carried above the history of Saskatchewan and is a credit to the development of the West and the Museum. All residents of Saskatchewan should be proud to have their appliances in the contest and to have their appliances displayed in the museum. It is a great opportunity to help preserve the old and old-fashioned appliances of our ancestors and to have them displayed in the museum.

It is essential that registration of your appliances be in the hands of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation not later than June 20. This will allow time to make minor repairs and put the appliances in display.

In receiving the information on your appliances, we shall have the appropriate sign, the present series, and complete guarantee & repair contract, but no other personal information, particularly the name of the applicant and the name of the community associated with it.

We are particularly interested in appliances in better than the old condition, and also those appliances of interest, which would be very interesting to you and very much appreciated by the association.

WE WILL EXCHANGE THE OLDEST OF EACH OF THESE APPLIANCES FOR A NEW DELUXE MODEL

MAIL THIS COUPON BY JUNE 20th

COUPONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 20, 1962 (Closed to Saskatchewan Residents Only)

TO: LOAD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION
Regina, Sask.

I hereby certify that this coupon is being filled in by the holder of the oldest refrigerator, washing machine or vacuum cleaner in Saskatchewan. This coupon and the Western Development Museum.

Signature of Owner _____

Name of Applicant _____
 Age of Applicant _____
 Name and Address of Applicant _____
 Present Street, if known _____
 Other Information _____
 Address _____
 (Please Print Name and Address)

New appliances for old, 1962.

WDM Library - 1962 Scrapbook

Mr. Kerr said the North Battleford committee should have the use of the \$9,000 and it would almost pay for the new cement floor. Mr. Urwin, member of the finance committee, said it was his understanding that the \$9,000 recoverable would go towards the completion of the work at North Battleford.

August 15, 1962 article titled “Kerr Seeks Divorce of Museum Branches” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1962 WDM Scrapbook)

A proposal that the operation of the North Battleford branch of the Western Development Museum be divorced from the Saskatoon branch was made last Wednesday in Saskatoon to the central museum board by C.H. “Chick” Kerr of the North Battleford Museum Committee.

Mr. Kerr said that if the local committee had more control of the museum affairs and the full support of the North Battleford City Council, a more successful museum could be anticipated. He felt that there would be greater support from organizations, businesses and individuals in the area.

August 20, 1962 article titled “Objects to WDM Claim Of Donations” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1962 WDM Scrapbook)

North Battleford - City Clerk W. Rowe has taken exception to a statement on contributions for the Western Development Museum building here given by George LeBeau, museum director.

Mr. LeBeau has said that \$78,411 has been spent on a new museum building erected to replace quarters established years ago in a disused hangar at the airport. He said the provincial government had contributed \$25,000 towards that amount, that \$14,000 was raised in North Battleford, and that the remainder came from Western Development Museum funds.



A heritage village began to take shape at the new WDM location in North Battleford in the early 1960s.

Buildings were erected in the hangar over the winter through the Winter Woks employment program and hauled into place in the village in the spring.

WDM Library



People of the Battlefords were determined to preserve their place as firstborn in the Western Development Museum family of museums, c, 1962.

North Battleford Archives NBSB01-08-P123



A British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) hangar was dismantled and erected on the new museum site in North Battleford. Affording a floor for the hangar proved challenging.

WDM Library



Concrete or a packed soil-cement floor was a contentious debate after the Mossbank hangar was erected in North Battleford, 1962.

North Battleford Archives LC01-04-184

Mr. Rowe has objected to that claim. He said the City of North Battleford had made a substantial contribution through winter works programs.

He said that the city had allocated \$27,268 to the museum, received from senior governments for the construction work through the winter works plan, and that another \$4,000 to \$6,000 was still to be received from senior governments under winter works. Mr. Rowe agreed that no city funds had been provided.

Work on the new building, to be located at the junction of highways 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40, is nearing completion. One of the main jobs still to be done is the flooring. Still under discussion is whether a cement floor should be laid or one of soil-cement, a less expensive type.



Village buildings were built in the hangar during the winter months and put on foundations in the village once spring arrived, 1962.

WDM Library





Despite the challenges and warring opinions, construction and placement of village buildings continued at the new site of the WDM North Battleford, c. 1962.

WDM Library

November 8, 1962 article titled “WDM Executives Propose Changes In Present Law” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1962 WDM Scrapbook)

Directors of the Western Development Museum on Wednesday recommended changes in the act governing the institution, including an amendment to allow for an 11-man board. The recommended amendments need approval of the next sitting of the Saskatchewan Legislature, But George Urwin, chairman, was optimistic in this regard.

Five of the proposed 11-man board would be elected by the general membership with one each representing the museum branches at Saskatoon, Yorkton and North Battleford and two at large. The other six directors would be appointed by the provincial government.

... The greatest opposition to limiting governmental control came from Carl L. McLeod who said this body had a duty to propagate culture and art. When the persons who now had a direct and emotional interest in the museum had passed from the scene, it would have to become a governmental institution.

The proposal for an 11-man board, with six appointed by the government, came from Mr. McLeod and was supported by Mr. Phelps who said the public must be convinced that the museum was master of its own house and was not an instrument of government.

During the discussion, Mr. Phelps had said a revision of the act was needed because the institution should remain “a people’s museum” instead of a government project.

... The museum should never become a political issue, Mr. Phelps said, because governments came and went. The museum needed more general public support. The various levels of government could still support the museum. Insofar as the provincial government was concerned, the museum could get support in the same way as rural municipalities under the plan



Joe Phelps envisioned a “people’s museum” when he dreamed of a Western Development Museum. WDM Saskatoon, c.1962.

WDM Library

for “earned grants.”

If the museum was placed in a position that it had to depend on government grants, “we shall have sold our birthright for a mess of pottage,” Mr. Phelps said.

... Under the act, the museum was actually a government institution, but Mr. Phelps agreed that the current government had exercised considerable discretion in respect to museum operations. Succeeding governments might not use the same discretion.

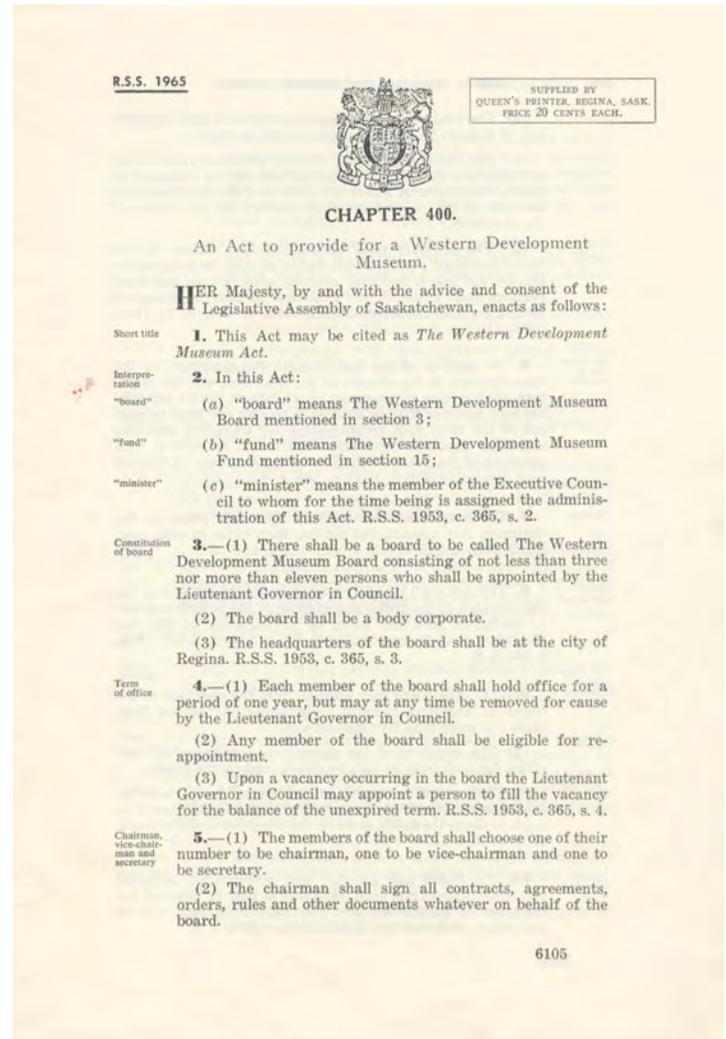
... Mr. McLeod said that he could not support an action that would take the government out of the picture up to 50 per cent.

November 23, 1962 article titled “Constitution Committee Appointed” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1962 WDM Scrapbook)

A committee, comprising Harold Latrace, chairman, Ted Beazley and Wally Boschuk, was named at a meeting Wednesday evening to draft a constitution for the Saskatoon branch of the Western Development Museum ...

1962 The WDM Saskatoon and Pion-Era Incorporated struggled with differing opinions throughout the year. Budget woes continued for another year. One newspaper headline claimed “*WDM Budget Will Balance If Govt. Grant Increased.*”

1962 November - Pion-Era Incorporated failed to make the first loan payment for the grandstand that was built with money borrowed from the provincial government through a guaranteed bank loan of \$100,000 and the City of Saskatoon through a guaranteed loan of \$50,000. Funds were to be repaid in ten annual payments of \$15,000 plus interest beginning in November 1962.



An Act to provide for a Western Development Museum.



WDM Curator George Shepherd was interviewed by CBC reporter Fred Davis at the Saskatoon Museum, 1962.

WDM Library

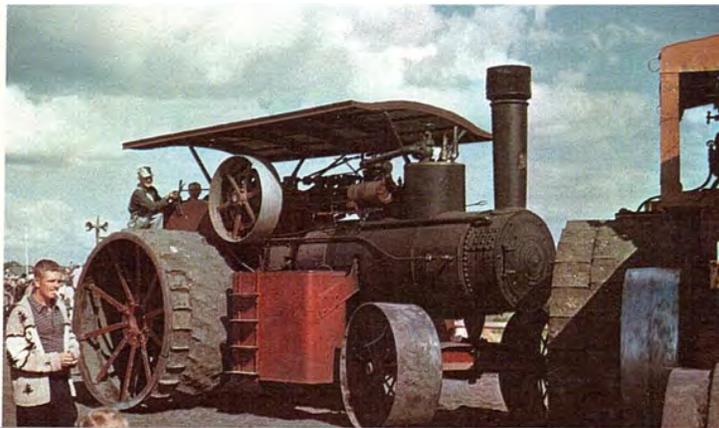
- 1962 The 1962 WDM Annual Report listed Board Members as: George Urwin, J.L. Phelps, Helmer Benson, Eric Hughes, Carl McLeod, Charles Kerr, William Fitchner, Paul Helstrom, J.P. Kyle, David Dombowsky and Alex Cameron.

1963 Attendance 81,662
April 1, 1963 to March 31, 1964



Despite financial challenges, Pion-Era on the Saskatoon Western Development Museum grounds on 11th St W, continued to draw huge crowds each summer.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.



The week-long Pion-Era show continued to attract visitors from across the province, c.1963.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.

- 1963 January - Saskatoon's Pion-Era Incorporated shareholders and the Western Development Museum Board discussed the future Pion-Era on the Museum grounds on 11th St W. Negotiations included a proposal to reduce from a six-day show to a three-day show.

- 1963 February 15 - 16 - The City of Saskatoon held a Fire Festival to celebrate winter with a bonfire of Christmas trees on the WDM grounds.

- 1963 February - Les Pope was named manager of Pion-Era. The WDM and Pion-Era Incorporated signed a one-year contract assuring that the show would go on for 1963. Pion-Era established an office in the former Arctic Ice Company building at Ave H and 11th St W.

- 1963 February - The WDM fiscal year changed from the calendar year to the one used by the provincial government - April 1 to March 31.

- 1963 April - George Urwin was re-elected chair of the WDM Board for a second year. vice-chair was Alec Cameron of Regina. Secretary was Carl McLeod who was also Saskatoon's assistant city commissioner. Chick Kerr of North Battleford and Bill Fitchner of Yorkton were named to the executive. Joe Phelps was named honorary chair in recognition of his contribution to the formation of the WDM.

A new board member was Harold Latrace of Saskatoon.

1963 Reported in the 1963 WDM Annual Report was: *“An important part of the year’s work was the implementation of a proper plan for the recording of histories of our exhibits and the taking of a complete inventory. Also ... proper legal forms were designed and have been put into use to cover exhibits which are placed in the museum on loan. ...”*

1963 May 15 - Six North Battleford area folks (Joe and Gerald Koopman, Larry Lueffler, Gordon Edgelow, Don Graham and Harry Dekker) left the WDM Saskatoon by horse and wagon for a three-day trek on the old Battleford Trail to publicize North Battleford’s Golden Jubilee celebrations.

1963 May 25 - The new WDM in North Battleford officially opened during that community’s Jubilee celebrations (1913 - 1963). The “new” hangar came from Mossbank, SK, a war surplus British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) hangar. It was renovated and erected over a concrete floor.

Ceremonies started with a noon banquet at The Beaver Hotel. Afternoon ceremonies kicked off with a downtown parade. The official opening was held in front of the new museum building with the Hon. I.C. Nollet as guest speaker.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, Mrs. Joe Phelps unveiled a plaque at the entrance to the Museum stating: *The museum is dedicated to the pioneers of Saskatchewan, and to J.L. Phelps who, through his devotion to the preservation of the life of Saskatchewan has earned himself an outstanding place in the history of our province.*



The new Museum and *Heritage Village* in North Battleford at the junction of Highways 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40 opened with fanfare in 1963.

North Battleford Archives NBSB01-08-P124



The North Battleford Museum and Village was moved from the airport and reimagined on its new site at the junction of Highways 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40. It was opened officially on May 25, 1963.

WDM Library

May 24, 1963 article titled “Nollet To Open New Museum” in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1963 WDM Scrapbook)



Crews worked hard to assemble the hangar on the new site in North Battleford. Newspapers reported “A new roof has been laid, walls and siding erected, brick work carried out, a start made on landscaping the grounds and most recent undertaking was a cement floor in the museum building. In the space of a week all the exhibits were moved from a hangar at the Airport to the new building.” North Battleford, 1963.

WDM Library



Dignitaries at North Battleford’s opening ceremonies on May 25, 1963 pose for a photograph.

WDM Library

Official opening of the new Western Development Museum at the junction of Highways 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40 will be held Saturday. The new WDM home, erected at a cost of over \$100,000 will be officially opened by Provincial Minister of Agriculture Hon. I.C. Nollet, minister in charge of the WDM. A full afternoon’s program is planned and will be climaxed by an “old timers” dance in the evening at the Civic Centre.

... Sixty acres of land were acquired from the provincial government at the junction of Highways 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40 and plans were laid for a new museum building, pioneer village, picnic park, pioneer school and landscaping. A hangar was acquired from Mossbank, Sask., and moved to the new site for re-erection. Much of the work was carried out under the Winter Works Program with the work approved as a Winter Works project for the City of North Battleford.

A new roof has been laid, walls and siding erected, brick work carried out, a start made on landscaping the grounds and most recent undertaking was a cement floor in the museum building. In the space of a week all the exhibits were moved from a hangar at the Airport to the new building.

Opening ceremonies at the museum are expected to start at 3 pm. Chairman Harold McKittrick will introduce Mayor Roy Dean, and George Urwin, Western Development Museum Board chairman, Saskatoon. Hon. E. Kramer, Minister of Agriculture, will welcome guests and visitors. Guest speaker is Hon. I.C. Nollet, Minister of Agriculture, who will cut the ribbon to mark the official opening. These ceremonies will be held outdoors, however if the weather is inclement the entire program will be held inside.

June 1963 article titled “New Facilities for WDM Favored” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1963 WDM Scrapbook)

George Urwin, chairman of the Western Development Museum Board, said Friday consideration should be given to the provision of new museum facilities before 1967, Canada’s Centennial year.

... He said that Regina has an expensive museum building provided by the province and Saskatoon should have the same sort of support. Mr. Urwin indicated that he would bring up the subject at the next meeting of the museum board. He said that a start should be made on new facilities by 1965.

June, 1963 article titled “Exhibition, Pion-Era Merger Idea Wins Trade Board Favor” in an unnamed newspaper, probably the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1963 WDM Scrapbook)

What was expected to be a routine meeting of the Board of Trade executive erupted Thursday into a staccato crossfire of opinion when Saskatoon’s own brand of separation and union forces tangled openly for the first time over a long-simmering subject - the merging of Exhibition and Pion-Era.

... After more discussion the executive agreed that a three-man steering committee be set up to attempt to bring about meetings between the two groups for merger talks.

1963 The Weyburn storage hangar was vacated. Transportation was too costly, so artifacts were sold, bringing in \$6,248.77.

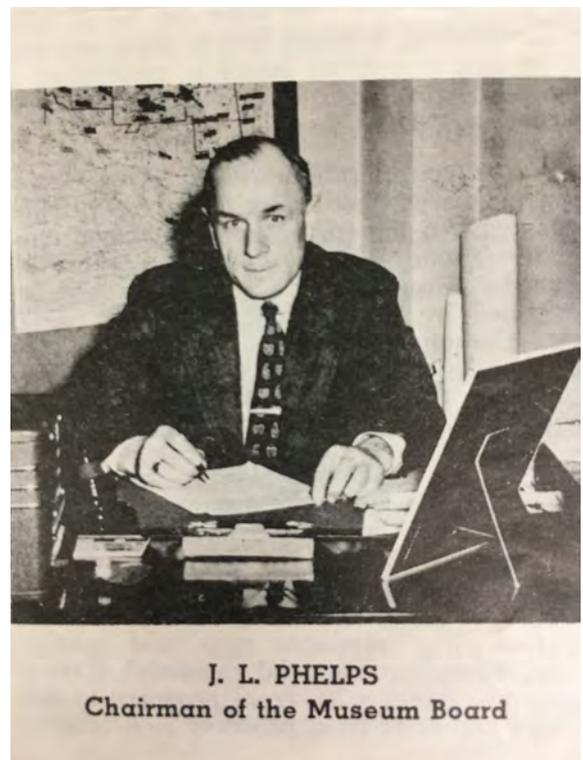
October, 1963 article titled “Phelps Claim To Exhibits Discussed” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1963 WDM Scrapbook)

The question of whether J.L. Phelps, former museum board chairman, had the claim of ownership to certain exhibits in the Western Development Museum was



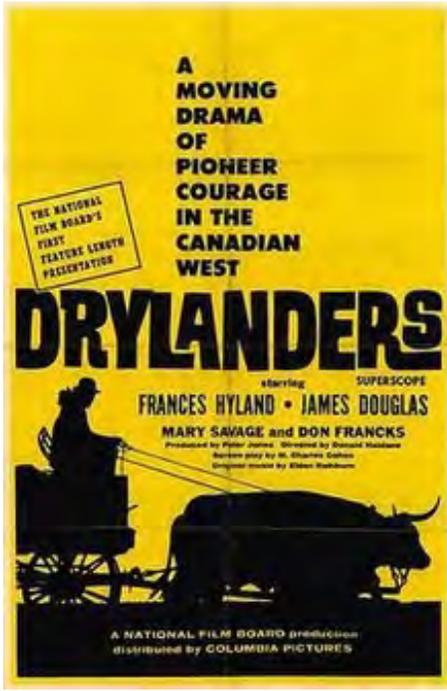
Discussions of merger between the WDM's show Pion-Era and the Saskatoon Exhibition continued throughout the early 1960s. The Exhibition was not in favour of the union.

Saskatoon Public library Local History Room PH-99-20-22



Joe Phelps was Chair of the WDM Board of Directors in 1958.

WDM Library - 1958 WDM Scrapbook



Poster for the NFB film “Drylanders” 1963.

<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.fil.020>



George Urwin, c. 1965.

WDM Library - 1965 - 1968 WDM Scrapbook

discussed briefly by the board Wednesday.

Chairman George Urwin said a great deal of manager George LeBeau’s time has been spent in recent months discussing what Mr. Phelps does or does not own.

Mr. Phelps had indicated that he planned to take certain exhibits which he claimed were his and set up his own museum in British Columbia. ...

1963 October - The National Film Board production - *The Drylanders* - enjoyed a world premiere in Swift Current followed by the first showing of the film at the Tivoli Theatre in Saskatoon. The WDM provided artifacts and advice to the film-makers.

1963 November 6 - George LeBeau resigned as Manager of the Museum to pursue a job as sales manager of Five Wheels Limited, an auto leasing firm in Saskatoon. LeBeau joined the WDM staff in 1954 and was made manager in 1961.

November, 1963 article titled “Statement by Phelps On Museum Exhibits” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1963 WDM Scrapbook)

... Mr. Urwin’s statement that I plan to establish my own museum is quite premature. If the time comes that I require a publicity agent, Mr. Urwin may apply for the position...

December 17, 1963 article titled “Early Decision Sought For New Museum Site” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1963 WDM Scrapbook)

A decision may be made early in January on the proposed future location of the [Saskatoon] Western Development Museum ...

1964 Attendance 108,624
April 1, 1964 to March 31, 1965

On January 1, 1964 a new museum manager, Gordon Wilson, started in Saskatoon. Among many challenges, the Saskatoon Museum is classified as a fire trap by the Saskatoon Fire Department.



Gordon Wilson was hired as Manager of the WDM Saskatoon, starting his new position on January 1, 1964.

WDM Library

January, 1964 article titled “Pion-Era, Museum ‘Friends’ ” probably in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

Pion-Era and the Western Development Museum directors buried the hatchet today and pledged full and complete co-operation for the staging of the “biggest and best” Pion-Era show ever this summer in Saskatoon.

The “peaceful settlement” signed this morning by the principals of the museum and Pion-Era, was heralded as “the first sound agreement signed with both parties completely satisfied.

The agreement between the Museum and Pion-Era was signed by George Urwin, Chair of the WDM Board and Don Junor, President of Pion-Era Incorporated. Les Pope, Pion-Era Manager and Gordon Wilson, newly-appointed WDM Director were also present.



Gordon Wilson and the Museum Board lobbied for a new museum site in Dominion Park on the east bank of the South Saskatchewan River, c. 1965.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room PH-88-630

January, 1964 article titled “C. McLeod Must Answer C. McLeod” probably in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

Acting City Commissioner Carl McLeod has to submit to the City Council a report on a request by the Western Development Museum for a new site. The WDM wants to obtain 40 acres in the city’s Dominion Park - 40 acres now used for the city’s “Pansy Nine” golf course immediately south of Exhibition park.

The Exhibition Board also wants some of that land - and has already registered its desires with City Council



In Saskatoon, members of the Museum Board continued planning for a new museum location, c. 1964.

WDM Library



The WDM North Battleford petitioned the City of North Battleford for a permanent water line to the Museum, 1964.

WDM Library

January, 1964 article titled “New Facilities For WDM Favoured” probably in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

George Urwin, Chairman of the Western Development Museum Board, said Friday consideration should be given to the provision of a new museum facilities before 1967, Canada’s Centennial year.

... He says that Regina had an expensive museum building provided by the province and Saskatoon should have the same sort of support ...

January, 1964 article titled “Exhibition Board Appears To Have Simple Putt For “Pansy Nine” probably in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

.... Mr. McLeod said a request from the Western Development Museum Board that it be given part of the 80 acres might also have to be thrown out. The museum had asked for consideration of the possible use of the west 40 acres of the Dominion Park site for a new building. ...

February 5, 1964 article titled “Permanent Water Line, Hydrant to WDM Asked” in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

Chic Kerr, a member of the provincial board of the Western Development Museum appeared before the city council committee ... requesting the installation of a hydrant and permanent water line to the WDM branch building here, to provide greater protection.

The museum is now served by a two inch summer water line. The cost of the project was estimated at approximately \$3,000.

With the new water line, the museum would be in a better position to carry out its proposed landscaping program, which includes seeding the grounds to grass, tree planting and the establishment of a picnic area. ...

February 13, 1964 article titled “Museum Asks Aid From Government For New Building” probably in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

Western Development Museum officials made a first-hand pitch in Saskatoon today for provincial government financial aid in building the proposed new \$1,500,000 museum building. ...

February 15, 1964 article titled “Say Museum Preferable To City Auditorium” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

The big contest for grants from Saskatchewan’s Centennial committee appears ready to break into a scramble. ...

“A new museum should have top priority over the civic auditorium,” George Urwin, museum board chairman, said today. ...

1964 April - The 1964 Annual Report for the Western Development Museum reported that *“The Board of the Western Development Museum continued the policy of a rigorous curtailment in expenditures throughout the year in order to reduce indebtedness shown against the Museum. As a result of this policy, a \$19,000.00 deficit was changed to a modest surplus by April 1, 1964. This action, although essential, has curtailed many necessary improvements to the museums.*

It was felt for several years that staging the Pion-Era show has been a considerable drain on Western Development Museum funds. The thought has been that the Museum is not in the show business and should hand this responsibility over to another party. Pion-Era Incorporated has taken on this responsibility, and relieved the Museum of the financial hazards ever present for a show of this kind. ...

The separation of Pion-Era from the Museum has given the Museum more time to concentrate on Museum activities. The improved financial state has allowed a more stable working staff. ...”



Western Development Museum in North Battleford, c. 1964.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.



1964 April - Robert UnRuh was hired as bookkeeper in Saskatoon.

April 29, 1964 article titled “New attendance mark expected at museum” in the *Yorkton Enterprise* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

“New museum premises were built at North Battleford last year and new premises are planned for Yorkton as soon as possible,” W.R. Pickering, president of the local committee, Western Development Museum, said today in announcing the opening of the museum located at the north airport on May 1 for the new season. ...

... Mayor W.E. Fichtner is a director on the WDM provincial committee and George G. Sherwood is the curator at the Yorkton branch. ...

Bob UnRuh became Saskatoon bookkeeper in April, 1964.

WDM Library

June 3, 1964 article titled “Site Suggested For New Museum” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

The Sutherland Forest Nursery Station has been suggested as a site for a new \$1,000,000 Western Development Museum and pioneer village. ...

Spring 1964 article titled “WDM Board Reorganized” probably in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

Under a reorganization of the Western Development Museum board of directors Wednesday, George Urwin was re-elected chairman; Alex Cameron, Regina, vice-chairman and Carl McLeod, Saskatoon, secretary. The three will also form the executive.

The following members were elected to the board and named on committee: Finance, the secretary along with Eric Hughes, Saskatoon and Jack Kyle, Regina, Exhibits: Paul Helstrom, Gray; Harold Latrace, Saskatoon and Mr. Kyle. Planning and centennial: Mr. Latrace, Ted Beazley, Saskatoon, Mr. Kyle and Dave Dombowsky, Regina. Other board



The ramp engine performed the precarious feat of travelling up an incline at Pion-Era in Saskatoon, c. 1964.

WDM Library

members named were “Chick” Kerr, North Battleford and Mayor W. Fichtner, Yorkton.

July or August, 1964 article titled “Museum Project Needed” probably in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

The Saskatoon Citizens’ Centennial Committee has given its stamp of approval to a worthy project, the proposed relocation of the Western Development Museum. The Committee has decided to ask the Saskatchewan Jubilee and Centennial Corporation to assist the project, costing about \$1 million. ...

August 21, 1964 article titled “Urwin Hopeful Of New Museum” in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

The Saskatchewan Jubilee and Centennial Corporation has given top priority to the Western Development Museum’s \$1,000,000 new building proposal, George Urwin, museum board president, said today.

Mr. Urwin was hopeful the WDM would receive any funds available in addition to the federal and provincial allotments for civic auditoriums in Saskatoon and Regina.

The WDM board proposes a new building to cost \$1,000,000 as a centennial commemoration and is exploring avenues to raise the necessary funds, Mr. Urwin said. The museum’s relics of Saskatchewan pioneer days are inadequately housed in a former air force hangar here and could not be properly displayed for the growing number of tourists.

In a brief to the provincial government, a request has been made to make the necessary funds available over a three year period - 1965, 66 and 67, as Mr. Urwin said the project should be started next year if it was to be completed and everything ship-shape for the centennial year.

Hon. Wilf Gardiner, minister of municipal affairs, recently became a member of the Western Development Museum Board.



A hangar at the Yorkton airport provided a home for the Western Development Museum there, c. 1960.

WDM Library



WDM Saskatoon on 11th St W, c. 1964.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.



Doris Lee was hired by Gordon Wilson to keep WDM operating and artifact records typed and up-to-date, Saskatoon, c. 1965.

WDM Library

October 6, 1964 article titled "Attendance Up At W.D. Museum" *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1964 WDM Scrapbook)

North Battleford - More than 9,000 people visited the Western Development Museum here in the current season, an increase of 50 per cent over the previous year.

The museum was closed Thursday for the winter months. According to Don Light the curator, the visitors, according to the register, came from every section of Canada; from the United States and a number from European countries.

- 1964 December - George Urwin, WDM Board Chair, reported in the 1964 WDM Annual Report that "A great deal of time has also been spent to trace down ownership of many of our exhibits. This phase of the work had been neglected for quite a time and it is necessary to bring it up to date."

**1965 Attendance 112,999
April 1, 1965 to March 31, 1966**

- 1965 "This attendance included a large number of tours from schools, technical institutions, and conventions. We also find many University personnel and students are using our facilities for historical knowledge of Saskatchewan, and as a source of material for thesis study."

George Urwin, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1965

- 1965 "We have made representation to the Saskatoon City Council for a new site for a proposed new Museum building and Pioneer Village, this new site to be mutually satisfactory to the City of Saskatoon and the Board of the Western Development Museum. We believe if the Province must spend large sums of money towards a new Museum building, it is necessary that we procure the best site possible for this purpose. ... We have asked the City of Saskatoon for a site



Doris Lee and Bob UnRuh at work in the office of the WDM Saskatoon on 11th St W, c. 1965.

WDM Library

close to a main Provincial entrance highway and in conjunction with the proposed Circle Drive. ... We cannot justify the spending of large sums of money at our present 11th St location."

George Urwin, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1965

1965 Canada's upcoming centennial in 1967 spurred two levels of government to commit grants for capital expansion: \$50,000 from the Government of Saskatchewan; \$25,000 from the City of Saskatoon; \$8,100 from the City of North Battleford. North Battleford funds were allocated to establishing a heritage village.

1965 A search was underway for a new location for the WDM Yorkton, for a move from the airport to a more-travelled highway location.

1965 Summer - St. Mary's Anglican Church was moved from Lilac, SK to the North Battleford museum.

1965 Summer - A travelling exhibit of WDM museum artifacts appeared at many Class B Fairs and sports days around the province. In cooperation with the Saskatchewan Jubilee Committee, the exhibits were free of charge.

1965 A WDM souvenir booklet was produced in anticipation of centennial celebrations. This was the first publication ever produced by the Museum.

The Honourable J.W. Gardiner wrote in the booklet introduction *"The Western Development Museum, over the years, as it has developed, has played a great part in preserving the history of our province, and will continue to carry out this very important job."*



Whenever possible, authentic buildings were sought by North Battleford staff and volunteers for the *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library and website



To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Province of Saskatchewan in 1965, the Western Development Museum produced a souvenir booklet.

WDM Library - Cover of 1965 WDM souvenir booklet.





At the WDM Saskatoon, Harold LaTrace - WDM Board Member, Sid Buckwold - City of Saskatoon, and George Shepherd - Museum Curator shared a ride in a vintage Museum vehicle, c. 1965.

WDM Library



Saskatoon Golf and Country Club, c. 1959.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room lh-4465



Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library

CP-5758-C-1

Gates to the Saskatoon Exhibition, 1969.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room CP-5758-C-1

August 11, 1965 article titled “WDM firm on need for move” probably in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - loose in the North Battleford Scrapbook)

Members of the Western Development Museum Board unanimously reaffirmed their position that the Museum should be relocated at a meeting this morning. They agreed the board should advise City Council that the present site of the Western Development Museum “does not fulfill the criteria essential to the erection of a new museum.”

... A committee was chosen by the Museum Board to study location possibilities. It included Harold LaTrace, Lloyd McLeod and Bobby Thompson. They were directed to meet with a council committee of Blair Nelson, Jim Wedge and Ab Flavelle.

December 24, 1965 article titled “Museum location in Nutana mooted” *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

*Relocation of the Western Development Museum on a site including part of Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park] and the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club will be recommended to City Council Tuesday, the *Star-Phoenix* learned today. Rebuilding of the golf course will be proposed.*

The proposal, to be made by Ald. W.T.A. Flavelle’s special council committee, recommends the museum be located on 19 acres of Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park], and an 11-acre portion now occupied by the golf club’s Pansy Nine course, and another 11-acre portion of the club’s present 18 hole layout.

The parks and recreation board, under the chairmanship of Ald. T.J. Quigly, is said to be opposed to the proposed museum site. It does not wish to give up any portion of its park area to the museum. ...

Throughout the year the museum relocation has been a source of major controversy. West-side merchants and

Pion-Era officials are strongly opposed to the relocation especially on the east side of the river. ...

Under the recommendation to go to council it is understood the Pansy Nine golf course and eventually the 18-hole golf course of the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club would be relocated south of the CN tracks, using 140 acres of land recently acquired by the city south of the CN line.

The property, owned by A.L. Turner, was bought for \$44,472.

The city has agreed to provide up to \$175,000 for land towards the museum relocation but the \$44,000 was expected to be the net cost to the taxpayers.

An added feature of the deal would be that the Pansy Nine which is virtually all on exhibition owned property, would be rebuilt, freeing the existing site for much needed exhibition expansion. Only the western 11 acres of the Pansy Nine, on which the clubhouse sits, has been leased to the club by the city and is not in exhibition hands.

While west side merchants and Pion-Era officials are opposed to the relocation of the museum because of fear it might kill Pion-Era, city officials are hopeful that in the long run Pion-Era might be improved.

The idea is that location of the Museum next to the exhibition could eventually lead to a merger of the fair and Pion-Era for one summer show, strengthening both organizations. This however is another controversy and will have to be debated later.

The exhibition has been opposed to any suggestions of a merger of the two shows despite the fact that provincial government officials have urged the two groups to get together.

At any rate, because of the continuing differences of opinion over relocation of the museum it is considered unlikely that the matter will be settled by council until early in 1966.



Students and teachers, along with Museum Curator George Shepherd, had to keep on their coats, mitts and toques when touring the 11th St W hangar in Saskatoon, c. 1965.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.



WDM Saskatoon on 11th St W, c. 1965.

WDM Library



Members of the Women's Auxiliary to the WDM in Saskatoon protested the move from the west side of the river to the east side near the Exhibition.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.

December 29, 1965 article titled “Council defers museum site debate” Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

Debate on a proposal to relocate the Western Development Museum has been deferred until the 1966 city council meets in three weeks time.

... When a Nutana site was first proposed, various groups, including the Riversdale Businessmen’s Association, Nutana Kiwanis Club, Pion-Era, Pioneer Threshermen’s Club and the museum’s Women’s Auxiliary objected, saying the present 11th St site was most suitable.

... A packed public gallery on Tuesday heard Ald. Flavelle make his report. Many are expected to make submissions for or against the proposed site at the next council meeting on Jan. 14 [1966].

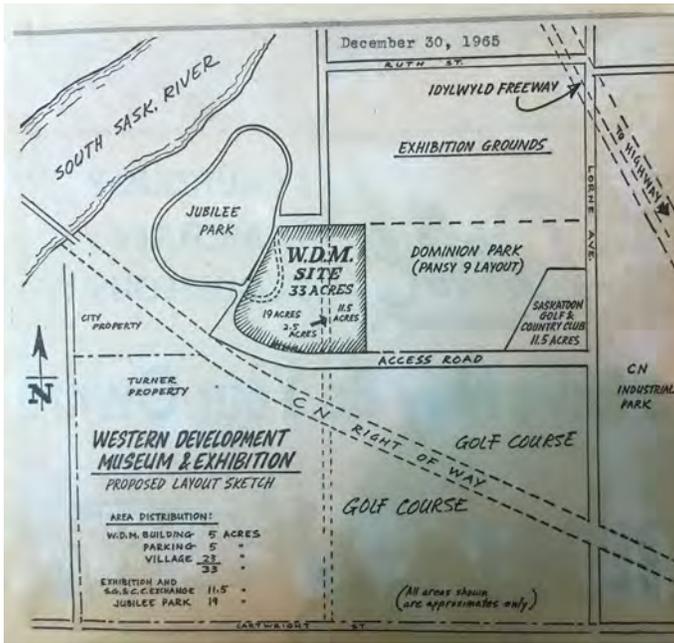
... A total of 10 sites had been explored and those were narrowed down to two - the proposed site in Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park] and the existing site on 11th St. West.

The Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park] site included part of the park, part of Dominion Park, at Exhibition grounds, and the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club.

... Ald. Flavelle listed the advantages of the Jubilee Park site. He said it was accessible from major highways 11 and 14, and from Circle Drive from the east area and eventually from the west. The proximity of the exhibition would permit overflow attendance to the museum from exhibition visitors and common use of parking facilities.

The nearby park would permit joint use of facilities such as picnic grounds, sports areas and restrooms. It would also provide “a beautiful setting.”

... There would be no objectionable industrial uses nearby such as an oil refinery or feed lots, said Ald. Flavelle. ...



Contention over relocating the WDM in Saskatoon flared during much of 1965, with opposing sides lined up squarely behind keeping the location on 11th St W or attempting to find a new east side location somewhere near the Exhibition. The Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park] plan was ultimately rejected.

WDM Library - 1965 - 1968 WDM Scrapbook



Gordon Wilson and the Museum Board lobbied for a new museum site in Dominion Park on the east bank of the South Saskatchewan River, c. 1965.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room LH-9712

December 29, 1965 article titled “Opposition growing against transfer of museum” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

There will be strong opposition to the suggested Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park] site for the Western Development Museum when the matter is debated by City Council Jan. 17.

... Two of the most outspoken critics of the museum relocation, Harry Landa and Mrs. Bernice Norman, are out of the city and could not be contacted for their comments on the proposed relocation.

... Mr. Benson [Ken Benson Pion-Era executive] felt that the 33 acres suggested for the museum would not be sufficient. “We have 49 at the present location and it’s touch-and-go whether that is enough,” he said. ...



Relocating the WDM Saskatoon was a contentious issue in 1965.

WDM Library - 1965 - 1968 WDM Scrapbook

**1966 Attendance 140,550
April 1, 1966 to March 31, 1967**

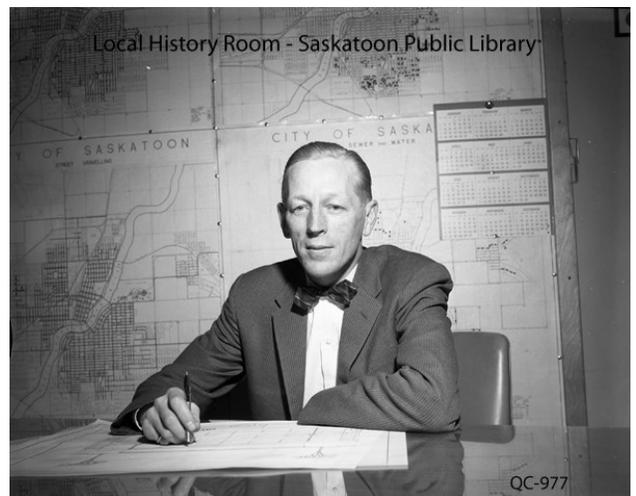
1966 Over the winter, construction of village buildings for the North Battleford museum continued in the Museum hangar. The whine of saws and the clang of hammers had been constant during the fall and winter of 1965. Chased indoors by the weather, construction of village buildings continued in the cold confines of the Museum hangar. Protected from the wind and snow, but not the cold, the construction crew worked throughout the winter to make buildings for placement along village streets in the spring. Opening on that blustery day in May 1966 were a *blacksmith shop, barber shop, dentist office, millinery and ladies wear shop, lawyer office, harness shop, music store* and a *John Deere building*.

“Reuben Briscoe headed up the construction team. When spring arrived, buildings were towed outside and set into place,” recalled Dan Schweitzer, a member of that long-ago construction crew.



Construction of village buildings continued during the winter of 1965 - 1966 at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library



Saskatoon Mayor Ernie Cole, c. 1965.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room - qc-977



Pion-Era at the WDM Saskatoon continued to be a crowd pleaser throughout the 1960s. Members of the several First Nations participated regularly every summer. WDM Jubilee Booklet, 1965. See 2022 exhibit at wdm.ca/exhibits/whitecap.



The fate of Pion-Era at the WDM Saskatoon became a contentious debate in the 1960s.

WDM Library WDM11-C(c)-12

1966 January - Controversy and debate continued over the proposed relocation of the Saskatoon Museum from 11th St W to Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park] in Saskatoon's southeast.

January 18, 1966 article titled "Museum members silent; future remains in doubt" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

The future of the Western Development Museum was unclear today, following the City Council's decision Monday against relocating it in Jubilee Park [which later became Diefenbaker Park]. Gordon Wilson, manager of the museum, said he had been instructed to say nothing about it ...

Mr. Urwin said today a board meeting would be held Jan. 27, but did not say what, if any, recommendations would be made at the meeting.

... He [Mayor E.J. Cole] added that council's decision Monday was indicative of the uncertainty aldermen felt when they were considering placing a money bylaw before the burgesses last fall for a financial grant to the museum. ...

... Mr. Gardiner said that the government up to now had given no commitment to the museum for financing. "We had nothing to make a commitment on," he said.

... The government would look at any request the museum board might make concerning the proposed building plans for Saskatoon, he said. But he added that the museum board had been unanimous in its stand that the present 11th St. site was not satisfactory.

January 18, 1966 article titled "WDM to move out if city aid denied" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

An ultimatum has been delivered to the City of Saskatoon by the board of directors of the Western Development Museum.

The ultimatum is simply that the city must help the board to find a suitable site for its

Saskatoon museum other than on 11th St, or offers from other cities will be considered by the museum board for its proposed \$1,000,000 museum and pioneer village.

January 27, 1966 article titled “Board to meet in secrecy to discuss museum future” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

Directors of the Western Development Museum were to meet today to discuss the future of the Saskatoon museum. The meeting was to be closed to the press. ...

February 5, 1966 article titled “Council asked to clear confusion concerning WDM site by March 1” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum has given the city until March 1 to clear up the “present confusion” surrounding a new permanent site for the museum. ...

1966 March - Pion-Era Incorporated decided to fold when it claimed it could no longer work with the Western Development Museum. To avert dissolution of the annual pioneer show, a citizens committee was set up to mediate between the two organizations.

March 18, 1966 article titled “Special committee to seek Pion-Era dispute settlement” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

A special committee, intended to work for a conciliation between the Western Development Museum and Pion-Era Incorporated was formed at a public meeting Thursday.

Former Saskatoon mayor S.L. Buckwold was elected committee chairman. Mayor E.J. Cole, who called the meeting, was elected vice-chairman. Other members are Prof. Oliver Symes and the Rev. J.G. Matthews. ...



A First Nations village was always a popular draw at Pion-Era in Saskatoon.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.



Despite the controversy swirling between Pion-Era and the WDM Saskatoon, members of the Women’s Auxiliary continued demonstrations of homestead crafts like rug hooking and weaving.

WDM Souvenir Booklet, 1965.



March 19, 1966 article titled “Pion-Era burial postponed” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

Shareholders of Pion-Era Incorporated Friday postponed the burial of their annual summer show in view of efforts by a community-appointed mediation committee to resolve the contractual differences between Pion-Era and the Western Development Museum.

A group of 26 of Pion-Era’s 100 shareholders voted unanimously to go along with efforts to bring their directors and the WDM board together so that the 1966 summer show could be staged. ...



April 1, 1966 article titled “Pion-Era asks more time for dispute mediation” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

... The special Pion-Era committee termed “unacceptable” the museum proposal to erect a fence to separate the museum building. “We see here a continuance of WDM independence and determination to remain separate and apart from Pion-Era, whereas Pion-Era Incorporated sees the annual Pion-Era as a joint effort within a compatible family.”

... “In view ... we propose that the museum and Pion-Era create a truce and enter into a five-year contract whereby joint effort will be exercised, and a closely knit cooperative arrangement entered into whereby Pion-Era Incorporated and the museum are, in fact, co-sponsors of the annual Pion-Era show for 1966, 1967 and thereafter.” ...

A Mountie statue was officially unveiled in May 1966 at the Western Development Museum - North Battleford. Bottom photo standing from left to right are: Bev Cheetham, Les Dean, Arnold Grobman, Chic Kerr and Cec Davis - all members of the North Battleford Local Committee, Mrs. Gardiner, the Honourable Wilf Gardiner - Minister of Public Works, Harold McKittrick - Chair of the WDM North Battleford Local Committee at the microphone, North Battleford Mayor Roy Dean, Mrs. Dean, RCMP Inspector H.B. Luross, Bill Taylor, Gordon Wilson - Manager of the WDM Saskatoon, Rube Briscoe - Head of WDM North Battleford Construction, Mr. McIvor - WDM North Battleford Manager, and Mayme Sack - WDM North Battleford Reception - at the far right. Behind Mrs. Sack is WDM Curator - George Shepherd.

WDM Library

1966 Pion-Era Incorporated severed its connection with the WDM to operate as a public company. It remained connected to the Museum through a five year contract stating that Pion-Era would mount a week-long show using the facilities and exhibits of the WDM. Lines blurred.

1966 May 28 - The WDM North Battleford opened eight new buildings in the village: *barber shop, blacksmith shop, harness*

shop, ladies wear shop, lawyer's office, dentist office, music store, and the John Deer building. The fibreglass Mountie statue was placed on a concrete pillar overlooking the village. The Mountie had been shipped by rail from Edmonton. Heiko Hesse of Westlock Iron Works in Westlock, AB won the contract to build a horse and rider for the WDM North Battleford. The steel and fibreglass statue measured seven metres (23 feet) to the tip of the lance. Placed on a concrete base, the completed horse and rider were built at a cost of just under \$5,000.



A Mountie statue made the trip by train from Edmonton, AB. Then it was loaded on a flatbed for the final trip to the WDM North Battleford, 1966.

WDM Library

June 7, 1966 article titled "Pioneer Village Work To Proceed Quickly" in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

Rapid expansion of the pioneer Village is planned following City Council's decision to earmark 75 percent of the Centennial grant for this purpose, Museum Board Chairman Harold McKitrick revealed at a press conference Tuesday morning.

Mr. McKitrick and Chic Kerr, speaking for the local committee, expressed happiness with Council's decision. ...

June 1966 article titled "Well-known resident dies suddenly on Sat." in the *Yorkton Enterprise* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

... A well-known resident of Yorkton, George Gough Sherwood, age 76 years of Bevin Court, Yorkton, was laid to rest Tuesday afternoon, May 31. At the time of his death on May 28 he was curator of the Yorkton Western Development Museum.

1966 *"Recognizing the need for new facilities at Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan Government added in 1966 an additional \$30,000 Capital grant to the \$50,000 given to the Museum in 1965 and held in trust for a new Museum building. We also have a commitment from the City of Saskatoon of \$125,000 over a five year period plus land and services. ... The Museum board favours a large mall-type building with an*



Planners met over cake and tea at the Western Development Museum - Saskatoon, June 28, 1966. Second from left may be Tom Quigley. Far right, wearing the top hat, Mayor Ernie Cole. Next to the Mayor wearing dark-rimmed glasses is Jim Wedge.

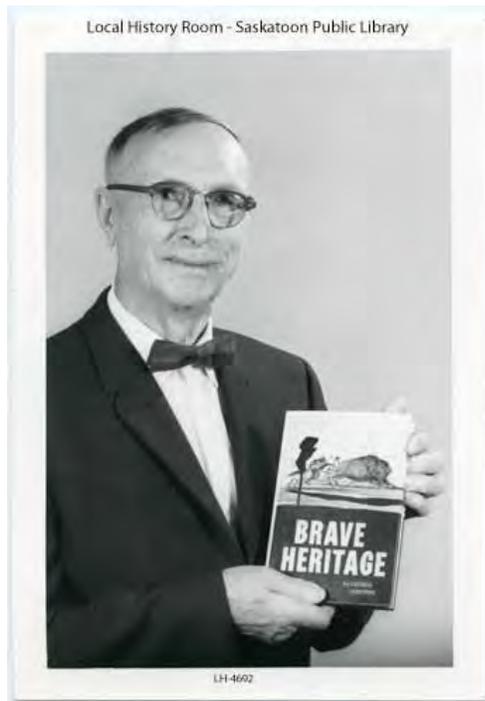
Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room CP-5051-2

early period town street as its centre piece, plus large inside display areas. Our biggest foe in Saskatchewan is our inclement weather. The Museum Board are on record to relocate from their present location. ... The site most desirable is in close proximity to the Saskatoon Exhibition grounds, Circle Drive and the Idylwyld Freeway."

Alex Cameron, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1967

- 1966 The WDM Board identified the need for distinct themes at each of the WDM sites.
"North Battleford had developed the Pioneer Village theme. This is the first and only pioneer village in Saskatchewan."

Alex Cameron, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1967



George Shepherd, WDM Curator, with his second book - Brave Heritage.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room LH-4692

- 1966 "The Museum Board would like to develop the ethnic theme at its Yorkton branch. ... The Western Development Museum is setting aside in trust \$40,000 to develop the project when the citizens of Yorkton decide they need a new museum. A study by a consultant firm has recommended that the Museum should relocate in the Agriculture Fair.

- 1966 WDM Curator, George Shepherd, published his second book - *Brave Heritage*.

- 1966 During the year, WDM welcomed it's millionth visitor.

August 12, 1966 article titled "Unique Attraction To Be Moved To WDM" in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

... A buffalo stone that is about 300 yards south of South Railway Avenue ... will arrange to move the attraction to the Western Development Museum grounds. ...

September 2, 1966 article titled "Phelps case adjourned" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

An action against the Western Development Museum by Joseph L. Phelps of Saskatoon was adjourned by consent until Sept. 9 in District Court Chambers at the Court House today.

Mr. Phelps is suing the museum for the return of 75 items and groups of items he says belong to him, plus nearly \$17,000 he says the museum owes him.

Mr. Phelps' statement of claim listed 20 steam engines, five cars, a truck, tractors, plows, sleighs, wagons, buggies, several gasoline engines, blacksmith equipment, a coffee grinder, and numerous others which he says belong to him but are in the museum's possession.

December 12, 1966 article titled "Playground For Village May Be Club's Project" in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

... The playground is being considered as a project for the Lions' Club, said Al Lambert who is spearheading the Lions' study of the project. ...

... The Rural Municipality of North Battleford has begun a search for the municipality's original municipal office, which is believed to still be in the area.

Secretary-treasurer Bill Lloyd said today that the RM expects to get a suitable building. "Prospects look good for the office to be located in the pioneer village by next spring." he said. ...

1966 Article titled "Indians Applaud Committee's Plan" undated, probably in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

An announcement by the Western Development Museum Committee that an Indian display would be included at the museum's ground in North Battleford has been welcomed by Indian bands in the area.



Relations between the Western Development Museum and its founder - Joseph Lee Phelps - soured over the years. Eventually, the claims of artifact ownership made by Mr. Phelps were settled in court.

Sketch - Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame



Mistaseni, seen here with Wilfred Tootoosis, before it was dynamited, c. 1966.

Cree Literacy Network

1966 December 1 - Mistaseni, a glacial erratic 10 miles east of Elbow, a buffalo rubbing stone and a sacred First Nations site, was dynamited in an attempt to save pieces of the rock that would be flooded by the creation of Lake Diefenbaker (at the time called Lake Saskatchewan). Pieces of the rock were given to the Western Development Museum Saskatoon. The following year, U of S Anthropology students donated a scale model of Mistaseni.

Note: Mistaseni was repatriated in 2020.



George Sherwood, Yorkton WDM, c. 1956.

1967 Attendance 158,708
April 1, 1967 to March 31, 1968

Canada Celebrates Its Centennial in 1967

1967 Alex Cameron chaired the WDM Board. Directors included C. Worden, R. Thompson, H. Latrace, L. McLeod, S. Buckwold - all of Saskatoon, W. Gardiner and D. Dombowsy of Regina, W. Fichtner of Yorkton, C. Kerr of North Battleford and W. Foster from Abernethy.

January 18, 1967 article titled “Museum planning Indian village” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

North Battleford - An Indian centre is among projects which the Western Development Museum has planned for its pioneer village in North Battleford. ...

January 30, 1967 article titled “Museum Gets Land Grant” probably in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - North Battleford Scrapbook)

A request for an increase in land area by the Western Development Museum has been approved by the provincial government the committee learned at a meeting last Tuesday. Approximately 80 acres adjacent to the present eastern boundary has been added to the Museum property. This will provide land for the development of a farm and several other displays and activity areas.

1967 March 10 - The *News-Optimist* reported that decisions were made to move a Mounted Police building about one mile north of Aquadeo Beach on Jackfish Lake to the North Battleford *Heritage Village*; to move a locomotive to the Village site on a railway flatcar; and to reconstruct a replica of the original 1914 octagonal Board of Trade building for the *Heritage Village*. The



Centennial flag.

WDM-1973-S-23268



The Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP) building was built in 1895 at the north end of Jackfish Lake. By 1909 the Force had pulled out from the area. It was moved to the village at the WDM North Battleford in 1967.

WDM Library and Website www.wdm.ca



original building at the corner of Railway Ave and 101st St was moved onto a farm where it later was destroyed by fire.

March 31, 1967 article titled “Engine Races Spring Thaw For Museum” probably in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

The great locomotive chase is on. The race is between the arrival of the Western Development Museum’s engine and the arrival of the spring thaw ...



1967 April 8 - A steam locomotive operated by M and S Mines of Bienfait, SK was transported to North Battleford aboard a CNR flatcar. The tender had arrived a week earlier.



On April 8, 1967 a steam locomotive operated by M and S Mines of Bienfait, SK was transported to North Battleford aboard a CNR flatcar. The tender had arrived a week earlier.

WDM Library

1967 May - Members of the Battlefords Horticultural Society planted trees at the WDM North Battleford in honour of Canada's centennial.

1967 May 23 - Dr. George Urwin, Chair of the WDM Board from 1962 to April 1967, died.



George Urwin, c. 1965.

WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook



Tree planting at WDM North Battleford, May 16, 1967.

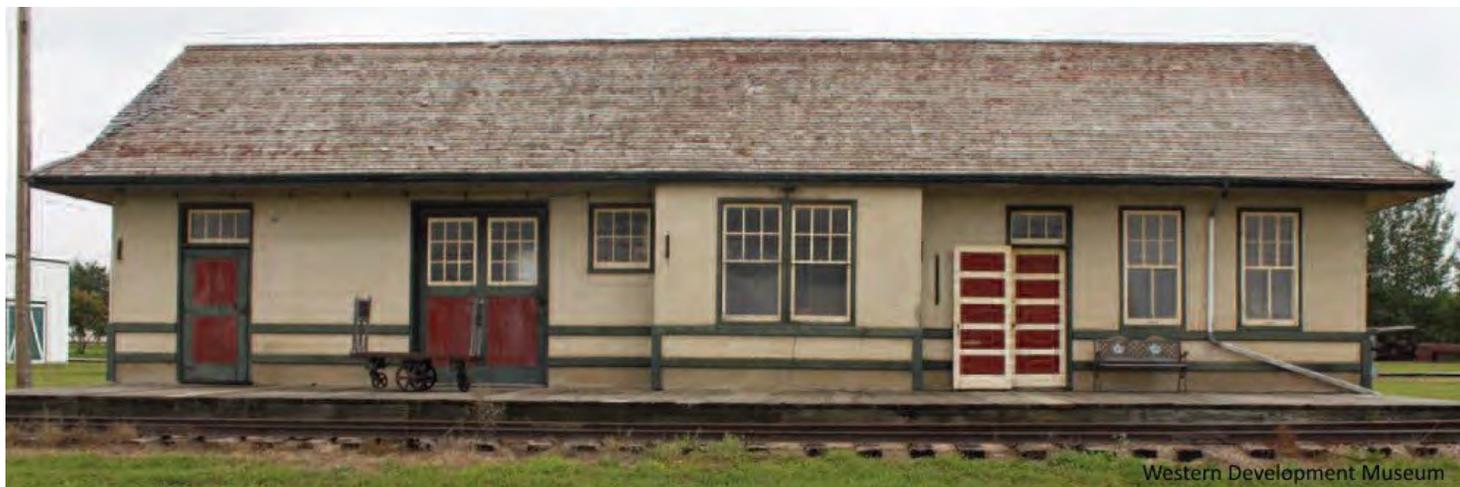
1967 May - The Saskatchewan Museums Association was formed. Gordon Wilson of the WDM Saskatoon was named First Vice-President.

1967 *The Canadian Northern railway station* built in Prince, SK in 1913 was moved to the WDM North Battleford.



The Canadian Northern Railway built a station in Prince, SK in 1913. When the Canadian National Railway (CNR) formed in 1919, the Prince station was brought into the CNR network. It was last used in 1957.

WDM Library and www.wdm.ca





The Heritage Village at the WDM North Battleford grew as new buildings were added, 1967.

WDM Library - 1965 - 68 Scrapbook



The Heritage Village, WDM North Battleford Western, c. 1966.

Battlefords Archives BL CH01-03-131



The Ukrainian home in the WDM North Battleford village got a new thatched roof in the summer of 1967.

WDM Library—1965 - 1968 Scrapbook

1967 Work on the *Heritage Village* at North Battleford progressed. "Total expenditures in 1967 were \$25,351.23, bringing the total spent at the North Battleford Museum complex on Capital Construction to \$157,402.72." Alex Cameron, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1968

June, 1967 article titled "Village Opening This Weekend" probably in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

The official opening of the Western Development Pioneer Village will take place centennial week [June 24 - 30] on the museum grounds June 24 commencing at 1:30 pm. This promises to be one of the highlights of North Battleford's centennial celebrations.

Harold McKittrick, chairman of the local committee will be master of ceremonies and Wilf Gardiner minister in charge of the Western Development Museum will be present. Members of the committee who have devoted many hours to this popular tourist attraction will be on hand to greet the public.

... The Tourist Information Booth which is a replica of the old Board of Trade Building that stood for many years at the foot of King Street (101st) will be opened and the JayCees will present a cheque for \$1,000 toward the cost of construction.

The Ukrainian home will be opened to the sound of music and the rhythm of the dance as local dancers in authentic costumes perform after the pioneer home is dedicated.

Barry Conkin, chairman of the local Centennial committee will unveil the cairn dedicated to the Pioneer Village.

The landscaping of the development by the North Battleford Horticulture Society will be suitably acknowledged.

Firemen will put on a demonstration at their replica of the original City firehall after it has been dedicated.

Moving over to the locomotive and railway coach, they will be officially dedicated.

Mrs. C.R. McIntosh will present the Buffalo stone to the museum as a gift.

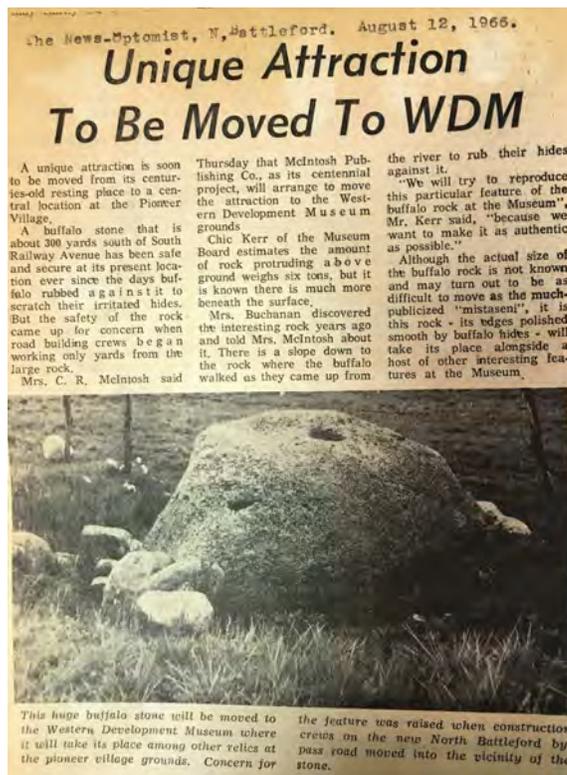
The Co-op Store will be dedicated and coffee and refreshments will be served there.

1967 Summer - The Western Development Museum, in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Centennial Committee, mounted a travelling exhibit centennial caravan of steam engines, antique vehicles, smaller artifacts and photographs - to visit the Class B fair circuit throughout Saskatchewan in celebration of Canada's centennial. It visited 30 centres around Saskatchewan, and was shown free of charge. A circus tent was pitched at each. Four men were hired to tour the show.

1967 The CBC produced two television shows with the help of the WDM: *How the West Was Fun* and *Their Roots Were Deep*. Magazine articles were also written about the Museum during Canada's centennial year.

1967 Summer - A Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant was held in celebration of Canada's centennial.

1967 Summer - The WDM North Battleford held its first threshing show called *Those Were The Days*.



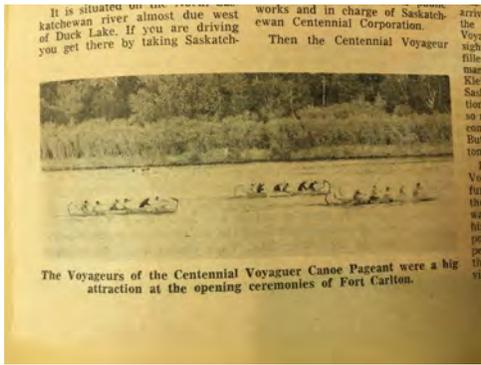
A buffalo rubbing stone was moved to the new WDM site in North Battleford in August 1966.

WDM Library—1965 - 1968 WDM Scrapbook



Canada celebrated 100 years of Confederation in 1967. One activity was a canoe trip across Canada from Rocky Mountain House in Alberta to Expo '67 in Montreal, QC. The Saskatchewan canoe was donated to the WDM.

WDM Artifact Collection WDM-1973-S-22529



WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook

1967 September - An RM building from the RM of North Battleford was moved onto the *Heritage Village* in North Battleford. Also this month, the *Roman Catholic Church* from Fielding, Sk was moved to the village, a centennial project of the North Battleford Knights of Columbus.

October 20, 1967 article titled “Exhibition board agrees to talk one-show concept” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

The possibility of one big summer show for Saskatoon, combining the Exhibition, Pion-Era and the Western Development Museum, got some encouragement Wednesday at a meeting of the Exhibition board of directors. ...

November 15, 1967 article titled “Pion-Era, Exhibition talks may set stage for merger” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

“Our financial position has remained very stable. We have not asked for increased Government grants for the past ten years. We have depended on increased Museum revenue to take care of the rapid rise in the cost of our operations. We are finding now that outside costs, such as audit fees, increased Workmen’s Compensation, automatic wage increases and more sophisticated presentation of our Museums are outstripping our ability to raise revenue at our gates. Other funds are needed if we are to show continued progress with this Museum complex. Physical building assets of the Museum are valued at \$331,324.32. We have in addition, exhibits of historic and antique worth, irreplaceable to the citizens of Saskatchewan.”

Alex Cameron, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1968



To celebrate 100 years of Confederation, the WDM organized a travelling exhibit that visited fairs and sports days around Saskatchewan in the summer of 1967.

WDM Library

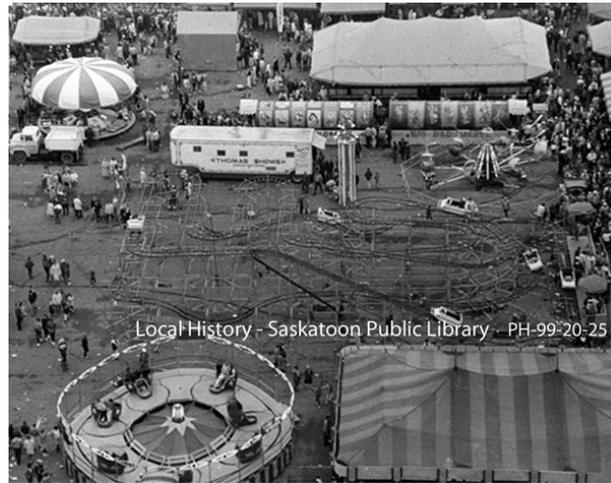


The WDM Women's Auxiliary in Saskatoon participated in Centennial parades, 1967. WDM Library



The WDM North Battleford participated in a Centennial Parade downtown, 1967. WDM Library





Throughout the 1960s talks continued regarding amalgamating the thrill-seeking Exhibition crowd with the Pion-Era crowd of agricultural heritage enthusiasts, Saskatoon Exhibition midway, c. 1967.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room

PH-99-20-23 and PH-99-20-25



In January 1968 the WDM Board of Directors revealed plans for a new museum in Saskatoon, although a new site was yet to be determined.

WDM Library, 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook

1968 Attendance 77,249 April 1, 1968 - March 31, 1969

1968 Admission is:	
Adults	75 cents
Children	25 cents
Students	50 cents

January 13, 1968 article titled "Plans revealed for \$1,360,000 museum complex" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

The board of directors of the Western Development Museum unveiled plans for a proposed \$1,360,000 complex in Saskatoon to house its exhibits.

... The Western Development Museum is a Crown-operated corporation administered by the provincial public works department.

Harold Latrace, chairman on the Saskatoon committee of the museum, said although architect's plans for the building have been drawn, no concrete plans can be made until the matter of a new site has been settled. ...

January 18, 1968 article titled "Exhibition, WDM, Pion-Era set up committee for one site" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

Three Saskatoon-based groups have moved to refer the question of using a single site for their separate operations to a fact-finding committee. ... The fact-finding committee will be composed of W.H.L. Godsvalve, chief commissioner, museum manager Gordon Wilson, Exhibition general manager Elwood Hart, Pion-Era manager R.M. Mollan and an elected director of each organization concerned.

... The board of directors of the Western Development Museum have announced it had completed plans for a proposed new \$1,360,000 building to house its exhibits. ... Pion-Era directors have been asking that the city purchases 80 acres of land for future development west of the present site of the museum.

March 12, 1968 article titled “Active Building Year Predicted” in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

Chairman Murray Cheetham of the local Western Development Museum committee, predicted an active construction season for the Pioneer Village.

... He said all signs were pointing to great activity with the Prince Railway Station renovations being completed first.

“The museum committee is also looking forward to having a Ukrainian Orthodox church moved to the Pioneer Village with the assistance of the local Ukrainian Canadian community,” Mr. Cheetham commented.

He said at the meeting it was decided further work would be done on planting, gravelling road and walking areas as well as establishing a tree nursery for shelter belt planting.

Alex Balych, chairman of the Ukrainian committee said his group “has received as a donation from the Hafford community a pioneer Orthodox church which is about a half century old. The church is 24 x 40 feet in size (approximately). It will have a grey stucco exterior and the interior finished in Ukrainian style. The community is hoping to have the church moved onto the site in the near future.”

1968 *“Admission revenues are now processed by a controlled system, giving us an accurate count of both attendance and daily admission. Souvenir and book counters have been set up to give us an additional source of revenue.”*

Alex Cameron, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1969



In May, 1966 the *North Battleford News-Optimist* reported on progress of the *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library, 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook



Holy Trinity Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church, built in 1910 in the Hafford, SK area, was moved to the *Heritage Village* in 1968.

WDM Library and website www.wdm.ca



Artifact management and historical research are important elements of Museum work. Pictured here is Blowtorch, the mechanical horse, in the Swift Current parade in 1968. The horse was donated to the WDM in 1979.

WDM Artifact Collection WDM-1979-S-260



Conservative leader Robert Stanfield and former prime minister John Diefenbaker visited Pion-Era at the WDM Saskatoon, 1968. Left to right: Rob UnRuh in front seat, Gordon Wilson standing, Robert Stanfield and John Diefenbaker seated in back seat.

WDM Library

1968 *“Much time has been spent checking and reviewing our records and inventory. This is a very necessary task. However, we are assured these records will tell the true story of the artifacts in the Museum when finally completed.”*

Alex Cameron, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1969

1968 *“Much work is being done on historical research and community participation to bring the museums at all locations close to the everyday citizens. Clubs using our facilities are very active and keep alive the old crafts and educate new members to the crafts and skills of the past.”*

Alex Cameron, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1969

1968 May 6 - Sod was turned at the *Heritage Village* in North Battleford for a *poultry building*.

1968 June 15 - Conservative leader Robert Stanfield and former prime minister John Diefenbaker together visited the Western Development Museum’s Pion-Era show in Saskatoon.

1968 Summer - The combined *doctor’s office and drug store* opened in the *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford. In August the *RM Office replica building* opened, a project undertaken by the RM of North Battleford. *The Holy Trinity Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church* was moved from the Hafford area to the *Heritage Village*, sponsored by the Ukrainian community.

1968 Summer - In a newspaper article titled “WDM Is Major Tourist Attraction,” Muriel (Mayme) Sack is listed as Superintendent of the Western Development Museum.

1968 Summer - Eighty acres were added to the WDM North Battleford site.

1968 September 11 - The Co-Op Store in the North Battleford *Heritage Village* was dedicated to the men and women who pioneered the early retail co-operative association in Saskatchewan. A plaque on the building honoured the memory of George Urwin, a past president of Federated Co-operatives and a chair of the WDM provincial board, as well as pioneers who built consumer co-ops in Saskatchewan.



The Co-Op Store in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Village* opened officially on September 11, 1968.

WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook



WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook

November 1, 1968 article titled "Local control of museum best" in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

Mayor James Maher Wednesday presented a brief to provincial Public Works Minister Allan R. Guy recommending that the operation of the Western Development Museum and Pioneer Village here be the responsibility of the North Battleford city council. The brief suggested city council should appoint the members of the local museum committee as a standing committee of council.

It further recommended that the museum and pioneer village should remain a branch of the Western Development Museum and that the museum board should continue its ownership of all buildings and exhibits and also continue to be custodians of them. The brief said the local committee should be responsible for the operations of the North Battleford branch of the WDM. It suggested that in order to ensure continuity within the committee, appointments should be on a three-year basis, with one-third of the membership retiring each year.

The committee, the brief said, should include an alderman in addition to the citizen members.

The brief proposed that the budget for each year's operation and for capital expenditures be the responsibility of city council.

A monthly statement of expenditures and receipts would be submitted by council to the provincial museum board for its information. The operation of the museum



WDM North Battleford *Heritage Village*, c. 1968.

WDM Library



More local control over the WDM North Battleford was sought in 1968.

WDM Library 10-E(d)-2

would be subject to inspection by the provincial auditor.

The brief further recommended that area representation on the WDM board be extended to include two representatives from north-western Saskatchewan.

The brief added: "Our purpose is to foster its greatest development and this we believe can be best accomplished through its operation under local control."

In the brief's preamble it said that it was evident a gradual eroding of local control was apparent and that it was also evident in a gradual usurping of administrative control in the ignoring of the committee's budget and in external management of its financial affairs.

... Mr. Guy later said that he was aware the museum board was not as representative as it should be and that he would review provisions of the Museum Act and give the brief further consideration.

He said it would be the responsibility of the local committee to present its case to the museum board.

1968 November 26, 1968 - The City of North Battleford, the Western Development Museum - North Battleford and representatives of the provincial Public Works department met to discuss a brief submitted to the government that "urged more local control over the operation of the WDM branch" in North Battleford. The brief had the full support of city council and the museum committee. WDM board chairman Alex Cameron invited Mayor Maher and members of North Battleford's museum committee to a WDM board meeting the next day on November 27 to discuss the brief. Murray Cheetham, chair of North Battleford's local museum committee reported later that the meeting was genial. Chic Kerr, North Battleford's member on the provincial WDM board, also attended the meeting. Public Works Minister Allan R. Guy promised that his department would study the brief to find a solution that would strengthen the present museum network.

1968 November - The Battleford Light Infantry Historical Association formed, with its first project to erect a building in the WDM *Heritage Village*. The building would be built of logs to depict the frontier-style military headquarters. Work was planned to begin in early 1969.

1968 October - December - Merging Pion-Era and the Saskatoon Exhibition summer shows into one show was under consideration. A committee was formed and talks got underway. Letters to the editor, articles and editorials were printed in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*. A report on the one-show concept had been requested by Saskatoon City Council in March.



In 1969 a *log militia building* was added to the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Village* due to the efforts of the Battleford Light Infantry Historical Association.

WDM Artifact Collection

December 7, 1968 article titled “One show concept accepted; starting date uncertain” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

The concept of a one summer show in Saskatoon has been approved by the Exhibition, Pion-Era and the Western Development Museum. But the probability of such a show amalgamating the operations in 1969 is doubtful and it may be 1970 or 1971 before such a program is undertaken.

Chief Commissioner W.H.L. Godsolve, chairman of a negotiating committee which has been discussing the feasibility of such a show for more than a year, reported Friday the one-show concept has been accepted by the majority of members of each of the organizations.

A one-show operational committee, consisting of three representatives for each of the organizations, besides three city council representatives, will be formed immediately to plan a joint operation adjacent to, or in the existing exhibition grounds, as soon as possible, Mr. Godsolve said.



Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library
CP-5758-B-2

Amalgamating the Saskatoon Exhibition with the WDM Saskatoon Pion-Era show was debated for a decade, culminating in approval of the idea late in 1968, over many strenuous objections..

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room CP-5758-B-2



Elwood Hart, manager of the Saskatoon Exhibition, c. 1969.
Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room cp-8183



Enthusiastic and devoted supporters of the WDM in North Battleford petitioned the Museum Board of Directors for more autonomy over local affairs, 1969.

WDM Library 10-E(d)-1

1969 Attendance 63,746
April 1, 1969 to March 31, 1970

January 2, 1969 article titled “North Battleford Museum Develops Link with Past in Pioneer Town” by Reg Taylor in *The Western Producer* (WDM Library - 1965 - 68 WDM Scrapbook)

... An exhibit in the museum building brings back memories of early ranching in Saskatchewan. It is a small ranch corral and on display are many of cattle and horse brands in use about the time Saskatchewan became a province.

The corral was built by Rueben Briscoe of Saskatoon who for the last three years has directed setting up the museum exhibits in North Battleford. Mr. Briscoe has been a contractor and retired as works superintendent for the city of Saskatoon in 1956. However, Mr. Briscoe was a pioneer homesteader in 1908 in south central Saskatchewan just north of the Matador Ranch operated by United States interests. He was able to supply some of the exhibits from a collection he had acquired. ...

1969 January 11 - Ray Johnson, Pion-Era manager and Elwood Hart, Exhibition manager, were slated to meet to discuss the coordination of downtown promotions for both events. Harness racing remained a bug-bear between the two groups. Nor were financial arrangements for supporting each other on the agenda.

January 14, 1969 article titled “A Just Request” probably in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - North Battleford Scrapbook)

The chance of the Western Development Museum, provincial board and the city and local committee working out a satisfactory arrangement for the management of the museum branch here appear favourable. A meeting between the two groups was genial, and the North Battleford representatives came out of it with optimism, and the feeling that the museum board would work out a solution suitable to

them. It is not surprising that the museum board should look on North Battleford's demands with some sympathy; after all, the branch here has been more a local concern than any of the others.

It was North Battleford clubs and individuals that worked on projects in the Pioneer Village. The local committee has shown a lot of effort in maintaining the enthusiasm towards the museum in the community. It can truly be said that the branch here belongs to North Battleford, and therefore, it doesn't seem at all out of line to suggest that the representatives here should have more control over the actual operation of the branch here. The move would undoubtedly be an asset to the provincial body, which would no longer have to concern itself about the day-to-day problems here, but would be able to coordinate museum policy between the three branches.

North Battleford, where enthusiasm is perhaps greater than in the other centres, would be unbridled, and able to forge ahead with its ambitious plans for the branch here.



The long battle in Saskatoon ended with the decision to move from the large, high and dry site on the west side of Saskatoon to a few acres of slough bottom on the east side of the city near the Exhibition grounds, 1969.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room CP-2902



Early in 1969 the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club agreed to give up the Pansy Nine to the Saskatoon Exhibition.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room b-3436

- 1969 March 10 - WDM Board Chair Alex Cameron announced that the Saskatoon Museum agreed to move to a new site near the Exhibition grounds.
- 1969 March 15 - The first "Saskatoon Exhibition and Pion-Era Two Week Show" was announced for July, to be called *Showtime '69*. The show would be staged as two back-to-back shows in two separate locations. Pion-Era would run from July 7 - 12; the Exhibition would run from July 14 - 19.
- 1969 March 18 - The Saskatoon Golf and Country Club agreed to relinquish the Pansy Nine golf course to Saskatoon Industrial Exhibition Ltd., the *Star-Phoenix* reported.



While debate raged over the location of the WDM in Saskatoon, the museum on 11th St W continued to attract visitors locally and from far afield.

WDM Library



Local History Room - Saskatoon Public Library

R.B. McLeod was general manager of McLeod Construction and a member of the WDM Board of Directors.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room a-1681

March 18, 1969 article titled “Pansy nine property relinquished to exhibition” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1967 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

... In 1964 the council committed itself to providing land in Dominion Park for expansion by the exhibition, and following a decision by the exhibition this year to construct a new racetrack and grandstand, the association requested the land from the city.

1969 May 6 - Saskatoon City Council reported it would support one-quarter of the cost of a feasibility study of the amalgamation of the Western Development Museum, Pion-Era and the Exhibition into a year-round operation. A.P. Morrow and Associates of Vancouver, BC were hired to study the possible amalgamation. Their report was due in September. Judge N. Hughes headed the local planning committee that recommended the consultants.

1969 May 10 - Lloyd R. McLeod, vice-president of the WDM Board and general manager of McLeod Construction, died. Later, a public room in the new WDM Saskatoon would be named in his honour - McLeod Hall.

May 29, 1969 article titled “Show in step with space age pictured” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

... A.P. Morrow of Vancouver, in Saskatoon researching material for a feasibility study of one summer show in one location, told more than 150 Saskatoon Board of Trade members and guests Wednesday that summer shows, or exhibitions, have gotten out of date in today’s space age and are no longer providing the fun and entertainment people want. ... “They’re 50 to 100 years behind the times and people are staying away in droves,” he said. ... Today’s society has tasted quality, following the tremendous show of Expo 67, and it doesn’t mind spending as long as people are entertained in a sophisticated way.

1969 May 30 - In a *Star-Phoenix* article it was reported that the Women's Auxiliary to the WDM opposed any museum move to a new site. The 40-member auxiliary submitted their arguments in writing to A.P. Morrow, citing *"the present location ... is close to Holiday Park golf course, the Canadian National Railway station, and convenient to the airport, as well as being close to a good camping grounds."*



1969 June 19 - The *poultry building* in North Battleford was opened officially in connection with a conference of the Saskatchewan Poultry Council, the Saskatchewan Poultry Association and the Saskatchewan Hatchery Association in that city.

1969 July 7 - 12 - The last Pion-Era in its original format was plagued by rain. Attendance plummeted to 25,397, about 30,000 fewer than previous years and *"the worst since the show's inception 18 years ago."*



Two pioneers of the poultry industry in Saskatchewan, Miss Harriett Purdy of Balcarres and Andy Foss of Cochin, had the honor of clipping the ribbon to officially open the poultry museum on the Western Development Museum grounds at North Battleford. The building, to contain exhibits of early equipment, pictures and stories of the industry, was dedicated to poultry business pioneers.

July 14, 1969 article titled "Old Pion-Era format may disappear" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

... Compared with last year's record attendance of 56,000, the attendance was described only as dismal by Pion-Era manager Ray Johnson.

"We depend on the support of the country people, and everyone knows farmers are short of money right now because of their inability to sell their wheat, Mr. Johnson said.

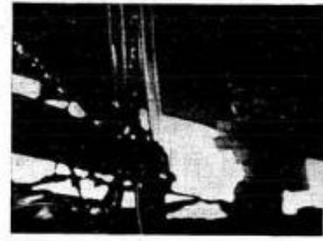
1969 July 19 - 20 - The first Those Were the Days pioneer threshing show was staged at the WDM North Battleford, coinciding with the first man on the moon.

The Poultry Building in North Battleford was opened officially on June 19, 1969.

WDM Library 1969 Scrapbook and photo 10-E(d)-4

WALK ON MOON

'That's One Small Step for Man... One Giant Leap for Mankind'



ARMSTRONG'S FIRST STEP ON THE MOON WAS A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR MANKIND.



THE LUNAR MODULE WAS LAUNCHED FROM THE SPACE SHUTTLE COLOSIAL ON JULY 14, 1969.

Armstrong Beams His Words to Earth After Testing Surface

By AP Wire Service
 BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Neil Armstrong was the first of two men to walk on the surface of the moon. He spoke to Earth after testing the surface of the moon.

Heavens Have Become Part of Man's World, Nixon Says

By AP Wire Service
 WASHINGTON (AP)—President Richard M. Nixon said today that the moon landing was a historic event that has opened a new chapter in the history of mankind.

American Astronaut Neil Armstrong was the first human to walk on the moon, July 20, 1969.

Those Were The Days Termed Successful

Horse-drawn carriages, and the horseless carriages rounded the grounds, taking youngsters for a ride. The giant steam engines kept little boys busy watching wood fire the new-satisfied, always-hungry fireboxes, while they belched air with shrill whistles, but otherwise running peacefully.

In the Camp store, Vic Winfield was dispensing pieces of cheese and picnic in staggering amounts during Saturday, while maintaining the general attitude of yesterday's proprietor, who had time to talk to his customers.

The air was permeated with the odor of Ukrainian dishes, as North Battleford and district Canadian Ukrainian Association served superb dinner at the attached pioneer home, its interior gleaming, as horsesh, bologna, pork, and homemade bread was on the menu.

Mrs. P. Malinski was the convener. The proceeds of the two-day event will go towards work on the pioneer home and the Ukrainian church nearby.

Sunday, church services were held in the pioneer church, with Anglicans, Ukrainians, Greek Catholics, and Catholics taking part.

All the action wasn't found at the beaches last weekend; a good deal of it was concentrated at the Western Development Museum and adjoining Pioneer Village when a large number of spectators gathered to enjoy the activities during Those Were The Days celebrations, held Saturday and Sunday.

The Boots and Saddles 4H club, decked out in red shirts, blouses, white cowboy hats, boots and spurs put their mounts through a precision drill set to music.

The musical ride of the club is becoming a major attraction. It was repeated before large crowds Sunday at the fair grounds, after an afternoon performance at the WDM ground. Last year, it was a top attraction at the Swift Current exhibition.

Old timers were taken back a few years when they witnessed the steam engine operating the threshing machine and sheaves were actually threshed.

The museum staff asked for volunteers who had actually pitched in the old days, to throw a few into the mechanical matter, which showed it up, spitting out corn and straw in two separate piles.

Local committee chairman Bill Poole, pointed out there were a limited number of sheaves, and asked the crowd where they could be obtained for displays in the future.

On the spacious lawn the Ukrainian dancers from Whitlow, performed the age-old traditional dances to the music of a live orchestra. Franka Ewenshuk, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ewan Ewenshuk, thrilled the spectators with her execution of the intricate steps.

But the true spirit of the two days was found in the gleaming eyes of the older people, who recalled items which once graced the homes of their parents, and which they themselves had used.

Light Infantry Group Formed

The Battleford Light Infantry Historical Association was formed recently after two meetings in the Officers' Mess at Colonel Otter Armory in North Battleford. The aim of the organization is to record and preserve the history of the Battleford Light Infantry, which perpetuates the first Army unit founded west of Winnipeg, the Battleford Rifles Company formed in October 1874.

Of the five officers attending the meetings, Major E. J. Griffin was appointed president; Major M. N. Mansel, first vice-president; Major J. Kowalski, secretary-treasurer and Major Herman and W. Wick as additional vice-presidents.

The first project of the association is to erect a building in the Pioneer Village as part of the Western Development Museum. The building will be built of logs and to depict the old frontier military headquarters. Work on the building is planned to start early in the spring 1969.

The building will house museum items of old and new interest of members of the association and other citizens. Historical importance will be an aim. One of the

Those Were The Days was launched in the summer of 1969 at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library - 1969 Scrapbook

August 15, 1969 article titled “Western Development Museum Born Here” in the North Battleford News-Optimist (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

The story of the North Battleford Western Development Museum has been one of change and vast improvements since its humble buildings in an old hangar at the airport.

The museum which was the first of its kind to be built in Saskatchewan was established through the persistence of the museum association in cooperation with a Saskatchewan pioneer, former Natural Resources Minister Joseph Phelps. Other Western Development Museums were later erected at Saskatoon and Yorkton.

In the beginning the museum, operating in the hangar at the North Battleford airport, was found unsatisfactory due to the limited space and the distance from the main roads. So it came about in 1958 that the local committee of Arnold Grobman petitioned the government for a new location and was granted its present site east of the city. At this time planning began for the present museum and a pioneer village.

A building which had previously been taken down at Mossbank, Sask., was erected at the junction of Highways 5 [later renamed Highway 16] and 40 in 1963. The pioneer village was started as a Centennial project. The school and the Anglican church were moved to the site in 1965. A number of buildings in the village are originals while others are faithful replicas built after considerable research on the original appearance of the building and furnished with displays relative to the times. Among the originals in the village are: the Greek Orthodox church, the Gray school, the Anglican church from Lilac and the Canadian National Railway station from Prince.

... Exhibits for these buildings and for the actual museum have come from all over Saskatchewan, with many coming from Alberta. When the museum first started, a number of articles were purchased for the displays, now exhibits are taken on a donation basis. Restoration of the exhibits



A British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) hangar building from Mossbank, SK was repurposed as a museum building when the WDM North Battleford moved from the airport to its new location at the junction of Highways 5 (later renamed Highway 16) and 40.

WDM Library



Construction of village buildings continued throughout the 1960s at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library 10-E(d)-10

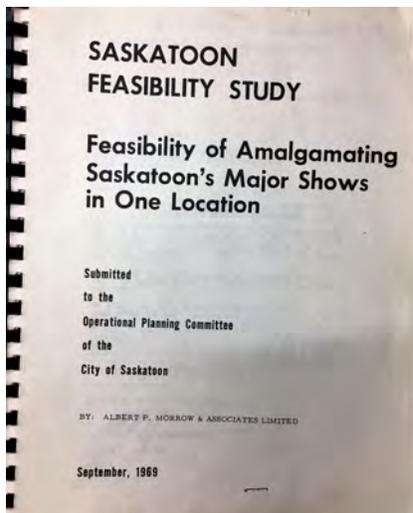
WDM Library 10-E(d)-9





The *Heritage Village* continued to grow as new buildings were added throughout the 1960s.

WDM Library 10-E(d)-3



The Morrow Report recommended the amalgamation of Pion-Era and the Saskatoon Exhibition, 1969.

WDM Library

is done at a shop in Saskatoon for all three museums in the province.

Notwithstanding the size of the North Battleford museum, its finances are limited. The museum receives a small grant from the provincial government, but the majority of its help is derived from the community in the form of manpower, machinery and the donations of service clubs and individuals. Many buildings in the pioneer village have been furnished by the various professional groups in the city.

In order to supplement its income the museum has found it necessary to have an admission charge at the door to stay operable. The charge for adults is \$1, student is \$.50 and elementary school children is \$.25 while pre-schoolers are admitted free of charge. This year there is a single charge of \$2.50 for a family. There is no charge for school groups.

In the past four years museum attendance has more than doubled. Attendance in 1965 was 17,743, 1966 it was 35,344, in 1967 it was 37,983 and last year the figure rose to 39,128. The future looks equally bright according to Superintendent Mrs. Muriel Sack. She hopes for further development in the village, such as boardwalks, street lights and more ethnic homes, the latter of which are very hard to come by. She also hopes to have an Indian display added.

The staff of the museum will eventually have to be increased to handle the additions. Mrs. Sack said she will be trying to have the village activated, having a staff member in each building. There is currently a staff of six at the museum, including two university students.

1969 September - The **Morrow Report** from a consulting firm in British Columbia advised that the WDM move from southwest Saskatoon to a location near the Exhibition in the City's southeast so that the two summer shows, the Ex and Pion-Era, could be amalgamated.

October 16, 1969 article titled “Pion-Era to fold in face of dismal financial picture” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

Pion-Era, incorporated as a show arm of the Western Development Museum in 1955, will cease to exist after this year. Pion-Era shareholders, following disclosure at the annual membership meeting Wednesday that Pion-Era had lost almost \$44,000 in its 1969 six-day show, unanimously agreed to liquidate its stock.

In addition, shareholders by a 21 to 10 majority, agreed to give every consideration to turning over any assets realized by the liquidation to a one show committee, if such a committee is formed in the future.



Sawmill demonstrations were popular at the Pion-Era show at the Saskatoon WDM, c. 1965.

WDM Library 10-F(a)-6

November 14, 1969 article titled “Emotions run high as Pion-Era to fold” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

After a long and emotional meeting Thursday night, Pion-Era officially came to an end, at least in the form it is now known.

- 1969 December 31 - A report was presented to the Saskatchewan Cabinet. The purpose of the report was to study the purpose and responsibilities of the WDM, alternative methods of operation, and the extent of Museum Board authority over the three museum branches. The Cabinet concurred that policy and authority should remain in the hands of the WDM Board of Directors as set forth in the Western Development Museum Act.



Cartoonists spoofed the WDM dilemma in Saskatoon, projecting a cable car crossing to link the old and new WDM sites.

WDM Library 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook

In 1970, Saskatoon alderman George G. Dyck questioned the move of the WDM Saskatoon from Holiday Park to the Exhibition area.

Saskatoon Public Library
Local History Room
lh-9550



Saskachimo sash in the Western Development Museum artifact collection, WDM-2002-S-606.

1970 Attendance 50,205
April 1, 1970 to March 31, 1971

1970 After a contest to name the new summer show amalgamating Pion-Era the Museum and the Exhibition, Rev. Stan Cuthand of the Little Pine Reserve won with his suggestion of Saskachimo. In April, an official Saskachimo sash was introduced.

May 12, 1970 article titled "Council confirms \$125,000 commitment for museum" in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

After much wrangling, amending and deleting Monday night, city council confirmed its former commitment to grant the Western Development Museum \$125,000 towards construction of a new building.

... Then Ald. George Taylor asked why a site within the Exhibition grounds was chosen when a previous council had decided that the museum be located in Holiday Park.

... Ald. Bert Sears said times had changed since council's decision of 4½ years ago. Since then Pion-Era has disappeared and the museum board has expressed the wish to be relocated near a major highway.

Ald. Taylor said the city has a substantial investment in Holiday Park. Putting the museum in the Exhibition grounds would downgrade the museum because it would be considered just a part of the exhibition and it would also downgrade the value of Holiday Park as a recreational area, he said.

Another recommendation of the committee was sent back for clarification. It dealt with the present museum property being handed over to the city once council agrees to pay the full \$125,000 grant by 1972. Council agreed to the final recommendation that if the provincial government demands an isolated title to the site for the museum, the city will agree to a leasing arrangement.

1970 July 13 - 18 - The Saskachimo Expo was staged. The WDM contributed.

1970 Board Chair, Harold Latrace noted the *“Amalgamation of Pion-Era and the Saskatoon Exhibition into one major show. This show will work in close co-operation with the Saskatoon branch of the Western Development Museum. It should be noted that the Western Development Museum is not a part of the Saskachimo Exposition, but is situated in close proximity to it, and the Museum will give its full co-operation to assist the Exposition to put on an historical show.”*



The WDM Saskatoon created exhibits in the Exhibition Jubilee Building for the 1970 Saskachimo Expo.

WDM Library

August 25, 1970 article titled “Street Lights Installed At Pioneer Village” in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - WDM North Battleford Scrapbook)

Street lighting at the Pioneer Village, Western Development Museum, moved closer to reality when 1600 feet of underground wiring was laid Saturday morning of last week. Local electricians voluntarily donated their services for the work and this Saturday should see the lights turned on. The 13 vintage light standards were donated to the village by the city of Saskatoon in 1968. Of black iron, they stand as sentinels outlining the village street. Each has five globes, four at the bottom and one on the top. Rueben Briscoe, after whom the street is named, installed the standards in 1968. Boardwalks will be put down in the near future making a pleasing addition to the main street of the village.

... At the same time, under the direction of John Wilkins, the cables for the telephone system were laid in the trench. When hooked up, telephones in various buildings will connect tour guides with the head office in the Western Development Museum and thus save a good many steps.

1970 *“It is becoming increasingly difficult to operate three museums on our present grant system. Increased costs of administration, salaries and government*



... moment from their labor are well-known city s who Saturday morning volunteered their serv- aid the underground wiring for the street lights near Village. At the same time the cable for the system was laid. In front is Shorty Duhaime of Larry's Electric; standing (left to right): Don Sanders Sanders' Electric, Don Weedmark of Weedmark's Elect Pete Mick of Buhler's Electric, John Kozoris of John Electric and John Wilkins, retired Sask Tel district supervisor.

Street Lights Installed At Pioneer Village

Underground wiring was installed in the WDM North Battleford in preparation for the addition of street lights along *Heritage Village* streets, summer of 1970.

WDM Library - 1970 Scrapbook



Board Chair Harold Latrace and Curator George Shepherd, Saskatoon, c. 1970.

WDM Library

charges, such as auditing costs, pension plans and increased costs of Workmen's Compensation, plus other higher everyday costs, has threatened our efficiency to operate our Museums. It has been necessary to reduce essential staff to offset these higher costs."

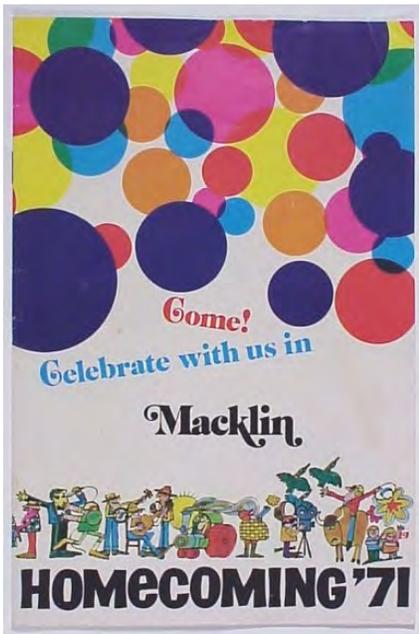
Harold Latrace, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1971

1970 *"Our second large project is the development of a new building for the Saskatoon branch of the Western Development Museum."*

Harold Latrace, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1971

1970 *"It is apparent that certain individuals would like the North Battleford Museum separated from the other Western Development Museum branches. This is impossible under the Western Development Museum Act, and the instruction given to the Board by Cabinet."*

Harold Latrace, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report, 1971



1971 Attendance 57,691
April 1, 1971 to March 31, 1972

January 26, 1971 article titled "Council hesitant about giving golf club land to museum" in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

City council has deferred action on leasing property for a new Western Development Museum and also on a lease with a stated time limit to Saskachimo Exposition. ... For one thing, the land proposed for the museum property intrudes onto Saskatoon Golf and Country Club land which is city-owned but leased to the club.

... About a year ago, the city had given assurances it would provide land for the museum. Exposition manager Elwood Hart



The year 1971 was a special homecoming year in Saskatchewan.

WDM Artifact Collection WDM-1999-S-127 and WDM-2004-Y-3

told council the museum would eventually, perhaps in three to five years, require 15 acres of land. But initially it would need only four acres, he said. The area southeast of the new track on the exposition grounds, adjacent to Lorne Avenue, appeared to be the best location, particularly for entrance to the museum, he said. There would be some encroachment onto golf club lands but it wouldn't interfere with the club until additional property is required in three or five more years, he said.

1971 February - The WDM Board approved a new \$1 million building on the Saskachimo Exposition grounds in Saskatoon. The provincial government would provide a \$750,000 grant, providing the project was undertaken immediately and completed by the end of 1971. The City of Saskatoon provided another \$200,000 of which \$125,000 was cash and \$75,000 in land and services. The museum would retain the hangar on 11th St W and five acres around it for storage. If the 11th St W property were to be sold, the city would have first option on the property.

March 16, 1971 article titled "City to lease land to new WDM building" in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

City council has agreed to lease five acres of land in the Saskachimo grounds to the Western Development Museum for its new building. And it has agreed to lease a further 10 acres once the museum and Saskachimo have agreed on an exact location for the additional land the museum would eventually require. The terms of the lease will be for 50 years and are subject to approval of the minister of municipal affairs.

1971 April - Tenders were called for a new \$1 million WDM building in Saskatoon, with a deadline of May 14. When the eight tenders were received, even the lowest was higher than the museum had budgeted. In June, Bird Construction Co. Ltd. was awarded the contract. The initial



Saskatoon welcomed visitors in 1971 with a sign on the A.L Cole power plant site.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room CP-6159-1(1)



In an article published in Saskatoon's *Commentator* newspaper on March 24, 1971 former WDM Board Chair, Joe Phelps, declared "Unless something is done soon about the administration of the Western Development Museum, it could remain a "frigid monster" instead of being a "people's project".

WDM Library 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook



The Saskatoon Golf and Country Club was concerned when Saskatoon City Council approved a new site for the WDM which encroached on golf course land, photo c. 1960.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room B-11799.



Sod was turned for a new WDM in Saskatoon on May 25, 1971. The Honourable Clarence Estey, Minister of Industry and Commerce guided the plow. Saskatoon Mayor Sid Buckwold held the reins.

WDM Library 1969 - 71
WDM Scrapbook



work order was for \$850,048. The architectural firm of D.H. Stock and Partners Ltd. supervised construction.

1971 Spring - The Canadian Museums Association annual conference was held in Saskatoon as part of Homecoming '71. WDM staff played a major role in planning the event.

May 11, 1971 article titled "Golf club talks lawsuit" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

The Saskatoon Golf and Country Club is prepared to take legal action if its rights concerning property now designated as the new Western Development Museum site are not respected it informed city council.

1971 May 25 - A sod-turning ceremony was held for the new WDM Saskatoon, a 300' x 400' heated "black box" building. It took three Clydesdales, two politicians and one plow to make the cut. Industry Minister Estey and Mayor Sid Buckwold turned the sod.

June 29, 1971 article titled "Ukrainian pioneer home, church opened in N.B." in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - WDM North Battleford Scrapbook)

A five-year project of the Ukrainian community of The Battlefords and district became a reality Sunday with the dedication and official opening of their

ethnic home and church in Pioneer Village at the Western Development Museum. More than 700 people took in the ceremonies

The ethnic home was built by Mike Balych of Meadow Lake with the thatched roof the work of Marco Torchuk of Hafford.

... The church formerly served the Orthodox community in the Hafford district. The keys of the church and home were presented by Alex Balych, on behalf of the building committee, to Bev Cheetham, chair of the local committee. ... Monies for the project were provided by Ukrainian organizations and individuals throughout the area.

Donald Nykiforuk and Elaine Balych placed a wreath at the foot of a monument erected by the Ukrainian Community Centre committee in honour of the Ukrainian pioneers of northwest Saskatchewan. The monument was unveiled by John Iwanchuk, Steve Kindrachuk and Peter Chyzowski on behalf of the executive. Some of the funds from the sale of the community centre were used for this project.

1971 Homecoming '71 invited Saskatchewan folks back to their home province to celebrate their roots. The WDM Saskatoon hosted the Canadian Museums Association Annual Conference in Saskatoon. *"Homecoming '71 was a very exciting and fruitful year for the Western Development Museum,"* according to Board Chair, Harold Latrace.

1971 July 12 - 17 - Saskachimo '71 was staged in Saskatoon on the Exhibition Grounds. Afterwards, Joe Phelps, Chair of the Saskachimo Grounds and Building Committee, wrote in a **September 8, 1971 Commentator** article titled **"Put this in your pipe and smoke it"**:
Certain basic items are now vividly apparent. First, there is insufficient room in the area east of the old grandstand to accommodate a full-fledged pioneer show ...



A Ukrainian home was added to the WDM North Battleford in 1971, joining the church that was moved in 1968.

WDM website wdm.ca - House photo from 1999.



Saskachimo scarf.

WDM Artifact Collection WDM-2006-S-691



Saskachimo crest in the WDM artifact collection, WDM-2006-S-959



Bev Cheetham was Chair of the WDM North Battleford Local Committee in 1971.

WDM Library—1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook

In August 1971 the WDM North Battleford and Turner-Warwick Printers Ltd. printed a newspaper called “Territorial Times.” An article titled “Shades of the Past,” stated:

“... Bev and Murray Cheetham are presently serving as Chairman and Secretary of the 1971 committee now in charge. Others on today’s committee include Treasurer Herb Ducezek, Harold McKitrick, Alex Balych, Chic Kerr, John Petty and Gordon Starkes. Working closely with Museum Board members William Coates and Don Wilhelm, these eight gentlemen, with the help of an interested rural and urban community, are expanding the museum and village at a fantastic rate.”

1971 Summer - Rolly Productions of Ottawa, ON filmed scenes in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Village* for an educational production tracing the early lives of John and Elmer Diefenbaker.

1971 August - the WDM North Battleford and Turner-Warwick Printers Ltd. printed a newspaper called “Territorial Times.” An article titled “Pioneer Village Acts as Movie Set,” stated: *“The Pioneer Village [in North Battleford] came to life in a most exciting manner when Rolly Productions, Ottawa, Ontario set up their movie cameras and restaged part of the life of John Diefenbaker.*”

1971 August 14 - 15 - A successful Homecoming '71 event was held at the Western Development Museum - Yorkton. The museum was open to the public free of charge for the two days.

August 17, 1971 article titled “Many threshing tales recounted at Yorkton’s oldtime Homecoming” in the Regina Leader-Post (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

Vernon Young, curator of the Yorkton Western Development Museum, and his assistant Sid Dutchak, a university student, along with members of the threshermen’s club, worked diligently for

three months preparing for the event.

Officials taking part in the ceremonies were: Tom Inglis, president of the Threshermen's Club which along with the Western Development Museum committee and the Homecoming committee sponsored the event; Jack Zepp, secretary of the Threshermen's Club; Mayor Allan Bailey; Ralph Neiss, zone chairman of the Homecoming committee; Les Donnelly, executive director of Homecoming and Miss Vera Plemel of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan's Homecoming Queen.



Homecoming '71 was a chance for volunteers at the WDM Yorkton to demonstrate their skills sawing and splitting.

WDM Library

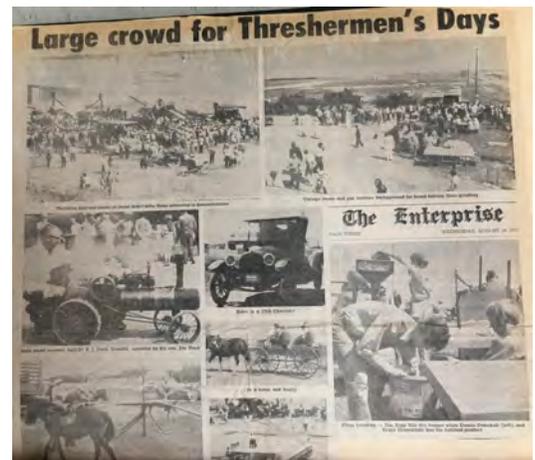
August 30, 1971 article titled "Museum hangar to city some day" in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum hangar building on 11th St W eventually will be returned to the city.

Harold Latrace, WDM board chairman, told city council Monday the museum board was prepared to return the building to the city when it was no longer required for storage or repairs. Eventual handover of the building on the five-acre site could be 20 or more years off.

The hangar was given to the WDM in 1951 for use as a museum, but a new museum is now being constructed on the Saskachimo grounds. It is expected to be in use by next year's summer show.

The museum board wants to continue using the site for storing displays and repairing articles, but Mr. Latrace said if a new location closer to the museum could be found, the museum people were prepared to turn the building back to the city.



The WDM Yorkton hosted a successful Threshermen's Days for Homecoming '71.

WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook

1971 Construction of the new museum building on Lorne Ave in Saskatoon continued throughout the summer.

Joe Phelps predicted the unsuitability of the new site for pioneer demonstrations when he wrote to a local paper stating that terrain ... *is a vital factor in a successful, well-rounded pioneer show program. Even more vital is the fact that the terrain and*



Steel girders were delivered for the construction of a new museum building on Lorne Ave S in Saskatoon, 1971.

WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook



soil conditions in the eastern section of the present exhibition grounds from Lorne Ave west to the old grandstand and extending right from Ruth St south to the site of the new museum building is simply not suited for long term operations of this type of active displays with the very heavy equipment involved. The last three years of mud, water and general mess is more than ample proof of this, even to a novice bystander.



1971 The Battlefords Agricultural Society announced that it would invite the Saskatchewan Pioneer Horsemen's Association to make their home at the local exhibition grounds. The Horsemen's Association was organized originally to support Saskatoon's Pion-Era, but relations between the group and Saskachimo deteriorated. Joe Phelps led the Horsemen's Association.

1971 September 8 - Sod was turned for a new WDM in Yorkton. Construction began on the new WDM Yorkton, a 100' x 100' full heated building.

By the summer of 1971 construction of the WDM Saskatoon "black box" south of the Saskatoon Exhibition grounds was underway. WDM Library

September 9, 1971 article titled "N.B. residents fear duplication of village" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

The recently announced plans for a second pioneer village at the Saskatoon branch of the Western Development Museum have stirred a hornet's nest in North Battleford. The village is part of a new home for the Saskatoon branch.



SOD TURNING - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM - YORKTON SEPTEMBER 8, 1971 PHOTO by N.ROEBUCK

1971 October - Steel girders and cinderblock walls were in place as construction proceeded on the new Saskatoon museum building. By fall, it was nearing the closed-in stage that would allow for interior construction of the 120,000 square foot building over the winter.

Sod was turned for a new WDM Yorkton on Highway 16, September 8, 1971. WDM Library

1971 October 8 - An Agricultural Hall of Fame in the WDM Saskatoon was announced by Saskatchewan Premier Blakeney.

October 12, 1971 article titled “Pion-Era supporters will run own show” in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

Pion-Era is again in business and is going ahead with a summer show planned for July 1972.

An emotion-packed meeting Saturday voted unanimously in favour of the organization breaking away from Saskachimo and going it alone. This decision has ended two years of argument and confusion over the fate of Pion-Era.

At the Saturday meeting some shareholders, with tears in their eyes, expressed disgust with the way the pioneer section of Saskachimo has been handled since the amalgamation in 1969. Acting on the recommendations of a Vancouver consultant's report, the Morrow report, Pion-Era and the Saskatoon Exhibition began staging joint shows three years ago.

A formal combination of the two shows under the name Saskachimo was agreed to last year when Pion-Era shareholders authorized the disbanding of their organization. In October, 1969 shareholders voted to liquidate its stock. Three people were elected to serve as liquidators. They were Alex A. Waldner, Mrs. Helen Tallis and Paul Matlock. But the meeting Saturday was told that nothing had been done to liquidate, and the company was still legally in existence.

... James Gray, long time opponent of the amalgamation and co-chairman of the meeting, said: ... "Amalgamation was only done to destroy Pion-Era."

Saskatoon mayor Sid Buckwold said he could not support going back to two shows. Saskachimo director Elwood Hart also expressed disappointment with the decision. Harold Latrace, WDM Board Chairman, said any separate Pion-Era show would go ahead without museum equipment.



The WDM North Battleford had reservations that the new WDM proposed in Saskatoon would duplicate the *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library - 1968 - 71 WDM Scrapbook



Steel girders and cinderblock walls framed the new WDM Saskatoon in 1971.

WDM Library



Supporters of Pion-Era tried vainly to keep the show alive during the move of the Museum from a large land base on the west side to a few acres on the east side of Saskatoon.

WDM Library - 1968 - 71 WDM Scrapbook

Local Committees For Each Museum

The provincial board of the Western Development Museum, meeting Saturday in Saskatoon, adopted a recommendation requiring the establishment of a local committee in each of the three cities in which museums are located.

The recommendation came from a study committee formed after a recent board meeting in North Battleford and comprised of Saskatoon lawyer David Wooff, Ian Rogers, deputy minister of government services and David Conroy, local solicitor. It recommended that the committee be empowered to raise funds, organize local activities and recommend long-range plans for development.

It was pointed out that while a local committee is in existence in North Battleford, Saskatoon does not have a locally organized committee, the existing body being formed from members of the provincial board resident in Saskatoon.

The appointment of the com-

mittees will be subject to the board's approval, but representation of up to 11 persons is to be made on the recommendation of interested community organizations.

November 23, 1971 article titled "Western Development Museum Board Calls For Local Control" in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

Public Works Minister E. Woods is now considering a brief from the local Western Development Museum Board and the City of North Battleford calling for a transfer of control of the museum from the provincial body to the city.

... It was pointed out that from its beginnings, the North Battleford operation has been self-supporting, but "for years, the North Battleford Museum and Pioneer Village has been contributing to the support of the Museum Board and activities elsewhere."

WDM North Battleford supporters were vocal in their call for local control of WDMs.

WDM Library - WDM 1972 - 74 Scrapbook



Construction of the new Western Development Museum - Saskatoon proceeded through the fall of 1971, so that interior construction could proceed during the winter months leading into 1972.

WDM Library 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook

1972 Attendance 169,938
April 1, 1972 to March 31, 1973

1972 Contractors had the shell of the new museum building in Saskatoon completed so that interior work could be done over the winter. The WDM received \$95,300 from the federal government's local initiatives Winter Works program for "the creation of 43 new jobs ... to complete the interior of a newly constructed 120,000 square foot western pioneer museum."

1972 March - In Ottawa, Secretary of State Gerald Pelletier announced the federal government's policy on museums. The emphasis was on "democratization and decentralization."

1972 March 20 - Effective this day, the Western Development Museum on 11th St W in Saskatoon closed to the public. Staff offices had moved to the new site in the three preceding weeks. George Shepherd was the last to leave the hangar building.

1972 June 9 - *Boomtown Street* in the new WDM Saskatoon was previewed at a Saskachimo special event called "Pioneer Days." It was by invitation only. More than 1,500 people attended.

1972 June 14 - The first female director was named to the WDM Board of Directors - Professor Margaret Patillo of the University of Saskatchewan Extension Division.

1972 July 4 - The WDM North Battleford hosted a one-day Pioneer Day as part of Territorial Days. Premier Allan Blakeney attended. *"The premier stated this was the finest museum of its kind in Canada. ... John Brockelbank, Minister of Government Services, stated the province will continue to aid the Western Development Museum so that it may continue to grow and flourish."*

July 8, 1972 article titled "Museum built on tight budget" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

Canada's largest agriculture and transportation museum was built at a cost of under a million dollars, considered "economical" by Bob UnRuh, accountant at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. ... With the aid of government grants and the timeliness of the Local Initiatives Program, up to 70 men were hired for the building of the museum displays, he explained. Carpenters, engineers, sign painters, wheelwrights and harness makers who were unemployed were hired through the program.

... Experienced carpenters were hired along with others ..., said Fred Leigh, foreman of the carpenters. Mr. Leigh said he was "brought out of retirement to build the village." Although blueprints for the general layout of the street were available, the actual buildings were done from photographs, Mr. Leigh said.

... The ingenuity of Mr. Leigh and his staff is responsible for many of the unique images presented in the village. The walls



The June 10, 1972 issue of the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* applauded the preview of the 1910 *Boomtown Street* in the new Western Development Museum - Saskatoon.

WDM Library - WDM 1972 - 74 Scrapbook



Premier of Saskatchewan, Allan Blakeney sports a Territorial Days hat presented to him by Walter Kostyna at the outdoor program Friday afternoon at the Western Development Museum. Behind Mr. Kostyna is David Conroy, one of the program chairmen.

Allan Blakeney, Saskatchewan Premier, joined North Battleford residents at WDM Pioneer Day, part of Territorial Days.

WDM Scrapbook 1969 - 71



Boomtown Street was built during the winter of 1971 - 72 in the new WDM Saskatoon. WDM Library



Artifacts were moved from the hangar on 11th St W to the new WDM Saskatoon location on Lorne Ave, like the Barry Bus on the trailer here, 1972. WDM Library



St. Peter's Church was moved to its new home on *Boomtown Street* in the WDM Saskatoon in 1972.

WDM Library

are painted black to create the effect of an open space behind the buildings. ... In contrast to the old appearance of the village, the concrete building is ultra-modern.

The WDM is one of the few museums in Canada to have a sprinkler system throughout. ... The offices of the museum are "designed like the cockpit of an airplane," Gordon Wilson, manager of the museum, phrases it. "You've got everything handy." ... The office was designed to keep staff at a minimum.

July 8, 1972 article titled "Well Done!" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

All Saskatchewan can be justly proud of the new Western Development Museum, as a dramatic presentation of Prairie history and a valuable asset of the Province. Appreciation is due to the many individuals, firms and institutions who have contributed to the Museum in the pioneer tradition of working together to achieve a worthy objective. Hon. A.E. Blakeney, Premier, Government of Saskatchewan

1972 July 11 - Premier Blakeney and other provincial government dignitaries were on hand to open the new WDM Saskatoon. The event began at noon with speeches from: Honourable John Brockelbank, Saskatchewan Minister of Government Services; Clarence Estey; H.S. Sears, Mayor of Saskatoon; Senator S.L. Buckwold; Honourable A.E Blakeney, Premier of Saskatchewan; and Honourable Roy Romanow, Attorney General, Province of Saskatchewan. *Boomtown* was called "*the street of a million memories.*" A preview evening gala attracted more than 1,500 people.

1972 July 11 - With the Saskatoon move, the Museum's collection of library materials, historic resources and photographs was named the George Shepherd Library.

1972 July 11 - In the WDM Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame opened officially with 11 people inducted into the Hall. The Hall of Fame project was begun as a Homecoming '71 project.

July 12, 1972 article titled "Premier, Latrace open museum" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

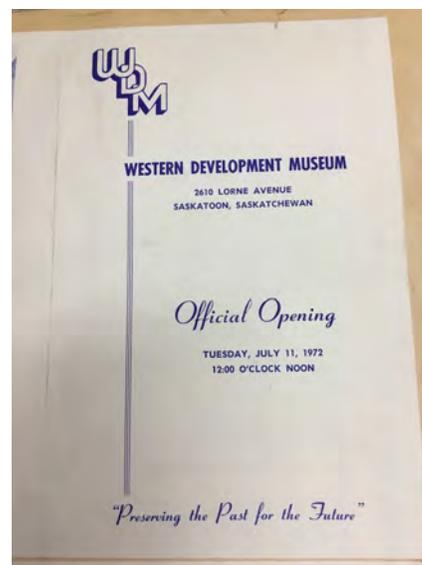
The shrill whistle of a dozen giant old steam engines appropriately signalled the opening of the new Western Development Museum at noon Tuesday. Premier Blakeney and museum board chairman Harold Latrace stepped into an antique car and drove through a ribbon strung across Boomtown Street to officially open the new building. ... Several hundred invited guests cheered as the old car, amidst a cloud of smoke, finally chugged down the street.

... Premier Blakeney praised the museum and the more than 10,000 items which have been collected over 25 years. He said they are monuments to pioneers who succeeded in developing and moulding a new society "built upon cooperation and neighbourliness." The premier said the museum's contents are neither a store of great riches, nor a "monument to materialism," but rather the embodiment of the fact that progress is achieved through experimentation and the bold tackling of new ideas. ... He said the museum, valuable for the present generation, will be invaluable for the next. He also stressed the educational and historical value of the museum and its potential as a tourist attraction.



On July 11, 1972 the new Western Development Museum - Saskatoon officially opened.

WDM Library



In Saskatoon, July 11, 1972 was the official opening of the new Western Development Museum adjacent to the Exhibition Grounds on Lorne Ave.

WDM Library - 1972 - 73 WDM Scrapbook

Pioneer Boardwalks Sawed By 1916 Steam Engine



Long anticipated boardwalks for the Pioneer Village at the Western Development Museum will soon become a reality. This week, John Petty, a Paynton, district farmer, is sawing lumber into the required lengths and these will be nailed to the log footings.

Mr. Petty could have used modern equipment and the job would have been completed quickly, but he preferred to use methods employed by the early builders so the boardwalk will be in truth be early Canadian.

His 50 horsepower 1916 Case steam engine operates the buzz saw which cuts the lumber into lengths. He is the engineer and his fireman, Neal Sharp of Paynton, handles the firewood as there is plenty of power. Helping in the sawing are Jack Janssen, Bill Manary and Gary Wakelin who are working under the winter works program through Manpower.

The boardwalk will be laid from the Fire Hall and down the front of the business established zone. It will add a concrete to the Pioneer Village.

Steam engines are a particular enjoyable hobby of John Petty. He has a round 2 1/2 gas and steam powered models and they run from one and one-half hour power to 80. He overhauls them in his spare time and some of them are in tip-top running order.

Bill Pook, chairman of the local committee stated, "my project should take about 3 weeks to complete. The work

John Petty of Paynton operates his 1916 steam engine that is running the buzz saw cutting lumber into lengths for the board walk at Pioneer Village, Western Development Museum. Fireman Neal Sharp is ready to add more fire wood. In the sawing end of the operation are (left to right) Bill Manary, Jack Janssen and Gary Wakelin. Observing the operation are Bill Pook, chairman of the committee and Mrs. Muriel Sack, curator.

July 14, 1972 article titled “Pioneer Boardwalks Sawed By 1916 Steam Engine” in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

Long anticipated boardwalks for the Pioneer Village at the Western Development Museum will soon become a reality. ... Observing the operation are Bill Pook, chairman of the committee and Mrs. Muriel Sack, curator.

1972 Summer - The dairy building in the North Battleford *Heritage Village* opened officially.

1972 The WDM was accepted as an associate museum under the federal New Museum Program.

1972 Artifacts from the WDM assisted in the filming of *Alien Thunder*, filmed at Duck Lake, SK.

August 15, 1972 article titled “Police Building Restored” in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

Work has now commenced on the restoration of the North West Mounted Police Building which once served a detachment at Jackfish Lake. Superintendent Muriel Sack says the project is under the Winter Works program, and is expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

1972 September 13 - The Honourable J. Brockelbank, Mayor Alan Bailey and WDM Board Chair Harold Latrace were on hand to open the new WDM Yorkton. The museum was built at a cost of \$115,000.



September 26, 1972 article titled “Provincial Western Development Museum Board To Meet Here - Better Relations Sought” in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

The provincial board of the Western Development Museum will meet in North Battleford on October 14. ... the idea behind the rotation is to provide the board with a better communications link with the local committees of the three museums ... one of the big problems facing the board has been misunderstanding at the local level



On September 13, 1972 the new Western Development Museum - Yorkton opened officially.

WDM Library



On October 6, 1972 the first wedding in St. Peter's Church on *Boomtown Street* was held.

WDM Library 1972 - 73 WDM Scrapbook

Local Committees For Each Museum

The provincial board of the Western Development Museum, meeting Saturday in Saskatoon, adopted a recommendation requiring the establishment of a local committee in each of the three cities in which museums are located.

The recommendation came from a study committee formed after a recent board meeting in North Battleford and comprised of Saskatoon lawyer David Wooff, Ian Rogers, deputy minister of government services and David Conroy, local solicitor. It recommended that the committee be empowered to raise funds, organize local activities and recommend long-range plans for development.

It was pointed out that while a local committee is in existence in North Battleford, Saskatoon does not have a locally organized committee, the existing body being formed from members of the provincial board resident in Saskatoon.

The appointment of the com-

mittees will be subject to the board's approval, but representation of up to 11 persons is to be made on the recommendation of interested community organizations.

Local museum committees proposed by WDM North Battleford supporters in March 1972 became a reality by November that year.

WDM Library - 1972 - 73 WDM Scrapbook

1972 October 6 - The first wedding service in the church on *Boomtown Street* was held. Peggy Greenwood and Larry Maxemuik were married by Bishop D.A. Ford.

1972 November 21 - The WDM Board adopted a recommendation that Local Committees be established in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton. The board acted on a recommendation from a study committee formed after the October, 1972 board meeting in North Battleford. The study committee included: David Wooff, a Saskatoon lawyer; Ian Rogers, deputy minister of government services; David Conway, a North Battleford lawyer. The study committee recommended that museum Local Committees be empowered to raise funds, organize local activities and long-range plan locally. Committee appointments would be approved by the WDM board based on up to 11 names put forward by local interested community organizations.

November 30, 1972 article titled "Council cautious on leasing of museum, Pion-Era land" probably in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1969 - 71 WDM Scrapbook)

City council took only the most tentative action Monday in dealing with cross-requests for the use of land formerly used by both the Western Development Museum and Pion-Era. Council has to reconcile three requests for the use of portions of land south of 11th St to Holiday Park with its own plans to use the land for a fastball complex.

... Following reports of a continuing rift between Pion-Era shareholders and Saskachimo Exposition, council was approached in October by members of the Pion-Era group, asking that the land which was formerly leased to them be made available again for both a 1972 show and a long-term lease.

The Western Development Museum also put in a bid, to continue using parts of the land for machinery storage.

... Partly because of a legal suit launched

by Pion-Era Incorporated, in an attempt to establish an interest in the former property, council was reluctant to take action.

Bert Wellman, director of planning and development, was authorized to meet with museum representatives to draw up some terms of reference for the use of some land by the museum, to be reviewed later by council.

Granting the Pion-Era shareholders request would have the effect of again establishing a separation between Pion-Era and Saskachimo, a result the city's administration indicated was not desirable in a report on the subject. The report came out strongly in favour of the one-show concept, and recommended that both Pion-Era petitions be denied.



Above - Landscaping around the new WDM Saskatoon had not been completed on July 31, 1972.

WDM Library - Potter Collection

Below - Not everything fit into the new museum building on Lorne Ave in Saskatoon. Engines rimmed the back road on July 31, 1972 when Roy Potter took this photo.





Above - The new WDM Saskatoon opened in July, 1972.

WDM Library

Below - The new WDM Yorkton opened in September, 1972.

1972 *“The highlight of the year 1972 - 1973 was the opening of the two new Western Development Museums at Saskatoon and Yorkton.”*

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1973



1972 *“Much of the year 1972 - 1973 has been spent arranging the finances for a new Western Development Museum at Moose Jaw. Plans are now well underway towards this new museum with Provincial funding. A strong Moose Jaw Western Development Museum Committee has been set up which is working cooperatively with the Board to create proper planning and finances for this project.”*

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1973

1972 *“It was also noted that the need at North Battleford was for improved restroom and office facilities so that the staff could operate on a year-round basis. A request for \$100,000 as outlined on a B-budget has been placed before the Treasury Department.*

The Western Development Museum Act has not been revised for many years, a special Board Committee was set up to make recommendations to upgrade the Act and especially to recognize the part that the Western Development Museum Branch system will play in the future.”

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1973

1973 Attendance 157,327 **April 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974**

1973 March 9 - The Western Development Museum was named an Associate Museum under the National Museum Policy. Associate Museums were defined as *“non-profit permanent establishments exempt from federal income taxes, open to the public and administered in the public interest, exhibiting to the public for its instruction and enjoyment, objects and specimens of educational value, including artistic, scientific, historical and technological material. They maintain and display collections of interest to the people of Canada, show a positive concern for*



Core staff in Saskatoon modelled possible display designs for a new Western Development Museum - Moose Jaw, c. 1973.

WDM Library



Visitors enjoy a ride in a 1911 Rambler, WDM North Battleford Heritage Village, 1972.

WDM Library



The WDM Board of Directors approved a heated addition to the WDM North Battleford in 1973. Funding of \$100,000 was promised from the provincial government.

WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook

extension activities by sending out and receiving collections and exhibits, they demonstrate ability to radiate beyond their immediate surroundings and locality, have the competence to use expanded funds and meet the national criteria."

1973 The Saskatchewan government granted \$100,000 for improvements to the WDM North Battleford. North Battleford's Cheetham-Rattan Architects was awarded the design of a heated addition to the existing hangar building. The construction contract was given to K&L Construction Ltd. of North Battleford. The addition, which opened the following year, added 743 square metres (8,000 square feet) to the Museum.

1973 The roof of the Ukrainian house in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Village* was re-thatched by Hafford farmer Marco Torchuk. The winter rye was grown by Allen and Sylvia Pidwerbeski. Harry Timko and Mike Iwanchuk assisted Mr. Torchuk.



1973 The concept of a Core Staff to serve museological functions in WDM branches was created. The provincial government was asked to provide a provincial headquarters for this core staff.

The WDM Board worked to reconfigure the administration of the WDM branch network. The Board summarized in the Annual Report 1974: *"Because it is economically impossible to provide every Western Development Museum with a professionally trained staff at this time, it has been decided to create a fully qualified staff to administer the four museums. ... It is now planned that four administrative departments will be responsible for research, display, restoration and extension. ... Of necessity, a re-definition of the local committee responsibilities must be undertaken to avoid needless fragmentation of administrative authority. ... The core administrative staff is important for another reason. The Saskatchewan themes program would be impossible without the professional*

WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook

direction such an administrative body can provide.”

July 31, 1973 article titled “Facelift for WDM” in the North Battleford News-Optimist (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

Hon. Eiling Kramer, Minister of Highways, announced this morning that major renovations and additions are to be made at North Battleford branch of the Western Development Museum this fall. The project will take advantage of the winter works program and will include upgrading of display areas, toilet facilities and other items. Details and costs will be released at a WDM directors’ meeting to be held in North Battleford Saturday, August 11.

1973 July 27 - Ed Tchorzewski, Minister of Culture and Youth for Saskatchewan announced government approval of a grant to build a museum of transportation in Moose Jaw, up to a maximum of \$1,000,000. Moose Jaw’s Mayor Herb Taylor commented “...we are indeed grateful to the Government of Saskatchewan and to people like Labour Minister Gordon Snyder; Bob Gaundry of the Economic Development Commission; Bob Reynolds, chairman of the local Western Development committee; and to the board of directors for the amount of work and enthusiasm they have put into the project.”

July 27, 1973 article titled “Separate museum display aim of new organization” probably in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

Dissatisfaction with the Western Development Museum’s operation has resulted in the formation of a new society whose membership wishes to establish a separate display depicting the province’s past in a suitable city building.

It has been named the Prairie Restoration Society and it is comprised of about 30 people in the Saskatoon and Regina areas.

Joe Phelps, the project coordinator, said a



Improvements and additions were underway across the WDM network in the summer of 1973.

WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook



Architect’s sketch of the new Western Development Museum proposed for Moose Jaw in 1973.

WDM Library



Joe Phelps, founder and former Director of the WDM, pushed relentlessly in the 1970s to remain true to the roots of the Western Development Museum which he conceived in the 1940s. In 1973 he, and other like-minded people, formed the Prairie Restoration Society to preserve the role of Pion-Era in an attempt to save the story of early prairie farm history.

Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame sketch.

lot of members of the society question the way the Western Development Museum is run.

... Mr. Phelps said the 163 original shareholders in the old Pion-Era museum on 11th Street still feel hurt because they were "devoured" by the Western Development Museum and Saskatoon Exhibition boards.

July 28, 1973 article titled "Gov't grants a million for transport museum" probably in the Regina Leader-Post (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

Moose Jaw - Friday, July 27, could be considered a red letter day for Moose Jaw with the announcement by Ed Tchorzewski, minister of the department of culture and youth, that the Government of Saskatchewan had approved a grant for the construction of a transport museum at Moose Jaw.

... A committee, headed by Mr. Bob Reynolds, to look into the possibility of bringing a Western Development Museum to Moose Jaw was set up in the city in February.

1973 The Boomtown Volunteers Association formed at the WDM Saskatoon as part of the New Horizons Program of the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare.



August 14, 1973 article titled "WDM gets government assistance" in the North Battleford News-Optimist (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

Bill Poock, chairman of the North Battleford Western Development Museum committee said the \$100,000 grant will enable part of the museum to remain open all year-round. He said a new addition, about 50 by 150 ft, would be built on the west side of the museum. The new structure will house bathroom facilities, office space, permanent winter display area, lunch counter and an area to accommodate mobile exhibits.

After lobbying from supporters like Ray Crone in Regina, and with the support of WDM Executive Director Gordon Wilson, 1973 saw the announcement of a fourth WDM branch museum for Moose Jaw, SK.

WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook

... Poock announced that Murray Cheetham has been appointed architect for the new addition to the museum adding, "We hope to have the structure completed this fall and in readiness for opening in the spring of 1974."

August 15, 1973 article titled "Fall date set for work on museum improvements" in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

North Battleford - Work is expected to start this fall on a \$100,000 project to put the Western Development Museum here into year-round operation. A heated addition to the ex-RCAF hangar will permit 12-month activity at the museum, says manager Muriel Sack, as well as providing permanent administration offices, committee rooms and a lunch counter. Museum officials will seek federal funds to supplement the \$100,000 grant from the provincial culture and youth department, Mrs. Sack said, and winter works grants will also be sought.

As well as opening pioneer exhibits to the public throughout the year, the expanded facilities will permit permanent museum staff to work on restoration and cataloguing of the thousands of agricultural, industrial and domestic implements in stock.

1973 August - The dispute between Pion-Era Incorporated and Saskachimo Exposition Limited over assets continued to go unresolved. After Pion-Era liquidated in 1970, its assets had been turned over to Saskachimo by the city. Although Pion-Era liquidated, it had remained on the records as a registered provincial company, only to reorganize and demand the return of cash, equipment and other items. The Pion-Era revival was led by Joe Phelps who threatened legal action if the chattels were not returned.

Sometime during the year, former museum manager George LeBeau claimed creative rights to the name "Pion-Era" and patented the name.



The Second World War hangar at the WDM North Battleford was scheduled for a heated addition in 1973.

WDM Library



In August 1973 it was announced that the WDM North Battleford was set to receive renovations that would turn the Museum into a year-round attraction.

WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook



Issues between Pion-Era supporters and the WDM continued throughout 1973.

WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook



August 21, 1973 article titled “Need Policy - WDM misses exhibits” in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum in Saskatchewan has “missed out on many chances to obtain exhibits and will continue to miss out on additional exhibits,” according to the Executive Director of the WDM, Gordon Wilson of Saskatoon. Wilson said the provincial museum would miss out on chances to purchase different exhibits “until senior governments, provincial and federal, come up with purchasing policies which will enable the Western Development Museum and other similar museums to compete with American and out-of-province buyers.”



- 1973 A new numbering system was adopted for artifact acquisitions. Every artifact acquired prior to 1973 was assigned a 1973 number, with all subsequent acquisitions assigned numbers according to the year of donation. Accession numbers were recorded as WDM-1973-[NB-S-Y-MJ]-1,2,3.... . Because 1973 took in all artifact acquisitions from 1947 onward, the final acquisition number assigned in the 1973 series was WDM-1973-S-23783.

A new accession numbering system was adopted for artifacts in the WDM collection in 1973.



- 1973 October - A buffalo rubbing stone from the former Montgomery farm five miles north of Saskatoon on Warman Road was moved to the entrance-way of WDM Saskatoon.

- 1973 November - Pion-Era Incorporated shareholders led by Joe Phelps continued to harangue the City of Saskatoon for the return of chattels turned over to the city in 1970, claiming that the city improperly turned over the chattels to Saskachimo in 1971. On November 15 Saskatoon Council agreed to transfer the chattels back to Pion-Era, providing the city would not be held responsible for any costs. Pion-Era’s claim amounted to about \$21,000 which had included office equipment, show machinery and cash. In addition, the

A large stone was moved from north of Saskatoon to the new WDM entrance on Lorne Ave, 1973.

ownership of two buildings on city-owned land south of Dudley St in Holiday Park, was also under dispute between the Western Development Museum and Pion-Era. The city wanted the two buildings torn down by the end of 1973.

1973 November - Rick Dixon and Leslee Newman Buckle were building mannequins for displays in *Boomtown Street* in the WDM Saskatoon. Through the Saskatchewan Museums Association, the two WDM staff also offered mannequin workshops to small museums around the province.



useum technicians Rick Dixon and Leslee Buckle assemble small girl mannequin for the classroom at Boom Town street.

1973 *“A one and one-half million dollar structure at Moose Jaw is in the process of construction.*

At North Battleford, a museum addition costing in the neighbourhood of one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars has been completed and is already in operation.

At Yorkton the museum has increased the number and quality of its ethnic displays. Moreover, the road sign and the attractive museum grounds suitably furnished for tourist visitors has done much to make the Yorkton museum more attractive.

At Saskatoon, the most notable change effected by the museum was the large paved parking area in front of the main building providing easy access in all kinds of weather.

It is expected that within one year the four Western Development Museums will operate on a year-round basis.”

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1974

1973 *“The J.L. Phelps legal case should be reported on. Our Board, in an effort to act as responsible museum directors, felt it was necessary to examine Mr. Phelps’ claim of ownership to many of the machines held by the museum. This examination, in terms of staff time required to search for records and the legal*

Core staff located in WDM Saskatoon embarked on a mannequin-building project to populate Museum exhibits in three branches.

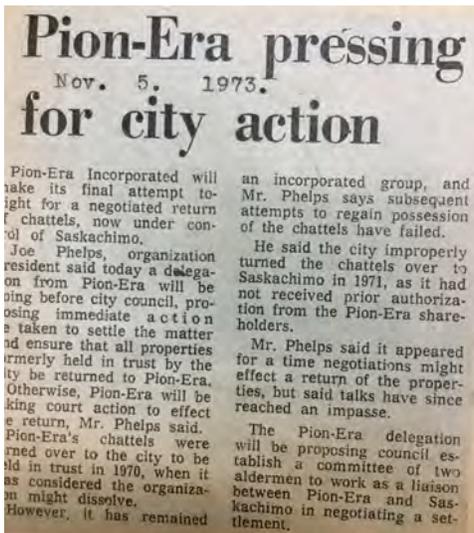
WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook



Manager of the WDM Yorkton, Jack Zepp, secured a highway sign for the Museum’s new location on Highway 16, c.1973.

WDM Library





Pion-Era claims and controversy followed the WDM throughout 1973.

WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook



New exhibits highlighting immigration were created in the WDM Yorkton, c. 1973.

WDM Library

assistance required to make a proper legal defense, will be exceedingly costly to the Saskatchewan taxpayer. A counter-suit was filed by the museum for nineteen valuable machines in Mr. Phelps' possession and which are claimed by our Board as museum property. If at all possible, this case will come before the court in late 1974 and hopefully, it will settle the disputed claims."

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1974

1974 Attendance 175,904 April 1, 1974 to March 31, 1975

- 1974 February 1 - 3 - The Saskatchewan Museums Association held a seminar at the WDM Saskatoon where the Hon. Ed Tchorzewski, Saskatchewan Minister of Culture and Youth, spoke to the 130 delegates. Peter Homulos of the National Museums of Canada also addressed attendees on the National Inventory Programme (NIP), a national inventory computer system for museums.
- 1974 A core Collections department was established. Through the National Inventory Programme (NIP), the WDM took the first steps towards computerized artifact collections management.
- 1974 March - Construction of the \$150,000 addition to the west side of the North Battleford hangar building got underway this month. The contract was awarded to K and L Construction of North Battleford. The new heated addition added 743 square metres (7,952 square feet) to the museum, including much-needed modern washroom facilities. A Manager's office, committee room, staff lunch room, storage room and workshop areas were to be included, along with 2,400 square feet of display space that would be open to the

public year-round. Bill Poock, chair of the local committee thanked the Hon. Eiling Kramer, Battlefords MLA, for his help in realizing the expansion.

1974 April - A building contract was awarded for the WDM Moose Jaw. Previously, Moose Jaw City Council approved a motion for the city to engage D.H. Stock and Partners Ltd. to draw up plans and sketches for the proposed museum at a maximum cost of \$2,000. The Museum would be located near the Trans-Canada Highway on Main St N, adjacent to the new Exhibition grounds.

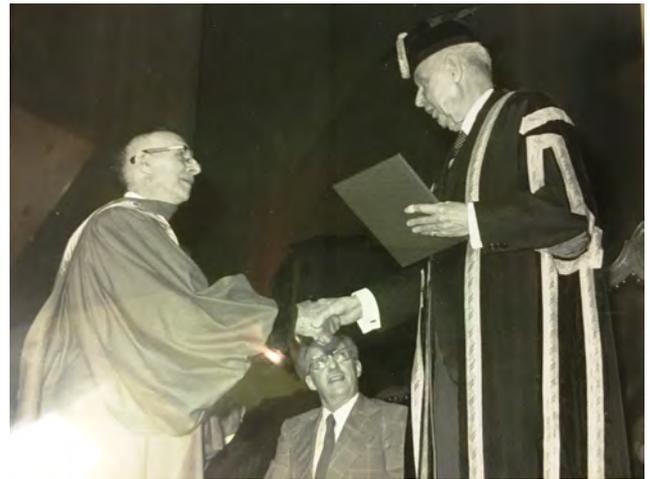
1974 George Shepherd, WDM Curator since 1953, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan at Spring convocation.

1974 May 9 - A 1911 Case steam traction engine pulled a four-bottom plow to break ground for the new Western Development Museum - Moose Jaw. Officiating at the ceremony were the Hon. Ed Tchorzewski, Minister of Culture and Youth, Gordon Synder, Minister of Labour, Moose Jaw Mayor Herb Taylor, Dr. Don MacDonald, Liberal MLA for Moose Jaw North, George Dyck, chair of the Western Development Museum Board, and A.F. Feltham, chairman of the local museum committee.

May 11, 1974 article titled "Work on museum begins" in the *Regina Leader-Post* (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

Moose Jaw - During the sod-turning at the Moose Jaw Western Development Museum Thursday, Saskatchewan's Culture and Youth Minister Tchorzewski announced a fifth development museum is not far off. Mr. Tchorzewski said the location of the proposed museum is not yet known, but will be determined in the near future. "It will feature native history and cultural evolution in Saskatchewan," he said.

... The minister handed over a cheque of \$1 million ... the city of Moose Jaw is



George Shepherd received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

WDM Library



In May, 1974 the Honourable Ed Tchorzewski, Minister of Culture and Youth for the Province of Saskatchewan, presented George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, with a cheque for \$1 million for the construction of a new WDM in Moose Jaw.

WDM Library



On May 9, 1974 the sod was turned for a fourth WDM, in Moose Jaw, SK, anticipated to be a museum telling the story of transportation in Saskatchewan.
WDM Library

contributing \$125,000 to the project and the museum board is also anticipating a contribution by the federal government.

1974 Spring - The parking lot in front of the WDM Saskatoon was paved.

1974 Summer - Work progressed on the new WDM in Moose Jaw.





Work on the Moose Jaw WDM proceeded throughout the summer and fall of 1974, with the pace dictated by funding.

WDM Library

July 19, 1974 article titled “Pion-Era sold old equipment to museum: Dyck” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

Former Pion-Era directors have absolutely no legal claim on old tractors and farm equipment owned by the Western Development Museum, director Gordon Wilson says. The former show arm of the museum sold all its equipment to the Western Development Museum board in 1958, for payment of more than \$8,400 operating deficits the group had accumulated, according to chairman George Dyck. And Pion-Era spokesman Joe Phelps was one of the people who signed the 1958 agreement, the museum officials said in an interview. “All the chattels that belong to Pion-Era are being returned to them by the city,” Ald. Dyck said, “and all the rest belongs to the Western Development Museum.”



WDM Library - WDM 1972 - 74 Scrapbook



This Star automobile, purchased by the Museum in 1957 from W. Sluchinski, was one of the artifacts for which Joe Phelps disputed WDM ownership.

WDM Artifact Collections—WDM-1973-S-197

August 6, 1974 article titled “Pion-Era continues quest for chattels” presumably in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1972 - 74 WDM Scrapbook)

Pion-Era Inc. will again ask the Western Development Museum (WDM) to hand over about \$85,000 worth of chattels once used in the now defunct Pion-Era show. ... The controversy surrounds an agreement between the WDM and Pion-Era signed in 1958. The agreement said the provincial government, through the WDM, would pay off an \$8,000 Pion-Era deficit if Pion-Era chattels were turned over to the museum. The agreement said Pion-Era would only be responsible for presenting a show with WDM equipment and Pion-Era would not have any assets of its own. ... The chattels Pion-Era is claiming include several buildings behind the old museum on 11th Street West as well as several tractors, trucks and other display items.

1974 August - Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation donated \$75,000 to the Western Development Museum for a three-year research program to identify the role of faith and religion in the settlement of Saskatchewan, and to produce an exhibit on that subject.

1974 In September, the WDM provided the Saskatchewan Roughriders with a “Big Green Machine,” a J.I. Case 15-45 steam traction engine from the WDM collection that appeared on promotional materials that season.

1974 *“The highlight of 1974 - 75 was the construction of the new museum in Moose Jaw. It concentrates on displays of our Saskatchewan heritage, featuring transportation. The building contract was awarded in April, 1974. Due to rapid cost inflation, the building program could not be completed with the grants available. To date, the building shell and electrical and heating systems have been completed. The office and the exhibition halls must await future funding.”*



“The Western Development Museum was invited to participate with the National Museum in a Museum-mobile program. The three prairie provinces helped to design and create the Canada West section of the whole project. Once completed, the museum-mobile units will travel all of Canada displaying the different geographical features, the cultural development, and the resource development of each significant region of Canada. The funding of this project was assumed entirely by the National Museum.”

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1975



A “black box” museum, modelled after the new WDM building in Saskatoon, got underway in 1974 in Moose Jaw.

WDM Library

1974 *“The Board has cooperated with the North Battleford Chamber of Commerce in order to free museum property for the construction of the Chamber’s new headquarters.”*

“An out-of-court settlement of a long-standing court case has been made to the satisfaction of the Board. The settlement will free the staff and the Board to concentrate their efforts on museum affairs in the future.”

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1975

**1975 Attendance 228,498
April 1, 1975 to March 31, 1976**

1975 January 15 - The first of three \$25,000 cheques from the Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation was awarded to the WDM to study the effect of religion on the lives of prairie people. Dr. Ted Regehr, U of S Professor of History prepared the initial position paper.

1975 January - Eugene Frey, caretaker at the museum in North Battleford and June Koopman, museum guide there, were reported in the *News-Optimist* to “have



Artifacts from North Battleford and Saskatoon WDMs were moved to Moose Jaw in preparation of the opening in 1976.

WDM Library



Tony Burlack, first instructor of the first WDM training course, An Introduction to Wheelwrighting. The course went on to train students from across Canada and the United States. WDM Library



Left to right at the wheel - Tony Burlack, WDM Wheelwright, Don Pingert, Museum of Natural History in Regina, Rick Dixon, WDM Exhibits core staff, 1975.

WDM Education - Extension

worked some 700 hours ... to rejuvenate ten antique pieces of furniture."

- 1975 January 27 to February 7 - The first WDM Introduction to Wheelwrighting class was held, attracting students from museums across Canada. Organized by Leslee Newman Buckle, WDM Design and Display Coordinator, the instructor was long-time WDM employee Tony Burlack.

February 5, 1975 article titled "Court battle nears on exhibit dispute" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum and former museum chairman Joe Phelps are gearing up for a major courtroom battle over the ownership of about 110 historical exhibits. The claims and counter-claims over the ownership of the exhibits and other matters are slated to be taken before the Court of Queen's Bench on February 13 to settle the long-running dispute.

Mr. Phelps maintains he owns approximately 75 to 90 exhibits now controlled by the museum while the museum maintains Mr. Phelps has about 22 exhibits that belong to the museum. In addition, Mr. Phelps has sued the museum for \$16,285 in wages which he says the museum owed him after he left the post of museum chairman in 1962. The museum has countered with a claim that Mr. Phelps had overdrawn the museum account according to museum lawyer William (Bill) Preston.

Mr. Preston says he intends to call about 100 witnesses and expects the case to last about six weeks. The examination for discovery on the case was completed three years ago although the suit was launched by Mr. Phelps in May of 1966. Mr. Phelps said the dispute dates back to 1953.

- 1975 February 18 - An out-of-court settlement was reached between the WDM and Joe Phelps.

February 18, 1975 article titled “Historical exhibits ownership resolved” in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

Formal agreement was reached today on an out-of-court settlement which gives the Western Development Museum ownership of most of about 110 historical exhibits which had been disputed by former museum director Joe Phelps.

The museum successfully defended its ownership of 97 exhibits now controlled by the museum. In addition, Mr. Phelps was obliged to return 14 exhibits he had taken before 1963. The value of these exhibits is estimated at about \$200,000. Lawyer for the museum, William Preston, said today nine exhibits were sold to Mr. Phelps, and another five were returned to him by the museum. Their value is estimated at about \$1,500.

The museum successfully defended a claim by Mr. Phelps for \$16,285 in wages which he said were owed him after he left the post of museum chairman in 1962. The museum obtained a further \$4,015 from Mr. Phelps for an overdraft from the museum account.

The question of who will pay legal costs incurred in the long-running dispute will be determined in Court of Queen’s Bench February 26 - 27. Mr. Preston said today the museum had spent about \$104,000 in legal fees. About 120 witnesses were interviewed about their recollections of the museum administration, spanning a period of over 14 years.”

1975 February - The Saskatoon Company of Young Puppeteers, directed by Elaine Sommerfeld, established at the WDM Saskatoon.

1975 March 5 - Costs in the Joe Phelps case were settled. Both parties, Mr. Phelps and the Western Development Museum, agreed to pay their own legal expenses.



Ownership of artifacts like this 1923 Star Touring automobile were disputed by Joe Phelps and the WDM. The court ruled that the donor of this car intended the gift to the WDM, not to Mr. Phelps personally.

WDM Artifact Collection WDM-1973-S-197



Joe Phelps, spiritual sparkplug in the 1940s for the formation of a museum in Saskatchewan to preserve the story of settlement, unfortunately withdrew from the Museum under a veil of acrimony 30 years later.

WDM Library - 1958 WDM Scrapbook



Members of the Saskatoon Company of Young Puppeteers fashioned a puppet of long-time WDM Curator, George Shepherd.

WDM Library



A cutting-edge project of the National Museums of Canada, the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) replaced the National Inventory Programme (NIP) in 1975. The ambitious goal of the project was to create a computerized record of museum artifact holdings across Canada.

WDM Library - WDM Saskatoon 1975.

1975 The organizing committee of the 1976 Olympic Games and the Saskatchewan Arts Board commissioned a work of art as a message from Saskatchewan's pioneer past. *The Grain Bin* was created by Saskatchewan artists Joe Fafard, Victor and Frank Cicansky, Russell Yuristy, David Thauberger, Fred Moulding, Eva Davis, Molly Lenhardt, W.C. McCargar, Lind Olafson and Ann Harbuz. A year later, it was transferred to the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.

1975 The Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), a program of National Museums of Canada, began. The WDM was one of the first participants and two years later had "several thousand items on computer tape in Ottawa." Computer equipment was provided to the WDM by the National Museum programme.

1975 The WDM participated with the National Museum in a museum-mobile program.

1975 May Buckle, a member of WDM Saskatoon's Boomtown Volunteer Association, began organizing and cataloguing the library collection amassed by Dr. George Shepherd.

1975 The first Grade Four Harvest Demonstration was held in May at the WDM Saskatoon in response to requests from Saskatoon Public School teachers.

Undated article titled "Local support required for museum expansion" presumably in the *Yorkton Enterprise* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

Expansion of the Yorkton Western Development Museum is high in priority, but the backing of area residents is needed before it can become reality, an informal meeting to discuss the future of the museum was told Thursday night.

1975 WDM staff unionized.

- 1975 July 8 - Saskatoon City Council, dressed in settler fashion, held its regular meeting at the WDM Saskatoon.
- 1975 July - Pioneer Days in Saskatoon achieved the second-best all-time attendance for a Saskatoon summer exhibition when the gate total reached 166,841.
- 1975 Summer - During a family visit to England, WDM Saskatoon volunteer May Buckle researched the craft of wheat straw weaving. Back in Saskatoon, May and WDM staffer Leslee Newman Buckle, taught themselves to weave wheat straw and resurrected the skill in Saskatchewan through demonstrations and classes.



- 1975 The Tannahill Collection of trade tokens was purchased by the Saskatchewan Department of Culture and Youth from Cec Tannahill and transferred to the WDM Saskatoon for permanent holding.

With Saskatoon Public Schools as partners, the WDM Saskatoon launched its first Grade 4 Harvest school program in 1975.

WDM Library

- 1975 September 20 - The WDM Saskatoon loaned a 20-60 Rumely twin cylinder steam engine to break sod for the Rt. Honourable John G. Diefenbaker Centre on the University of Saskatchewan campus.

- 1975 *“The most obvious accomplishment this year was the progress toward the completion and official opening of the Moose Jaw Transportation Museum, slated for June 26, 1976.”*
“The greatly increased staff required during a year of construction resulted in the unionization of the Western Development Museum staff as a member of the C.U.P.E. organization. Certification was completed, but a new contract has not yet been completed, although negotiations are in progress. One area of discussion is the role of the volunteer in a unionized staff program.”

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1976



The skill of weaving wheat was revived in Saskatchewan, and eventually across the Canadian prairies, thanks to WDM volunteer May Buckle and WDM core staff Leslee Newman Buckle (pictured here), 1975.

WDM Library



Rick Dixon (pictured here) and Les Smith scouted the Batoche Ferry for the new WDM Moose Jaw, 1975.

WDM Library



Construction of the WDM Moose Jaw, 1975.

WDM Library



The wooden figures carved by Victor Humeniuk of Fenwood, SK were reunited at the WDM Yorkton in March, 1976.

WDM Library

1976 Attendance 218,507 April 1, 1976 to March 31, 1977

- 1976 January - The WDM Saskatoon hosted a workshop and seminar for people interested in museum work or actively involved in a museum.
- 1976 March 10 - Two carved mannequins were reunited at the Western Development Museum - Yorkton. Sometime in the 1930s, Victor Humeniuk of Fenwood, SK carved two figures from the wood of a single poplar tree - one he made to represent himself, the other to represent the girl he had left behind in Ukraine. The male mannequin was given to former neighbour Janice Matichuk, now of Melville, and donated to the museum earlier. The female figure was willed to Nick and Olga Wilk of Goodeve. Upon the carver's death on January 1, 1976 at age 97, the female figure, now belonging to the Wilks, was donated to the WDM Yorkton.
- 1976 March 18 - The CP Rail locomotive 2634, displayed in Moose Jaw's Crescent Park since 1966, was moved into the new WDM there.
- 1976 Spring - The Saskatchewan Tourism Association changed its name officially to the Travel Industry Association of Saskatchewan (TISASK). At the same meeting, WDM Executive Director Gordon Wilson, was elected President.
- 1976 June 26 - The WDM Moose Jaw opened, 10,405 square metres (112,000 square feet) of space, at the intersection of Highways 1 and 2. The architect was Dan Stock and Associates. The general contractor was Graham Construction. Saskatchewan Premier Allan Blakeney officiated at the ribbon-cutting. Premier Blakeney said the history of the province in many ways is the history of the development of transportation.

“No other problem, except perhaps the weather, has proved so perplexing to our people,” said Premier Blakeney.

- 1976 A Transportation Hall of Fame was announced to be accommodated in the WDM Moose Jaw.
- 1976 The first Museum Manager was Jerry Kaiser.
- 1976 July 12 - 17 - The Saskatoon Company of Young Puppeteers staged an original production *Land of the Big Blue Sky* during Pioneer Days at Saskachimo. The play was written by Diana Matthews, with six songs a collaborative effort of a team of students and Matthews.
- 1976 Summer - Joe Phelps reactivated the potential revival of Pion-Era. Engaging the law firm of Lane, Gerspacher & Leibel, Phelps called on the City of Saskatoon to honour a 1965 pledge that Pion-Era *“could continue at its present location.”* Phelps asked for use of the 11th St W site to prepare a Pion-Era show for the province’s 75th anniversary in 1980.



In March 1976 the CPR locomotive 2634 moved from Moose Jaw’s Crescent Park to the new WDM there.

WDM Library



On June 26, 1976 the Western Development Museum - Moose Jaw, opened.

WDM Library



The Western Development Museum - Moose Jaw opened at 50 Diefenbaker Drive in June, 1976.

WDM Library

July 20, 1976 article titled “Pion-Era issue sparks brief shouting match” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

The resurrection of the Pion-Era dispute before city council Monday raised the hackles of several aldermen and led to a mild shouting match between Mayor Bert Sears and Pion-Era president Joe Phelps.

Phelps appeared before council to ask the city for support in restaging the Pion-Era show in time for the 75-year anniversary of the province in 1980. He wanted the city to aid the group in finding a site for the pioneer show and generally helping the show to be re-established.

Pion-Era has been an issue at council meetings off and on for the last five years. ... And when Phelps raised the Pion-Era issue Monday, several council members indicated they were growing tired of the matter.

1976 In North Battleford, plans for a living pioneer farm progressed.

1976 At the WDM Yorkton, the Yorkton Threshermen’s Club joined forces with the East Central Seniors Inc. to produce the summer show, renamed Threshermen’s Show & Seniors’ Festival. The Threshermen’s Show had run at the WDM Yorkton since 1955. Attendance during the two days topped 7,000. Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor George Porteous, a native son of Springside, attended the show.

August 3, 1976 article titled “Pion-Era shareholders seek repossession of equipment” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

Pion-Era shareholders, at a special meeting Saturday, passed a motion assigning a committee of five to negotiate with the city, the Western Development Museum board, and the province, for the repossession of certain equipment and the original Pion-Era site at 11th Street and Avenue P.



Jack Zepp, Manager of the WDM Yorkton, 1976.
WDM Library & Archives



North Battleford development of a living farm to accompany the Heritage Village continued throughout the 1970s.

WDM Library



Volunteers at WDMs in North Battleford, Saskatoon (pictured here) and Yorkton continued to provide essential programming support for the WDM.

WDM Library



Rick Dixon, WDM Exhibits staff, worked on new ways to create barriers between visitors and artifacts on exhibit.

WDM Library

1976 October 22 - a year after the formation of a union at the WDM, an application for the decertification of Local 1943 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees was heard before the Saskatchewan Labour Board. Three weeks later, in a secret ballot vote by museum staff, the union was rejected. Decertification was official on December 22, 1976.

November 3, 1976 - A letter from Joe Phelps in the Talk of the Town column in *The Commentator* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

"To review history, we might remind all younger persons (and possibly some seniors as well) that the Western Development Museum was started by Billie Wells, Evan Hardy and myself in the late thirties and early forties."

1976 December - The WDM Saskatoon was contracted by National Museums of Canada to refurbish *Canada North* museum-mobile units. Refurbishing the exhibits within the three trailers was to be completed by January of the following year.

1976 *"Perhaps the highlight of the year was the official opening of the Moose Jaw Transportation Museum. ... The months prior to the opening saw a fine cooperative effort by volunteers and museum regulars directed to a readiness for the final ribbon cutting by Premier Blakeney."*

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1977

1976 *"The Yorkton Western Development Museum operated during the year at a sort of "hold" position. The theme "Ethnic Variety" has been studied on several occasions with the same conclusion - The Yorkton museum needs additional display space."*

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1977

1976 *“The North Battleford Western Development Museum continues to improve the outdoor village. ... Plans for a living pioneer farm are progressing.”*

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1977

1976 *“One travelling exhibition about “Religion on the Prairies” is in the last stage, namely building the display.”*

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1977

1976 *“Concerns over the development of professional staff, the provision of adequate storage and workshops, the development of a policy manual, and a museum services headquarters must be dealt with in the near future.”*

George Dyck, WDM Board Chair, WDM Annual Report 1977



A seminar held at the Saskatoon WDM in 1976 showcased the National Inventory Programme (NIP). Remote terminals in computers across the country were connected to a mainframe in Ottawa.

WDM Library

1977 Attendance 214,518 April 1, 1977 to March 31, 1978

1977 January - Rick Thomas, on loan from the provincial Department of Culture and Youth, began conducting an organizational and financial review of the WDM.

1977 On February 9, Dr. George Shepherd attended the Canadian Museums Association meeting of the Committee of Fellows in Ottawa. From Ottawa, he travelled to Toronto, where, on February 14, he taped a television interview for the Bob McLean Show. During February 1977 Dr. Shepherd was awarded a provincial plaque from the Department of Culture and Youth recognizing his contributions to Saskatchewan heritage.



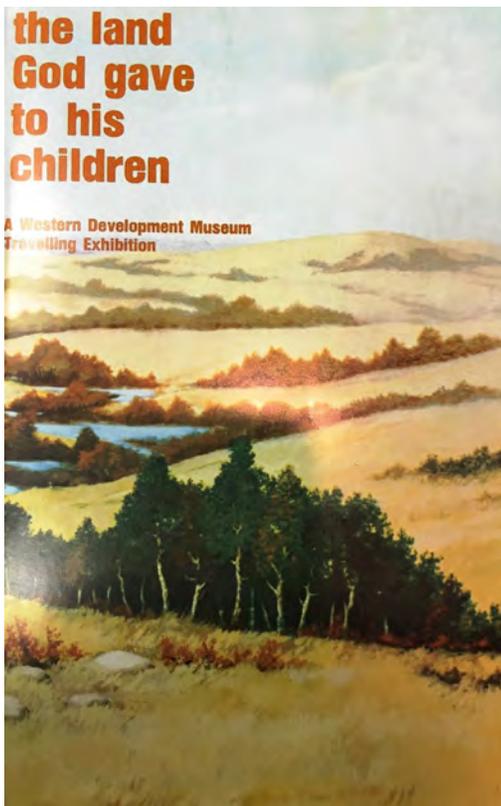
WDM Curator George Shepherd, c. 1965. Dr. Shepherd was honoured by the Canadian Museums Association and the Saskatchewan Department of Culture and Youth for his dedicated Museum career and devotion to history in 1977.

WDM Library



Exhibits staff Rick Dixon created a grasshopper model for *the land God gave to his children* exhibit.

WDM Exhibits



WDM staff in Saskatoon researched, designed and created its first travelling exhibit, *the land God gave to his children*, which illustrated the tension between two world views: live in harmony with the land, or subdue it.

WDM Exhibits

1977 March - The provincial grant to the WDM was raised by 10%, going from \$310,500 in 1976 to \$331,650 for the 1977 - 78 year.

1977 March - The Thomas Report outlined deficiencies of operation that the Board had earlier identified in general terms, including:

- proper accounting procedures not followed;
- roles of provincial and local boards not clearly defined;
- unhealthy relationship between Museum staff and administration;
- management of volunteers who operated with rights but not responsibilities;
- underused school programming;
- facility rentals trumped heritage roles.

March 26, 1977 - Article titled "Saskatoon museum allowed pay and fee increases" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

The Saskatchewan public sector price and compensation board Friday announced approval of increases in wages and fees for the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.

The board approved increases of 16.8 per cent for executives, 11.4 per cent for department heads and 9.5 per cent for permanent and casual employees for the period from last April to the end of this month.

Admission fees to the museum and charges will go up starting April 1.

March 28, 1977 - Article titled "Museum board fires director Gordon Wilson" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

Gordon Wilson was relieved of his duties as executive director of the Western Development Museum (WDM) March 25 by the WDM board of directors. He had

served in the position for 13 years and had five years left before retirement. George Dyck, chairman of the board, said the board had been considering the move for the past eight months.

“We had to examine our priorities closely and we felt the creative duties, that is duties relating to exhibitions and displays, were not being fulfilled. Mr. Wilson has been a good man for the job in many ways, but the museum was not fulfilling its responsibilities to the public in the creative areas,” Dyck said.

March 30, 1977 - Article titled “Museum controller quits over dismissal” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

Robert UnRuh, controller at the Western Development Museum (WDM) in Saskatoon, has resigned to protest the recent dismissal of WDM executive director Gordon Wilson.

March 31, 1977 - Article titled “Wilson told his age factor in dismissal” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1975 - 77 WDM Scrapbook)

Gordon Wilson, former executive director of the Western Development Museum (WDM), has been told his age was a factor in the board of directors’ decision to dismiss him.

“George Dyck, chairman of the board, suggested in the beginning my age was against me and that they (board members) were intending to set up a core headquarters and that it wasn’t fair to the new person coming in that I should develop it and then the new person five years later take over,” Wilson said.

Wilson said the core staff is an idea of Dyck’s which would bring in a number of professional people who would be housed in a separate building. The staff would work for all four museums in the province but would not be involved in the day-to-day operation of each museum.



Controversy erupted in Saskatoon and the Canadian museum community when Executive Director Gordon Wilson was fired by the WDM Board of Directors in March 1977.

WDM Library, WDM Scrapbook 1975 - 1977



WDM Executive Director Gordon Wilson, c. 1975.

WDM Library

Robert UnRuh, WDM
Controller, c.1965.

WDM Library



1977 April - Feelings ran high in the Saskatoon City Council and Saskatoon media regarding the dismissal of Gordon Wilson. A motion was passed in Council to offer Mayor Wright as a conciliator to mediate the dispute between Wilson and the WDM Board of Directors. Sparks flew all the way to Regina as Liberal and PC MLAs accused George Dyck and the WDM Board of being pawns of the provincial NDP government. A letter appearing in the April 16, 1977 *Star-Phoenix* stated "The history of the Western Development Museum (WDM) in Saskatoon has been one of storm and dissension."



The firing of Executive Director Gordon Wilson triggered the resignation of Controller Rober UnRuh days later in March 1977.

WDM Library, WDM Scrapbook 1975 - 77

1977 On April 9, admission rates rose:

Adult	\$1.50
Child	\$0.50
Family	\$4.00
Single seasonal	\$3.00
Family seasonal	\$5.00
Group Tours -	\$1.00 per person

1977 On April 19, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau spoke to a crowd of nearly 500 people on *Boomtown Street* at the WDM Saskatoon.

1977 July - The WDM had completed 9,800 computer entries in the National Inventory Program (NIP).



Despite turmoil in the management and administration of the WDM, progress was made in the Library as volunteer May Buckle worked with Curator George Shepherd to organize and catalogue the growing WDM collection of books, magazines and photographs.

WDM Library, WDM Scrapbook 1975 - 77

1977 August - Complaints were received at the WDM Saskatoon during Exhibition Week. The Exhibition entrance gates were erected at the Museum entrance, so that museum-goers were forced to pay Exhibition admission in addition to Museum admission fees, even when they had no intention of visiting the fair.

1977 August - Gary Carlson joined the staff as controller. Ruth Bitner was named Museum Registrar. A WDM Communications-Education-Extension department was created with one coordinator position.

1977 August - The WDM North Battleford announced a new project in the *Heritage Village* - an *Optometrist Office*. The Saskatchewan Optometrists' Association pledged to fund the construction scheduled to start in October. The *North Battleford News-Optimist* called the project "*the first optometric building to be built in Canada.*"

1977 October 15 - Dr. Terrence Heath was named WDM Executive Director and was charged with dealing with five areas of concern from the WDM Board of Directors: Steps needed to change the WDM into one of Canada's major heritage institutions.

- Measures needed to resolve the problems identified in the Thomas Report.
- Funding and staff needs for a healthy WDM.
- Optimum public image of the WDM.
- Optimum relationships between the WDM and other major cultural institutions.

1977 October - At 87 years of age, declining health forced Dr. George Shepherd to discontinue his fulltime duties at the Museum in Saskatoon.

1977 On December 1, core staff positions were named: Artifact Care Coordinator - Dennis Fingas; Collections Coordinator - Ruth Bitner; Communications Coordinator - Leslee Newman Buckle; Display Coordinator - Rick Dixon; Research Coordinator - Diana Matthews.

1977 December - After the dismissal of Gordon Wilson in March, Les Smith acted as interim manager of the WDM Saskatoon to December. A new Manager of the WDM Saskatoon was announced - Bruce Shepard, with a starting date of January 1, 1978.



Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, visited Saskatoon in April 1977. He spoke to a crowd of 500 people from the Railway Station platform on *Boomtown Street*.

WDM Library



WDM Yorkton summer show poster, 1977.

WDM Library, WDM Scrapbook 1975 - 77

Dr. Terrence Heath was named WDM Executive Director following the removal of Gordon Wilson, 1977.

WDM Library



1977 December - The WDM core staff were again engaged to refurbish the National Museums of Canada *Canada North* museum-mobile.

**1978 Attendance 168,995
April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1979**

1978 January 1 - Bruce Shepard began as WDM Saskatoon Manager.

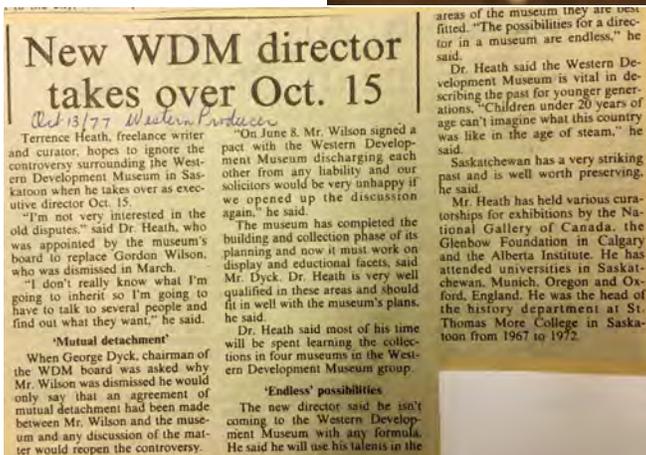
1978 January 16 - Former WDM Executive Director Gordon Wilson was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for work done at the Museum. The medal commemorated the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession and was given to Canadians who performed worthy services in their professions.

1978 February - A total of 14,100 artifact catalogue cards were entered on the National Inventory Program (NIP), with an additional 4,000 cards ready for entry.

1978 February 19 - George Shepherd, first WDM Curator, died in Saskatoon.

1978 Administration of the Museum implemented a No Rental policy for *Boomtown Street* in the WDM Saskatoon.

1978 May 11 - *the land God gave to his children*, an exhibit investigating religion on the prairies, was completed and opened in Saskatoon. A mural of a southern Saskatchewan Cypress Hills landscape was painted for the exhibit by Saskatchewan artist Gus Froese. The exhibit was funded by a grant from the Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation.



Artifact records were entered into the National Inventory Program (NIP) in 1978, like this biscuit barrel accepted into the WDM artifact collection in 1978.

WDM Collections WDM-1978-S-183

1978 Spring - The *Optometrists Office* was opened in the *Heritage Village* in the WDM North Battleford.

1978 July 26 - Official opening of the Shepherd Apartments, a senior citizen high-rise at 535 - 24th St E in Saskatoon, named in tribute to Dr. George Shepherd, WDM Curator from 1953 to 1977.

1978 Summer - The provincial Department of Finance and the WDM prepared a new format for WDM budget reporting. Accounting procedures changed and were partially computerized. Budgeting and accounting procedures were aligned.

1978 WDM Board Chair Don Leier tells the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* "Another Disneyland is not what the WDM is aiming for. But he does want to see the four branches of the museum in Saskatchewan become lively active places."

1978 August - Mayme Sack, Manager of the WDM in North Battleford, announced plans for a living farm to be added to the *Heritage Village* on the museum grounds.

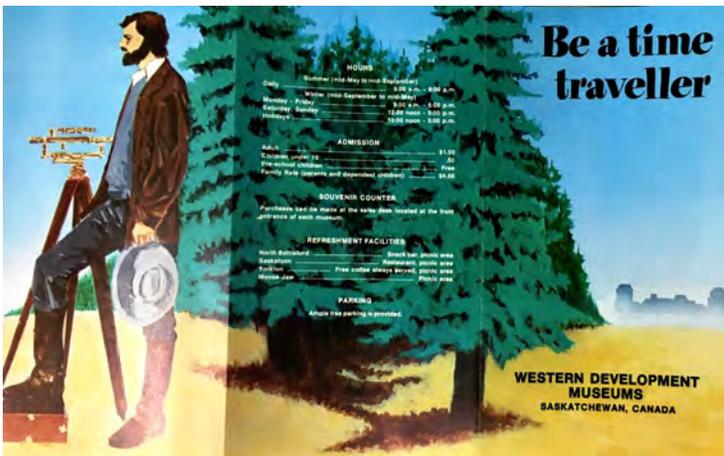
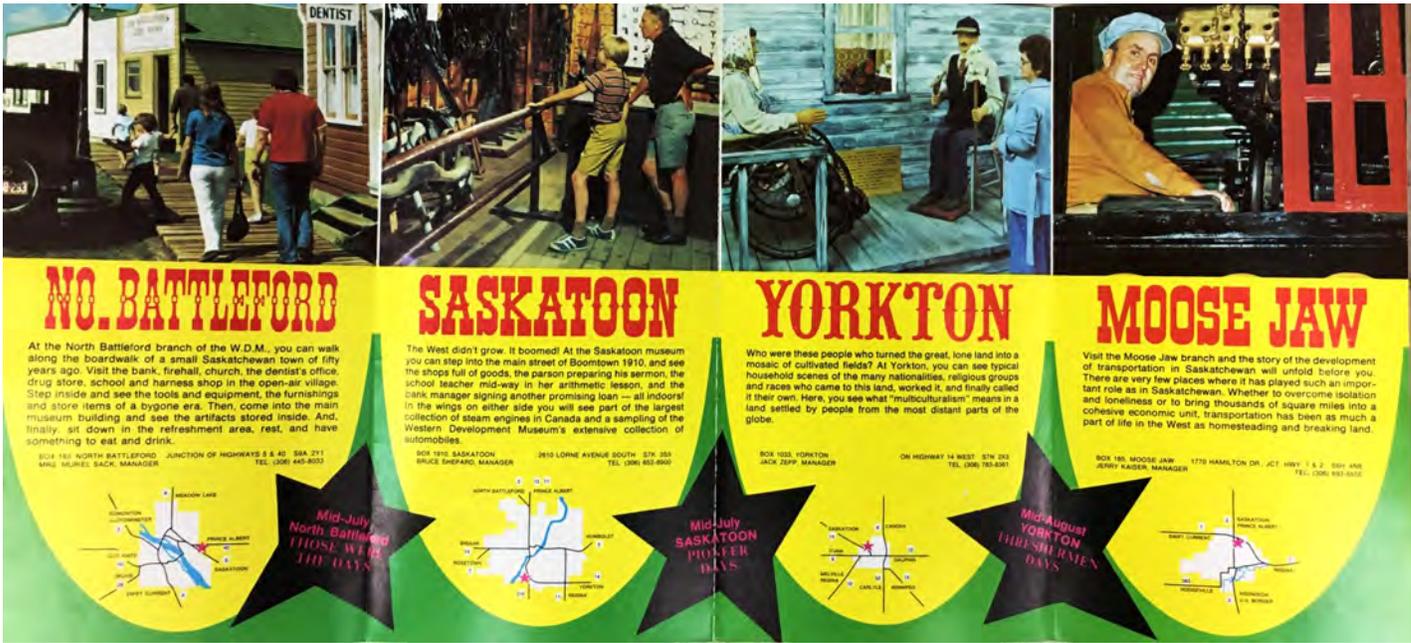


In 1977 Saskatchewan artist Gus Froes painted this mural for the exhibit *the land God gave to his children*. The mural hangs in the staff room of the WDM Corporate Office (formerly the WDM Curatorial Centre).



In the spring of 1978, an *Optometrist Office* opened in the *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford.

R: North Battleford / 1992jul24village



A new WDM brochure was produced in 1978.

WDM Library and Archives



The museum hangar on 11th St W in Saskatoon was in a state of advanced deterioration when maintenance costs, relocation and building costs stretched the WDM finances to the breaking point. Artifacts left in the hangar suffered.

WDM Collections, David Richeson photo, 1986

1978 An all-branch WDM *Time Traveller* brochure was produced.

1978 Contents of the Hawarden drug store were donated to the WDM. Artifacts loaned during the preceding 20 years were recovered. A nomenclature system for material history was adopted.

1978 The 11th St W yard and hangar was reorganized. Some artifacts were covered to prevent water and bird damage. Some preventative work was undertaken at the Yorkton hangar. In North Battleford, the hangar was re-roofed to waterproof the interior.

1978 September 1 - The Short Line locomotive began operations at the WDM Moose Jaw.

1978 In September, all the records of the WDM, dating back to 1947, were sorted, registered and packed into storage boxes. Bill Waiser undertook the work to put the records in order.

1978 September - *Guidelines for Planning* was released, a blueprint for shaping the future of the Western Development Museum

from David H. Scott Consultants Ltd., Guelph, ON. The report made recommendations on the issues facing the WDM, stating that *“the issues are complex and it would be a grave error to oversimplify them.”* The Scott Report identified key problems and issues facing the Western Development Museum and made recommendations for policies, processes and practices to meet the challenges identified.



The Short Line narrow gauge locomotive was moved from the WDM Saskatoon site on 11th St W to the new WDM Moose Jaw, 1978.

WDM Library

October 21, 1978 - Article titled “Study places museum at point of crucial divide” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1977 - 78 WDM Scrapbook)

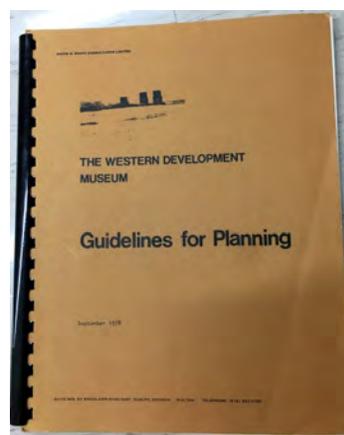
The Western Development Museum (WDM) is at a “crucial divide” and must quickly decide either to cut back its operations or “step into the professional museum world,” a consultant’s report on the operation states.

... Scott’s report states the WDM has the potential to rank among the top historical museums in Canada, and while the institution has made remarkable strides, they pale beside the potential.

... Scott states the museum operates 14 basic program areas from education to collecting artifacts to displays and storage. However, the report states: “The WDM does not presently meet recognized museum standards in any of these 14 basic programmatic areas.”

At a news conference Friday, Scott said many of the shortcomings stem from the lack of a written policy statement. Without such a statement, the museum lacks a clear sense of why it exists, where it is going and how to get there, he said. Formation of a written policy, which would include everything from physical facilities to community volunteer programs, is Scott’s major recommendation.

Staff reorganization into four major streams - including collections, communications and education, administration and branch museums - should be carried out, and a master exhibits plan - including a “future of man” exhibit in Saskatoon - should be



Guidelines for Planning, a report from Scott Consultants in Guelph, ON released in September 1978, was a key document in the evolution of the WDM. The report proposed a reporting system based on 12 key areas: Management, Collections, Registration, Research, Conservation, Exhibits, Communication, Education (in-house and outreach), Relationships, Funding, Public Services, Public Response, Physical Facilities.

WDM Library & Archives



From top to bottom: WDM North Battleford, WDM Saskatoon, WDM Yorkton, WDM Moose Jaw, c. 1978.

WDM Library

formulated, he says.

Scott said the exhibits plan and a master facilities plan together will put flesh on the skeleton outlined by his report and that a price tag for the institution's jump into the professional museum world can then be arrived at. ...

1978 An October WDM Board policy stated:

- The WDM is a provincial museum and must be aware of serving the entire province.
- The WDM must have meaningful local participation in its museums.
- The WDM must be a professional museum which will command national recognition.
- The WDM will be a place for people where people can enjoy themselves.
- The WDM budget must be presented to the government by the Board of Directors.

1978 October 1 - Admission for seniors 65 years and older was reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.00 per senior.

December 7, 1978 - Article titled "Study sees big WDM potential" in *The Western Producer* (WDM Library - 1977 - 78 WDM Scrapbook)

The results of a study funded by the Museums Assistance Programs of the National Museums of Canada and by the Western Development Museum (WDM) in Saskatoon has been released by the WDM. The purpose of the report was to identify the problems facing the WDM and offer possible solutions. Among conclusions reached was that the WDM has the potential to be one of the leading historical museums in Canada.

... A further conclusion reached was that immediate discussions should take place with National Museums of Canada with a view to establishing the North Battleford branch as a national specialized museum in agriculture and the Moose Jaw branch

as a national specialized museum in transportation.

December 22, 1978 - Article titled "Funding said key to museum" in the Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1977 - 78 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum (WDM) "can only pretend to be a professional museum until we have proper funding," says Don Leier of Saskatoon, chairman of the WDM board of directors.

For the past three months the board has been examining a consultant's report which states the WDM does not measure up to the minimum standards expected of an important public museum in the areas of planning, management, research, facilities, conservation and funding.

... "We (the board) have analyzed the report on a philosophical level and developed our own philosophy as to what the museum should be doing. Now we have to see if the government's philosophy coincides with ours."

The board has requested a budget of \$1.2 million from the provincial government for the 1979 - 80 fiscal year and Leier says if the money is not forthcoming, then there is no hope for the sought-after professionalism in the WDM. The proposed budget is a 140-per-cent increase above the current 1978 - 79 budget. Leier says the money would be used in three major areas - artifacts, presentation and scope.

... "Our storage facilities are deplorable and there is no use continuing to ignore this disgrace. The hangars leak, the artifacts are exposed to water damage, mice and constant temperature changes." The collection itself is in excess of 50,000 items and an inventory project began in 1977. Financed by a \$163,000 National Museums grant, the project should be completed by 1981. ...



Don Leier chaired the WDM Board of Directors in 1978 when Guidelines for Planning was released..

WDM Library



The Scott report, Guidelines for Planning, recommended that WDMs in North Battleford and Moose Jaw become national specialized museums in agriculture and transportation respectively, 1978.

WDM Library and Archives



The WDMs in the 1970s were striving to meet professional standards.

Top to bottom: Fieldwork at the WDM North Battleford

The Bedeaux Expedition Citroen eventually left its diorama in Saskatoon for Moose Jaw .

Room groupings told stories of immigration in Yorkton.

The WDM Moose Jaw told transportation stories.

WDM Exhibits Department / WDM Library

1979 Attendance 206,236
April 1, 1979 to March 31, 1980

1979 January 1 - A Promotions Coordinator, Ann Zbetnoff, was hired. Later in the year, the Wheat and Wheel logo was created by a marketing firm.

1979 January - The WDM Yorkton sought an increased land base from the City of Yorkton in preparation for the Saskatchewan 75th anniversary year in 1980.

January 29, 1979 - Article titled "WDM gets grant to improve facilities" in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1979 - 80 WDM Scrapbook)

A supplementary grant of \$150,000 from the provincial government has enabled the Western Development Museum (WDM) to proceed with plans to improve facilities.

... Leier met with museum officials in Yorkton to discuss the future of the WDM and said the meeting resulted in the final statement of intent, which will be presented to Culture and Youth minister Ned Shillington. Leier said Shillington has indicated he will respond to the statement by May 15.

1979 February - A WDM Statement of Intent was adopted.

1979 February - The WDM adopted branch themes and names:

Moose Jaw - The History of Transportation

North Battleford - The Story of Agriculture

Saskatoon - Integrated Story of Western Development

Yorkton - The Story of People



WDM Board Chair Don Leier and WDM Executive Director Terry Heath lobbied tirelessly for an increase to Museum funding in the wake of the Guidelines for Planning report released in 1978.

WDM Library - WDM Scrapbook 1979 - 80



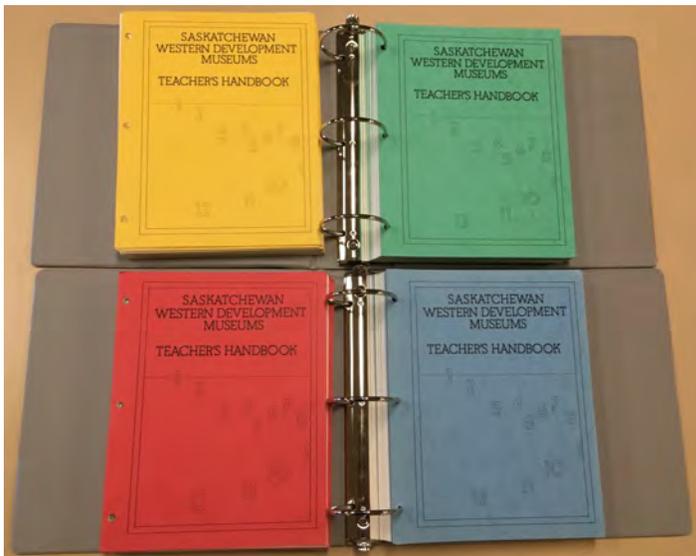
Themes and branch names were adopted for the four WDM sites in 1979.

WDM Library - WDM Scrapbook 1979 - 80



In May 1979 Alex Balych replaced Mayme Sack as Manager of the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library - WDM Scrapbook 1979 - 80



Four themed books of lesson plans were created for teachers and classes visiting WDMs in our four cities. The Handbooks made history as a first in Canada and were acknowledged by the Canadian Museums Association as a significant and forward-thinking achievement.

WDM Education Department

1979 April - A lake in northern Saskatchewan, about 110 km northwest of La Ronge, was named to honour Dr. George Shepherd.

1979 Two positions in education - a core staff Communications Assistant and Saskatoon Education-Extension Officer were established.

1979 May - Muriel (Mayme) Sack stepped down from the position of WDM North Battleford Manager to return to work in Collections. She was replaced by Alex Balych.

1979 A Canadian museum first - *Learning In Museums* handbooks for teachers were developed in partnership with the Saskatchewan Department of Education. WDM Education staff researched and prepared curricula-centred, grade-appropriate lesson plans for school classes visiting the four WDMs.

1979 June - The Archie Clark family left their residence at the Museum hangar building at 1839 11th St W where Archie had served as caretaker and on-site security for 18 years. The family moved six blocks east to 1207 11th St W. Archie continued his duties at the new site at 2610 Lorne Ave S.

June 23, 1979 Article titled "WDM reappointments rejected as protest" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1979 - 80 WDM Scrapbook)

Six members of the Western Development Museum (WDM) board of directors have refused to serve a second term, following an in-camera meeting Friday with Culture Minister Ned Shillington. Board chairman Don Leier said members met with Shillington to discuss an increase in the WDM base budget. ... Shillington advised the board that ... no funds would be forthcoming before September 1.

... Leier said the decision "was extremely difficult because we did not want to betray

the museum.”

... The board's last action in office requested staff and volunteers move all artifacts inside museum buildings, even if the move disrupts display areas. "It is the only way these artifacts (sitting outside) will be preserved," he added. ...

June 28, 1979 - Article titled "WDM promised \$100,000 more" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1979 - 80 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum (WDM) will receive an additional \$100,000 in the 1979 - 80 fiscal year, board chairman Don Leier said Wednesday. ... He said the board is now willing to serve one more year

"We feel the government has given this serious consideration and we can now work closely with the government to resolve the issues of the museum as soon as possible," Leier said.

The board requested a budget of \$1.2 million for the 1979 - 80 fiscal year, but the government's March budget allocated \$493,000. Leier said the additional \$100,000 is "a signal that the board and the government are on the same wavelength." He said the money will be used to fulfil new policies to redevelop the total structure of the museum, particularly in the area of artifacts.

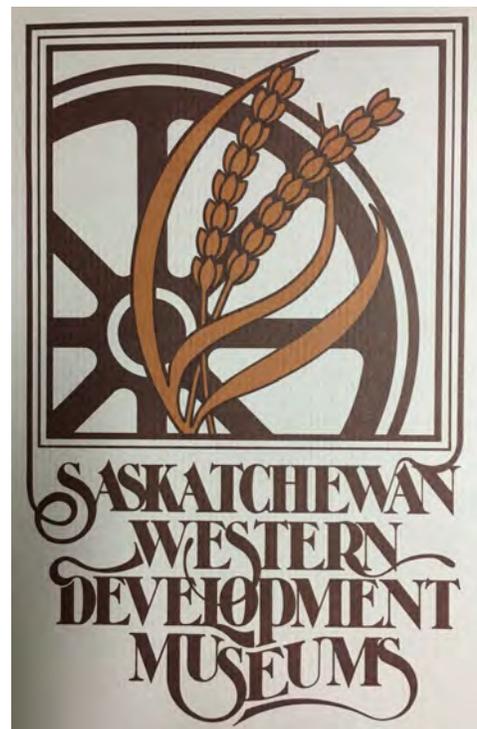
1979 July - Under the direction of Ann Zbetnoff, WDM Public Relations and Promotions Coordinator, a WDM logo combining the image of a wheel with wheat entwined in the spokes was created. The wheel symbolized the circle of time and forward progress. The wheat symbolized the crop that brought homesteaders and settlers to the prairies.

1979 July - Before this, visitors to the WDM during Exhibition Week in Saskatoon were charged the Exhibition entrance fee, and the WDM admission fee (\$2 gate fee and \$1.50 museum fee). Out-of-town visitors in particular had protested loudly to the double fee - when their intent had been to



In an attempt to move the provincial government to support WDMs with greater funding, six Board members refused to stand for re-appointment in June 1979. Outdoor storage conditions were contributing to the loss of artifacts which the Board members protested.

WDM Collections - David Richeson, 1986.



A new WDM logo, was introduced in 1979, The wheel symbolized eternity and progress. The wheat symbolized the transformation of Saskatchewan from grass to grain.

WDM Library and Archives



An aerial shot of the WDM Moose Jaw was taken in 1979.

WDM Library, Ray Crone Collection



Left to right: Governor General Schreyer, Bruce Shepard, May Buckle, 1979. WDM Library



Blowtorch, the mechanical horse designed and built by W.J. McIntyre of Swift Current, was donated to the WDM collection in 1979 as part of the *Made In Saskatchewan* exhibit project. *Made in Saskatchewan* celebrated innovation and ingenuity in Saskatchewan over 75 years.

WDM Collections Department

see the museum, not to visit the Exhibition. For the first time, while the Ex admission was still collected, no fee was collected at the WDM Saskatoon.

July 3, 1979 - Article titled "Museum's focus on city's pioneer farm" in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1979 - 80 WDM Scrapbook)

During 1980, the Saskatchewan Western Development Museums (WDM) will be concentrating their efforts on North Battleford. The local museum is trying to establish a working pioneer farm display and this will be the focus of the four museums in the province. ... The farm will be set in the year 1925 ...

1979 July 24 - His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, Mrs. Schreyer and their four children visited the Western Development Museum - Saskatoon as part of a day-long visit to the city.

1979 September 14 - A Regina film production company (Camera West) filmed scenes at the WDM North Battleford to be used to promote Celebrate Saskatchewan, the province's 75th anniversary celebrations in 1980.

1979 September - Two conservation reports, one from the Canadian Conservation Institute and another from Saskmont Engineering, gave physical facilities needs analysis and projected operating costs to address the serious storage problems facing the WDM.

1979 October - Members of the Threshermen's Club in Yorkton cleared trees and brush from a five acre site north of the Museum to make room for an expanded summer show in 1980.

1979 As part of the preparations for *Made In Saskatchewan* exhibits, Blowtorch - the mechanical horse was donated this year.

Saskatchewan patent searches were undertaken, largely by a volunteer crew of sleuths.

1979 The *Poultry Building* exhibit was researched and produced for the village in North Battleford.



The *Poultry Building* in the *Heritage Village*, WDM North Battleford. WDM Library and Archives

1980 Attendance 226,221
April 1, 1980 to March 31, 1981

Saskatchewan celebrates its 75th anniversary.

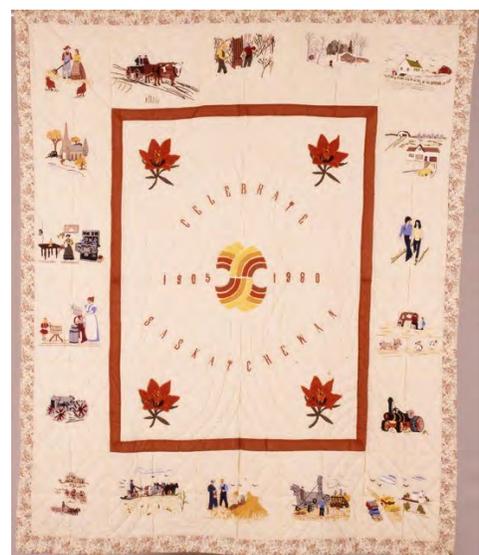
1980 January - Cabinet gave approval to the Museum's Statement of Intent.

1980 *Made In Saskatchewan* (MIS) exhibits were researched, designed and built to commemorate Saskatchewan's 75th anniversary.

- A *Made In Saskatchewan Index* was produced listing all patented Saskatchewan inventions from 1905 to 1980.
- A *Made In Saskatchewan* exhibit catalogue was produced with sections on each of four themes: Transportation in the WDM Moose Jaw exhibit; Agricultural Inventions in the WDM North Battleford exhibit; Energy in Saskatoon; and Home Inventions in Yorkton.
- A Commemorative Quilt Contest was organized. The winning quilt, subsequently donated to the WDM, was designed and stitched by Sarah Wall of Saskatoon.
- Lesson plans on invention and ingenuity in Saskatchewan were developed and distributed to schools for each theme.
- An *Inventors' Field Day* was held in Moose Jaw.



The province of Saskatchewan celebrated 75 years in 1980.
WDM Artifact Collection WDM-1991-S-310



Saskatchewan quilters made quilts in celebration of the provincial landmark.

WDM Artifact Collection

WDM-1980-S-432

Saskie - A mascot was created for the 75th anniversary.

WDM Artifact Collection
WDM-2007-S-786



WDM Executive Director Terry Heath accompanied HRH Princess Margaret down Boomtown Street at the Saskatoon WDM, 1980.

Left to right: Premier Allan Blakeney, HRH Princess Margaret, WDM Board Chair Don Leier, WDM Executive Director Terrence Heath, Caroline Heath, Saskatoon WDM Acting Manager Carole Wakabayashi, George Wakabayashi, 1980.

WDM Library

- A *Student Inventions Contest* was held across Saskatchewan for student inventors and classroom innovators.
- Assistance was given to Sask Media as staff there prepared a production of Saskatchewan inventions.

- 1980 April 1 - Jack Zepp left his position as Manager of the WDM Yorkton, to be succeeded by Tom Waiser in March the following year.
- 1980 May - Dr. Terrence Heath, who had announced his intention to resign as WDM Executive Director in January, stayed on until May so that a replacement could be found.
- 1980 Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret visited Saskatchewan to celebrate the province's 75th anniversary. The WDM Saskatoon was chosen as the site for the province's official dinner for the Princess.
- 1980 September 1 - Sharilyn Ingram became WDM Executive Director. Sometime during Shari's tenure, the system of Earned Days Off (EDOs), a 37.5 hour work week began.
- 1980 September 1 - Bruce Shepard resigned as Manager, WDM Saskatoon, to be succeeded by David Klatt early the following year.
- 1980 *Culturescape* was a Saskatoon proposal of three downtown "anchors" - commercial anchor of Midtown Plaza, financial anchor of 4th Ave and cultural anchor in Kinsmen Park. Discussion of moving the WDM from Lorne Ave to the former King Edward School site on 25th St along with theatre groups and the YWCA, was contemplated and supported by the Meewasin Valley Authority.

1980 September - The position of Promotions and Public Relations Coordinator, created as a two year pilot project, was made permanent by the WDM Board of Directors. The WDM Board approved the creation of a core staff Artifact Care Assistant position in Saskatoon and a Museum Technician for North Battleford.

1980 September 27 - 28 - The WDM Yorkton held its largest threshermen's show in celebration of Saskatchewan's 75th anniversary, attracting 18,000 visitors. Film crews from Sask Media and the CBC filmed much of the two-day event. A Ukrainian pioneer home was opened officially on the WDM site, along with a monument honouring Ukrainian settlement in the area - a joint project of the museum and the Ukrainian Professional and Business Men's Club of Yorkton and district. The house took volunteers two years to construct. Senator Paul Yuzyk travelled from Ottawa to participate in the official opening.



The WDM Yorkton's Threshermen Club members were vital to the success of the September show organized to celebrate the province's 75th anniversary, 1980.

WDM Library, WDM 1980 Scrapbook

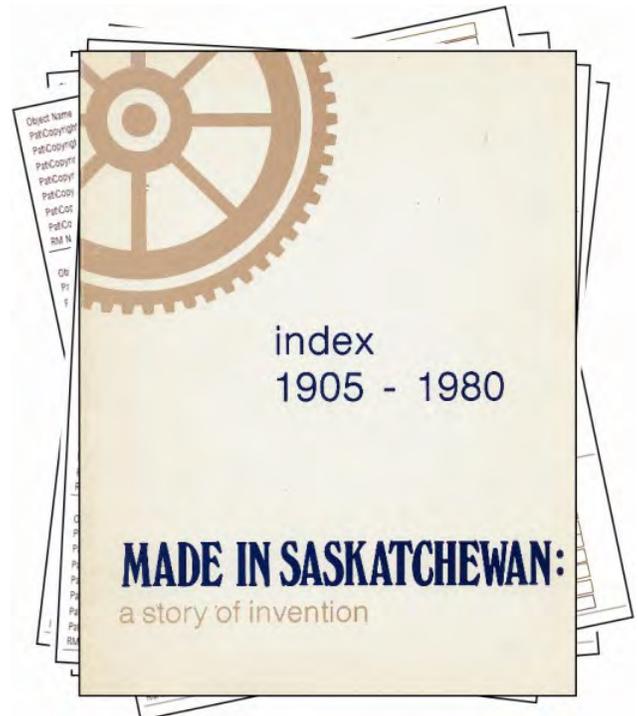
1980 A review of the WDM Yorkton's physical needs was initiated.

1980 An Employees' Handbook was approved by the Board of Directors.

1980 7,000 square feet of concrete was poured in the aviation section of the WDM Moose Jaw. Design work continued on the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) gallery.

1980 The Vintage Aircraft Restorers volunteer group began its association at the Moose Jaw Western Development Museum.

1980 A professional librarian was contracted in Saskatoon to make the museum Library collections accessible, to develop the collection to meet Museum needs, to establish operational procedures and to recommend future policy.



Made In Saskatchewan (MIS) exhibits were researched, designed and built to commemorate Saskatchewan's 75th anniversary. This *Made In Saskatchewan Index* was produced listing all patented Saskatchewan inventions from 1905 to 1980, reflecting hundreds of hours of volunteer work sifting through patent documents.

WDM website



Summer shows at WDMs in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton celebrated Saskatchewan's 75 years as a province. Chicken plucking was a new event introduced at the WDM Saskatoon in 1979.

WDM Library



David Klatt, far left, began as WDM Saskatoon Manager in February, 1981.

Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room CP-8332-4

1980 Small artifacts from 11th St W were moved into the east wing of the WDM Saskatoon. A fumigation unit was purchased.

1980 The WDM artifact storage hangar at the North Battleford airport was condemned, as was the hangar on 11th St W in Saskatoon.

October, 1980- Article titled "Museum funding termed milestone" in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (WDM Library - 1979 - 80 WDM Scrapbook)

The \$750,000 provided for the Western Development Museum (WDM) in the provincial government's budget "marks a milestone in museum history," according to Don Leier, WDM board of directors chairman. Leier responded with enthusiasm Thursday when he learned of the 52 per cent increase, and said the funding illustrates the government is serious about letting the museum carry on with its mandate.

1980 The Christmas 1910 program for Grade 3 students was introduced at the WDM Saskatoon.

**1981 Attendance 178,937
April 1, 1981 to March 31, 1982**

1981 January - An *Employees Handbook of General Guidelines* was adopted as a template for relations between WDM employees and the WDM Board. The WDM Board was also guided by the *Labour Standards Act* and the *Public Service Act*.

1981 February 1 - David Klatt was named WDM Saskatoon Manager

1981 February 1 - Warren Clubb replaced Louise Jones as Research Coordinator while Louise was on maternity leave.

1981 March 1 - Tom Waiser was named WDM Yorkton Manager

1981 March - The WDM Board of Directors responded to the province's *Cultural Policy Secretariat Report* prepared by Dr. Gordon Vichert. The report contained 56 recommendations, three recommendations that would directly affect the WDM:

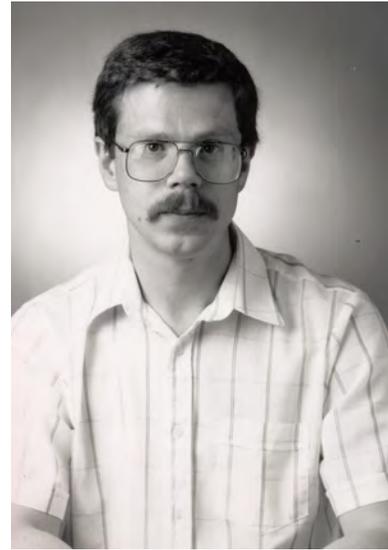
1. All major museums and galleries be available to the public without charge.
2. The headquarters of the WDM be expanded to become a provincial service centre for all Saskatchewan museums.
3. The Museum of Natural History in Regina become a branch of the Western Development Museum.

1981 March 18 - The WDM officially celebrated the establishment of the Dr. George Shepherd Memorial Fund, with a donation from the Shepherd family, to be used to encourage study in Western Canadian history.

1981 March 24 - Education Square opened in the WDM Yorkton.

1981 April 27 - The gift of a Harvard Mark IV aircraft donated to the province by Marjorie Duncan was acknowledged at the WDM Moose Jaw. Earlier in April, a stock car had been donated to the WDM North Battleford by CN.

1981 A Culturescape proposal continued to be investigated in Saskatoon, a concept that would bring together a number of cultural organizations, including the WDM, under one roof in Saskatoon's downtown Kinsmen Park.



Tom Waiser became Yorkton WDM Manager in 1981.
WDM Library



Marjorie Duncan donated a Harvard Mark IV aircraft to the WDM Moose Jaw in the spring of 1981.

WDM Library



An *Optometrist's Office* opened in the *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford, in addition to the official opening of the *Poultry processing plant*, 1981.

WDM Library



An artifact fumigation chamber was installed in the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in 1981.

WDM Library

- 1981 May - The *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford opened an *Optometrists Office*.
- 1981 June 15-16 - The first Museum Days event for school children was held at the WDM North Battleford.
- 1981 June - The WDM North Battleford officially opened a Poultry Plant in the *Heritage Village*.
- 1981 July 10 - His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, Mrs. Schreyer and their four children visited the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw as part of a day-long visit to the city.
- 1981 July 13 - The fumigation chamber arrived at the WDM Saskatoon.
- 1981 July - Museum staff began recruiting for a ground-breaking project in 1982 - a wagon trek from the WDM Moose Jaw to the WDM Saskatoon in tribute to the trek made by Temperance Colonists from the end of the rail in Moose Jaw to their new home at Saskatoon.
- 1981 Credit card service was instituted as a pilot project at the WDM Saskatoon gift shop.
- 1981 September - A clay oven was reintroduced to the threshermen's show at the WDM Yorkton.
- 1981 The WDM board of directors announced that a proposed 3,000 square foot expansion of the WDM Yorkton would get underway in 1982.
- 1981 The *WDM Communications Policy* and *WDM Artifact Care Policy* were approved by the WDM Board of Directors.

1981 October 24 - Marionettes in Museum Historic Script-Writing workshop was held at the WDM Saskatoon.

December 2, 1981 - Article titled "Sask museums in trouble" in the *Yorkton This Week* (WDM Library - 1981 - 82 WDM Scrapbook)

Western Development Museums (WDM) are in trouble, says Sharilyn Ingram, executive director of the Saskatchewan organization. Saskatchewan's heritage is being destroyed by run-down storage conditions and lack of staff, she says.

Dilapidated conditions in storage facilities are in evidence at all four WDM branches throughout the province, Yorkton included. The North Battleford branch was condemned last year, the Saskatoon main branch and the Moose Jaw branch are in poor shape as well, she says. ... Ms. Ingram attributes the overall situation to a lack of provincial funding.

In a report recently published by Ms. Ingram in a museum newsletter, she documents a comparison between the WDM and other western Canadian museums. The WDM operates this year on a \$1.29 million budget. This amount is less than half that offered by the province offering the next lowest amount of museum funding. The Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature is operating \$2.63 million, while the Provincial Museum of Alberta operates with \$4 million, and the British Columbia Provincial Museum is working around an \$8.4 million budget.

... Another fact Ms. Ingram points out is the other provinces are all operated out of one building, whereas the WDM looks after four museum locations.

... The museum's plight doesn't stop with run-down conditions of storage though. The lack of funding also puts a strain on staffing. The Yorkton branch operates with four permanent people, says local museum manager Tom Waiser.

... Ms. Ingram says the Saskatoon situation is worse as they operate with only two people in charge of developing artifact displays for the entire WDM operation. "In British Columbia, the display staff is larger



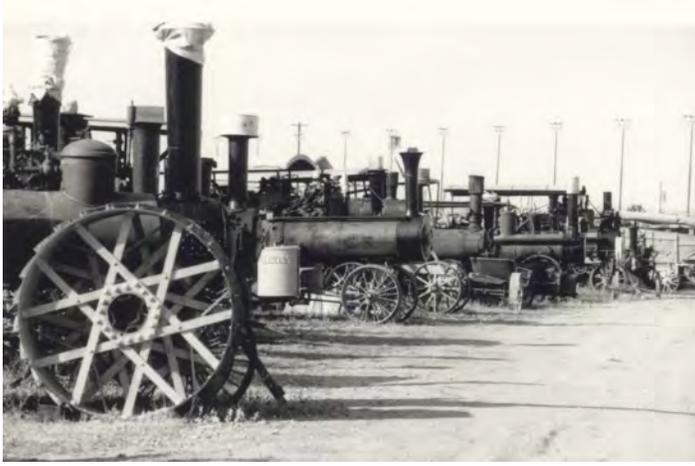
Bread baked in a clay oven was a favourite at the Yorkton Threhermen's Show & Seniors' Festival after a new portable oven was built in 1981.

WDM Library



Marionettes in Museums, a workshop teaching script-writing and marionette construction was a popular addition to programming at the WDM Saskatoon in 1981.

WDM Library, Education-Extension collection



Outdoor storage for engines and farm equipment at the WDM Saskatoon proved less than ideal, c. 1980.

WDM Library



Artifacts at the WDM Yorkton suffered without adequate cover from the summer sun and the winter cold, c. 1980.

WDM Library



Farm machinery braved the elements summer and winter at the North Battleford *Heritage Village*, c. 1980.

WDM Library

than the WDM's entire working staff of 36," she says. ...

December 1981 - Article titled "Space for museum display in Culturescape wanted" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* WDM Library - 1981 - 82 WDM Scrapbook

Western Development Museum (WDM) board chairman Don Leier says he would like to see the Culturescape proposed for Saskatoon's downtown area include a \$11.6 million facility to display museum artifacts.

A 75,000-square-metre facility that could be expanded by a further 4,000 square metres and relocation of Boomtown would be the two principal undertakings, a report prepared by the WDM board says.

The existing Lorne Avenue museum could be converted to offices and workshops and provide much needed storage for artifacts now rotting in facilities that aren't safe, or weathering in outdoor conditions.

The report says the new Saskatoon branch would also include a convention facility, restaurant and gift shop, all accessible from a common central area.

... Leier says the development could be phased in over a period of years and the existing facilities would be retrofitted to provide appropriate environmental controls ... artifacts not on display in the four museums would be stored there.

... As well, major demonstrations would have to be maintained in connection with the Lorne Avenue site, but the report says there seems to be some question whether the Prairieland Exhibition is interested in keeping the museum's summer show as part of the Exhibition.

... If the Culturescape project isn't undertaken, the report recommends constructing a 12,000-square-metre storage addition on Lorne Avenue at a cost of \$11 million. ...

December 11, 1981 - Article titled “Appalling deficiencies in WDM facilities cited” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* WDM Library - 1981 - 82 WDM Scrapbook

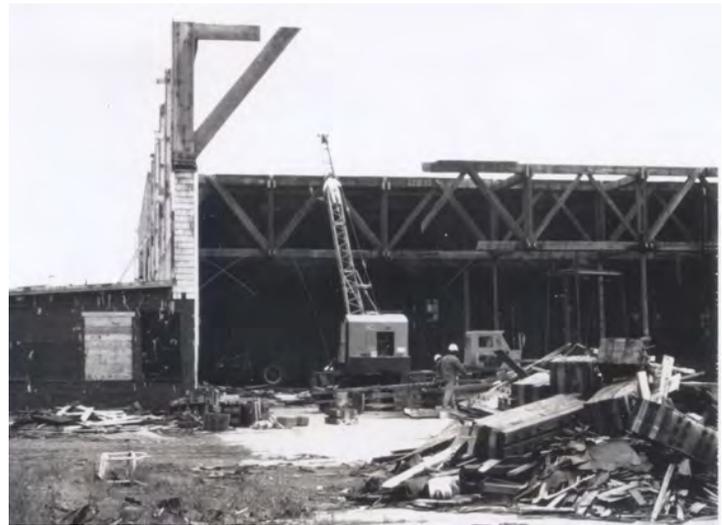
Saskatchewan’s four Western Development Museums (WDM) must spend \$18 million to renovate or replace existing facilities that are inadequate, deplorable and unsafe says WDM board chairman Don Leier.

Of immediate need is a provincial government decision to either construct and renovate both new and existing facilities, or face the reality that “millions and millions of dollars” in antique artifacts are going to be lost to history says Leier and his 11-member government-appointed board.

In a 23 page report that has been presented to many volunteer organizations who assist museum operations in Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton, Leier says:

- *Spend \$11.6 million to construct a new 7,500-square-metre branch museum in Saskatoon as part of the proposed Culturescape facilities, or spend \$11 million for a 12,000-square-metre storage addition to the existing WDM Saskatoon structure on Lorne Avenue;*
- *Upgrade Moose Jaw’s museum by spending \$5.65 million;*
- *Repair and expand North Battleford’s museum at a cost of \$1.125 million;*
- *Spend \$550,000 to upgrade Yorkton’s museum.*

... The report deploras existing facilities, except for Saskatoon’s current Lorne Avenue facility, and says the museums are “the most underfunded and understaffed museums in Western Canada.” ...



After 40 years, Second World War hangars no longer were adequate storage for WDM artifacts. The hangar in North Battleford was demolished in 1986.

WDM Library



WDM Moose Jaw Air Transportation gallery, 1982.

WDM Library, Exhibits collection



WDM North Battleford, c. 1980.

WDM Library, Education-Extension collection



WDM Yorkton back compound, c. 1980.

WDM Library, Education-Extension collection

1982 Attendance 214,866
April 1, 1982 to March 31, 1983

1982 The cities of Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Yorkton celebrated centennials this year.

January 4, 1982 - Article titled "To create committee to work with WDM" in the *North Battleford News Optimist* (WDM Library - 1981 - 82 WDM Scrapbook)

A Dec. 21 meeting between officials of the provincial and local boards of the Western Development Museum (WDM) as well as town and city officials has resulted in a decision to create a special WDM committee. ... the committee would work with the existing local WDM committee ... and its function would be to give the WDM committee a stronger, more direct link with the two councils.

... The meeting occurred after a controversy flared up over the distribution of a \$7 million provincial grant to the four WDMs. A majority of the money was earmarked for the purchase and restoration of a Saskatoon warehouse which will serve as a central storage facility for the four museums.

The remaining \$1 million is slated to be distributed among the other museums. Battlefords civic and WDM officials objected to the plan, saying since the North Battleford museum was the first in the province, and badly in need of upgrading, it should get a greater share of the money than previously proposed. ...

1982 January 11 - Moose Jaw residents celebrated the City's 100th birthday at the Western Development Museum there. About 300 people braved the cold to take advantage of free admission to the museum.

1982 January - A higher than anticipated response to the proposed summer re-enactment of the Temperance Colony Trek from Moose Jaw to Saskatoon made museum planning more complicated and

complex. Although the entry deadline of April 15 was still weeks away, by January, 45 wagons had applied for space in the 30-wagon trek. Even the first rule - temperance - did not deter applicants. Museum staff were busy plotting the route, scouting out campsites and obtaining permissions to cross land, mirroring the original route as closely as possible.

January 18, 1982 - Article titled “Culturescape claimed key to city’s development” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1981 - 82 WDM Scrapbook)

Saskatoon stands at the crossroads of its existence on its centennial, and the decision to accept or reject the concept of Culturescape will determine the direction that future development of the city will take for generations to come, says Don Leier, chairman of the Western Development Museum’s (WDM) board of directors.

“Rarely does a city have the opportunity to act in a way that is both visionary and practical,” Leier told the three-member board conducting a feasibility study of the cultural facilities here on the weekend at the public library.

The study, conducted by L.J. D’Amore and Associates in conjunction with Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan, and Lazosky-Stenman Architects, was commissioned by the city and jointly funded by the provincial and municipal governments.

In essence, Leier said acceptance of the concept entails revitalization of Saskatoon’s core, while rejection would be a significant step toward the gradual decentralization of the city, sending it along a path of central cultural sterility similar to that in other major Western Canadian cities such as Calgary, where the downtown is being reduced to office and apartment buildings ...

1982 For the first time - the WDM was granted \$1 million from the province of Saskatchewan, a 22.3% increase over the previous year. Executive Director Sharilyn Ingram commented “Given the current economic climate, we must interpret our



WDM North Battleford *Heritage Village*, c. 1980.

WDM Library

Former WDM Executive Director Terry Heath with WDM Executive Director Sharilyn Ingram at a WDM event in 1980.



WDM Library, Education-Extension Collection

The prize-winning quilt in Yorkton's Quilt Contest became a part of the WDM artifact collection, along with five other entries.



WDM Artifact Collection, WDM-1982-Y-44-1

funding increase as a commitment by the Government of Saskatchewan to the WDM's future."

Museums vied for their shares and then some. The WDM North Battleford claimed "\$1.1 million will be needed for general upgrading of the North Battleford branch: \$175,000 for upgrading the heated area; \$250,000 for a workshop area; \$200,000 for display upgrades in the heated area; \$200,000 for upgrading the village; \$300,000 for upgrading the farm". WDM Yorkton cited "a \$220,000 renovation for storage; \$90,000 for educational areas; \$240,000 for display areas." Moose Jaw claimed to need \$5 million "to make the museum what it was predicted to become..."

1982 April 27 - 28 - A school Marionette Festival was held at the WDM Saskatoon, after the WDM offered marionette workshops for teachers in the fall of 1981.

1982 May 2 - The Volunteer Centre opened in the WDM Saskatoon.

1982 Quilt contests were organized in celebration of Yorkton's 100th anniversary (sponsored by the WDM) and Moose Jaw's 100th anniversary (organized by the Moose Jaw 100 Committee). Winning quilts became part of the WDM collection.



Artifact Care Coordinator Dennis Fingas loads artifacts to fumigate, Provincial Service Centre (PSC), Saskatoon, 1982.

WDM Library

1982 The vacuum fumigation chamber, purchased in July 1981, was installed in an area with an airtight buffer, and was ready for operation in the spring of 1982.

1982 June 21 to July 1 - *Colony Trek*, a horse and wagon trek from the WDM Moose Jaw to the WDM Saskatoon was organized to commemorate the 1882 trek of temperance colonists from the end of the rail line at Moose Jaw to the fledgling community on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River - Saskatoon. Months of planning preceded the event. RCMP and various media joined the trek. The

oldest trekker was 82 years, the youngest four. Over 30 wagons with participants from around Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Nova Scotia, along with 140 horses and 205 people re-enacted the 260 km (170 mile) journey of the Temperance Colonization Society in 1882.

1982 June 21 - *Colony Trek* - Wagons rolled out from the WDM Moose Jaw, beginning the 11-day journey to Saskatoon

1982 July 1 - *Colony Trek* - Wagons reached the WDM Saskatoon in a jubilant celebration of pioneer spirit, cooperation and teamwork.

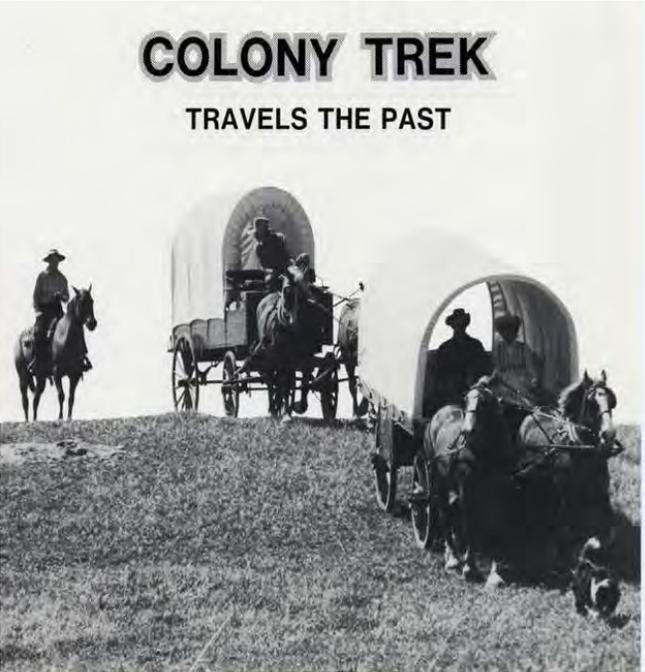
1982 July - In the aftermath of *Colony Trek*, the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* produced a souvenir issue based on the daily submissions from a reporter-trekker that were printed daily along the trail.

1982 July - Saskatoon's proposed Culturescape was scuttled when consultants recommended a \$27 million multi-purpose facility be built across from the Centennial Auditorium. WDM board chair Don Leier said *"It almost appears as if the recommendations were deigned to be so ridiculous as to eliminate any hope of new cultural facilities."* Groups involved in the original concept, including the WDM, were forced to go their own ways.

July 8, 1982 - Article titled "Culturescape report implausible: Schoenhals" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1981 - 82 WDM Scrapbook)

Urban Affairs Minister Paul Schoenhals says he ... doesn't feel a Montreal-based consulting firm fulfilled its mandate in its feasibility report.

1982 August 5 - A *Colony Trek* documentary aired on CFQC-TV.



COLONY TREK
TRAVELS THE PAST

**Come And See
The Saskatchewan
Western Development
Museums' Historic
WAGON TREK**

**Moose Jaw to
Saskatoon**

**June 21 -
July 1, 1982**



**Saskatchewan
Western
Development
Museums**

Colony Trek in 1982, a wagon trek from the Moose Jaw WDM to the Saskatoon WDM, recreated the settler journey from the end of the rails to the fledgling temperance colony. The Trek celebrated the centennials of Moose Jaw and Saskatoon.

WDM Library, Education-Extension Collection



Don Leier, WDM Board Chair during Cuturescape discussions in Saskatoon, 1982.

WDM Library



1982 August 9 - A *Colony Trek* documentary aired on CBC TV. Later that year, the documentary won a Golden Sheaf in the Human Dynamics category at the Yorkton International Film festival and the Saskatchewan Cable Television Association award for the best video production in Saskatchewan.

1982 August 26 - A *Colony Trek* documentary aired nationally in Canada on Take 30, a CBC program.



1982 August - When rusted support bolts failed, damage to the WDM Saskatoon's six inch water main resulted in 205,000 litres (45,000 gallons) of water, mud and silt spread throughout the banquet hall, lobby, offices, café and *Boomtown*.

1982 August 26 - 28 - The WDM Saskatoon hosted the Pioneer Pavilion at *Folkfest '82*, a multicultural festival in Saskatoon that had begun two years earlier in 1980 as part of provincial 75th anniversary celebrations.

Colony Trek made waves across the nation when horses, wagons and riders retraced the trek made 100 years before.

WDM Library, Colony Trek Collection

1982 September - A publication, *Colony Trek: A Journey Through the Past*, was prepared by Larry Kusch with photographs by Terry Jabusch.



1982 September -The *WDM Collections Management Policy* was approved by the WDM Board of Directors.

Left to right: Charlie Elliott - Wagon master, Alex McKee - Head Teamster, Al Elian - Trail boss, Colony Trek, 1982.



Chief Elizabeth Royal giving Colony Trek wagon master Charile Elliott a beaded bag of wild rice, Rosedale Community Pasture, 1982.

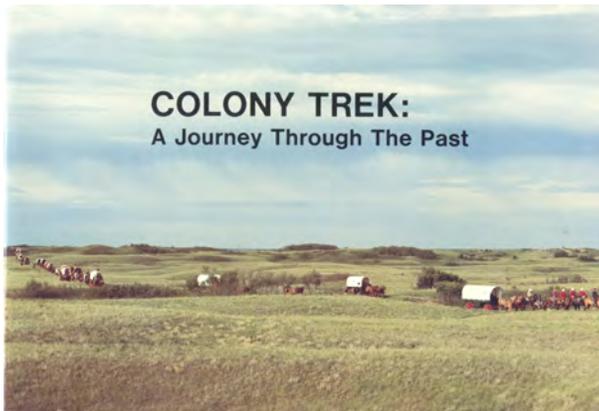


Colony Trek was a success, bringing awareness of the WDM to Canadians across the country in 1982.

WDM Library, Colony Trek Collection



Left to right: Diana Matthews, Laura Thielman, Carole Wakayabashi.



In her Foreword to this WDM publication, Executive Director Sharilyn Ingram wrote, Colony Trek “developed into a major celebration of the pioneer spirit. While the Museum originators watched with pride and awe, public response and media attention transformed the two hundred plus trekkers into contemporary folk heroes. Yet perhaps this widespread interest has tended to obscure the museological reasons behind the Trek. The WDM set out to create neither a media event nor just another trail ride. Instead, we were seeking an innovative way to make a special part of Saskatchewan’s history come alive ... a project that would be consistent with our long tradition as a living museum.”

WDM Library & Archives



Debbie Massett in the WDM Collections department entered artifact records on the Pictorial and Artifact Retrieval System (PARIS) in the early 1980s. WDM Library

September 17, 1982 - Article titled “Province to Assist WDM Program” in the *Battleford Telegraph* (WDM Library - 1981 - 82 WDM Scrapbook)

The provincial government is looking into ways of including the Western Development Museum (WDM) program in the formulation of their cultural policy (still in the planning stages) as a means of solving the museums’ ongoing problems of storage and upgrading. ... Paul Schoenhals, Saskatchewan’s Minister of Culture and Youth ... said the WDMs have “far too much inventory” and a reduction of stock and a centralized building to store exhibits would “be a start toward solving the problem.”

... Sharilyn Ingram, executive director of the province’s WDM ... said the current problems of the WDM began in the early days when the collections were submitted and maintained strictly on a volunteer basis with no overall, general plan in mind. ... There are many items that just don’t relate to the character of the province or the museum and other items that are unrestorable or have become duplicates, she said.

... Ms. Ingram said that the museums have not been able to carry out these projects because “we are operating so close to the bone when it comes to the budget.” She said the WDMs have been operating with a total budget that allows for about \$2 per square foot. According to Ms. Ingram, other museums operate on a budget somewhere in the range of \$28 - \$35 per square foot. ...

September, 1982 - Article titled “WDM studies warehouse for museum storage” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1981 - 82 WDM Scrapbook)

Having given up hope of becoming part of a centralized cultural facility in Saskatoon, the Western Development Museum has taken out an option on a large warehouse in the hope it can be converted into a central storage and headquarters facility. Sharilyn Ingram, the museum’s executive director, says a three-month option has

been obtained on the former Shelley Western warehouse just south of the museum's Lorne Avenue building. ...

1982 September 25 - Sod was turned by WDM Board members Norm Roebuck and Stan Skrzyszewski for a 280 square metre (3000 square foot) expansion to the WDM Yorkton to provide education and public programming space as well as workshop for staff and volunteers.



1982 September 25 - 26 - About 11,000 people attended WDM Yorkton's Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival in celebration of Yorkton's centennial. This was the last September show. In 1983 the show date was set for the first weekend in August.

1982 October - The World Tourism Day Silver Medallion was awarded to Diana Matthews, Promotions and Public Relations Coordinator for the WDM, to honour the success of *Colony Trek*.



1982 October - the Pictorial and Artifact Retrieval System (PARIS) computer program was fully operational, with 35,000 WDM records on the system. The WDM was a member of the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), formerly the National Inventory Program (NIP).

1982 November - The Government of Saskatchewan pledged a minimum of seven million dollars in capital funding to be advanced over a three-and-a-half year period at a rate of two million per calendar year. The first priority was the purchase and renovation of the former Shelley-Western warehouse in Saskatoon to serve as centralized storage and core staff headquarters. This would allow for storage hangars in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton to be emptied and additions to be built in Yorkton and North Battleford. In an interview with the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* published November 30, 1982, Don Leier, Chair of the WDM Board, said "about 100 jobs will be created throughout the province."



Conditions in the hangars at North Battleford and Yorkton were as deplorable as those at the hangar on 11th St W in Saskatoon, as seen in these photos, taken in 1982.

WDM Library & Archives



WDM Executive Director Sharilyn Ingram stands at the door of the newly-purchased Shelley Western building on Melville Ave in Saskatoon, future home of a central storage and headquarters for the WDM, 1982.

WDM Library & Archives

Wayne Fennig was made Manager of the North Battleford WDM in January 1983.

WDM Library



Joe Phelps, one of the founders of the WDM, died in March 1983.

Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame



1983 Attendance 205,883 April 1, 1983 to March 31, 1984

1983 January 10 - Wayne Fennig was named Manager of the WDM North Battleford following the resignation of Alex Balych in the fall of 1982. In an interview with the *News-Optimist* in October 1982, Balych said he resigned *"because the role of the manager was changing and I didn't approve of the change. Managers don't have the freedom they once had. More decisions were being made at the head office in Saskatoon, planning and priorities as examples."*

1983 January - The proposed expansion to the WDM Yorkton was increased from 3,000 to 4,500 square feet. The City of Yorkton committed \$20,000 to the project, payable over four years.

1983 North Battleford residents expressed frustration over being overlooked on the WDM Board's future plan. *"Unfortunately the North Battleford branch has only received the crumbs off the financial table of the provincial board resulting in a backlog of needs which collectively will now require a huge injection of capital funding."* stated an editorial in the February 11, 1983 *Battlefords News-Optimist*. The article listed the museum needs as a new main building, re-plotting and preserving the Pioneer Village, and accelerating the development of the agriculture theme.

1983 A project of artifact assessment began, reviewing artifacts for physical condition, historical significance, duplication, rarity, provenance, and relevance to the WDM mandate. *"Those artifacts in the best condition, those with a good documented history of use in Saskatchewan, those deemed to be important in demonstrating technological change, and models or types of artifacts not already preserved for exhibition or demonstration have been moved to new storage locations,"* stated

Executive Director David Richeson². Assessment was needed to assist decisions on storage priorities as plans progressed to vacate Second World War storage hangars in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton, and move to new heat and humidity controlled storage in the anticipated Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in Saskatoon.

1983 February - CP yard locomotive 6553 was the first donation at the WDM Moose Jaw this year, and was moved into the gallery on February 8. The 90-ton engine, built in 1956, spent most of its working life in the Moose Jaw and Swift Current rail yards.

1983 Two theatre groups investigated the possibility of theatre space in the WDM Saskatoon, but ultimately differing timelines and schedules brought an end to the proposal in March 1983. A Saskatoon Theatre Centre to be built adjacent to the WDM Saskatoon was proposed by 25th Street Theatre and Persephone Theatre.

1983 The National Museums of Canada (NMC) through the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) developed the Pictorial and Artifact Retrieval Information System (PARIS) to accession and document artifacts. PARIS enabled the WDM to register and enter collections records onto the computerized system.

1983 March 15 - Called the “spiritual sparkplug” of the WDM, Joseph Lee Phelps died in Saskatoon at age 83.

1983 Negotiations with the Saskatchewan Power Corporation were underway to move a Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator 45 miles from Keatley to the WDM North Battleford, requiring one major feed transmission line to be down while the elevator was moved.

1983 May - WDM administration began using a microcomputer with word-processing



Top - Stantec Project Manager, WDM Executive Director Sharilyn Ingram and WDM Exhibits Coordinator Rick Dixon peruse plans for the conversion of the Shelley Western Building in Saskatoon to a new WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC), 1983. Katimavik students helped that summer.

WDM Library & Archives



Ground was broken for an elevator in the *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford in 1983.

WDM Library



The official opening of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) gallery was held at the Moose Jaw WDM in May, 1983. WDM Library



WDM Board Chair Don Leier holds a cheque for \$1.2 million from the Government of Saskatchewan, with the Honourable Paul Schoenhals looking on, May 24, 1983.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

capability to handle financial records, personnel records and printed materials, and by year-end, the new WDM membership program.

1983 May - Museum core staff began the process of assessing and evaluating artifacts in the storage hangars in Saskatoon, North Battleford and Yorkton for eventual transfer to the new storage centre in Saskatoon or for deaccessioning or transfer to other Saskatchewan museums.

1983 May 18 - The official opening of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) gallery was held at the WDM Moose Jaw.

1983 May 24 - a cheque for \$1.2 million was presented to the Board Chair of the WDM by the Honourable Paul Schoenhals, Minister of Culture and Recreation, first payment towards the WDM's capital needs of renovating the WDM Yorkton and creating a provincial service centre in Saskatoon.

The 12,077 square metres (130,000 square-foot) WDM headquarters building was purchased thanks to a contribution of \$7 million in capital funds from the Province of Saskatchewan.

1983 May 24 - 28 - Saskatoon hosted the Canadian Museums Association conference.

September 16, 1983 - Article titled "WDM Plans for the Future" in the *Battleford Telegraph* (WDM Library - 1983 - 84 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum's provincial board and executive have agreed to develop a tentative plan for the expansion of the North Battleford museum by February 1984. Harvey Cashmore, chairman of the North Battleford Local Advisory Committee to the WDM, said this decision resulted from meetings last Thursday and Friday between the advisory committee and the provincial board in

North Battleford. Mr. Cashmore said the plan would involve the construction of a display building and the development of an historical farm. ...

1983 October - The addition to the WDM Yorkton was completed and functional. Space for workshops, storage, offices, meetings and programs was added, giving a new face to the front of the building. The expansion project was awarded to Weber Construction Ltd. of Yorkton. The architect was Allan Duddridge of Saskatoon.



1983 October 26 - 31 - The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool donated a grain elevator built in 1928 at Keatley, SK to the WDM North Battleford along with \$25,00 for its removal, move, installation and refurbishment. Located about 70 km (45 miles) northeast of the Battlefords, the elevator measured 22 metres (70 feet) tall with a base about 8 metres by 8 metres (32 feet x 32 feet). It was moved by Wiebe Building Movers of Saskatoon, with power line assistance from Sask Power. Over 200 people were on hand to witness the arrival. Original plans had been to move the elevator from Richard, SK, but plans were changed when the Richard elevator was found to be structurally unsound.

An addition was built onto the WDM Yorkton, 1983 - 84.
WDM Library

1983 November - Extending the 1979 WDM partnership with the Saskatchewan Department of Education that developed Saskatchewan history lesson plans for grades 1 - 12, the final versions of *WDM Teacher Guides* were distributed to schools across the province, a Canadian museum first. This WDM milestone was acknowledged by Mary Herbert in her 1982 report, *A Report on Canadian School-Related Museum Education*, an analysis of museum education across Canada.



1983 November - Nearly 14,000 Saskatchewan residents received direct mail packages introducing them to the WDM's new membership program.

The *Saskatchewan Wheat Pool* elevator was moved from Keatley, SK to the *Heritage Village* at the WDM North Battleford, in October 1983.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



In the WDM Moose Jaw, members of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers began the restoration of a 1941 Cessna Crane in December 1983.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

1983 December - Members of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers began work on the restoration of a 1941 Cessna Crane, a training aircraft from the Second World War used at the #4 Service Flying School in Saskatoon.

**1984 Attendance 205,485
April 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985**

1984 January - Renovations to the Shelley Western warehouse at 2935 Melville Street in Saskatoon were underway with Spantec Engineering, a project management firm to oversee construction, making the building structurally and environmentally suitable for artifact storage and staff work spaces. The grocery wholesale warehouse, with massive warehouse space, food lockers and loading bays, was re-purposed; the physical overhaul of the building was an immense project. The WDM incurred additional costs in utilities, insurance, taxes and building maintenance as a result of the acquisition of this building.

1984 February 11 - The eight-tonne vacuum fumigation chamber was moved from the WDM Saskatoon to the new Provincial Service Centre (PSC) on Melville Street.

February 21, 1984 - Article titled "Museum building next spending priority" in the *Battlefords News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1983 - 84 WDM Scrapbook)

Planning has begun on a possible new Western Development Museum (WDM) for North Battleford. Provincial WDM Board Chairman Orme Asher confirmed Monday that agreement in principle had been given to making a new exhibit building for North Battleford the WDM's next capital spending project.



Renovations to convert a grocery warehouse to a museum quality artifact storage space progressed throughout 1983 and 1984.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

... Although an architect has not yet been hired and no design has been picked, Mr. Asher confirmed reports the new museum, if built, will be an approximate 25,000 square foot single-storey structure with about 9,000 square feet of exhibition space. The building will also include room for repair and restoration shops, a museum library, restaurant, education area and other facilities. ...

1984 March - The second installment of \$1 million was presented by the province to the WDM, the second cheque in the government's commitment to provide a minimum of \$7 million in capital funding to solve WDM storage needs.

1984 April - Sharilyn Ingram left her position as WDM Executive Director to take a position as Director of Planning and Management Services for the National Museums of Canada. Later in the month, David Richeson² was announced as her replacement. Richeson left the History Division of the National Museum of Man in Ottawa to lead the WDM in Saskatchewan.

1984 April - The thatch on the roof of the *Ukrainian home* in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Village* was replaced.

1984 April - Core curatorial and administrative staff, which had previously worked out of the WDM Saskatoon, moved to the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) and began the move of artifacts into the new building.

Storage systems for a wide variety of artifacts had to be planned, purchased, and installed. Laborious calculations were needed to organize and map the storage areas. Estimating the trucking and personnel requirements for preparing and moving artifacts was no small task. All of this occurred while at the same time looking after day-to-day Museum operations.



The Honourable Rick Folk presented a second installment cheque of \$1 million to WDM Board Chair Orme Asher, March 1984.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



The consolidation of artifacts from poor storage conditions in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton to the newly renovated Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in Saskatoon began in 1984.

WDM Library



Pole sheds were built to increase outdoor storage of large artifacts at the WDM Yorkton in 1984.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



A new addition opened at the WDM Yorkton in May 1984. The improvements had been made thanks to grants from the Government of Saskatchewan in the preceding two years.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

May 1, 1984 - Article titled "WDM committee resigns in protest of Jerry Kaiser's firing" in the *Moose Jaw Times-Herald* (WDM Library - 1983 - 84 WDM Scrapbook)

All members of the Moose Jaw local committee of the Western Development Museum (WDM) have resigned to protest the recent firing of Jerry Kaiser, the museum's manager.

... the WDM's Saskatoon head office introduced a province-wide Museum membership program and ordered its Moose Jaw branch to discontinue its Patrons Roll scheme. But the local committee felt this action would hamper local fund-raising efforts and decided not to follow the directive ...

May 4, 1984 - Article titled "Statement of Claim to be Filed" in the *Moose Jaw Times-Herald* (WDM Library - 1983 - 84 WDM Scrapbook)

Jerry Kaiser, the former manager of the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw, has decided to sue the museum's provincial board over his firing. ...

1984 May 17 - During International Museums Week, the WDM Yorkton opened its doors to a new 5,100 square foot building addition. Culture and Recreation Minister Rick Folk, along with Yorkton mayor John Wytrykush and Threshermen's Club president Russell Anderson, were on hand for the opening.

1984 May 22 - Artifact relocation got underway at the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in Saskatoon. The first artifact moved was an Avery steam traction engine. It was a huge logistical exercise to relocate artifacts from four branch locations to the centralized storage - especially from the standpoint of collections management. The move of thousands of artifacts (from fragile teacups to huge steam engines) required extensive planning and deployment. Hundreds of large artifacts and thousands of smaller ones arrived from distances up to 320 km (200 miles) away. Each and every artifact required preparation for loading,

unloading, cleaning, photographing and placement in an assigned storage location recorded by Collections staff. Approximately 10,000 artifacts were moved by the end of the project.

1984 Summer - Arlene Shiplett was recruited to play the WDM calliope. Shiplett, a musician from North Battleford, played french horn and piano, taught music and mastered the keyboard of the calliope - a task that demanded strength as well as musical ability. In the years that followed, Shiplett converted several pieces of music for the calliope.



Above: in 1980 at the WDM Saskatoon, the steam organ had a different look than the red carnival wagon.

1984 July 1 - David Richeson began as WDM Executive Director², coming from a position as Western Canadian historian at the History Division of the National Museum of Man in Ottawa.



Left: Arlene Shiplett took on the calliope keyboard summer job.

WDM Library

1984 July 8 - An exhibit sponsored by the Saskatchewan Auctioneers' Association - *Auction Era* - opened in the WDM North Battleford. The exhibit contained artifacts, as well as a painting of a farm auction by Saskatchewan artist Gus Froese.



David Richeson, c. 1985.

WDM Library & Archives

1984 August - Virginia Hatch was named Manager of the WDM Moose Jaw after Jerry Kaiser was terminated by the WDM Board of Directors in March.

1984 August - Dennis Fingas, named as the first WDM Artifact Care Coordinator during the formation of core staff positions in 1977, left the Museum to pursue a theological career. He was replaced in November by Neil E. McLeod.



Leslee Newman and Warren Clubb make artifact assessments as part of the move of artifacts to the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in Saskatoon, c. 1985. Artifacts from storage were assessed on their condition, their contribution to the history of Saskatchewan, whether they were duplicates and other relevant criteria.

WDM Library & Archives

1984 August 16 - Plaques were unveiled at the WDM North Battleford to honour early Assyrian settlers who arrived in the area in 1903.



WDM Board Chair Orme Asher and The Honourable Rick Folk were on hand to open the new WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in November 1984.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) official opening in 1984. WDM Executive Director David Richeson, far right., said *"A museum is the collective attic of society."*

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

1984 August 18 - The freshly-restored *Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator* opened officially at the WDM North Battleford during *Those Were the Days*.

1984 October - Assessment of artifacts in east wing storage at the WDM Saskatoon began.

1984 November 30 - The 12,077 square metre (130,000 square foot) WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) was officially opened by Minister Rick Folk, Minister of Culture and Recreation, providing administration offices, curatorial functions (collections, conservation, exhibits, research), a library, artifact storage, and shop space (machine and welding shop, carpentry shop, paint booth), exhibits construction, and eventually a conservation lab.

December 5, 1984 - Article titled "Housecleaning at WDM major effort" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1983 - 84 WDM Scrapbook)

Staff at the Western Development Museum are up to their elbows in a monumental housecleaning task. Last May they began a two-year job of clearing out their dilapidated and over-burdened storage facilities in Yorkton, North Battleford and Saskatoon, relocating tens of thousands of artifacts to spanking new quarters at the Provincial Service Centre on Melville Avenue. ...

"A museum is the collective attic of society," he says (Executive Director David Richeson) "We will continue to be the collective attic of society. It's just that we'll be the attic in a new house instead of the attic in an old house. The cobwebs will be gone."

1985 Attendance 222,097
April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986

Heritage '85 **Celebrating the province's 80th anniversary.**

1985 Work began on an Exhibits Master Plan to guide exhibit development at the WDM.

1985 The Saskatchewan Heritage Collections Conservation Committee released A *Conservation Strategy for Saskatchewan Heritage Collections*.

April 29, 1985 - Article titled "Major capital program in works for WDM" in the *Battlefords News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1985 - 86 WDM Scrapbook)

A grant of \$2,505, which will be used to move the statue of a Mounted Police officer and his horse "Bobby" from the Western Development Museum (WDM) grounds to the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce site, is just an indication of the beginnings of an exciting few years for the museum. The grant was made possible through the North Battleford Heritage Committee.

The mountie and his horse will be moved to make way for a complete overhaul of the museum site, providing a new addition and much easier access to existing exhibits. It also includes extension of the railroad track and an entirely new street on the site.

According to Wayne Fennig, WDM manager, a plan has been devised which proposes complete renovation of the existing hangar building. Renovations to the 44,000 sq. ft. structure will likely include a major maintenance and restoration workshop and an education extension with a small theatre and classrooms. The present exhibit area will become a summer hall The renovated hangar building will also include an extensive woodworking shop, staff and



Saskatchewan celebrated 80 years as a province in 1985.

WDM Artifact Collection, WDM-1988-S-201



The statue of a RCMP horseman that had stood on the grounds of the North Battleford WDM since 1966 moved to the nearby Chamber of Commerce tourist booth in the summer of 1985.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



News Optimist Dec 5-65
WDM ADDITION TAKES FORM — Workmen were busy Tuesday sagging the roof to the steel frame of the 23,000 square foot addition to the Western Development Museum. The frame is expected to be completely install wiring. The 115 by 200 foot building will be used by the museum as a display area. Together with a face lift and massive interior renovations to the original hangar building, work is expected to be finished at the end

An addition announced in spring was underway shortly afterwards at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library, WDM Scrapbook 1985 - 86



SED Systems donated the Aries B rocket payload to the WDM in 1985. WDM Library



The study and assessment of artifacts in storage in WDM hangar buildings continued through 1985.

WDM Library

office facilities and a complete exterior facelift to tie in with the planned new addition said Mr. Fennig.

The proposed new addition, which will likely consist of about 35,000 sq. ft. will be built onto the south side of the existing building. The reception area on the west side of the building will include a foyer, a volunteer rest area, a gift shop, storage areas and a reception station. The major portion of the addition will be devoted to an exhibit area consisting of a local history gallery, a travelling exhibit gallery and general agricultural exhibits.

Complete realignment of the WDM village is on the drawing board, said Mr. Fennig. It is hoped another street will be added diagonally across the site from the southeast to the northwest corner. ...

June 17, 1985 - Article titled "WDM commits \$800,000 to local branch expansion" in the *Battlefords News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1985 - 86 WDM Scrapbook)

An \$800,000 commitment to expand and renovate the North Battleford branch of the Western Development Museums was announced Friday morning by the chairman of the provincial board, Orem Asher. The plan consists of a 25,000 square foot extension to the existing Western Development Museum (WDM) hangar building; renovation of 40 per cent of the building to make way for restoration and work shops; the relocation of several of the village buildings into two streets, running diagonally across the grounds ... ; and the implementation of a "Living Farm" is expected to take shape this summer ... the railway will be expanded and linked to the grain elevator.

1985 June 27 - In celebration of its 20th anniversary, SED Systems donated its Aries B rocket payload to the WDM in Saskatoon. The payload had been launched in February 1984 at the Churchill Research Range in northern Manitoba to test aurora borealis emissions.

- 1985 Summer - Assessment of small artifacts and parts remaining in the 11th St W hangar in Saskatoon proceeded.
- 1985 The WDM North Battleford hangar site was emptied of artifacts. Later in the summer, the WDM Saskatoon hangar was successfully cleared of artifacts.
- 1985 August - For the first time, self-guided tour pamphlets were prepared for the four WDM sites.
- 1985 WDM Research began a study of Saskatchewan manufacturers.
- 1985 August 29 - The Mountie statue, first erected at the WDM North Battleford in 1966, was moved to the neighbouring Chamber of Commerce site to make way for construction of an addition to the North Battleford museum building.
- 1985 Exhibit plans for the WDM Moose Jaw were drawn up, creating an orientation area opening into land, water, rail and air gallery spaces. Plans would be implemented later in 1985 and 1986.
- 1985 September - Construction got underway on a 2,137 square metre (23,000 square foot) addition to the WDM North Battleford to house new exhibit space, education and public programming area, offices, gift shop and workshop space. Funding came from the province, the City of North Battleford and the Town of Battleford. The contract was awarded to Mid-West Development (85) Corp. of Saskatoon.
- 1985 November 28 - There was an official dedication of the Cessna Crane twin-engine monoplane 7829 at the WDM Moose Jaw. It had been restored by members of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers in a 3,000 hour-long labour of love.



A Cessna Crane aircraft #7829 was restored at the WDM Moose Jaw by members of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers. The project took over three years. The remains of the aircraft were salvaged from a field near Dinsmore, SK. The Cessna was dedicated in 1985.

Left to right: Don O'Hearne, Al Miller, Ed Roberston, Tim Feusi, Ed Cairns, Arnold Torgerson, Ben Lowe, Roger Mackin, Stan Humphrey.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



1985 The WDM Yorkton embarked on a three-year site development plan which included expanding the outdoor storage compound and building an outdoor bandstand.

December 17, 1985 - Article titled "Former Committee Unhappy Over Decision" in the *Moose Jaw Shopper* (WDM Library - 1985 - 86 WDM Scrapbook)

The members of the ex-local committee of the Western Development Museum are disappointed with the court verdict on the unfair dismissal suit by the ex-manager of the local branch of the WDM, Jerry Kaiser. ... The decision to fire Jerry has given the WDM a great deal of unfavourable publicity. ...



Expansion of the back storage compound at the WDM Yorkton were underway in 1986.

WDM Library

**1986 Attendance 205,856
April 1, 1986 to March 31, 1987**

January 22, 1986 - Article titled "WDM to expand" in the *Yorkton Enterprise* (WDM Library - 1985 - 86 WDM Scrapbook)

Preliminary plans are underway to expand the Western Development Museum's outdoor compound in Yorkton this year. The museum hopes to double the size of the current compound, says manager Tom Waiser.



Construction of an addition to the WDM North Battleford proceeded through 1986.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

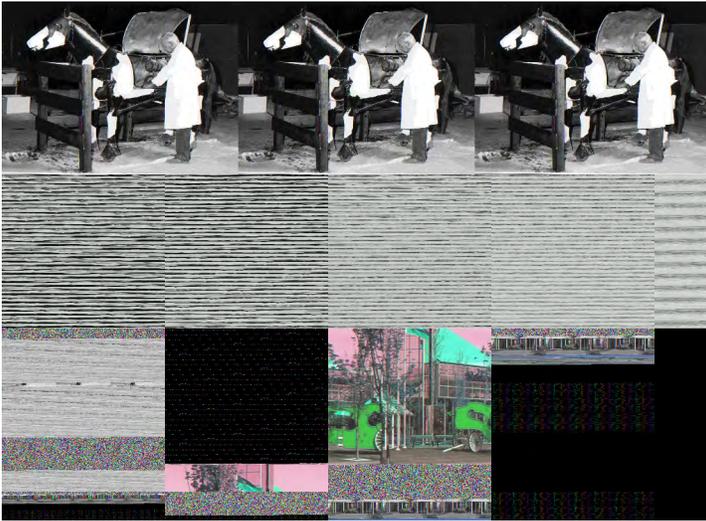
1986 January - As interest in home computers grew, the WDM Yorkton offered a Family Computer workshop presented by Ray Kerr of Computers Plus in Yorkton.

March 3, 1986 - Federal funds for WDM, Glaslyn arena" in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1985 - 86 WDM Scrapbook)

... under Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act ... Funding to the WDM totals \$102,562 for six jobs to the end of 1986. ... The Western Development

Museum will be recreating a farmyard in the northeast section of its 1920s village and major cost of this project will be the restoration of a barn dating back to that era. While the barn is considered to be in good condition, some structure and foundation work must be completed. The barn, donated by Gallivan farmer Bob Brinkhurst, is the first building on the WDM farm. The remainder of the funding will be used for the creation of new exhibits, as well as general care, maintenance and improvement of the existing buildings, exhibits and grounds.

- 1986 March - The WDM Yorkton organized a *Shoot Yorkton* photography contest. The winners' works were displayed in the museum over the summer.
- 1986 March - Before expanding its outdoor compound, the WDM Yorkton asked the City of Yorkton for a survey of museum land. The survey had been first promised in 1972 when the Yorkton Council also approved the request for transfer of the land's title to the WDM.
- 1986 March - The CBC Switchback television show was staged at the WDM Saskatoon, with more than 1,500 people participating in the 90-minute live program.
- 1986 March - The local advisory committee to the WDM Moose Jaw, which had disappeared in 1984 with the resignation of all its members over the firing of museum manager Jerry Kaiser, was resurrected as the Community Liaison Committee. The new committee met for the first time in May 1986 and included representation from the museum, Moose Jaw and the surrounding area.
- 1986 March - WDM Board Chair, Orme Asher, announced extensive renovations to the WDM Saskatoon including the convention hall, the Boomtown Café, museum offices and the gift shop.



April 18, 1986 - Article titled "Museum to get \$500,000 facelift" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1985 - 86 WDM Scrapbook)

The Saskatoon Western Development Museum will spend \$500,000 this year to upgrade its facilities. ... Estimated completion date is August. Money will come from funds provided by the province in 1982. The renovations will disrupt visitor services, but will not interfere with museum exhibits and programs ...

1986 *Saskatchewan Trade Tokens*, a WDM travelling exhibition of trade tokens from the collection of Cecil Tannahill, travelled the province this year.

1986 Admission rates were:

Seniors	\$1.50
Adults 13 - 64 years	\$2.50
Children 5 - 12 years	75 cents
Preschool under 5	free
Prebooked Groups - less	50 cents

1986 The Education Assistant position was mothballed.

1986 At the WDM Yorkton, the outdoor compound was enlarged from 4,924 square metres (53,000 square feet) to 8,175 square metres (88,000 square feet).

1986 May to October - *Expo '86* in Vancouver was the recipient of Blowtorch, the mechanical horse and the WDM steam calliope at the Saskatchewan pavilion, while the Canada pavilion highlighted the Aries B rocket payload. The WDM calliope had been overhauled and restored in the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) over the winter to ready it for a world audience.³

1986 June - Artifact assessment of more than 500 items got underway at the WDM Yorkton hangar.



The WDM steam calliope welcomed visitors to the Saskatchewan Pavilion at Expo '86 in Vancouver, BC in 1986. Blowtorch, the mechanical horse, also represented the province there.

WDM Library

1986 June 11 - A 1919 barn arrived at the WDM North Battleford from Gallivan, 48 km (30 miles) away, a donation from Bob Brinkhurst. The barn, measuring 18 metres long by 9 metres wide by 9 metres high (60 feet long x 30 feet wide x 32 feet high) needed new shingles, two coats of paint, new concrete and wood floors, new windows and other repairs before it would open to the public.



A barn, donated by Gallivan farmer Bob Brinkhurst, was moved to the WDM North Battleford, forming an important part of the 1920s living farmstead at the Museum, 1986.

WDM Library, Public Relations & Promttions files

1986 June 13 - The WDM North Battleford officially opened its new 2,137 square metre (23,000 square foot) addition, adding 1,858 square metres (20,000 square feet) of exhibit space, an education and public programming area, a kitchen and summer hall, offices, a gift shop and workshop space. The renovation and expansion cost almost \$1 million.

1986 June - In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the WDM Moose Jaw, a CT-133 T-Bird aircraft was mounted outside the museum along the Trans-Canada Highway to attract visitors.

1986 July 6 - A public auction of 145 items was held at the WDM North Battleford hangar. The artifacts were first offered at no cost to 83 public non-profit museums in Saskatchewan which held permanent collections of historical artifacts and which were members on the Saskatchewan Museums Association.



1986 July - Demolition of the WDM hangar at the North Battleford airport was undertaken by the Agricultural Society. The hangar had served the WDM from 1947 to 1963.

Demolition of the WDM hangar at the North Battleford airport was undertaken by the Agricultural Society. The hangar had served the WDM from 1947 to 1963 for display and storage of artifacts.

WDM Library

1986 August 16 - 17 - George Morris was a special guest at the WDM Yorkton's Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival. Morris "*invented the trip mechanism that revolutionized cultivators.*" A special exhibit at the show featured the Morris Rod-Weeder Company.



1986 August - Renovations were completed at the WDM Saskatoon, creating a new entrance to Saskatchewan Hall, a renovated lobby, new stairs to the balcony, new office space, a redesigned Agricultural Hall of Fame and changes to the Boomtown Café.



1986 A *Conservation Strategy for Saskatchewan Heritage Collections* prepared by the Saskatchewan Conservation Committee was released. The report called for the establishment of four specialized conservation laboratories in Saskatchewan, one of which was to be located in the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC), specializing in the treatment of machinery, textiles and history artifacts.



1986 August 23 - A public auction at the 11th St W hangar in Saskatoon was held to sell 750 items which had previously been offered to 83 Saskatchewan museums. All proceeds from this auction and the one at North Battleford were to be held in trust in an Artifact Fund for future acquisition, cataloguing, research and conservation of artifacts.

1986 September - Moose Jaw's Short Line 101 was sent to the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) for servicing of the engine and coal tender. It would be returned to Moose Jaw in July of 1987.

1986 September - For the first time, fees were charged for school visits. The WDM Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of Susan MacKenzie, WDM Education-Extension Coordinator, that students be charged 75 cents, with \$2.50 charged for teachers and chaperones. Pre-booked tours rated a 25 cent reduction for a charge of 50 cents per student with teachers and chaperones admitted free of charge. MacKenzie further recommended a tiered fee, with one rate for regular visits and another for special events such as Grade 4 Harvest. Students attending special programs and demonstrations would be charged 75 cents.



Surplus artifacts were sold at auction on August 23, 1986 from the former 11th St W site of the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Library

October, 1986 - Article titled “New Look For Moose Jaw” in *Moose Jaw Take 5* (WDM Library - 1985 - 86 WDM Scrapbook)

Over \$59,000 has been received by the WDM Moose Jaw for exhibit redevelopment. These funds, obtained through the Section 38 Unemployment Job Development Programme of Employment and Immigration Canada, will be used for the purchase of project materials and the hiring of six full-time workers from the Moose Jaw community for a period of 5 months. ... The objectives of this new project are to redevelop the exhibition space and to improve visitor traffic flow through the galleries. Gallery space will be physically defined into the theme areas of Rail, Air, Land and Water transportation. An orientation centre will be located at the entrance to the galleries.

1986 November - The WDM membership program was switched to a computer management system, easing the transition from calendar year renewals to anniversary date renewals.

1986 November 23 - The gift shop in the WDM North Battleford, named The Loft, enjoyed a grand opening.

1986 December - Restoration of a 1940 Avro Anson Mark 1 got underway at the WDM Moose Jaw, spearheaded by the Vintage Aircraft Restorers club. The aircraft was prepared for inclusion in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) gallery.

1986 December 30 - The 11th St W hangar in Saskatoon burned to the ground. The hangar housed no WDM artifacts; the land on which the hangar stood was being taken over by the City of Saskatoon. The rapid burn and burn trails led fire investigators to speculate that the blaze was set deliberately.



In September 1986, for the first time since 1949, fees were charged for school visits to the WDM.

WDM Library



The gift shop in the WDM North Battleford was named The Loft in November 1986.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



Restoration of a 1940 Avro Anson Mark 1 began at the WDM Moose Jaw at the end of 1986.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



Challenges with maintenance and upkeep led to the demolition of the *Ukrainian house* at the WDM Yorkton in 1987. The house had been built by members of the Ukrainian Businessmen's Association and opened in 1980 during the province's 75th anniversary.

WDM Library



The Jolly Life of a Farmer's Wife exhibit opened in the WDM North Battleford in 1987.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

1987 Attendance 215,735 April 1, 1987 to March 31, 1988

- 1987 Winter - The WDM calliope underwent extensive refurbishment.³
- 1987 January - The Ukrainian house at the WDM Yorkton was demolished, with the demolition undertaken by the Ukrainian Businessmen's Association.
- 1987 The WDM in North Battleford celebrated its local 40th Anniversary this year, ahead of the official WDM anniversary planned for 1989.
- 1987 February - A study of WDM marketing, funded under the Canada-Saskatchewan Tourism Agreement (\$36,000), was undertaken to determine the tourism market potential of the four WDMs, to determine the level of development required at each site to reach this market potential and to develop short and long range marketing strategies. The firm of Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan Western Limited would take four months to review the WDM and provide a Market Strategy Plan and an Implementation Plan.
- 1987 February - A local history exhibit got underway at the WDM North Battleford, directed by Museum Technician John Greer and volunteer Julienne Stroo.
- 1987 February - The Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce received a study it commissioned to prepare a tourism strategy for Moose Jaw. Unfortunately for the WDM, the study recommended downtown Moose Jaw as the focus of tourism economic activity.
- 1987 April - *The Jolly Life Of a Farmer's Wife* exhibit opened officially in the new addition to the WDM North Battleford.

- 1987 April - *Once Upon A Christmas* store window exhibits were sold to the WDM Saskatoon for \$1 by Eaton's of Canada.
- 1987 June 13 - The WDM Board of Directors met to review the options to deal with a loss of 12.1% funding in the annual grant from the province (\$1,127,000 - down \$155,200 from the previous year). Summer hours were curtailed and winter closures of all but the WDM Saskatoon were implemented.
- 1987 July 11 - Following an earlier dispersal to Saskatchewan museums, the last public auction of surplus artifacts was held at the WDM Yorkton airport hangar, followed by a final move from the site.
- 1987 July - CFB Moose Jaw announced the establishment of an Aviation Heritage Museum on base.

August 8, 1987 - Article titled "WDM considers layoffs, closing exhibits in winter" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1987 - 88 WDM Scrapbook)

Temporary staff layoffs will be among the options before the provincial Western Development Museum board when it grapples with balancing its budget next Thursday. Closing exhibits in North Battleford, Yorkton and Moose Jaw for the winter is another possibility, executive director David Richeson said Friday.

Saskatchewan's WDMs have 36 employees at the three sites, at the museum provincial headquarters and the Melville Street warehouse in Saskatoon. ...

- 1987 August - At the WDM Yorkton repairs were made to the bell tower (from Yorkton's Town Hall built in 1905) outside the Museum entrance.
- 1987 August - A farm home at Rockhaven was donated to the WDM North Battleford from the McLaren family, along with \$5,000 to



In 1987 the WDM Saskatoon received a Christmas exhibit from Eaton's of Canada. The display that had appeared in store windows was refurbished by WDM Saskatoon volunteers and became a Christmas destination, increasing the Saskatoon WDM December attendance significantly.

WDM Library



WDM Yorkton hangar auction, July 11, 1987.

Leslee Newman photo



Repairs were made to the Yorkton Town Hall bell tower in front of the WDM Yorkton in 1987.

WDM Library



When the farm home of the McLaren family from Rockhaven, SK was donated to the WDM in 1987, the house was moved to the 1920s farmstead in the *Heritage Farm and Village* at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

pay for the 48 km (30 mile) move. Also moved within the *Heritage Farm and Village* were the *Polish Church* and the *Doctor's home* formerly belonging to Dr. Joseph Jules Hamelin, one of the first doctors to practice in North Battleford.

August 17, 1987 - Article titled "Local WDM branch closes for winter months" in the *Battlefords News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1987 - 88 WDM Scrapbook)

There will be temporary staff layoffs and a closure of the Western Development Museum this winter in an effort to meet the requirements of a 12.1 per cent cutback in provincial government funding.

Two full-time employees of the Battlefords branch of the WDM will be laid off in November and the newly-constructed 23,000-sq. ft. insulated display addition will be closed for five months, following a decision of the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Western Development Museums Thursday. The decision also affects WDMs operating in Moose Jaw, Yorkton and Saskatoon.

... Last week's decision to cut back leaves the WDM North Battleford with two full-time staff during the November to March period. The Moose Jaw and Yorkton WDMs will be left with one staff member, the Saskatoon museum with six staff, and the provincial service centre with 15. ...

1987 September - A *Livery Stable* was completed on *Boomtown Street*.

1987 October - The WDM Moose Jaw Vintage Aircraft Restorers received the 1987 Ninety-Nines Canadian Award in Aviation for their work on the Avro Anson Mark 1.

1987 November 1- In a cost-saving measure, WDMs in North Battleford, Moose Jaw and Yorkton were forced to close until March 31, 1988. WDM Board member Graeme McAdam resigned in protest to the closing of the WDM North Battleford. The WDM

Saskatoon would close on Saturdays from January to May 1988. Seven staff were laid off for the winter.

1987 November 22 - The WDM Saskatoon debuted the Eaton's of Canada *Once Upon A Christmas* window displays. They had been transferred to the WDM Saskatoon in April 1987. The exhibit remained until January 15, 1988. A reproduction Eaton's Beauty doll donated by Eaton's was raffled and won by Eleanor Remenda of Ave E N in Saskatoon.

1987 November - The results of the Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan study of WDM marketing, *Marketing Analysis and Market Potential Study*, concluded that "indeed the Western Development Museums do have the potential to attract an increasing number of both resident and tourist visitors but only if certain priorities are established which focus the efforts of staff and financial resources to create a quality environment where the visitor truly experiences the life of the past." The study also assessed the actions and strategies needed to increase WDM potential to attract visitors.

1987 Leases were negotiated for the WDM Yorkton site. In Saskatoon, after years of negotiation, arrangements were finalized to acquire additional leased land for programs and exhibits and to give up the 11th St W property.

1987 December - The roadbed was prepared for a spur line to connect the existing railway tracks to the grain elevator at the WDM North Battleford. CN donated a switch, rails, ties and spikes for the extension. CN staff installed the switch and trained WDM staff to lay track.



At the WDM Moose Jaw, Don O'Hearne accepted the 1987 Ninety-Nines Canadian Award in Aviation for the work to the Vintage Aircraft Restorers on the restoration of the Avro Anson Mark 1.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



Once Upon A Christmas debuted at the WDM Saskatoon in November 1987.

WDM Library



The Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan study, *Marketing Analysis and Market Potential Study*, concluded that "indeed the Western Development Museums do have the potential to attract an increasing number of both resident and tourist visitors ..."

Locomotive displayed at Moose Jaw WDM, c. 1985

WDM Library



Railway tracks were laid to connect to the grain elevator in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village* in 1987, seen in this photo from 1992.

WDM Library

City of North Battleford 75th anniversary pin, 1913-1988.



In 1988 the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC), inspired by the efforts of Exhibits Coordinator Rick Dixon, introduced the first blacksmith introductory training course.

WDM Library, Education and Extension files

1988 Attendance 236,079 April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989

1988 The City of North Battleford celebrated its 75th anniversary as a city this year. Homecoming Week was slated for August.

1988 January - Renovations to the WDM Moose Jaw's convention hall, gift shop and office space began with Mid-West Development (85) Corp. of Saskatoon awarded the contract for the \$360,000 renovation.

1988 January 9 to May 22 - The WDM Saskatoon closed Saturdays.

1988 January 13 to February 17 - The WDM offered six Wednesday evenings of blacksmith instruction, the **first** WDM Introduction to Blacksmithing course taught by Exhibits Coordinator Rick Dixon. The registration fee was \$60, or \$50 for WDM members.

1988 February - For the first time the WDM Saskatoon partnered with the Saskatoon Heritage Society to offer a Heritage Festival on Heritage Day, offering free admission to the Museum and a host of displays and activities from Saskatoon heritage organizations.

February 23, 1988 article titled "WDM lease extends to 2021" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1987 - 88 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum will be staying where it is for at least the next 33 years. City council approved Monday the terms of a new 50-year lease with the museum that is retroactive to 1971, when negotiations first started. An agreement on the lease was held up for years because the electrical department and the museum wanted the same land for future expansions.

An agreement has been reached to

relocate an electrical substation to other land owned by the museum, sometime in the future. While the museum will have the right to fence the leased lands, the Exhibition Board and its patrons will have access across the leased lands.

March 1, 1988 article titled “WDM land swap proceeds” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1987 - 88 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum and the city electrical department will engage in a land swap which will allow both to get on with expansion plans. City council agreed Monday to pay \$152,000 for a block of land owned by the museum on Melville Street in the CN industrial park. That will allow the electrical department to move a substation which is near the museum on Lorne Avenue. It is scheduled for major upgrading and renovation in the next six to 10 years, said a report from Bert Wellman, special projects director.

But if the substation remains where it is now, that expansion would take up land needed for the museum’s forecourt, landscaping and parking. It would also destroy the existing entrance to the exhibition grounds and the museum.

The two parties agreed the parcel of land on Melville Street would be suitable for a new substation, both in location and size, said the report. The museum is prepared to sell on condition that it receive a lease to the Lorne Avenue substation parcel once the electrical facility has relocated, said Wellman.



A lease was signed with the City of Saskatoon extending the lease on the WDM Saskatoon property to the year 2021.

Volunteers demonstrated rolling hoops at the WDM Saskatoon in the 1980s.

WDM Library, Education and Extension files



Signing the property lease on the WDM Saskatoon site, 1988. Left to right: WDM Board Chair - Peter Kilborn, Saskatoon Mayor - Cliff Wright seated, WDM Executive Director - David Richeson, former WDM Board Chair - Orme Asher, in the *Real Estate Office* on Boomtown Street, WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

1988 March - WDM volunteer Dalton Hannah created horses for the *Livery* on *Boomtown Street* in the WDM Saskatoon. Costing approximately \$400 each, the horses were fashioned from wood, chicken wire, gunny sacks, plaster-of-paris and paint.

1988 April - The Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton WDMs opened after winter closures.



May, 1988 article titled “Tourism week kicks off in city” in the *Moose Jaw Times Herald* (WDM Library - 1987 - 88 WDM Scrapbook)

National Tourism Awareness Week (May 15 - 21) kicked off in Moose Jaw with the grand opening of the Western Development Museum Sunday. Locally, the Moose Jaw Tourism and Convention Council (TCC) has named the week Discover Moose Jaw Days.



1988 May - The WDM Board of Directors approved in principle the results of the *Marketing Analysis and Market Potential Study* completed during 1987. One priority was the need for site development plans, initially for Saskatoon and Moose Jaw which were identified in the study as having the greatest immediate potential to generate increased tourist visitation. Funding for the site plans came from the Canada-Saskatchewan Subsidiary Agreement on Tourism. The plans were to address public and service access to the sites, parking, drainage, landscaping, outdoor exhibits and demos, program areas, storage for extension and loaned equipment, playgrounds, picnic areas, natural environment areas, wagon and sleigh ride paths, lighting and signs.



1988 May 15 - An official opening and public open house celebrated completion of the renovations at the WDM Moose Jaw.

1988 May - The Saskatchewan Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture gave \$175,000, approximately half the cost, towards building and equipping a Conservation Lab at the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in Saskatoon.

Renovations were completed over the winter of 1987 - 88 at the WDM Moose Jaw, in time for the official opening on May 15, 1988.

WDM Library, WDM Moose Jaw files

May 11, 1988 article titled “WDM to get \$350,000 restoration lab” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1987 - 88 WDM Scrapbook)

...The museum plans to spend \$350,000 to create a climate-controlled laboratory in Saskatoon to slow down or reverse

deterioration of artifacts from Saskatchewan's history, museum executive director David Richeson said this week. ... The laboratory will be constructed in 450 square metres of existing storage space in the museum's Provincial Service Centre.

... Plans for the laboratory - to include a sensitive climate-monitoring system to control the amount of heat, light, dust and humidity in the facility - will be drawn up this year with construction to begin in 1989.



The WDM Yorkton was photographed from the air on July 27, 1988.

WDM Library

1988 June 6 - A lease was signed giving the WDM management of roughly 7 hectares (17 acres) of land surrounding the WDM Saskatoon. The 11th St W site was returned to the City of Saskatoon. The architectural firm of Malkin Edwards was engaged to develop a plan for the Museum grounds by 1989.

1988 July 1 - The first WDM Conservator, George Prytulak, began, charged with planning the Conservation Lab in the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in Saskatoon.

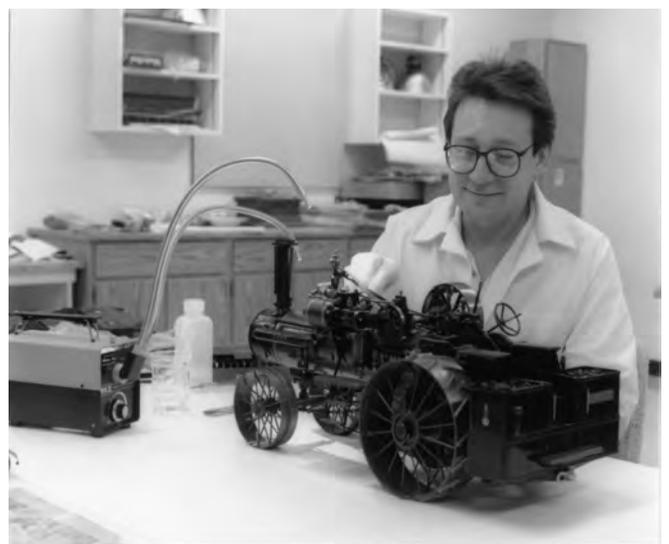
1988 July - The Yorkton Local History Gallery opened at the WDM Yorkton, the second WDM to open a local history display following North Battleford's lead.

1988 August 6 - 7 - Those Were the Days at the WDM North Battleford provided the anchor event for the City of North Battleford's Homecoming Week celebration.



Canada Day celebrations at the WDM Yorkton, 1988.

Leslee Newman photo

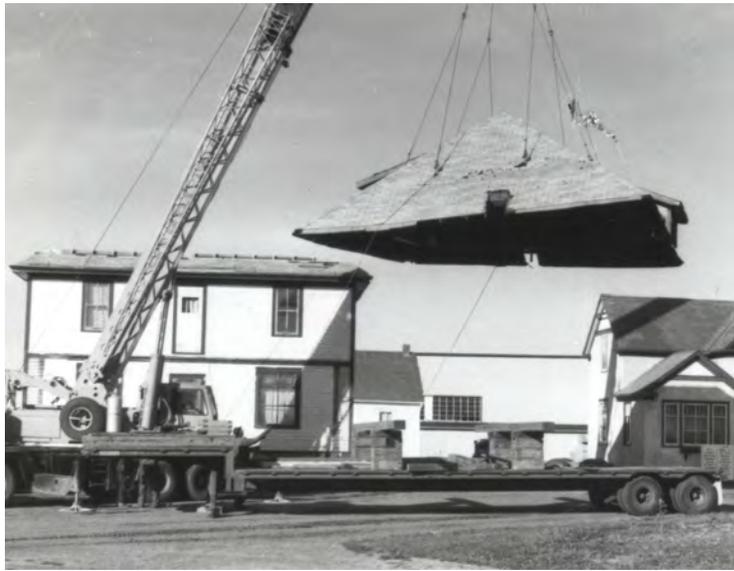


The first WDM Conservator was hired in 1988. George Prytulak moved from Ontario to take the position at the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC).

WDM Library



1988 Summer - WDM North Battleford village buildings were relocated and refurbished. A new alignment of streets was created and graded and landscape planning began. Railway track was relaid and extended to the grain elevator, with assistance from CN during the preceding winter months. The *Anglican Church* was moved. On September 26, the *Harris family home* from Fielding was moved and reassembled on site in the *Heritage Farm and Village*.



1988 August - A new gazebo was completed on the grounds of the WDM Yorkton in time for the Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival. The gazebo functioned as an outdoor stage.

1988 July - November - David Richeson took a personal leave, with Tom Waiser acting in his stead for the term.

1988 Fall - The Yellowhead Highway 16 opened a new route through the City of Yorkton, lessening the traffic going past the museum to and from York Rd.

1988 October 1 - Tom Waiser left his position as WDM Yorkton Manager to become Operations Manager at the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in Saskatoon. He was replaced as manager by Susan Norman.

The *Harris house*, home of a store owner in Fielding, SK, was donated by the family and moved to the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village* in September 1988. The *French home* (below) was moved around on site that year as well.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files



1988 *Heritage 2000* was released by Saskatchewan's Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, suggesting a blueprint for the future direction of heritage in Saskatchewan. David Richeson outlined that "*Heritage 2000 suggests that we must develop our heritage resources, offer greater access and enjoyment, encourage investment, and at the same time stress proper conservation and management procedures for these non-renewable heritage resources.*"

1988 A draft of *A Museums Policy For Saskatchewan* was developed by Saskatchewan's Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to review the role of museums in Saskatchewan and the needs of museums, to review the sources of museum support and to identify a strategy to coordinate roles, needs and supports.

1988 October 1988 to April 1989 - Winter closure of Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton WDMs.



New gazebo at the WDM Yorkton summer show, 1995.

Leslee Newman photo



In the fall of 1988, Tom Waiser moved from his position of Manager at the WDM Yorkton to become Operations Manager at the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) in Saskatoon, a newly-created position.

WDM Library



1988 December - An event organized with the Cosmopolitan Club saw Christmas trees at the WDM North Battleford decorated on December 3 and auctioned on December 11, with proceeds going to the participating organizations.

1988 Winter - Over the winter at the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC), the WDM calliope was painted with a fresh coat of bright red paint, and outfitted with extra gold-painted adornments including cherubs and mermaids.



1989 Attendance 229,363 from April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990

1989 The WDM celebrated 40 years as the human history museum for the province of Saskatchewan. As a launch to the year, the WDM Board of Directors approved distinctive names for each WDM:

- WDM Moose Jaw History of Transportation
- WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village*
- WDM Saskatoon 1910 Boomtown
- WDM Yorkton Story of People

The new names were intended to draw increased attention to the distinctive theme and character of each WDM.

1989 The WDM saw its provincial annual operating grant cut again, a consistent occurrence that began in 1984.

1989 January 22 - March 26 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum's (RSM) animated dinosaur *Megamunch* was on display at the WDM Saskatoon while the RSM's display area for the dinosaur was remodelled.

In 1988, despite winter closure, the WDM North Battleford and the Cosmopolitan Club joined forces to offer a Christmas event at the *Heritage Farm and Village*.

WDM Library, Education and Extension files



The WDM calliope was given a facelift in time for 40th Anniversary celebrations in 1989.

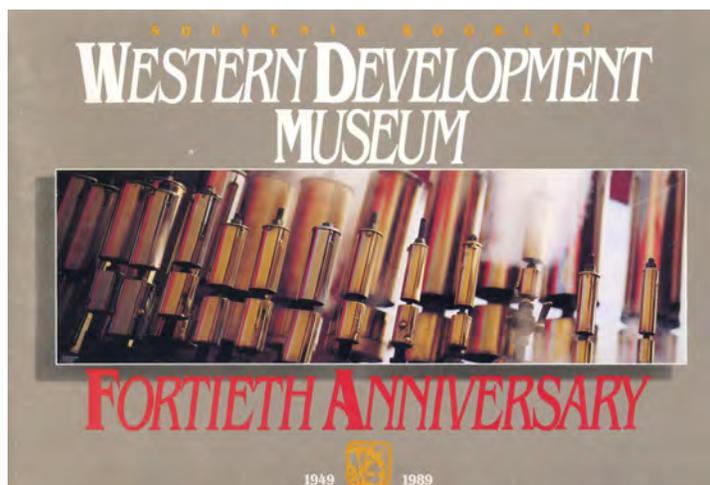
WDM Library

- 1989 A new position was created at the WDM Saskatoon - Education Assistant.
- 1989 March - The Master Site Development Plan for the nearly 7 hectares (17 acres) of land surrounding the WDM Saskatoon was completed by Malkin Edwards architectural firm.
- 1989 March - A WDM partnership with the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association resulted in a display of early snowmobiles dating to 1947 in the WDM Moose Jaw. The Association claimed that the *Warriors of Winter* exhibit was the first such display in Western Canada.
- 1989 April 1 - THE CFB Moose Jaw aviation heritage exhibit was unveiled at the WDM Moose Jaw. The exhibit showed Saskatchewan's involvement and contribution to Canada's aviation history, including the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) during the Second World War, and the Snowbirds.



- 1989 April 2 - The WDM celebrated 40 years.
- Four major exhibits providing an overview of 40 years of the work of the WDM were opened in celebration.
 - The WDM calliope embarked on a provincial tour to major fairs and special events around the province. In preparation, the calliope was given a major facelift with gilded hand-carved adornments adding to the festive red siding and the polished brass whistles.
 - Spearheaded by Ruth Bitner, a 40th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet was produced highlighting the WDM artifact collection.
 - Souvenir items including balloons, buttons, pins, posters and banners were sold in WDM gift shops and distributed around the province.

The WDM Moose Jaw celebrated the WDM's 40th Anniversary at an event in September, 1989. WDM Moose Jaw Manager Virginia Hatch Stewart stands at the far right. WDM Library, Moose Jaw WDM files



Collections Coordinator Ruth Bitner prepared a souvenir booklet highlighting artifacts in the WDM collection for the WDM 40th Anniversary in 1989.

WDM Library, Education-Extension files



Brian Newman, Exhibits Assistant at the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC), puts finishing touches on the WDM 40th Anniversary exhibit, 1989.

WDM Library



A *Transportation Hall of Fame* was launched at the WDM Moose Jaw in June 1989.

WDM Library, WDM Moose Jaw files

1989 May - A 1987 study by Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan Western Limited that had recommended the development required at the WDM Moose Jaw to reach its market potential, was put into effect this year. WDM Moose Jaw manager Virginia Hatch Stewart said, "The museum plans to spend \$50,000 over the summer developing a ten-year master plan. We want to make the museum into one of the biggest tourist attractions between Winnipeg and Calgary." The wind-swept prairie surrounding the museum was to be transformed into an attractive site filled with exhibits.

1989 June - David Richeson reported that the WDM was "about to release a completed site development plan for the WDM Saskatoon, are hard at work on a site development plan for the WDM Moose Jaw and are trying to find funding for a comprehensive site development plan for the Heritage Farm and Village at North Battleford."

1989 June - The *Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame* launched at the WDM Moose Jaw.

1989 June - Saskatchewan's oldest observatory built by the Regina Astronomical Society in 1913 was donated and moved into the WDM Moose Jaw.

1989 July 8 - 9 - The WDM North Battleford hosted *Prairie Wool and Pussy Willows*, a reunion of six area school districts following the publication in December 1988 of the book *Prairie Wool and Pussy Willows*. Interest was strong and attendance was higher than anticipated. "We brewed coffee for 100 people and 400 showed up," said WDM manager Wayne Fennig.

1989 July 10 - 16 - Minister Colin Maxwell, Minister of Parks, Recreation and Culture proclaimed the week as Saskatchewan Western Development Museums' Week.

1989 August - The WDM Yorkton opened a new gazebo on the grounds. The gazebo would host musicians, singers and dancers at museum events.

1989 August - Collections Coordinator Ruth Bitner reported that 11,000 artifacts had been transferred to the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) since the move from storage hangars began in 1984. She estimated that approximately 7,000 more artifacts moved from overcrowded and unsuitable storage were in the holding area awaiting processing.

1989 September - This fall the WDM Saskatoon experimented with a harvest show not linked to the Exhibition in July. The result was Harvesfest.

1989 October - the Site Development Plan for the 14 hectares (35 acres) surrounding the WDM Moose Jaw was completed by Hilderman, Witty, Crosby, Hanna and Associates, landscape architects and planners.

1989 October - The City of Saskatoon considered what to do with the area should the Prairieland Exhibition move north of town.

1989 October to April 1990 - WDMs in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton closed over the winter.



Saskatchewan's oldest observatory, built in 1913, was donated and moved into the WDM Moose Jaw.

WDM Library



By 1989, 11,000 artifacts had been transferred to the WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) since the move from storage hangars began in 1984.

WDM Library



A Site Development Plan was completed for the grounds of the WDM Moose Jaw in 1989.

WDM Library



The Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association barn at the WDM Saskatoon, October 1990, with Roy Musgrove and team on the wagon.

Leslee Newman photo



In 1989 the WDM Yorkton was chosen as one of the Top 100 attractions in North America by the American Bus Association. WDM Library

1989 November - A barn at the WDM Saskatoon opened, a project of the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association in partnership with the WDM Saskatoon, for storing equipment and to stable horses during special events.

1989 December - In a retrospective of the 1980s, Executive Director David Richeson wrote in the December, 1989 edition of *Sparks Off the Anvil*, "Financial support from all levels of government declined dramatically to a static lower level. Inflation has since eroded the museum's ability to fund programs, and staff levels have fallen below the 1980 numbers. One response to these changes was the 1986 switch to seasonal operation of Moose Jaw, Yorkton and North Battleford. Attendance on the other hand has shown a small average increase. Today the museum is self-supporting to a degree greater than in 1980."

1989 December 9 - 10 - The WDM North Battleford, with the Cosmopolitan Club, held the 2nd annual Share the Christmas Spirit with Christmas trees decorated on December 9 and auctioned on December 10, with proceeds going to the participating organizations.

1989 December - The American Bus Association selected the WDM Yorkton's Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival as one of the Top 100 Attractions in North America.

1989 December 31 - Virginia Hatch Stewart resigned as Manager of the WDM Moose Jaw. Susan Norman, Manager of the WDM Yorkton, agreed to manage both museums while a replacement was found.



WDM Moose Jaw Manager Virginia Hatch-Stewart resigned at the end of 1989 to take a position in Ontario.
WDM Library



Museum admissions rose at the beginning of 1990 for visitors like these at the WDM Saskatoon, c. 1990.

WDM Library



At the WDM Moose Jaw, visitors from the local Credit Union enjoyed a picnic in 1988.

WDM Archives - Moose Jaw Binder 2



While new exhibits were forecast for the new decade, old exhibits continued to intrigue Museum visitors. The steam engine ramp demonstration enjoyed 40 years of interest from Museum visitors, WDM Saskatoon, c. 1990.

WDM Library

1990 Attendance 228,872 from April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991

1990 On January 1, 1990 museum admissions rates rose:

Adults 13 - 64 years	\$3.00
Seniors 65+ years	\$2.50
Children 5 - 12 years	\$1.00
Children under 5	Free
Adult groups prebooked - less 50 cents per person	
Children's groups prebooked - less 25 cents per child	
School groups prebooked 75 cents per student ⁴	

January 24, 1990 article titled "Museum has new goals for '90s" in the *Battlefords News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1989 - 90 WDM Scrapbook)

1990 marks the beginning of a new decade and a new opportunity for the Western Development Museum. Although no one can ever hope to predict the future I would like to outline my vision of the museum's goals for the decade to come," wrote WDM Executive Director David Richeson.

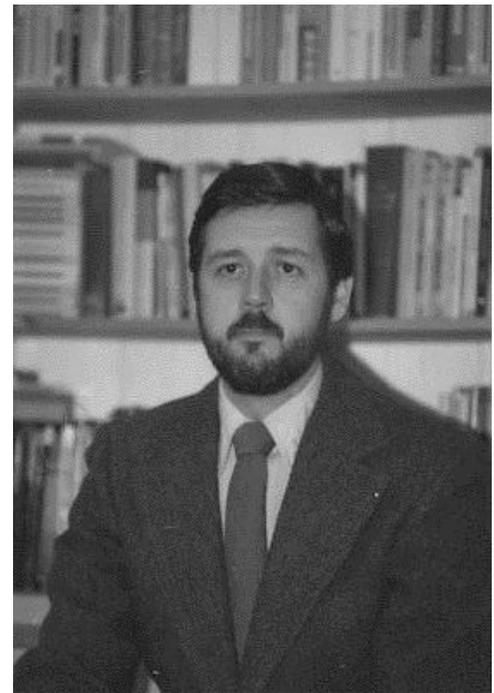
The primary goal will be implement a master exhibit plan for permanent, temporary and travelling artifact exhibits. These new exhibits must be designed to permit a high degree of interaction with the visitor. The exhibits will include greater numbers of properly restored artifacts. They will address many themes and subjects missing from past exhibits. Greater emphasis will be placed on promotion and marketing new exhibits.

New exhibits in the 1990s will require upgraded exhibit building environments and improved areas in each museum for both educational and public programming. Museum sites must be improved to bring into being the elements of site plans completed in the 1980s. These developments will enable the museum to better meet the program, tourism and recreational demands of visitors in the 1990s.

Long term artifact collection development plans will be needed to more adequately respond to the increased demands created as a result of the WDM's mandate to preserve Saskatchewan's material history and to support expanded exhibit activity. Fully functional specialized artifact conservation labs, brought into infancy in the 1980s, will be needed to ensure long artifact preservation.

Staff reorganization, staff training and some recruitment will be needed in the 1990s, or corresponding adjustment in the size of the WDM operations must take place to permit continued balanced professional response to the museums' goals. ...

*... **The 1990s will be an opportunity, not merely to survive, but to excel. We need the will and the energy to make it happen.***



WDM Executive Director David Richeson claimed that for the Saskatchewan Western Development Museum, "The 1990s will be an opportunity, not merely to survive, but to excel."

WDM Library

1990 Evening openings were discontinued in an effort to reduce temporary staff costs.

February 8, 1990 article titled "Museum plays second fiddle, Richeson says" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1989 - 90 WDM Scrapbook)

... "Saskatoon's municipal government over-rewards anything that's sports-oriented, said David Richeson, museum executive director. "The government doesn't want anything to do with us. The city seems obsessed with sports activities.

... Richeson said lack of provincial support has dropped from \$1.47 million in 1985 to \$1.17 million in 1989 - means the museum is having difficulty maintaining quality exhibits.

... He said the city should pick up some of the slack. Saskatoon contributed \$4,000 to the WDM's budget last year. The Canada Games received \$2.5 million from the city. "We've been living off our own blood. It's very frustrating," said Richeson.

1990 February - The WDM Moose Jaw was forced to turn down a \$30,000 grant from Canada's Department of Employment and



Early in 1990, the WDM Moose Jaw could not accept a federal government grant for a variety of reasons, including the lack of a Museum Manager.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binders



While the Museum struggled financially, volunteer support remained strong as shown in this 1991 photo at the WDM Saskatoon's Pion-Era summer show.

WDM Library



Shrinking government support for the WDM network and decreasing visitation at the WDM Yorkton threatened the future of the WDM Yorkton in 1990.

WDM Library

Immigration because of low staffing at the museum, especially the lack of a manager. This meant that three staff receiving EI benefits, who might have continued to collect EI benefits while working at the museum, could not be effectively supervised.

1990 March - Executive Director David Richeson in the March 1990 edition of *Sparks Off the Anvil*, wrote *"The province which created the WDM network no longer seems to be in a position to recognize the organization's continuing worth. Everyone advises that you must be "lean and mean" to survive in the 1990s. Well the WDM is certainly leaner that it was in 1985 when the Provincial grant to the Museum was 20 per cent larger than that of 1989. The museum has also been meaner. Admission fees have been raised twice since 1985, four permanent jobs have been eliminated, seven other staff are now laid off each fall for the winter, dozens of students who once brought their creativity and vitality to summer work at the museums no longer have the opportunity to do so."*

March 18, 1990 article titled "WDM cash starved to preserve history" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix Sunday Sun* (WDM Library - 1989 - 90 WDM Scrapbook)

"... Provincial government money, which comprises about 65 per cent of the WDM's total budget dropped from \$1.47 million in 1985 to \$1.17 million last year..."

March 21, 1990 article titled "Local WDM could be first branch closed" in the *Yorkton This Week* (WDM Library - 1989 - 90 WDM Scrapbook)

"When the Western Development Museum opens its doors at the end of April, it could be for the last time. Executive Director David Richeson says there is no immediate threat of the museum closing, but the 1991 season is uncertain."

"We're waiting on word from the provincial budget," he explains. "About 65 per cent of WDM funding comes from the provincial government. If additional funding isn't found, we have to look at a way to balance our budget."

The federal government provides the remainder of WDM funding, but administration has been told to expect an end to the one ongoing federal grant that has assisted the WDM since 1972.

Mr. Richeson says losing one or more of the museums is one method of balancing the budget.

...For the past few years, attendance at the Yorkton museum has averaged only 18,000 visitors. In 1989, paid attendance plummeted to around 16,000 people. ... Revenue from admission tickets in Moose Jaw totalled \$38,347, compared to a total of \$9,299 for admission revenue in Yorkton.

"Moose Jaw is on the Trans Canada Highway, but we used to be on the Yellowhead," Mr. Richeson says, explaining the differences. Highway 16A, which runs north of the museum and joins with the Yellowhead Highway at a junction past the museum, is an issue raised again and again by museum officials. Mr. Richeson and Mrs. Norman place direct blame on the truck route for last year's poor attendance.

"It wasn't our special events attendance that was down," she explains. "There was no other information centre on the west end and we acted as one before the truck route. Tourists stopped at our picnic grounds, saw the museum, and then we would direct them to businesses in the city."

Mr. Magis acknowledges that there is a problem with the truck route. "The truck route is being used as a bypass. A lot of people are taking 16A, and without signage, the tourists aren't coming to the WDM." The city, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Highways are working together to place signs downtown to direct traffic towards the museum.



Exhibits and artifacts in the WDM Yorkton, c. 1985.

WDM Archives - Education-Extension files



Heritage Farm and Village, WDM North Battleford, 1988.
WDM Library



The WDM North Battleford summer show, Those Were The Days, remained popular despite struggles to overcome dwindling resources.

WDM Library



WDM North Battleford Those Were The Days show, August 1990.

Leslee Newman photo

... Mr. Magis feels there would be an uproar in Yorkton if the museum were to close.

... Operating grants from the provincial government have declined by 20 per cent in the last five years.

... "The government has been generous with capital projects, but not in our operating budget." ..."

March 21, 1990 - Article titled "WDM re-opens April 29" in the *Battlefords News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 1989 - 90 WDM Scrapbook)

"... [WDM Executive Director David] Richeson says the WDM has a steady market for its product - averaging over 210,000 visitors including a majority who pay - each year. The problem is this income combined with all other non-museum income from space rentals, gift shops, food services and a membership program is not enough to cover costs which have risen even faster.

He said the municipalities at one time provided substantial assistance to the WDMs, but as provincial funds diminished municipal support for the WDMs has nearly vanished. "Everyone wants a museum in their community, but no one really seems to want to pay," Richeson said.

He said the WDM has already been told to expect an end to the ongoing federal museum grant program which has assisted the WDM since 1972.

Municipalities have offered to lobby provincial and federal politicians on behalf of the museum, but do not feel they can add anything of substance in terms of financial support.

"The province which created the WDM network, no longer seems to be in a position to recognize the organization's continuing worth. Everyone advises you that you must be lean and mean to survive in the 1990s. Well, the WDM is certainly leaner than it was in 1985 when the provincial grant to the museum was 20 per cent larger than that of 1989. The WDM has also been meaner. Admission fees

have been raised twice since 1985; four permanent jobs have been eliminated; seven other staff are now laid off each fall for the winter; and dozens of students who once brought their creativity and vitality to summer work at the museums no longer have any opportunity to do so,” Richeson pointed out. ...

1990 March 31 - Canada Post unveiled a new four stamp series commemorating the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) at the Western Development Museum - Moose Jaw.

1990 April - A newly renovated *Bentley Store* on Boomtown Street was completed, along with a *Craft Parlour* for members of the WDM Women’s Auxiliary to demonstrate pioneer skills.

1990 April - To deal with funding shortfalls, a decision was made to cease evening openings during summer months at the four Western Development Museums.

1990 May 7 - Lyn M. Johnston was named Manager of the WDM Moose Jaw.

1990 May - The Canadian Department of Communications Cultural Initiatives Program provided funds to the WDM to purchase computer hardware and software to establish a network in the three museums at Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton. The Provincial Service Centre (PSC) placed computers in the library, research department and artifact conservation laboratory.



Lyn M. Johnston was named Manager of the WDM Moose Jaw beginning May 1990, following the resignation of Virginia Hatch-Stewart in December 1989.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw Binder 2

May 16, 1990 - Article titled “Minister agrees with ad hoc group” in the *Yorkton This Week* (WDM Library - 1989 - 90 WDM Scrapbook)

... The committee, which was spearheaded by the Chamber of Commerce, was concerned traffic down the Yellowhead - Highway 16 - was bypassing the city because signs directed people along York



In 1990 the WDM Yorkton suffered a loss of visitors when Highway 16 was re-routed and travellers no longer drove past the Museum on their way in and out of Yorkton.

WDM Library



Jeux Canada Games bleachers were given to the WDM Saskatoon in 1990.

WDM Library



The farm home of the McLaren family from Rockhaven, SK was opened officially as part of the farmstead in the *Heritage Farm and Village* at the WDM North Battleford in 1990.

WDM Library, Public Relations and Promotions files

Road, north of the city centre.

Mr. Peterson [Highways and Transportation Minister Sherwin Peterson] says York Road will be designated as Highway 16A and signed as a "Truck Route," while a downtown route will become Highway 16 and called a "Business Loop." The loop will be, coming from the north, Smith Street, south down Gladstone Avenue and west along Broadway Avenue.

"The business district in Yorkton is suffering, possibly due to the signage on Highway 16," acknowledges the minister. ... "

The Western Development Museum in Yorkton experienced a drop in visitation following the rerouting of Highway 16 through the community. Traffic no longer funneled past the museum resulting in a loss of the spur-of-the-moment visitors.

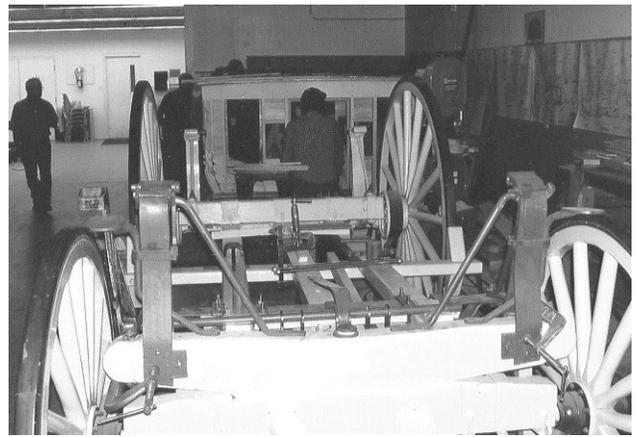
1990 The WDM Saskatoon received colourful new bleachers courtesy of Canada Summer Games and the New Careers program.

1990 Summer - At the WDM North Battleford, the *Co-Op Store* and the *barber shop* were moved to new locations on the *Heritage Farm and Village* main street. The *McLaren farm home* from Rockhaven, moved on site in 1987, was opened officially. Exterior renovations to the Harris house, moved to the *Heritage Farm and Village* in 1988, were completed. Manager Wayne Fennig was quoted in the *Battlefords News-Optimist*, saying "It's a 10-year plan and when completed it [Heritage Farm and Village] will be the only one of its kind in the province. Plans for next year call for the addition of a dance hall."

1990 June - Federally, the Department of Communications released its new and long-awaited Museum Policy, eliminating an annual grant to the WDM which the WDM had received under the former Associate Museum Program since 1972.

1990 June - The CT-133 Silver Star aircraft displayed on the grounds of the WDM Moose Jaw was airlifted by helicopter to CFB Moose Jaw where base volunteers could refurbish it.

1990 July - Members of the *Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association* volunteer group at the WDM Saskatoon made a replica stagecoach based on plans devised by measuring a vehicle on the Museum's 1910 Boomtown street. The stage would be used in parades and rides around the WDM grounds.



September 5, 1990 - Article titled "Selling Moose Jaw's attractions" in the *Moose Jaw Times-Herald* (WDM Library - 1989 - 90 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum History of Transportation could become an international attraction. Under a 10-year plan being worked on by the museum, it could become one of the "premier attractions of Saskatchewan," says manager Lyn Johnston. The Moose Jaw Tourism Strategy Report challenged, issued February 2, 1987, the museum to enhance its role as a tourism anchor for Moose Jaw. It's meeting that challenge.

The plan, which hasn't been finalized, calls for expanding the museum to include indoor and outdoor displays, expanding the railway line, landscaping and paving the parking lot, she says. More immediate plans include learning benches for school tours this fall, Johnston says. The benches contain artifacts that can be handled by children, and explained by interpreters, such as former engineers. The museum is also trying to get computer terminals, providing information about the displays.

... Volunteers are needed for the museum to fulfill its potential, Johnston says. ...



At the WDM Saskatoon, volunteers in the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association built a stagecoach for Museum events and programs.

WDM Library - Education-Extension files

1990 September - The WDM in Moose Jaw extended its open hours for the winter. Instead of closing at the end of October, the museum remained open to the end of December. After November 6, the museum



In 1990 the WDM Moose Jaw aspired to become an international attraction.

WDM Library



In September 1990 the Conservative government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced the implementation of a Goods & Services Tax beginning January 1, 1991.

Web image



The Snowbirds celebrated the 20th anniversary of Canada's aeronautic team at the Western Development Museum - Moose Jaw late in 1990.

Web image

was open from 1:00 - 9:00 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. The winter layoff was shortened to just over three months, reopening in April 1991.

1990 September - Ottawa introduced the Goods & Services Tax (GST) and museums around the country questioned what part of their operations would be affected by the requirements of GST. Would museum memberships be taxed? Yes, as would admission fees, gift shop sales and food sold in museum restaurants. In a September 15, 1990 *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* article, WDM Executive Director David Richeson was quoted as saying "*It'll be one monumental headache. We're asked to do a whole lot of accounting for nothing.*"

1990 October - The Saskatchewan Heritage Information Network (SHIN) was launched on a two-year project to computerize the collections management systems of 30 Saskatchewan museums to interface with the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN).

1990 October - The WDM Saskatoon held its first Museum Christmas Craft Fair.

1990 October - At the WDM Moose Jaw, A *Salute to the Snowbirds* temporary exhibition was opened in celebration of the 20 years in the air for Canada's Canadian Forces air demonstration squadron. WDM Moose Jaw manager Lyn Johnston made plans to set up a permanent Snowbirds exhibit in the museum, but until funding was secured she called the exhibit plan "just another piece of paper on my desk."

- 1990 November 1 - Admission rates rose:
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Adults 13 - 64 years | \$3.50 |
| Seniors 65+ years | \$3.00 |
| Children 5 - 12 years | \$1.50 |
| Children under 5 | Free |
- Adult groups prebooked - less 50 cents per person
 Children's groups prebooked - less 50 cents per child
 School groups prebooked - less \$1.00 per student⁴



- 1990 November 25 - The Snowbirds celebrated the 20th anniversary of Canada's aeronautic team at the Western Development Museum - Moose Jaw.

- 1990 December 23 - *Boomtown Country Christmas*, a Saskatchewan Television Network (STV) production filmed at the WDM Saskatoon featuring Michael Branstetter, aired on STV.

WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village*, December 1988. The WDMs in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton were closed for the winter in 1990, in an attempt to balance the Museum's budget for the 1988 - 89 year.

Leslee Newman photo

- 1990 The winter closing of the three WDMs outside of Saskatoon continued.

**1991 Attendance 214,593
 April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992**

- 1991 January 1 - A federal government tax on museum admission fees began, followed in April by a provincial government tax.

- 1991 The government of Saskatchewan under Premier Grant Devine announced a funding reduction of up to 25 per cent to cultural and non-profit organizations.



Grant Devine's provincial government announced a reduction of support for museums and other cultural and non-profit organizations early in 1991.

- 1991 January 16 - A media release from the WDM Board of Directors stated "*The Board of the Western Development Museum for 1991 - 92 will close its museums for the winter in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton on September 15, 1991. In order*

Saskatoon Public Library, Local History Room
 CP-9034-1-[1]



Murals were created in the WDM Moose Jaw to enhance exhibits in the Aviation Gallery in 1991.

WDM Library - WDM Moose Jaw binders

to avert an anticipated shortfall in operational funding for the 1991 - 92 fiscal year all staff in these museums along with two staff from the Saskatoon Provincial Service Centre will be laid off at the end of September for the remainder of the 1991 - 92 fiscal year. The Board, after reviewing its options, has reluctantly made this decision in response to increased operational costs and no increases in government grant funding for several years." David Richeson added that the WDM was considering following the lead of the historic parks in Saskatchewan where staffing was done on a seasonal basis.

1991 The Saskatchewan Heritage Collections Conservation Committee released a revised edition of *A Conservation Strategy for Saskatchewan Heritage Collections* calling for a comprehensive conservation extension service available to all Saskatchewan museums and coordinated through the Museums Association of Saskatchewan.

1991 February - The WDM Moose Jaw hosted Moose Jaw's first indoor murals workshop led by BC artist Don Sawatsky. Two murals were created at the Museum: an Anson aircraft in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) exhibit and three Harvards in flight in the second mural.

March 15, 1991 - Article titled "SaskTrust to handle responsibility for arts" in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1991 - 92 WDM Scrapbook)

A fundamental restructuring of the Saskatchewan government's funding for arts, sport and culture, including cuts of at least \$5 million, is all but complete. The government intends to turn overall responsibility for arts, sport and cultural programming to SaskTrust, an arm's length agency which already distributes \$18 million worth of lottery revenues, according to sources involved in the decision. ...

1991 April 1 - Beattie Martin, Saskatchewan Minister of the Family announced that effective this day, all financial responsibility for grants to arts, multiculturalism, heritage, sport and recreation was transferred to the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. This change included the Western Development Museum.

1991 April - The Government of Saskatchewan levied a tax on museum admission fees.

1991 April - Four Dini Petty CTV weekday shows were taped at the WDM Saskatoon.



In March 1990 the Conservative provincial government of Grant Devine turned over funding support of the Western Development Museum to lottery funds administered by SaskTrust.

Web image

April 19, 1991 - Article titled "Petition opposes cuts" in the *Battleford's Telegraph* (WDM Library - 1991 - 92 WDM Scrapbook)

A petition signed by more than 2,000 Saskatchewan residents who are in opposition to cuts at Western Development Museums was tabled Thursday by Battlefords MLA Doug Anguish.

Due to provincial government underfunding of Saskatchewan's Western Development Museums at North Battleford, Moose Jaw, Yorkton and Saskatoon, these museums have been instructed to close from September 15 to April 1, 1992 and to cut full time staff, said Anguish. The petitions tabled by Anguish protest the closure of the North Battleford museum, specifically the North Battleford Heritage Farm and Village.

"The Devine government claims to be dedicated to creating jobs and economic opportunities for Saskatchewan people through the tourism and hospitality industry, yet these cuts to Saskatchewan's network of Western Development Museums will cost people jobs and deny thousands of fall and winter visitors to the province access to the major tourist attractions in three cities," said Anguish.

"If the Devine government can find \$2 million a month for advertising, including the latest tourist advertising campaign featuring an American actor (Don Adams), then surely it can find the money required



In April 1991, Museum supporters in North Battleford launched a petition to oppose cuts to WDM funding from the provincial government.

WDM Library



Despite funding uncertainties, Museum participation went on as usual, as witnessed by participation in the Territorial Days Parade, July 15, 1991.

Leslee Newman photos



A CT-133 Silver Star aircraft arrived at the WDM Moose Jaw in 1991 for the new Snowbirds Gallery.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binders

to keep Saskatchewan people working and major tourist attractions open," he said.

- 1991 April 27 - The WDM Saskatoon held its first Craft Fair.

- 1991 May - The WDM Moose Jaw announced a three phase plan that included a *Cinema 180 Theatre* featuring a special Snowbirds film and a new exhibit gallery based on the history of the Snowbirds and military aerobatics in Canada.

- 1991 June - Deaccessioned WDM artifacts were sold at public auction on June 22 in Saskatoon and June 27 in North Battleford, after first being offered to Museums Association of Saskatchewan members.

- 1991 June 30 - David Richeson left his position as WDM Executive Director for a National Museum of Science and Technology position in Ottawa. Appointed as Acting Executive Director was David Klatt, Manager of the WDM Saskatoon. Appointed to act in the interim as WDM Saskatoon Manager was Operations Manager Tom Waiser.

- 1991 The June-July issue of *Canadian Geographic* magazine featured a WDM article written by Monique Roy-Sole, calling the WDM *"a unique brand of museums, by the people, for the people."*

- 1991 July - The City of North Battleford approved the donation of a brick building built and operated as a shoe repair shop in downtown North Battleford, but did not approve the \$4,000 requested to move the building to the WDM *Heritage Farm and Village*.

- 1991 An internal project to produce a WDM Exhibit Master Plan (EMP) was launched. It would be five years before the project

was completed. To begin the process, all staff were invited to participate in meetings of the committee.

1991 September - David Klatt reported in *Sparks Off the Anvil* that the number of artifacts catalogued in the WDM collection approached 60,000. This included 10,967 in North Battleford, 1,781 in Moose Jaw, 5,574 in Yorkton and 16,306 in the WDM Saskatoon. At the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) 22,725 items were in storage. The collection included 217 gas tractors, 81 steam traction engines, 14 airplanes, 158 automobiles, 48 trucks and 6,900 items of clothing. The oldest artifact was a sundial dated at 1659. The heaviest were the North Battleford grain elevator and the steam locomotive in Moose Jaw.



David Klatt was named Acting Executive Director in June 1991, following the resignation of Director David Richeson.
WDM Library

1991 September 15 - WDMs in Yorkton and North Battleford closed for the winter.

1991 October 30 - *Cinema 180* in the WDM Moose Jaw was previewed by guests attending the Snowbirds Harvest Feast fundraiser for the new Snowbirds gallery.

1991 November 1 - David Klatt officially was named as the WDM Executive Director.



Tom Waiser, former WDM Yorkton Manager, was named Acting WDM Saskatoon Manager in June 1991 when David Klatt moved into the Director's chair.
WDM Library

November 22, 1991 - Article titled "Historical Society advocates full-time WDM management" in the *Battleford's Telegraph* (WDM Library - 1991 - 92 WDM Scrapbook)

The Battlefords North West Historical Society has sent a letter to the provincial chairman of the Western Development Museum Board urging that the full-time manager's position be restored. ...

1991 December 29 - The WDM Moose Jaw closed for the season.



Although the donation of a shoe repair shop was approved in 1991, the building was not moved to the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village* until 1992.

WDM Library - Warren Clubb binders



Cinema 180 previewed at the WDM Moose Jaw in 1991 as part of the new Snowbirds Gallery. The Gallery opened officially in 1992. A film called *Fly With the Snowbirds* was made expressly for the Cinema 180 Theatre.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw Binder 3

1992 Attendance 202,027 April 1, 1992 to March 31, 1993

1992 January 1 - Tom Waiser was named officially as WDM Saskatoon manager.

1992 February - David Klatt in the February 1992 edition of *Sparks Off the Anvil* wrote *"It is interesting to note that the WDM has seen its financial support eroding since the mid-1980s. From a permanent, full-time staff of thirty-nine in four cities, we now function with a contingent of twenty. Staff lost or reduced to part-time include technical, maintenance, clerical, exhibit production, education-extension, public relations and promotions, collections personnel, as well as managers in several branches. Year around schedules have been reduced by nearly fifty percent, to seasonal operations. 1990 observations of similar, provincial institutions revealed some interesting benchmarks. Operating budgets in relation to gallery space were in excess of \$800 and \$1,000 per square meter respectively, whereas the WDM operated with \$76 per square meter. Although the WDM maintained the second largest area of museum exhibit space in the country, its funding level in total dollars when compared to other museums, is twenty-fourth."*



The first artifact donation to the WDM North Battleford in 1992 was a CN caboose, seen here in 2011.

WDM Archives - Collections Department WDM-1992-NB-1



In 1992, artists Dale Cline and Ernie Bereti painted a mural of the Rosedale Airport in 1928 in the WDM Moose Jaw.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binders

1992 February - Moose Jaw artist Dale Cline and Maclean, SK artist Ernie Bereti teamed up to paint a mural in the WDM Moose Jaw - *Moose Jaw's Rosedale Airport 1928*. The mural was dedicated two months later in April.

1992 February 9 - A 600 square metre section of roof, along with snow, water pipes and gas lines collapsed at the north end of the new exhibit wing at the WDM North Battleford. The broken water line spilled water over the entire wing. The laid-off WDM staff leaped into action moving artifacts to safe and stable areas, stabilizing the structure, working with utility departments and the RCMP to safely

secure the premises and contacting repair workers.

1992 March 8 - A Collectible Camera Auction was held at the WDM Saskatoon to raise funds for a Boomtown Photo Studio. The camera collection was a gift from Saskatoon photographer, Lester J. Smith. Auctioneer John Blacklock donated his time and talent. The auction raised over \$7,000.

1992 March - Construction of the mezzanine in the Snowbirds Gallery got underway. As well, a CT-133 Silver Star aircraft, at one time a support craft assigned to the Snowbirds, was moved into the gallery in preparation of being hung from the ceiling.

1992 April - Repair of the North Battleford collapsed roof was awarded to Anderson Construction Ltd. of Saskatoon. Insurance paid the \$109,000 cost of repair as well as wages of four WDM employees called back from lay-off to move, clean and repair artifacts.

1992 April - At the WDM Moose Jaw, a crew from CFB Moose Jaw helped to hang a CT-133 Silver Star jet from the rafters of the new Snowbirds Gallery. During the month, Canada's Department of Western Economic Diversification announced \$242,525 funding in support of the new \$450,000 gallery.

1992 May - A team of seven volunteers under the leadership of Moose Jaw artist Dale Cline began work on the 96' x 22' mural in the Snowbirds Gallery. After 250 hours of work, the mural was completed in July, in time for the gallery opening. Depicting the flight line at CFB Moose Jaw, the mural showed nine Tutor aircraft at sunrise.



Cameras, some similar to this one in the WDM artifact collection, were donated by Les Smith for a fundraising auction held at the WDM Saskatoon in March 1992.

WDM Artifact Collection WDM-1979-S-182



A CT-133 Silver Star jet was installed in the Snowbirds Gallery at the WDM Moose Jaw in 1992.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw Binder 3



In May 1992 work got underway on a mural in the Snowbirds Gallery in the WDM Moose Jaw.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binders



At the WDM Moose Jaw, the Snowbirds Gallery opened officially on July 10, 1992.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw Binder 3



Trekkers from the original WDM Colony Trek in 1982 organized a 10-Year Reunion Trek in July 1992, travelling from WDM Saskatoon to the WDM North Battleford.

Leslee Newman photo

May 29, 1992- Article titled “Grant helps WDM stave off annihilation” in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* (WDM Library - 1991 - 92 WDM Scrapbook)

Christmas came early for the Western Development Museum this week when it received a one-time grant of \$500,000 from SaskTrust, the provincial agency that distributes lottery revenues. ... The money will be used for capital upgrading at the Moose Jaw and Saskatoon branches of the museum.

“The museum here in Saskatoon was built on a slough. ... We have buses sinking into the ground. ...”

In addition to the one-time grant, the museum will receive \$1.35 million from SaskTrust this year, an increase of about \$150,000 over last year’s budget. ...

1992 The York Colony Quilters Guild formed with about 60 members in Yorkton, with its headquarters at the WDM Yorkton.

1992 July 4 - The *Boomtown Photo Studio* opened on Boomtown Street in the WDM Saskatoon. Part of the funding for the new studio had been provided by the March auction of cameras collected by Les Smith and donated to the WDM as a fundraiser.

1992 July 10 - The *Snowbirds Gallery* opened at the WDM Moose Jaw. With a matching grant of \$242,525 from the Department of Western Economic Diversification, an interpretive gallery complete with a CT-133 Silver Star aircraft was created and the surround-vision of a *Cinema 180 Theatre* was installed. Other support came from the Department of National Defense (in particular CFB Moose Jaw), the province of Saskatchewan, and the City of Moose Jaw. *Fly With the Snowbirds* was the title of the 14 minute film, prepared for the *Cinema 180* presentation.

1992 July 13 - 19 - As a 10 year reunion of sorts, some trekkers from the original WDM Colony Trek of 1982 organized a

trek from the WDM Saskatoon to the WDM North Battleford.

1992 August 9 - The restoration of a 1911 32-110 Case steam traction engine was unveiled at Those Were the Days at the WDM North Battleford. Volunteers and WDM staff worked three years on the restoration.



1992 August 16 - The WDM North Battleford staged its first Northwest Country Gospel Jamboree.

1992 September - At the WDM Saskatoon, Harvestfest '92 was extended from one day to two. *"The Exhibition, due to budget constraints, wasn't able to support the pioneer show this year. We didn't want to lose that element of the summer so we decided to do our own show,"* said WDM Executive Director David Klatt. Harvestfest was proposed as a bridge to eventually reinstating the summer Pion-Era show that had been popular before the WDM moved from 11th St to the Lorne Ave site. Pion-Era was envisioned as a show independent of the Exhibition.

A Parade of Power showcased WDM and privately-owned tractors and agricultural equipment at the WDM North Battleford's Those Were The Days summer show, August 9, 1992.

Leslee Newman photo

1992 This was the first year of the kindergarten-Grade 1 program Toys of Yesteryear in Saskatoon - when 1,115 children were accepted; 1,550 children could not be accommodated.



1992 November 28 - December 4 - For the first time the WDM prepared an exhibit and appeared at Agribition in Regina, winning the Best Special Display award.

A garage was under construction in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village* in 1992.

WDM Library - Warren Clubb binders

1992 Winter closures continued at North Battleford and Yorkton, with Moose Jaw remaining open until the end of the year.

1992 December 31 - Archie Clark, custodian at the WDM Saskatoon since 1961 when the Museum was located on 11th St W, retired.

1993 Attendance 203,812
April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1994

1993 January 1 - Admission rates rose:

Adult aged 13-64 years	\$4.00
Senior 65+ years	\$3.50
Children 5-12 years	\$1.50
Children under 5	Free

Adult groups prebooked - less 50 cents per person
 Children group prebooked - less 50 cents per child
 School groups prebooked - less \$1.00 per student

The WDM Moose Jaw had special rates for *Cinema 180* with a Museum admission of:

Adults	\$5.50
Seniors	\$4.50
Children	\$3.00
Family	\$15.00

1993 February - The Battlefords Community Players established a partnership with the WDM North Battleford. The Museum would provide a stage and room with seating for 100. The first production in the new space was a dinner theatre - *The Gin Game* - on March 18, 19 and 20.

1993 March - The Yorkton City Council agreed to trade a parcel of marshland immediately west of the WDM Yorkton for land owned by Ducks Unlimited in the city's northwest sector, near the junction of Crescent Ave and Highway 16. The City also agreed to provide sewer and water services to the planned Ducks Unlimited office building that would be built west of the Museum.

1993 March - Provincial funding of the Western Development Museum moved back from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund to direct government funding.

1993 April - The WDM Board of Directors approved a family daily admission of \$10. A family was defined as parents and dependent children under the age of 18



Ducks Unlimited Canada
 Conserving Canada's Wetlands

It was announced in 1993 that the WDM Yorkton would have a new neighbour to the immediate west - Ducks Unlimited.

Web image

years. Guardians, in lieu of parents, were acceptable.

1993 Spring - WDMs in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton reopened for the season.

1993 April 1 - The Research Coordinator position held by Warren Clubb was redefined and renamed Exhibits Curator. The Exhibits Curator was responsible for guiding the preparation of an Exhibits Master Plan and for facilitating the creation of new exhibits through the sequence of proposals, research, storyline development and label writing.

Warren Clubb was made Exhibits Curator in 1993.

WDM Library

1993 May - A model train diorama opened in the WDM Saskatoon.

1993 May 26 - The Avro Anson Mark 1 aircraft restoration by WDM Moose Jaw's Vintage Aircraft Restorers was unveiled, after almost seven years and 23,000 hours of work. The Mark 1 would take its place as a training aircraft in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) gallery.

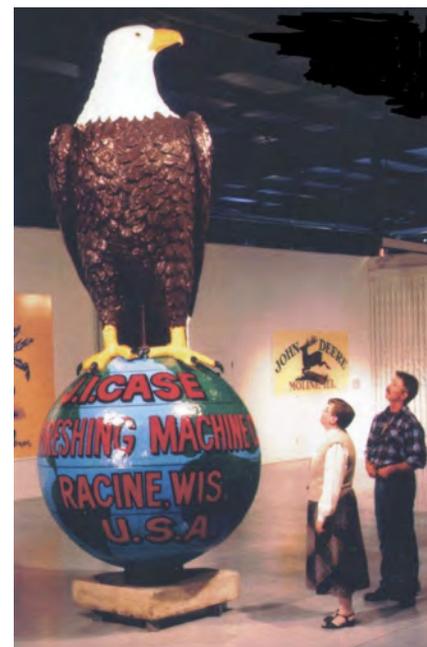


The Avro Anson Mark 1 aircraft restoration was unveiled at the WDM Moose Jaw in 1993.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binder

1993 May 31 - The Discovery Room, with an impressive centrepiece provided by the 4.6 metre (15 foot) J.I. Case Eagle, opened officially at the WDM North Battleford.

1993 June - The Great Western Brewing Company of Saskatoon officially launched a new brew - *Old Northwest Light* - at the WDM in North Battleford. Twenty-five cents of every case of *Old Northwest Light* sold would go towards Saskatchewan tourism during the limited 30-day sales period. A poster was created to promote sales using the WDM North Battleford as a backdrop.



In the WDM North Battleford, the new Discovery Room opened in 1993. A J.I. Case Eagle was the centrepiece of the room.

WDM Library

1993 June - The WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) was renamed the WDM



The WDM Provincial Service Centre (PSC) was renamed the WDM Curatorial Centre in June 1993.

WDM Archives



A proposed move of the Saskatoon Exhibition in 1993 promised an expansion of grounds for the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Library

Curatorial Centre to better reflect the museum functions of artifact collections, conservation, research, interpretation and exhibit design.

- 1993 June 17 - The first WDM Conservation lab opened in the Curatorial Centre, serving all WDM sites and acting as a resource for Saskatchewan museums. Occupying 278 square metres (3,000 square feet), the laboratory became one of the largest in Canada.
- 1993 June - At the WDM Moose Jaw, a Stinson 108-1 aircraft restored by members of the Saskatchewan Flying Farmers, was officially dedicated.
- 1993 July - A Barr Colony Trek of 10 wagons left Saskatoon for Lloydminster, reenacting the journey of Barr Colonists of 1903. Although attracting many WDM volunteers, the Trek was not a WDM event.
- 1993 July - The Saskatoon Exhibition adjacent to the WDM Saskatoon received word that its plan to move to a new location in the vicinity of Saskatchewan Place on the city's northwest edge received no support from federal funders. *"The challenge now for the Exhibition directors is to make the current site as attractive and practical as possible,"* commented reporter Ned Powers in the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*.
- 1993 August - The WDM Conservator, George Prytylak, left for a position with the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa.
- 1993 August 23 - A WDM Capital Resources Manager (fundraiser) began work at the Curatorial Centre, Gene Hodgson.
- 1993 September - An Exhibits Master Planning Group (EMPG) of Warren Clubb, chair, Ruth Bitner, Rick Dixon, Leslee Newman and David Klatt (ex-officio) took over the task of preparing a WDM Exhibits Master Plan.

- 1993 September - The WDMs in North Battleford and Yorkton closed for the season.

- 1993 Toys of Yesteryear was restricted to Grade 1 so that a new kindergarten program, A Christmas Long Ago could be introduced for kindergarten classes at the WDM Saskatoon.

- 1993 November - Under the direction of Gene Hodgson, the WDM attempted a *Vacation in the Sun* Lottery. Ten vacation options were offered. Ticket prices were \$20.

- 1993 December 24 - Ten winners were drawn for *Vacation in the Sun*.

- 1993 December - The WDM Moose Jaw closed until April the following year.

1994 Attendance 208,111
April 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995

- 1994 February - Mark MacKenzie was named WDM Conservator.

- 1994 March - The agricultural gallery in the west wing of the WDM Saskatoon entered the first phase of a major redevelopment. An area was cleared for a railbed and short track to accommodate the move of a CPR steam locomotive and tender from the WDM North Battleford as well as a flatcar recently donated by Canadian Pacific to tell the story of immigration to Canada West. The locomotive was a 60,329 kg (133,000 lbs) 0-6-0 switcher.

- 1994 March - A Hummingbird DH53 aircraft was hung from the ceiling in the main lobby of the WDM Moose Jaw.



Mark MacKenzie was named WDM Conservator early in 1994.

WDM Archives



In the spring WDMs in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton opened for the season.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binder



Ruth Bitner was re-named Collections Curator from her former title of Collections Coordinator in 1994.

WDM Archives

- 1994 Spring - WDMs in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton reopened for the season.
- 1994 April 1 - The temporary appointment of Warren Clubb as Exhibits Curator was made permanent. In a similar move, the Collections Coordinator Ruth Bitner was renamed Collections Curator.
- 1994 April 13 - A *Last Spike* ceremony accompanied the move of a locomotive, tender and flatcar into the WDM Saskatoon. The event kicked off a fundraising campaign to aid in the restoration of the locomotive and exhibit development in the west wing.
- 1994 May 1 to September 15 - The WDMs in North Battleford and Yorkton test marketed a new *Two Days for One* admission where visitors could return with their cash register receipt from the previous day to enjoy another day at the Museum at no extra cost.
- 1994 May 15 - A newly redesigned orientation area in the WDM Yorkton opened officially. The new area helped provide Museum visitors with a sense of what it was like to be immigrants to Saskatchewan as they stepped through a colonist coach onto a railway platform. A 3.7 metre x 10.7 metre (12 foot x 35 foot) mural by Gus Froese enhanced the experience.
- 1994 July 1 - A second attempt at a WDM lottery, *Vacation-Plus*, kicked off. Limited to 3,500 tickets at \$20 each, the lottery offered 101 chance to win.
- 1994 September - The WDMs in North Battleford and Yorkton closed for the season.
- 1994 October 31 - The Earlybird *Vacation-Plus* lottery draw was held for a Hitachi colour television.

1994 December 31 - The WDM Moose Jaw closed for the season. The WDM Saskatoon began Monday closings in January.

1995 Attendance 221,381
April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996

1995 January 20 - The *Vacation-Plus* draws were made on CFQC television.

1995 March - Restoration of the flatcar, tender and locomotive in the WDM Saskatoon got underway. Pioneer Threshermen's Club sawmill volunteers cut the timber for the flatbed decking.

1995 April - The Saskatoon Free-Net (SFN) went public ... *"set your computer at 8N1, full duplex and vt100 terminal emulation and with your modem dial 956-3700. At the log-in prompt, type guest and you are free to explore. Follow the on-screen instructions to register."* advised an article in the April 5, 1995 *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*. The article continued *"The SFN, the eighth to go online in Canada, has been two years in the making and is still a work in progress. ... The volunteer board behind the SFN has obtained eight sponsors to start, each covering the \$700 annual cost of one phone line. The central server is in space donated by the University (of Saskatchewan)."* The WDM was an early participant and supporter of SFN, launching its first SFN-supported WDM website in 1996.

1995 May - In his report in the May, 1995 edition of *Sparks Off the Anvil*, Executive Director David Klatt made these observations on the changing world in which museums operate.

"Copyright legislation has been introduced which places monumental onus on museums for interpreting the residual and



WDM Yorkton gallery, 1999.

The WDMs in Yorkton and North Battleford introduced a new *Two Days for One* admission rate from May to September 1994.

WDM Library



WDM Saskatoon Pion-Era, 1991.

In another cost-cutting effort, the WDM Saskatoon began closing Mondays from January 1 to March 31, 1994.

WDM Library



Gun Control legislation proposed by the Canadian government in 1995 prompted changes among museums regarding the ownership, care and handling of firearms. Like this revolver from the Saskatchewan Provincial Police.

WDM Artifact Collection - WDM-1974-S-593

negotiable rights of artists and producers.”

“Most of us are familiar with the proposed gun-control legislation. ... The WDM will have to take a hard look at its collection of firearms, a number of which are older than our province. We may not have the resources necessary to legally retain this significant representation of our province’s history.”

“Recent changes to the Museums Assistance program, Department of Canadian Heritage, have resulted in far fewer dollars and many more museums competing for funding which has provided annual grants to the WDM for the past 20 years. In addition, qualification parameters have changed, making it much more difficult for the WDM (which has chronically suffered from scarce resources) to remold itself to fit a remote department’s interpretation of what heritage institutions should be doing with federal money in Western Canada.”

1995 July - For the first time in 20 years, the WDM did not receive assistance for public and educational programming from MAP, the Museum Assistance Program of the Government of Canada. The annual grant of \$80,000 was completely eliminated in spite of increasing school attendance, new interpretive events and education programs linked to the Saskatchewan curricula.



1995 July - *Auction-Era*, a new exhibit on the farm auction opened in the WDM North Battleford. A mural by Gus Froese portrayed a typical Saskatchewan farm auction of the 1920s.

Auction-Era, a new exhibit on farm auctions in Saskatchewan, opened at the WDM North Battleford in 1995.

WDM Library

1995 A major donation to the WDM artifact collection was made from the Bladon family at Lang, SK. Upon the death a year earlier of Bill Bladon, contents of the farm home were offered to the WDM. The Bladons were savers, filling their home steadily with things from the time in 1910 when they arrived in Saskatchewan from Illinois, USA.

- 1995 August - Carole Wakabayashi joined the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) staff as a fundraiser - Director of Corporate Development.

- 1995 August - The George Shepherd Library put out a plea for the donation of Saskatchewan local history books. Within months more than 160 volumes from around the province had been sent to the Library. In 1995 and 1996 the Library also acquired a large collection of Eaton's catalogues from the company's head office in Toronto, ON.

- 1995 November 26 - December 2 - The City Hospital Foundation's Festival Of Trees was held for the first time at the WDM Saskatoon.



An important artifact donation to the WDM was made by the Bladon family of Lang, SK in 1995.

WDM Library - Artifact Collections

1996 Attendance 218,179
April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997

- 1996 January - A Boiler Fund campaign got underway to raise funds for re-boiling WDM steam traction engines in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton.

- 1996 January - March - The Saskatoon Railroad Modellers launched Building Model Railroads, a series of Sunday afternoon workshops.

- 1996 March - April - Three new permanent positions were filled at the WDM Moose Jaw: Museum Operations Supervisor - Kathy Fitton; Program-Education Officer - Peggy Phibbs; Museum Technician - Brenda Smith. Murray Ager filled the Maintenance Worker position.

- 1996 March - The Thunder Creek Model Railroad Club put on its first show at the WDM Moose Jaw.

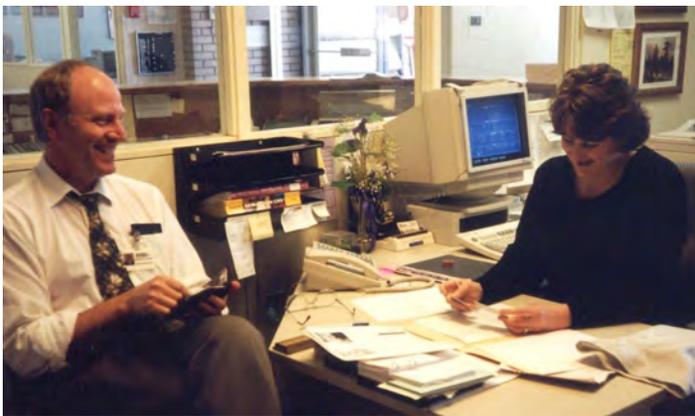


In 1996 the George Shepherd Library in the WDM Curatorial Centre acquired a large collection of Eaton's catalogues from the company's head office in Toronto, ON.
WDM Library



The WDM Saskatoon's summer show took back the name Pion-Era in 1996.

WDM Library



WDM Executive Director David Klatt launched the first WDM website in 1996.

David Klatt and Administrative Assistant Kathy Furtney, WDM Curatorial Centre, 1997.

WDM Library

- 1996 May 1 - A new program area, *Times Square*, opened in the WDM Yorkton, offering visitors, especially young ones, to enjoy hands-on experiences.
- 1996 June 21 - The WDM Board of Directors adopted the WDM's first long-range Exhibits Master Plan. After a start-up in 1991, work faltered from the fall of 1992 to the fall of 1993. In the fall of 1993 an Exhibits Master Planning Group (EMPG) took over the task, producing a Story Annotation List containing 185 Saskatchewan stories grouped under 19 themes.
- 1996 July - At the WDM Saskatoon, the name Pion-Era was revived for the annual summer show. A familiar name in 1950s and 1960s Saskatoon, the name was reclaimed after a 30 year hiatus.
- 1996 Summer - Hopkins Lake neighbouring the WDM Yorkton was stocked with fish to dispel its "Leech Beach" reputation.
- 1996 August - Guided by Executive Director David Klatt, the WDM launched its first website at <http://www.sfn.saskatoon.sk.ca/arts/wdm/index.html> through Saskatoon Free-Net.
- 1996 August 11 - The WDM North Battleford ran a lottery to help finance *Those Were the Days*. Tickets were \$10 and included admission to one day of *Those Were the Days*. Thirteen winning tickets were drawn on August 11.
- 1996 September - For two decades the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) had provided centralized computer-based collections management services to the WDM and other major museums across Canada. Financial constraints forced a withdrawal of that service, causing the WDM to research its own in-house system of hardware and software to maintain artifact

documentation. By February 1998, Collections staff were mastering the new Virtual Collections program.

1996 October 26 - The WDM North Battleford launched its Great Pumpkin Masquerade and Family Dance.

1996 November 24 - 30 - The City Hospital Foundation's Festival of Trees returned for a second time to the WDM Saskatoon. Hospital foundations in Yorkton and North Battleford followed Saskatoon's lead and joined with the WDM to offer similar Christmas presentations.

1996 December 12 - 15 - The Battlefords Union Hospital Foundation teamed up with the WDM North Battleford to present its first Festival of Trees fundraiser. More than 2,000 people attended the three-day event.



The Great Pumpkin Masquerade at the WDM North Battleford, 2006, ten years after the event began in 1996.

WDM Library

1997 Attendance 218,793 April 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998

1997 January - Carla Madsen was named Education - Special Events Programmer at the WDM Yorkton.

1997 March - A new program, Wheels and Runners, was developed for Grade 2 classes and introduced at all WDMs. The program had been piloted with St. Luke School in Saskatoon in May 1996, and introduced at the WDM Saskatoon in June 1996, followed by Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton in March 1997.

March 22, 1997 - Article titled “Funding freeze to arts groups has organizers breathing easier” in the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* (WDM Library - 1997 - 98 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum will get a new roof out of this week’s provincial budget, but funding will remain steady for most other art and cultural organizations. The museum will receive \$3.2 million this year, double last year’s grant, to pay for new roofs on its main museum and administration buildings.

“Both the roofs leak like sieves and have for a number of years. It took five years and a better economy to push this up the bureaucratic ladder, but we finally did and we’re very happy,” said David Klatt, executive director of the museum. Klatt said the new roofs will be built this summer and will likely be placed on top of the existing structure.



In 1997, a book called *Significant Treasures*, produced by the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums, featured carved figures from the WDM Yorkton.

WDM Artifact Collection - WDM-1975-Y-324 and 325

- 1997 April 15 - Jackie Hall replaced Peggy Phibbs as Program-Education Officer at the WDM Moose Jaw.
- 1997 May - Executive Director David Klatt in the May 1997 issue of *Sparks Off the Anvil* reported that the WDM Saskatoon and Curatorial Centre roofs “had surpassed their life expectancies...” Further, he wrote “we are able to announce a last-minute rescue mounted by the Province of Saskatchewan. In its portion of the 1997-98 provincial budget, the Department of Municipal Government allocated a capital grant sufficient to provide for replacement of the Museums’s deteriorated roof structures.”
- 1997 May - A WDM 50th Anniversary committee was struck to begin planning for the WDM’s golden anniversary in 1999.
- 1997 May - *Significant Treasures* was produced by the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums, containing a photograph and short story on the carved figures displayed in the WDM Yorkton.

1997 June 1 - The WDM North Battleford celebrated its 50th year in the Battlefords, citing 1947 as its founding year. The WDM Act was passed in 1949, so festivities for the WDM network were two years away.

1997 Collections staff completed the switch from Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) to Virtual Collections.

1997 September - Lyn Johnston left her position as Manager of the WDM Moose Jaw and was replaced in the interim by Kathy Fitton.

1997 October - The City of Saskatoon offered the former WDM site on 11th St W for sale to Hi-Way Greenhouses Ltd. for \$180,000. The City received title to the property as part of its Lorne Ave land lease agreement with the Museum in 1988. The City cleaned up the property, demolishing remaining buildings and clearing the site - with the exception of some building foundations and floors.

1997 December 4 - The *Classy Cars* exhibit opened officially in the WDM Moose Jaw.

1997 December - The WDM Board of Directors approved a comprehensive storage upgrade plan for additional dry storage of large artifacts to begin at the WDM North Battleford, thanks to a donation from Edwin Wells.

**1998 Attendance 220,110
April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999**

1998 February - Collections staff were training on the new Virtual Collections artifact management software.



Kathy Fitton was made interim WDM Moose Jaw Manager after Lyn Johnston left her position in September 1997.
WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binders



A new exhibit, *Classy Cars*, opened in the WDM Moose Jaw in December 1997.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binders

- 1998 March - Carole Wakabayashi, WDM Director of Corporate Development, announced the *Family History Album*, a fundraising project to celebrate Saskatchewan's upcoming centennial in 2005. Families were invited to share their Saskatchewan family stories in an online album that would also be featured in centennial exhibits planned for all four WDMs.



After much discussion, the exhibits were named *Winning the Prairie Gamble*. At the WDM Saskatoon, they would be called *Winning the Prairie Gamble: Farm Life in Saskatchewan* while at the remaining WDMs they were dubbed *Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story*.

- 1998 May 5 - Kathy Fitton's time as interim manager of the WDM Moose Jaw ended when it was announced she had been made Manager permanently.



- 1998 May - Cheryl Stewart moved from the rentals department into the Programs Officer position at the WDM North Battleford.

- 1998 May - Construction got underway of a 1,200 square metre (12,197 square feet) enclosed storage space at the WDM North Battleford.

- 1998 May - The Museum acquired a new Website address - www.WDMuseum.sk.ca

- 1998 May 24, June 14, July 19 - Three auctions were held at the WDM Saskatoon, selling biscuit barrels from the collection of Madelene Smith of Saskatoon and items from the estate of Madelene's brother, Dr.

Cheryl Stewart was named Programs Officer at the WDM North Battleford in May 1998.

WDM Archives - Education-Extension files

Ernie McBrien. Proceeds from the biscuit barrel sales went to the WDM Artifact Fund. Proceeds from the McBrien estate went to the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine.

1998 June 22 - Jay Bodrig was named Museum Technician in Moose Jaw following Brenda Smith's resignation in August 1997.

1998 July 3 - The engine blew in the Museum truck as Ken Lorenz attempted to haul the calliope to Yorkton for the parade there.

1998 August - Executive Director David Klatt reported in the August 1998 edition of *Sparks Off the Anvil* that *"no fewer than five of the Museum's steam engines were assessed as being either temporarily or permanently disabled. The reasons for this are many, but a common fault is gradual but progressive corrosion of the boilerplate metal, to the extent that in one boiler the thickness was reduced over the years by nearly fifty percent, thus rendering the boiler unsafe to contain high-pressure steam."*

1998 August - WDM centennial exhibit Honourary Patron, the Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk made the first *Family History Album* \$500 purchase in support of WDM centennial exhibits.

1998 September - Debbie Ridley was made Operations Officer at the WDM Moose Jaw.

1998 September - At the WDM Saskatoon a new preschool program, Giddy Up and Whoa! It's On a Horse and Wagon Ride We Go, was offered in partnership with members of the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association.



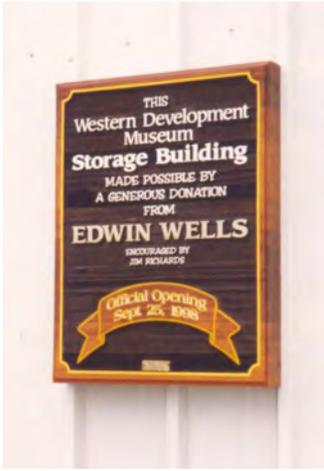
An auction in 1998 brought in money for the WDM Artifact Fund, thanks to the generosity of long-time Saskatoon collector and Museum supporter Madelene Smith.

WDM Artifact Collection - WDM-1978-S-183



In 1998, the Honourary Patron, the Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk, of the WDM centennial exhibits called *Winning the Prairie Gamble*, purchased the first spot in the *WDM Family History Album*.

WDM Archives, 2007.



Thanks to a generous gift from Museum supporter Edwin Wells, new storage buildings were built and opened in 1998 at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Library, Warren Clubb binders

In 1998, Collections staff member Debbie Massett emailed information on 13,640 WDM artifacts to *Artefacts Canada*, the new national database of the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN).

WDM Archives



1998 September 25 - A grand opening was held for the WDM North Battleford's new storage facility. Two 18.3 metre x 30.5 metre (60 feet x 100 feet) steel storage buildings were constructed to allow for covered storage of harvesting equipment and vintage tractors.

1998 September 29 - Debbie Massett emailed selected fields from 13,640 WDM artifact records to Canadian Heritage Information Network's (CHIN) new national database, *Artefacts Canada*. It took about seven minutes to send the records and three hours for CHIN to process them. By October 9, Debbie had sent 67,307 WDM records. The WDM was among the first English-speaking Canadian museums to send records to CHIN.

1998 October 1 - A federal law went into effect requiring museums to be licensed before they could acquire, sell, trade, lend, export or import firearms. Museums in possession of firearms had until December 31, 2000 to apply for licenses. The Canadian Firearms Act also required members of museum staff who handle firearms to have specialized firearms training.

1998 October 4 - The first artifact article appeared in three Saskatchewan newspapers, forerunner to a series that appeared weekly in 1999 in celebration of the WDM's 50th anniversary.

1999 Attendance 207,908
April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000

WDM's Golden Anniversary

1999 The Western Development Museum celebrated its 50th year as the provincial human history museum of Saskatchewan.

1999 Beginning in October, 1998 and running throughout 1999, artifact articles written by temporary staff member Noelle Grosse appeared weekly in the *Saskatoon Sun*, *Yorkton This Week & Enterprise* and the *Regina Sun*. Noelle wrote all but five articles which Leslee Newman prepared. The last article ran on December 26, 1999. Two years later the 65 articles were compiled into a book called *Museum Gold - Treasures from the Collection*.

1999 January - The Saskatoon Foundation made a donation of \$5,000 to the WDM Saskatoon Boiler Fund.

1999 March 11 - *In A Prairie Attic: Bladon Family Toys* opened at the WDM Saskatoon. Months of painstaking work occurred from the time artifacts were retrieved from the Lang, SK farm home, from conservation, cleaning and stabilizing, to exhibit design and artifact placement. The exhibit opening celebrated the end of a long process.

1999 April 2 - The official 50th anniversary of the WDM in Saskatchewan. In the March - April 1999 issue of *Sparks Off the Anvil*, Executive Director David Klatt wrote *"The Museum's first annual report in 1949 specifically mentions only one employment position, that of a bookkeeper. Today, the WDM in its five facilities is supported by 33 permanent staff, and a varying number of part-time and temporary positions. This is significantly below national averages for a heritage institution of this size and level of activity. Fortunately, however, the Western Development Museum has been able to serve its more than 7,000,000 visitors during the past 50 years. The achievement is a fitting tribute to the dedication and skills of all whose goals and commitments have led them in pursuit of preserving our heritage at the Western Development Museum."*



Yorkton's Mayor (seated), WDM Board members (at left), Susan Mandziuk (nee Norman) (second from right) WDM Yorkton Manager, and David Klatt (right), WDM Executive Director, proclaim WDM Week at the WDM Yorkton.

WDM Archives



WDM Week is declared at the WDM Saskatoon. Left to right: WDM Board Chair-Kate Waygood, Saskatoon Mayor - Henry Dadyday seated, WDM Executive Director - David Klatt, WDM Saskatoon Manager-Tom Waiser, March 30, 1999.

WDM Archives

- 1999 April 11 - 17 - The week was proclaimed WDM Week in Saskatchewan.
- 1999 April 14 and 18 - The four WDMs held 50th Anniversary Open Houses, inviting the public to visit free-of-charge for the afternoon.
- 1999 May - The boiler from a Case 12-36 HP steam traction engine was shipped to the Boiler Smith in Seaforth, ON where it served as a pattern for construction of a replacement boiler.
- 1999 June - Former Saskatoon streetcar #12 returned to Saskatoon from California this month. An anonymous group of Saskatchewan people purchased the streetcar, then donated it to the WDM.



In June 1999 a streetcar from the Saskatoon fleet was purchased and donated to the WDM. It was trucked from California to the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Archives

- 1999 July 6 - 8 - A re-enactment of the North West Mounted Police march west was held in the Battlefords, with the WDM there participating..
- 1999 August 3 - The eighth 25 cent coin in the Millennium series was launched into circulation at the WDM Saskatoon. "The Pioneer Spirit" celebrated the spirit of those who came to Canada to build new lives.
- 1999 September 6 - Entries were due in the *Memorable Museum Visit* writing contest celebrating the WDM's 50 year history in Saskatchewan. The winner was Helen Ambler of Saskatoon for her story "The Pie Contest."
- 1999 October 7 - A dedication was held at the WDM Moose Jaw for the restored Fleet-Fairchild PT-26A Cornell, thanks to the efforts of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers. The aircraft took 6,320 hours to restore for the *British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) Gallery* in the WDM Moose Jaw.

1999 November 18 - A 50th Anniversary Gala dinner was held at the WDM Saskatoon to celebrate the Museum's 50th anniversary. Unveiled during the dinner was another celebration of the WDM 50th anniversary - a souvenir book - a 60-page publication highlighting the themes, artifacts, and activities of the WDM. The writing team was Ruth Bitner, Noelle Grosse and Leslee Newman, with many photographs contributed by Garry Hayes.

1999 The Programs Officer position was made official at the WDM North Battleford.



WDM Saskatoon volunteers Gordon McLeod and Audrey Crosson posed for the Millennium series coin called "The Pioneer Spirit." The 25 cent coin was launched at the WDM Saskatoon on August 3, 1999.

WDM Archives

**2000 Attendance 196,583
April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001**

2000 The new millennium was met with fear and dread by some people. Fears of computer malfunctions that would cast the planet into chaos proved groundless. However, the changing millennium did provide some new donations to the WDM artifact collection, from champagne glasses to millennium bugs.



2000 January - Carole Wakabayashi left her position as WDM Director of Corporate Development.

2000 January - An new WDM training course on Buggy Seat Upholstery was introduced at the Curatorial Centre.

2000 February - A 1912 Fairbanks-Morse windmill was erected by the members of the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association at the WDM Saskatoon.

2000 May - Gary Carlson retired from his position as Director of Administration, a post he had held since 1977. Gary was replaced by Cal Glasman.



Merchandisers cashed in on the turning of the century with things like this millennium bug.

WDM Artifact Collection - WDM-2003-S-466



The first Buggy Seat Upholstery class was added to the WDM host of training courses in January 2000.

WDM Archives - Education-Extension files



Cal Glasman (right) replaced Gary Carlson (left) as WDM Director of Administration in 2000.

WDM Archives

2000 June - After a two year hiatus, the WDM calliope was back on summer tour, thanks to provincial support that enabled the purchase of a used truck for hauling the 5,900 kilogram (13,000 lbs) steam calliope.

2000 June 7 - A new building was opened on Boomtown Street in the WDM Saskatoon. A *Royal North West Mounted Police detachment* was designed, built and outfitted with artifacts in a partnership between the WDM and the Saskatoon RCMP Veterans Association. The Honourable Dr. Lynda Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Clay Serby, Saskatchewan Minister of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing and RCMP Commissioner J.P.R. Murray cut the official ribbon.

2000 August - A 1916 McLaughlin touring car was prepared for photo opportunities on Boomtown Street. Parked outside the *Telephone Operator's home*, visitors were invited to climb in and take pictures.

2000 September - Compton International Fundraising Ltd. was named fundraiser for the WDM's *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits. Sarah Howard of Vancouver was named campaign manager.

2000 September - Shannon Cunningham replaced Jay Bodrog as Museum Technician at the WDM Moose Jaw.

2000 September - Alayne Sewell replaced Pamela Delong-Hendry as Education and Volunteer Assistant at the Saskatoon WDM.

2000 September - Diane Craig joined the Curatorial Centre staff as Director of Corporate Development, replacing Carole Wakayabashi.

2000 October 23 - The Honourable Jack Hillson, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing, together with the Honourable Eric Cline, Finance Minister, announced a four year financial commitment of \$3 million from the province's Centenary Fund to support the WDM centennial projects - *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Story of Saskatchewan*. The announcement was made at an event on Boomtown Street at the WDM Saskatoon. Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk was named patron of the fundraising Capital Campaign that aimed to generate an additional \$3.5 million.

2000 October - *The Family History Album* project was launched, offering Saskatchewan people the opportunity to share their family histories online with a \$500 donation in support of the WDM centennial projects - *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Story of Saskatchewan*. The first to participate was the Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk.

2000 October - The railway loading dock inside the WDM Curatorial Centre was refurbished with the installation of a concrete floor at the main level, yielding an additional 400 square metres of storage.

2000 November - Leader of the Vintage Aircraft Restorer at the WDM Moose Jaw since 1982, Don O'Hearne was inducted into the Saskatchewan Aviation Hall of Fame. Later in the month, as a member of 601 Wing Moose Jaw, Air Force Association of Canada, O'Hearne was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association.

2000 December 14 - PotashCorp, the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc., was the first major corporate sponsor to support the WDM capital campaign to raise funds for the centennial exhibits. PotashCorp president Bill Doyle presented a cheque for \$100,000 to WDM Board Chair Kate Waygood.



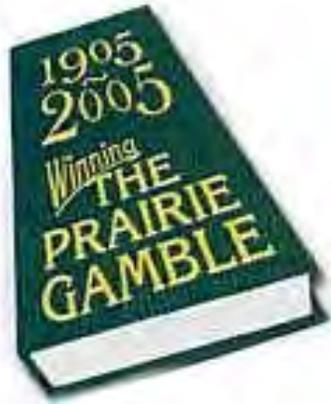
A Royal North West Mounted Police detachment opened on Boomtown Street in the WDM Saskatoon in June 2000.

WDM Archives



Dianne Craig joined the Curatorial staff as Director of Corporate Development in 2000.

WDM Archives



In 2002, the Family History Album project was launched in support of the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibits.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files



In January 2001, wind turbines were installed at the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Archives - Exhibits files

2001 Attendance 176,955 April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002

2001 January 22 - March 20 - Concrete floors replaced one-third of the gravel floors in the WDM Moose Jaw's aviation and horse-drawn vehicle areas. Roughly 5,000 square metres (50,000 square feet) of concrete would be poured in three sections over three years. The Museum was closed to the public during the eight weeks of pouring 1,200 square metres (13,000 square feet) of concrete.

2001 March 6 - Deb Higgins, MLA for Moose Jaw Wakamow announced the province's contribution of \$303,000 toward the WDM Moose Jaw portion of *Winning the Prairie Gamble*. This brought the province's contribution to the WDM's 2005 exhibits to \$1,053,000 for 2000 - 2001.

2001 March 9 - The Honourable Ron Osika, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing visited the WDM North Battleford to affirm the province's support of the WDM centennial exhibits.

2001 March - The Honourable Ron Osika, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Honourable Clay Serby, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture visited the WDM Yorkton to affirm the province's support of the WDM centennial exhibits.

2001 Conservation staff and Museum volunteers under the direction of Conservator Mark MacKenzie completed the restoration of the UDLX Comfortactor for the WDM Saskatoon's *Winning the Prairie Gamble* (WTPG) exhibit. The Comfortactor appeared in June 20 - 23 at the Western Canadian Farm Progress Show in Regina.

2001 March - Janet MacKenzie and Joan Champ took on research contracts for *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit storyline papers. Joan's focus was the

Saskatoon project; Janet's work was in aid of the Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton WTPG projects.

2001 March - Sharon Stene replaced Sarah Howard as lead for Compton Fundraising International Inc. on the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* project.

2001 April 2 - Amy McInnis began work at the Curatorial Centre as the Education-Extension Assistant.

2001 Mid-April - The WDM conservation crew completed the restoration of a 1928 Hart-Parr 12-24 gas tractor for the WDM Saskatoon's *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit.

2001 April - The first Model Train Show was held at the WDM Moose Jaw with the Thunder Creek Model Railroad Club.

2001 May - A new WDM Planned Giving program was launched. Details could be found on the Museum's website www.wdmuseum.sk.ca or by emailing swdm@sk.sympatico.

2001 May 23 - The *Telephone Exchange and Post Office* building opened officially in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village*.

2001 June 9 - A stagecoach built by members of the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association made its debut at a parade in Dalmeny, SK. The coach was a close copy of the stagecoach on Boomtown Street.

2001 June 29 - July 1 - The WDM North Battleford hosted CanIRON III in partnership with the Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild.

2001 July 9 - The WDM Moose Jaw celebrated its 25th anniversary with an event to relive the 1970s.



Concrete was poured for floors in the WDM Moose Jaw in preparation for the development of a new exhibit to celebrate the province's centennial in 2005.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw binders



In 2001, WDM Conservation staff restored the UDLX Comfortactor for the WDM Saskatoon's *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibit.

WDM Archives - Collections files



Amy McInnis came on staff at the Curatorial Centre as assistant to the Education-Extension Coordinator.

WDM Archives - *Winning the Prairie Gamble* files

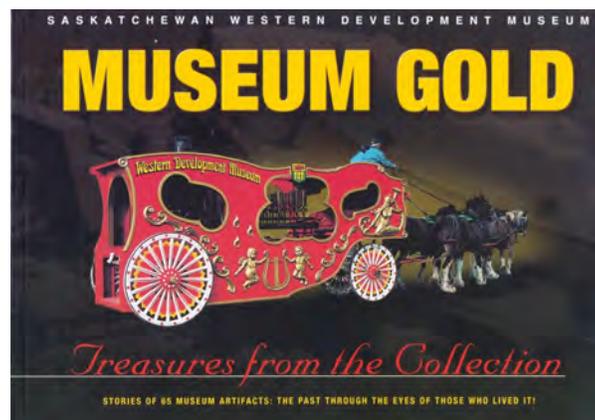


A Telephone Exchange and Post Office opened in the Heritage Farm and Village at the WDM North Battleford in May 2001.

WDM Library and Archives

Members of the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association at the WDM Saskatoon built a replica stagecoach that was ready to roll in the summer of 2001.

WDM Archives -



Museum Gold: Treasures from the Collection compiled stories of 65 WDM artifacts. The stories were written earlier in 1998 -99 to celebrate the WDM's 50th anniversary.

WDM Library and Archives

2001 July - Twenty-five veterans from the Royal Canadian Legion Nutana Branch 362 in Saskatoon were interviewed by Renée Tratch as part of the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit preparation.

2001 July 29 - Five people were killed as the result of the explosion of a Case 110 steam traction engine in Medina, Ohio, USA. The accident cast a pall over steam traction engine operation and demonstration across North America.

2001 September - *Museum Gold - Treasures from the Collection* was produced, a compilation of articles written by Noelle Grosse for the WDM 50th anniversary.

2001 Fall - Ralph Vallevand of Elbow donated his ornithopter, an aircraft designed to fly by flapping wings.

**2002 Attendance 184,619
April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003**

2002 January - April - The WDM Moose Jaw was closed temporarily to pour 2,800 square metres (30,000 square feet) of concrete, adding to the 1,200 square metres (13,000 square feet) poured a year earlier.

2002 January - A new seasonal space was built onto the west and south sides of the WDM Saskatoon, providing an additional 2,555 square metres (27,500 square feet) of unheated display space.

2002 The WDM calliope got a new boiler. Having served faithfully for at least 70 years, the vertical boiler in the calliope approached the end of its life span.

- 2002 March - The last of the concrete was poured in the WDM Moose Jaw, making gravel floors a thing of the past.
- 2002 March - Manager of the WDM North Battleford since 1983, Wayne Fennig, received the Lifetime Achievement award from Tourism Saskatchewan.
- 2002 March - A move was underway by the Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA). The MVA sought to find a new home for the *Blairmore Ring* monument. The monument was removed from Rotary Park on the east riverbank in the summer of 2001 where it had been since 1965. The structure was removed to make way for the Rotary Peace Plaza. The WDM Saskatoon was suggested as an appropriate place to showcase the *Blairmore Ring*, seen as an industrial artifact rather than an artwork. The ring was a Saskatchewan innovation designed to stop water from flooding potash tunnels. Eventually the monument was moved to a location outside the Saskatoon's airport - the John G. Diefenbaker International Airport.
- 2002 Spring - With the assistance of Saskatchewan's Crown Investment Corporation, a successful bid of \$27,000 was made on a 12 metre-long mural of an early farming panorama, painted by Ernest Lindner, which became part of the WDM's artifact collection. The mural was put up in the WDM Saskatoon and opened officially on June 25, 2002. The exact origin of the c.1950s painting is unknown.
- 2002 May 23 - First Nations Elders, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) staff and WDM staff met in Saskatoon for a traditional feast, marking the partnership between SICC and the WDM for the centennial exhibit, *Winning the Prairie Gamble*. The Elders included Danny Muskwa, Delvina Kewistep, Maria Horse, Jimmy Myo, Gabe Aubichon, Mary Alma Chaboyer, Norman Henderson, Jim Settee, Patrick Robillard, Lucy Robillard,



More concrete was poured at the WDM Moose Jaw in 2002.
WDM Library - Jaw binders



The Museum calliope received a new boiler over the winter, ready for the 2002 summer season.
WDM Archives - Calliope files



A farming panoramic painting by Ernest Lindner was purchased in 2002. It was installed in the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Library and Archives



Retired from a career as a high school history teacher in Saskatoon, Steve Luciuk began a new career at the WDM. He retired a second time in 2002.

WDM Library and Archives

Ralph Paul, Velma Goodfeather and Ken Goodwill.

2002 June 24 - A Saskatchewan boiler inspector passed the boiler and engine on a J.I. Case 12-36 steam engine at the WDM Saskatoon. The WDM had replaced the old boiler with a new one (made by Boiler Smith in Seaforth, ON) and replaced the ancillary equipment, a Canadian museum first.

2002 July - Kate Johnson joined the WDM Moose Jaw staff as Exhibits Technician.

2002 July 10 - SaskEnergy support of the fun house in the WDM Saskatoon *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit was announced officially. Ron Podbielski with SaskEnergy present the Museum with a cheque for \$125,000.

2002 June - Steve Luciuk retired from his position at the WDM Curatorial Centre as Research Assistant. Steve's storyline provided the basis for *Winning the Prairie Gamble: Farm Life in Saskatchewan* at the WDM Saskatoon.

2002 August - After 30 years, Rick Dixon retired as Exhibits Coordinator at the WDM Curatorial Centre.

2002 September 5 - SaskTel announced its support of *Winning the Prairie Gamble*, of \$250,000 over five years.

2002 September 4 - Sarah Andrusco was named campaign manager for Compton International Fundraising Inc. after the departure of Sharon Stene.

2002 September 22 - The west wing agricultural exhibit in the WDM Saskatoon closed, in readiness for the new centennial exhibit. Artifacts were moved into the new seasonal display area.

2002 October 3 - SaskPower announced its support for *Winning the Prairie Gamble* with a cheque for \$100,000 in support of the rural electrification display in the WDM Saskatoon centennial exhibit.

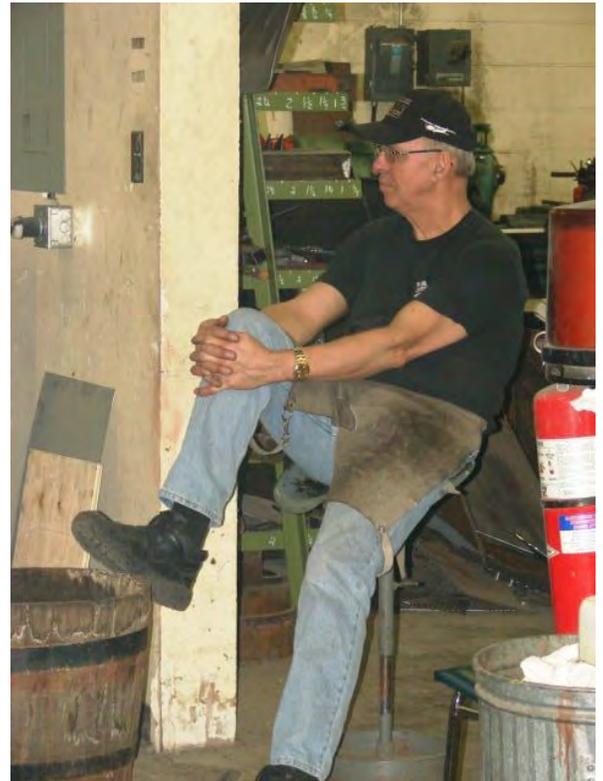
2002 October 8 - The refurbished Phoenix steam-powered log hauler arrived at the WDM North Battleford for the *Winning The Prairie Gamble* exhibit there.

2002 October 17 - A small log house left the bush on the Lahosky farm in the RM of Insinger, bound for the WDM Yorkton. Earlier that fall, a crew from the WDM had cleared trees and brush, cleaned out, tarped, and stabilized the structure with wire mesh in preparation for the move. The small house would form the centrepiece of the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibit.

2002 October - The RCMP Veterans Association - Saskatoon Division won the Saskatchewan History & Folklore's award for social history preservation. The Association partnered with the WDM to create a *Royal North West Mounted Police detachment on Boomtown Street* in the WDM Saskatoon.

2002 November - The WDM announced the *Family History Album* in support of *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibits. The Album was to be a digital collection of Saskatchewan stories and photographs, submitted by families, communities and businesses. Participation in the Family History Album was made possible by a \$500 gift in support of the centennial exhibit project.

2002 November - The Province of Saskatchewan announced funding of \$650,000 from the Centenary Fund for the research and production of Western Development Museum centennial exhibits.



Rick Dixon, 2009. Exhibits Coordinator and Blacksmith Course chief instructor retired from his work at the Museum in 2002. He began with the Museum on the construction crew for Boomtown when the WDM Saskatoon on Lorne Avenue was under construction in 1972.

WDM Archives - Education-Extension blacksmith files



An original home from the early 20th century was to form the centrepiece of the WDM Yorkton's *Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story* centennial display.

WDM Library and Archives - WTPG files



Responsibility for the WDM website was passed from the Executive Director to the Education-Extension Department in 2002.

WDM Archives - Education-Extension files

2002 Responsibility for the WDM website was handed from the Executive Director to the Education-Extension department. Earlier in 2002, WDM Executive Director David Klatt had secured the rights to the web domain name www.wdm.ca, replacing the former www.WDMuseum.sk.ca.

December 17, 2002 - Article titled “New planes at WDM” in the Moose Jaw Times-Herald (WDM Library - 2001 - 06 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum officially welcomed three new friends to its floor last month, all of them airplanes. A Funk B85C CF-HAR, an Airspeed AS.10 Oxford Mk 1 cockpit and the De Havilland D.H.82C Tiger Moth 3985 were restored by a group of aircraft restorers and donated to the museum. The Funk plane was designed in 1939 as a light two-person, high-wing monoplane. There are only 80 of the planes left and this one is the only one left in Canada. The Oxford cockpit allows people a chance to get a hands-on feel for what a jet’s cockpit is like. The Tiger Moth was a plane designed for Canadian weather conditions and was also used for pilot training.



Tiger Moth aircraft in the Snowbird Gallery in the WDM Moose Jaw, 2016.

The Tiger Moth was accepted into the WDM artifact collection in 2002.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw files

**2003 Attendance 159,342
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004**

2003 January - It was announced that Blair Fraser of Blair Fraser Exhibits would manage the centennial exhibit construction in the WDM Saskatoon and design the centennial exhibits in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton.

2003 January - Weibe Movers assisted WDM staff to move the Hart-Parr 30 - 60 gas tractor onto the flatbed railway car in the WDM Saskatoon’s *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit. The move completed the transfer of artifacts from the west wing in readiness for concrete.

2003 February 3 - A \$100,000 donation from UMA Engineering Ltd. was announced at the WDM Saskatoon, in support of *Winning the Prairie Gamble*. The donation of \$25,000 cash and \$75,000 in-kind will support interactive map development in the centennial exhibits.

2003 March - New WDM brochures called *Life in the Past Lane* were launched.

2003 April 7 - The log house was moved into the WDM Yorkton, after part of the exterior wall was dismantled to allow for the entry of the house.

2003 Mid-May - The WDM Saskatoon west wing concrete floor project was completed. A new sewing area for the WDM Women's Auxiliary, a volunteer centre and a woodworking shop were also part of the redevelopment.

2003 May - The restoration of the American-Abell Cock O' the North steam traction engine by a crew at the WDM Curatorial Centre was completed for the WDM Saskatoon's *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit.

2003 May - The Cleven Fund for Continuing Education was established following a legacy gift from George and Carole Wakabayashi in memory of Carole's parents Mel and Irene Cleven. The \$50,000 Cleven Fund was established to assist professional development within the WDM.

2003 June 27 - July 6 - The City of Moose Jaw celebrated its centennial 1903 - 2003, including participation from the WDM Moose Jaw. Events continued throughout July, August, September and October.



Blair Fraser of Blair Fraser exhibits was named to manage the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibits in 2003.

WDM Archives - *Winning the Prairie Gamble* files



A log home from the bush on the land of Louis Lahosky near Theodore SK was moved to the WDM Yorkton to form the centrepiece of the story of immigration in the *Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story* centennial exhibit.

WDM Archives - *Winning the Prairie Gamble* files

Water damage in the WDM North Battleford, 2003.

WDM Archives



2003 July 13 - High winds peeled back a section of roofing on the WDM North Battleford, spilling a flood of water into the lobby, gift shop, offices and several hundred square metres of gallery space.

2003 Summer - Construction of walls separating the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* theme sections was well underway at the WDM Saskatoon.



In August 2003, Brian Newman was named Exhibits Coordinator. Later that year, Michael Bantjes was named Exhibits Assistant.

WDM Archives

2003 August - September - October - Weekend auctions were held to disperse the estate of collector Fred Schneider of Eston, SK. Staff from the WDM Curatorial Centre travelled to the farm and surveyed the collection for items to add to the WDM artifact collection.

2003 August 27 - Brian Newman was named Exhibits Coordinator, a year after the retirement of Rick Dixon.

2003 September - In partnership with Saskatoon Public School's Online Learning Centre, WDM Education-Extension staff began development of a website of Saskatchewan resources in celebration of the upcoming centennial - www.CelebratingSaskatchewan'sHeritage.ca.



Early in 2004 Wally Mills guides the delivery of a pumpjack to the WDM North Battleford, intended for the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibit.

WDM Archives - Artifact Collections files WDM-2004-NB-1

2003 October 20 - Michael Bantjes was named Exhibits Assistant at the Curatorial Centre.

2003 October - Members of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers at the WDM Moose Jaw began construction of a Piper J3 Cub for *Winning the Prairie Gamble*.

2004 Attendance 139,094
April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005

2004 January 8 - An oil pumpjack arrived at the WDM North Battleford, a donation from Arnie Lund of Nexen Inc. of Lloydminster. The pumpjack was acquired to tell the story of oil extraction in the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibit.

2004 For the first time, merchandise from the WDM gift shops was made available online.

2004 Wall construction for *Winning the Prairie Gamble* got underway in WDMs in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton.

2004 March - The WDM Centennial Quilt Contest was announced. Organized by staff at the WDM Yorkton, quilters had to announce their intention to enter by October 31 and submit their quilt by February 28, 2005. The top four quilts would become the property of the WDM and be part of *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibits.

2004 March - The restoration of a 1968 Ski-Bee snowmobile for the WDM Moose Jaw *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibit got underway.

2004 March - Media Group, a Saskatoon firm, was contracted to create the audio-visual elements for *Winning the Prairie Gamble*.

April 14, 2004 - Article titled "Roundtable group discusses possibility of museum" in the Yorkton This Week (WDM Library - 2001 - 06 WDM Scrapbook)

Yorkton needs a museum for local artifacts. ...The Western Development Museum, said meeting facilitator Tom Seeley, "is broader in scope" than a local museum would be, and artifacts are catalogued and stored in Saskatoon, meaning they might not be returned to Yorkton. ...



WDM Saskatoon gift shop, 2015.

In 2004 the WDM made limited gift shop merchandise available to purchase online.

WDM Archives - Saskatoon files



1968 Ski-Bee snowmobile, WDM-1986-S-278, on display in the WDM Moose Jaw centennial exhibit.

WDM Collections files



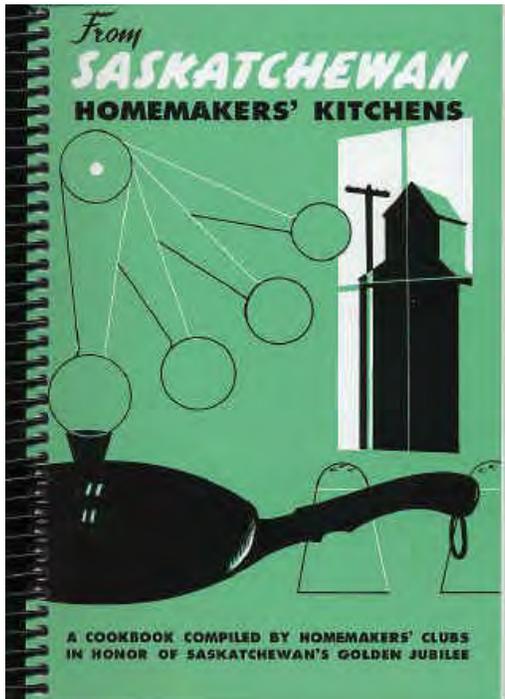
The City of Yorkton was talking about a museum devoted to local stories, unlike the WDM which presented a provincial scope.

WDM Archives



In 2004 Scotiabank commissioned Saskatchewan artist Greg Hardy to create a painting to hang in the WDM Saskatoon to honour the province's centennial in 2005.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files



An exact replica of the 1955 Saskatchewan Jubilee Cookbook created by the Saskatchewan Women's Institute was made for sale in WDM gift shops to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Saskatchewan.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files

- 2004 May - *In a Prairie Attic: Bladon Family Toys* opened in the WDM Yorkton.

- 2004 June - WDM North Battleford volunteer and financial donor Edwin Wells was named Battlefords Tourism Volunteer of the Year.

- 2004 A Bennett Buggy was restored for the WDM Saskatoon *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibit.

- 2004 July - Scotiabank announced support of \$100,000 for WDM *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibits and commissioned a painting by Saskatchewan artist Greg Hardy for the WDM Saskatoon.

- 2004 October 25 - The website *Celebrating Saskatchewan's Heritage* launched, produced in partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools Online Learning Centre and Education staff at the WDM Curatorial Centre.

- 2004 November - A Saskatchewan Centennial license plate was unveiled at the WDM Moose Jaw by Premier Lorne Calvert.

- 2004 Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation's Festival Of Trees moved from the WDM Saskatoon to the Prairieland Exhibition in Saskatoon.

- 2004 December - Weyerhaeuser Co. committed \$100,000 to the Changes Theatre in the final section of the WDM Saskatoon *Winning the Prairie Gamble* centennial exhibit.

- 2004 December - An exact reprint of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Club 1955 Jubilee Cookbook was made to celebrate Saskatchewan's 100 year landmark. *From Saskatchewan Homemakers' Kitchens*

was produced in 1955 in celebration of Saskatchewan's 50-year milestone, and reprinted in a partnership between the WDM and the Saskatchewan Women's Institute.



2005 Attendance 154,041
April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

SASKATCHEWAN CENTENNIAL

2005 January 1 - The Mayor of Yorkton, Phil De Vos, rang in the centennial year at the 1905 bell and tower outside the Western Development Museum.

2005 Saskatchewan centennial celebrated at the WDM with:

- *Family History Album*
- The first stage of four *Winning the Prairie Gamble* (WTPG) exhibits to honour Saskatchewan's 1905-2005 centennial were opened:

June 30 WDM Moose Jaw
 July 1 WDM Yorkton
 July 22 WDM North Battleford
 September 4 WDM Saskatoon

- The WDM Centennial Quilt Contest showcased four prize-winning quilts. From 29 submissions, the four winning quilters were Debora Barlow of Saskatoon, Lydia Breitzkreuz of Springside, Kae Henley of Yorkton and Marni MacDonald of Moose Jaw.
- Reprint of Women's Institute cookbook *From Saskatchewan Homemakers' Kitchens* was an instant strong seller.
- *Winning the Prairie Gamble* (WTPG) play written and toured. Commissioned by the WDM, Saskatchewan playwrights Geoffrey Ursell and Barbara Sapergia wrote *Winning the Prairie Gamble*, which presented the one hundred year story of Saskatchewan through song



Prize-winning centennial quilts at the WDM Moose Jaw (left) and the WDM North Battleford (right).

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files



Prize-winning centennial quilts at the WDM Saskatoon (left) and the WDM Yorkton (right).

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files

With the Saskatchewan Archives, the WDM produced *Saskatchewan History - Centennial Timeline* in 2005.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files



and spoken word, creating synergy between history and theatre. It was selected by Persephone Theatre as its 2005 Centennial school touring play.

- In partnership with the Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB), the booklet *Saskatchewan History Centennial Timeline* was produced. Written by WDM curatorial staff Ruth Bitner and Leslee Newman, with an introduction by Professor J. William Brennan of the University of Regina, the 30 page publication summarized events of major impact on Saskatchewan people from 1905 to 2005.
- With the support of Scotiabank, Ruth Bitner and Leslee Newman produced a photo timeline of Saskatchewan history. As part of the Scotiabank sponsorship, the WDM Saskatoon received an original Greg Hardy painting, *The Sheltering Sky*, unveiled at a ceremony on June 2, 2005.



Fact-checking the centennial timeline for the exhibits in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton took hundreds of hours. The *Winning the Prairie Gamble* (WTPG) research team included left - right: Ruth Bitner and Leslee Newman - Exhibit Co-chairs, Brenda Mundell, Christa Nicolet.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files



2005 February - A one-act musical drama presentation, commissioned by the WDM in support of *Winning the Prairie Gamble* (WTPG) and written by Saskatchewan playwrights Geoffrey Ursell and Barbara Sapergia, was performed for the first time before a small audience of WDM staff and volunteers and about 50 home-schoolers. One hundred years of Saskatchewan history were compressed into 60 minutes. The cast and crew included: Tibor Fehereghazi, Director; Ralph Blankenagel, Set and Props; Theresa Germaine, Costume Designer; and actors Erin Bourke, Tim Hildebrand, Claire Middleton, Peter Pelletier and Jamie Lee Shebelski. A later summer performance was directed by Rob Roy with actors Erin Bourke, Lorne Duquette, Bruce McKay, Jodi Sasowsky and Caitlin Vancoughnett. Seven choreographed songs were written and arranged by Ursell and Sapergia and included *Hoppers*, *Dust and Weeds*, *The History Express*, *Buffalo Song*, and *The Golden Jubilee March*.

2005 February 22 - The provincial tour of the play *Winning the Prairie Gamble* (WTPG) began, reaching over 50 schools before the tour ended. A Study Guide to accompany the play was produced by WDM Education staff at the Curatorial Centre.

2005 April - A First Nations museum was proposed for Saskatoon's River Landing development.

2005 May - The Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB), in partnership with the Western Development Museum, released the *Saskatchewan History Centennial Timeline 1905 - 2005*. The 100-year timeline was written by Ruth Bitner and Leslee Newman, while an introductory essay by Professor Bill Brennan provided historic information on the period leading up to 1905.

2005 Summer - The 23 metre (75 foot) Saskatchewan Pool elevator at the WDM North Battleford received siding repairs and a fresh coat of paint, thanks to a sponsorship from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

June 5, 2005 - Article titled "Elevator at WDM gets a makeover" in the *North Battleford News-Optimist* (WDM Library - 2001 - 06 WDM Scrapbook)

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool (SWP) elevator at the Western Development Museum is getting new siding and a fresh coat of paint by people with years of experience with the SWP. This project took seven days and ended with the elevator back to the SWP original red, with new lettering and siding. Benco Contracting has years of experience working on elevators. Van Holwede started at the SWP in 1949. Brian Sayers started in 1965. Aime Rousseau started in 1973, and Brent Cote started in 1978. Cote said everyone offered their help as this could be one of the last jobs they do for the SWP. After all these years, SWP are still dedicated and willing to come back and work, even when



Actors in *Winning the Prairie Gamble* musical drama toured the province in the spring of 2005, a partnership between Persephone Theatre and the WDM.

WDM Archives - *Winning the Prairie Gamble* files



The *Wheat Pool Elevator* in the *Heritage Farm and Village* at the WDM North Battleford got a facelift in the spring of 2005.

WDM Archives



The first phase of *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Saskatchewan Story* opened in the WDM Moose Jaw on June 30, 2005.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files



Pre-Mysteries, a sculpture by Mervin Dieter, won the call by the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre and the WDM for a three-dimensional artwork to reflect First Nations education in Saskatchewan. According to the artist, the eagle represents illumination and intelligence, the horse reflects the coming of Europeans, the facial profiles represent respect for one another and the buffalo signifies wisdom.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files

they are 50-70 years of age. "I've had a lot of years of experience doing that," says Cote. Cote plans to make a donation to the museum as well.

- 2005 June 30 - The first phase of *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Saskatchewan Story* opened officially at the WDM Moose Jaw.
- 2005 July 1 - The first phase of *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Saskatchewan Story* opened officially at the WDM Yorkton.
- 2005 July 22 - The first phase of *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Saskatchewan Story* opened officially at the WDM North Battleford. Along with the exhibit opening was the unveiling of *Pre-Mysteries* by First Nations artist Mervin Dieter of the Peepeekisis First Nation.

- 2005 Summer - A new clay oven was added to the grounds of the WDM Saskatoon, researched and constructed by a team of WDM volunteers.
- 2005 September 4 - The first phase of *Winning the Prairie Gamble - Farm Life in Saskatchewan* opened officially at the WDM Saskatoon.
- 2005 October 26 - WDM Executive Director David Klatt received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal from Lieutenant Governor Lynda Haverstock.

November 27, 2005 - Article titled "WDM board status changing" in the *Saskatoon Sun* (WDM Library - 2001 - 06 WDM Scrapbook)

The provincial government is moving forward with legislation that will mean changes for the Western Development Museum Board members, the provincial government said in a news release.

"This legislation will help strengthen the Western Development Museum's Board and improve Board continuity," Culture,

Youth and Recreation Minister Joan Beatty said. Changes to existing provisions include increasing the length of office from one to three years and abolishing the current cap on the number of years a board member can serve. ...



The Canadian Mint created a 25 cent coin to commemorate Saskatchewan's centennial in 2005.

2006 Attendance 142,002
April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

2006 January to March - The Saskatchewan Cabinet supported a consultation project to resolve and analyze the consequences of two funding scenarios for the Museum: a re-scaling of the Museum operations or maintaining the status quo. The consulting process to determine the Museum's future sustainability was undertaken by Robert R. Janes, PhD, FCMA of Canmore, AB. After broad consultations, Janes produced *Saskatchewan Western Development Museum: An Organizational Assessment and Options for the Future*, dated March 9, 2006.



2006 February 2 - Moose Jaw Times-Herald introduced *Snewsie* the gopher, casting a shadow (or not) east of the Western Development Museum. Onlookers adjourned to the Museum for hot chocolate and activities.



In 2006 artist Dwayne Harty used models from King George School in Saskatoon to pose for a mural to be painted in the WDM Saskatoon's *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit.

WDM Archives -
 Winning the Prairie
 Gamble files



In May 2006, the WDM Saskatoon hosted a celebration of Saskatoon's 100th year as a City.

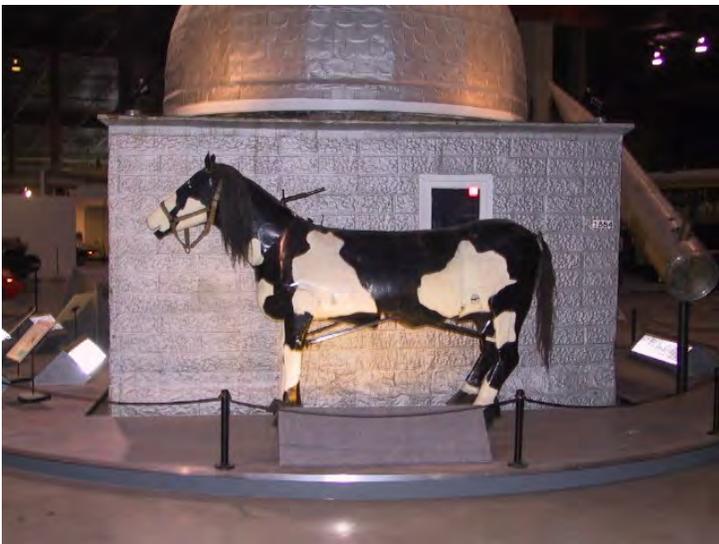
WDM Archives - Ruth Bitner collection

2006 May 26 - The WDM Saskatoon hosted the Saskatoon Centennial Gala dinner in celebration of Saskatoon becoming a city on May 26, 1906.

2006 June - For the first time, the Ride for Sight motorcycle parade left Regina destined for the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw, joining up with the WDM's Motorcycle Show & Shine event.

2006 June 25 - The WDM Moose Jaw celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a temporary return to 1976 admission rates.

2006 In partnership with the Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society (SHFS), the WDM agreed to scan 4,000 colour slides taken by Saskatchewan photographer Everett Baker in a 25 year period from 1942 to 1967. At least 400 Baker images were used in the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits.



2006 June 29 - October 15 - The Canadian *Quilt of Belonging* was featured at the WDM Saskatoon, supported by Saskatoon Folkfest.

2006 November 29 - December 1 - The first Strategic Thinking session of the WDM Board and senior staff, facilitated by Bob Janes, was held at Manitou Springs Hotel, Watrous, SK. Agenda items included review and discussion of the WDM mandate, mission and organizational values. Strategic challenges and goals to address the challenges were also addressed.

2006 November - Construction of the Eaton's "Earlsfield" house replica, part of the WDM Saskatoon's *Winning the Prairie Gamble - Farm Life in Saskatchewan* exhibit, was underway.

The WDM Moose Jaw celebrated 30 years in 2006, reducing the admission fee to 1976 rates for the day in celebration of the June 25, 1976 landmark.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw files

2006 December 11 - Bob Janes released *Western Development Museum: Draft Strategic Plan 2007 - 2012*.

2007 Attendance 158,975
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

2007 January - Yorkton announced its year-long celebration of 125 years of settlement: 1882 - 2007.

2007 January 1 - Butler Byers Insurance Ltd. sponsored Saskatchewan Hall in the WDM Saskatoon for 10 years to honour its 100th anniversary in 2007. The WDM Saskatoon's banquet facility was renamed Butler Byers Century Hall.

2007 January - Conservator Mark MacKenzie left the WDM for a position in New Mexico, USA after 13 years at the WDM.

2007 January 16 - 18 - The first WDM Strategic Planning session was held at Manitou Springs Hotel, facilitated by Bob Janes. The meeting was convened to present *Western Development Museum: Draft Strategic Plan (2007 - 2012)* to all staff for review and discussion and to engage the staff in finalizing the organizational values and developing the strategies to achieve the goals. A Strategic Planning Group was formed. Stakeholders meetings were held.

2007 March 30 - A reception was held for the Canadian music industry at the WDM Saskatoon, in advance of the Juno Awards held in Saskatoon.

2007 April 5 - The WDM Strategic Planning Group presented the final version of *Saskatchewan Western Development Museum: Strategic Plan (2007 - 2012)*. The document was approved by the WDM



Materials were salvaged from an Eaton's house near Cut Knife, SK to be re-used in the Eaton's house replica in the WDM Saskatoon's *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit in 2006.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



Strategic Planning group, Manitou Springs Hotel, 2007. Bob Janes stands at the far right in the back row.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



Wall construction for *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits continued in WDMs in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton (Yorkton pictured here) in 2006 and 2007.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files

Board of Directors at their meeting on April 13, 2007.

The document contained a new statement of WDM Mission: *The Western Development Museum is the keeper of Saskatchewan's collective heritage. The Museum shares the province's unique sense of place with all people for their understanding and enjoyment - recognizing that the legacy of the past is the foundation for a sustainable future.*

The document also presented the WDM Organizational Values which had been discussed at the strategic thinking session in late November 2006: *Teamwork and Communication; Trust and Respect; Freedom and Accountability; Loyalty and Commitment; Honesty and Integrity; Initiative and Creativity.*

2007 April 25 - Former WDM Executive Director Gordon Wilson received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, presented by Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart. WDM Moose Jaw volunteer Don O'Hearne received the same medal at the same service at the Saskatchewan Legislature.

2007 June - July - Donations in support of *Winning the Prairie Gamble* were made by SaskEnergy, the City of Saskatoon, SaskTel, Saskatchewan Mutual Insurance and Butler Byers Insurance.

2007 Volunteers in support of a Military Museum of Saskatchewan explored a potential partnership with the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.

August 9, 2007 - Article titled "Group gauges support for Sask. military museum in city" in the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* (WDM Library - 2007 - 11 WDM Scrapbook)

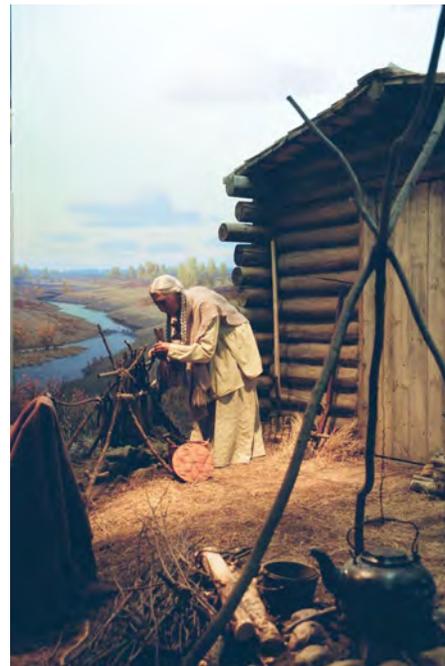
If Gordon Wilson and Jim McKinny get their wish, the Western Development Museum will have a new neighbour dedicated to Saskatchewan's role in war.



WDM Yorkton Canada Day celebrations, 2007.

WDM Archives - WDM Yorkton files

2007 August - The second phase of the centennial exhibit *Winning the Prairie Gamble - Farm Life in Saskatchewan* opened in the WDM Saskatoon. Phase II included a diorama of farm life on a First Nations reserve, a Métis display, and a country fair scene from the 1920s. Background murals were painted by Saskatchewan-born artist Dwayne Harty.



2007 August - An episode of Outdoor Life Network's (OLN) Road Hockey Rumble was filmed in the parking lot of the WDM Moose Jaw. The episode aired in February 2008.

2007 September - The Province of Saskatchewan announced a one-time grant of \$2 million for the four WDM *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits, with an additional \$800,000 increase in the annual WDM budget.



**2008 Attendance 185,360
April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009**

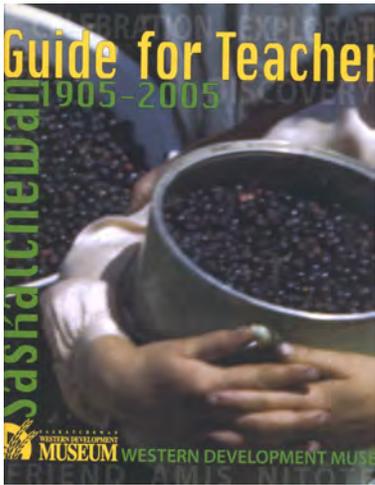
2008 January 15 - 17- An all-staff Operational Planning retreat was held at Manitou Springs Hotel, facilitated by Bob Janes. Topics discussed included greening the WDM, working with First Nations and Métis groups, visitor reception, marketing, programming and the future of summer shows, and the future of steam engine operation at the WDM.



2008 February - The *WDM Guide for Teachers: Saskatchewan 1905 - 2005* was produced and distributed to all schools, libraries and museums in the province of Saskatchewan. Four lesson plans on each of 25 themes provided teachers information and inspiration on Saskatchewan themes and topics.

In August 2007, the second phase of *Winning the Prairie Gamble - Farm Life in Saskatchewan* opened in the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Archives - [Winning the Prairie Gamble files](#)



The *WDM Guide for Teachers 1905 - 2005* was produced and distributed to schools across the province in 2008.

WDM Archives - Education-Extension files



In the Education department Leslee Newman and Amy McInnis (top) and Kristine Montgomery (centre photo), Sylvia Cory (bottom photo) and other volunteers and staff worked to fill 72 discovery boxes throughout 2007 and 2008.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble Education files

2008 Spring - Preservation and restoration work began on the log homestead house in the WDM Yorkton. The home had been moved into the Museum in 2003.

2008 April - The scanning of 9,000 slides from the Saskatchewan History & Folklore Everett Baker collection was completed at the WDM Curatorial Centre.

2008 June - Katimavik volunteers planted berry bushes at the WDM North Battleford.

2008 July 12 - The Great Depression section of *Winning the Prairie Gamble: Farm Life in Saskatchewan* opened in the WDM Saskatoon.

2008 September - Eighteen Discovery Boxes, programming companions to the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits, were completed for the discovery rooms in all four WDM sites (for a total of 72 boxes). Artifacts and photographs in the boxes could be used in conjunction with lesson plans contained in the WDM's education handbook *WDM Guide for Teachers: Saskatchewan 1905 - 2005*.

2008 September 1 - After 25 years, WDM memberships were raised:

Family	\$55
Adult Duo	\$45
Adult Single	\$35
Student/Senior Duo	\$40
Student/Senior Single	\$30

2008 October - Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation donated \$100,000 for First Nations exhibit elements in *Winning the Prairie Gamble*.

2008 November - The Battlefords Union Hospital Foundation's Festival of Trees left its venue at the Western Development Museum for the Don Ross Centre.

2009 Attendance 187,880
April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

2009 January 21 - 23 - The second Strategic Planning session of Board and WDM senior staff, facilitated by Bob Janes, was held at the Manitou Springs Hotel near Watrous. Six priority goals for 2009 - 2014 were identified.

2009 March 23 - Saskatchewan Tourism's Gil Carduner Marketing Award for a Business, Facility or Attraction with a Budget less than \$20,000 was awarded to the WDM North Battleford.

2009 April 2 - The WDM celebrated 60 years, 1949 - 2009.

2009 June 1 - Larry Postnikoff began as Conservation Manager.

2009 July 11 - Grand Opening of the complete *Winning the Prairie Gamble - Farm Life in Saskatchewan* exhibit in the WDM Saskatoon.

2009 July 11 - 12 - The WDM Saskatoon celebrated the Museum's 60th anniversary during Pion-Era '09.

2009 Summer - The WDM Moose Jaw began the sale of railway ties on the Short Line railway, a fundraiser in support of a new boiler for the 1914 steam locomotive.

2009 August 1 - 3 - The WDM Moose Jaw celebrated the Museum's 60th anniversary with a Celebrate Saskatchewan Weekend of activities.

2009 September 26 - Grand Opening of the complete *Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story* exhibit and the WDM's 60th anniversary - WDM Moose Jaw.



WDM Moose Jaw Beyond the Grid module, 2008.



WDM North Battleford Resources module, 2008.



WDM Yorkton Settlement module, 2008.

Work progressed on exhibit modules in the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits in all WDM sites throughout 2008.

WDM Archives - *Winning the Prairie Gamble* Annual Report 2008 - 2009 files



Saskatoon Mayor Atchison and MLA Jocelyn Schreimer opened the completed *Winning the Prairie Gamble - Farm Life in Saskatchewan* exhibit on July 11, 2009.

WDM Archives - Annual Report 2009 - 2010 files

2009 November 14 - Grand Opening of the complete *Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story* exhibit and a celebration of the WDM's 60th anniversary - WDM Yorkton.

2009 November - Government of Saskatchewan funding of \$18,780 was announced in support of an elevator in the Snowbirds Gallery at the WDM Moose Jaw. The funds were matched by the Museum.

2009 December 19 - Grand Opening of the complete *Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story* exhibit and a celebration of the WDM's 60th anniversary - WDM North Battleford.



In 2009, *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Saskatchewan Story* exhibits opened in WDM Moose Jaw (September 26), WDM Yorkton (November 14) and the WDM North Battleford (December 19).

WDM Archives - Annual Report 2009 - 2010 files

**2010 Attendance 204,491
April 1, 200 to March 31, 2011**

2010 More and more news appeared on online news sites, adding to the traditional print, radio and television media.

2010 The City of Yorkton approved its Municipal Cultural Plan.

2010 January 27 - 29 - An all-staff planning session was held at Manitou Springs Hotel facilitated by Patricia Fiori. The 38 Museum staff who attended the Operational Planning session reviewed the six goals outlined in 2009.

2010 March 3 - A fundraising dinner was held at the WDM Moose Jaw in support of a new boiler for the WDM Short Line locomotive.

2010 May - Geocaches at all four WDMs drew interest from geocache enthusiasts.

2010 June - *Winds of Change*, a new exhibit on wind energy past and present, opened in the WDM Saskatoon.

2010 June 24 - WDM North Battleford volunteer and benefactor Edwin Wells was honoured with two plaques acknowledging his contributions to the Museum. One plaque was affixed to the grain elevator; the second was mounted on the pole shed where large farm artifacts are stored and displayed.

2010 August - The WDM Moose Jaw held a fundraising concert on behalf of a new boiler for the Short Line locomotive which did not operate in 2009 or 2010. Railway ties were also sponsored at \$100 and straight cash donations were accepted.

2010 September 24 - 26 - The Government of Canada introduced Culture Days, a weekend of celebrating all things Canadian across the country. All WDMs participated with extra demonstrations and activities.

2010 October - The City of Saskatoon announced that construction of the Idylwyld Dr and Lorne Ave interchanges of the Circle Drive South Project would take several 10-month road detours from October to August 2011, including a section of Lorne Ave between Melville St and Jasper Ave.



Minister Dustin Duncan and WDM Board Chair Rena Weikle opened *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Saskatchewan Story* exhibits in WDM North Battleford on December 19, 2009.

WDM Archives - *Winning the Prairie Gamble* files



Exhibits Coordinator Brian Newman demonstrates an interactive element of *Winds of Change*, an exhibit on wind energy that opened at the WDM Saskatoon in June 2010.

WDM Archives - Annual Report 2009 - 2010 files



2010 October 27 - At the WDM Saskatoon, a year-long partnership with VerEco Homes Inc. began, bringing an energy efficient net zero home to the Museum parking lot. A program to explore conservation initiatives was designed in conjunction with the Museum's *Winds of Change* exhibit and the demonstration house. The City of Saskatoon supported the program, tours and an expert series. Tours of the home cost \$5/person. Regular WDM admission applied to the Museum.

2010 October - Controversy over a planned Halloween séance fundraiser at the WDM Moose Jaw led to cancellation of the event.

WDM Moose Jaw Short Line, 2005. The locomotive did not run in 2009 or 2010 as fundraising efforts were underway to purchase a new boiler for the engine.

EDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw files



In October 2010 the WDM Saskatoon embarked on a year-long partnership with VerEco Homes Inc. to show an energy-efficient home exploring conservation initiatives.

WDM Archives - Annual Report 2010 - 2011 files

2011 Attendance 206,093
April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

2011 January 26 - 28 - WDM board and senior staff met with Dr. Robert Janes at Manitou Springs Hotel near Watrous to assess the Museum's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. The Strategic Plan was reviewed and new strategic priorities and goals were identified. Although the group brainstormed a Vision statement, none was finalized.



The refurbished Short Line locomotive left the Curatorial Centre shop to return to the WDM Moose Jaw in June 2011.

WDM Archives - WDM Annual Report 2011 - 2012 files

2011 March - The Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage, announced a grant of \$81,400 from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund to the WDM North Battleford in support of renovations to the heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems in the Museum. The new HVAC system was installed in 2012.

2011 May 17 - The WDM North Battleford opened a renovated *Drug Store* and *Doctor's Office* in the *Heritage Farm and Village*.

2011 June - The rebuilding of the Short Line Vulcan 0-4-0 locomotive was completed in the WDM Curatorial Centre shops. It was returned to the WDM Moose Jaw where an official opening was held on June 18.



WDM Board Chair, Jack Hay, received a cheque from BMO Group in 2011 to complete theatres in the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits in Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton.

WDM Archives - WDM Annual Report 2011 - 2012 files

2011 June - BMO Group announced a gift of \$70,000 in support of theatres in the WDM Moose Jaw, WDM North Battleford and WDM Yorkton.

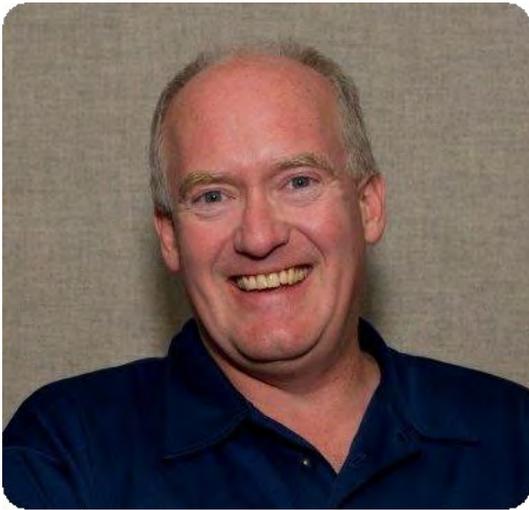
2011 July - Following the resignation of David Klatt, Joan Champ was announced as the new WDM Executive Director.



In July 2011 Joan Champ was named new WDM CEO.

WDM Archives - Staff Photos

2011 July - For the first time, the WDM Moose Jaw co-hosted the Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group Show & Shine.



In October 2011 Jason Wall was named Manager of the WDM Saskatoon.

WDM Archives - Staff Photo files

2011 September 9 - Overnight, vandals attacked seven Heritage Village buildings at the WDM North Battleford, breaking windows, kicking in doors and destroying artifacts.

2011 Fall - The VerEco net zero home display ended at the WDM Saskatoon.

2011 October - Jason Wall was appointed Manager of the WDM Saskatoon.

2011 October - The Western Development Museum network was voted the Best Museum in Saskatchewan by readers of *Prairies North* magazine.



2011 December - *The Cancer Bomb* exhibit opened in the WDM Saskatoon, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of cobalt cancer treatment.

**2012 Attendance 178,514
April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013**

2012 Budget shortfalls called for Monday closing for all WDMs, while leaving a number of staff positions unfilled. Later in the year, admission fees were raised.



January 21, 2012 - Article titled "WDM seeks provincial funding hike" in the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* (WDM Library - 2012 - 16 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum is hoping the new "boom town" economy of Saskatchewan puts a little extra cash in its annual funding from the provincial government. The museum, which operates in four cities, is asking the province for a significant increase to its annual operating grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. The museum says the extra funding is needed to manage a growing collection of Saskatchewan's

The Cancer Bomb exhibit under construction at the Curatorial Centre (top), made ready for installation at the WDM Saskatoon (bottom photo with Sylvia Fedoruk), 2011.

WDM Archives - Curatorial Centre files

history and renovate its properties.

“With the province having one of the best economies in Canada, I’m hoping that bodes well for the museum,” said Joan Champ, the museum’s executive director.

2012 January 26 - 27 - Museum staff met at Manitou Springs for Operational Planning. Presentations from various WDM staff occupied the first day, while a presentation on respectful workplaces followed with an interactive workshop, concluded the last day.

2012 February - Saskatoon residents were frustrated by delays in reopening Lorne Ave. The street, south of the WDM Saskatoon, was closed in August 2010 for the construction of an overpass for the Circle Drive South Project. High water table and ground water levels forced delays in installing storm sewers, which in turn delayed road construction.

2012 February - David Klatt, former Executive Director, delivered an Operational Plan for the WDM, a summary of activities and projects required to realize the goals and strategies identified in the Strategic Plan. The new Business Plan focused on new ways for the WDM to generate its own revenue, and mapped strategies to achieve financial sustainability.

March 27, 2012 - Article titled “WDM cuts Monday service in province” in the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* (WDM Library - 2012 - 16 WDM Scrapbook)

The Western Development Museum (WDM) can’t remain open seven days a week at its four Saskatchewan locations after the provincial government did not increase its funding in last week’s budget, its executive director says. The museum, including the one in Saskatoon, will no longer open on Monday for the rest of the year; although the museums have for several years stopped opening on Monday from January to March... .



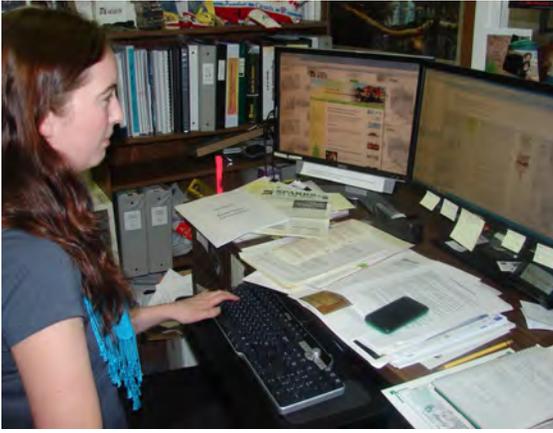
WDM staff retreat for Operational Planning at Manitou Springs, SK.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



Lorne Ave in front of the WDM Curatorial Centre in November 2011.

Leslee Newman photo



Education-Extension Assistant Kristine Montgomery worked to create a new website for the Museum that was launched in 2012.

WDM Archives - Education-Extension files



In May 2012 the WDM made its own history with the first Skype long-distance meeting.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



In June 2012, strong winds blew the boxcar off the track at the WDM North Battleford.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files

2012 April - The City of Moose Jaw announced the location of its proposed new hospital - east of the WDM on Diefenbaker Dr.

2012 April - WDM admission fees increased from \$8.50/adult to \$9/adult. Senior, child, family and groups rates, and Museum memberships, also increased an average of 6%. This was the first increase since 2007. The WDM Yorkton remained slightly less at \$6.50 per adult.

2012 May - A new look for the WDM website was launched.

2012 May - The WDM Curatorial Centre held its first meeting with Skype making possible the long-distance attendance of Museum managers and staff.

2012 June - For the first time, a partnership with Ride for Dad prostate cancer fundraiser saw 500 motorcycles meet in the WDM Saskatoon parking lot.

2012 June 25 - Strong winds blew the boxcar off the track at the WDM North Battleford.

2012 June - The WDM partnered with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship to offer the Cultural Access Pass (CAP) giving free admission for one year to new Canadians in the first year of their citizenship.

2012 Centennial rooms were completed in the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits in WDMs Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton. Stand-alone artifact exhibits were also added. In Yorkton, the *Let's Have Fun!* component opened in July. In North Battleford, *Born With A Drum* also opened.

2012 July 11 - At the WDM Yorkton, the *Let's Have Fun!* component of *Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story* opened officially .

2012 July 28 - 29 - The WDM Moose Jaw held its first *Brickspo* in partnership with the Saskatchewan Lego Users Group (SLUG).

2012 Summer - Fall - Supported through Canadian Heritage's Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, and the province's Community Initiatives Fund, a new HVAC system was installed at the WDM North Battleford. The energy efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning system raised standards of artifact preservation to acceptable levels.

2012 Summer - Fall - WDM Saskatoon volunteers and staff built a 8.2 metre (27 feet) high working scale model grain elevator on the Museum grounds.

2012 Fall - A replica of the University of Saskatchewan's experimental straw gas car of 1918 was completed in the Curatorial Centre shops and moved to display at the WDM Saskatoon.

2012 November - The first Victorian Sculptural Beadwork course was held at the WDM Curatorial Centre.

2012 October - *You Are Not Alone - Investigating Paranormal Activity at the Western Development Museum* went on sale. Paranormal investigations at the WDM began in 2010, with 17 investigations conducted by members of the Saskatchewan Ghost-Hunters Society in four museums and the Curatorial Centre.

2012 December 8 - *Born With A Drum* opened in the WDM North Battleford *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit.

2012 Bamboo Shoots and Angel Entertainment proposed a series called *The Other Side*. Filming began at the WDM Curatorial Centre.



Let's Have Fun!, the final component of the WDM Yorkton's *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Saskatchewan Story* exhibit opened in July 2012.

WDM Archives - *Winning the Prairie Gamble* files - Ruth Bitner photo



In July 2012 the WDM Moose Jaw hosted its first Brickspo event in partnership with Saskatchewan Lego Users Group (SLUG).

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



A straw gas car, replicating a 1918 University of Saskatchewan experiment, was completed in 2012.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files

You Are Not Alone - Investigating Paranormal Activity at the Western Development Museum was released in October 2012.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



2013 Attendance 187,597
April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

2013 Immigration to Saskatchewan from around the world continued to transform provincial demographics.

2013 February - Yorkton Council approved its Implementation Strategy - Moving Yorkton's Municipal Cultural Plan Forward.

2013 February - A new Grade 7 program, *Smarter Science - Better Buildings*, debuted at the WDM Saskatoon. Developed in partnership with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, the program was expanded to include all WDM sites a year later.

2013 May 10 - The first concert of *The Front Porch Series* was given at the WDM Saskatoon by the country-rock band *Wyatt*.

2013 May - CKOM radio in Saskatoon reported "*The province's Western Development Museums are making the best of things almost a year after having to implement tough cost-cutting measures. Decisions not to fill vacant positions, raising admission prices and shutting down on Mondays are some of the ways the museums have worked to trim expenses after getting no additional funds in the last provincial budget.*"

2013 June - The WDM Saskatoon hosted the opening reception of the *Travel Media Association of Canada* which held its annual conference in Saskatoon this year.

2013 July 31 - Grand Opening of the Circle Drive South project in Saskatoon.



Born With A Drum, the final component of WDM North Battleford's *Winning the Prairie Gamble - The Saskatchewan Story* exhibit opened in December 2012.

WDM Archives - Winning the Prairie Gamble files



In partnership with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, the WDM Saskatoon developed a new Grade 7 program - *Smarter Science - Better Buildings* in 2012.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files

2013 September - The elevator in the WDM North Battleford *Heritage Farm and Village* received a fresh coat of paint.

2013 September - Museum admission rates for school classes increased to \$2.50 per student for pre-booked general tours.⁵

2013 October 11 - An episode of Bamboo Shoots and Angel Entertainment production *The Other Side* was held at the WDM Saskatoon.

2013 November 17 - The second performance of *The Front Porch Series* was given at the WDM Saskatoon by members of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

2013 *RV West Magazine* announced that its readers voted the WDM Saskatoon as the Favourite Attraction in Saskatchewan.



The WDM assisted Saskatoon's celebration of the opening of Circle Dr in 2013 with the loan of a vehicle to make the first trip over the bridge.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files - Ruth Bitner photo



Students enjoy Museum Days at the WDM North Battleford, June 2013.



WDM Yorkton, summer 2013.

WDM prices for school classes increased in September 2013.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



Strategic planning sessions for the Museum continued in 2014.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



WDMs in the four cities celebrated the Museum's 65th anniversary in April 2014.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files

2014 Attendance 206,969
April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

WDM's 65th Anniversary

- 2014 January 29 - 30 - The Museum held a strategic planning session in Saskatoon with Gregg Cochlan of the *Pacific Institute* facilitating discussion. WDM Board Chair Ken Azzopardi called it "*a process of ongoing strategic analysis and planning of all WDM core fundamentals and outcomes ...*"
- 2014 January - February - Bamboo Shoots and Angel Entertainment episodes of *The Other Side* aired on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).
- 2014 April 2 - Sixty-five years ago, on April 2, 1949, the Western Development Museum Act was passed in the Saskatchewan Legislature.
- 2014 April 6 - All four WDMs celebrated the 65th anniversary with events at each location and an admission fee of 65 cents. Two legacy videos were created: one featured the history of the Museum; the other highlighted artifacts collected over 65 years.
- 2014 Spring - The WDM announced the creation of the WDM Legacy Fund in partnership with the Saskatoon Community Foundation.
- 2014 June 1 - Museum admission rates were raised slightly. Adult admissions rose from \$9 to \$10. Senior admission went from \$8 to \$9. The family rate increased from \$20 to \$25.
- 2014 July 1 - New federal legislation, Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation, or CASL, came into effect. The WDM reviewed email

communications to ensure the Museum was in compliance for such things as emailing the quarterly WDM newsletter, *Sparks Off the Anvil*.

2014 July - A new software program in the Curatorial Centre's George Shepherd Library was installed. The Library catalogue went online later in the year.

2014 July - The Vintage Aircraft Restorers group at the WDM Moose Jaw won a Ninety-Nines Canadian Award in Aviation for its replica Vickers Vedette construction.

July 8, 2014 - Article titled "Vintage Aircraft Restorers Receive National Award" in the *Last Mountain Times* (WDM Library - 2012 - 16 WDM Scrapbook)

... As a group, the Vintage Aircraft Restorers have been involved with the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw since 1980 when work began on an Avro Anson. Since that time, the Vintage Aircraft Restorers have also restored a Cessna Crane, a Funk, have performed repair work on the Tiger Moth and built a Piper Cub from scratch. These projects are all on display at the WDM.

2014 Summer - Extensive roof repairs were made at the WDM Yorkton.

2014 Exhibits to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War were undertaken - *100 Years Ago: Remembering WW1*.

2014 Summer - A re-branding process was begun to update the WDM logo and marketing materials and message. Various surveys were conducted to gather opinions and feedback from stakeholders.

2014 August - The Saskatoon Antique Auto Club, in partnership with the WDM, unveiled the restoration of a 1927 Derby automobile, assembled originally at a plant in Saskatoon.



Members of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers volunteer group in the WDM Moose Jaw work on a replica Vickers Vedette flying boat, 2012.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



Exhibits were draped as roof repairs got underway at the WDM Yorkton in the summer of 2014.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



The restoration of the Derby automobile was celebrated in Saskatoon in 2014.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files - Ruth Bitner photo



In May 2015 a new exhibit, the *Edwards Funeral Home*, opened officially in Boomtown.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files



In 2015 forest fires burned in northern Saskatchewan, forcing evacuees south. The WDM North Battleford offered programming to those who were displaced.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files

2014 September 1 - The WDM Yorkton increased admission rates to come back into line with admissions at the other three WDMs, except for the Family Rate which remained at \$20.

2014 December - The George Shepherd Library put its catalogue online for searches.

**2015 Attendance 206,096
April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016**

2015 TripAdvisor named the WDM Saskatoon the Number One Thing To Do in Saskatchewan for 2015. The other three WDMs ranked among the Top 50.

2015 January 21 - 22 - A WDM staff retreat was held at Manitou Beach led by Roy Anderson.

2015 March 18 - A 0% budget increase from the Government of Saskatchewan was announced for the 2015 - 16 operating year, remaining at \$4,181,000.

2015 April - The WDM welcomed it's 10 millionth visitor.

2015 May 30 - The *W.A. Edwards Funeral Home* exhibit opened on Boomtown Street, the first new exhibit in Boomtown since the *RNWMP detachment* opened in 2000.

2015 June - July - Staff and volunteers from the WDM North Battleford offered special programming to evacuees from the northern Saskatchewan forest fires.

2015 September - After consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, the WDM

turned to an Albertan firm, *The Studio Group*, to create a new brand - developing a new logo and a new tagline - Saskatchewan inspired.

2015 September - The September - October 2015 issue of *Sparks Off the Anvil* came out in a new multi-fold colour format, the first change in appearance and format in many decades.



WDM CEO - Joan Champ and Board Chair-Ken Azzopardi with the new WDM logo, 2015.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files

**2016 Attendance 217,409
April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017**

2016 February - The WDM Saskatoon joined with Parks Canada, Wanuskewin Heritage Park and the Gabriel Dumont Institute to present activities and demonstrations at the Saskatoon Farmers' Market.

2016 April 22 - The WDM Board approved its Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021 with goals of:

1. Care, refine and evolve the collection while maintaining professional standards of condition, utility and security.
2. Improve the quality of the visitor experience.
3. Increase visitation and stakeholder engagement.
4. Ensure sustainability and organizational health.



In April 2016 the WDM Board approved a Strategic Plan with one focus - to improve museum visitor experience. In programs at the WDM Moose Jaw (above) and the WDM Yorkton (below) in 2017, this goal was realized.

WDM Archives - Annual Report files

2016 May - Anthony Drake visited the WDM Saskatoon. Drake was a teacher in Saskatchewan in 1968 and submitted the prize-winning design for the Saskatchewan flag.

2016 Spring - Responding to Goal 4 in the WDM Strategic Plan, the Museum began a number of conservation initiatives such as converting to LED lighting in exhibits and





In June 2016 Joan Champ (top photo) resigned as WDM CEO, to be replaced in August 2016 by Joan Kanigan (bottom photo).

WDM Archives - Staff and Board files



In December 2016 the Vickers Vedette flying boat replica built by members of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers group at the Moose Jae WDM was unveiled.

WDM Archives - WDM Moose Jaw files

super-insulating the roof of the WDM Yorkton, in addition to previous initiatives such as installing more efficient boilers as well as motion sensors for lights in some areas.

- 2016 June - At the Curatorial Centre, Exhibits Curator Warren Clubb retired.
- 2016 June 30 - Joan Champ resigned as WDM CEO.
- 2016 In Moose Jaw, the Vickers Vedette flying boat replica was dedicated. The replica was built by members of the Vintage Aircraft Restorers group.
- 2016 August - Joan Kanigan replaced Joan Champ as WDM Chief Executive Officer.
- 2016 September - Tim Pomeroy started as Conservation Manager at the Curatorial Centre.
- 2016 November - Dr. Elizabeth Scott began as Director of Research.

**2017 Attendance 227,218
April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018**

- 2017 Canada celebrates its 150th year. A travelling exhibit, *Our Collective Threads: Saskatchewan People in Canada*, was created to highlight Saskatchewan diversity.
- 2017 May - After more than 40 years with the WDM, Collections Curator Ruth Bitner retired. Collections Assistant Debbie Massett also retired.



2017 Responsibilities at the WDM Curatorial Centre were merged as Liz Scott was named Curator responsible for Conservation, Collections and Research. Julie Jackson was named Collections Manager. Tim Pomeroy was named Chief Engineer and Restoration Manager. Mark Anderson was named Conservator.

2017 The WDM Board of Directors adopted a Statement of Intent affirming the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It committed the WDM to engaging in reconciliation by responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

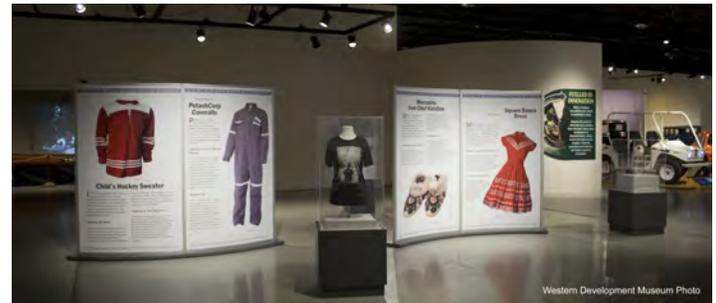
2017 The WDM Board of Directors adopted Ends statements for the WDM. From the vision: *A Saskatchewan where everyone belongs and histories matter* came the Ends statements:

- People's lives are enriched by connecting with Saskatchewan's diverse histories.
- Saskatchewan people experience a sense of place and belonging because their histories are shared through the WDM.

2017 At the WDM Yorkton, the York Colony Quilters celebrated 25 years.

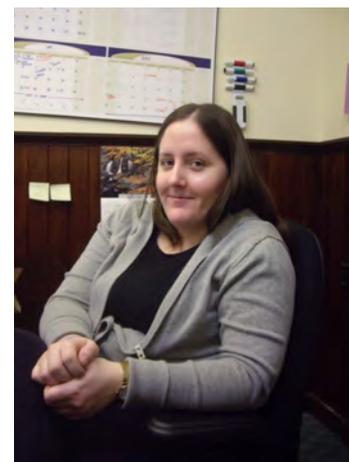
2017 At the WDM Saskatoon, the Women's Auxiliary to the WDM celebrated 60 years.

2017 Several new Facebook features were launched, including #MemoryMondays featuring images from the WDM photo collection, as well as bi-monthly features highlighting new acquisitions, conservation, restoration, research and education.



The exhibit *Our Collective Threads: Saskatchewan People in Canada*, seen here at the WDM Saskatoon, was made to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary.

WDM Archives - WDM Annual Report 2017 - 2018 photo



Julie Jackson, 2009.

In 2017 curatorial responsibilities were redefined with Liz Scott named Curator responsible for Conservation, Collections and Research. Julie Jackson was named Collections Manager. Mark Anderson was named Conservator. Tim Pomeroy was named Chief Engineer and Restoration Manager.

WDM Staff photos



Left to right: Mark Anderson, Liz Scott, CEO Joan Kanigan, 2017.

WDM Archives - Staff Photo files



The WDM Saskatoon, long overdue for a new parking lot, redesigned drainage and resurfaced the Visitor Parking Lot in 2018.

WDM Archives - Tanya Callaway photo



On April 2, 2019 the WDM celebrated the passing of The Western Development Museum Act on April 2, 1949.

2018 Attendance 221,026
April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

2019 Attendance 208,572
April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

WDM's 70th Anniversary

2019 April 2 - The Western Development Museum celebrates 70 years.

Addendum to Pictorial History

Questions

Questions are identified in the Pictorial History text by superscript numbers corresponding to the question number.

1. Where was the attendance for January 1 to March 31, 1962 included?
 - a) Page 45, attendance is listed for 1961.
 - b) Page 50, attendance is listed for April 1, 1962 to March 31, 1963.

2. When did David Richeson become Executive Director?
 - a) On page 177, a 1983 quote is attributed to "Executive Director David Richeson".
 - b) On page 181, it is stated that in April 1984 – "Sharilyn Ingram left her position as WDM Executive Director ... Later in the month, David Richeson was announced as her replacement."
 - c) On page 183, it is stated that on July 1, 1984 "David Richeson began as WDM Executive Director."

3. Was the WDM calliope refurbished immediately before and after Expo '86?
 - a) On page 190, it is stated that "The calliope had been overhauled and restored in the Provincial Service Centre (PSC) over the winter to ready it for a world audience."
 - b) On page 194, in winter 1987 "The WDM calliope underwent extensive refurbishment."

4. What was the admission price for pre-booked school groups?
 - a) On page 210, it is stated that "School groups prebooked 75 cents per student" effective January 1, 1990.
 - b) On page 219, it is stated that "School groups prebooked – less \$1.00 per student" effective November 1, 1990. This would decrease the admission rate to 50 cents per student. All other rates increased.
 - c) Is this correct, or should the entry for January 1, 1990 be "less 75 cents per student"?

Addendum to Pictorial History

WDM Act

Apr 2, 1949

Names for Corporate Office

	Date Changed
Provincial Service Centre	unknown but believed to be prior to 1981 Nov 30, 1984
Curatorial Centre	Jun 1993
Corporate Office	Sep 2018

Location

WDM Saskatoon
moved to 2935 Lorne Ave, Saskatoon

Executive Director

Name	Named Interim	Started	Left
Gordon Wilson		1964	Mar 25, 1977
Terrence Heath		Oct 15, 1977	May 1980
Sharilyn Ingram		Sep 1, 1980	Apr 1984
David Richeson		Jul 1, 1984	Jun 30, 1991
Tom Waiser	Jul - Nov 1988		
David Klatt	Jun 1991	Nov 1, 1991	2011

CEOs **(Executive Director changed to CEO)**

Joan Champ	Jul 2011	Jun 30, 2016
Joan Kanigan	Aug 2016	

PSC - Operations Manager

Tom Waiser	Oct 1, 1988	Jun 1991
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Museum Managers

Name	Named Interim	Started	Left	
Moose Jaw				
Jerry Kaiser		1976	Mar 21, 1984	
Virginia Hatch-Stewart		Aug 1984	Dec 31, 1989	
Susan Norman	Jan 1 - May 7, 1990			Yorkton manager assumed responsibility for MJ until replacement found
Lyn M. Johnston		May 7, 1990	Sep 1997	
Kathy Fitton		Mar - Apr, 1996		Museum Operations Supervisor
Kathy Fitton	Sep 1997	May 5, 1998		

Addendum to Pictorial History

	Named Interim	Started	Left	
North Battleford				
Donald Carruthers		1949		
Gerrit Nyholt		May 24, 1957		Resident Museum Manager
Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Taylor		1957		Curators - in 1957 noted as being again in charge - no note as to when they started
Muriel (Mayme) Sack		1968	May 1979	Listed as superintendent
Alex Balych		Jun 1, 1979	Fall 1982	
Wayne Fennig		Jan 19, 1983		
Saskatoon				
Archie Clark		1961	Dec 31, 1992	Custodian
Roy Potter		1948		6 month term
George LeBeau		1955	1960	Supervisor
George LeBeau		1960		Development Director
George LeBeau		1962	Nov 6, 1963	Manager
Gordon Wilson		Jan 1, 1964	Mar 25, 1977	Manager
Les Smith	Mar - Dec, 1977			
Bruce Shepard		Jan 1, 1978	Sep 1, 1980	
Carole Wakabayashi	1980			
David Klatt		Feb 1, 1981	Jun 1991	
Tom Waiser	Jun 1991	Jan 1, 1992	2011	
Jason Wall		Oct 2011	2022	
Julia Wagner		Dec 12, 2022		
Yorkton				
George Sherwood		Jun 17, 1951	May 28, 1966	Listed as curator
Vernon Young		1971		Listed as curator - when did he start?
Jack Zepp		1976	Apr 1, 1980	
Tom Waiser		Mar 7, 1981	Oct 1, 1988	
Susan Mandziuk (nee Norman)		Oct 1, 1988	2016	
Carla Madsen	2016 - 2019	2016		

Highlighted items were not specifically listed in the Pictorial History but were inferred from comments included.

Addendum to Pictorial History

Museum Boards of Directors

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
							John Archer	John Archer			John Archer					
											H. Benson	H. Benson	Helmer Benson			
																Ted Beazley
								Alex R. Cameron			Alex R. Cameron	A.R. Cameron	A.R. Cameron	Alex Cameron		Alex Cameron
												D. Dombowsky	D. Dombowsky			D. Dombowsky
											William Fitchner	W. Fitchner	William Fitchner	William Fitchner		William Fitchner
Prof. Evan Hardy	Prof. Evan Hardy	Prof. Evan Hardy		Prof. Evan Hardy		Prof. Evan Hardy										
		Paul Helstrom		Paul Helstrom		Paul Helstrom	Paul Helstrom	Paul Helstrom			Paul Helstrom	Paul Helstrom	Paul Helstrom			Paul Helstrom
											T.L. Hill					
		Charles E. Joah										E. Hughes	E. Hughes			E. Hughes
												C.J.C. Kerr	Charles Kerr	Charles Kerr		Charles Kerr
											J.T. Kyle	J.T. Kyle	J.T. Kyle			Jack Kyle
														Harold Latrace		Harold Latrace
											D.M. Lyngseth					
	R.A. Mathison															
						J.D. McAskill	J.D. McAskill	Mayor J.D. McAskill								
Prof. Grant McEwan	Dean Grant McEwan	Prof. Grant McEwan		Prof. Grant McEwan		Prof. Grant McEwan										
												C.L. McLeod	C.L. McLeod	Carl McLeod		Carl McLeod
				Dean T.H. McLeod		Dean T.H. McLeod	T.H. McLeod	T.H. McLeod								
				George Morris		George Morris	George Morris	George Morris								
								Gerrit Nyholt								
J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	J.L. Phelps	Joe Phelps *	
E. Roy Potter	E. Roy Potter															
Frank Swon	Frank Swan	Frank Swon		Frank Swon		Frank Swon	Frank Swon	Frank Swon								
												G. Urwin	G. Urwin	G. Urwin	G. Urwin	G. Urwin

The names of the members of the Board of Directors were taken from the Annual Reports.

Those years highlighted in blue only listed the Chairman of the Board.

The Annual Report was not available for those years highlighted in grey.

Any names listed in the highlighted years were taken from the pictorial history, either mentioned specifically or inferred from other comments.

The Chairman of the Board is outlined with a double line.

* Named Honourary Chair

Addendum to Pictorial History

Museum Boards of Directors (continued)

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
									Willard Ahenakew	Willard Ahenakew	Willard Ahenakew	Willard Ahenakew	Willard Ahenakew
									Carol Bruce	Carol Bruce	Carol Bruce	Carol Bruce	Carol Bruce
		Nick Catchuk											
Dean Clark	Dean Clark	Dean Clark											
Jean Curry	Jean Curry	Jean Curry											
					Bruce Dalshaug								
Frank Draper	Frank Draper	Frank Draper											
		Tina Dryhorub											
													Winston Elaschuk
													Don Fox
													Jack Hay
		Kae Henley											
Alvin Hewitt													
Elinor Hjertaas	Elinor Hjertaas	Elinor Hjertaas											
		Peter Hoffmann	Peter Hoffmann	Peter Hoffmann	Peter Hoffmann								
Glenda James	Glenda James	Glenda James											
			Russell Johnson										
													Kevin Kurulak
										Louis Lahosky	Louis Lahosky	Louis Lahosky	Louis Lahosky
		Gary Loutzenhiser											
					William Macza								
Mary Jean Martin	Mary Jean Martin	Mary Jean Martin	Mary Jean Martin	Mary Jean Martin	Mary Jean Martin								
Bob McPherson													
										Kathleen Morrell	Kathleen Morrell	Kathleen Morrell	Kathleen Morrell
Randy Nelson	Randy Nelson												
										James Phelps	James Phelps	James Phelps	James Phelps
													Dean Redman
Eric Sagan	Eric Sagan	Eric Sagan											
Paul Sayers	Paul Sayers	Paul Sayers	Paul Sayers	Paul Sayers	Paul Sayers								
										Catherine Ulmer	Catherine Ulmer	Catherine Ulmer	Catherine Ulmer
Donald Voss													
		Kate Waygood											
										Rena Weikle	Rena Weikle	Rena Weikle	Rena Weikle

The names of the members of the Board of Directors were taken from the Annual Reports.

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The Annual Report was not available for those years highlighted in grey.

Any names listed in the highlighted years were taken from the pictorial history, either mentioned specifically or inferred from other comments.

The Chairman of the Board is outlined with a double line.

* Named Honourary Chair

Addendum to Pictorial History

Buildings & Displays - Moose Jaw

Date

May 26, 1993 Avro Anson Mark 1 aircraft restoration unveiled
May 1983 British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) gallery
Mar 1989 Warriors of Winter exhibit (early snowmobiles)
Apr 1989 Aviation Heritage exhibit including BCATP & Snowbirds
Apr 1989 Major exhibit providing overview of 40 years of the work of the WDM
Jun 1989 Saskatchewan Transportation Hall of Fame
Jun 1989 Observatory built by Regina Astronomical Society in 1913
Oct 1990 A Salute to the Snowbirds temporary exhibit
Oct 30, 1991 Cinema 180 Theatre
Jul 10, 1992 Snowbirds Gallery
Dec 4, 1997 Classsy Cars
Jun 30, 2005 Winning the Prairie Gamble - first stage
Sep 26, 2009 Winning the Prairie Gamble - next stage
2012 Winning the Prairie Gamble - next stage

Locations

Jun 26, 1976 50 Diefenbaker Dr (intersection of Highway 1 & 2)

Clubs

1998 Thunder Creek Model Railroad Club

First show at WDM in 1996

Active since 1967

1980 Vintage Aircraft Restorers

Addendum to Pictorial History

Buildings & Displays - North Battleford

Date

1965	St. Mary's Anglican Church	
May 1966	blacksmith shop	
May 1966	barber shop	
May 1966	dentist office	
May 1966	millinery and ladies wear shop	
May 1966	lawyer office	
May 1966	harness shop	
May 1966	music store	
May 1966	John Deer building	
May 1966	Mountie statue	Aug 29, 1985 Moved to Chamber of Commerce
1967	RNWMP building	
1967	Canadian National railway station (from Prince)	
1967	the Ukrainian home	
1967	The Tourist Information Booth (replica of Board of Trade Building)	
1967	City firehall	
1967	Buffalo rubbing stone	
Sep 1967	Roman Catholic Church	
Aug 1968	RM Office replica building	
Sep 11, 1968	The Co-op Store	
1968	Holy Trinity Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church	
1968	Combined doctor's office and drug store	
1968	80 acres added to WDM site	
Jun 19, 1969	Poultry Building -sod turned	
1969	log militia building	
1971	A Ukrainian home	Are there 2 Ukrainian homes? - one opened in 1967
1972	The dairy building	
1981	Optometrist Office	
1981	Poultry Plant	
Aug 18, 1984	Wheat Pool elevator from Keatley, SK	
Jul 8, 1984	Auction Era	
1986?	Barn from Gallivan	
1987	The Jolly Life of a Farmer's Wife exhibit	
1987	A local history exhibit	
Aug 1987	Polish church	
Aug 1987	Doctor's home (Dr. Joseph Jules Harmelin)	
1988	Harris house from Fielding	
Sep 1988	The French home moved around on site - when was it aquired?	
Apr 1989	Major exhibit providing overview of 40 years of the work of the WDM	

Addendum to Pictorial History

Buildings & Displays - North Battleford (continued)

Date

Summer 1990 Farm home from Rockhaven (McLaren family)
1991 Shoe Repair Shop (not moved until 1992)
May 31, 1993 Discovery Room
Jul 1995 Auction Era
Jul 22, 2005 Winning the Prairie Gamble - first stage
Sep 19, 2009 Winning the Prairie Gamble - next stage
2012 Winning the Prairie Gamble - Born with a Drum - First Nations Education

Locations

1948	Hangar #7-NB airport	Condemned in 1980. Demolished in 1986.
May 25, 1963	Junction of Highways 5 (renamed Highway 16) and 40	Hanger moved from Mossbank, SK

Storage

1946 Sick horse barn at the Fort
1948 Hangar #7-NB airport

Addendum to Pictorial History

Buildings & Displays - Saskatoon

Date

Oct 1956	Colony House
1972	Boomtown Street
1972	St Peter's House
1973	Buffalo rubbing stone from 5 miles north of Saskatoon
May 2, 1982	Volunteer Centre opened
Nov 22, 1987	Once Upon A Christmas Eatons exhibit
Sep 1987	A Livery Stable
Apr 1989	Major exhibit providing overview of 40 years of the work of the WDM
April 1990	Bentley Store on Boomtown Street
April 1990	Craft Parlour on Boomtown Street
Jul 4, 1992	Boomtown Photo Studio
May 1993	Model train diorama
Jun 7, 2000	A Royal North West Mounted Police detachment Telephone Operator's Home (first mentioned in 2000)
May 2003	Volunteer centre, WA sewing area, woodworking shop
Sep 4, 2005	Winning the Prairie Gamble opened - first stage
Aug 2007	Winning the Prairie Gamble opened - second stage
Jul 12, 2008	Winning the Prairie Gamble opened - third stage
2012	8.2 metre scale model grain elevator
May 30, 2015	W.A. Edwards Funeral Home

Locations

1948	Cushing Mill on Duchess St & 9th Ave	
1949	Hangar at Saskatoon airport (opened another collection)	Vacated in 1952
1951-1972	1839 11th St W	Condemed in 1980. Burned to ground in 1986.
July 1972	2610 Lorne Ave	

Storage

1948	BCATP site - corner of Ave A & 33rd St.
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Clubs

Jan 28, 1955	The Pioneer Thresherman's Club
1957	Women's Auxillary to the Western Development Museum
1973	The Boomtown Volunteers Association
1992	The Saskatoon Railway Modellers

Addendum to Pictorial History

Buildings & Displays - Yorkton

Date

Sep 27, 1980	Ukrainian pioneer home	Jan 1987 - demolished
Mar 24, 1981	Education square	
Jul 1988	Local History Gallery	
Apr 1989	Major exhibit providing overview of 40 years of the work of the WDM	
May 1, 1996	Times Square	
Oct 17, 2002	log house from Lahosky farm	
May 2004	In a Prairie Attic: Bladon Family Toys	
Jul 1, 2005	Winning the Prairie Gamble - first stage	
Sep 5, 2009	Winning the Prairie Gamble - next stage	
Jul 11, 2012	Winning the Prairie Gamble - Let's Have Fun!	

Locations

1951	Hangar at Yorkton airport	July 1987 - all artifacts moved or sold
Sep 13, 1972	Highway 16A West	

Storage

1949	Unidentified storage depot
1951	Hangar at Yorkton airport (might be former unidentified storage depot)

Clubs

1958	The Thresherman's Club
1992	York Colony Quilters Guild

Addendum to Pictorial History

Attendance

Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1949	7,109	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1950	13,264	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1951	19,123	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1952	16,127	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1953	26,573	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1954	28,937	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1955	49,957	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1956	50,961	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1957	79,363	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1958	65,867	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1959	67,036	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1960	60,049	
Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1961	70,985	*
Apr 1, 1962 to Mar 31, 1963	76,246	*
Apr 1, 1963 to Mar 31, 1964	81,662	
Apr 1, 1964 to Mar 31, 1965	108,624	
Apr 1, 1965 to Mar 31, 1966	112,999	
Apr 1, 1966 to Mar 31, 1967	140,550	
Apr 1, 1967 to Mar 31, 1968	158,708	
Apr 1, 1968 to Mar 31, 1969	77,249	
Apr 1, 1969 to Mar 31, 1970	63,746	
Apr 1, 1970 to Mar 31, 1971	50,205	
Apr 1, 1971 to Mar 31, 1972	57,691	
Apr 1, 1972 to Mar 31, 1973	169,938	
Apr 1, 1973 to Mar 31, 1974	157,327	
Apr 1, 1974 to Mar 31, 1975	175,904	
Apr 1, 1975 to Mar 31, 1976	228,498	
Apr 1, 1976 to Mar 31, 1977	218,507	
Apr 1, 1977 to Mar 31, 1978	214,518	
Apr 1, 1978 to Mar 31, 1979	168,995	
Apr 1, 1979 to Mar 31, 1980	206,236	
Apr 1, 1980 to Mar 31, 1981	226,221	
Apr 1, 1981 to Mar 31, 1982	178,937	
Apr 1, 1982 to Mar 31, 1983	214,866	
Apr 1, 1983 to Mar 31, 1984	205,883	
Apr 1, 1984 to Mar 31, 1985	205,485	
Apr 1, 1985 to Mar 31, 1986	222,097	
Apr 1, 1986 to Mar 31, 1987	205,856	
Apr 1, 1987 to Mar 31, 1988	215,735	
Apr 1, 1988 to Mar 31, 1989	236,079	
Apr 1, 1989 to Mar 31, 1990	229,363	
Apr 1, 1990 to Mar 31, 1991	228,872	

Addendum to Pictorial History

Attendance (continued)

Apr 1, 1991 to Mar 31, 1992	214,593	
Apr 1, 1992 to Mar 31, 1993	202,027	
Apr 1, 1993 to Mar 31, 1994	203,812	
Apr 1, 1994 to Mar 31, 1995	208,111	
Apr 1, 1995 to Mar 31, 1996	221,381	
Apr 1, 1996 to Mar 31, 1997	218,179	
Apr 1, 1997 to Mar 31, 1998	218,793	
Apr 1, 1998 to Mar 31, 1999	220,110	
Apr 1, 1999 to Mar 31, 2000	207,908	
Apr 1, 2000 to Mar 31, 2001	196,583	
Apr 1, 2001 to Mar 31, 2002	176,955	
Apr 1, 2002 to Mar 31, 2003	184,619	
Apr 1, 2003 to Mar 31, 2004	159,342	
Apr 1, 2004 to Mar 31, 2005	139,094	
Apr 1, 2005 to Mar 31, 2006	154,041	
Apr 1, 2006 to Mar 31, 2007	142,002	
Apr 1, 2007 to Mar 31, 2008	158,975	
Apr 1, 2008 to Mar 31, 2009	185,360	
Apr 1, 2009 to Mar 31, 2010	187,880	
Apr 1, 2010 to Mar 31, 2011	204,491	
Apr 1, 2011 to Mar 31, 2012	206,093	
Apr 1, 2012 to Mar 31, 2013	178,514	
Apr 1, 2013 to Mar 31, 2014	187,597	
Apr 1, 2014 to Mar 31, 2015	206,969	
Apr 1, 2015 to Mar 31, 2016	206,096	
Apr 1, 2016 to Mar 31, 2017	217,409	
Apr 1, 2017 to Mar 31, 2018	227,218	
Apr 1, 2018 to Mar 31, 2019	221,026	
Apr 1, 2019 to Mar 31, 2020	208,572	
Apr 1, 2020 to Mar 31, 2021	37,095	Covid (Aug 5, 2020 to Mar 31, 2021)
Apr 1, 2021 to Mar 31, 2022	109,585	

11,202,778

** It is uncertain if attendance for the period Jan 1, 1962 to March 31, 1962 was included with the figures for Jan 1 to Dec 31, 1961 or Apr 1, 1962 to Mar 31, 1963.*

Addendum to Pictorial History

Memberships

	Jun 15, 1949	Apr 9, 1977	Prior to Jan 1/97	Sep 1/08	May 1/12	Feb 9-Apr 17/15	Aug 9-10/22
Regular (Family)	10.00	5.00	35.00	55.00	60.00	70.00	74.00
Adult Duo				45.00	50.00	60.00	63.43
Adult Single	5.00	3.00		35.00	40.00	50.00	52.86
Senior 65 & older			25.00				
Student			25.00				
Senior/Student Duo				40.00	45.00	55.00	58.14
Senior/Student Single				30.00	35.00	45.00	47.57
Lifetime Membership	100.00						

* 2 year memberships available

Addendum to Pictorial History

Admission Rates

	Jun 15, 1949	1968	1969	Apr 9, 1977	Oct 1, 1978	1986	Sep 1986	Jan 1, 1990	Nov 1, 1990	Jan 1, 1993	Apr 1993	prior to Jan 1/97	Apr 1/98	Apr 29/00	Mar-Apr/03	Nov 28/04-Jan 25/05	Jul 1/07	Apr 17/12	Sep/13	Jun 1/14	Sep 1/14	Feb 9-Apr 17/15	Jul 14 - Aug 14/18	Aug 9-10/22			
Adult	0.25	0.75		1.50		2.50		3.00	3.50	4.00		4.50	5.00	6.00	7.25	7.25	8.50	9.00	9.00	10.00					10.57		
Senior 65 & older					1.00	1.50		2.50	3.00	3.50		3.50	4.00	5.00	6.25	6.25	7.50	8.00	8.00	9.00					9.51		
Student		0.50										3.50	4.00	4.00	5.25	5.25	5.75	6.25	6.25	7.00					7.40		
Children (6 - 12 years)	Free	0.25		0.50		0.75		1.00	1.50	1.50		1.50	1.75	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.50	2.50	4.00					4.23		
Preschool Children	Free					Free		Free	Free	Free		Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free					Free		
Family	1.00			4.00						15.00	10.00	12.00	12.00	14.00	16.00	16.00	18.50	20.00	20.00	25.00					26.43		
Children 16 & under with teacher	Free																										
School groups- not pre-booked							0.75					1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50		2.25	2.25	2.25	2.50	3.00				3.00		
School groups - teachers/chaperones							2.50																				
School groups-pre-booked	Free						less 0.25	0.75	less 1.00	less 1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.50	1.50	1.50	2.50	2.50				2.50		
Group tours				1.00																							
Group tours pre-booked						less 0.50																					
Adult groups pre-booked								less 0.50	less 0.50	less 0.50																	
Childrens groups pre-booked						less 0.50		less 0.25	less 0.50	less 0.50																	
Season Ticket	1.00																								*****		
	*	**				***	****	***	***	***																	
North Battleford																											
Adult			1.00																						9.00	10.00	
Senior 65 & older																										8.00	9.00
Student			0.50																							6.25	7.00
Children (6 - 12 years)			Free																							2.50	4.00
Preschool Children			2.50																							Free	Free
Family			Free																							20.00	25.00
Children 16 & under with teacher			Free																								
School groups- not pre-booked			Free																							2.25	3.00
School groups-pre-booked			Free																							1.50	2.50
Saskatoon																											
Adult																										12.00	12.57
Senior 65 & older																										10.00	10.51
Student																										8.00	8.40
Children (6 - 12 years)																										5.00	5.23
Preschool Children																										Free	Free
Family																										27.00	28.43
School groups- not pre-booked																											
School groups-pre-booked																											
Yorkton																											
Adult															50% reduction	50% reduction	5.00	6.50	6.50	6.50	10.00						
Senior 65 & older															50% reduction	50% reduction	4.00	5.50	5.50	5.50	9.00						
Student															50% reduction	50% reduction	3.00	4.50	4.50	4.50	7.00						
Children (6 - 12 years)																											
Preschool Children																											
Family															50% reduction	50% reduction	10.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	20.00						
School groups- not pre-booked															1.50	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	3.00						
School groups-pre-booked															1.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	2.50						
Group rates in each category																											
Regular rate less 0.50												Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

* Saskatoon started charging admission on Aug 1, 1949

** Age of children not specified

*** Age of children specified as 5 - 12 years

**** September 1986 marked the first time fees were charged for school groups with teachers and chaperones admitted free for pre-booked tours.

***** Pictorial History states rate for School Groups pre-booked is 0.75. This is higher than the price before and after this change. Was this a typo and it was actually "less 0.75"?

***** Charging PST on non-educational admissions

When the date identified for an admission rate change is a date range, the actual date of change could not be determined.

Originally, artifact donars received free admission. When did this change?

North Battleford had reduced admission rates starting in 1969. When did they increase rates to come into line with the other museums?

Addendum to Pictorial History

Volunteer Hours

	Moose Jaw		North Battleford		Saskatoon		Yorkton		Corporate Office		Total	
	Hours	Volunteers	Hours	Volunteers	Hours	Volunteers	Hours	Volunteers	Hours	Volunteers	Hours	Volunteers
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 1998	5,631.00	165	18,301.00	963	19,361.00	488	8,341.00	137	2,541.00	10	54,175.00	1,763
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 1999	5,472.00	132	15,634.00	1,027	19,763.00	403	9,204.00	140	2,236.00	18	52,309.00	1,720
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2000	4,532.00	119	12,170.00	960	23,874.00	435	9,772.00	166	2,573.00	23	52,921.00	1,703
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2001	4,680.75	88	17,484.00	941	24,280.00	433	10,342.00	163	2,215.00	19	59,001.75	1,644
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2002	5,132.50	167	17,133.00	905	23,175.00	402	9,560.00	154	2,301.45	18	57,301.95	1,646
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2003	7,361.00	186	14,358.00	837	26,070.50	453	10,806.00	235	2,289.00	16	60,884.50	1,727
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2004	7,565.75	193	12,592.00	539	29,201.00	483	9,597.00	186	2,975.75	14	61,931.50	1,415
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2005	8,000.75	239	11,590.00	547	29,844.00	481	9,308.00	201	3,119.25	11	61,862.00	1,479
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2006	9,896.25	158	10,170.00	445	30,944.00	469	8,863.00	175	2,462.00	10	62,335.25	1,257
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2007	8,469.50	91	9,276.50	455	35,540.50	430	8,204.00	200	2,504.00	20	63,994.50	1,105 *
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2008	8,235.13	91	7,541.50	554	36,833.00	501	8,169.00	214	2,588.00	23	63,366.63	1,292 *
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2009	6,521.00	106	7,325.50	521	36,415.00	421	9,387.00	216	1,944.00	24	61,592.50	1,182 *
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2010	6,870.60	110	6,191.00	564	34,928.25	465	8,922.00	216	2,005.50	21	58,917.35	1,262 *
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2011	8,680.75	110	6,117.50	524	40,144.20	454	8,807.00	162	2,173.00	27	65,922.45	1,218 *
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2012	4,499.00	104	11,027.50	535	35,680.25	590	7,838.00	215	1,682.25	24	60,727.00	1,364 *
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2013	5,078.50	111	12,651.00	666	36,347.00	494	5,456.00	171	1,763.85	34	61,296.35	1,442 *
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2014	4,612.00	111	9,858.00	563	33,327.00	658	5,425.00	172	1,500.50	27	54,722.50	1,504 *
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2015	4,837.00	103	9,475.00	580	35,504.00	546	4,589.00	172	2,156.00	44	56,561.00	1,445
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2016	3,638.00	112	8,449.00	578	36,485.00	479	4,507.00	178	2,646.00	46	55,725.00	1,393
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2017	3,293.25	116	8,142.50	364	33,919.50	546	4,530.00	176	2,422.00	38	52,307.25	1,240
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2018	7,329.50	108	8,846.50	365	23,253.00	371	4,790.00	193	1,894.25	40	46,113.25	1,077
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2019	5,385.25	133	11,723.00	391	25,378.00	411	4,475.50	216	1,710.75	56	48,672.50	1,207
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2020	706.75	119	672.00	319	1,376.50	229	270.00	187	522.00	18	3,547.25	872 **COVID
Jan 1, 2021 - Mar 31, 2022	125.00	125	1,271.00	171	617.00	352	177.00	120	141.00	24	2,331.00	792 **COVID
Apr 1, 2022 - Mar 31, 2023	1,083.00	90	3,921.00	186	7,931.00	346	1,072.00	125	467.00	9	14,474.00	756
	137,636.23	3,187	251,920.50	14,500	680,191.70	11,340	172,411.50	4,490	50,832.55	614	1,292,992.48	33,505

* Irregularities noted between totals and annual reports

** COVID

Active Volunteers

Jan 1, 2021 - Mar 31, 2022	38	67	4	19	6	134
Apr 1, 2022 - Mar 31, 2023	68	99	164	73	9	413