



JANUARY – MARCH 2026 • VOLUME 50, EDITION 1

# SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



## With a Little Help from Our Friends

Celebrating Saskatchewan's Generous Spirit

MOOSE JAW

NORTH BATTLEFORD

SASKATOON

YORKTON



WDM.CA

# Here is What is Happening at the WDM

## All Locations

October – December

Monthly Seek and Finds

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## WDM Moose Jaw

February 17 – 20

School Break Pop-Up Activities

February 21

Community Heritage Day, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

March 7

Smarter Science Better Buildings Public Open House

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## WDM North Battleford

January 19 – April 10

*Treaty Timeline* travelling exhibit

March 6

Trivia Night Museum Fundraiser

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## WDM Saskatoon

Through January 4

*Once Upon a Christmas* exhibit

Through March 31

Thursday Night Demonstrations, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

January 13, February 17,

Pop In and Play with the WDM

March 17

January 15

Smarter Science Better Buildings Public Day, 2:30 – 7:30 pm

February 8

Heritage Festival of Saskatoon \*

February 16 – May 31

*Lii Buflo: A Métis Way of Life*, a travelling exhibit from Arts and Heritage Foundation of St. Albert and Elk Island National Park

February 26

Speakers Series: Indigenous Storytelling with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

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## WDM Yorkton

Through January 31

*Lii Buflo: A Métis Way of Life*, a travelling exhibit from Arts and Heritage Foundation of St. Albert and Elk Island National Park

January 17 & 24

Crafter's Club: Leather Workshop - Sheepskin Slippers \*\*

February 15

Heritage Day, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

February 17, 18, 19

Crafter's Club Youth - Folded Wallet\*\*

February 28

Art of Hygge, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

March 21 & 28

Crafter's Club: Leather Workshop - Satchel\*\*

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\* Not a WDM organized event

\*\* Pre-registration is required

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



# With A Little Help From Our Friends

Happy New Year! As we welcome a new year and mark the 50th volume of Sparks, I'm reminded of how much the WDM has achieved with the support of partners, volunteers, staff and communities across Saskatchewan. Since becoming a regular publication in 1977, Sparks has shared the many ways people come together to preserve and celebrate our province's history — a perfect reflection of this edition's theme, "With A Little Help From Our Friends."

In this edition, we highlight moments of generosity, collaboration and shared purpose. TeleMiracle's 50th anniversary gives us a chance to look back at an enduring legacy of Saskatchewan people helping others. We're also

pleased to share the story of the Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair and the work of dedicated educator Debbie Taylor-French, whose partnership with WDM Moose Jaw encourages students to develop a passion for history.

Volunteers continue to be at the heart of everything we do. We acknowledge WDM North Battleford volunteers Stan Mills and Clayton Wolfe for their National Philanthropy Day recognition, feature long-time WDM Saskatoon volunteer Brigitte Bursee and celebrate volunteer years of service across the organization.

Partnerships also strengthen our work — from our connection with the Edmonton Radial Rail Society to upcoming programming such as the Office of the Treaty Commissioner Speaker Series at the WDM Saskatoon. We also extend our sincere thanks to BMO, FlexNetworks and Light Up The Village sponsors - Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs and Battle River Treaty 6 Health Centre.

Thank you for your ongoing support. With a little help from friends like you, we look forward to another year of sharing Saskatchewan's stories.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan".

Joan Kanigan, CEO

**Sparks** is published four times a year and delivered to WDM members. It's a great way to keep up to date on everything happening at all WDM locations.

Editor: Corinne Daelick  
© 2026 Western Development Museum

**On the Cover:**  
Fun in the snow at the WDM Yorkton

# In This Edition . . .

## 8 With a little help from our friends

The WDM salutes volunteer achievements. Meet Stan Mills, Clayton Wolfe and Brigitte Bursee – three volunteers who share their talents with the WDM.

## 12 TeleMiracle turns 50!

Learn about the history of this iconic Saskatchewan fundraiser.

## 18 Community Partnerships

Hear how the WDM Moose Jaw works together with the Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair Committee and Heritage Saskatchewan to instill a love of history in Grade 4 – 8 students.



## WDM Board of Directors

**Orlanda Drebitt**  
Chair, Saskatoon

**Brianna Lobb**  
Regina

**Brian Martynook**  
Moose Jaw

**JayDee Mazier**  
Saskatoon

## Hours of Operation

### WDM Moose Jaw

Tues – Sun 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### WDM North Battleford

Tues – Sun 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### WDM Yorkton

Tues – Fri 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Weekends 12:00 – 5:00 pm

### WDM Saskatoon

Tues – Wed 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thurs 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

Fri – Sun 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### BooMonte Café (Saskatoon)

Tues – Sun 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

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

# Get Out the 'Spark'-lers!

## Celebrating 50 Volumes of Sparks

January 2026 marks the 50th volume of our little newsletter. Sparks, or Sparks Off The Anvil as it was known, had been published sporadically from 1974 - 76. On December 16, 1976, then WDM Executive Director Gordon Wilson announced that Sparks Off The Anvil would "soon be revived." He went on to explain that "the growth of the four Western Development Museum branches has underlined the need for communication and cooperation."

Volume 1, Edition 1 was published in January 1977 with Diana Matthews as editor. Much like today, included were stories about WDM programs, exhibits and other happenings.

Initially, Sparks Off The Anvil was a two-page, monthly publication. Over the years, the look changed - photos were added, the number of pages increased and the frequency of publication was reduced. In 2015, the biggest changes took place as the newsletter was updated to coincide with changes to the WDM brand. Along with a new name Sparks, the newsletter was full colour featuring more photos and stories.

We hope that Sparks continues to spark your interest in Saskatchewan and the WDM because we love sharing these stories!



## Why Sparks?

Our name Sparks pays homage to our original newsletter, Sparks Off The Anvil. The original name symbolized the many ideas and happenings at the WDM — programs, exhibits, research and more — all happening like sparks flying off an anvil as the blacksmith's hammer strikes the metal.

## Volunteer Years of Service Recipients

The WDM proudly recognizes the invaluable contributions of our volunteers, whose dedicated years of service help preserve Saskatchewan's history.

Your commitment to preserving heritage, sharing knowledge and engaging visitors ensures that our stories remain vibrant and accessible for generations to come. Thank you for the generosity you've shown to the Museum and the vibrant communities we represent.

## Thank You for Doubling the Impact of WDM Donors!

Thanks to the generosity of FlexNetworks, donations during our year-end campaign were doubled up to \$7,500!

Together, we are preserving and sharing even more stories of Saskatchewan's history for generations to come.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and for making our year-end appeal a success.

 **5 YEARS SERVICE**

Lynne D  
Tim F  
Pat H  
Bernie P  
June P  
Lydia P  
Bernie S  
Myra S

 **30 YEARS SERVICE**

Leif A  
Pat C  
Dennis P

 **35 YEARS SERVICE**

Patricia D  
Bob M  
Francis K  
Bonnie M  
Troy P

 **10 YEARS SERVICE**

Dan B  
Kyle F  
Lutz F  
Jayden S  
Dennis S  
Pat U  
Ethel W  
Ken W

 **40 YEARS SERVICE**

Allan C  
Harvey D  
Charles P

 **15 YEARS SERVICE**

Rod A  
Janny B  
Garrett H  
Evelyn H  
Tom P  
Peter P

 **45 YEARS SERVICE**

Louis L  
Elaine L

 **55 YEARS SERVICE**

Steve L

 **25 YEARS SERVICE**

Randy A  
Barry J  
Brenda S

**Attention Volunteers:**  
Please let us know if we missed you on this list or if you prefer not to be included on future lists.

# National Philanthropy Day

## Honouring WDM North Battleford Volunteers

National Philanthropy Day is an annual celebration that honours the contributions of volunteers, supporters and donors to philanthropic causes. Each year, the Association of Fundraising Professionals Saskatoon Chapter hosts a luncheon to recognize the generosity of volunteers and donors in Saskatchewan. At the National Philanthropy Day luncheon held on November 13, 2025, the WDM North Battleford honoured two volunteers.

Stan Mills has been a dedicated volunteer since 1988. At 92 years old, Stan volunteers nearly every day, including weekends. In 2025 alone, he donated over 1,300 hours to the WDM North Battleford. His passion lies in maintaining and showcasing stationary engines, where his expertise and commitment shine. Stan's dedication has also inspired his son, Wally Mills, to volunteer alongside him. Congratulations Stan, on being recognized as an Honoured Supporter.

Twenty-two year old Clayton Wolfe has grown into a dedicated and passionate supporter of the WDM. A farmer from Edam, Clayton devotes an entire month each year to helping with History in Motion, supporting all aspects of machinery and threshing. He has also gone above and beyond by travelling extensively to distribute posters and promote the event. Clayton's commitment and enthusiasm embody the spirit of youth philanthropy and volunteerism. Congratulations Clayton, for being recognized as a Youth in Philanthropy Honouree.

Thank you, Stan and Clayton for your generous support and dedication to the WDM North Battleford!



Stan Mills (right) with his son, Wally



Clayton Wolfe

### Learn to Operate a Steam Traction Engine

Are you interested in antique steam engines? Watch for details coming soon about steam traction engine operation courses at the WDM Yorkton in April 2026 and at the WDM North Battleford in July 2026.

Scan here to sign up to get course information:  
[lp.constantcontactpages.com/s1/WMvvquw](http://lp.constantcontactpages.com/s1/WMvvquw)



# Always Willing to Help

## Meet WDM Saskatoon volunteer Brigitte Bursee

"The fun, friendships, camaraderie, working together for the common good and betterment of the Museum and community." That's why Brigitte Bursee volunteers and has volunteered with the Women's Auxiliary to the WDM Saskatoon for 32 years. She'll also tell you that "I am blessed to belong to the Women's Auxiliary, a wonderful, caring, supportive organization."



Brigitte spinning wool, May 1995



Brigitte (right) with fellow volunteers June Miller and Annette Yarmovich selling crafts at Pion-Era, July 2016

Brigitte joined the Women's Auxiliary to the WDM Saskatoon in 1993. With her, she brought an eagerness to learn and to help wherever she could - plus she loves to keep busy. Perhaps this busyness grew from being so active in her youth. Brigitte was born in Eich, Germany in 1938. As a child, she worked in orchards and vineyards, as well as helping on the farm at harvest time. In 1952, Brigitte came to Canada with her mother and sisters, following her father and brother who had come the year before. After marrying in 1955, Brigitte lived in many places including Regina, Wynyard, LeRoy and Saskatoon.

It was at the WDM Saskatoon that Brigitte found an outlet for her energy. In the Women's Auxiliary, Brigitte learned skills like spinning wool which she did for many years on Sunday

afternoons in Boomtown. She helped sew many large quilts made by the Women's Auxiliary and quilted some small ones on her own. She made rugs, potholders and other items and helped sell them in Women's Auxiliary Parlour on Boomtown Street.

Brigitte also got very involved with WDM programs. She helped many Grade 3 students make Christmas cards in the Christmas 1910 program as well as making crafts with children at special events. She demonstrated how to make butter and ice cream. Every year at Pion-Era, Brigitte was one of the volunteers who made sure Grandma's Kitchen was ready to go with fresh bread, jam and lemonade. Whenever the Women's Auxiliary needed help at events, Brigitte was one of the first people to sign up. She loved to help!

Another passion of Brigitte's is singing. For many years, Brigitte was part of the WDM Singers, a group of volunteers who would sing in St. Peter's Church in Boomtown on Sunday afternoons, they travelled to special care homes in Saskatoon to perform and they led visitors in singing Christmas carols during the Carolling Sunday program.

The WDM extends our deepest gratitude to Brigitte for her many years of support. Brigitte exemplifies the spirit of our WDM volunteers – willing to help whenever and wherever needed. It is the kind of help that brings the Museum to life.



Brigitte helping out at Boo Town, October 2023



## Help Preserve the Past for Future Generations: Donate to the WDM!

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

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

Scan the QR code to go to our donation form.



## Thank You to Our 2025 Donors

As we look back on an extraordinary year, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who supported the WDM through the gift of money, resources and time in 2025.

Your generosity fuels our work and makes everything we do possible.

Thank you for making a difference.

# BMO Day at the WDM

## Supporting heritage in Saskatchewan

Did you know that BMO opened their first location in what would become Saskatchewan in 1883? This first bank was located in Regina and known as "The Little Bank on Moose Mountain Trail." For 142 years, BMO has been part of Saskatchewan with branch locations and ATMs across the province.

This commitment to Saskatchewan is also seen through BMO's support of our communities and organizations, and through sponsorship of events like BMO Day at the WDM. Since 2022, BMO has sponsored two free admission days per year at all WDM locations. We had a chance to ask Sasha Smode, Regional Vice President, Personal Banking, BMO, why supporting BMO Day and the WDM is so important.

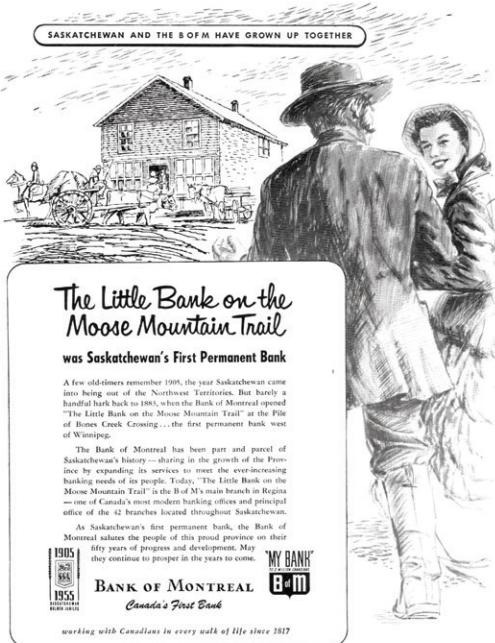
### Why is it important for BMO to support Saskatchewan communities and organizations?

At BMO, our purpose is to Boldly Grow the Good in *business and life*. Our Purpose connects us to something bigger, shaping everything we do and every decision we make. Nowhere is it more prominent than in our community partnerships, including in Saskatchewan, an important region, where we have a long history.

### Why did BMO choose to partner with the WDM?

We believe that strong communities are built by more than just brick and mortar, they are woven together by the creativity, energy and expression of the people who live in them. For more than 200 years, BMO has been a proud supporter of cultural organizations that bring powerful stories to life, preserve history and help make our communities vibrant.

We make a conscious effort to support programs that expand access to arts and culture, like the Western Development Museum, because doing so helps build a thriving economy, fosters inclusion and sustains the rich cultural fabric of our communities.



BMO Advertisement, 1955

IMAGE CREDIT: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP CORPORATE ARCHIVES

## Why is BMO Day at the WDM such a good fit for BMO?

At BMO, we believe in ensuring people can access arts and culture, regardless of their economic situation. The programs we fund remove barriers to inclusion by helping to make local arts and culture, and the valuable education they offer, more accessible. BMO Days is a great example of this.

The WDM is thrilled to partner with BMO and is grateful for their support so that everyone can access the Museum. BMO has committed to sponsor BMO Day at the WDM through to April 2028. Thank you, BMO for helping us showcase and share Saskatchewan history.

Please join us on April 25 and September 26, 2026 for BMO Days at the WDM.

Visit [wdm.ca/bmo-day](http://wdm.ca/bmo-day) to learn more about BMO Day at the WDM.

# 2026 Speaker Series



HYBRID - WDM SASKATOON & ZOOM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR THE ZOOM  
LINK FOR A SESSION, PLEASE CONTACT  
[TREATYEDUCATION@OTC.CA](mailto:TREATYEDUCATION@OTC.CA)

FREE ADMISSION\*

\*ADMISSION BY DONATION ON  
THURSDAYS FROM 5-8 PM

IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH



JOIN US ON THE LAST THURSDAY  
OF EVERY SECOND MONTH FOR  
STORYTELLING, EDUCATIONAL  
SESSIONS AND INTERACTIVE  
DISCUSSIONS

FEB  
26

INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING  
MONTH

6-7:30 PM

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE RICH  
HISTORIES AND TRADITIONS OF INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES THROUGH STORYTELLING

# TeleMiracle 50

## A Legacy of Helping

Since their first event in 1977, the TeleMiracle Telethon has grown into an iconic fundraiser for people in Saskatchewan. Over its first 49 years, TeleMiracle has raised \$165,034,652 to help people in Saskatchewan with specialized medical needs access care and equipment they may not be able to otherwise afford.

With TeleMiracle 50 approaching, we're taking a look at the history of 'Saskatchewan's charity.'

### The Start of Kinsmen Clubs

The Association of Kinsmen Clubs of Canada was founded in 1920 by Hal Rogers, a First World War veteran living in Hamilton,

Ontario. He decided to start a service organization focused on serving the needs of his local community when he found he missed the sense of community he had in the army.

The organization quickly grew beyond Ontario, and when the wives of members began to get involved, they formed the Kinettes. The Kinsmen and Kinettes are now known as Kin Canada, the largest national service association in Canada.

The first Kinsmen Club in Saskatchewan was the Kinsmen Club of Regina, chartered in 1926. Today, there are Kin Clubs in over 40 communities across Saskatchewan.

### Creating the Kinsmen Foundation

The Kinsmen Foundation is a Saskatchewan charity which was created in 1971 under the leadership of Peter Kilburn.



TeleMiracle 49, 2025

IMAGE CREDIT: KINSMEN FOUNDATION



Co-host Blake Emmons (right) in front of the total donations board at TeleMiracle 1, 1977

IMAGE CREDIT: KINSMEN FOUNDATION

TeleMiracle explains that when the Kinsmen Foundation began, “[i]ts two main goals were to first, provide fellowship and service for the Kinsmen and Kinettes, on a provincial basis. Prior to that all clubs just did their own projects in their communities. Second, was to provide funding to anyone in the province who had a physical, mental or social disability and couldn’t get funding from any other source.”

By 1975, there were far more requests for funding than the Kinsmen Foundation could meet. The foundation began discussing possibilities for larger fundraisers they could hold to support their charity work. They eventually decided on a telethon, and the first TeleMiracle Telethon was held on February 5 – 6, 1977.

The first TeleMiracle organizing committee was chaired by Urban Donlevy, a member of the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon. The first TeleMiracle raised \$1,214,210, the equivalent of over \$5.8 million today.

Saskatchewan is unique in Kin Canada as the only place to have a large province-wide fundraiser like this, done with the help of Kin Clubs from all across the province. Elsewhere, the focus is on the club level.



Telemiracle 21, 1997

IMAGE CREDIT: KINSMEN FOUNDATION

## What They Do

Funds raised from TeleMiracle help people with three main areas of medical care: travel expenses for treatment, specialized equipment and home renovations.

Help with travel expenses includes transportation, accommodation and meals. These can be for short-term visits such as a trip to Saskatoon for dialysis, or longer-term stays such as after an organ transplant when patients are required to stay in the city they had the transplant for three months after surgery. TeleMiracle will pay for the cost of their accommodation and meals for the duration of this stay. They will also fund trips to other provinces or countries for treatments not available in Saskatchewan. TeleMiracle has funded trips to Montreal and the United States, for example.

TeleMiracle will fund a broad range of equipment. Some things they have funded in the past include scooters, walkers, motorized wheelchairs, conversions to make vans accessible, iPads for text-to-speech technology, hearing aids and lift chairs.

When someone needs to renovate their home to adapt it to meet their needs, TeleMiracle will pay for renovations that allow someone to make their home accessible if they don't qualify for the provincial government program that assists with those renovations.

### TeleMiracle Today

Putting on a telethon the size of TeleMiracle takes a lot of work. Over 700 Kin volunteers and 125 production volunteers help with the production every year, along with two producers, nine office staff, five to seven hair and makeup artists, around 12 cast members and 100 performers. They also have help

from SaskTel staff to set up phone lines, staff from the venues where the event is held, as well as companies helping with donations of food/catering, furniture, and other tools and supplies needed for the event to run smoothly.

The most successful TeleMiracle fundraiser so far has been TeleMiracle 46 in 2022. It raised over \$8 million and included the largest single donation in the history of the fundraiser, a bequest of nearly \$1.8 million.

TeleMiracle 50 will take place February 28 - March 1 in Saskatoon.

The WDM gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by the Kinsmen Foundation as we researched this article.

### In the WDM Collection

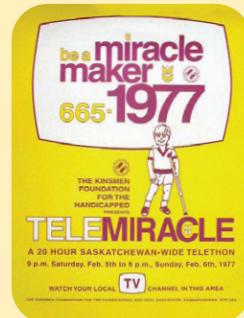
These are a few of the many TeleMiracle artifacts in the WDM Collection.



Commemorative pin set from the first 20 years of TeleMiracle, 1996  
WDM-2004-S-280



TeleMiracle 12 button, 1988  
WDM-2004-S-532



TeleMiracle 1 poster, 1977  
WDM-2004-S-276



TeleMiracle 42, 2018

IMAGE CREDIT: KINSMEN FOUNDATION

An advertisement for WDM (Westman Development Corporation). It features a dark blue circular logo with the letters "WDM" in white. Below the logo, the text "PLACE YOUR AD HERE" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom, there is a teal-colored footer with white text that reads "Email engagement@wdm.ca for details and rates". The background of the ad is a light blue with a subtle floral or leafy pattern.

A photograph of a large, illuminated outdoor light display at night. The display features a central yellow circle with a purple floral pattern, surrounded by several white, stylized, flowing shapes that resemble flames or petals. The display is set against a dark background with some trees and a fence visible in the distance.

The WDM North Battleford extends our gratitude to our Light Up The Village sponsors:

**Super Nova Sponsor:**  
Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs

**Illuminator Sponsor:**  
Battle River Treaty 6 Health Centre

**Thank You for  
Lighting Up The Village!**

# BRAiNBUSTERS

### Liar's Club

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



Which of the following explanations is the truth for this Saskatchewan invention?

- A. This is a dint remover. It was used to remove dints from tin cups or other items made of tin.
- B. This is a back scratcher. It is used to scratch between the shoulder blades or other hard to reach spots.
- C. This is a curved knitting needle used for knitting collars and toques.
- D. This is a doughnut lifter. It is used to lift doughnuts out of hot oil in a deep fryer.

Answers on page 21.

### Did you know...

Between 1911 – 50, Saskatchewan had the third largest population of any province in Canada due to immigration and farm settlement. Today, Saskatchewan is the sixth largest province by population in Canada. In July 2025, our population hit an all-time high of 1,266,959.

That's a  
**Sask Fact!**

Search for the  
Saskatchewan  
Symbol



Hidden somewhere in this issue of Sparks is a Western Red Lily like this one. This lily is Saskatchewan's official flower. Can you find it?

## Spot the Difference

In the early-mid 20th century, snowplanes were an important way for people in rural areas to stay connected during the winter. When roads became blocked with snow, snowplanes, like this one at the WDM Moose Jaw, could glide across the snow. A reliable snowplane could take children to school, helped doctors reach rural patients and delivered people to town to get needed supplies. This model was built in 1951 by Bill Warnock of Reward who sold it for use in the Unity area.

**Look closely to spot six differences between the two scenes.**



# WDM and the Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair

## Fostering a love of history

"I just find history super cool in general," declared one of the Grade 6 students taking part in the Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair at the WDM Moose Jaw. On May 14, 2025, over 80 students who find history super cool shared their projects on topics ranging from the northern lights to maple syrup to swimmer Summer McIntosh. Since 2004, the WDM Moose Jaw has been part of the Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair organizing committee and hosted the event.

You may be wondering - what is a heritage fair? The first heritage fairs began in the 1990s to increase awareness of Canadian heritage by giving students in grades 4 - 8 an opportunity to learn and share while celebrating their place in history. Since 2013, heritage fairs in Saskatchewan have been overseen by Heritage Saskatchewan. They work with community and regional committees and host the Provincial Heritage Fair held at Government House in Regina.

Educator Debbie Taylor-French has been part of the Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair committee since 2002. Although she has recently retired from teaching, Debbie continues to be involved. She has filled many roles with the heritage fair from co-chair to member at large. In recent years, she has worked closely with students, making sure they were doing what they needed to do and felt



2025 Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair participants



Debbie Taylor-French interviews Bella Sedman about her project, May 14, 2025

good about their work. Like Debbie, many teachers around the province give hundreds of hours preparing their students and organizing heritage fairs.

Preparations begin months in advance. Debbie remembers, "many times, students would enter the school on the first day and ask if we were doing heritage fair (whether they were in my class or not!) or they would tell me the topic they figured out over the summer. I would usually get started with heritage fair right before Christmas break so students had time to think about topics and talk to family about personal topics. We would get into research and start heritage fair strong in January."



Debbie Taylor-French presents Jaxton Lawrence with the Catherine Lettkeman Award, May 14, 2025

For heritage fair, students create projects related to Canadian heritage. This involves researching a topic and creating a display which may include printed text, photos, videos, artifacts or props. Students also prepare a short presentation about their topic. During the heritage fair, students share this knowledge with volunteer judges. The judges rate the projects on factors including research and sources, knowledge of the subject and presentation.

The Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair is more than just a place to show off research and share information. It is also a chance for students to get immersed in history through learning sessions with various heritage groups. At the 2025 Regional Heritage Fair, students took part in learning sessions with the WDM, New Southern Plains Métis Local #160 and the Sukanen Ship Museum. Debbie noted how important these opportunities are: "I have brought countless groups of students to enjoy the Museum. I was thrilled when the WDM began partnering with us on heritage fair. Moose Jaw's heritage fair became substantially better when it was held at the WDM where students could see history all around them."

Heritage fair judges come from throughout the community, including some WDM volunteers. Following judging, an awards ceremony is held



WDM volunteer and judge Barb Huculak interviews Lujina Alsaleh, May 14, 2025

where everyone is acknowledged for their hard work. From the Regional Heritage Fair, the next step for some students is the Provincial Heritage Fair in Regina. It's an exciting opportunity to meet students and see projects from around the province. To learn more about Saskatchewan heritage fairs, visit [heritagefairssk.ca](http://heritagefairssk.ca).

An incredible amount of work is put in by people like Debbie, who give so much time to the heritage fair program. The WDM applauds the work done by educators, volunteers and Heritage Saskatchewan who encourage and help foster an interest in Canadian heritage.

Watch for heritage fairs coming up in 2026:

**April – May**  
Virtual Heritage Fair

**May 6 (tentative)**  
Regina Regional Heritage Fair

**May 13**  
Yorkton Community Heritage Fair

**May 14 – 15**  
Saskatoon Regional Heritage Fair

**May 20**  
Moose Jaw Regional Heritage Fair

**June 3**  
Provincial Heritage Fair

# Sharing to Preserve History

## The story of the SMR streetcar #200

In summer 2024, WDM Chief Curator - Director of Collections & Research, Dr. Elizabeth Scott was invited to spend the day with members of the Edmonton Radial Rail Society (ERRS) in their restoration and operations barns at Fort Edmonton in Edmonton, Alberta. The ERRS would be unveiling a recent restoration with a connection to the WDM and Saskatoon. The ERRS is a volunteer-run group that works tirelessly to rebuild and operate historic streetcars. Each year their members donate more than 12,000 hours to streetcar restoration and operation.

The ERRS had restored former Saskatoon Municipal Railway (SMR) streetcar #200, which is a combination utility streetcar used for snow sweeping tracks and fixing overhead lines. #200 was built in 1907 by the Ottawa Car Company. In 1913, it was purchased secondhand by the newly formed SMR. When the SMR ceased operations in 1951, they offered #200 to the WDM. For many decades, #200 (WDM-1973-S-3145) remained part of the WDM's preservation collection. By the early 1980s, as the WDM was preparing to move to a new central storage facility, now known as the Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre, the future of #200 at the WDM was in question.

As part of a collections assessment research project that started in 1983, it was determined that #200 was a suitable candidate for deaccessioning. Deaccessioning is the formal removal of an artifact from the collection. As #200 had been delivered in poor condition to begin with, it would have required considerable restoration to bring it back to display condition. Other pressing Museum priorities, and the impending move to the new storage facility, meant that the best thing



SMR #200 at work after a blizzard on Central Avenue in Sutherland, March 15, 1927

SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTO AS REPRINTED IN EASTEN WAYMAN, SASKATOON'S ELECTRIC TRANSIT: THE STORY OF SASKATOON'S STREETCARS AND TROLLEY BUSES (HAWKESBURY, ON: RAILFARE ENTERPRISES LTD., 1988), 30

D. This doughnut lifter (WDM-1980-S-123) was invented by Paul Grodnick of Yorkton in 1976 and received its patent in 1978. Grodnick said, "Any housewife will never burn their hands again because there is no way the doughnut will ever fall off the lifter."

Lifter's Club

The Western Red Lily is on page 13.

Search for the  
Saskatchewani Symbol  




Spot the Difference

Brainbuster Answers



SMR #200 at the WDM, 1981

WDM-1973-S-3145



SMR #200 at Fort Edmonton Park, Alberta, 2024

for this little streetcar was to find it a new home. In 1986, #200 was sold at public auction and transferred to the ERRS as part of a large deaccession project of 750 artifacts.

In 2024, the ERRS completed a 25-year restoration project which saw #200 become fully operational again. It had received a fresh coat of yellow paint, indicative of a safety colour designed to separate it from the passenger fleet of SMR streetcars. #200 was complete with fully restored rattan brush rollers that the ERRS volunteers had meticulously shaped by hand and replaced to fit where the old ones had been.

Dr. Scott was invited on board as the #200 took its inaugural loop around Fort Edmonton Park as a completed, operational restoration, save for the sweepers and the platform that had not yet been turned on. Dr. Scott described the experience, "As we made our way around Fort Edmonton Park, I watched as the ERRS volunteers expertly drove #200 around its loop. It wasn't easy. Significant specialized streetcar knowledge is needed to maneuver these old streetcars around the tracks, to watch for hazards like poles (all the streetcars are different widths), and to feel out the complexities and personalities of each streetcar – they are each one unique and full of character. It was a thrilling ride to say the least!"

Following the ride, Dr. Scott was invited to meet volunteers and see other projects that they were working on. It was a great opportunity to learn and share resources as the ERRS have a streetcar that is similar to the WDM's #12 streetcar which is currently under restoration.

The WDM is grateful for the opportunity to meet with the ERRS volunteers to discuss ways the WDM and the ERRS might continue to work together to keep the history of municipal streetcars alive for all to enjoy and understand. Thank you to the ERRS volunteers for sharing their expertise and showing us the work done on SMR #200. Its journey is a true deaccessioning success story and a testament to the perseverance of the ERRS volunteers who never gave up on the idea of restoring it.

If you'd like to read Dr. Scott's story about "The Restoration of Saskatoon Municipal Railway Snow Sweeper #200: The Edmonton Radial Railway Society and a piece of WDM History," please visit [wdm.ca/snowsweeper](http://wdm.ca/snowsweeper).



# Museum Highlights

## WDM MOOSE JAW

### License Plate Collection

WDM-1976-MJ-7.66.A-NNN

With motorized vehicles becoming popular, in 1906, the Government of Saskatchewan required vehicles be registered. In 1910 – 11, owners provided their own license plate with the government issuing plates starting in 1912. From 1912 – 76, a new license plate was issued nearly every year with the exception of 1944 when, due to Second World War metal shortages, a windshield sticker was issued.

From year to year, license plate colours, designs or slogans may change. For example, during Canada's centennial, license plates carried a slogan to mark the occasion. After 1976, owners received stickers to attach to their existing license plate.



## WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

### 1929 Chrysler Series 65 Sedan

WDM-1988-NB-35

Chrysler was new to the automobile business when it introduced its first model in 1924. Quality engineering and style were selling features and by 1929 Chrysler sales had overtaken many of its competitors.

The Chrysler Series 65 Four Door Sedan sold for around \$800 in 1929. This car was originally purchased by Albert Capling from L.E. Jones, the automobile dealer in Dinsmore. We don't know much about its life until 1976 when it was purchased by Ralph McKone of Lashburn. He purchased the car for \$2000 and proceeded to restore it. Following restoration, McKone drove it around the area in parades and special events. It was donated to the WDM in 1988.



**WDM SASKATOON****Replica Treaty 6 Medal**

WDM-2005-S-135

2026 marks 150 years since the negotiating of Treaty 6 which is located in present-day Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Numbered Treaties are a solemn and sacred agreement between the Crown and First Nations. Treaty 6 was negotiated between the Crown and Cree, Nakoda and Saulteaux leaders at Fort Carlton on August 23, 1876 and at Fort Pitt on September 9. Adhesions to Treaty 6 would continue to be negotiated until the 1950s.

The Treaty medal inscription "As long as the sun shines and the river flows" signifies that this relationship continues forever. This replica Treaty 6 medal is on display in the *A Saskatchewan Story* exhibit.

**WDM YORKTON****Toy Tea Pot**

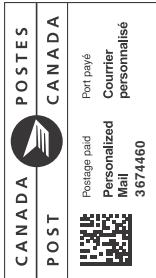
WDM-1988-S-19.11.A.B.

The first known record of toy tea sets appeared in 16th century Germany. Over the centuries, technological improvements made tea sets of porcelain and china more accessible. By the early 20th century, tea sets of tin and enamel were a more affordable option. Sets came in a variety of designs and colours.

This unique tea pot from the 1920s is on display in the *100 Years of Saskatchewan History* exhibit. It is part of a set that also includes a sugar bowl and creamer along with cups and saucers. The funny face not only appears on the tea pot but on other pieces in the set.



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## WDM Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre Business Hours

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



Musical Happy New Year  
greeting card, c. 1951  
WDM-2005-S-351

