



APRIL – JUNE 2026 • VOLUME 50, EDITION 2

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



Summer is coming

Get ready for camp

Ignite Volunteerism

Inspiring Volunteers

Building a museum

50 Years in Moose Jaw

Here is What is Happening at the WDM

All Locations

April 25	BMO Day at the WDM
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WDM Moose Jaw

April 6 – 10	Easter School Break Activities
April 18	Moving the Prairies: A Journey Through Saskatchewan's Mass Transportation History presentation
May 16	Short Line 101 opening day, weather permitting
June 26	WDM Moose Jaw 50th Anniversary
June 27	Built in '76: A Groovy Night at the Museum**

WDM North Battleford

June 15 – September 30	<i>Lii Buffalo: A Métis Way of Life</i> , a travelling exhibit from Arts and Heritage Foundation of St. Albert and Elk Island National Park
June 18	National Indigenous Peoples Day Traditional Pow Wow*

WDM Saskatoon

Through May 31	<i>Lii Buffalo: A Métis Way of Life</i> , travelling exhibit
Through June 30	Artifact Showcases, Thursday evenings & Saturday afternoons
April 6 – 10	Spring School Break programming
April 21, May 19 & June 16	Pop in and Play with the WDM
April 25	Pioneer Threshermen's Club Flea Market*
April 30 & June 25	Speakers Series with the OTC, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

WDM Yorkton

April 7	Spring's Awakening Day Camp**
April 8	Youth Crafters' Club, 12:30 – 4:30 pm**
April 27 – August 9	<i>Treaty Timeline</i> travelling exhibit
May 3	Mother's Day Crafternoon, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
May 16 – June 26	Artifact Discovery, Saturday afternoons
June 7	Daddy & I Coffee and Pie, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
June 17	WDM Yorkton 75th Anniversary
July 1	July 1 Picnic and Celebration

* Not a WDM organized event

** Registration or tickets required

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



Our Big Saskatchewan Quilt

Dear Friends of the WDM,

This issue of *Sparks* celebrates “Our Big Saskatchewan Quilt,” a reflection of the many people, places and stories that together shape Saskatchewan. At the Western Development Museum, we are proud to be preserving and sharing these threads of history, from long-standing traditions to new learning opportunities.

As we recognize the International Year of the Volunteer and National Volunteer Week, we extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who strengthen our work every day. In this edition, we feature volunteers from

the WDMs Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Saskatoon. To all our volunteers, thank you for your ongoing support and the difference you are making across the province.

We would also like to thank the Women’s Auxiliary to the WDM Saskatoon for their generous ongoing support. Their commitment reminds us that community is at the heart of everything we do.

As we reflect on important milestones, including 50 years since the opening of the WDM Moose Jaw on June 26, 1976 and the legacy of the WDM Yorkton, which first opened to the public on June 17, 1951, this edition of *Sparks* features stories about exhibit updates, summer camps and school programs. We also gratefully acknowledge the Government of Canada’s support through the Canada Strong Pass program, which encourages more people to visit museums through free and discounted admission.

Thank you for being part of our shared Saskatchewan story. Together, we continue to stitch new pieces into our province’s living quilt.

Warm regards,

Joan Kanigan, CEO

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

Editor: Corinne Daelick

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On the Cover:

WDM Moose Jaw volunteers Mike Stobbs, John Westervelt & Russ Wheatley clean up the Ford Custom Sedan from the WDM operating collection.

In This Edition . . .

6 Ignite Volunteerism

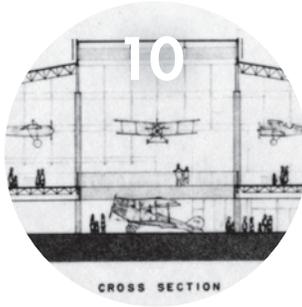
WDM volunteers ignite curiosity, connection and learning for everyone who walks through our doors. We'll introduce you to a few of these amazing volunteers.

10 WDM Milestones

We're celebrating 50 years since the opening of the WDM Moose Jaw and 75 years since the opening of the WDM Yorkton. Learn about how they came to be.

22 A New Look

Renewing exhibits and signs in the Museum is an ongoing process. Hear about the latest project — refreshing the Icelandic showcase exhibit at the WDM Yorkton.



WDM Board of Directors

Orlanda Drebit
Chair, Saskatoon

Brian Martynook
Vice-Chair, Moose Jaw

Brianna Lobb
Regina

JayDee Mazier
Saskatoon

Hours of Operation

WDM Moose Jaw
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

WDM Yorkton
Through May
Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Weekends 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

June – September
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

WDM North Battleford
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

WDM Saskatoon
Mon – Wed 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thurs 9:00 am – 8:00 pm
Fri – Sun 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Boomtown Café (Saskatoon)
Daily 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

All locations closed on Good Friday, April 3.

Thank You Women's Auxiliary!

Some gifts stand out not only for their size but also for the inspiration they ignite.

That inspiration stemmed from our Women's Auxiliary, who generously supported and contributed to the success of our last fundraising appeal. What makes this

especially meaningful is that it came from volunteers who already dedicate so much of their time and energy to the WDM Saskatoon.

We are truly grateful to the Women's Auxiliary to the WDM Saskatoon for their generosity and the many ways they support the Museum.



BMO Day at the WDM

BMO Day at the WDM is an opportunity for everyone in the community to visit the WDM — experience the history and heritage of Saskatchewan at no cost!

Join us for BMO Day at the WDM on Saturday, April 25!

Scan here to learn more or visit wdm.ca/event/bmo-day.



Ignite Volunteerism

National Volunteer Week takes place April 19 – 25, and this year’s theme — celebrating the ways people in Canada have ignited volunteerism in their communities — offers a meaningful opportunity to recognize the remarkable impact of volunteers across the country and right here in our Museum.

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. Through their passion and generosity, they ignite curiosity, connection and learning for everyone who walks through our doors. From welcoming visitors and leading engaging tours, to teaching people about local history and culture, our volunteers help bring the past to life in ways that are personal and inspiring.



Blacksmiths Mont, Joshua, Joey & Leif at the Threshermen’s Show & Seniors’ Festival, WDM Yorkton, August 3, 2025



Volunteer Susan helps Gwendolyn & Amelia with crafts during the Spring’s Awakening Day Camp, WDM Yorkton, April 22, 2025

Behind the scenes, volunteers play an equally vital role. They support education programs, assist with collection care and research, and help ensure that the WDM continues to grow as a place of discovery and belonging. Many also contribute by keeping traditional knowledge and skills alive, sharing stories, practices and expertise that connect generations and strengthen our community ties.

Whether they are building relationships with visitors, supporting special events or helping programs come alive for learners of all ages, our volunteers truly embody the spirit of this year’s theme. Their dedication ignites volunteerism by inspiring others to get involved, give back and care deeply about our shared heritage.

During National Volunteer Week, we extend our heartfelt thanks to every volunteer who contributes their time, energy and passion. Our museum community is stronger because of you.

Tamiko Rogers & Terry Hanley

As a child growing up in Saskatoon, the WDM was one of Tamiko Rogers' favourite places. She still loves wandering through the Museum galleries and checking out what is new. That's what drew her to volunteering. Tamiko began volunteering while still working and helped when she could. Now that she has retired, she has more time to focus on volunteer activities ranging from helping with school programs and special events to cleaning artifacts.

Making connections is why Tamiko volunteers. "My favourite thing about volunteering is engaging visitors (young and old) in discussions about our Saskatchewan history and the past. I have noticed that many of our visitors are new or newer Canadians and they are really interested in learning about our history...Volunteering is important to me because it keeps me active and engaged in the community as a whole and gives meaning to my life. I truly look forward to the hours I spend at the Museum."

It was this passion that drew Tamiko's partner, Terry Hanley, to want to volunteer when he retired from his job as a research scientist. "My interest in volunteering was piqued by two events. First, Tamiko always comes home after her WDM shifts with a contagious, tangible enthusiasm. It is infectious. Secondly, when I toured the Museum I was captivated (understatement) by the Doctor's Office and Coad's Pharmacy displays." Terry has really enjoyed sharing his knowledge with visitors of all ages.

When asked what he'd tell someone who was thinking of volunteering, Terry had this advice: "There may be others out there that have knowledge or expertise on some of the things exhibited at the WDM. If you do, this is a perfect chance to share your passions with others."

Thank you, Tamiko and Terry for sharing your expertise and passion for history with the WDM!



Terry & Tamiko help out at the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon, February 8, 2026

Dorothy Caldwell & the Battleford Quilters

If you've attended an event at the WDM North Battleford, you may have seen the cheerful members of the Battleford Quilters, happily showing visitors the art of hand quilting. When the Battleford Quilters are asked to take part in large WDM events like History in Motion and the Museum Days school program, Dorothy Caldwell puts out the call to their members. These events are an opportunity to share their skill and knowledge of hand quilting with Museum visitors of all ages. WDM visitors get to enjoy the work of the quilters and the quilters get to do something they love. For Dorothy, there's personal connection too: "I enjoy meeting the people and interacting with children. They have many interesting questions."

The Battleford Quilters formed in March 1974, part of an initiative to preserve the skill of hand quilting. Over the years, this small group has given many, many hours to the WDM North Battleford and to other organizations in the area. Today, the Battleford Quilters are made up of seven dedicated quilters.

As members of the Battleford Quilters, you might only expect to see members like Dorothy quilting when they're at the WDM North Battleford. In fact, Dorothy's volunteerism, and that of other Battleford Quilters, goes beyond quilting. Dorothy started volunteering at the WDM North Battleford five years ago. Since then, she has taken part in many volunteer activities ranging from baking cookies and selling tickets to helping with the Great Pumpkin Masquerade and Family Dance. The same can be said for member Mary Scherman who has also volunteered in various capacities over the years.

The WDM is grateful to the Battleford Quilters who have shared their talents with the Battlefords community over the years and who continue to support the WDM today.



Dorothy Caldwell



L-R: Mary Scherman, Evelyn Hawkins, Dorothy Caldwell, Marie Ferguson, Bernice Stebanuk, Irene Sundbo. Missing: JoAnne Stirton

PHOTO CREDIT: DOROTHY CALDWELL

John Westervelt, Russ Wheatley & Mike Stobbs

Have you ever toured through the WDM Moose Jaw and wondered how we keep all of those cars so clean? Over the past two years, you can thank volunteers Mike Stobbs, John Westerveldt and Russ Wheatley who make up the detailing crew. Their role is to gently dust and clean artifacts. All three volunteers have backgrounds in mechanics and autobody, so helping maintain the Museum's many vehicles is a great fit. Russ, Mike and John received training in how to safely clean and care for the artifacts. Under the direction of WDM Moose Jaw Exhibits Technician, Jason McBain, they ensure that the artifacts are well maintained.



Detailing crew (L-R) John Westervelt, Russ Wheatley & Mike Stobbs with the airplane engine (WDM-1976-MJ-12) they cleaned up for display.

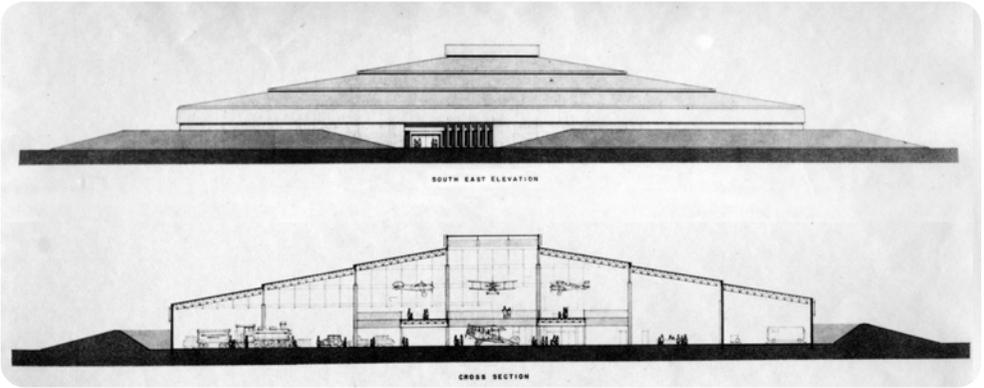
Besides cleaning the vehicles, these volunteers have helped with events like Pop The Hood, they assist with exhibit maintenance and help look after the Museum's Ford Custom Sedan. The Ford Sedan is part of the operating collection and is used at special events. Another task they have helped staff with is moving larger artifacts like the STC bus and the City of Moose Jaw ladder fire truck. While most moves go smoothly, sometimes the unexpected can happen. Mike remembers helping to get the fire truck moving and accidentally turning on the siren which sent everyone in the Museum scrambling. The wail of the siren likely hadn't been heard in nearly 40 years.

Each of these volunteers came to the WDM looking for a way to use their skills to help the WDM and contribute to their community. As volunteers, they've had the opportunity to meet new people and answer visitor questions about the vehicles they are cleaning and the work they are doing.

Thanks to Mike, John and Russ for the enthusiasm and energy they put into caring for our artifacts and ensuring they can be displayed for many years to come.

WDM Moose Jaw at 50

On June 26, 1976, the WDM Moose Jaw officially opened to the public in a ceremony officiated by Premier Allan Blakeney. The construction grant had been approved by the Government of Saskatchewan on July 27, 1973, and construction began with a sod-turning ceremony on May 9, 1974. The sod-turning used a 1911 Case steam traction engine pulling a four-bottom plow.



Early plan for WDM Moose Jaw. Note that there was a planned mezzanine level above the main floor in the centre, though this never came to be.



WDM Moose Jaw sod turning. On plow: WDM Board Chair George Dyck, Moose Jaw Mayor Herb Taylor, MLA Dr. Don MacDonald, MLA Gordon Snyder. On engine: MLA Ed Tchorzewski, May 9, 1974

The Beginnings

Discussion about opening a WDM location in Moose Jaw began in 1972, shortly after the new WDM locations in Saskatoon and Yorkton were opened. 1972 and 1973 were spent securing funding for the new location and forming a local advisory committee in Moose Jaw. Planning for the exhibits in the new museum began in late 1974. Former WDM Exhibits Coordinator Rick Dixon, who also helped build Boomtown Street, was tasked with coming up with ideas and building exhibits for the new museum.

The Executive Director of the WDM at the time was Gordon Wilson, who had flown a Spitfire in Italy during the Second World War. Gordon's passion for flight was part of why there is such a heavy focus on aircraft in the WDM Moose Jaw. Gordon was also an advocate for including a section on the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) in the air gallery.

The time it took from when Rick finished his initial exhibit proposal to when the museum doors opened to the public was only about 18 months. For the summer of 1976, Rick would load his car in Saskatoon on a Monday, drive to Moose Jaw on a Tuesday and stay until Friday, building exhibits.

When deciding how to divide the themes of the museum, Rick says he considered the main ways people travelled through Saskatchewan,



Presentation of a \$1 million cheque by Minister of Culture and Youth Ed Tchorzewski to WDM Board Chair George Dyck, May 9, 1974

Let's Celebrate!

On Friday, June 26, the WDM Moose Jaw will celebrate the the exact anniversary date of our 1976 opening with free admission all day, with donations gratefully accepted. Explore the galleries, enjoy 1970s-inspired activities, take part in a themed seek and find and join us at 1:00 pm for a short presentation about the history of the building, followed by cupcakes and refreshments.

Then on Saturday, June 27, the celebration continues with Built in '76: A Groovy Night at the Museum. This ticketed evening event will feature live music, dancing in Sask Hall, 1970s fashion displays, interactive gallery experiences and a festive, nostalgic atmosphere. Experience the Museum after hours and celebrate 50 years of shared history in style.

Join us as we honour this important milestone and look ahead to the next chapter.

thinking of both summer and winter travel. He grouped these methods of transportation into four main categories: air, land, water and rail. He then made a list of ideas for possible exhibit topics for each category to submit for approval.

Early Ideas

Some ideas that Rick had for the Museum which didn't end up coming to fruition included an operational train station. He had an idea that visitors could enter a train station inside the Museum gallery to access an outdoor train line. Visitors would buy a ticket at the train station inside the Museum, then go through the station doors to the outside to ride on the train. Though the operational train line was built, having the station inside the Museum was not pursued.

Another idea proposed for the Moose Jaw location that never came to be was a hotel. An internal memo from the time notes:

"This suggestion is being made for the reason that there is an important part of transportation history which is not represented in the Moose Jaw Museum. That is a hotel. Very few institutions are more closely associated with transportation. For example, note the chain of hotels the CNR operate. This fact ties in naturally with our rail display.

Aside from the historical association, a hotel would be very functional in museum operations. There are projected plans to have a restaurant in the Museum. A hotel is a natural location. The hotel would also fit well into the building floor plan at the point where the restaurant will be placed."

Early blueprints for the WDM Moose Jaw also included plans for a mezzanine over the centre of the Museum. Bases to anchor the mezzanine were added to some support pillars when the Museum was built, and evidence of these is still present today, though the mezzanine was never added.



Visitors explore exhibits at the WDM Moose Jaw official opening, June 26, 1976

Scan here to read the full story!



75 Years at the WDM Yorkton

Let's celebrate another WDM milestone as we mark 75 years since the WDM Yorkton opened to the public. It was on June 17, 1951 that the WDM Yorkton made the switch from a WDM artifact storage facility to exhibit location.

The WDM had artifacts stored around the province, many in unused Second World War airplane hangars. The WDM Yorkton was no exception with this first Museum building located in an old hangar at the Yorkton Airport. With support promised from city council and the board of trade, the WDM board of directors decided that Yorkton would be home to a new WDM location. For weeks leading up to the opening, artifacts were moved to Yorkton from other storage buildings and set up for display.

The Regina Leader Post reported that around 150 people attended the opening of this new WDM location on June 17. Deputy Mayor Fred Steele commended the WDM, telling the crowd that "Yorkton was indeed fortunate in having a museum of this kind."

The WDM Yorkton would remain in the airport location until 1972, when it moved into a new building located on highway 16 (known today as highway 16A).

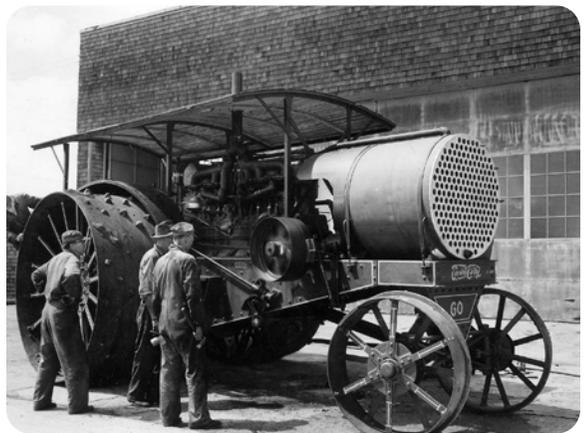
Join us for birthday cake on June 17 as we celebrate 75 years of the WDM Yorkton!



WDM Yorkton original location at the Yorkton Airport, c 1958



Inside the WDM Yorkton, c 1955



WDM Yorkton, c 1955

Make This Summer Unforgettable

WDM Summer Camps Registration is Open!

Summer is just around the corner, and this year we're excited to invite children ages 6 – 12 to explore, celebrate and connect through our Heritage Summer Camps. Designed to inspire curiosity and celebrate our history, our camps blend learning and cultural discovery into an unforgettable summer experience.

Through hands-on activities, games, crafts and outdoor play, campers will explore the traditions and stories that help shape our community and our shared Saskatchewan history. With different themes and activities each week, the WDM has something to fit your family's summer plans!

WDM members receive discounted registration. For more information and to book your spot, scan the QR code or visit wdm.ca/camp.



WDM Moose Jaw

Heritage Summer Camp

Ages 7 – 10

July 13 – 17

10:00 am – 4:00 pm



WDM North Battleford

Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camps

Ages 6 – 12

July 6 – 10

July 20 – 24

July 27 – 31

August 17 – 21

9:00 am – 5:00 pm



WDM Yorkton

Blast From The Past Summer Camp

Ages 7 – 11

August 10 – 14

9:00 am – 5:00 pm



creative
kids

The WDM Yorkton is now registered with Creative Kids. Families who need financial support can apply to Creative Kids for a grant so their children can attend WDM Yorkton children's programs.

Creative Kids provides grants for Saskatchewan children and youth to participate in creative activities like theatre, art, dance, heritage and music. Thanks to Creative Kids, more children can experience the benefits of these activities such as building confidence, finding their passion and creating a sense of belonging by connecting with others. For more information, visit creativekidssask.ca/apply-now.

WDM Saskatoon

Hands-On Heritage Summer Camps

Ages 7 – 11

~~July 20 – 24~~ Sold Out

July 27 – 31

August 4 – 7

August 10 – 14

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Steam Traction Keeps Turning

While museums are often best known for their work in preserving the artifacts of our past, the WDM also aims to maintain the traditional skills and knowledge connected to our shared history. The WDM is one of the few places in North America that maintain and operate steam-powered traction engines, and we are honoured to pass on this knowledge and skillset through our Steam Traction Engine Operation Training Course.

Throughout the early 20th century, steam traction engines powered the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan. By mid-century, the WDM accumulated a substantial collection of steam traction engines, and with this collection came a vested interest in preserving the knowledge of their operation. While the Museum previously offered informal training, the first WDM Steam Traction Engine Operation Course officially launched in 1959. WDM employee Fred Leigh taught the course on Thursday nights, with the help of a 1913 80 hp Case cutaway steam engine (WDM-1973-S-295.2.A.B.) that had been used by the University of Saskatchewan's Engineering department.

The course continued throughout the 1950s and 1960s, with involvement from members of the Pioneer Threshermen's Club at the WDM Saskatoon. In 1980, WDM staff developed a training manual and began offering regular classes, further formalizing the course. Over the years WDM staff and volunteers adapted the course to meet changing needs.

This year brings another adaptation to our course, run by WDM Chief Steam Engineer Kevin Ackerman. Kevin has built a collaborative relationship with the Technical

Safety Authority of Saskatchewan (TSASK), enabling our course participants to challenge the TSASK Limited Power Engineer (Steam Tractor Operator) Exam, qualifying them to operate WDM steam traction engines.



Case 110 hp Steam Engine, c. 1911, WDM-1973-S-231

Thank You

The WDM gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Government of Saskatchewan, through the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, whose investment sustains much of the Museum's operations.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, members, visitors, and community partners whose continued support helps us preserve and share Saskatchewan's diverse heritage.

2026 Steam Traction Engine Operation Training Courses

The course takes place over eight days of in-class and hands-on learning followed by one day of comprehensive examination.

WDM Yorkton

April 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24 & 25 with the exam taking place in Moose Jaw on May 2.

WDM North Battleford

July 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24 & 25 with the exam taking place in Moose Jaw on July 28.

Course Requirements include:

- Be 16 years or older
- Hold a valid WHMIS Certificate
- Hold a valid Driver's License

Online pre-registration is required. Priority registration is available for WDM members and volunteers. For details, scan here or visit wdm.ca/event/steam-traction-engine-operation-course



Canada Strong Pass

From December 12, 2025 – January 15, 2026, the WDM offered discounted admission to youth as part of the Canada Strong Pass program. The Canada Strong Pass encouraged Canadians to “explore the richness of the country — from museums to nature to railroads.”

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support received from the Government of Canada in support of the Canada Strong Pass.

Du 12 décembre au 15 janvier, le WDM a offert un tarif réduit aux jeunes dans le cadre du programme Canada Fort. Le Canada Fort encourageait les Canadiens à « explorer la richesse du pays — des musées à la nature en passant par les chemins de fer. »

Nous remercions sincèrement le gouvernement du Canada pour le soutien financier accordé au programme Canada Fort.

Canada 

Become a Monthly Supporter

Preserving Saskatchewan's heritage doesn't happen all at once; it's ongoing work that needs ongoing support.

A monthly gift to the WDM helps ensure that the careful stewardship of our collection, along with the research, exhibits and educational programs that grow from it, can continue steadily throughout the year.

Whether you choose \$15, \$25, \$50 or another amount monthly, your consistent support provides stability for ongoing work. It allows preservation to be proactive rather than reactive and ensures that today's stories will still be here for future generations to discover.

Thank you for joining as a monthly Museum supporter today to help sustain the research, preservation and storytelling that safeguards our shared history.



Scan here to donate!



PLACE
YOUR AD
HERE

Email engagement@wdm.ca
for details and rates

Local Sask
community and
daily-life history



WWW.SKHISTORY.CA

Museum Day Brings History to Life

Each June, WDM staff and dedicated volunteers bring the museum to life — inside and out — with hands-on demonstrations, engaging interpretations, interactive displays and fun activities for students. Museum Day is a signature education program offered at all four WDM locations, welcoming Grade 1 – 6 students to an unforgettable learning experience. A longtime favourite of teachers and students alike, Museum Day is the perfect end of the year field trip.

WDM Moose Jaw, June 3

At Museum Day in Moose Jaw students step back in time by writing letters on a typewriter, making rope and discovering the history of transportation in Saskatchewan.

WDM North Battleford, June 4 – 5

Explore the *Heritage Farm and Village!* Visit the historic schoolhouse and stop by the farmhouse to get a taste of fresh bread baked inside a wood-fired oven.

WDM Saskatoon, June 11 – 12

Students bring to life the old tools we once used to wash clothes, harvest grain and make ice cream. With over a dozen hands-on activity stations, there's something for every student to enjoy.

WDM Yorkton, June 11 – 12

New this year! Museum Day at the WDM Yorkton is a must visit. Students can hop on a wagon ride, learn about antique engines, try candle making and watch blacksmiths at work.

Museum Day inspires curiosity, creativity and a deeper understanding of our shared heritage — one memorable experience at a time.

Teachers: If you want to join in on the fun, scan the QR code or visit our website for availability and booking.



BRAINBUSTERS

It's Quiz Time

How well do you know Saskatchewan?
Let's see how you do on these multiple-choice questions about our province.

- Which is the name of a Saskatchewan rural municipality?
 - Bone Creek
 - Surprise Valley
 - Happyland
 - All of the above
- How many incorporated cities (population of 5,000 or more) are in Saskatchewan?
 - 16
 - 18
 - 15
 - 13
- Which is not a place in Saskatchewan?
 - Moose Mountain
 - St. George's Hill
 - Deer Hills
 - Wood Mountain
- Prince Albert was incorporated as a town in what year?
 - 1881
 - 1885
 - 1903
 - 1897
- Which is Saskatchewan's newest city?
 - Martensville
 - Humboldt
 - Warman
 - White City

Did you know...

Saskatchewan has 761 urban, rural and northern municipalities that provide local government and services like roads, water and recreation facilities. In southern Saskatchewan, this includes 440 incorporated cities, towns, villages and resort villages, and 296 rural municipalities. In the north, there are 25 incorporated towns, villages and hamlets.

That's a
Sask Fact!

Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol



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

Answers on page 25.

Spot the Difference

This dining room exhibit at the WDM Yorkton represents the cultural heritage of German settlers. By the early 1900s, many German-speaking groups were attracted to the Canadian prairies by its agricultural potential. These settlers were not only from Germany but also from eastern Europe and the United States, giving Saskatchewan a culturally diverse German-speaking population.

Look closely to spot six differences between the two scenes.



Revitalizing the Icelandic Exhibit at the WDM Yorkton

If you've visited the WDM Yorkton recently, you may have noticed the Icelandic showcase has a brighter, refreshed look. This redevelopment was a few years in the making as part of an effort to update and refresh exhibit content across the WDM system.



Before and after images of the Icelandic display case in the WDM Yorkton

The exhibit text has been expanded to tell not just the story of Gudrun Bjornsson, the Icelandic woman who originally owned most of the artifacts in this case, but of Icelandic settlement in the Canadian prairies in general. The case was also reorganized so the artifacts are easier to see.

Between 1870 – 1914, it is estimated that over 16,000 people left Iceland, representing about a 20% net population loss for the country. Around 85% of all migrants from Iceland in this period came to Canada, mostly to the prairies. Of the Icelandic settlements in what is now



A group of people in traditional Icelandic clothing at Wynyard, c. 1920

IMAGE CREDIT: PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF SASKATCHEWAN R-A18408



Home of Petur and Gudrun Asmundson near Wynyard, c. 1915

IMAGE CREDIT: PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF SASKATCHEWAN R-A18454

Saskatchewan, many were in the Yorkton area. The first Icelandic settlement within the borders of present-day Saskatchewan was called Thingvalla, located near Churchbridge. It was established in 1885.

This updated showcase touches on topics such as the ways Icelandic farming differed from that of other settlers in Canada, the importance of literacy to Icelandic communities and why choosing to emigrate from Iceland was sometimes seen as controversial.

To learn more about Icelandic settlement in the prairies, check out this display the next time you're at the WDM Yorkton!



2026 Speaker Series

APR 30 **RED DRESS DAY** 6-7:30 PM
MAY 5TH IS THE NATIONAL DAY FOR THE AWARENESS OF MMIWG2S+. LEARN ABOUT THE DISPROPORTIONATE RATES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN & THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RED DRESS DAY.

JUN 25 **TREATY 6 150** 6-7:30 PM
2026 IS THE 150TH COMMEMORATION OF THE SIGNING OF TREATY 6. JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY AND CONTINUED IMPORTANCE OF THIS TREATY.

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

HYBRID - WDM SASKATOON & ZOOM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR THE ZOOM LINK FOR A SESSION, PLEASE CONTACT HMORIN@OTC.CA

FREE ADMISSION*

*ADMISSION BY DONATION ON THURSDAYS FROM 5-8 PM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Adopt A Bench

Leave Your Mark

Each year, more than **100,000 visitors** walk through the Museum. They explore exhibits, share memories and pause along the way.

Many of those pauses happen on a bench.

These benches are more than places to rest. They are places where people reflect, connect and take it all in. And often, they notice the plaques. They read the names and words. They wonder about the person or family behind them.

In that moment, those names become part of the experience. They become part of this place.

When you adopt a bench, your gift supports the care of our collections, exhibits and school programs, helping ensure Saskatchewan stories continue to be preserved and shared for generations.

A limited number of benches remain available and include:

- A bench with a personalized plaque
- A 10-year adoption period that maintains your bench
- A tax receipt
- A photo and dedication moment

Every bench tells a story.

What will yours say?

Secure your bench today.

Your personalized bench becomes part of the Museum. Not just in recognition, but in presence. It is a way of saying, *This place matters to me. I am part of it.*



Scan here to
adopt your bench!



WDM Explorer Passport

For \$39 plus taxes, you can visit all four WDM locations for the price of three. Your passport gives you one-time admission to each WDM, so you can explore the stories, people and moments that shaped life in Saskatchewan.

Bring your passport along on every visit! Each time you explore a new WDM location, you'll get a stamp in your passport. Collect all four stamps and you'll be entered into a draw to win a WDM gift card — perfect for treats in our gift shops, Boomtown Café or for Museum admission.

The WDM Explorer Passport is a fun way to access the WDMs across the province. Start your adventure, fill your passport and enjoy a journey through Saskatchewan's past like never before.



Brainbuster Answers
Spot the Differences

It's Quiz Time

1. D - All of the above
2. A - 16
3. C - Deer Hills
4. B - PA became a town in 1885 & a city in 1904
5. C - Worman in 2012

Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol
The Western Red Lily is on page 7.



WDM MOOSE JAW

Velvet Suit Jacket

WDM-1992-S-157.3.A

Wide lapels and wide ties were hallmarks of mid-1970s men's fashion as seen in George Wakabayashi's velvet jacket. In August 1977, George, who owned Mikado Silk in Saskatoon, had this suit made from a sample length of velvet he had received. "It [the suit] was flamboyant," George said. "It was more than Saskatoon could take at the time. I wore this suit to social events, a wedding and service club dinners ... never to work, it was too fancy for work."

Check out this fancy example of 1970s style on display in the *100 Years of Saskatchewan History* exhibit.



WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

Rural Municipality Office

WDM-1973-NB-13907

The Rural Municipality (RM) Office in the *Heritage Farm and Village* did not start out as an office but as a schoolhouse near Roecliffe, an area originally settled by Barr Colonists. We don't have details about its construction, but we know that the school opened around 1910 and closed in 1964. In 1967, the building was moved to the WDM North Battleford where it was given a new purpose. In 1969, it became the *Heritage Village* RM Office.

Like today, the RM Office of the past was the hub of local government in rural Saskatchewan, ensuring that essential services were maintained for residents.



WDM SASKATOON

Métis Fiddle

WDM-2006-S-820

Canada has a long history of folk fiddling traditions which include the Métis community. Métis fiddling dates back to the early-mid 19th century in the Red River settlement of present-day Manitoba. After the 1885 North-West Resistance, the Métis people often faced discrimination. They found strength in social gatherings which often featured fiddle music and dancing. Fiddles were so important that if one could not be found to purchase, home-made fiddles were made from maple or spruce.

This fiddle dates to around 1910. It is on display in the *A Saskatchewan Story* exhibit along with a musical recording by Saskatchewan Métis fiddling legend John Arcand.



WDM YORKTON

Beehive Oven Replica

WDM-1973-Y-7977

In 1972, WDM staff decided to include a replica beehive oven in the new Ukrainian Room exhibit. Named beehive because of their shape, this type of oven had been used in Europe for centuries. Newcomers brought this design with them to Saskatchewan and included the oven in their new homes.

Although not a working oven, this replica was designed to look as if it had been used including using black paint to give the appearance that it was blackened by fire. This replica was built in consultation with expert John Balabuck of Yorkton, while the decorative painting on the exterior was done by Yorkton artist Milton Achtemichuk.



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WDM Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre

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WDM Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre Business Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Closed statutory holidays



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