



JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026 • VOLUME 50, EDITION 3

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



Did You Know...

Summer is busy
at the WDM

New technology fixes
old machines

You can hold your special
event at the WDM

Here is What is Happening at the WDM

All Locations

September 26 BMO Day - Free admission at the WDM

WDM Moose Jaw

July 18 Prairie Wings: An Evening with CF-SAM and Airborne program

July 22, August 1, 12 Gallery Pop Up activities

July 25 - 26 Brickspo*

August 8 - 9 Saskatchewan Open Farm Days

August 15 Blow Off Some Steam

WDM North Battleford

June 15 - September 30 *Lii Buffalo: A Métis Way of Life* exhibit from Elk Island National Park

August Tipi Teachings with Kanawayimik Child & Family Services, select dates

August 1 - September 30 Corn Maze (weather dependent)

August 8 - 9 History in Motion

WDM Saskatoon

Through September 30 Artifact Showcase, Thursdays 5:00 - 7:30 pm & Saturdays 2:00 - 4:00 pm

July 6 - October 16 *Adrian Paton* exhibit from the Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society

July 11 SPL Lego Mosaic Partner Build Event, 12:00 - 3:00 pm*

July 21, Aug. 18 & Sep. 22 Pop in and Play with the WDM, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

August 8 - 9 Boomtown Heydays/Saskatchewan Open Farm Days

August 27 Speakers Series with the OTC, 6:00 - 7:30 pm*

September 10 - 13 Métis Cultural Days by CUMFI*

WDM Yorkton

Through August 9 *Treaty Timeline* travelling exhibit

July 1 July 1 Picnic and Celebration, 12:00 - 4:00 pm

July 4 - August 29 Artifact Discovery, Saturdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

July 5 & 19 Movies at the Museum with the Yorkton Film Festival, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

July 15 Museum Fun Day, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

August 1 - 2 68th Annual Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival

August 18 - 20 Youth Crafters' Club, 12:00 - 5:00 pm**

* Not a WDM organized event

** Registration or tickets required

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

Did You Know....



Dear Friends of the WDM,

Did you know that some of Saskatchewan's most fascinating stories can be found in places you might least expect? At the Western Development Museum, every artifact, exhibit and historic building has a story to tell, and this edition of *Sparks* is filled with discoveries that may surprise you.

You will also discover stories that connect people to the Museum in personal and lasting ways. From St. Peter's Church in *Boomtown*, the only original artifact building on the street, to the touching tradition of Rick and Joan Dixon returning every year to the church where they were married in 1976, these stories remind us how deeply the WDM is woven into Saskatchewan lives and memories.

Innovation is another important part of our story. Did you know 3D printing technology is now helping restore antique machinery in our collection? Through the dedication of volunteers like Matt Weber, modern technology is helping preserve Saskatchewan's past for future generations.

We are proud to acknowledge the City of Moose Jaw Municipal Heritage Award recognizing the WDM steam program in Moose Jaw, as well as the generous support of partners like BMO Financial Group.

As summer continues, we look forward to welcoming visitors for a full calendar of events, programs and experiences across our Museums. We are grateful for the return of the Canada Strong Pass initiative from June 19 - September 7, helping more Canadians explore and connect with cultural destinations across the country.

Thank you for being part of the WDM community. Whether you are discovering something for the first time or reconnecting with a familiar story, we hope this issue inspires you to ask your own "Did You Know?" questions about Saskatchewan's remarkable history and the many stories, people and behind-the-scenes efforts that help bring the WDM to life.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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:
Cruising in Boomtown,
WDM Saskatoon

In This Edition . . .

6 Going to the Chapel

Did you know that since 1972, St. Peter's Church at the WDM Saskatoon has hosted hundreds of weddings? The little church in Boomtown has seen many couples start married life together. Hear some of these stories and learn about the church.

20 Behind the Scenes

How does the WDM maintain five large buildings plus many acres of outdoor space? Thanks to the hard work of our facilities and maintenance staff who work behind the scenes to keep the Museum safe and comfortable for staff, volunteers and visitors.

22 Past Meets Future

What do you do when you can't find a part to repair an over 100 year old steam engine? You make it! Find out how a WDM volunteer used 3D technology to repair the Waterloo steam engine at the WDM Yorkton.

13

Summer at the WDM & Removable Fridge Calendar

Look for a variety of activities and events taking place at the WDM this summer. From children's summer camps and pop up activities in our galleries to demonstrations with our Operating Collection, there will be something for everyone.

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 September 27
Daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

From September 28
Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Weekends 12:00 pm – 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

Canada Strong Pass is Back

The Canada Strong Pass is back at the WDM! From June 19 - September 7, youth 17 and under receive free admission while young adults aged 18 - 24 receive 50% off admission to the WDM.

The Canada Strong Pass is a Government of Canada initiative which encourages Canadians to “explore the richness of the country – from museums to nature to railroads.”

The WDM gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from the Government of Canada in support of the Canada Strong Pass.

Le laissez-passer un Canada fort est de retour au WDM! Du 19 juin au 7 septembre, les jeunes de 17 ans et moins bénéficient de l'entrée gratuite, tandis que les jeunes adultes de 18 à 24 ans reçoivent un rabais de 50 % sur le prix d'entrée au WDM.

Le laissez-passer un Canada fort est une initiative du gouvernement du Canada qui encourage les Canadiens à « explorer la richesse du pays — des musées à la nature en passant par les chemins de fer ».

Le WDM remercie sincèrement le gouvernement du Canada pour le soutien financier accordé dans le cadre du laissez-passer un Canada fort.



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.

My WDM Story with Joan & Rick Dixon

"This is where our lives changed"

Many supporters tell us about their deep, personal connection to the WDM. We love sharing these connections like Joan and Rick Dixon's story. Rick was the WDM's exhibits coordinator for 30 years and he still leads our blacksmithing course. However, Rick's connection is much more than work-related.

It was 1974 and Joan Plemel had taken a job with the Saskatchewan Tourist Association who rented office space on the balcony of the WDM Saskatoon. It was a neat space to work while overlooking Boomtown. One day, Joan was walking across the balcony, looking out onto Boomtown Street when she saw Rick Dixon making his way towards the entrance. Rick looked up and, as he put it, "Our eyes met and it was game over for both of us!"

This is where Rick and Joan's story together began. They would marry

on August 28, 1976, choosing to get married in St. Peter's Church in Boomtown. The wedding was attended by 43 people with some seated inside the Church while others sat outside with a view through the door.

Joan and Rick returned to the Church on their first anniversary and then started a tradition of visiting on their fifth anniversary and every five years until their 25th anniversary. After that, they started visiting every year on their anniversary, only missing in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

On August 28, 2026, Rick and Joan will celebrate their 50th anniversary with a trip to the WDM Saskatoon.

"This is where our lives changed over 50 years ago, when we first met. When we are in the entry way to the Church, we renew our love and commitment to each other and repeat the phrase we were given in our marriage preparation course – PPF – Put Your Partner First."

Congratulations to Joan and Rick on their golden wedding anniversary. Thank you for sharing your WDM story with us!



Joan & Rick, August 28, 1976



Joan & Rick celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary, August 28, 2025

St. Peter's Church

From Young to Boomtown

How many of the buildings in *Boomtown* are artifacts?

Answer: One – St. Peter's Church
(WDM-1973-S-100)

While the other buildings in the WDM Saskatoon's *Boomtown* exhibit are replicas, St. Peter's had been the Anglican Church in Young. It was donated to the WDM in 1971. In 1972, the WDM Saskatoon was planning a move into a new building so the little church would be the perfect addition to the *Boomtown* exhibit.

The origin of the church goes back to the early 1900s. The St. Peter's congregation held services in a schoolhouse before deciding to convert the school into a church. On December 5, 1916, the first service was held in the new St. Peter's Anglican Church. It was officially dedicated by Right Reverend Bishop M. Harding, Bishop of Qu'Appelle, in July 1917. St. Peter's Anglican Church would serve the community until it was closed in the late 1960s.

In *Boomtown*, St. Peter's Church would become more than an exhibit. The little church could be booked for small weddings. *Boomtown's* first wedding took place on October 6, 1972 when Peggy Greenwood, a former WDM summer employee, married Larry Maxemuik. The wedding was presided over by Bishop D.A. Ford, the Bishop of Saskatoon, who told the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* that he had no objections to other weddings taking place in St. Peter's Church "provided dignity is maintained." St. Peter's Church would go on to host many weddings, including Joan and Rick Dixon's wedding in 1976. Today, the church can still be rented for weddings of up to 30 guests.



St. Peter's Church moving into *Boomtown*, 1972



Unique Saskatchewan Experiences

Plan Your Event at the WDM

As you have read in this edition of *Sparks*, St. Peter's Church at the WDM Saskatoon has been available to rent for weddings for many years. Did you know that all WDM locations offer a variety of spaces that can be rented for weddings, bridal and baby showers, meetings, workshops and many other events? Make your event memorable by holding it in one of the WDMs' unique spaces.

WDM Moose Jaw

At the WDM Moose Jaw, we can accommodate small meetings and workshops as well as banquets, receptions and other special events in Saskatchewan Hall or in our galleries. You can also book birthday parties for ages 5 - 8 (learn how at wdm.ca/birthdays). Contact us at moosejaw@wdm.ca for information or to book a space.



WDM North Battleford

With space for groups from 20 to 500, the WDM North Battleford can host a variety of events in our indoor and outdoor facilities. Inside the Museum, there is space to host meetings, workshops and events. In the *Heritage Village*, our gazebo provides a beautiful outdoor setting for weddings and other special events. Visit wdm.ca/battlefordrentals or contact Jody at jjordan@wdm.ca to book.





WDM Saskatoon

The banquet facilities and catering department at the WDM Saskatoon can accommodate functions large or small, including meetings and workshops, conventions, weddings and more. Learn more about the various options at wdm.ca/saskatoonrentals. Contact Sherralyn at stanasychuk@wdm.ca to book.



WDM Yorkton

The WDM Yorkton has great spaces for small meetings and workshops inside the Museum. Outside, the lawn/picnic area and gazebo make a great location for wedding ceremonies, event photos and group picnics. Visit wdm.ca/yorktonrentals or contact Kathryn at kdemarsh@wdm.ca for information or to book.



PLACE
YOUR AD
HERE

Email engagement@wdm.ca
for details and rates

Interpretive Renewal Project

Updating signs and exhibits

In 2019, the WDM launched a 'Language Remediation Project' in response to the Inclusivity Report, released in 2018. What started as a project focused on updating the language in our exhibit signs has since expanded into what we are now calling the 'Interpretive Renewal Project' (IRP). Though updating language and content to reflect more recent historical scholarship is still a large part of the project, it has also allowed us to update the appearance of some of our more dated and worn-out signs and add some new content to the Museum galleries.

Exhibits that have received visual updates include the *Cobalt-60 Cancer Bomb* at the WDM Saskatoon, the *Water Gallery* in the WDM Moose Jaw and flipbooks throughout the WDM Saskatoon, which were looking rough after nearly 20 years of use.

In April 2025, staff from our Exhibits and Curatorial departments met to review the progress of the project. A number of signs with minor issues were determined to be low priority and will be moved from being part of the IRP to being part of the regular exhibit maintenance schedule, updated in the future as resources allow. The planned completion date for the IRP including rewriting, graphic design and installation in the galleries, is estimated to be April 2029.

Some of the more thoroughly rewritten signs include the Icelandic display and cultural rooms in the WDM Yorkton, the women's vote signs in the WDM Saskatoon and the observatory in the WDM Moose Jaw. New signs on the history of railway porters were also added to all four WDM locations as part of this project, as well as interpretive panels for each artifact building in the WDM North Battleford's *Heritage Farm and Village*.



One of the new signs on railway porters in the WDM Moose Jaw



Updated signs on the *Cancer Bomb* exhibit in the WDM Saskatoon



Updated signs in the WDM Moose Jaw's *Water Gallery*

WDM Explorer Passport

For \$39 plus taxes, you can visit all four WDM locations. 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.

OFFICE OF THE TREATY COMMISSIONER

2026 Speaker Series

AUG 27

ORANGE SHIRT DAY 6-7:30 PM

OPEN DISCUSSION & EDUCATION ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ORANGE SHIRT DAY (SEPTEMBER 30) & THE LASTING EFFECTS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS. AGES 16+. IN PERSON ONLY.

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

HYBRID - WDM SASKATOON & ZOOM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM EST. 1948

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

BMO Day at the WDM

Did you know that BMO sponsors two free admission days per year at all WDM locations? It's part of their commitment to increase access to arts and culture across Canada. Since 2022, BMO Day at the WDM has given Museum visitors the opportunity to experience the history and the heritage of Saskatchewan at no cost.



BMO at Goldfields, 1937

IMAGE CREDIT: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP CORPORATE ARCHIVES



BMO Moose Jaw branch, 1922

IMAGE CREDIT: BMO FINANCIAL GROUP CORPORATE ARCHIVES

Did you know that BMO has a long history in Saskatchewan? In 1883, BMO opened the first permanent bank in the region that would become Saskatchewan. Located in Regina, this location was known as “The Little Bank on the Moose Mountain Trail.” Other branch locations followed such as Yorkton in 1903 and Saskatoon in 1906. BMO opened its Moose Jaw branch in 1909, in a leased location, then moved to their own building on the northeast corner of Main Street and Fairford Street in 1912. Then, when BMO acquired Merchants Bank of Canada in 1922, the branch moved into their building across the street on the southeast corner of Main Street and Fairford Street.

In 1937, BMO opened a far north branch in a log cabin in Goldfields, located on Lake Athabasca. Previously, the cabin had been a Hudson’s Bay Company post and an office for the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources. Today, BMO serves Saskatchewan with branch and ATM locations around the province.

Thank you to BMO for their ongoing commitment to our province and for making Saskatchewan heritage available to everyone.

Join us on September 26 for BMO Day at the WDM! Learn more at wdm.ca/bmoday.

Summer at the WDM

Jazzy July and Awesome August Activities

Look for a variety of activities and events taking place at the WDM this summer. From children's summer camps to pop up activities in our galleries to demonstrations with our Operating Collection, there will be something for everyone.



WDM Moose Jaw

Brickspo

July 25 - 26, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

See amazing LEGO® creations from the Saskatchewan LEGO® Users Group and others from across western Canada. Take in special events and talks.

Saskatchewan Open Farm Days

August 8, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
August 9, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

The WDM Moose Jaw is taking part in Saskatchewan Open Farm Days - an annual event that encourages the sharing of Saskatchewan agriculture stories. You'll learn about where your food comes from through activities around the province. Join us for some farm-themed fun.

Blow Off Some Steam

August 15, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Learn about how the railway was built and how steam trains operated. See our 75 Case steam traction engine, and take part in a steam-themed scavenger hunt. Weather permitting, the K+S Potash Canada Short Line 101 will be running. Regular ticket fares apply; limited ride capacity.

WDM North Battleford

Kanawayimik Tipi Village

Through August 30

Thanks to Kanawayimik Child & Family Services, a temporary collection of traditional tipis will be on display this summer. In August, Kanawayimik Child & Family Services will offer a variety of tipi teachings on select days.

Corn Maze

August 1 - September 30

See if you can lose yourself in the twists and turns of the corn maze in the *Heritage Farm and Village*. Weather dependent.

History in Motion

August 8 - 9, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Join us for History in Motion, a weekend filled with activities for everyone. Activities include vintage fire truck rides, horse-drawn wagon rides, children's activity area, live entertainment, demonstrations, the Parade of Power and more.



Summer at the WDM

Take this calendar out of Sparks and stick it to your fridge to keep track of events and activities at the WDM!



Jazzy July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Month: Short Line 101 Locomotive running on select weekends	All Month: Kanawayimik Child & Family Services Tips set up in the Heritage Village		1 July 1 Picnic	2 Artifact Showcase & Demos	3	4 Artifact Showcase Artifact Discovery
5 Movies at the Museum	6 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	7	8	9 Artifact Showcase & Demos	10	11 Lego Masatic Artifact Showcase Artifact Discovery
12	13 Heritage Summer Camp *	14	15 Museum Fun Day	16 Artifact Showcase & Demos	17	18 Prairie Wings Program Artifact Showcase Artifact Discovery
19 Movies at the Museum	20 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	21 Pop In and Play	22 Summer Pop Up	23 Artifact Showcase & Demos	24	25 Brickspo Artifact Showcase Artifact Discovery
26 Brickspo	27 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	28	29	30 Artifact Showcase & Demos	31	Artifact Showcase Artifact Discovery
	Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *					
	Hands On Heritage Camp *					
	Hands On Heritage Camp *					

Awesome August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Month: Short Line 101 Locomotive running on select weekends	All Month: Kanaweymik Child & Family Services Trips in the Heritage Village. Tipi Teachings on select dates.	August 1 – September 30: Corn Maze				1 Summer Pop Up Artifact Showcase Threshermen's Show & Senior's Festival
2 Threshermen's Show & Senior's Festival	3	4	5	6 Artifact Showcase & Demos	7	8 Open Farm Days History in Motion Boombown Heydays Artifact Discovery
9 Open Farm Days History in Motion	10 Hands On Heritage Camp *	11	12 Summer Pop Up	13 Artifact Showcase & Demos	14	15 Blow Off Some Steam Artifact Showcase
16 Boombown Heydays	17 Hands On Heritage Camp *	18 Blast From The Past Summer Camp *	19 Pop In and Play Youth Crafters' Club (ages 12 – 16)	20 Artifact Showcase & Demos	21	22 Artifact Discovery Artifact Showcase Artifact Discovery
23	24 Heritage Farm and Village Summer Camp *	25	26	27 Artifact Showcase & Demos OTC Speaker Series	28	29 Artifact Showcase Artifact Discovery
30	31					



For more details including program times,
scan the **QR code** or visit wdm.ca/events

* Pre-registration required for all summer camps and craft clubs.

Summer at the WDM

Jazzy July and Awesome August Activities



WDM Saskatoon

Where We Grow: Build a Lego® Mosaic with Saskatoon Public Library

July 11, 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Design a Lego® mosaic tile to add to the community-built art piece that is being created. This is a fun, family-friendly way to share your creativity and leave your mark on this unique project.

Pop in and Play

July 21, August 18 &
September 22, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Bring your little ones to the Museum for drop-in play, crafts and stories! Each Pop In & Play has a unique theme to make every experience new and fun. Activities designed for ages 2 - 6 with visitors of all ages welcome.

Boomtown Heydays

August 8 - 9

Celebrate the cultures, traditions and communities that make our province uniquely unforgettable. Full of family-friendly activities and entertainment, including the Open Farm Days Producer Lane, Boomtown Heydays has something for everyone! This is a no charge event - donations gratefully accepted.

WDM Yorkton

July 1 Picnic & Celebration

July 1, 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Join the WDM and our community partners for our annual picnic. We will feature a variety of local entertainment, old-fashioned games, wagon rides, an antique car show and a showcase of local artists.

Museum Fun Day

July 15, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Step back in time for an afternoon of hands-on family fun! Try your hand at butter & ice cream making, get creative with crafts, enjoy a relaxing wagon ride and discover even more activities everyone will love.

68th Annual Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival

August 1, 12:00 - 5:00 pm
August 2, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Volunteers from the Yorkton Threshermen's Club and the WDM will be running vintage equipment from the WDM Operating Collection. Join us for demonstrations of threshing, plowing, flour grinding and rolled oats, blacksmithing, the Story of Harvest, antique tractor displays and parade and so much more.

WDM Steam Program Honoured

The WDM Moose Jaw's Steam Program is the recipient of the 2025 City of Moose Jaw Municipal Heritage Award in the Advocacy/Heritage Education category. This award recognizes the efforts of individuals or groups that are advocating heritage or promoting the conservation of a heritage site or are increasing public awareness of heritage issues.

The WDM's steam program brings Saskatchewan's steam-powered past to life through interpretation, training and public engagement. Through steam traction engines and the Vulcan locomotive, visitors experience firsthand the steam power that once drove prairie agriculture and transportation.

Thanks to the dedication of staff and volunteers, historic equipment remains operational and accessible, strengthening public understanding and appreciation of our shared heritage.



WDM Moose Jaw Operations Manager Karla Rasmussen accepts the City of Moose Jaw Heritage Award from Mayor Jim Murdock, April 28, 2026.

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, or by phone at 306-934-1400 or 1-800-363-6345.

Scan the QR code to go to our donation form.



BRAINBUSTERS

It's Quiz Time

How well do you know Saskatchewan slang? These are some words and phrases that are uniquely Saskatchewan. How will you do?

1. Bunny hug
 - a. Hooded sweatshirt
 - b. Hug from your sweetheart
 - c. Wrestling move
2. The grid
 - a. Parking lot
 - b. Storage unit for footballs
 - c. Provincial gravel road system
3. Hit the rhubarb
 - a. Type of modern dance
 - b. Fruit & vegetable slicer
 - c. Accidentally slid into the ditch
4. Slough
 - a. Shallow pond or marsh
 - b. Type of hat
 - c. Clump of trees
5. Nuisance Ground
 - a. Place where troublemakers live
 - b. Landfill or garbage site
 - c. Dance club in Regina
6. Party Line
 - a. Telephone system where customers share a phone line
 - b. 1-800 number to call for a list of parties
 - c. Group of line dancers

Did you know...

The Government of Canada passed the Dominion Act which led to the creation of Saskatchewan and Alberta as provinces effective September 1, 1905. Prior to that, the area that would become these provinces was part of the North-West Territories.

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

Co-operatives appeared in Saskatchewan almost as soon as settlers appeared. Many early co-ops grew on farms and small towns, started by farmers pooling their resources to get a better rate on farm supplies than one farmer alone could get. The movement expanded beyond farm co-ops to other parts of the community such as retail. The Co-op Store in the *Heritage Farm and Village* at the WDM North Battleford is typical of an early co-op store offering produce, fresh meat, poultry and eggs along with hardware and dry goods.

Look closely to spot six differences between the two scenes.



Maintenance Matters

Supporting the Work that Keeps the WDM Moving

With thousands of visitors each year, the WDM's buildings get a lot of wear and tear. Thankfully, we have dedicated facilities and maintenance staff who play a critical role in keeping our locations safe and functional for staff, volunteers, visitors as well as for our artifacts and exhibits. Much of this work goes on behind the scenes.

Improvements and changes are taking place that will contribute to the Museum's long-term viability. This ongoing work includes more planned and preventative maintenance, clearer tracking of maintenance issues and stronger focus on life safety systems such as fire protection and emergency equipment. The goal is simple - reduce surprises, prevent failures and better support the people doing the work.



Putting up decorations at the WDM Moose Jaw

Why This Matters

Planned and consistent maintenance and upgrades help catch issues earlier, reduces emergency call outs and makes day-to-day work more predictable. This includes the work happening in mechanical rooms, galleries, workshops and public spaces - where facilities, exhibit maintenance, custodial and rentals staff all play a role in keeping the WDM safe and ready for visitors.

For example, in recent years the WDM has upgraded lighting at all locations. Replacing older light ballasts and fluorescent systems reduces energy use



Maintenance staff at the WDM Saskatoon



Maintenance check at the WDM Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre



Grounds keeping and landscaping at the WDM Yorkton

by approximately 50-80% per fixture. Early results at the WDM Saskatoon and Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre, where lighting was upgraded first, shows improved efficiency and reduced overall lighting consumption. Upgrading lighting also improves visibility and reduces heat output in exhibit spaces, supporting both staff working conditions and artifact preservation.

These changes support the WDM's obligation to meet safety and regulatory expectations while creating safer workplaces and public spaces, not because standards are imposed, but because good stewardship is part of the role we all play.

One Team, Many Locations

While our buildings and exhibits are all different, maintenance teams across the WDM face many of the same challenges. By improving consistency in how maintenance work is planned, tracked and supported, we are building a more connected and effective maintenance team across the organization.

Meet Our Maintenance Teams

Behind every safe and reliable building is a skilled team. Thank you to the facilities, exhibits, rentals and custodial staff who help keep WDM running every day.

Past Meets Future

Using 21st century tools to preserve the Waterloo steam engine

In 1914, Fred Pohl purchased a brand-new Waterloo 25-65 steam traction engine (WDM-1973-Y-813) and a threshing machine for \$5,250 (equivalent to \$146,475 in 2026). One can imagine the pride Fred must have felt to purchase this new, modern equipment. Fred's family had immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1885. In 1898, when he was only 21, Fred set up his own homestead in the Orkney district northwest of Yorkton. Fred used the steam engine on his farm until 1937. A few years later, it was donated to the WDM Yorkton where Fred operated it as well.

This Waterloo steam engine is used as part of the WDM's Operating Collection. This Collection consists of machinery and equipment used for demonstrations and training. Staff and volunteers care for this Collection to ensure that equipment remains operational and safe. Steam engines are also inspected annually by the Technical Safety Authority Saskatchewan (TSASK).

What happens when equipment becomes worn out, parts break or companies no longer exist? While the WDM has some spare parts, there are times when we don't have a replacement part and it is hard, if not impossible, to find one. We had that problem with a component from

the Waterloo steam engine. Fortunately, volunteer Matt Weber had a solution. What if we 3D scanned the part so that a new part could be fabricated? We gave it a try!



The broken part shown here was removed and 3D scanned. The resulting files were processed for use in Computer Aided Drafting software (CAD), a digital tool used for engineering and mechanical design.



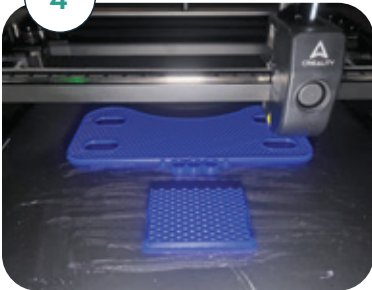
Shown here is the imported and processed scan data in the CAD software.



The imported, processed scan data was then used in the CAD software to create a virtual model of the part.



That pattern was sent to a foundry in Winnipeg where it was used to create a mold that was used to cast a new part. Shown here is the original part on the left, the 3D printed pattern and the newly casted part on the right.



The model was exported to a digital slicing software used to create the file that a 3D printer can read and then processed so that a pattern could be 3D printed.

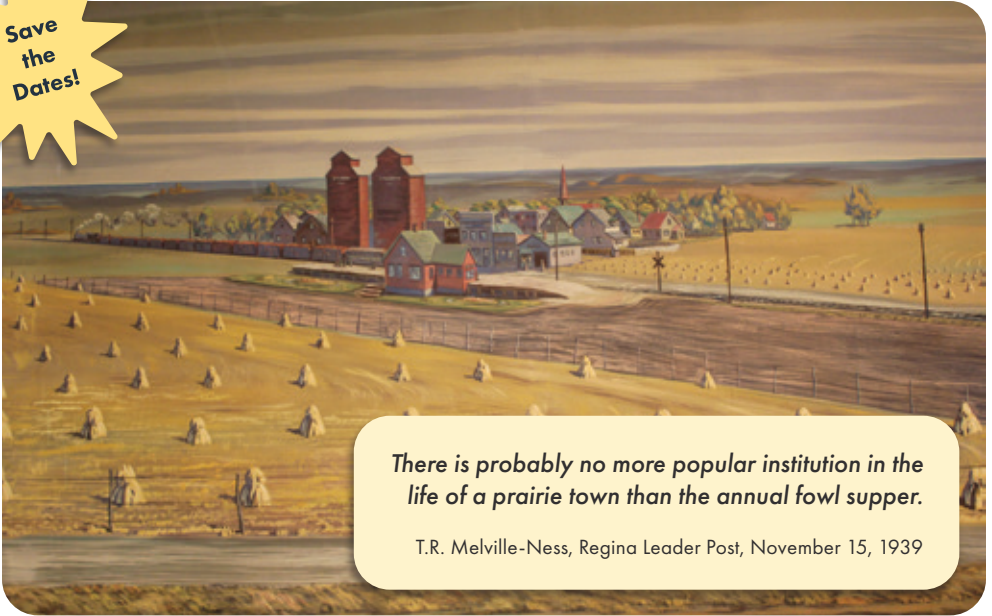


Shown here, the new part has been installed and is ready to use in the Waterloo steam traction engine.

Thanks to modern technology, the WDM is able to keep the Waterloo steam engine running for many years to come for the education and enjoyment of our visitors.

Do you have questions about the reverse engineering process? Contact Matt at mw.riverside@live.ca with your questions.

Save
the
Dates!



There is probably no more popular institution in the life of a prairie town than the annual fowl supper.

T.R. Melville-Ness, Regina Leader Post, November 15, 1939

WDM Fall Gatherings

Part of a prairie tradition

Whether they are fowl or fall suppers, it is true that these community meals are a sure sign of fall on the prairies. Beginning in the late 19th century, these meals were a way for everyone to gather and celebrate the end of harvest. For a cash donation, patrons would get a delicious home-cooked meal and local entertainment or other activities. This tradition continues to this day, with a variety of mealtime gatherings held in church basements and community halls around Saskatchewan.

Join us as we host two special fall gatherings at the WDMs Yorkton and Moose Jaw.

WDM Harvest Breakfast

WDM Yorkton

October 17, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Experience a cozy harvest breakfast at the WDM Yorkton. Enjoy a delicious breakfast followed by time exploring the galleries. There will be fall-themed decorations, a seek & find activity and 50/50. Test your knowledge with our grains guessing game. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Fall Feast & Concert

WDM Moose Jaw

November 7, Doors open 5:00 pm

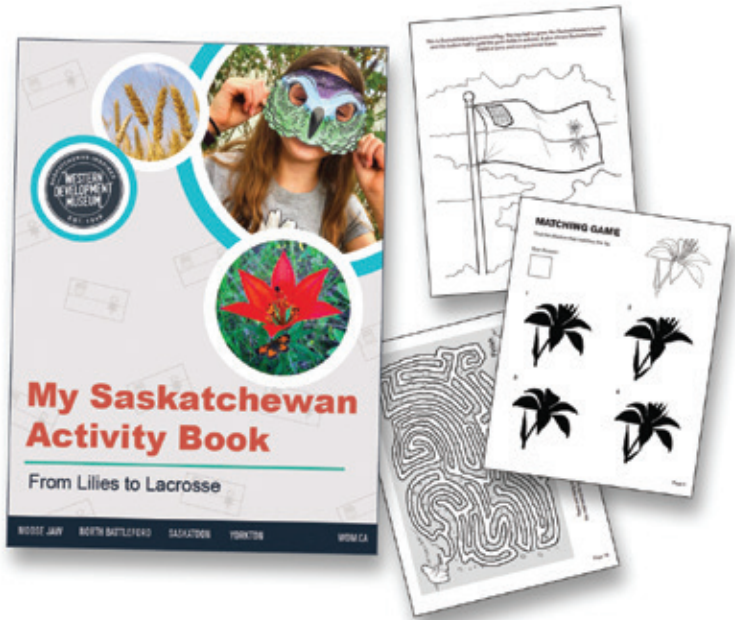
Set beneath the aircraft in the *Aviation Gallery*, this evening will feature a prairie comfort-food supper, live performance by Saskatchewan artist Jeffery Straker and a Prairie Pie Contest celebrating home baking traditions. There will also be a silent auction and penny parade. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

In A WDM Gift Shop Near You

My Saskatchewan Activity Book: From Lilies to Lacrosse

Did you know that curling is Saskatchewan's provincial sport or that burrowing owls build their nests underground? Children will learn about this and so much more about Saskatchewan in the WDM's *My Saskatchewan Activity Book: From Lilies to Lacrosse*. Filled with colouring pages and activity sheets, children can cut, colour and play while learning about Saskatchewan. The book features our province's official emblems, has information about plants and animals and explores things that Saskatchewanians like to do.

Available for purchase in all WDM gift shops, *My Saskatchewan Activity Book: From Lilies to Lacrosse* makes a great gift. Check it out for yourself.



1. A - Hooded sweatshirt
2. C - Provincial gravel road system
3. C - Accidentally slid into the ditch
4. A - Shallow pond or marsh
5. B - Landfill or garbage site
6. A - Telephone system where customers share a phone line

It's Quiz Time

Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol
The Western Red Lily is on page 12.



Spot the Differences

Brainbuster Answers

WDM MOOSE JAW

1950 Ford Custom Fordor Sedan

WDM-2007-MJ-5

You may have seen the WDM's Sedan in a parade, at a summer event or just touring around the streets of Moose Jaw. Built by the Ford Motor Company in Ontario in 1950, we don't know anything about its early history. In 1981, it was purchased in Hyas and over the next 14 years the new owner lovingly restored it. The engine was overhauled and exterior body work was done. It was painted dark blue instead of the original black. Everything on the interior is original except the floor mats. In 2007, the Sedan was donated to the WDM. It is part of the Operating Collection.



WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD

Fire Truck

WDM-1973-NB-215

During the 1940s, this fire pumper truck was used by the North Battleford Fire Department. Pumper trucks usually carried hoses, ladders and a water tank. This truck, a model T40C, was built in Ontario with a General Motors chassis and a motor by the American LaFrance Fire Engine Company.

This fire pumper truck can be seen giving rides to visitors around the *Heritage Farm and Village* during special events like *History in Motion* on August 8 - 9. It is part of the WDM's Operating Collection which consists of machinery and equipment used for demonstrations and training. This truck was acquired by the WDM in 1966.



WDM SASKATOON**Reed Organ**

WDM-2000-S-296

Built circa 1892, the reed organ in St. Peter's Church belonged to the Syhre family of South Dakota. When Lizzie (nee Syhre) Aadland moved to Saskatchewan in 1906, the organ was part of household items shipped to Hanley by train and then taken by wagon to Loreburn. The organ then passed to Lizzie's sister, Lena, who kept it until 1915 when she sold it to the Medby family from Elbow. In 1982, the organ came back to the Syhre family when Lizzie's nephew purchased it at auction.

Donated to the WDM in 2000, the organ is part of the WDM's hands-on collection of artifacts that can be used for demonstrations.

**WDM YORKTON****1923 Waterloo Boy Tractor**

WDM-1973-Y-5516

One of the most popular tractors in the WDM Yorkton's operating collection is the 1923 Waterloo Boy Model N kerosene tractor. It was designed to run on kerosene which was cheaper than gasoline. The first Model N tractors were built by the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company of Waterloo, Iowa, USA starting in 1916. In 1918, the company was bought by John Deere who continued to produce this model until 1923.

This Waterloo Boy was used in the Saltcoats area. It was donated to the WDM in 1958. In 1993, it was fully restored by Yorkton Threshermen's Club volunteers. Check out the Waterloo Boy at the Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival on August 1 - 2.



Western Development Museum – WDM Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre
2935 Lorne Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 0S5



WDM Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre

For SPARKS and membership questions
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Phone: 306-934-1400

Toll Free: 1-800-363-6345

Email: info@wdm.ca

WDM Curatorial and Corporate Services Centre Business Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Closed statutory holidays



WDM.CA



#SaskInspired

"Canada - Our Centennial Song" record, 1967
WDM-1973-S-14421.2.A.B