



# SPARKS OFF THE ANVIL<sup>®</sup>



Newsletter Of The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum

January - March 2012 Volume 36, Edition 1

Editors: Kristine Montgomery & Leslee Newman

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *By Joan Champ*

Six months into my new role I have a lot on my mind, not the least of which is the Western Development Museum's annual crusade for more funding from the provincial government. I am also thinking about the things I'd like to see at the Museum that will enhance visitor experiences.

When I look at our financial statement, I wonder how we are going to manage our five large facilities (four Museums and the Curatorial Centre in Saskatoon) on an operating budget of less than \$5 million. Almost 20 percent of the financial resources needed to pay for the Western Development Museum's exhibits and programs comes from self-generated revenue, including admission fees, gift shop sales, and food services. The majority of our funding – about 80 percent – comes from the much-appreciated annual support of the Province of Saskatchewan.

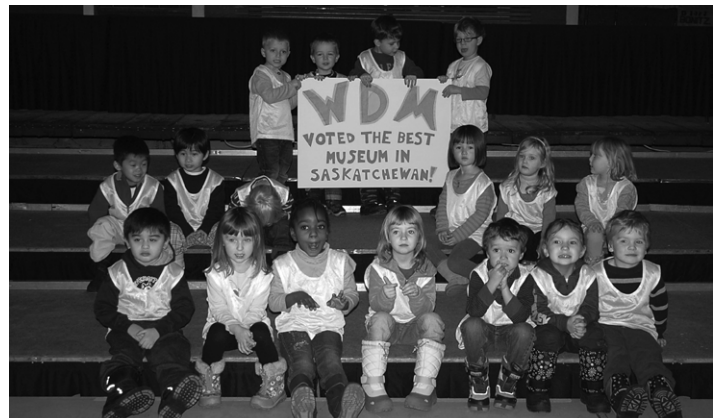
Because the past four provincial budget allocations to the Museum have not kept up with inflation, the WDM is facing an operating deficit in the new fiscal year of \$465,000. The costs of goods, services, utilities and salaries have been increasing inexorably. If the Western Development Museum is to maintain all programs and services at their current levels, an increase of over \$400,000 is required. If the Museum is to expand and grow, even more will be needed.

Here is a list of the things I'd like to see happen at the Western Development Museum in 2012-2013:

More visitors to our Museums – Our permanent galleries, including the world-class Winning the Prairie Gamble exhibits, have been developed to allow the visitor to step into another world and experience the past on many levels – through objects, text, multi-media, atmosphere, programs, and interactive exhibits. I can safely boast that our attendance figures are strong and continue to grow. I am so proud of the Museum, however, that I want more people to know about us. I want to shout from the rooftops: "Come to the WDM and see what we have to offer!"

More staff to support Museum functions: I hate the expression, "Doing more with less," but that is exactly how the WDM operates. You may have heard about the "lean methodology" system introduced by Toyota in the 1990s. Simply put, the lean system means creating more value for customers with fewer resources. The Western Development Museum could write the book on this practice. We have an incredibly skilled and hard-working staff, but more are needed if we are to continue to effectively address our mandate.

More building upgrades: The Western Development Museum is 62 years old, and some of our buildings are showing their age. The maintenance of the Museum's immense physical plant (540,000 square feet in five buildings) presents many challenges that impinge on all aspects of operation – from visitor services to the care of collections.



The WDM was voted by readers of *Prairies North Magazine* as the 2011 **Best Museum in Saskatchewan!** In November, 2011 children in the Varsity View PreSchool visited the Saskatoon WDM and helped celebrate the WDM's **Best of Saskatchewan** achievement. *WDM Photo*

Many of our facilities need upgrading. Presently, the WDM allocates only \$400,000 from its operating revenue to a reserve fund to address facility needs, but this amount does not begin to cover everything. Thus, we're back to lean methodology.

More community engagement and partnerships: The Western Development Museum has built partnerships with a large number of community organizations, schools, and businesses throughout Saskatchewan. Through these partnerships, we offer exhibits, programs and educational opportunities that connect more and more people with the Museum's rich collections and resources. Using heritage to support and strengthen community-based initiatives in areas such as energy efficiency and economic innovation, the Museum reaches out to partners in all our communities as part of its mission to share Saskatchewan's collective past. It's a "win-win" situation.

Given the fact that Saskatchewan has been blessed with many advantages in terms of economic growth, I am very hopeful that there will be more money available from the provincial budget to support an increased investment in Saskatchewan's history and culture. The Province of Saskatchewan has consistently expressed its support for the Western Development Museum and acknowledged the important role this institution plays as a custodian of our provincial heritage and as a major tourist destination. I am confident, therefore, that we will not be disappointed when the provincial budget is announced in March of 2012.

### WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Hay, Chair - Bradwell	Kevin Kurulak - Biggar
Carol Bruce - Saskatoon	James Phelps - Cochin
Winston Elaszuk - Yorkton	Dean Redman - Moose Jaw
Don Fox - Moose Jaw	Rena Weikle, Past Chair - Cut Knife

### ARTIFACT DONORS

Recently, the WDM received donations of artifacts from:

Arloa Beach - Saskatoon	Diane Koshgarian - Saskatoon
Bliss Cross - Saskatoon	Larry Newman - Saskatoon
Ken Der & Jean Der - Saskatoon	Fern Potts - Saskatoon
John Dubets - Saskatoon	Stuart & Marion Warrener - Saskatoon
Granite Curling Club - Saskatoon	Frances Werry - Regina
Eldon Graves - Saskatoon	Maureen Zoerb - Saskatoon



Thank you for thinking of the WDM!

Memories of writing my childhood Christmas thank you notes are flooding back to me as I try to express the appreciation for your support of the WDM. It's so heart warming to see the stack of envelopes from you, some with personal notes. These donations add up to make a significant difference for the Museum. Your donation will enhance exhibits and care for artifacts, and will help this special Museum preserve our province's heritage. Please know that your gift is much appreciated.

Thank you again.  
Jen Pederson, WDM Development Manager

## MOOSE JAW WDM

By Jackie Hall, Program/Education Officer

Another year has come and gone quickly. We could not have accomplished all that we have without our volunteers. Volunteers are key to the Museum's success. The *Moose Jaw Thunder Creek Model Railroad Club* kicks off our season each year with the **Model Train Show**. Mark your calendars. This year's show is March 24-25.

The highlight of 2011 was the WDM Short Line coming home in June. Of course, the train would not run without our steam volunteers, who generously share their weekends and expertise with us.

We rely on the knowledge and experience of our volunteers continually. It is through sharing their talents and stories that young visitors learn that communication did not begin with texting and that it took more than a trip to the store to get butter, ice cream and a warm blanket. Volunteers also do things like dino-bingo, the fish pond, and helping children speak to Santa via shortwave radio.

And it is the expertise of the *Vintage Aircraft Restorers* that has helped to create an extensive aircraft collection in the Museum. This year Restorers continued to work on the Vickers Vedette. When completed, the flying boat will be a unique addition to the Museum's air gallery.

Thanks to each and every one of our volunteers for your hard work on the Museum's behalf in 2011. We look forward to working with you to create memorable experiences for our visitors in 2012.

Call the Museum at (306) 693-5989 or click on the Moose Jaw tab at [www.wdm.ca](http://www.wdm.ca) to keep up-to-date on the latest Moose Jaw WDM happenings.

## NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

By Cheryl Stewart, Education and Volunteer Coordinator

The Western Development Museum has had such tremendous success in the many programs and events offered throughout the years that we embrace the upcoming 2012 season with excitement and enthusiasm!

We start the season on January 14 with **January Jamboree**, a Museum favourite. The line-up consists of talent from the Battlefords and surrounding area. From 12 noon, come out and enjoy the company of good friends and musical entertainment. The Museum concession opens at noon with a menu of tasty items. Remember, indoor exhibits are also included in your admission.

Join us on March 10 for some **Cowboy Poetry**. The WDM is proud to present *The Mitchell Boys* of Moose Jaw. The boys go riding across the prairies every season, intent on reciting their repertoire of rhyme and frontier humour for the good folk of Saskatchewan. Their show includes *Rhyming Wranglers*, *No Ordinary Cowboy*, and *Service with a Smile*. The latter features the poems and stories of Yukon pioneer Robert Service. Tickets are \$20 per person. Cocktails are at 5 pm, with supper at 6 pm and poetry getting underway at 7 pm. Tickets are going fast so call the Museum at (306) 445-8033 to reserve yours.

March ends with a **Taste Of Culture** March 29-31 and **Blues & Brews** on March 31.

For students and their teachers, the new year offers the **Load Of Nonsense** school program available for bookings January 16-20, the **Wheels and Runners** school program for bookings January 23-27 and the **ABC Box** with bookings available January 30-31. Discovery boxes can be booked anytime, with February and March being prime time to plan your school trip. Watch for details of the Easter program for school classes scheduled April 19-20.

The North Battleford WDM is open seven days a week from 9 am to 5 pm daily, closing only on statutory holidays from October 1 to April 30. Also from October 1 to April 30, the Heritage Village is closed. For more information please call the Museum at (306) 445-8033 or visit our website at [www.wdm.ca](http://www.wdm.ca) and click on the North Battleford tab.

## COPPER AND STEEL

Sandra Dunn and Steve White will share their creative skills with other blacksmiths in Western Canada at the WDM Curatorial Centre in Saskatoon, April 20-22. Sandra and Steve operate *Two Smiths* in Kitchener, Ontario where Sandra's blacksmith skills are combined with Steve's coppersmith talents in creative and mindful ways.

Sandra began blacksmithing in 1996 after studying Fine Arts at the University of Waterloo. Steve's background is eclectic, combining machining, steel fabrication, instrument making, goldsmithing, lamp-making, blacksmithing and coppersmithing. More information about *Two Smiths*, and a portfolio of their work, is available at [www.twosmiths.ca](http://www.twosmiths.ca). A talented pair, the weekend with Sandra and Steve promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience.

This is not a hands-on course. Only Sandra and Steve will work at the forge. Participants must have taken the WDM Introduction to Blacksmithing class, or have equivalent blacksmithing experience. Call Leslee or Kristine at (306) 934-1400 to register.



Blacksmiths from across Western Canada attended the WDM advanced blacksmith class in March, 2011 at the WDM Curatorial Centre in Saskatoon.

WDM Photo



# SASKATOON WDM

By Corinne Daelick, Education Coordinator

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who donated a new, unwrapped toy to the **Shaw Toy Tree** in 2011. *Care and Share for Saskatoon Kids* gratefully accepted your donations that were used to brighten the Christmas season for less fortunate children in Saskatoon. Thank you to our visitors, volunteers, staff and even schools, such as the Kindergarten class from North Park Wilson School, who generously brought in toys.

The Saskatoon WDM is pleased to welcome the travelling exhibit **Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame**, an exhibit from the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, opening on January 28. This exhibit honours 48 Canadian men and women who spearheaded innovations in science, engineering and technology. Learn more about these innovators via a portrait gallery, touch screens and video presentation.

The **Heritage Festival of Saskatoon** will be held at the Saskatoon WDM on Sunday, February 5 from 12-5 pm. The theme of this year's festival is *Saskatoon Past Times: See How We Played*. Saskatoon's heritage community will present a variety of entertainers, demonstrations, displays and presentations related to history, culture and sport in Saskatchewan. There is free admission from noon to 5 pm. Take this opportunity to see what the various heritage organizations have to offer. For more information please visit the Heritage Festival website at <http://heritagefestivalofsaskatoon2012.wordpress.com/>, email Raeanne at [heritagefestivalofsaskatoon@gmail.com](mailto:heritagefestivalofsaskatoon@gmail.com) or contact Corinne or Jason at the WDM at (306) 931-1910.

Grade 2 teachers are invited to register their class for the teacher-led program, **Wheels and Runners** from mid-January through mid-May. In this program children learn how transportation changed our communities from the days of horsedrawn vehicles to cars and buses. Students take part in role playing, make a transportation craft and look for transportation artifacts in the Museum by following a map. Pre-registration is required.

After a one year hiatus, volunteers with the *Saskatoon Railroad Modellers* are pleased to once again offer their weekly **Model Railroading Talks**. Their talks will take place in the Education Room on Sundays, February 12, 19, 26, March 4, 18, 25 and April 1 from 2-4 pm. This year their talks will cover basic railroad layout from planning stage to finished layout. Cost for the talks is general Museum admission. You can also visit our volunteer railroaders and their **BiG Train** set up during the **Saskatoon Model Train Show** which is held at the Saskatoon WDM on March 10 and 11.

February 22 is World Thinking Day for Girl Guides and Brownies. As a way to celebrate, the Saskatoon WDM is working with the Bridging Rivers Area Girl Guides to plan a **Girl Guide & Brownie Night at the Museum**. Girl Guides and Brownies will take part in pioneer activities and crafts that will get them thinking about pioneer life in Saskatchewan and comparing it to what life is like today and what they think life will be like in the future. Guide Leaders will share registration information with Girl Guides and Brownie groups.

Join our Museum volunteers on Sunday afternoons this winter. Members of the *Boomtown Volunteers Association* will be out in 1910 costume to share their stories and knowledge of the Museum. The *Western Canadian Blacksmiths Guild* will be hard at work in the Boomtown Blacksmith Shop. Take a horse and sleigh ride with volunteers from the *Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association*. Rides take place from 1-3 pm, weather permitting. Don't forget that the Boomtown Café and Museum Gift Shop are open during regular museum hours.

The Saskatoon WDM is closed on Mondays from January through March. Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm. For more information, please call (306) 931-1910 or go to [www.wdm.ca](http://www.wdm.ca) and click on Saskatoon.



For many years this newsletter has been sent out thanks to a crew of faithful volunteers from the Saskatoon WDM. Six times annually, the newsletter labelling, stuffing and stamping are undertaken, all as stories are told and laughter is shared. For the past year, crew members have braved detours through construction zones of mud and mayhem to get to the WDM Curatorial Centre. Warmest thanks to all of you.

WDM Photo: Kristine Montgomery

# YORKTON WDM

By Carla Madsen, Education/Special Events Programmer

December's **Celebrate Christmas Past** program was a great success as 787 students shared in the fun and joy of an old-fashioned Christmas. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and staff, the students enjoyed a wagon ride, gallery scavenger hunt, craft session and snack, plus took home a goody bag and wooden ornament as a souvenir of their visit. Bouquets of appreciation go to our volunteers from the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club*, *Museum Explainers Group* and Sacred Heart High School and to the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* and *Yorkton Antique Auto Association* for their program sponsorship.

**Heritage Day** will be celebrated on Sunday, February 19. The *Heritage Canada Foundation* has chosen to recognize the "Heritage of Power Generation" as this year's theme. Their objective is to show the impact of power generation on the Canadian landscape from the early days of coal to today's green energy production. Annual partners in this event include the *City of Yorkton* Historian and the *Heritage Advisory Sub-Commission*, as well as the *Yorkton Chapter of the Saskatchewan Genealogy Society* whose members will be in attendance to offer assistance and advice to those who are researching and recording family histories. The event runs from 2 to 5 pm and everyone is welcome to join us.

The *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* has resumed its regular meetings held on the second Saturday of each month. The Club is looking forward to this year's **Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival** on August 4-5, and welcomes new members who can assist in their efforts to preserve and demonstrate techniques from the past. For further information, contact the Museum at (306) 783-8361.

Members of the *York Colony Quilters Guild* have returned from the holiday break for their weekly meetings each Wednesday beginning at 10 am. Along with discussions on personal projects and group quilting on the frame, regular technique sessions and workshops are scheduled to suit everyone's interest. Novice and experienced quilters alike are invited to join and can call Guild President Ellen Stachiw at (306) 782-0992.

The Yorkton WDM galleries and gift shop are open Tuesday to Friday, 9 am to 5pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 5 pm. The Museum is closed on Mondays from January through March and on statutory holidays. Call (306) 783-8361 for more information or click on Yorkton at [www.wdm.ca](http://www.wdm.ca).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MOOSE JAW WDM

Open Tuesday-Sunday 9 am-5 pm CLOSED Mondays

Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*

Call (306) 693-5989 for information

February 11 **Heritage Day**  
 February 20 CLOSED for Family Day  
 March 24-25 **Moose Jaw Thunder Creek Model Train Show**  
 April 19-20 **Moose Jaw Youth Regional Heritage Fair**

## NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Open daily 9am-5 pm

Shop at *The Loft*

Call (306) 445-8033 for information

January 14 **January Jamboree**  
 February 20 CLOSED for Family Day  
 March 10 **Cowboy Poetry**  
 March 29 – 31 **Taste Of Culture**  
 March 31 **Blues & Brews**  
 April 6 CLOSED for Good Friday  
 April 9 CLOSED for Easter Monday

## SASKATOON WDM

Open Tuesday-Sunday 9 am-5 pm CLOSED Mondays

Enjoy the Boomtown Café Daily specials weekdays, breakfast specials on weekends

Shop at the *Museum Store*

Sundays - Horsedrawn sleigh rides 1-3 pm, weather permitting

Call (306) 931-1910 for information

Jan. 28-Feb. 26 *Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame* – temporary exhibit  
 February 5 **Saskatoon Heritage Festival** noon-5 pm  
 February 12, 19, 26 **Model Railroading Talks** 2-4 pm  
 February 20 CLOSED for Family Day  
 February 22 **Girl Guide & Brownie Night at the Museum**  
 March 4, 18, 25 **Model Railroading Talks** 2-4 pm  
 March 10 **All Aboard 2012 Model Train Show**  
 April 1 **Model Railroading Talks** 2-4 pm  
 April 6 CLOSED for Good Friday  
 April 14 Pioneer Threshermen's Club **Flea Market**

## YORKTON WDM

Open Tuesday-Friday 9 am-5 pm and weekends noon-5 pm

CLOSED Mondays

Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*

Call (306) 783-8361 for information

February 19 **Heritage Day**  
 February 20 CLOSED for Family Day  
 April 6 CLOSED for Good Friday  
 April 8 CLOSED for Easter Sunday  
 April 9 CLOSED for Easter Monday

## CURATORIAL CENTRE

February 10-12 **Introduction to Blacksmithing - FULL**  
 March 2-4 **Introduction to Blacksmithing - FULL**  
 April 20-22 **Advanced Blacksmithing with Sandra Dunn and Steve White**

Contact Leslee Newman or Kristine Montgomery for information on WDM training courses at (306) 934-1400 or visit [www.wdm.ca](http://www.wdm.ca).

**Sparks Off The Anvil** is published six times a year by the Western Development Museum's Curatorial Centre, 2935 Melville Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7J 5A6. Copyright 2012 Western Development Museum. Phone (306) 934-1400 Fax (306) 934-4467 Email: [info@wdm.ca](mailto:info@wdm.ca) Website: [www.wdm.ca](http://www.wdm.ca) Please direct all comments to the editors. The WDM is a network of four museum branches located at Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton. Supported by the Province of Saskatchewan.

# NEW MEMBERS

*New members joining the Museum are:*

Gerry Adam - Saskatoon  
 Darryl Adamko - Saskatoon  
 Mashid Atapour & Vahid Anvari - Saskatoon  
 Herta Barron - Saskatoon  
 Gerry & Lorna Bell - Gravelbourg  
 Joe & Johanna Bergerman - Saskatoon  
 Cory Bjorgan & Angie Silzer - Melville  
 Henry & Mary Brown - Aberdeen  
 Chris & Nancy Buttinger - Saskatoon  
 Daryl & Elysa Campbell - Saskatoon  
 Doreen Casavant - Saskatoon  
 Laura Champ - Saskatoon  
 Stephen & Sherrie Charles - Saskatoon  
 Don & Marge Clements - Saskatoon  
 Vladimir Cordas - North Battleford  
 Sharon Downey - Elstow  
 Nicole & Ashley Drobot - Saskatoon  
 Mike & Silver Dukart - Allan  
 Tom & Brenda Elash - Saskatoon  
 Alma Elias - Saskatoon  
 Sarah Fettis - Saskatoon  
 Merle Fingas - Saskatoon  
 Glenda & Dave Finlay - Delisle  
 Verne & Jacqui Fleury - Grasswood  
 Sharon Fluney - Unity  
 Gus & Kim Fomradas - Saskatoon  
 Chris & Renée Fossener - Saskatoon  
 Keith Fraess - Lanigan  
 Steve & Amanda Froese - Hepburn  
 Brian & Shannon Gabrush - Saskatoon  
 Peter & Vern Gallen - Saskatoon  
 Carla Garvie - Saskatoon  
 Mr. & Mrs. Giesbrecht - Saskatoon  
 Jason & Megan Goudie - Saskatoon  
 Janel Grace - Moose Jaw  
 Rachel Hao - Saskatoon  
 Chris Harris & Katrina Regier - Laird  
 Colin Hewat - Saskatoon  
 Emily & Paul Hurd - Saskatoon  
 Simon & Laura Hutchinson - Saskatoon  
 Scott Iversen & Lisa Steinkey - Saskatoon  
 Carla & Shane Janson - Saskatoon  
 Dave & Judy Janzen - Osler  
 Kevin & Laura Johnston - Saskatoon  
 Scott & Jody Kerslake - Saskatoon  
 Eric Lamb & Kirsten Ketilson - Saskatoon  
 Joe & Judy Killloran - Saskatoon  
 Kevin & Christine Kopp - Saskatoon  
 Lanette Kuchenski & Dave Henry - Saskatoon  
 Heather Larence - Saskatoon  
 Joseph Leduc - Moose Jaw  
 Joseph & Keiko Lee - Martensville  
 Heather & Darcy Leichert - Saskatoon  
 Joseph & Shelley Liu - Saskatoon  
 Cindy & Michael MacKay - Saskatoon  
 Gary & Jan Mamer - Saskatoon  
 Andrew & Melinda Martens - Warman  
 Diane Middleton - Saskatoon  
 Daylen Mignon - Regina  
 Rodney & Angela Moir - Saskatoon  
 Fred & Muriel Montbriand - Saskatoon  
 Scott & Lisa Montgomery - Saskatoon  
 JC & Janel Morin - Saskatoon  
 Scott & Jamie Moyle - Grenfell  
 Jerry & Yvonne Mulder - Grasswood  
 Denny & Andrea Neufeld - Delisle  
 Dean & Charlotte Olson - Saskatoon  
 Harold & Mary Orr - Saskatoon  
 Mike & Michelle Parker - Saskatoon  
 Susan Pederson - Saskatoon  
 Jim & Mary Perkins - Prince Albert  
 Henry & Eva Peters - Osler  
 Ron & Joyce Peters - Saskatoon  
 Curtis & Lisa Petruk - Saskatoon  
 Michelle Pharis - Saskatoon  
 Gerald & Carrol Piprell - Saskatoon  
 Melanie Pollock & Darrell Dutton - Saskatoon  
 Darren & Joanne Pringle - Saskatoon  
 Audrey Purdie & Muriel Dillon - Saskatoon  
 Rob Reid - Saskatoon  
 Andy & Sherry Reimer - Saskatoon  
 Erin Robson - Saskatoon  
 Troy & Bonnie Ross - Vanscoy  
 Jason & Lana Savage - Martensville  
 Hillary & Bill Sayed - Saskatoon  
 Susan & David Scarfe - Saskatoon  
 Brad & Nikki Schaan - Saskatoon  
 Cody Sharpe & Vanessa Amy - Saskatoon  
 Sandra Smith & Margaret Lindsay - Saskatoon  
 Kirsty Snowsell - Saskatoon  
 Siegfried Stibi - Saskatoon  
 Rosemarie Tirk - Saskatoon  
 Stephanie von Hagen - Saskatoon  
 Edward & Madelaine Walker - Saskatoon  
 Lipu Wang & Shu Long - Saskatoon  
 Trent & Cathy Watts - Saskatoon  
 Sam & Katie Jo Wiggins - Saskatoon  
 Jennie & Brian Wilson - North Battleford  
 Nicole Wohlgemuth - Saskatoon  
 Karen Wooller & Daniel Reeves - Saskatoon

