



SPARKS OFF THE ANVIL[®]



Newsletter Of The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum

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Editors: Kristine Montgomery & Leslee Newman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *By Joan Champ*

Showcasing Saskatchewan Innovation

There are many special qualities that define Saskatchewan, not the least of which is innovation. The hard-working people of this province have forged a spirit of innovation over decades, through times of poverty and plenty.

Saskatchewan farmers have always been resourceful—usually out of necessity. Grasshopper bait spreaders, stubble burners and stump pullers are just a few examples of innovative “make-do” devices created by Saskatchewan’s pioneer farmers. Some of Saskatchewan’s farmer-inventors achieved commercial success when their designs—such as the swather developed by Helmer and Ellert Hanson of Lajord—were picked up by full line machinery manufacturers. Eventually Saskatchewan became a world leader in agricultural equipment manufacturing with innovations like the Morris rod weeder, the Flexi-Coil packer, the Brandt grain auger, and Bourgault air seeder.

Innovation in Saskatchewan didn’t just happen in the agriculture sector, however. Saskatchewan has prospered, diversifying from a single-crop and resource-driven economy into a fast growing innovation-driven economy. Saskatchewan’s achievements in research and innovation can be seen in health care, transportation, electrical energy, communications, resource extraction and biotechnology.

The Western Development Museum shares the deep sense of pride in Saskatchewan innovation. In fact, the WDM is steeped in innovation. Exhibits at the WDM’s four locations showcase many examples of innovation in our province over the past 110 years. Many of the Museum’s exhibits are innovative in themselves—in their design, in their interpretation, and in the educational programs that accompany them. Here are a few recent examples of innovation and innovative achievements at the WDM:

Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story, 2003-2010: Created to celebrate

Saskatchewan’s centennial in 2005, this innovative exhibit brings the WDM into the 21st century with multimedia presentations and computer-based interactive components that today’s visitors have come to expect in museums. Examples of Saskatchewan innovations highlighted in the four **Winning the Prairie Gamble** exhibits include:

First government-operated air ambulance service in North America (1946)

World’s first betatron accelerator at the University of Saskatchewan (1948) and choice of Saskatoon as home to the Canadian Light Source (2004)

Blairmore Ring making potash mining possible at Esterhazy (1962)

First solution potash mine in the world (1964)

Development of new crops and improved crop varieties at the U of S, including Laird lentils (1978) and Harrington barley (early 1980s)

Canada’s first ATM (1977) and debit card (1985) Saskatchewan’s leading role in plant biotechnology innovation

Innovations in the oil and gas industry such as the use of carbon dioxide to aid in the extraction process.

Winds of Change, 2010: A wind energy project at the Saskatoon WDM includes the installation of three 15-metre tall wind turbines outside the Museum, each capable of generating 1.3 kilowatts of energy. Inside the Museum, an interpretive exhibit guides visitors through the history of wind energy in Saskatchewan, and highlights wind as a present and future alternate energy resource.



Packing a seed bed with a Flexi-Coil packer, Saskatchewan, 1950s.

Courtesy CNH Canada, Saskatoon

to the Canadian

The VerEco Home, partnership with Canada’s First Net-Zero Home, 2010: The VerEco Home is an interactive exhibit that demonstrates the future of green home design, and the ecological and economical benefits of building and living smart. The home, on display outside the Saskatoon WDM, includes guided educational tours.

The Cancer Bomb, 2011: Recently installed at the Saskatoon WDM, the cobalt-60 therapy unit (aka “cobalt bomb”) was developed at the U of S in the early 1950s for the treatment of cancer. This machine, and others like it, has saved the lives of millions of cancer patients around the world. Dr. Harold Johns and his colleagues including Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk at the university’s Department of Physics were the first to successfully treat a patient with an accurately calibrated dose of cobalt-60 radiation. The WDM will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the cobalt bomb at the official exhibit opening on December 4, 2011.

The WDM is the museum of Saskatchewan, safeguarding and showcasing stories of Saskatchewan innovation since 1949.

WDM HELPS SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS TEACH SASKATCHEWAN STORIES

Students learn best when they can relate to what they are being taught. What better way to teach Saskatchewan students than to use programs and resources with Saskatchewan connections, links, and examples? And what better way to build a well-deserved sense of Saskatchewan pride?

WDM programs range from short in-museum demonstrations

to half-day programs and have curriculum links from Grade 1 to Grade 12, including Science, Biology, Native Studies, English, Arts Ed, and, of course, History and Social Studies. FREE in-classroom lesson plans and resources are also available. Visit the WDM Education website for more information: <http://wdm.ca/EdPrograms/index.htm>.



YORKTON WDM

By Carla Madsen, Education/Special Events Programmer

Visitors to the **56th Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival** were able to re-live memories of years gone by or, as was the case for many, experience the sights and sounds of early prairie life for the first time. This fall members of the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* will be planning for next year's show, enjoying a wrap-up potluck supper on November 5.

Children's Pioneer Days were held during the second week of August with 10 children immersed in hands-on learning of old time crafts, cooking and pioneer skills. They were proud to show off the fruits of their labours at the family picnic wrap-up.

On a number of Sundays this summer, visitors were able to view entries from the 2011 *Yorkton Film Festival* and enjoy homemade ice cream as part of our **Movies at the Museum** event series led by our summer students. With thanks we say goodbye and good luck to Kenton Doupe, Lauren Doupe, Carolyn Hauser, Daniel Mandziuk and Emily Tatarniuk as they return to their studies this fall.

This year, the Yorkton WDM will be hosting festivities as part of the **Culture Days** initiative on Saturday, October 1 from 12 to 5 pm, with free admission for all. "Tell Me About the Good Old Days" will encourage young people to bring someone from an older generation to work together on a reminiscence activity book. Videos from this year's *Yorkton Film Festival* will be shown and refreshments will be available for sale by members of the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club*.

Educators, we invite you to our **Teacher Appreciation** on Thursday, October 13, come-and-go from 3 to 7 pm. The open house is an opportunity for education professionals to see what we offer Pre-K through Grade 12 classes and answer questions about programming, demonstrations and resources. You can also enjoy refreshments, door prize draws and gift shop specials.

During the weeks of November 21 to December 2, preschool and elementary students will be invited to participate in the **Celebrate Christmas Past** program and learn about the holiday seasons of yesteryear. This program is a favourite amongst the children and our volunteers alike as it brings an exciting early start to the festive season. Included are an old-fashioned craft, a scavenger hunt through the galleries, a wagon ride given by members of the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club*, as well as a snack and treat bag. Look for further information in the next issue of *Sparks*.

The *York Colony Quilters Guild* are back from their summer break with meetings held every Wednesday beginning at 10 am. New members are always welcome to join in the *Guild's* activities which include group and individual projects, special technique classes and quilting items for various charities. For further information on the *Guild*, please call Ellen Stachiw at (306) 782-0992.

The hours of operation for the Yorkton WDM are 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays and from 12 to 5 pm on weekends, closed statutory holidays including October 10 (Thanksgiving) and November 11 (Remembrance Day). For further information, please call (306) 783-8361.

NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

By Cheryl Stewart, Education and Volunteer Coordinator

This summer was very busy with events such as **Museum Days**, the **Gospel Jamboree**, **Family Day** and the popular return of **Those Were The Days** held August 6-7. Visitors streamed in from far and wide to enjoy the antique farm equipment and pioneer show. The village was alive with demonstrations such as blacksmithing, soap making, dairy work, all as the unforgettable sound of the calliope filled the streets. The light horse and heavy horse activities, vintage car activities, children's activities, fashion show, barbeque competition, entertainment stages and the multitude of other activities were also very successful. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this weekend such a success. Mark your calendar for **Those Were The Days** August 11-12, 2012.

Coming soon is the **Inspiration Trade Show** on Friday, September 9, 2-7 pm, Saturday September 10 from 11 am to 7 pm, and Sunday September 11 from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is only \$2 per person! Some of this year's exhibitors include Playasol Clothing and Active Wear, Glass Nail Files, Family Doctor 2, Wood Farm Woodworking, Beaded Creations, G&S jewelry, and Awlrite Watkins products plus many many more.

For teachers thinking about a back-to-school field trip, the North Battleford WDM has much to offer. **Grade 4 Threshing** is set for September 16. Museum staff and volunteers use artifacts to provide a first-hand glimpse of harvesting in days gone by. Although the program coincides with the Grade 4 curriculum, we have accepted other grades. Call (306) 445-8033 to book your class.

Visit on **Culture Day**, September 30 to see Ukrainian, Scottish and First Nation dancers. Admission for the day is free as we celebrate cultural traditions in Saskatchewan and Canada. Ethnic societies in the Battlefords are pitching in to share their traditions, including tasty recipes for cooks and playthings for the young-hearted. Enjoy storytelling, self-guided tours, and a



A young student helps and learns during Grade 4 Threshing at the North Battleford WDM, 2008.

WDM Photo

host of activities that celebrate our lives in Canada today.

While you're visiting the Museum, be sure to check the Loft Gift Shop. A second edition of the cookbook, *Heritage Farm Recipes*, is now available at a price of \$10. The first edition was so popular, so we decided to do a second one. Enjoy the array of gift items and souvenirs.

This fall, the North Battleford WDM is open 9 am to 5 pm seven days a week, closed statutory holidays. For more information, visit our website at www.wdm.ca and click on North Battleford or call (306) 445-8033.

NEW MANAGERS AT WDM

Jen Peterson has accepted the position of Corporate Development Manager at the WDM Curatorial Centre. Jen developed strong fundraising skills working at the United Way of Saskatoon from 2002 to 2005 and (to present) at the Canadian Red Cross in Saskatoon. She is a farm kid who claims she's still her father's number one farmhand, with a BA in history from the University of Saskatchewan, specializing in the history of the Canadian West. She is a professional writer and owns a business called Second Set of Eyes Editorial Services in Saskatoon. Jen is currently serving as the treasurer of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Saskatoon Chapter. Starting on September 12, we welcome Jen.

Jason Wall is the new Manager of the Saskatoon WDM. Most recently, Jason

was Manager and Senior Interpreter at the Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre in Saskatoon where he has worked for 13 years. He has a degree in Canadian history and a wealth of experience working in a multi-disciplinary environment similar to the WDM. Jason sits on a number of community and non-profit boards, including the Marr Residence Management Board, the Saskatoon Heritage Society, and the Community Experience Resources Tours (CERT) group. Beginning September 19, Jason will job shadow Tom Waiser until Tom's last day on September 30. That means Jason will jump into the middle of Grade 4 Harvest Demonstration, when 3000 nine and 10 year olds and their teachers and chaperones are treated to a pioneer fall harvest. Welcome Jason. Chaff flies, so hang on to your hat.



SASKATOON WDM

By Corinne Daelick, Education Coordinator

Summer has flown by and now we greet a busy fall season at the Saskatoon WDM with our 37th annual **Grade 4 Harvest Demonstration**, September 20-22. Volunteers demonstrate early hand tools, horsepower, the introduction of steam and gas engines to the farm, ending with a modern combine. We thank Farm and Garden Centre of Saskatoon for loaning us a combine every year. Thank you to all of our volunteers who make this program a success.

We are pleased to offer **Historical Texts of the Great Depression**, an historical fiction class with instructor, Glorie Tebbutt, from September 27 to November 15, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. The cost is \$171 for WDM members, \$190 for non-members. Contact Melissa at (306) 931-1910 for more information or to register.

National **Culture Days** takes place from September 30 to October 2. The Saskatoon WDM is taking part on Sunday, October 2 by providing free admission to all visitors that day, along with special programming. We are pleased to host the Saskatoon Area Archives Group and their speakers who will be discussing "breweriana" and various aspects of brewing. The Hub City Square and Round Dancers will also be demonstrating their skills.

Thanks to the help of volunteers from the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association we are able to offer the fall session of **Giddy Up & Whoa – It's on a Horse & Wagon Ride We Go** for preschools from October 3-7. This popular program allows preschools to learn about horses and their role in pioneer life, to enjoy a horse and wagon ride, and to visit farm animals in our barn. In the Museum, children visit the blacksmith shop, harness shop and livery stable for artifacts related to horses. This program is open to preschools and must be pre-booked.

One sure sign that the Christmas season is nearly here is the annual **Christmas Craft Fair** on October 14-15. Artisans and crafters will be here with a wide variety of items for sale, ranging from Christmas decorations and gifts to jewellery, clothing, food and more. The Fair takes place from 4-10 pm on Friday and from 10 am-5 pm on Saturday. Please note that the Museum galleries will be closed on Friday, October 14 until 4 pm in preparation for the Craft Fair. The Gift Shop and Café remain open throughout the day.

The Pioneer Thresherman's Club invites everyone to their bi-annual **Pioneer Thresherman's Club Flea Market** on Saturday, October 22, from 9 am-3:30 pm in Butler Byers Century Hall. For table bookings please contact Ken or Dorothy McKnight at (306) 931-1175. Come and see what treasures you can find.

Scare up some fun at **Boo Town** on Friday, October 28 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Geared for children under 12 years, come out in Halloween costumes to take part in Halloween games, crafts and stories. Help solve our Boomtown mystery! Regular admission applies.

The Saskatoon WDM is hosting our **Member's Night and Store Sale** on Wednesday, November 9 from 5-8 pm. Check out the great Christmas deals for Museum members only. The Boomtown Café will be serving a Christmas dinner in two sittings: 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Tickets for the dinner must be purchased in advance at a price of \$12.50 for adults/seniors and \$6.50 for children (12 & under). Tickets go on sale on Monday, October 3 from the Museum Gift Shop and will be available until November 8 or until sold out. There is limited seating so be sure to get your tickets early. The store sale is open to the public November 10, 12 and 13. Contact the Museum Gift Shop at (306) 931-1910.

The **Children's Christmas Shopping Day** is scheduled in the Museum Gift Shop on Saturday, November 12 from 10 am - 3 pm. Museum staff and volunteers will be on hand to assist children with their Christmas shopping at prices that are just right for young shoppers.

The Saskatoon WDM welcomes back the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation's **2011 Festival of Trees** from November 20 through November 26, 9 am-9 pm daily. This year's theme is *A Storybook Christmas*. Visit Boomtown while it is decorated in Christmas finery. Regular Museum admission applies. For more information on the Festival of Trees visit their website at www.festival-of-trees.com or email them at festivaloftrees@sasktel.net.

For more information on the Saskatoon WDM and our activities and programs, please call (306) 931-1910 or visit our website at www.wdm.ca and click on "Saskatoon."

FAREWELL FROM TOM WAISER

It was over 31 years ago that I wrote my very first *Sparks* report as the new manager of the Yorkton WDM. Now it is time to write my final submission as I prepare to leave the WDM.

I began working in April of 1980 at the Saskatoon WDM, hired as an interpreter for the Canada North museum-mobile. In December 1980 I won the manager position at the Yorkton WDM, starting in February 1981 and working there until September 1988. Our most proud accomplishments during that time were the new addition, facility upgrades to the Gift Shop and gallery area, the planning of the annual Threshermen's Show and Festival, and the special exhibit we planned each year - a tradition that continues today.

In the fall of 1988, I returned to Saskatoon to the Curatorial Centre as Operations Manager for the WDM. My new duties were to oversee the shop facilities and the development of facility maintenance programs for the five WDM buildings. Finally, in July of 1991 I was made Manager of the Saskatoon WDM when David Klatt assumed the role of Executive Director.

After 20 years at the Saskatoon WDM I leave at a time when the Museum continues to see growth, mainly as a result of its excellent exhibits, school and public programs, food services operation and gift shop operation. It is a place that has grown in popularity, where visitors and families return again and again, demonstrated by the number of members who support us each year.

This would never have been possible without the fine staff and volunteers who have devoted so much energy and enthusiasm to make the Museum the success it is. With help from all of you, I am proud of what the WDM, and in particular the Saskatoon WDM, has achieved over the past several years. I also see its future potential under new management. I look forward to watching what new and different things the WDM does in the years ahead.

Many staff and volunteers have come and gone over this time period - I wish to thank them all for their support. I will miss the place I have called home for over 30 years. Thank you all for the many memories I take with me.



Tom Waiser, Saskatoon WDM Manager.

WDM Photo

MOOSE JAW WDM

By Jackie Hall, Program/Education Officer

After enjoying visitors from around the globe this summer, we turn our thoughts to autumn and to Christmas. On Sunday, October 2, the Moose Jaw WDM will be celebrating the second annual **Culture Days**. On October 2 the Museum will be free to all visitors. From 1-4 pm we will offer a variety of activities and demonstrations to highlight the Saskatchewan culture.

Looking for something to do while waiting for the turkey to cook? The Moose Jaw WDM will be open on Thanksgiving Day, Monday, October 10.

On October 15 and 16, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm each day, we will be hosting a rug hooking workshop. Experts from *Heritage Rug Hookers of Saskatoon* (the group responsible for the exhibit **Grain Elevators: Vanishing Prairie Landmarks**) will lead the workshop and assist beginners to the craft. The cost, including lunch, is \$50.00/ person (\$45.00 for members). Pre-registration before October 11 is necessary, so call us at (306) 693-5989 to register.

And then Halloween will be upon us! **Happy Halloween** will take place on Saturday, October 29 from 1-4 pm. Little ghouls and goblins can don their costumes, play some Halloween games and do some fun Halloween crafts.

Believe it or not it is time to start thinking about your entry for **Delectable Gingerbread Creations**. As usual, you can make whatever turns your fancy as long as it is entirely edible. Be sure to mark your calendars for **Kids' Secret Shopping Day** on Saturday, November 19.

Call (306) 693-5989 or click on Moose Jaw at www.wdm.ca to keep up-to-date on Museum happenings.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MOOSE JAW WDM

Open daily 9 am-5 pm
Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*
Call (306) 693-5989 for information

October 2 **Culture Days**
October 10 OPEN Thanksgiving Day
October 15-16 **Rug Hooking Workshop**
October 29 **Happy Halloween**
November 11 MORNING CLOSING 9 am - noon
for Remembrance Day

NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Open daily 9am-5 pm
Shop at *The Loft*
Call (306) 445-8033 for information

September 30 **Culture Days**
October 10 CLOSED Thanksgiving Day
October 29 **Great Pumpkin Masquerade**
November 5 **Fiddle Contest**
November 11 CLOSED for Remembrance Day
November 19 **Teacher Appreciation Night**

SASKATOON WDM

Open daily 9 am-5 pm
Enjoy the *Boomtown Café* Daily specials weekdays, breakfast specials on weekends
Shop at the *Museum Store*
Call (306) 931-1910 for information

September 26 **CERT Teacher Appreciation Open House**
for K-12 teachers
September 27 **Historical Texts of the Great Depression Class**
begins (pre-registration required)
September 30 **VerEco Home tours end**
October 2 **Culture Days**
October 10 CLOSED for Thanksgiving Day
October 14-15 **Christmas Craft Fair**
October 22 **Pioneer Threshermen's Club Flea Market**
October 28 **Boo Town 2011**
November 9 **Museum Store Sale WDM Members' Night**
November 10, 12-13 **Museum Store Sale**
November 11 CLOSED for Remembrance Day
November 12 **Children's Shopping Day**
November 20-26 **Festival of Trees**

YORKTON WDM

Open weekdays 9 am-5 pm and weekends noon-5 pm
Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*
Call (306) 783-8361 for information

October 1 **Culture Days**
October 10 CLOSED for Thanksgiving Day
October 13 **Teacher Appreciation**
November 11 CLOSED for Remembrance Day

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

culturedays

**CELEBRATING ARTS + CULTURE
FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST**

In celebration of Canadian culture, enjoy a FREE visit to a Western Development Museum.

**Friday, September 30, 9 am- 5pm -
North Battleford WDM**

Saturday, October 1, Noon-5 pm - Yorkton WDM

**Sunday, October 2, 9 am-5 pm -
Moose Jaw WDM & Saskatoon WDM**

NEW MEMBERS

New members joining the Museum are:

Arnold/Cox Family - Regina	Caroline Hrenyk - Moose Jaw
Tanis Batty - Mossbank	M. Jacqueline Jackson - Saskatoon
Jeff & Julie Baxter - Saskatoon	Don & Maxine Janzen - Saskatoon
John & Jean Berger - Nanton, AB	Joe Kasahoff - Langham
Lin Brown - Saskatoon	Earl & Lois Loyek - Battleford
Terra Christensen - Battleford	Elaine Malkin - Saskatoon
Jason & Michelle Collin - North Battleford	Tom & Janice Mann - Drinkwater
Bert Condon - Saskatoon	Olivier & Rebecca Markon - Cold Lake, AB
Dana Derenoski - Saskatoon	Scott & Violet Meekma - Saskatoon
Andrew Diggins - Moose Jaw	Wayne Neu & Ruth Ferdinand - Medicine Hat, AB
Shawn & Janet Flett - Saskatoon	Margaret Nogier-MacGillivray - Saskatoon
Gerard & Cathy Gadzella - Saskatoon	Lowell & Donelda Ofstie - Saskatoon
Jacque Gordon - Saskatoon	Jim & Doreen Taylor - North Battleford
Shawn & Katherine Graham & Family - Elbow	Darin & Tammy Wall - Warman
Connie Gramiak - North Battleford	Joanne Welder - Saskatoon
Bonny Hamm - Herbert	Jan Weisner - Moose Jaw
Larry Hampson - Cut Knife	Brock & Jana Wilcox - Moose Jaw
Wayne & Margaret Heatwole - Rosthern	George & Florence Ward - Wilkie
Rod Holness - Swan River, MB	
Heather Horner - Meota	

ARTIFACT DONORS

Recently, the WDM received donations of artifacts from:

Pat Allen - Saskatoon	Douglas Lash - Toronto, ON
Bethel United Church - Saskatoon	Meredith MacLeod - Winnipeg, MB
Ernest Biddulph - Saskatoon	Kristine Montgomery - Saskatoon
Carolene Cruder - Calgary, AB	Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan - Regina
Elsbeth Dormuth - Saskatoon	Joe & Iris Olchoway - Saskatoon
John Dubets - Saskatoon	Shirley Opekokew - Saskatoon
Karen Halina - Saskatoon	Kay Parley - Saskatoon
Sandra Johnston - Burnaby, BC	Lloyd Warkentin - Sidney, BC
Walter Kalyn - Vancouver, BC	
Joey Kiss - Saskatoon	

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