



SPARKS OFF THE ANVIL[®]



Newsletter Of The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum

November - December 2011 Volume 35, Edition 6

Editors: Kristine Montgomery & Leslee Newman



THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

May the tradition of Christmas and the spirit of the season be with you, your family and friends as you visit together during the holidays.

Safe journey to the travellers.

From the WDM Board of Directors and staff

Appleby children at Christmas, Estevan area farm, c1960.
Bitner Collection Photo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Joan Champ

The Cancer Bomb - Saskatchewan's Weapon of "Mass" Destruction

On Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 1 pm the Saskatoon Western Development Museum is proud to host the official opening of our new, permanent exhibit called **The Cancer Bomb**. This opening event will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first successful treatment of a cancer patient with the cobalt bomb at University Hospital in Saskatoon in November 1951.

No, it didn't bomb countries – it attacked cancerous tumours. In 1951, the cobalt-60 beam therapy unit for treating cancer, also known as the cobalt bomb, was built in Saskatoon by a dedicated team of scientists and machinists. Since then, thousands of Canadian cobalt-60 units have provided radiation treatment for millions of cancer patients around the world.

The cobalt bomb is a shining example of Saskatchewan's innovation in health care research – an innovation that had a worldwide impact. Canada's first full-time cancer physicist, Dr. Harold Johns, and his colleagues at the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Physics were the first in the world to build a machine that successfully treated a cancer patient with an accurately calibrated dose of cobalt-60 radiation.

Leading up to the development of the cobalt-60 unit, Saskatchewan pioneered many innovations in the treatment of cancer. Between 1924 and 1941, the rate of cancer deaths had more than doubled in Saskatchewan, and something had to be done. In 1944, the new government of Tommy Douglas implemented a North American "first" – free cancer treatment to anyone who had lived in Saskatchewan for at least three months. Then, in 1949, Douglas personally gave the University of Saskatchewan scientists the green light to proceed with the development of the cobalt-60 unit.

The cobalt bomb was designed by Dr. Johns and built by Saskatoon machinist John MacKay, owner of the Acme Machine and Electric Company. Dr. Johns' graduate students, including Sylvia Fedoruk, Edward Epp, Douglas Cormack, and Lloyd Bates, assisted with the design and calibration of the machine. Radioactive cobalt from the unit attacked tumours that lay deep within the body, thus bringing more cancers within reach of treatment.

There were actually two cobalt bombs in development during the summer and fall of 1951 – one in Saskatoon and the other in London, Ontario. Each had a different design by a different designer, and both were completed and functioning within days of each other. The Saskatoon team was the first to successfully treat a patient with an accurately

continued on page 2

Western Development Museum

Cobalt-60 at 60

**The Legacy of Saskatchewan's
Innovative Cancer Treatment**

*The Board and Staff of the Western Development Museum
cordially invite you to attend the official opening of*

The Cancer Bomb

An exhibit proudly sponsored by PotashCorp
and

**Cobalt-60 at 60:
The Legacy of Saskatchewan's
Innovative Cancer Treatment**

A presentation by
Featured Speaker Dr. David Pantalony

Panel Discussion with Dr. John Root, Dr. Paul Babyn,
Dr. L. Dean Chapman, Dr. David Pantalony

Information Fair

Sunday, December 4, 2011

**1 pm - Exhibit Opening
2:15 pm - Featured Speaker
and Panel Discussion**

**Western Development Museum - 1910 Boomtown
2610 Lorne Avenue South, Saskatoon
<http://wdm.ca/stoon/cobalt.htm>**

Please RSVP by November 29, 2011 to (306) 931-1910.



continued from page 1

calibrated dose of cobalt-60 radiation. In November 1951, the first Saskatoon patient, a 43-year-old mother of four, was treated for cervical cancer with cobalt-60 radiation from this machine. She lived another 47 years. The cure rate for cervical cancer soon went from 25% to 75%.

By the 1960s, the cobalt-60 machine was standard equipment for radiation therapy world-wide. The cobalt unit on display at the Museum treated 6,728 patients until it was replaced with newer technology in 1972. These machines are still in use in many Third World countries that do not have the resources for state-of-the-art therapy.

Building on the achievements of the 1940s and 1950s, Saskatchewan's cancer program has grown to become one of the best in the world. Today, the University of Saskatchewan is a centre of excellence for nuclear medicine and research in Canada.

Following the formal opening ceremony, the WDM has organized, in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan, a discussion by a panel of experts from the field of nuclear medicine on the legacy of the cobalt bomb. Speakers will include: Dr. Paul Babyn, Joint Department Head of Medical Imaging at the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Health Region; Dr. John Root, Director of the new Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation at the University of Saskatchewan; Dr. L. Dean Chapman, Canada Research Chair in X-ray Imaging, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan; and Dr. David Pantalony from the Canada Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa.

There will also be an Information Fair, with display booths from a number of organizations involved in cancer research. The WDM hopes you will join us for what we expect will be an exciting and informative afternoon.

YORKTON WDM

By Carla Madsen, Education/Special Events Programmer

With the last of the fall leaves on the ground, winter will soon be upon us, bringing the arrival of our annual **Celebrate Christmas Past** program. From November 21 to December 2 we will be welcoming preschool and elementary students to the Museum to experience the fun and excitement of an old-fashioned Christmas. Students will participate in a winter-themed scavenger hunt through the galleries, create a festive craft, and enjoy the crisp outdoors on a wagon ride given by members of the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club*. Many hours are donated by our elves who paint special gifts for each child, fill goody bags and cookie trays, and drive the tractor and wagon. We are grateful once again for the volunteer and financial assistance received from the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* and *Museum Explainers Group*.

Regular meetings of the *York Colony Quilters Guild* continue to take place each Wednesday beginning at 10 am. A variety of workshops are held throughout the year and new members are always welcome. The *Guild* will be hosting their holiday luncheon on December 7, then taking a break for the Christmas season before returning to the swing of things on January 11, 2012. For further information about the *Guild* and its activities, call Ellen Stachiw at (306) 783-8361.

The *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* gathered for their year-end potluck supper and meeting on November 5. Their annual general meeting will be held on January 14, 2012 at 1:30 pm where they will hold executive elections as well as discuss plans for the 57th **Threshermen's Show and Seniors' Festival** on August 4-5, 2012. Anyone wishing to become a new member is welcome to attend; for more information please call the Museum at (306) 783-8361.

Winter hours of operation for the Yorkton WDM are now in effect. The galleries and gift shop are open weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm and weekends from 12 to 5 pm. The Museum will be closed on December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1. We will also be closed on Mondays from January through March 2012.

With sadness, we announce the passing of our co-worker and dear friend Phil Lane on September 29. Phil was employed as the maintenance supervisor at the Yorkton WDM since September 2005 and was always willing to go above and beyond his duties to help his fellow employees and our volunteers. Phil's presence will be greatly missed and our heartfelt condolences are expressed to Phil's wife Sharon and their family.

As another year reaches its end, we would like to extend our many thanks to our volunteers, members and supporters. Your contributions to the WDM enabled us to celebrate a successful year in 2011. Best wishes for the holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.



Dr. Harold Johns, University of Saskatchewan; John McKay, Acme Machine and Electric; and Dr. Sandy Watson, Director of Cancer Services, Saskatchewan Cancer Commission, with the original treatment cone on the cobalt-60 unit, 1951.

Courtesy Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk

NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

By Cheryl Stewart, Education and Volunteer Coordinator

On a warm and sunny September 16, happy students participated in **School Threshing**. Learning about early harvesting, making a craft with wheat stalks, then creating scarecrows - all contribute to an unforgettable out-of-class experience.

Culture Days was hosted on September 30. "This is so much fun. I am so glad I heard about this and decided to come and bring my friends along too," said June Sutton from Meota. Culture in Saskatchewan was celebrated with First Nation and Highland dancers, and local country entertainers - Loewens & Company and Wilf & Joan Rice. Visitors also enjoyed twisting rope, storytelling, and all the indoor and outdoor galleries - with free admission for the day.

The Great Pumpkin Masquerade and Family Dance on October 29 set the walls trembling with over 600 pairs of feet tapping at the family dance. There were crafts, games, a carved pumpkin gallery, the North Battleford Comprehensive High School's *Haunted Toy Store*, an adults-only *Haunted Village* tour and a spooky concession. Bready Elementary School's Grade 2 class won the People's Choice award for its carved pumpkin, winning a free class trip to the Museum's Christmas program.

The **Fiddle Contest** on November 5 was another success. Those who attended were well entertained and well fed, when the music was teamed up with chicken stew in a bread bowl from the Museum concession.

On December 9 or 10, join us for a **Community Christmas Party**, with cocktails at 5:30 pm and dinner at 5:30 pm. Tickets are only \$35 and must be purchased in advance. Comedian Bob Beddow will make it an evening to remember. Call (306) 445-8033 to purchase your tickets.

The spirit of Christmas visits the Museum on December 16, from 9 am to 5 pm. **A Child's Prairie Christmas** is a day dedicated to school children, but all ages are welcome. Teachers - book your class now. Activities include crafts, a puppet show, a sleigh ride, a visit from Santa, a take-home treat and a winter wonderland scavenger hunt. The cost is only \$3/student.

Then December 17 is **A Family Prairie Christmas**, with an event dedicated to our Battlefords area families. Join us for a pancake breakfast from 9-11 am, then enjoy games, scavenger hunts, view the winter wonderland, and the best treat of all - roast a hot dog over a winter bonfire. After 5 pm, walk or ride to view the Heritage Farm and Village aglow. To share the Christmas spirit, we've strung the village in Christmas lights! Santa will take time from his busy schedule to visit from 2-4 pm. Visit www.wdm.ca for great coupon deals.

Seniors, on December 18, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas at **An Old-Time Prairie Christmas**. Doors open at 9 am, with entertainment from 10 am to 7 pm. Enjoy special seniors pricing at the concession. After 5 pm, view the Heritage Village wrapped in twinkling lights. Get your free coffee coupon at www.wdm.ca. Check out *The Loft* gift shop. Let the Museum's sparkle and spirit remind you of past Christmas seasons. Regular admission applies, \$7.50/senior 65+ years.

For more information please call (306) 445-8033 or visit our website at www.wdm.ca. The staff and volunteers at the North Battleford WDM wish everyone Happy Holidays. See you in the New Year!



SASKATOON WDM

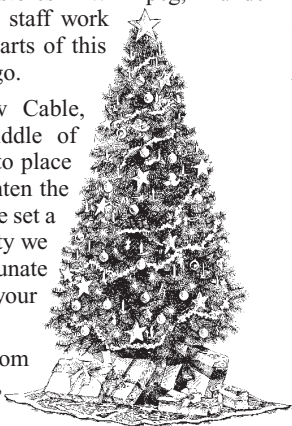
By Corinne Daelick, Education Coordinator

The seasons change quickly at the Saskatoon WDM. September and October were filled with our **Grade 4 Harvest Demonstration**, celebrating **National Culture Days**, teaching preschoolers about horses at **Giddy Up and Whoa** and scaring up some fun at **Boo Town**.

Christmas programs are now in full swing. A very successful **Christmas Craft Fair** took place in mid-October and our school Christmas programs for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 3 began on November 2 and will run until December 21. Thank you to all of our volunteers who work so hard to make these programs successful. On November 1, the **Eaton's Once Upon A Christmas** display opened for another year. It will remain until January 15, 2012. At one-time this antique display of mechanical figures adorned the windows of Eaton's department stores in Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Regina and Saskatoon. Volunteers and staff work hard every year to ensure that the moving parts of this display keep moving just as they did years ago.

The Shaw Toy Tree, sponsored by Shaw Cable, once again stands prominently in the middle of Boomtown. We encourage museum visitors to place a new, unwrapped toy under the tree to brighten the Christmas of a less fortunate child. In 2010 we set a goal of 500 toys, and thanks to your generosity we collected an amazing 781 toys for less fortunate children in Saskatoon. Thank you all for your support.

The popular **Festival of Trees** takes place from Sunday, November 20 through Saturday, November 26, from 9 am to 9 pm daily.



The Festival is the annual fundraiser for the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation. This year's proceeds will be used to support the Saskatchewan Clinical MS Research Program. The Boomtown Café will be open during the Festival and will be offering daily lunch and supper specials. For more information on the Festival of Trees, please contact the Festival office at (306) 384-9277, by email at festivaloftrees@sasktel.net or visit their website at www.festival-of-trees.com.

Please join us and share the sounds of the season as we present **Carolling Sunday** on December 18. Volunteers from the *Morse Telegraph Club* will be on hand from 12 noon to 2 pm to send telegrams to Santa Claus. At 2 pm you are invited to join the *WDM Singers* to sing all of your favourite Christmas carols in front of the Boomtown Station. The *Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild* will be demonstrating their craft in the Boomtown Blacksmith Shop and volunteers with the *Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association* will be giving sleigh rides from noon until 3 pm.

The Museum Gift Shop is the perfect place to pick up that unique Christmas gift. The friendly staff has the store beautifully decked out for Christmas, showcasing a wide variety of housewares, books, toys, specialty Christmas items and more. The Museum Gift Shop is open during regular Museum hours.

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."

The staff and volunteers of the Saskatoon WDM wish to extend the warmest holiday wishes and all the best in 2012.

MOOSE JAW WDM

By Jackie Hall, Program/Education Officer

After a triumphant return in June, the WDM Short Line 101 ended its run for the 2011 season. Moose Javians, volunteers and staff were all very happy to have the Short Line home, looking great with its brand new boiler. Unfortunately we still need to pay for that boiler. You can help with the purchase of a rail tie. For \$100 you receive a certificate of authenticity and a plaque on the tie to mark it as your own. What better Christmas gift for the rail enthusiast or the impossible-to-buy-for person on your list?

In Moose Jaw we celebrated **Culture Day** on October 2 with demonstrations and activities to celebrate Saskatchewan. A special guest was Marie Calder who discussed and signed her books – *The Other Side*. The *Other Side* series consists of six books and recounts Calder's father's experience as a Canadian soldier in post-war Germany, and is available in the Moose Jaw WDM gift shop.

On Saturday, October 30, little vampires, fairies and dinosaurs enjoyed **Happy Halloween**. They played spooky games, made some eerie crafts and had some Halloween fun. Thanks to the volunteer teens from Vanier Collegiate who did an excellent job of making sure each little monster had a good time.

To celebrate Canada's long tradition of excellence in science and engineering, the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa has created a travelling exhibit called the **Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame**. This interactive exhibit featuring 48 great Canadians will be at the Moose Jaw WDM from November 3, 2011 to January 15, 2012. Teachers, check out http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/schoolzone/virtual_hall_of_fame.cfm for a free Virtual Exploration Guide.

Soon our thoughts will turn to Christmas. It's not too late to get your entry in for

Delectable Gingerbread Creations. Just remember, everything visible must be edible. Entry forms are available at the Moose Jaw WDM. After November 19 you can vote for your favourite creation at the Museum or online at www.wdm.ca (follow the links). Voting for Visitors' Choice is open until December 11. Some of the creations will also be available to purchase by silent auction at the Museum until noon on December 11.

We kick off the Christmas season on November 19 with be a fun-filled day. From 9 to 11 am we will have **Breakfast with Mrs. Claus** sponsored by the Girl Guides. Thanks to the Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club, children can talk to Santa live in person at the North Pole via the shortwave radio from 10 am to 3 pm. After a chat with Santa children can get their own Christmas shopping done at **Kids' Secret Shopping Day**. Their personal shopper will help them find the perfect gift for everyone on their list and get it wrapped so Mom and Dad are surprised on Christmas morning. All gifts are between \$3 and \$10 so as not to break the piggy bank. While Mom and Dad are waiting, they can get their Christmas baking at the Girl Guides Bake Sale. And from 10 am to 1 pm everyone will be serenaded by *Resonant*, the chorus from Briercrest College and Seminary.

We are open most days through the holidays, but will close at 3 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and we will be closed all day Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Starting in January 2012, we are open 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday to Sunday (closed Monday).

We wish everyone all the best for the season and hope to see you at the Museum soon. Call (306) 693-5989 with inquiries.

WDM GIFT IDEAS

For everyone - WDM Memberships for year-round visits and discounts

Gift Cards - From \$5 to \$250 at Museum gift shops

For Readers - *Museum Gold*, *WDM Souvenir Book*, *From Saskatchewan Homemakers' Kitchens* and more

For Teachers - Saskatchewan ABC border for classrooms, *Guide for Teachers: Saskatchewan 1905-2005*

For Railroaders - Buy a tie on the Short Line rail at the Moose Jaw WDM



UPCOMING EVENTS

MOOSE JAW WDM

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

Nov. 3-Jan. 15, 2012 **Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame** - temporary exhibit
November 19 **Kid's Shopping Day**
December 24 CLOSED at 3 pm for Christmas Eve
December 25 CLOSED for Christmas Day
December 26 CLOSED for Boxing Day
December 31 CLOSED at 3 pm for New Year's Eve
January 1, 2012 CLOSED New Year's Day
January 2 CLOSED - Monday closing begins

NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Open daily 9am-5 pm
January through March - Open noon-5 pm Tuesday through Friday
Shop at *The Loft*
Call (306) 445-8033 for information

November 19 **Teacher Appreciation Night** 1-4 pm
December 9-10 **Community Christmas Party** - Dinner and entertainment by comedian Bob Beddow
Cocktails 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm
Advance tickets only - \$35
December 16 **A Child's Prairie Christmas** 9 am-5 pm
December 17 **A Family Prairie Christmas** 9 am-8 pm
December 18 **An Old-Time Prairie Christmas** 9 am-8 pm
December 24 CLOSED at 3 pm for Christmas Eve
December 25 CLOSED for Christmas Day
December 26-31 CLOSED
January 1, 2012 CLOSED New Year's Day
January 2 CLOSED - Monday closing begins

SASKATOON WDM

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

Nov. 1-Jan. 15, 2012 **Eaton's Once Upon a Christmas** - temporary exhibit
Nov 2- Dec 21 School Christmas programs for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 3
November 17 Galleries only CLOSED all day.
Gift Shop and Café OPEN 9am-5pm
November 20-26 **Festival of Trees** 9 am- 9 pm
December 4 Official opening of **The Cancer Bomb** exhibit, 1 pm
Panel discussion **Cobalt-60 at 60**, 2:15 pm
December 18 **Carolling Sunday**
December 24 CLOSED at 3 pm for Christmas Eve
December 25 CLOSED for Christmas Day
December 26 CLOSED for Boxing Day
December 31 CLOSED at 3 pm for New Year's Eve
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CURATORIAL CENTRE

December 9-11 **Introduction to Blacksmithing**
January 6-8, 2012 **Introduction to Blacksmithing**
January 11-13, 2012 **Buggy Seat Upholstery**
January 13-20, 2012 **Introduction to Wheelwrighting**
February 10-12, 2012 **Introduction to Blacksmithing**
March 2-4, 2012 **Introduction to Blacksmithing**
Contact Leslee Newman or Kristine Montgomery for information on WDM training courses at (306) 934-1400 or visit 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 2011 Western Development Museum. Phone (306) 934-1400 Fax (306) 934-4467 Email: info@wdm.ca Website: 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:

Gordon & Carey Allchurch - Warman	Angela Jones & Luke Rempel - Saskatoon
Nissa Baran & Gavril Tarasoff - Saskatoon	Carynn Komiyama - Saskatoon
Krista Barnett - Moose Jaw	Kelly Lechner & Jason Spence - Saskatoon
Mark & Michele Belanger - Moose Jaw	Todd & Allison Lyons - Saskatoon
Norm & Joanne Boyes - Saskatoon	Brad & Val Marceniuk - Saskatoon
Andrew Boyle & Julie Stakiw - Saskatoon	Margaret Marcoux - Saskatoon
Ryan & Kellie Brook - Saskatoon	Marlene Marist & Kurtis Smith - Saskatoon
Maryse Carmichael & Scott Greenough - Moose Jaw	Mike McKinnon & Clayton Hoffman - Saskatoon
Chris & Candace Conley - Saskatoon	Bryan & Christie McLean - Saskatoon
Brian Deschytza - Moose Jaw	Janet Olenchuk - Saskatoon
Diane Dyck - Warman	Bev Pain & Kristy Pain - Saskatoon
Mike & Chantel Fehr - Saskatoon	Tiffany Paulsen & Larry Vols - Saskatoon
Peter & Laura Fenton - Saskatoon	Jen Pederson & Doug Heath - Saskatoon
Rosemary Ferguson - Saskatoon	Anna Reinbolt - Saskatoon
Brendon & Rosalind Fredlund - Saskatoon	Ash & Lisa Reinhart - Saskatoon
John & Holly Giles - North Battleford	David Rempel & Jan Taylor - Rosthern
Barry & Carol Hill - Saskatoon	Michael & Kathy Scramstad - Saskatoon
Mark & Faye Hobman - Colonsay	Alayne Sewell - Saskatoon
Julie-Anne Howe, Leduc, AB	Suzanne Tanguay - Ponteix
Jennie Irvine - Saskatoon	Allison Wyant - Saskatoon
Rainer & Nicole Janssen - Aberdeen	

ARTIFACT DONORS

Recently, the WDM received donations of artifacts from:

Theresa Hager - Regina	Saskatoon Public Library-Local History Room - Saskatoon
Robbie Harder - Saskatoon	Chris Shearwood - Sutton, QC
Garry Hayes - Saskatoon	Donna Shokeir - Saskatoon
Kristine Montgomery - Saskatoon	Don Swaby - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
Vern Passet - Saskatoon	Bob Tower - Saskatoon
Elaine Postey - Saskatoon	

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

YORKTON WDM

Open weekdays 9 am-5 pm, weekends noon-5 pm - Monday closing
January through March
Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*
Call (306) 783-8361 for information

Nov 1- Dec 2	Celebrate Christmas Past school program
December 24	CLOSED at for Christmas Eve
December 25	CLOSED for Christmas Day
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January 2	CLOSED - Monday closing begins

