



SPARKS OFF THE ANVIL[®]



Newsletter Of The Saskatchewan Western Development Museum

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Editors: Kristine Montgomery & Leslee Newman

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By David F. Klatt

Global warming, going green, energy footprint, carbon capture, environmental sustainability - these and a host of related phrases and references are today's ceaseless reminders of the perils and responsibilities of our consumptive and throw-away society.

Whether or not one agrees with the assessments and extrapolations warning of apocalyptic doom, there is no question that we rapidly are burning through our finite supplies of non-renewable energy reserves. Oil is a one-time gift, and it behoves us to husband this resource with prudent parsimony, while giving urgency to investing our mental energies in the development of alternate and renewable fuels.

The Western Development Museum has made a strategic commitment to reducing its energy footprint. Internal measures have included additional insulation in several of the Museum's massive expanses of roofing - a project which reduced natural gas consumption by nearly forty percent. Air circulation motors are being fitted with speed controls and timers which reduce electricity consumption during hours of occupation and, in some instances, turn fans off completely during hours of vacancy. Dozens of less significant, but accumulatively beneficial, modifications and systems have been adopted.

The WDM also has committed to evolving as a community leader through showcasing alternate energy technologies and efficiencies. **Winds of Change**, an interpretive exhibit in conjunction with three functioning outdoor wind turbines at the Saskatoon WDM, is the first of a long-range planned series of exhibits to be created in each of the WDM's four exhibit branches. Future exhibits will showcase different alternate renewable energy sources and technologies.

In this age of increasing complexity and specialized knowledge, community and corporate partnerships are an essential component of the WDM's energy strategy. Our newest collaborator, VerEco Homes, is working with the Museum to establish a year-long outdoor



VerEco home under construction in Vanscoy, August 2010.

WDM Photo: Tom Waiser

exhibit at the Saskatoon WDM. This exhibit will consist of a net-zero house, designed and built specifically to take advantage of the latest technologies of efficiency, solar utilization and recycling, and for minimizing energy draw from the grid. The goal is to demonstrate an affordable structure, using currently available systems and materials, which over the course of a year can contribute as much energy to the grid as it consumes, thereby earning the designation of "net-zero".

Guided tours, with a special admission rate, will be available to the public beginning this fall, and will highlight more than fifty different features and technologies which have been built into the first VerEco Home. In the new year, the WDM will be scheduling additional programming inside the Museum.

NEW WDM CONSERVATION MANAGER

We are pleased to announce that Thom Cholowski has accepted the WDM Conservation Manager position. He begins his WDM career on October 4. Thom brings a wealth of experience in operating antique steam, most recently as assistant chief engineer at Calgary's Heritage Park. Thom also has experience with the Bytown Railway Society in Ottawa, and with the Hull, Chelsea & Wakefield Railway in Quebec. He spent two years as a conductor with CP Rail based in Saskatoon.

Thom successfully completed the WDM steam course in 2007 and Saskatchewan fifth class power engineer certificate in 2008. He recently obtained his fourth class certificate in Alberta. Thom may be familiar to some in Saskatoon as he has volunteered at **Pion-Era**.

Thom is also a skilled woodworker with five years experience as a custom furniture maker. Most recently, he was project leader for the restoration of two wooden 1880s railway passenger cars at Heritage Park.

Thom's enthusiasm for heritage preservation, along with his strong background in steam, and his wide variety of experience as both a volunteer and as a supervisor will serve him well as he joins the WDM. We welcome Thom back to Saskatchewan and to the WDM.



NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

By Cheryl Stewart, Education and Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteers and staff at the North Battleford WDM ensured that visitors to the Roaring Twenties weekend were immersed in the life and times of this optimistic decade.

WDM Photo: Kristine Montgomery

Two events at the North Battleford WDM, the **Steam & Gas Weekend**, July 17-18 and the **Roaring Twenties & Car Show**, August 7-8 brought smiles to the faces of many Museum visitors. **Steam & Gas** attracted an attendance equal to last year's. Our popular Parade of Power captivated onlookers each day at 1 pm. At the **Roaring Twenties** weekend, a blast from the past was enjoyed by all. There was a long list of activities including a host of demonstrations, the car Show and Shine, a parade, the competitive driving competition, a fashion show, and a petting zoo.

The **Inspirations Trade Show** on September 10-12 was a success, with something for everyone. **Inspirations** brought together crafters, home-based businesses, Saskatchewan-made products, along with antiques and collectibles. Admission was only \$2/person.

School Threshing is coming up on September 15. The threshing program shows the development of harvest techniques from the days of hand tools to the era of steam and gas engines and beyond, with a special focus on the social aspects of the busy harvest season. Student can also stuff scarecrows to complete their immersion into rural Saskatchewan life after the First World War.

National **Culture Days** will be celebrated at the WDM on September 25-26 with free indoor activities and discounts at *The Loft* gift shop. Regular admission will apply for museum exhibits.

Mark your calendars for the **Great Pumpkin Masquerade & Family Dance** on October 23 starting at 6 pm. Get together with our ghouls and goblins for a safe evening of family fun. Entertainment includes games, crafts, a haunted house, a pumpkin gallery, costume contests, and a family dance. A concession will be available throughout the evening.

Check out our website at www.wdm.ca for details of events and school programs <http://www.wdm.ca> or call (306) 445-8033.

MOOSE JAW WDM

By Jackie Hall, Program/education Officer

It has been a busy summer at Moose Jaw's Western Development Museum. Despite an over abundance of ground water, the **Community Playday** on July 24 was enjoyed by many children and their families. Children delighted in a variety of activities from making balloon swords to playing Dinosaur Bingo to participating in one act plays. On most summer weekends we offered a number of activities based around a central theme including Rail, Saskatchewan Days, the 1950s, Aviation and Health Care. Visitors did scavenger hunts, made crafts and participated in hands-on activities such as the hoola hoop or learning to build paper planes.

We also hosted three summer day camps. Children made alien slime and ate astronaut ice cream at **Space Camp**. They searched for treasure using a treasure map and made their own Jolly Roger at **Pirate Camp**. At **Voyageur Camp**, campers made a beaver hat and learned about orienteering.

On August 19 we had a benefit concert for the WDM Short Line 101 featuring **Gary Fjellgaard and Friends**. It was an enjoyable evening that brought us closer to our fundraising goal of \$100,000. Currently we are about halfway there, with the majority of the funds coming from individuals. It is heartwarming to know that many people miss the train as much as we do!

To get our Short Line back on track, our next fundraising event promises to be unusual and off-track. On October 29 we hope you'll join mentalist and seance expert **Jeff Richards** for a chilling evening. In a dramatic first for the Museum and the city of Moose Jaw, a live seance will be conducted in an attempt to contact ghosts of the past. The evening will include a short walk through the Museum where guests will be encouraged to hunt for pockets of supernatural energy. A gathering will be held, and a presentation on the history of "talking" or ouija boards will commence. Then the candlelight will go out and we will attempt to make contact with the spirits. The most common question is "Is it real?" The answer is "Yes, it is." This is an evening of genuine paranormal phenomena. All participants must be 18 years of age and older. Tickets are \$25 and space is limited. Call (306)693-5989 for more information or for tickets.

While on the subject of the Short Line, we do still have original Short Line rail ties available. They make a great Christmas gift for the rail enthusiast and are a wonderful way to mark any special occasion for an individual or group.

Hunter of the Prairie Sea opened to the public on August 26, with an official celebration on September 2. The exhibit, on loan from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum until December 31, features a 10 metre long tylosaur. It is hard to imagine that much of Saskatchewan was once an inland sea and this creature lived where we now live!

To celebrate National **Culture Days**, we will be hosting free outdoor activities September 25-26. Regular museum admission will apply to indoor exhibits.

On October 30 we will celebrate **Halloween** from 1 pm to 4 pm with a variety of activities for little ghosts and goblins. And while it does seem too early to think about anything "Christmassy," you may want to start planning now for your entry in Delectable Gingerbread Creations. Entries will go on display on November 20 at **Kids' Secret Shopping Day**.

Thank you to our summer students for all their hard work: Ellen Chomey, Programming Assistant; Jo-vonne Dick, Technical Assistant; Daniel Okerston, Summer Visitor Services. We wish you the best as you head back to school. For information on Museum hours and events, call (306) 693-5989 or visit www.wdm.ca.

TEACHERS – JUST FOR YOU



Teachers, find out firsthand what the WDMs have for you and your students. Enjoy refreshments and meet Museum staff who will be on hand to explain how to access and use our resources, what to expect from our programs, and give you some ideas about how to prepare your students for their visit. Check out *new* programs, like our 25 Discovery Boxes. All teachers and educators welcome.

Moose Jaw	September 16
Saskatoon	September 21
North Battleford	September 22
Yorkton	October 14



SASKATOON WDM

By Corinne Daelick, Education and Volunteer Coordinator

We were thrilled to see over 4800 people come out to celebrate our Boomtown homecoming weekend at **Pion-Era** in July. Congratulations to Elias from Saskatoon who won the WDM Bingo prize.

Our 36th annual **Grade 4 Harvest Demonstration** was held September 14-16. A tradition at the Saskatoon WDM since 1975, it is a great experience for students to learn about how important farming was in the development of our province. Thank you to all of our volunteers who shared with the children of Saskatchewan.

We are very excited to be offering a new program this fall. The class is **Historical Fiction: Novels That Consider The Multiple Effects of World War II** on Monday afternoons, September 20 to November 15, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm. Instructor Glorie Tebbutt explores the effects of war on individuals and communities through a study of three works of fiction. This program compliments our **Yes, I Remember It Well** writing program which started another session on September 9. Writers learn under the guidance of writer, Lloyd Ratzlaff, and with the support of fellow participants. We are very pleased that some of the writers who have taken this program have gone on to publish their work.

To promote Canadian heritage and culture, **Culture Days** will be launched this year on September 24-26. At the WDM, take in free outdoor activities on Saturday and Sunday, September 25-26, from 1-4 pm. Enjoy wagon rides, blacksmith demonstrations, cinnamon buns baked in our clay oven and, weather permitting, an operating steam engine. Inside Boomtown, with paid admission, visit with Museum volunteers.

Thanks to the support of the Saskatchewan Pleasure Driving Association we offer **Giddy Up & Whoa – It's on a Horse & Wagon Ride We Go** from October 4-8. This program invites preschools to visit the WDM to learn about horses and their role in pioneer life. Children enjoy a horse and wagon ride and visit farm animals in our barn, visit our blacksmith shop, harness shop and livery stable looking for artifacts related to horses. Preschools must pre-book.

Shoppers - The Pioneer Thresherman's Club invites everyone to their bi-annual **Pioneer Thresherman's Club Flea Market** on Saturday, October 2, from 9 am-3:30 pm in Butler Byers Century Hall. Also, don't miss our annual **Christmas Craft Fair** on October 15-16, from 4-10 pm on Friday and 10 am-5 pm on Saturday. The Museum will be closed from 1-4 pm on Friday, October 15 in preparation for the Fair.

Watch for a new outdoor addition in October when we welcome a VerEco home to the Museum grounds. VerEco plans to offer guided tours. Details will be in the next issue of *Sparks*.

Vampires are everywhere...even in Boomtown. Join us for a frighteningly good time at **Boo Town**, Friday, October 29 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Put on your Halloween costume and scare up some fun. Enjoy Halloween games, crafts and stories. Help solve the Boomtown mystery! Regular admission applies.

Members Only - don't miss our **Member's Night and Store Sale**, November 10 from 5-8 pm. Check out the great Christmas deals for Museum members only. The Boomtown Café will also be serving 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. Purchase yours at the Museum Gift Shop from October 1 - November 9, or until tickets are sold out. The store sale opens to the public from November 12 - November 14. The **Children's Christmas Shopping Day** is Saturday, November 13, 10 am-3 pm. Volunteers will be on hand to assist children with their Christmas shopping at prices that are just right for little pocketbooks.

The Saskatoon WDM welcomes back the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation's **2010 Festival of Trees** from November 21-27, 9 am-9 pm daily. Regular Museum admission applies. For more information, contact the Festival office at (306) 384-9277, by email at festivaloftrees@sasktel.net or visit their website at www.festival-of-trees.com.

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."



YORKTON WDM

By Carla Madsen, Education/Special Events Programmer



Up to their elbows, two little pioneers mix bread dough as part of the Yorkton WDM's first **Children's Pioneer Days** summer program.

WDM Photo: Carla Madsen

The **Threshermen's Show and Senior's Festival** held on the August long weekend welcomed visitors for the 55th year of this annual event. Members of the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club* will soon be seeding the back field for next year's event and will wrap up 2010 with a potluck supper on November 6.

Our first ever **Children's Pioneer Days** was held on August 10-12, and was an amazing success! The children were very enthusiastic participants and were kept busy with activities such as rope and candle making, crafts, games and journaling. We also worked together making buns, jam and apple pie, the products of which we enjoyed with their guests at the family picnic lunch on the last day. Many of the children are already looking forward to coming again next year.

Movies at the Museum was a regular event this summer. Visitors viewed some of this year's *Yorkton Film Festival* entries and enjoyed delicious homemade ice cream, and on a few occasions, clay-oven baked bread. With the season's end, we say goodbye and good luck to our summer staff. Many thanks are extended to Melissa Konjolka, Amber Matechuk, Rebecca Radawetz and Emily Tatarniuk for their contributions to the Museum this year.

The *York Colony Quilters Guild* have begun another year of quilting activities with meetings every Wednesday at 10 am. New members are welcome. Special classes are offered throughout the year. *Guild* members will be working on projects in anticipation of their quilt show on April 29-30, 2011. For further information on how you can join in the group's activities, please call Betsy Preston at (306) 782-2949.

As part of the national **Culture Days** initiative, the Yorkton WDM will be showing videos, at no cost, from the *Yorkton Film Festival* and serving complimentary donuts and refreshments on Sunday, September 26. Join us from 2-5 pm and see some of the latest productions from Canada's very own filmmakers. Enjoy a visit to our galleries where regular admission applies.

From 3-7 pm on Thursday, October 14, we will be hosting a **Teacher Appreciation Night** to promote our education resources and to meet and greet teachers from the area. The event is free for all education professionals and offers a hands-on look at what we have for students from Pre-K to Grade 12. There will be refreshments and appetizers served, as well as door prize draws and gift shop specials.

A yearly favourite, **Celebrate Christmas Past**, will take place during the weeks of November 22 to December 3. Area preschool and elementary students will be invited to take part in this fun and festive program where they enjoy a wagon ride with members of the *Yorkton Threshermen's Club*, make a craft and go through the galleries on a scavenger hunt. And of course – we can't forget this – juice, cookies and goody bags full of candy! Our elves are already making preparations and eagerly awaiting the children's arrival.

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 on statutory holidays including October 11 (Thanksgiving) and November 11 (Remembrance Day). For further information on our activities, please call (306) 783-8361.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOOSE JAW WDM

Open daily 9 am-5 pm

Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*

Call (306) 693-5989 for information

Aug. 26 - Dec. 31	Hunter of the Prairie Sea temporary exhibit
September 16	Teacher Appreciation
September 25-26	Culture Days
October 29	Mentalist Jeff Richards
October 30	Happy Halloween
November 11	CLOSED 9 am-1 pm for Remembrance Day
November 20	Kids' Secret Shopping

NORTH BATTLEFORD WDM

Open daily 9 am-5 pm

CLOSED Thanksgiving Day and Remembrance Day

Shop at *The Loft*

Call (306) 445-8033 for information

September 22	Teacher Appreciation
September 25-26	Culture Days
October 23	14th Annual Great Pumpkin Masquerade
November 6	Fiddle Contest
November 20	Christmas Jamboree

SASKATOON WDM

Open daily 9 am-5 pm.

CLOSED Thanksgiving Day and Remembrance Day

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

Shop at the *Museum Store*

Call (306) 931-1910 for information

September 20	Historical Fiction class begins
September 21	Teacher Appreciation
September 25-26	Culture Days
October 2	Pioneer Threshermen's Club Flea Market
October 15	CLOSED from 1-4 pm
October 15-16	Christmas Craft Fair, Friday 4-10 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm
October 29	Boo Town
November 10	Members' Night and Store Sale
November 13	Children's Shopping Day
November 21-27	Festival of Trees

YORKTON WDM

Open weekdays 9 am-5 pm

Weekends open from noon to 5 pm

Closed statutory holidays.

Shop at the *Museum Gift Shop*

Call (306) 783-8361 for information

September 26	Culture Day
October 14	Teacher Appreciation

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NEW MEMBERS

New members joining the Museum are:

Jessica Anderson & Per Warmedal- Saskatoon	Darren & Delayne Mitchell - Saskatoon
Jeff Baker & Sandy Bonny - Saskatoon	Thomas & Pamela Montgomery - Moose Jaw
Ed Balion - Bradwell	Susan Moyer - Moose Jaw
Sandra Blevins & Nowell Seaman - Saskatoon	Mark & Linda Muzyka - Battleford
Gary & Alice Brown - Saskatoon	Louise Nykiforuk - North Battleford
Mira Campbell - St. Brieux	Adele Owatz - Moose Jaw
Declan & Jennifer Carey - Saskatoon	Robert & Lisa Paine - Saskatoon
Angèle Champigny - Lloydminster	A. James Reid - Saskatoon
Lynn Claypool - Saskatoon	James & Suzanne Roberge - Saskatoon
Maurice & Joyce Creelman - Saskatoon	Larrie & Wilma Roosdahl - Saskatoon
Adil & Michelle Currimbhoy - Saskatoon	Charlene Rye & Ken Zdunich - Kenaston
Diane Dyck - Battleford	Audrey Sadler & Melanie Sadler - Saskatoon
Jake & Tina Fehr - Hepburn	Curtis Schenk - Moose Jaw
V. & J. Gebhardt - Regina	Melissa Schubert - Saskatoon
Blair & Carmen Gillies - Saskatoon	Janine Shurmer - Saskatoon
Rick & Lillian Grosy - Saskatoon	Darren Sinclair & Family - Moose Jaw
Jack Haffermehl - Biggar	Terry & Janet Sondresen - Saskatoon
Brian & Carrie Harms - Saskatoon	Larry & Sheila Sperling - Saskatoon
Warren & Renee Hay - Saskatoon	Eden Tougas-Spicer - North Battleford
Patrick & Angela Jamieson - Grasswood	Andy & Karen Welch-Smith - Saskatoon
Ryan & Kristy Jarvis - Saskatoon	Sabrina Wilson - Saskatoon
Candy Keet-Cote - Vanscoy	Glenn Wiseman - Yorkton
Bob & Grace Kemmer - Saskatoon	James Will & Nadine Lepage - Saskatoon
Pat MacLean - Saskatoon	
Glenn Massie - Biggar	
K. & K. Matthies - Caronport	
David Milstead - Denver, USA	

ARTIFACT DONORS

Recently, the WDM received donations of artifacts from:

Don Adams - Saskatoon	Diana Matthews Matsuda - Parksville, BC
Nick Barabanoff - Saskatoon	Kristine Montgomery - Saskatoon
Arloa Beach - Saskatoon	Saskatoon Horticulture Society
Karla Braun - Laird	Bernard Straker - Regina
Dyanne Christensen - Saskatoon	Ben Waldron - Saskatoon
Allan Earle - Dalmeny	Terry Webb - Mission, BC

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Hay, Chair - Bradwell

Carol Bruce - Saskatoon

Winston Elashchuk - Yorkton

Don Fox - Moose Jaw

Kevin Kurulak - Biggar

James Phelps - Cochin

Dean Redman - Moose Jaw

Rena Weikle, past Chair - Cut Knife



The following paragraph was unintentionally omitted from the Report from the Executive Director on Page 1. We apologize to the author and to VerEco homes for the omission:

The WDM is grateful to VerEco Homes for initiating this project, and to the many sponsorship partners who have demonstrated their support for this exhibit. It is our hope that those who visit the VerEco Home will be inspired to follow this example of what can be achieved in our pursuit of evolving as an environmentally responsible and resource-conscious society.



Western Development Museum