

Lumsden Historical Society Inc.

(the Museum)

Spring Newsletter 2024

Now that 2024 is well underway, there's hope our visitor numbers will return to normal as we move further away from the pandemic years and their social and financial impact on our lives. Our attendance last year during regular hours totaled 300 people. However, when that number is combined with the untold numbers who came for our special days—National Indigenous Peoples Day, Canada Day, Garage Sale and the Scarecrow Festival—our total visitor count is up around 1,000, or more, which is about half our normal number of visitors.

As for 2023, we spent much of our volunteer time in maintaining our grounds and buildings, and re-assessing our collection of artifacts. For example, we continued to plant young trees to replace the poplars that continue to die off. It's part of our effort to keep a park-like environment at the museum site. Building maintenance included scraping, sanding and re-staining the steps and ramps to four of our historic buildings, putting a metal roof on our red storage shed, covering many of the glass windows on our buildings with a clear, tough plastic, and finishing the grouting of the main room in the log house. The archival work had two objectives: rationalize our collection with the museum's stated reason-for-being and eliminate the number of duplicate or damaged items in storage.



Volunteers Dave Hansen (ladder), Steve Crofts (middle) and Alan Priddell putting a metal roof on our red storage building. Other volunteers in the roofing crew were Gord Cuddington, Bill King, Lynda Mack and Bill Reid.

A number of photographs showing some of the early days of Disley were obtained last year for our photograph archival file. They show the important role the settlement played at one time, providing among other services, a hotel for short or long stays, a harness shop to provide much needed attachments and repairs for leather harness and a general store for everyday living needs.



We also completed a new display last year to help explain how and why the Qu'Appelle Valley was formed many thousands of years ago. The display is made up of four panels and is entitled **The World's Last Ice Age**. It's also a reminder about how much the earth's climate has and continues to change over time

Financially, we ended 2023 with a surplus of \$2,784.44. Our total revenue was \$16,869.84 while expenses were \$14,085.40. The surplus is being used to get us started on this year's activities, which include our annual garage sale that will be held on May 25th as part of the community wide garage sale day in Lumsden. Please phone any board member—Bill King, Penny Schneider, Dave Hansen, Monika Zmetana, Lynda Mack, Steve Turnquist or Gord Cuddington—if you have items to donate to the sale and would like us to pick them up. Along with these donations, the museum will be putting some collectible items in the sale, items that for a number of reasons the museum no longer needs.

Our thanks to the Lumsden Lions Club and Croft Electric in enabling us to purchase and install a digital security system at the museum. The system consists of four cameras running 24/7, a recorder and a video screen. We also acknowledge the donation from the late Bill Young's estate. The contribution is designated for any repairs needed to the Forest church that was once located "across" the road from the Young farm and is now at the museum as one of our historic buildings.

If you are interested in helping preserve and showcase the history of this area, there is room on the Historical Society's Board (museum) for new members. We also need volunteers on a come-and-go basis to help with every day maintenance requirements. Contact any of our board members to let us know of your interest or attend our **annual meeting on April 16th at the Chalet in River Park from 2-4 pm**.

Officially, the museum is open from the May long weekend to the September long weekend. During May, June and September, visiting is by appointment. During July and August we are open Thursday through Sunday from 11am to 4pm., or by appointment.

Upcoming special events at the museum:

- May 25 Garage Sale
- June 21 Indigenous Day
- July 1 Canada Day
- Sept. 28 Scarecrow Festival Car Show



Membership/Book/Donation Form

(Individual and family fees increased by five dollars each this year. Please see membership form below.)

Name _____ Address _____

Town/Prov/Postal Code _____

E-mail _____

Seniors \$10 Individual \$20 Family \$25 Business/Institution \$30

I would like ____ copies of the Hills of Home, reprint @ \$40 per book

I would like ____ copies of the Forest Church Cook Book @ \$5.00 per book

Donation to museum _____

Make cheques payable to the Lumsden Historical Society Inc., Box 91, Lumsden, SK, S0G 3C0.

Your membership helps cover the cost of ongoing activities at the museum.

"Before the past is hurried and gone."