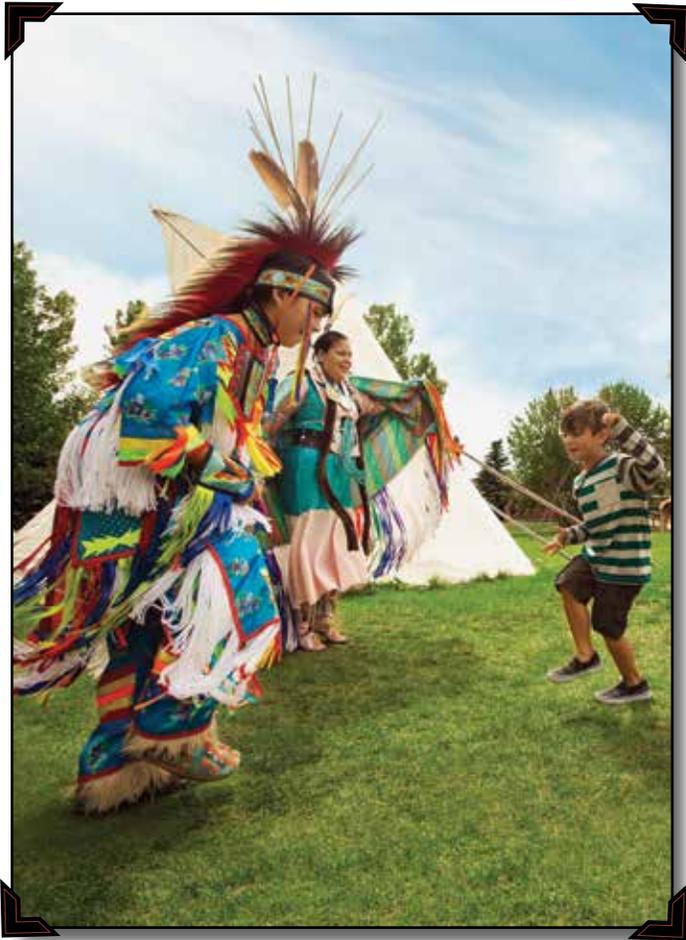




YOUR GIFTS AT WORK - 2019 -



Because of you, Heritage Park was able to create enriching and engaging experiences for visitors of all ages in 2019.

You make it possible for Heritage Park to fulfill its mandate of "Connecting People to the Settlement of Western Canada and preserving our Culture and Heritage" You make history come alive in new and exciting ways. The following stories highlight some of the key accomplishments and programs undertaken at Heritage Park during 2019, thanks to your support.



THE SMELL OF GREASEPAINT...

THE ROAR OF THE CROWD: LIVING HISTORY THEATRE



This was an original 35 minute musical in the historic Canmore Opera House based on an Alberta legend about a gold mine in the Rockies that seemed to condemn its seekers to an early death.

Sometimes our younger guests get drawn into the action. Trevor related an amusing incident during *The Importance of Catching Ernest*. Historically, Ernest Cashel was wanted for the murder of Isaac Rufus Belt and was often successful at eluding police and capture. Guests are welcomed into the story in Scene Two participating in a recruiting session to catch Ernest Cashel. Many young guests felt so inspired to catch Ernest that a mob mentality arose. While the Constable led the young recruits to surround the House, Scott, the actor playing Ernest, joked that, “as I hid in the Airdrie House from the screaming children outside, I felt my own life was in danger!”

Though summer holds the largest part of our theatrical program, our Artistic Liaison is busy throughout the year, assisting the summer camps with drama presentations, and developing outdoor and indoor vignettes and new musicals for the popular **Ghouls’ Night Out** and **Once Upon a Christmas**. Approximately 40 eager community players and volunteers step up to take on roles in these annual special events. Artistic staff are free to explore themes that are not historic but are intended to scare (just a wee bit!) and delight our visitors. We encourage gifts to Character Interpretation and our Theatre Program and were particularly grateful for the support received from the Nickle Family Foundation in 2019.

As a living history museum, historically themed vignettes are an integral part of bringing Western Canadian and Albertan stories to life. Each year the Park’s Artistic Liaison, Trevor Matheson, develops scripts and works with Interpretation staff, writers and directors, to develop stories that will illuminate a part of our history that is frequently unknown, even to those who grew up in this area. Often these stories are connected to a particular exhibit such as the **Radio Play** in the Famous 5 Interpretive Centre which highlighted the major life events of Emily Murphy or the street scene **Black Gold Boom** about the discovery of oil in Turner Valley. This story connects to the newly restored Dingman #1 Well which will open to the public in 2020.

Besides **Black Gold Boom**, street scenes **The Runaway Bride** and **The Importance of Catching Ernest** caught our visitors mid-stride and drew them in to stories that captivated and enlightened. Added to the entertainment options was **The Curse of the Lost Lemon Mine**.



LITTLE SYNAGOGUE ON THE PRAIRIE

TEN YEARS OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY



The Montefiore Institute, or the Little Synagogue, was likely named for philanthropist Moses Montefiore, who helped to establish a colony of Jewish settlers in 1910 in arid eastern Alberta. The colony grew and by 1916 had erected a building on donated land as a place for community. Unfortunately, the poor soil and extended drought drove away the settlers and the settlement was abandoned by 1927. The building survived the Great Depression as a granary and was at one point re-purposed as a home in Hanna, Alberta. A local society of supporters and philanthropists purchased the building and had it restored, moved and donated to the Park in 2008.

Since opening in 2009, the Montefiore Institute has returned to its past as a place of faith, education, and celebration and countless visitors have spent time with interpreters learning the faith traditions, stories and songs of the Jewish people. Its warm and inviting atmosphere draws visitors in and gives them an opportunity to engage in fascinating conversations about a different religious tradition and culture with knowledgeable interpreters. As volunteer Trudy Cowan shared, “People of every cultural and religious background have told us that they feel comfortable asking a question that has been on their minds for years – it is a safe and welcoming place to ask, learn, discuss.”

As 2019 was the tenth anniversary, Heritage Park celebrated with special presentations throughout the Park season. On Sunday, June 23, we featured an afternoon of lively musical entertainment



“It is a place where people of various faiths, and people of no faith, can explore their commonality; where bridges of understanding can and are built.”

– Judy Shapiro



featuring Paulo, a local performer of historical Yiddish songs, including an original composition about the Little Synagogue on the Prairie. The JCC Klezmer Band and an anniversary cake shared with guests capped off the day. In July, Rabbi Menachem Matusof gave a fascinating presentation concerning how a Torah scroll is prepared and written. In August, as part of Historic Calgary Week, long time volunteer Irena Karshenbaum gave an illustrated presentation entitled *The Montefiore Institute Celebrates Ten Years at Heritage Park*. A special commemorative bookmark was given to visitors during our special programming events. Programming didn't end there but continued with Chanukah activities and family sing-a-longs during the five weeks of Once Upon a Christmas. A special thanks goes out to our donors and friends from the Jewish community and the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary for helping to make these special days possible.

DID YOU KNOW?



Heritage Park currently has 16,000 individual pieces in its costume collection! Costuming, under the direction of Meg Furler, is actively building the inventory to 20,000 over a 5 year period. The reason for that growth is to ensure that every staff or volunteer requiring a costume to do their work has at least one or two changes of clothes. If they could be seen by a visitor, even for garbage removal, they are costumed. There are also vast differences in the time periods and the costumes required when you move from the Hudson's Bay Fort and Encampment area (1860's to 1890's) to the Village (c. 1910), to the Famous 5 Interpretive Centre and Gasoline Alley (late '20s to 1930's). Even the two NWMP detachments have two sets of costumes because they represent different locales and time periods. Add to that costumes

for every child in summer camp and special costumes for events such as **Ghouls' Night Out**, you might understand why the collection has grown so large.

Sourcing appropriate fabrics and accessories such as hats with the right historical look are a big part of the job for Meg and her team. 75% of costumes are made in house. As Meg says with pride, "we are better at producing what we need than anyone else." Very little is wasted or thrown out. Costuming have become experts at patching, or turning sun-faded shirts into kerchiefs or quilt pieces. The use of plastic is minimized and replaced with shell, wood or metal buttons, all recyclable. On average, a historical costume will last twelve years.

Research continues to inform choices particularly when it comes to our Indigenous interpreters. Different groups from Treaty 7 Nations are represented at the park along with Métis Nation Region 3. With the help of Elders and the Glenbow Archives, Heritage Park was able to make changes to the costumes to be more true to an interpreter's own heritage. Each interpreter is encouraged to show their own personal history and regalia as they tell the stories and share the rituals of their ancestors.

In 2019, volunteers donated 2,200 hours to the Costume Department; more than half of that time spent sewing. The number of volunteers trained and dedicated to textile conservation more than doubled.



CELEBRATING OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

PAST AND PRESENT



During the main Park season, our interpreters share the stories of past cultural practices and draw upon the wealth of their own family history and cultural heritage. During special events such as Canada Day, Heritage Day and National Indigenous Peoples Day, you will see special performances of dancing, drumming, fiddling, singing and other celebrations to honour the proud cultures of our Indigenous neighbours. Though we had enough rain on June 21 to float the S.S. Moyie, we brought the performances indoors. Wonderful presentations of Métis jigging, Blackfoot games, dancing and drumming by Eya-Hay Nakoda and a performance by Ira Provost, singer/songwriter were enjoyed by visitors and school groups despite the challenging weather. Your gifts to Heritage Park help us to celebrate this relationship with First Nations and the unique stories and gifts they bring to the Park.

For the first time (but not the last), Heritage Park celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day with free programming in the Town Square on June 21. Heritage Park is proud to have built programming around the Encampment area that acknowledges the importance of Indigenous peoples and the direct connection they have to the land occupied by the Park.

“I really do want to thank you for not only our performance opportunity but that Heritage Park acknowledges National Indigenous Peoples Day, and does so with care and integrity! Keep up the great work you do!”

— Ira Provost, singer/songwriter

The First Nations Encampment at Heritage Park provides a venue for sharing Indigenous history and culture with guests. Heritage Park has made a strong commitment to Indigenous programming. Since 2007, we have developed an active program to tell the story of the Treaty 7 First Nations (this includes the Blackfoot Confederacy – Siksika, Kainai, and Pikani Nations, whose traditional territory includes Calgary as well as the Tsuu’tina Nation and Stoney Nakoda Nation). We also tell the story of the Métis of Western Canada through the Hudson’s Bay Fort, Livingston House and Our Lady of Peace Mission.



SCHOOL DOESN'T STOP JUNE 30...WHAT?!!



What was your most memorable school field trip? What was your favourite summer camp? Many of us have had the opportunity at some point in our younger lives to experience an eye-widening experience or accompany our children to one. Maybe it was a visit to a wildlife sanctuary, or a chance to explore music or art, or perhaps it was a chance to ride a horse, learn to canoe or camp in the wild. If you were especially lucky, perhaps you got to attend summer camp at Heritage Park.

Summer camps at Heritage Park fall under Education and are a popular way to be outdoors, get hands-on with plants and animals and live as children did more than 100 years ago. But it is more than a blast in the past. It is a very real opportunity to build understanding, learn new skills and develop confidence. Lindsie Bruns, Education Program Specialist, has worked in the Agricultural area of Heritage Park as a teamster for horses and animal caregiver, and was able to transfer that knowledge to our Education programs to share with campers. Lindsie lives on a family farm near Calgary with her parents, husband and four school-age children and literally brings her farm to work. That is, some of the chickens, pigs and other animals come to live at Heritage Park for the summer. Lindsie says, "The best way to learn is by doing because retention is so much higher."

Depending on the age of the camper, they may get to hold, pet and feed the animals, learn how to lead a horse, what is involved in driving a team and a thousand other interesting bits of knowledge that a pioneer child would have learned. They learn how to design their own mini-farm and decide where to place the buildings and how best to access water. Nothing might teach you how to appreciate fresh water more than having to carry it from the village pump all the way to the ranch house! Children get so enthusiastic about the various farm chores; they even offer to take over work done by the ranch hands such as cleaning the pens or the mud out of horse hooves. These aren't little ponies but big draft horses. All of the children learn how to be safe around the big animals as well as small. The camp experience is so impactful and that as they grow, some of our campers become junior leaders and camp leaders or come to work in the Park in some capacity when they are older.

We were particularly successful in 2019 in raising funds through the Calgary Shaw Charity Classic and the Shaw Birdies for Kids program to support Education. Thank you to all the donors whose gifts were matched by the Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation. We are hopeful we can do even better in 2020.



IT'S A WRAP!



The Grand Finale of the **Hays Breakfast** took place on July 7 after an incredible 69 years of Stampede royalty, political hobnobbin', sausage chompin', Sillabubin' and fundraisin' for Heritage Park. Thank you to one and all who made this event so beloved and memorable. Thank you to Dan and Kathy Hays for sharing this tradition with us and to both the Hays and Peters families for many years of generous sponsorship along with our other great community sponsors, and to Gordon Food Service for making sure no one went hungry. Yahoo!



WE REMEMBER...RON CAREY

On November 3, 2019, Heritage Park lost a great friend and benefactor, Mr. Ron Carey. Mr. Carey tragically passed away while participating in an antique car rally in the United Kingdom, an activity he clearly loved. Our own Gasoline Alley Museum would not have existed if it had not been for Ron Carey. It was built to house a massive collection of vehicles, gas pumps and other paraphernalia donated to the park in 2002, that Ron had been collecting and carefully restoring over many years. Ron was an integral part of the design and construction of the Museum which opened in 2009. Gasoline Alley Museum not only enabled Heritage Park to display this amazing collection and add to the historical time periods and stories we could tell, but it made it possible for the Park to be open all year-round and provide an important source of revenue for the continued operation of the Park.

Ron was a guest at our 10th anniversary celebrations in spring 2019 which had a free admission day, special entertainment and a celebratory cake. Ron was happy to see all of the families who came to enjoy the



“This is a legacy that’s going to stand for a long time. A lot of people wanted my collection or parts of my collection and I’ve seen a lot of private museums started up. This stuff goes to them and a few years later they go broke and this stuff all disappears. This way this stuff could be here for a hundred years from now, and I really hope it is.”

— Ron Carey

day and thanked the Park and donors for their contributions to Gasoline Alley and the “It’s About Time” capital campaign. On December 9, the community was able to come together with the family to remember him and celebrate his legacy and love for the motor vehicle in every inch of Gasoline Alley. You will always be remembered Mr. Carey.

ABOUT US



Thank you for caring about the future of Heritage Park and helping us to preserve the past. We couldn't do it without you!

MISSION STATEMENT

Connecting People with the Settlement of Western Canada and Preserving our Culture and Heritage.

VISION

To be recognized as Canada's leading living history museum.

VALUES

We welcome guests to be inspired and immersed in a historical setting

We create an atmosphere of inclusion, engagement and fulfillment for employees and volunteers

We recognize donors and supporters as an integral part of our success

We deliver programming that fulfills our mission and vision

We practice responsible stewardship over our human, collection & financial assets



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