

Melville rich in history at local museums



History buffs visiting Melville will certainly want to add the Melville Heritage Museum and Melville Railway Museum to their itinerary.

The Heritage Museum is one of the oldest buildings in Melville, having begun life in 1913 as the Luther Academy, a boarding school for high school boys of Lutheran faith until it evolved into a nursing home in 1927 and a regional museum in 1983.

The first museum board was formed in 1975 and the City of Melville declared the building a Heritage Site in 1981. The grand opening of the Heritage Museum was held in 1983 in conjunction with the city's 75th reunion.

The Museum features four levels of exhibits with more than 10,000 artifacts and about 1,000 books. The books include language text books in German, English, Greek, Ukrainian and Latin.

The museum is always changing and adding exhibits, as often as every year. Most artifacts are donated, some are purchased, with all being preserved. Short-term loans are also acceptable and the generosity of donors has meant interesting exhibits can be rotated so there are always new items to view.

Main attractions are the chapel, library, railway and military exhibits. In the military room an extensive exhibit of HMCS Melville features artifacts received from former members of the 1939-45 crew.

There are also more than 100 black and white original photographs are on display throughout the museum as well as a vintage 1910 portrait camera.

Other exhibits include a principal's office — which is restored the way it was used in the beginning.

What is the oldest item in the museum?

A volume of German-language sermons, printed in Leipzig in 1721.

The museum's newest exhibit seeks to bring the viewer a history of sports and recreation, portraying some of the internationally-known athletes who have so ably represented Melville.

There is also a gift shop supplied with a selection of Saskatchewan-made souvenirs.

Visitors to the museum can relax in the 'koffee-klatsch'-- the museum coffee shop.

A video of the entire museum can be viewed while having a beverage. The video tour is a popular feature for those that might have difficulty using the stairs.

The museum opens for the season starting with the Open House Tea on Wednesday May 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and on this day there will be free admission in recognition of International Museum Day.

The museum is open to the public starting May 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays Through Saturdays.

Large groups may book tours by contacting us at melmus@sasktel.net or calling 728-2070.

In addition to a Heritage Museum, the City of Melville is also home to the Railway Museum, located in the Melville Regional Park.

The Railway Museum is highlighted by a steam locomotive and a caboosé but also has a building containing many artifacts from years of railroading in Saskatchewan.

The majority of the exhibits include various pieces of communications equipment, from telegraphs, to telephones. There are also records from the Grand Trunk Railway and CNR, including employee records.

The museum became official in 1986 when the City of Melville designated it under the Heritage Act.



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Melville Heritage Museum



Melville Heritage Museum (Luther Academy) 1913

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OPEN HOUSE TEA

Wednesday, May 19, 2010
1 - 4 p.m.

Museum Hours

June - September, 2010

Monday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

100 Heritage Drive
(next to St. Peter's Hospital and St. Paul Lutheran Home)

Phone/Fax 306-728-2070
Email: melmus@sasktel.net

Melville Heritage Museum

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