



Western Development Museum
North Battleford

Box 183, Hwys 16 & 40
North Battleford, SK S9A 2Y1

P: 306-445-8033
W: wdm.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAVE THE 1158!
WDM NORTH BATTLEFORD FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED**

Locomotive 1158 stands at the WDM North Battleford Heritage Farm and Village as a larger than life reminder of the past. The railway, powered by steam locomotives, reduced the massive geography of Canada, bringing millions of people to new homes in the early 20th century. The locomotive was truly the vehicle of the machinery of immigration.

60 years of rain, sun and wind have been hard on the 1158 locomotive. It will take a lot of work to restore it, but you can help the WDM bring back the shine of its running days. \$200,000 is needed for preservation and cosmetic restoration of the engine.

“This locomotive was built in 1913 for the Canadian Northern Railway,” says Tim Pomeroy, WDM Conservation Manager. “Canadian Northern essentially created North Battleford as they built the railway through this area on its way to the Pacific. 1158 will be painted and lettered to honour this link with our history and be a reminder to all who pass by what early life in a small town was like. The remainder of the train will be painted to reflect the 1920s era. Watch for the stock car to have fresh paint in the next few weeks.”

This is the largest artifact restoration the WDM has undertaken in many years. Donations will remove decades of grime and rust, paint the entire locomotive and tender, paint and polish all the pieces – the lights, the whistle, the bell – and bring it back to what it might have looked like pulling up to an elevator or a passenger platform, just as it is in the Heritage Farm and Village along Highway 16.

The campaign to raise \$200,000 launches at the 60% complete mark largely thanks to the generosity and hard work of the WDM Volunteers Association. The WDMVA works tirelessly year-round at bingos, with the *Great Escapes Vacation Lottery*, and out in the community raising much-needed funds for the WDM in North Battleford. At today’s launch, WDMVA President Dick Scotton presented a cheque for \$60,000 to WDM North Battleford Manager Joyce Smith. The WDM’s Conservation and Collections department is matching the WDMVA gift as an investment in the North Battleford icon.

“1158 is a showpiece for the WDM in North Battleford, which is why this campaign is so important,” says Joyce Smith, Manager of the WDM North Battleford. “You can’t tell the story of the early days of Saskatchewan without steam locomotives. We are so grateful to our dedicated volunteers for kickstarting the campaign. It’s impossible to put a dollar value on everything our volunteers have done

and continue to do for the WDM.” Smith said the first phase of the project is complete. “First we needed to move the engine down the track and we are grateful to Moody’s Equipment for helping us do that in April. We built the tent around it and brought in a crew to do the initial heavy clean-up work. The next stage is to make it beautiful again and we are hoping the community will help us with this very special project that will honour our heritage and be a source of pride for North Battleford.”

Donations can be made in person at the WDM North Battleford, by calling 1-800-363-6345 or online at save1158.wdm.ca

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For more information:

Joyce Smith, Manager
WDM North Battleford
Ph: 306-445-8033
jsmith@wdm.ca
save1158.wdm.ca

or

Tim Pomeroy, Conservation Manager
WDM Curatorial Centre
Ph: 306-934-1400
tpomeroy@wdm.ca
save1158.wdm.ca