

THE STONY PLAIN & PARKLAND PIONEER MUSEUM



PARKLAND COUNTY 2025 UPDATE

THE PIONEER MUSEUM

Since our last update to Council.

We are very pleased to see that our visitor numbers have returned to pre-covid levels, and we are getting more and more calls for school groups, seniors tours and weddings all the time.

Our 2024 visitor numbers reached 22,905. Based on our previous guest books over the last ten years, we have extrapolated that Between 12% and 16% come from Parkland County itself and between 45% and 60% come from the Tri-Municipal region.

Last year we had a great Farmer's Days with a total of 8,200 guests over the two days. We had 3,200 guests for Canada Day and hundreds of Bluegrass attendees take in workshops and concerts on our grounds.

One of our main restoration projects was a 100-year-old caboose, which we finished restoring last year.



We had 650 at our Harvest Festival during Alberta Culture Days and having it a week earlier worked well with the weather. This is our main internal event where we showcase our farming history of this area, through our use of period farm machinery and demonstrations. To help this, each winter we restore a few pieces of farm machinery.

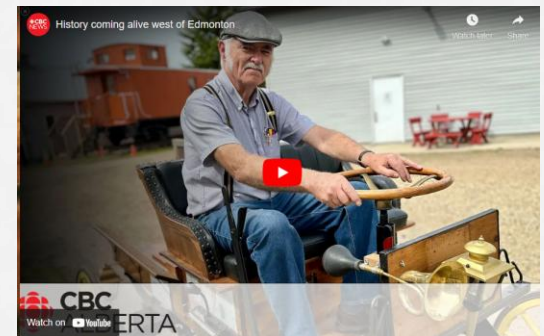


We are very proud of our Education Committee and the programs they have developed. These programs were endorsed by PSD70, Everygreen, Edmonton Public and Edmonton Separate School Divisions. They are set to test programs to match the new curriculum, in June with two local schools.



We start each year with strong attendance at our annual Speaker Series: last year with talks on local film making, archeology, and Canada's involvement in Rwanda, and this year with talks on Bird Conservation, The Franklin Expedition, Culture and History of the Parkland Ukrainian Dancers, and International Artist Robert Bailey.

In May last year we were highlighted on CBC's "Our Edmonton" TV program and had a lot of great comments and visitors come because of it, strengthening our tourist attraction profile.





We have developed a new collaborative partnership with MacEwan University for accommodating their interns and projects, which brings us to being a researching museum. This is a big step up for the museum and raises our profile another notch. We have three Departments interested, History, Anthropology and Computing Sciences. Our first intern started this January, and we will have his report by mid April.

2024/2025 Facility Expansion Project.

We have been working on this project for over two years. Phase One is the construction of two 60ft x 100ft buildings. Thanks to sponsors like TransAlta, Burnco, Myshak, Genics, Pipe Fitters Union 488, the generous support of Parkland County and the Town of Stony Plain, and a CFEP grant, all the funds required were in place. Construction has been completed on both buildings.



2024/2025 Facility Expansion Project.

Due to increasing costs and the struggle for grants we have divided the project into two more phases. Phase Two of the project will take place in 2025 with a budget of \$330,000.

We have applied for another provincial CFEP grant for \$125,000.00 , and we already have \$205,000.00 raised and in the bank for matching.

Phase Two will be working on the interior of building one to the point of finishing the interior drywall. This means the installation of the concrete floor with in-floor heating tubes, framing of the interior walls, and roughing in all electric lines and plumbing.



2024/2025 Facility Expansion Project.

Phase Three in 2026 will be the installation of the heating, lighting and interior painting, as well as the installation of the two exhibits themselves, with a budget of approximately \$180,000.00. They are the Power-in-Parkland Exhibit and the Military Exhibit. Both of these exhibits being extremely important in the history of Parkland County and its residents. It will also house an open space that we can use for temporary exhibits, during events, or for performance and gathering space.



Facility Expansion Project.

This adds two buildings, one for much needed unheated space to display machinery and the other, even more needed, heated space, which will house our two new permanent exhibits, and an open space. We are planning on summer and fall of 2027 for the official openings.

With each improvement and addition to our facility, it increases our value to the community's we serve, raises our profile and increases our attraction of visitors and tourists to the museum and the area.

Our goal is not only to be the best museum that we can be, but also to be the best community member and booster we can be.

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THANK YOU!