

March 14, 2025

Attention: Parkland County Administrators

Re: 2024 Annual Report – Programs, Services, and Usage

On behalf of the Wabamun & District Museum, please find below our Annual Report outlining the programs, services, and visitor statistics for the 2024 season, as per the requirements of our cost-share agreement with Parkland County. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to our ongoing partnership in preserving and sharing the rich history of our region.

1. Overview of Operations

- **Seasonal Schedule:** The museum operates from the May long weekend until the end of September, open **Wednesday to Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
 - **Staffing:** Our museum is fully managed by dedicated community volunteers. These volunteers contribute countless hours each year to curate exhibits, welcome guests, and deliver educational programs.
 - **Summer Student Grant:** We have applied for a summer student grant for the upcoming season. Confirmation of funding will be received in April. If successful, this will allow us to extend our outreach and offer enhanced programming.
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2. Visitor and Community Engagement

- **Total Visitors (2024 Season):** Over **380** people visited the museum, including local residents, travelers from across Alberta, and tourists from around the world. We hosted 2 school tours. Approximately 80% are Parkland County residents with 20% tourists.
 - **Local Queries:** We receive frequent requests from Parkland County residents seeking information on local history, genealogy, and the area's past businesses and institutions. Our volunteers diligently research and provide whatever relevant information is available in our archives.
 - **Provincial Park Visitors:** A significant number of guests come from the neighboring Provincial Park, enriching the local tourist experience and bringing new audiences into the museum.
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3. Programs and Services

a) Community Programs for Parkland County Residents

1. Art to Zen March 2,9,16,25, 2024

- Participants: **59** local residents (2024)
- Description: An art-focused mindfulness program that encourages creativity, relaxation, and community bonding.
- March 8, 2025 **22** Parkland County residents

This program is designed to be inclusive and educational.

b) Artifact Collection and Exhibits

- **Local Artifacts:** The museum houses a diverse collection of artifacts generously donated by area residents. These items illustrate the day-to-day life of past generations, preserving and celebrating the heritage of Parkland County.
 - **Historical Context:** The collection and interpretive displays offer visitors an opportunity to learn about the early industries, families, and stories that shaped our county.
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4. Looking Ahead

- **Community Outreach:** We plan to continue engaging with community members through special events, educational workshops, and collaborative projects with local schools and organizations.
 - **Volunteer Recruitment:** We aim to grow our volunteer base to cover open hours, develop new exhibits, and assist with research requests.
 - **Expanded Programming:** Should our summer student grant application be successful, we will enhance our current programs and possibly introduce new activities aimed at youth and seniors—strengthening intergenerational connections within the county.
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5. Conclusion

The Wabamun & District Museum remains a cherished community resource, reflecting the spirit and heritage of Parkland County. Our volunteer-driven programs, rich artifact collection, and educational offerings continue to bring value to residents and visitors alike. We believe these services foster community pride, encourage cultural tourism, and preserve the stories that have shaped our region.

Your ongoing support through the cost-share agreement is invaluable in helping us maintain this vital connection to our local history. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to another successful year of sharing our past with Parkland County residents.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Reg Faulkner at 780-892-4908 rcfaulk@gmail.com.

Submitted by:

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