

# The Humboldt Telegraph



## Humboldt and District

Fall/Winter 2009

## Museum and Gallery Newsletter



### “Excavating Original Humboldt”

Original Humboldt is the site of the original Humboldt Telegraph Station, located alongside the prominent Carlton Trail. The station was constructed in 1878 by George and Catherine Weldon as part of the 1876 Dominion Telegraph Line. George was the lineman and Catherine was the first female operator in western Canada. The area became a strategic military and communications site during the 1885 Resistance, when Lt. Colonel Denison and his troops fortified the site by digging an extensive series of trenches. Denison notes that “Humboldt became the end of the telegraph line.” The site was purchased in the spring of 2009 through the generous contributions of the project founders.

So how do you locate and then excavate a site over 100 years old? Please see page 3 for further details.



Left: Jim Finnigan (standing) of Western Heritage Services (WHS) supervises the excavation at the Original Humboldt site. Above: Bill Ferris (right) of WHS explains ground penetrating radar survey work to Ed Novocosky.



**Humboldt & District Museum & Gallery**

Corner of Main Street and Sixth Avenue

Box 2349 Humboldt, Sask. S0K 2A0

Tel: (306) 682-5226 Fax: (306) 682-1430

Email: [humboldt.museum@sasktel.net](mailto:humboldt.museum@sasktel.net)

Website: [www.humboldtmuseum.ca](http://www.humboldtmuseum.ca)

**Visit the Museum Year Round**

Tuesday - Saturday 1 - 5 pm

Admission by donation.

## Upcoming Exhibits and Sponsors

### **“Advertising Means and Mechanisms” July 7 – September 30**

This exhibit features an assortment of advertising attempts from area businesses – including pens, calendars, shoe horns and much more – a fun, historical look at promoting a business!

### **“Ken Dalgarno - Sculpted Landscapes” October 1 - 24**

This art exhibition chronicles the now decaying and vanishing farm buildings and grain elevators that once dotted the Saskatchewan prairies. The display travels the province through the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, and is brought to Humboldt by the Humboldt Area Visual Arts Committee and Conexus.



Ken Dalgarno will be in Humboldt for the **Opening Reception** of this exhibit on Monday, October 5. Join us at the museum at 7:30 pm for an informal presentation about the exhibit and Ken's new series of paintings "The Crooked Trees of Alticane" which are the deformed trees located near Hafford, SK.

### **Lamp Collection October 29 – November 21**

Visit the museum to view an illuminating display of historic lamps in various styles.

### **Christmas Exhibit November 26 – December 31**

Celebrate the holiday season with a tour through our old-fashioned Christmas display.

*Many of our exhibits have accompanying education programs and activities. Please contact us to learn more about bringing your school class or community group to view these exhibits.*



### **We're looking for more sports history!**

*The Museum and the Humboldt and District Sports Hall of Fame are partnering on a new project to showcase more of our exciting sports history. The multi-media project will expand the museum's capabilities to display information, photographs and video clips in an exciting new digital format. We're looking for your sports history from Humboldt and area! Please consider donating photographs and team memorabilia. It doesn't have to be from the stone ages either...we'd love more items from the 1960s to present.*

*"In our ongoing endeavour to record and honour this area's rich history in sport we are very pleased to work with the Museum committee and staff in this most worthwhile project. We would love to be able to display all of the artifacts that have been donated over the years, but this is a way to showcase history in a really space efficient, user friendly format. This will greatly increase our capacity so I would really encourage people to bring in information and photos of any sporting activity," noted Aaron Lukan of the Sports Hall of Fame committee.*

**This newsletter is proudly sponsored by the Friends of the Museum whose next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 29 at 10:00 am at the Museum - new members are always welcome. Call the museum at 682-5226 for information about this volunteer opportunity.**

# Original Humboldt

Jim Finnigan and Bill Ferris of Western Heritage Services led a team of dedicated volunteers to locate and excavate a portion of the Humboldt Telegraph Station this summer. The excursion began with a surface mapping expedition in the spring, followed by geophysics work which included magnetometer surveys and a ground penetrating radar survey. The geophysics confirmed the location of an anomaly which was then excavated through the meticulous trowel work of volunteers. Finnigan commented that, "Once the plow zone was breached, light mottling from the telegraph station floor began to show up. The deeper we went the more features appeared. Artifact recoveries were thin but consistent. Artifact finds included machine stamped nails, parts of plates, battery glass, and even a piece of jewelry."

"So what have we learned? We have a building corner and a part of an interior wall. We have a larger sample of telegraph artifacts. We have a lot of work to do here still, cataloguing artifacts for example, and we plan to do more geophysics once the crop is off. We are using a magnetometer and ground penetrating radar to look for such important features as the Carlton Trail, the well, and most assuredly, the latrine!" noted Finnigan. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this project this summer.

The Original Humboldt committee is planning for the commemoration and launch of this new historic site in the spring/summer of 2010. Further research and archaeological work is planned for next year if funds are available. The Original Humboldt committee of Rev. Alvin Hingley, Dennis Korte, Edward Novocosky, Garry Jenkins and Museum Director Jennifer Hoesgen welcome your inquiries and any additional information you may have about this site.



## **2009 Festival of Wreaths (and much more) - 10th Anniversary!**

*The Friends of the Museum are pleased to announce that the 2009 Festival of Wreaths (and much more) will be a celebration of the tenth anniversary! This community fundraiser is a great way to enjoy the holiday season and purchase fabulous items for your home or sweet Christmas presents for your family and friends.*

*The community support of the Festival has allowed the Friends of the Museum to improve the museum in many ways such as the new wheelchair ramp, kids programming including the summer scavenger hunt, Historic Sites tour program, art programs, the "100 Interesting Stories about Humboldt" book, Humboldt Telegraph newsletter, and many more worthwhile projects.*

*The Friends ask you to consider donating an item for this 10th anniversary Festival, such as a wreath, tree, swag, centerpiece, woodwork, food item, artwork, gift and specialty baskets, gingerbread house, photography, crafty creation, gift certificates, or your new idea. You may want to incorporate the 10th anniversary theme by placing ten items on a wreath or in a basket, providing gift certificates in \$10 denominations, or creating a special 10th anniversary item. Please help us make our 10th anniversary extra special! Items can be brought to the museum until Saturday, November 14.*

**Mark your Calendars for the 2009  
10th Anniversary  
Festival of Wreaths Auction  
Thursday, December 10,  
7:00 pm at the Humboldt Mall**

*The 10th Anniversary Celebration and Opening Reception will be on Thursday, November 19 from 2:00 - 9:00 pm at the mall. The Auction is on December 10 at 7:00 pm at the mall. For further information, please call the museum at 682-5226 or check out the Festival page at [www.humboldtmuseum.ca](http://www.humboldtmuseum.ca)*

# Fall and Winter Features

- September 1 - 30 **Advertising Means and Mechanisms**
- Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 **Artists Showcase - Roland Daum**
- September 29 **Friends of the Museum Meeting - 10:00 am at the Museum. New members are welcome to attend.**
- October 1 **Celebrate the International Day of Older Persons - Join us at the museum from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. More details to follow.**
- October 1 - 24 **“Ken Dalgarno - Sculpted Landscapes” - art exhibit**
- October 5 **Opening Reception - Sculpted Landscapes - Talk with Ken Dalgarno - 7:30 pm**
- October 22 **Friends of the Museum Coffee Party - 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Seniors Hall**
- Oct. 29 - Nov. 21 **Lamp Collection Exhibit**
- Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 **Artists Showcase - Dan Berting**
- November 19 **Festival of Wreaths 10th Anniversary Celebration and Opening Reception 2:00 - 9:00 pm at the Humboldt Mall**
- Nov. 19 - Dec. 10 **Friends of the Museum Festival of Wreaths Display - Humboldt Mall**
- Nov. 26 - Dec. 31 **Christmas Exhibit**
- December 10 **Friends of the Museum Festival of Wreaths Auction - 7:00 pm Humboldt Mall**
- December 17 **Christmas Open House - 2:30 - 4:00 pm at the Museum**  
Join us for some Christmas cheer. Free beverages and refreshments.

## **Friends of the Museum Coffee Party**

**Thursday, October 22 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Seniors Hall - 701 6th Avenue**

*Treat yourself and your staff to a special coffee break on October 22. Join the Friends from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Seniors Hall for a cup of coffee or tea and your choice of homemade breads, buns or muffins, with scrumptious jams and jellies for only \$3.00.*

