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INSIDE THE MUSEUM



Only a fraction of the work conducted by Museum staff may be seen in the public galleries. Take a look at many of the interesting things that happen behind the scenes at your Museum!

REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 2007's Remembrance Day display, entitled *Service and Sacrifice: Remembering those who fear no foe*, featured stories from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (L.E.R.), Alberta's oldest infantry regiment, founded in 1908. For the first time, the Museum hosted a service on November 11 to mark Canada's day of national commemoration. Sean Moir, Military and Political History Curator, hosted former and current members of the unit in a service attended by more than 100 patrons. The proceedings included a reading of John McCrae's poem, *In Flanders Fields*, by Second World War regimental veteran Jack Birmingham; a short lament played on the bagpipes by retired LER Major David Hass; and the observation of two minutes of silence at 11 am.

A MAMMOTH MASTODON MOUNT

The Museum's Quaternary Paleontology Program recently acquired a complete skeletal cast of a Mastodon (*Mammuth americanum*). This magnificent beast roamed throughout this region from at least 3.75 million to 11,000 years ago. Adult Mastodons often weighed from 4 to 6 tons and stood up to a commanding 10 feet tall. Peter Milot, the Quaternary Paleontology Technician, has now begun the arduous task of preparing to mount the cast for display in the future Ancient Alberta gallery.



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PRESERVING ANCIENT ROCK ART

In mid-October, the Museum's Archaeology Program conducted a laser scanning project at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. WOSPP is home to one of the largest collections of Aboriginal rock art images in western North America; however, all of these images are eroding from the soft bedrock. The Archaeology Program has been experimenting with methods to slow down the natural erosion of the carvings and paintings. Portable laser scanners are capable of recording surface detail of a subject with astonishing detail, offering the prospect of monitoring the changes to rock surfaces over long time periods. Laser scanning will be a valuable tool in assessing whether or not the conservation research at WOSPP is resulting in improving the lifespan of the rock art images.

The use of this innovative technology, plus the goal of trying to help conserve Aboriginal culture, led to outside interest in the work, and subsequently a CBC radio interview on November 16.

POLITICAL CONNECTIONS

The Military and Political History Program has been particularly active collecting objects associated with the political activities of Albertans spanning the ideological spectrum. In 2006, the Program acquired large collections associated with former Premier Klein and former Lieutenant Governor and Lougheed-era cabinet minister, Helen Hunley. In the fall of 2007, we acquired a number of items relating to former Reform Member of Parliament Deborah (Deb) Cleland Grey, and former city of Edmonton Ward 4 Councillor Michael Phair. Ms. Grey was the first Reform candidate to win a seat in a federal election. She has donated her "lucky" purple winter campaign boots, various campaign materials and a motorcycle helmet.

Many will remember Reform Party leader Preston Manning holding on for dear life as Ms. Grey whisked him away for a ride on one of her motorbikes. We did ask for one of her motorcycles, but she declined. We'll let you know if we make any progress on this front!