



City archives readies for reopening

Grand reopening planned for June 10

Friday, May 5, 2023 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta) — The long-awaited reopening of the City of Wetaskiwin Archives is drawing near.

Under the management and administration of the Wetaskiwin District Heritage Museum Centre, the soft opening for the archives will be Tuesday, May 16 — at which point, people can begin contacting archives with their requests. A grand reopening is planned for Saturday, June 10.

“We are really looking forward to finally reopening our archives,” said Mayor Tyler Gandam. “We’ve heard very clearly that the community believes the archives are an important part of Wetaskiwin, and we’re excited to now have the right partner in place to help us deliver this service. This has been a long time coming.”

City Council approved a memorandum of understanding with the Heritage Museum during its [regular December 12, 2022 meeting](#), making the museum responsible for the delivery of all programs and services related to the archives.

“As an organization, we believe that history and cultural heritage are important resources, validating both shared and individual experiences,” said Deirdra Cutarm, Wetaskiwin & District Museum Society Vice-President. “We are thrilled to announce the reopening of the archives — where the past comes alive.”

The Heritage Museum will handle all archive activity including, but not limited to, completing a full inventory of records and organizing the vault, conducting outreach events, promoting the archives via traditional and social media, and regular cleaning and maintenance.

“Wetaskiwin’s collection holds valuable information and stories essential to understanding our history and shared heritage while informing the present and shaping our future. We invite researchers, students, community members, and anyone curious about the past to explore and discover the treasures within the archives,” said Cutarm.

Starting May 16, archive inquiries can be made anytime through the Heritage Museum at wahm@persona.ca. After the official opening on June 10, the archives will be available for in-person or phone inquiries during their regular operating hours, which will be Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitation of the archive’s office and access to the documents will be by appointment only.

The City of Wetaskiwin Archives have been unstaffed and closed to the public since [November 2020](#), following a motion from Council that City administration explore alternatives for the long-term sustainability and operations of the archives. In May 2021, the City engaged [MNP](#) to undertake an Archives Assessment to review the archives’ current state and community needs to help guide this process. [The assessment resulted in a final report](#) which showed the City has a strong and well-organized archival function and a large percentage of Wetaskiwinites believe archives plays a role in the City’s [50-Year Community Vision](#).

To find out more about the archives, please contact the Wetaskiwin District Heritage Museum Centre at 780.352.0227 or wahm@persona.ca. Watch the [City of Wetaskiwin Archives Facebook page](#) for updates.





About the Wetaskiwin District Heritage Museum Centre

Located at the heart of Wetaskiwin's historic downtown, the museum's turn-of-the-century building is home to three floors of exhibits, offering a friendly gathering place to explore the dynamic heritage of Wetaskiwin city, county, and the Four Nations of Maskwacis through exhibits, interactive displays, and special programs that span from the time of the dinosaurs to the War Years and beyond. To learn more about the Wetaskiwin District Heritage Museum Centre & Star Store, visit wetaskiwinmuseum.com.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts on the levels of service provided by the City by reaching out directly to council. Contact information for mayor and council is available at wetaskiwn.ca/mayor-council.

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