News Release

New museum exhibition opens in St. Albert showcasing how early transportation modes got us to where we are today

June 26, 2023, St, Albert, Alberta – The Musée Héritage Museum (part of the Arts and Heritage Foundation of St. Albert) is pleased to present a new exhibition that takes visitors back in time, to appreciate how easy it is to get around today.

Perpetual Motion; Early Travel and Transport in Central Alberta debuts in the Musée Héritage Museum on June 27. The exhibition showcases different modes of transportation before, during and just after the fur-trade era to move food, people and much needed supplies. It features centuries of technological innovations in travel and transport.

"There are many interesting technologies that we forget about that developed over the last few hundred vears that made it possible to be here and do what we do today," says Musée Héritage Museum Curator. Joanne White. "We drive around in our comfortable air conditioned or heated vehicles, and don't think much about how difficult it once was to get around".

In the past, movement was essential for survival to search for resources, to hunt and to trade. Journeys of hundreds of miles were made using many modes of transport and during any season. First Nations People originally relied on dogs or themselves to carry things around. When horses and oxen became available, carts and wagons made it easier for all people to haul more goods. The exhibition also showcases travel on trails, rails, rivers and also the introduction of motorized vehicles.

"It's also interesting to think about St. Albert as an important hub for transportation that served the Edmonton region," White adds. "It was near Fort Edmonton, so it was often the place where people stopped to load up on supplies before heading out on the many trails to the north and west."

Dozens of photographs with accompanying stories and artifacts take visitors back in time, including detailed models of different sleds, an actual two-seat cutter sled, an embroidered tuppie (sled dog blanket), a beaded Cree saddle, a wooden pack saddle and a train seat.

Visit the museum (in St. Albert Place) to join the people that criss-crossed the region, travelling to explore, survive and thrive on this land.

Perpetual Motion; Early Travel and Transport in Central Alberta runs from June 27 - September 10.

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