

# Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

## Newsletter



### Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship 2023.

The Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship held on June 29th, was an extraordinary success, leaving spectators in awe of the incredible performances displayed by the participants. The event, organized by Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park in collaboration with the Siksika Nation, showcased the immense talent and dedication of dancers from various backgrounds. The championship would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of MC Eldon Weasel Child, whose spirited commentary added to the electric atmosphere of the competition.

Under the guidance of Arena Director Alex Scalplock, the dancers took to the arena with grace, precision, and an unparalleled connection to their cultural roots. The rhythmic beats of the drums reverberated through the air as each dancer moved with passion and purpose, captivating the audience and honoring the tradition of the Prairie Chicken Dance.

It is with great admiration and respect that we congratulate the 2023 World Champions: Caius Bull Bear, Sheldon Scalplock Jr., Todd Deerfoot,

and Mavin Weatherwax. Their exceptional skill, artistry, and commitment to their craft shone brightly, reflecting the rich heritage and legacy of our people.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Siksika Nation and the Blackfoot Crossing organizers for their dedication in preserving and promoting Indigenous culture. Their unwavering support and meticulous planning ensured that the Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

The event not only celebrated the talent of the dancers but also served as a platform to foster cultural exchange and understanding. It allowed participants and spectators alike to immerse themselves in the vibrant traditions of the Blackfoot Nation and gain a deeper appreciation for the profound significance of the Prairie Chicken Dance.

The 2023 Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship will be remembered as a testament to the resilience, spirit, and cultural richness of the Indigenous peoples. It serves as an inspiration for future generations, encouraging the preservation and continued celebration of Indigenous heritage.



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#### Inside this issue:

Indigenous Day celebrations at Blackfoot Crossing!	2
Blackfoot Crossing in the News	2
GlobalFest Events	2
Siksika Health Fair	3
Siksika Nation Fair 2023	3
What a Season!	3
Siksika Entrepreneurs Information Gathering	3

### Elder of the Month June: Chief Vincent Yellow OldWoman



Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman, a respected leader and advocate for the Blackfoot Nation, has played an instrumental role in preserving and promoting Indigenous heritage in Canada. Born and raised in the traditional territories of

the Blackfoot people, Chief Yellow Old Woman has dedicated his life to preserving the cultural identity and historical significance of his community. With a deep understanding of the importance of education and cultural awareness, Chief Yellow Old Woman spearheaded the establishment of Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park.

Chief Yellow Old Woman dedicated himself to the betterment of his community. He played a pivotal role in revitalizing Blackfoot cultural practices, ensuring that traditional knowledge and customs were passed down to younger generations. Recognizing the importance of education, he worked tirelessly to improve educational opportunities for Blackfoot youth, advocating for cultural inclusion in school curricula and supporting initiatives that fostered Indigenous language revitalization.

Chief Vincent's leadership skills and dedication to his people earned him the respect and admiration of both his community and the wider Indigenous community. He served as a prominent voice for Indigenous rights, engaging in advocacy efforts to address issues such as land rights, resource management, and self-governance. Through his diplomatic approach and unwavering commitment, Chief Yellow Old Woman forged meaningful relationships with government officials and organizations, striving to create a more equitable and just society for Indigenous peoples.

Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman's lifelong commitment to preserving Blackfoot traditions and fostering cultural pride has made a lasting impact on his community and beyond. Through his leadership, wisdom, and unwavering dedication, he continues to inspire and empower future generations to embrace their cultural heritage with pride and reverence.



## Indigenous Day celebrations at Blackfoot Crossing!

June 21st Indigenous Day at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park was an unforgettable celebration that beautifully merged astonishment, enjoyment, and enlightenment. With visitors from various locations, the event served as a tribute to the profound Indigenous heritage of the Blackfoot Nation. Attendees were immersed in a vibrant tapestry of activities and performances, showcasing the depth and beauty of Indigenous culture. From traditional dances, music, and interactive workshops to captivating storytelling sessions, the atmosphere was brimming with joy and learning. The day fostered cultural exchange, unity, and appreciation while offering insightful historical insights through exhibits, artifacts, and the wisdom of guides and elders. The success of the event highlighted the meticulous planning and genuine dedication of the organizers in authentically showcasing Indigenous culture, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.



## Blackfoot Crossing in the News



Blackfoot Crossing hosted a Media Luncheon BBQ on June 26th and it was a delightful and immersive event that brought together cultural festivities, tantalizing cuisine, and captivating interviews. Attendees, including media representatives, experienced the essence of Blackfoot culture through mesmerizing dance performances that conveyed deep connections to Indigenous heritage. The event's culinary highlight was the Bannock Burgers, which infused traditional flavors, satisfying taste buds and fostering connections. Guided tours enabled the exploration of the park's exhibits and the awe-inspiring Siksika landscape, deepening understanding and appreciation for the Blackfoot people's history and traditions. Notably, Shilo Clark, a member of our very own staff, was featured in an interview on the "Our Native Land" Podcast, sharing insights on Indigenous challenges and triumphs. The Media Luncheon BBQ at Blackfoot Crossing successfully celebrated culture, community, and culinary delights, promoting dialogue and connections between media professionals and Indigenous culture. The comprehensive experience left attendees with a profound appreciation for the resilience and richness of the Blackfoot Nation.

## GlobalFest Events

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park has played a significant role in successful events alongside GlobalFest, captivating audiences at various venues. The park's participation in lively festivities on Stephen Avenue, vibrant celebrations at Trico Homes and Heritage Park on Canada Day, and the renowned Calgary Stampede has showcased the rich Indigenous culture of the Blackfoot Nation. Talented dancers, appreciated with heartfelt gratitude, mesmerized audiences with their captivating performances, embodying the skill, grace, and deep connection to their Indigenous heritage. Excitement builds for upcoming events at Harmony Park on July 23rd and the main GlobalFest events in August at Elliston Park, providing further oppor-

tunities to showcase the vibrant culture and traditions of the Blackfoot Nation while fostering cultural exchange and appreciation. Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is committed to preserving Indigenous heritage, and invites everyone to join them in celebrating diversity and unity at these upcoming festivities, creating unforgettable experiences that honor the tapestry of cultures within the community and on a global stage.





## Siksika Nation Fair

The 2023 Siksika Fair was an amazing success, celebrating culture, tradition, and community spirit. Vendors showcased a diverse range of handmade crafts, artwork, and clothing, adding vibrancy to the event. The food vendors were praised for their tantalizing offerings, satisfying cravings and adding a delightful culinary dimension. Organizers worked tirelessly to ensure a seamless and enjoyable experience. The active participation and support of the community fostered unity and pride. The fair highlighted the diversity, creativity, and resilience of the Siksika people, honoring traditions, supporting local businesses, and strengthening community bonds. Heartfelt appreciation was extended to all contributors, as their collective efforts created an unforgettable experience cherished by the community.



## What a Season!



The school season at Blackfoot Crossing was incredibly busy as we welcomed and toured over 100 schools, educating thousands of children about our rich Blackfoot Heritage and Culture. It was a fulfilling and successful season, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our staff who made it all possible. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our exceptional tour guides, whose passion and knowledge brought our history and traditions to life for students. Their commitment to providing engaging and educational experiences played a vital role in the success of our school programs. We look forward to continuing to inspire and educate future generations about the beauty and significance of the Blackfoot Nation.

## Siksika Entrepreneurs Information Gathering



Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park was invited to join in the Siksika Entrepreneurs information gathering event on July 5th. We had the opportunity to deliver a short presentation that highlighted our center's mission, initiatives, and commitment to preserving Blackfoot culture. The event served as a platform to foster connections and collaboration between our center and Siksika Entrepreneurs. It was an invaluable opportunity to share ideas, expertise, and resources to support and empower Indigenous entrepreneurs. By opening these connections, we are excited to contribute to the growth and success of Siksika entrepreneurs, strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit within the community and promoting economic development.

**BLACKFOOT CROSSING HISTORICAL PARK** is of national and international significance, and is working toward becoming a World Heritage Site. The pristine Bow River surrounds the site where Siksika and Canada signed historic Treaty Seven in 1877. Decades have passed since Blackfoot elders first dreamt of sharing our unique culture in a world-class building that immerses visitors in authentic Aboriginal cultural experiences.

*Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is proud to welcome the world.*



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For general information, conference bookings, tour bookings, school programs, marketing inquiries, employment, and more, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Check out our web site for updates and even more information.



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**HOURS OF OPERATION:**

Monday to Friday

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hours subject to change according to summer/winter seasons  
- please refer to our web site for updates.

**MUSEUM ADMISSION:**

Adults: \$22.00 +GST

Youth (8-17): \$15.00 + GST

Seniors (65+): \$14.00 + GST

Children (Under 7): FREE

**GROUP RATES:**

Adults (25 or more): \$20.00 per person

Students (25 or more): \$12.00 per person

Seniors (65+): \$10.00 per person

**PROGRAMS - ADDITIONAL COST PLUS GST**

Indoor Programs: 25 or more) \$15.00 per person

Guided Tour Indoors: (25 or more) \$15.00 per person

NOTE: You do not need to pay admission to view the gift shop, use the library, or visit the cafeteria.