

# Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

## Newsletter



### Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship 2024: A Global Celebration of Tradition and Talent

On June 27th, we hosted the spectacular Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship, drawing hundreds of participants and spectators from all corners of the globe. This vibrant event, rich in cultural heritage and competitive spirit, showcased the finest talents in the Prairie Chicken Dance, a tradition steeped in history and significance.

Congratulations to our 2024 champions, who dazzled the audience with their skill, grace, and dedication:



Jr Boys Champion BFC: Cota Big Snake  
Jr Boys Champion Vis: Kenston Chief  
Teen Boys Champion BFC: Camdon Eagle Speaker  
Teen Boys Champion Vis: Nathan Little Child Jr.  
Jr Adults Champion BFC: Sheldon Scalplock Jr.  
Jr Adults Champion Vis: Nelson Baker  
Sr Adults Champions BFC: Todd Deerfoot  
Sr Adults Vis: Prinz Three Irons  
Golden Age BFC: Sheldon Scalplock Sr.  
Golden Age Vis: Irvin Waskanitch

The competition was fierce, and each dancer brought their unique style and energy to the stage, making for an unforgettable event. The support and enthusiasm from the audience were palpable, as cheers and applause filled the air, celebrating the rich cultural expressions and impressive athleticism on display.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the champions and participants. Your dedication to preserving and promoting the Prairie Chicken Dance is truly inspiring. A special thank you to everyone who traveled far and wide to be a part of this event; your presence made it truly special. As we reflect on the success of this year's championship, we eagerly anticipate next year's event, where we will once again witness the extraordinary talent and passion that make the Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship a highlight on the cultural calendar. We can't wait for next year!

### Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

On June 21st, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park came alive with the vibrant celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day. The event was a resounding success, drawing around 400 guests who were treated to a day filled with cultural richness, community spirit, and culinary excellence.

The celebration featured mesmerizing dance performances that showcased the artistry and heritage of Indigenous cultures. Elders shared their wisdom and stories, enriching the audience with their deep knowledge and perspectives, fostering a deeper appreciation for the traditions and history of Indigenous peoples.



Our talented chef and his dedicated team pulled out all the stops, serving a delicious array of summer classics that delighted the taste buds of all. Their hard work truly shone, adding a wonderful picnic experience to the day's festivities. One of the highlights of the day was the screening of the Academy-nominated film "Killers of the Flower Moon." The film's powerful storytelling captivated the audience, offering a poignant reflection on historical events and their impact on Indigenous communities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came out to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day with us. Your presence and support made the event truly special, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.



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## Grand Opening of Tipi Park at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

We are thrilled to announce that our long-awaited Tipi Park is now open and ready to welcome guests! Nestled within the picturesque landscape of Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, Tipi Park offers a unique and immersive camping experience that connects visitors with the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of the area.



The excitement of our first guests, a school group, who experienced the wonders of sleeping on the land, has set the tone for what promises to be a memorable and enriching experience for all who visit. The students enjoyed the authentic experience of sleeping in traditional tipis, surrounded by the serene beauty of nature, while learning about the history and traditions of the Blackfoot people.

Tipi Park invites everyone to come and experience the magic of camping under the stars, in a setting that combines cultural education with the great outdoors. Whether you are looking for a unique family outing, a group adventure, or a peaceful retreat, Tipi Park offers an unforgettable experience that will leave you with lasting memories.

For those interested in booking a stay at Tipi Park, please contact [bookings@blackfootcrossing.ca](mailto:bookings@blackfootcrossing.ca) for availability. We look forward to welcoming you to our new Tipi Park and sharing the beauty and heritage of Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park with you.

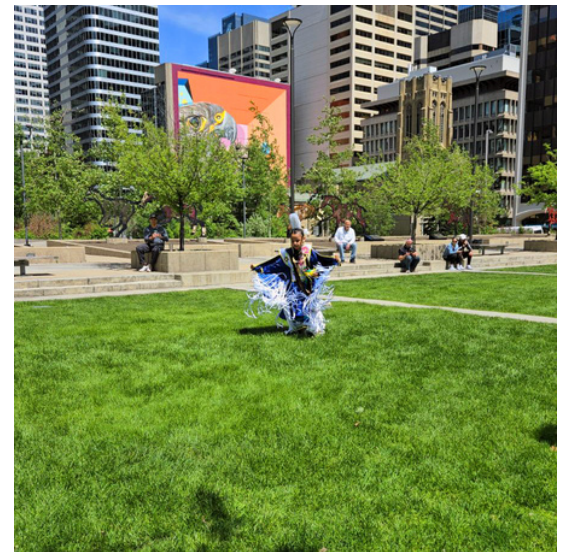
## Experience the Vibrancy of Summer with GlobalFest!

We were excited to have a Cultural Pavilion set with GlobalFest at the BMO Center during the Calgary Stampede from July 10-14. This pavilion was a vibrant showcase of cultural heritage, featuring captivating educational exhibits and a variety of interactive activities. Visitors had the chance to immerse themselves in the rich traditions and artistry that our pavilion offered. It was great to see everyone there, celebrating the diversity and vibrancy of our community.

In addition to the Calgary Stampede, we are thrilled to be performing at the Dragon Boat Festival this year on August 10th and 11th. This dynamic event promises to be filled with excitement and cultural celebrations, and we were honored to be a part of it. Our performances highlight traditional dances and music, providing festival-goers with a unique glimpse into our cultural heritage.

Furthermore, you can catch us at Elliston Park on August 15, 17, 20, 22, and 24th. These performances are part of our ongoing efforts to share and celebrate our cultural heritage with the wider community. Each event showcases our traditions and customs, making it a perfect opportunity for families and individuals to learn and enjoy.

We look forward to seeing you at these events and sharing the beauty and spirit of our culture with you.



## New Police Commission Sworn In at Blackfoot Crossing



On June 25th, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park proudly played host to the swearing-in ceremony for Siksika Nation's new Police Commission. This significant event marked a new chapter for our community, as Ohkinniinaa & Ninaaks Lou Ann Solway, Samuel Crowfoot, Reuben "Buck" Breaker, Marsha Wolf Collar, and Ike Solway were officially sworn in as our new commissioners.

Community members, guests, delegates, and nation members gathered to witness and celebrate this special day. The new commissioners, each bringing a wealth of experience and dedication, were warmly welcomed and congratulated by all in attendance.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ohkinniinaa & Ninaaks Lou Ann Solway, Samuel Crowfoot, Reuben "Buck" Breaker, Marsha Wolf Collar, and Ike Solway. Their commitment to serving and protecting our community is deeply appreciated, and we are confident that their leadership will bring positive changes and continued growth to our nation.



## Engaging Youth at Blackfoot Crossing: Our Exciting August Day Camps

At Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, our Youth Day Camps are well underway, and we couldn't be more excited! Throughout the month of August, we are offering a diverse array of regular programming designed to engage and inspire young people.

These camps provide a chance for youth to immerse themselves in the cultural heritage and teachings of the Siksika Nation. Through interactive activities, educational sessions, and hands-on learning experiences, participants gain a deeper understanding of our traditions, values, and history.

The Youth Day Camps are not only educational but also really fun. Our programs ensure that every child has a memorable experience. From storytelling sessions to traditional crafts, nature walks, and cultural performances, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

By participating in our day camps, young people have the chance to connect with their roots, learn from teachings passed down by our elders, and build lasting friendships. These camps are a testament to our commitment to fostering a sense of community and pride among our youth.

For more details or to sign up, please email us at [programs@blackfootcrossing.ca](mailto:programs@blackfootcrossing.ca) or call 403-324-8898. Don't miss out on this chance to engage your child in a meaningful and enriching experience at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park.

**SUMMER DAY CAMP PROGRAMS**  
BLACKFOOT CROSSING Historical Park | AUGUST

- 1ST AUGUST** MOTHER AND DAUGHTER BEADING CIRCLE  
Baby beaders and animal keychain. Indoor / Ages 12-17
- 6TH AUGUST** MEDICINE HARVESTING  
Outdoor / Ages 12-17 Years
- 8TH AUGUST** MOTHER AND DAUGHTER BEADING CIRCLE  
Baby beaders and animal keychain. Indoor / Ages 12-17
- 13TH AUGUST** GHOST TOUR/INDIAN RELAY  
Indoor & Outdoor / Ages 12-17
- 15TH AUGUST** DRUMHELLER VISIT  
Indoor / Ages 12-17 Years

RSVP for Lunch | Please come with appropriate change/gear  
"Please bring your raincoat!"  
To pre-register/questions contact [programs@blackfootcrossing.ca](mailto:programs@blackfootcrossing.ca)  
403-324-8898



## Celebrating Blackfoot Culture at the Calgary Stampede

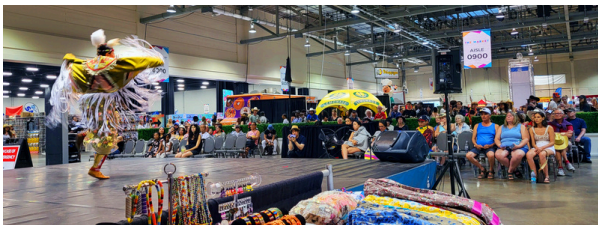
From July 10th to July 14th, visitors had the unique opportunity to experience the essence of Blackfoot Crossing at the Calgary Stampede, renowned as the greatest outdoor show on earth. Attendees embarked on a journey into the heart of Blackfoot culture, filled with excitement, education, and authentic experiences.

Visitors mingled with our welcoming staff at our cultural pavilion booth, where we shared the rich history and significance of Blackfoot Crossing. They discovered the stories and traditions that have shaped our community for generations, offering guests from all corners of the globe a deeper understanding of who we are.

July 11th was a special highlight, as we presented a day of dance performances at the GlobalFest One World stage in the BMO Center. Spectators were dazzled by the artistry and grace of our talented dancers as they showcased the beauty of Blackfoot culture through movement.

In addition to our captivating performances and educational exhibits, visitors explored our booth to discover and purchase handmade goods from our gift shop. Many took home pieces of Blackfoot craftsmanship, supporting our community's artisans while immersing themselves in our culture.

The Calgary Stampede provided an unforgettable experience where the spirit of Blackfoot Crossing came alive. Whether seeking cultural enrichment, entertainment, or unique treasures, attendees enjoyed an enriching and memorable visit.



## Enhancing the Visitor Experience: Exciting Updates at Blackfoot Crossing

At Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, we strive to provide an exceptional visitor experience. Over the past months, we've made significant updates to our parklands to ensure every visit is enriching and enjoyable.

One of our exciting additions is the new pergolas along our walking paths. These beautiful structures offer a perfect place to relax and take in the natural beauty during your hike, providing shade and comfort.

We've also introduced QR codes along the paths. By scanning these codes with your smartphone, you can listen to captivating stories about the land, narrated by our community members. These stories offer insights into the rich history and cultural significance of the area, deepening your understanding of the land we have cared for from time immemorial.

We invite you to explore our updated parklands and enjoy the new features. Experience the perfect blend of relaxation, education, and cultural immersion at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park. We look forward to welcoming you!



***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.



Newsletter published in-house, 2024. Shilo Clark,  
Marketing & Communications

**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.