

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

Newsletter



A Historic Milestone: Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park's Indigenous Perspective in Textile Conservation at NATCC

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park was both delighted and honored to have received an invitation to participate in the prestigious North American Textiles Conservators Conference (NATCC). This exceptional opportunity allowed the park to showcase its dedication to cultural preservation and its pivotal role in repatriating Chief Crowfoot's regalia from the RAM Museum in Exeter England. The paper, titled "REPATRIATING CHIEF CROWFOOT'S REGALIA FROM EXETER, UK TO THE SIKSIKA NATION: CONSIDERATIONS FROM A CULTURAL AND CONSERVATION POINT OF VIEW," authored by Sasheen Wright and Gail Niinimaa, represented a significant milestone in cultural heritage and conservation efforts. Shilo Clark, a representative from Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, journeyed to Colonial Williamsburg to present, alongside Gail Niinimaa, this groundbreaking paper at the NATCC. The event was a convergence of textile conservators and professionals from the museum community hailing from across North America and overseas, making it an ideal platform for the spreading of knowledge and the celebration of cultural heritage. What made this presentation particularly remarkable was that it was the only paper with an indigenous subject at heart had been presented at the NATCC. This achievement signified a significant step towards recognizing the importance of indigenous perspectives and contributions in the

field of textile conservation. It was a testament to the increasing inclusivity and diversity of the NATCC, showcasing the conference's commitment to embracing indigenous culture and heritage in its discourse. The paper, by Sasheen Wright and Gail Niinimaa, delved into the intricate and multifaceted process of repatriating Chief Crowfoot's regalia from the United Kingdom to the Siksika Nation. This undertaking was not merely a matter of transporting artifacts but a complex endeavor encompassing cultural, historical, and conservation aspects. The presentation emphasized the need to approach repatriation with a deep understanding of the cultural significance of the items involved and the conservation requirements necessary to ensure their preservation for future generations. The response from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and the presentation generated valuable discussions, insights, and shared experiences. It fostered a sense of collaboration and solidarity among professionals dedicated to preserving cultural heritage. The presentation also highlighted the importance of acknowledging indigenous perspectives in conservation efforts and inspired new possibilities for collaboration. As a result of this momentous event, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park looks forward to further collaborations and partnerships with the connections made at the NATCC. This presentation serves as a testament to the ongoing commitment of Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park to the preservation and celebration of Siksika heritage, while also contributing to the broader field of textile conservation and cultural repatriation. It signifies a promising future of increased recognition and collaboration with indigenous communities in the field of cultural heritage preservation.



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Blackfoot Crossing's Elders Christmas Dinner Celebration

In our rich cultural tapestry, our elders stand as the revered pillars of our community. We express our profound respect and love for them, recognizing the wealth of knowledge they carry. Through the art of storytelling, they weave the fabric of our past, guide us through the nuances of the present, and shape us into resilient individuals for the future. At Blackfoot Crossing, the influence of our esteemed elders serves as our guiding light. In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude and admiration, we've launched the Elder of the Month program. Each passing month, we joyously unveil a nominated elder from our community in our newsletter, extending a heartfelt invitation for a special luncheon at Blackfoot Crossing—an

opportunity for a day filled with honor, learning, and the sharing of timeless stories.

We've been blessed to feature extraordinary souls such as Ruth Scalplock, Joanne Red Olad Man, Vincent Yellow Old Woman, and Gerald Sitting Eagle. Now, with hearts brimming with genuine enthusiasm, we proudly announce our upcoming Elders Christmas Dinner on December 7th. Picture a festive and enchanting evening where we all gather, wrapped in the spirit of celebration, to honor the resilience, wisdom, and boundless love that our elders generously shower upon us. Mark the date on your calendar and join us in creating a lasting and beautiful tribute to the enduring legacy of our beloved elders.





First Snowfall at Blackfoot Crossing

As autumn transitions to winter, a magical moment arrives in the hearts of those in Siksika and here at Blackfoot Crossing. The first snowfall transforms the land into a winter wonderland, signaling a new season filled with traditions and community unity.

While this enchanting sight is a joy, winter also brings challenges. Slick roads and biting cold test our resilience, but our determined spirit shines through. We bundle up, tread cautiously, and celebrate the snowy landscape with activities like Sliding and enjoying hot cocoa with family.

To ensure a safe and cozy winter, remember:

- Drive safely on icy roads, use winter tires, and keep an emergency kit handy.
- Stay warm with layered clothing, thermal socks, and insulated boots.
- Follow heating safety guidelines, especially with space heaters.

Clear snow and ice from walkways and check on neighbors, particularly those in need.

The first snowfall on Siksika and Blackfoot Crossing reminds us of winter's beauty and challenges. Let's embrace the season, come together as a community, and keep each other safe and warm as we enjoy its enchantment.



Join Us for Food Handling and Safety Training



Blackfoot Crossing is thrilled to share some exciting news! We're offering a series of free Food Care and Handling Training sessions to promote safe and healthy food practices within our community. We're delighted to report that three sessions have already wrapped up successfully. Our aim is to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills they need for responsible food care and handling.

Participants in these sessions have not only learned important tips on proper food storage, safe handling procedures, and essential food safety guidelines, but they've also felt the warmth of our community-driven approach. We take great pride in promoting well-being and food safety in the friendliest way possible.

If you're curious about joining future training sessions or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@blackfootcrossing.ca. We're excited to welcome as many participants as possible and boost food safety awareness in our community. Keep an eye out for updates and more chances to be a part of these invaluable training sessions, as Blackfoot Crossing is committed to creating a safer and healthier community for everyone, all with a friendly smile!

Celebrating Togetherness: Our First Buffet at Blackfoot Crossing

What a fantastic day it was on Friday, November 3rd, as we hosted our very first Buffet at Blackfoot Crossing. Our hearts were warmed by the presence of guests who came from near and far to join us for a delightful feast of homestyle dishes.

The buffet was a heartwarming gathering, where friends, neighbors, and fellow community members sat together, shared plates, and created lasting memories. It felt like a joyful reunion, reminiscent of the bustling days the museum enjoyed before the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We extend our warmest thanks to all those who graced us with their presence and savored the mouthwatering creations lovingly prepared by our talented chefs. Their hard work truly deserves a standing ovation.

Looking ahead, we're excited about the prospect of hosting many more of these heartwarming buffets. We see them as a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together, celebrate the spirit of love and togetherness, and uplift and support one another. Your presence and support make these moments extra special, and we can't wait to create more joyful memories with you in the future.





A day of Joy, Costumes, and Community

Blackfoot Crossing experienced a remarkable turnout as children of all ages poured through our doors, each all dressed in a captivating array of costumes that spanned the spectrum from spooky ghouls and valiant heroes to enchanting princesses. Halloween proved to be a whirlwind of delight, filled with innocent laughter and an infectious sense of excitement, all fueled by an undeniable sugar rush of treats and candies.

In celebration of the season, we crafted a charming autumn-themed corner, a cozy nook for families to savor the essence of this festive occasion. The setting was adorned with pumpkins, fall foliage, and whimsical decorations that evoked the spirit of the season. Families seized the opportunity to capture cherished moments in front of this picturesque backdrop. By sharing their snapshots with the hashtag #BlackfootCrossing, participants had a chance to win one of our coveted Blackfoot Crossing Gift Bags, brimming with surprises and tokens of appreciation.



Halloween has an uncanny ability to awaken the child within each of us. As the day unfolded, the spirit of Halloween emerged in all its glory. It was a joy to witness people of all ages embrace this special occasion, embracing the magic of Halloween with open hearts and beaming smiles. In a world that can sometimes feel busy and hectic, Halloween provided a precious moment of respite and a chance to celebrate the joys of togetherness, creativity, and, of course, a sweet indulgence in sugary delights. We look forward to welcoming this enchanting holiday with open arms year after year, cherishing the opportunity to bring communities together in the spirit of Halloween fun.



Unveiling the Magic: 'Tales From the Rez' Premiere at Blackfoot Crossing

Blackfoot Crossing took center stage as it proudly played host to the premier screening of "Tales From the Rez," an enthralling horror-comedy anthology series that breathes life into the cherished Blackfoot urban legends. This extraordinary event marked a captivating evening of suspense, laughter, and cultural celebration.

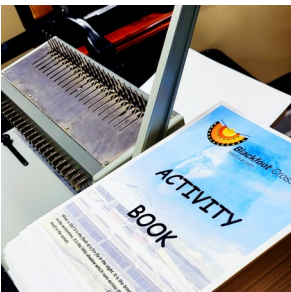
Presented by the talented Trevor Soloway, we warmly opened the doors of our theater to dozens of individuals who, undaunted by the chilly night air, eagerly gathered to be enthralled by the exceptional storytelling and acting prowess of our very own Siksika community members. It was a testament to the talent and creativity within our community.



As the credits rolled and the applause reverberated through the theater, a resounding congratulations was extended to all those involved in bringing these tales to life. Their dedication, passion, and hard work shone through, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments.

But the journey doesn't end here. We encourage you to keep a keen eye out for future film and show screenings at Blackfoot Crossing. The magic of storytelling and the power of the silver screen continue to thrive within our community, promising more exciting and engaging experiences for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for joining us on this unforgettable evening, and we look forward to sharing more remarkable stories with you in the future.

Embracing Culture and Learning: Activity Book Success



Last month, we were absolutely thrilled to introduce the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Activity book, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive! These books have been flying off the shelves in our gift shop, and we also had the pleasure of fulfilling a substantial order of 600 books for our friends at the Board of Education. When you open this activity book, get ready to embark on an exciting journey filled with a delightful mix of puzzles, crosswords, fun coloring pages, and much more. It's not just about having a good time; it's an opportunity to dive deep into the heart of Blackfoot culture and language.

We're delighted that Blackfoot Crossing can be a part of our wonderful community by entertaining and educating our young readers. Our Activity Books are a true labor of love, as they are proudly crafted 100% in-house. A big, heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who has shown their support for Blackfoot Crossing by picking up one of our Activity Books. We can't wait to share Volume 2 with you in the near future. Your support means the world to us and helps us continue celebrating and preserving the rich tapestry of Blackfoot culture.

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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Shilo Clark, Museum 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.