

# Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

## Newsletter



### Unveiling First Nations Archaeology on APTN

In an engaging two-day filming session, a dedicated crew from the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) delved into the unique approach that First Nations communities bring to archaeology. The crew, welcomed by Blackfoot Crossing, worked tirelessly to capture the essence of this distinctive perspective for their upcoming program titled "Uncovering."

"Uncovering" promises to shed light on the unique approach that First Nations communities take towards archaeology. This perspective reflects the deep connection and profound insights that Indigenous peoples bring to the exploration of their heritage and history.

During their stay, the APTN crew conducted enlightening interviews with key figures from our community, including our revered Elder, Miiksika'am Clarence Wolfleg. His wisdom and perspective added invaluable depth to the narrative, offering viewers a firsthand account of the rich cultural heritage embedded in our community.

In addition to Elder Wolfleg, the crew engaged with our esteemed General Manager, Shannon Bearchief, and our dedicated Museum Communications Coordinator, Shilo Clark. Each conversation contributed a layer to the multifaceted story of our community's archaeological practices, fostering a greater understanding of our heritage.

The two days were a wonderful fusion of learning and sharing, as we opened our doors to showcase the cultural richness that defines us. The collaborative spirit all the sessions left us eager and excited to see the final outcome of this project. We anticipate that "Uncovering" will be a remarkable testament to the resilience, and wisdom of our First Nations community.

As we eagerly await the release of the program, we extend our gratitude to APTN for providing this platform to amplify our voices and narratives. We look forward to sharing this enriching experience with all of you, our cherished community, and with a broader audience who will undoubtedly gain a deeper appreciation for the unique approach First Nations bring to the field of archaeology.



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### Successful Networking at 2023 ITA Conference Boosts Indigenous Tourism

On December 6th, the 2023 Indigenous Tourism of Alberta (ITA) Conference turned out to be a great success for Blackfoot Crossing. It was a special opportunity for them to connect with various organizations and partners, all aimed at making indigenous tourism stronger in Alberta. During the event, Blackfoot Crossing built important connections that are expected to make their projects even better. The conference had useful discussions, workshops, and presentations that shared the latest trends and best practices in the industry. Blackfoot Crossing expressed their

thanks to everyone who took part, recognizing their valuable contributions. The success of the conference highlights how important these gatherings are for boosting indigenous tourism, promoting teamwork, and ensuring long-term growth. As indigenous tourism continues to grow, the positive results from the 2023 ITA Conference are set to push Blackfoot Crossing and other participants forward. This success story shows the strength and vitality of these communities as they shape their stories in the larger tourism scene.





## Embracing 2024: A Year of Reflection, Resolutions, and Radiant Positivity

We bid farewell to 2023 and welcome 2024, and we hope everyone had a warm and wonderful holiday season. We want to wish everyone a happy new year, full of joy, health, and prosperity. The new year brings new opportunities for us to be good people, to strive to work harder, to enjoy our lives and the simple things that make life important. The new year is a great time to reflect on our values, our goals, and our actions, and to make positive changes that will benefit ourselves and others. We can set realistic and achievable resolutions that will help us improve our skills, our habits, and our well-being. We can also challenge ourselves to learn new things, to explore new places, and to meet new people. We can be more open-minded, more compassionate, and more respectful of different perspectives and cultures.

We can also appreciate the beauty and the blessings that surround us, such as our family, our friends, our hobbies, and our passions. We can find happiness and fulfillment in every moment, and share it with those we love. We can express our gratitude for the people who support us, the opportunities that come our way, and the experiences that enrich our lives. We can also give back to our community, our society, and our planet, by volunteering, donating, or raising awareness for a cause that we care about.

We extend our positivity and good thoughts for everyone and their families near and far. Let us have a wonderful 2024, and make it a year to remember. Let us make this new year a time of hope, of growth, and of joy.



## Fresh Start: Welcoming 2024 with a Sparkling Clean Office

As we ushered in the new year, our team at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park took proactive measures to ensure a pristine and welcoming space for everyone. Although officially back to work on January 8th, we decided to extend our closure for an extra week, dedicating that time to top-to-bottom cleaning of our facilities.

The entire staff rallied together, working diligently to clean every nook and cranny, perform necessary maintenance tasks, and create additional office space for the newest members of our growing team. Now, we are thrilled to announce that our doors are open, and we're back to our regular hours from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday to Friday. We can't wait to welcome everyone back into our refreshed and revitalized space.

As we resume our regular operations, we look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces and extending a warm welcome to those who may be joining us for the first time. Our team is energized and ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities that 2024 has in store.

Here's to a year of growth, collaboration, and success. We can't wait to see what we can achieve together in the coming months!



## Winter Safety Tips from Blackfoot Crossing

With the new year, we also have to brace ourselves for some of the coldest days of the year. The winter season can pose many challenges and risks for our health and safety, especially when the wind chill factor makes the temperature feel even lower than it is. That's why we at Blackfoot Crossing want to remind everyone to stay safe in this frigid weather and to follow some simple precautions.

Dress warmly in layers and wind-resistant clothes. Wear a hat, mittens, scarf, and boots. Stay dry and change wet clothes. Wetness can cause hypothermia. Keep moving and seek shelter. Activity generates heat, but don't overdo it or get dehydrated. Protect your pets. Keep them inside or give them shelter and water. Call animal services for animals in distress. Check your medications and health conditions. Some can affect your body's ability to handle cold. Check on your neighbours and relatives. They may need help with groceries, medications, or heating. Know the signs of cold-related illnesses. Frostbite and hypothermia can cause numbness, pain, confusion, or loss of consciousness. Get medical help if needed.

We care about you and your well-being in this cold winter. Be kind and compassionate to each other. You are not alone in this challenging time. Stay safe and healthy. Follow the tips to prevent cold-related illnesses and seek medical help if needed. Stay warm and cozy. Enjoy the comfort of your home and the company of your loved ones. From all of us at Blackfoot Crossing.





## Blackfoot Crossing Christmas Market: A Winter Wonderland

We are delighted to share with you the highlights of our Blackfoot Crossing Christmas Market, which took place on December 15, 2023. It was a wonderful event that brought together our community and celebrated our culture and heritage.

The market featured more than a dozen vendors, offering a variety of products and services, such as handmade crafts, jewelry, clothing, books, art, and more. Many of the vendors were local artists and entrepreneurs, who showcased their talents and creativity.

The market also included a delicious Christmas dinner, catered by our own Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Restaurant. One of the highlights of the market was the fun festive photos and activities for children. We had a photo booth, where families and friends could pose and make memories together. We also had a craft station, where children could make their own ornaments, cards, and gifts.

The market was a great success, with a high turnout and positive feedback from the attendees. We are grateful to everyone who participated and supported our event. We hope you had a good time and enjoyed the winter holidays. We look forward to seeing you again at our next event!



## Join the Blackfoot Crossing Princess & Warrior Pageant 2024

Do you have what it takes to be the next Blackfoot Crossing Princess or Warrior? If you are between 16 and 20 years old, a dancer in any category, and not holding any other titles for the 2024-2025 season, you might be eligible to participate in this prestigious pageant. The Blackfoot Crossing Princess & Warrior Pageant is a cultural event that showcases the beauty, talent, and heritage of the Blackfoot people. The pageant is scheduled for March 27, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. at the historical Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, a Historical World Heritage Site.

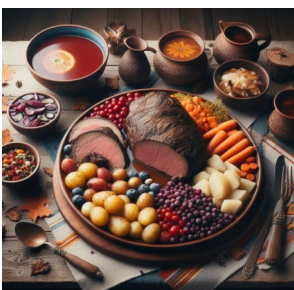
The pageant aims to promote the Blackfoot culture and values, as well as to empower the youth to become ambassadors and role models for their community. The winners of the pageant will receive a crown, a sash, as well as the honor of representing the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park at various events and ceremonies.

To register for the pageant, please contact Amie Sitting Eagle by emailing [amie@blackfootcrossing.ca](mailto:amie@blackfootcrossing.ca) and request a registration form.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of this unique cultural celebration. Mark your calendars and join us for an evening of cultural richness and talent as we crown the next Blackfoot Crossing Princess and Warrior. It will be an event that you will never forget.



## Buffet Delights Return in 2024!



After the amazing response to our buffets last year, where we served delicious Homestyle food and a BBQ feast, we're thrilled to share that the buffet trend is sticking around for 2024! Get ready for another round of culinary delights!

Our upcoming buffet will showcase a variety of traditional Blackfoot dishes, including Bison, Tripe, Berry Soup, and many more mouthwatering options. It's a fantastic opportunity to savor the rich flavors of Blackfoot cuisine and experience a delightful culinary journey.

Stay tuned for more updates and details about the date and time of the buffet. We can hardly contain our excitement and look forward to hosting the community once again for a memorable and tasty gathering. Don't miss out on the chance to indulge in a feast of flavors!

**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, 2023.  
Shilo Clark, Marketing Team Lead.

**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.