



EXHIBITS
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8 PAGES



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FUN IS IN STORE WITH GALT MUSEUM'S FALL EXHIBIT! TOYS & GAMES OPENS SAT OCT 01 | 10-4:30 | MUSEUM COMMUNITY DAY

Lethbridge - From a game of Pick-Up Sticks from circa 1900 to a 21st Century magic wand with hair of Unicorn, from pull toys, push cars and action figures to a replica Blackfoot bone toss game and a rocking horse from the 1800s... more than 130 toys and games are featured in the fall exhibit "Toys & Games - engage, entertain, educate" officially opening at the Galt Museum & Archives at 11:00 am Saturday October 1 during Museum Community Day, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.

"Instead of focusing on a historical perspective on toys and games," says Wendy Aitkens, Curator at the Galt. "I wanted to explore what we gain from play, how critical it is to the development of a child, and for teens and adults - we should never lose our ability to play, it gives us a break from everyday life. It helps keep our minds and bodies active."

Play is entertaining and can be a solitary activity or social interaction. Play with toys and games stimulate imagination, creativity, exploration and curiosity. Memory, math skills, problem solving abilities, verbal and visual dexterity, physical capabilities, and social skills needed to cope in the adult world are all improved - often without even trying!

The exhibit could not have happened without the help of the community, which responded to the Galt's call for toys that went out earlier in the year. Over 60 of the toys and games on display have been loaned by people in southern Alberta. The Esplanade Museum in Medicine Hat has also loaned items from their collection.

"It was such fun to ask the community for their participation," says Aitkens, "to learn what they still had in their games' cupboard - some had been put away for future use by grandchildren, others are being used regularly. Some of the stories behind the toys range from obsession with Lego, to dressing up as a child, the importance of books, and various snippets of memories. These are incorporated with interesting historical tidbits into the artifact labels."

Historically, toy production went from handmade toys, to being purchased from an itinerant merchant, to those manufactured *en masse* in factories and sold in large local department stores and catalogues, to toys based on television and movie characters, to high tech computerized games sold and played globally online. Each toy or game related to the society in which the children were being raised.

Programs reflecting the *Toys & Games* theme will be offered throughout the fall, including weekly family activities during Saturdays at 1:00 running through December; presentations on the first and

third Wednesday monthly as part of **Wednesdays at the Galt** for ages 55+; **The Curator Presents...** in October; and special topics at the **Galt Workshops Series** offered October through December.

The *Toys & Games* festivities kick off with **Museum Community Day** on Saturday, October 1 from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm with free admission all day, and activities including a giant game of snakes and ladders and a Teddy Bear Hospital - kids! bring your teddy bear in for some tender loving care. ArtWalk activities are also free, and include the 3 Dimensions Sculpture Show and afternoon demonstrations.

Toys & Games closes Sunday, January 8, 2012. For details visit www.galtmuseum.com, call 403.320-3954, or email info@galtmuseum.com.

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Galt Museum & Archives is located at the west end of 5 Avenue South, off Scenic Drive, Lethbridge, Alberta
Parking lot located at the north end of the building | enter through the sliding north doors
tel 403.320-3898 | info: 320-GALT | fax: 403.329-4958 | www.galtmuseum.com
MAIL 910 - 4 Avenue South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6

HOURS TO MAY 14: *mon-sat* 10:00 am - 4:30 pm | *sun + hol* 1:00 - 4:30 pm | CLOSED Easter Sunday

Themes

- Fun, entertainment, relaxation
- Imagination, creativity, exploration and curiosity
- Cognitive learning
- Fine motor skills & large motor skills
- Physical activity
- Eye/hand coordination and spatial dexterity
- Outdoor play
- Individual games
- Group games
- Adult skill development

Artifacts

Toys & Games ~ engage, entertain, educate

- Attacking Martian Robot [ca. 1960-70]
- Baby Rattle [1957-60]
- Barbie Doll [1988]
- Commodore Computer Game Cartridge, [1981]
- G.I. Joe Action Figure, [ca. 1980]
- Humpty Dumpty Circus [1905]
- Magnifying Glass [ca. 1950s]
- Pink Panther [1960 to 1970]
- Railroad ABC Book [1903-1913]
- Sungká [n.d.]
- Toy Truck [ca. 1940s]

Get Out of Jail Free...

- Checkers Set [1940-70]
- Chinese Checkers [1940-50]
- Clue [1980s]
- Cribbage Board [1920-30]
- First Nation Hand Game [1960-70]
- Homemade "opoly" Game [ca. 1936]
- Japanese Poetry Cards [1920-30]
- Japanese Shogi Chess Set [ca. 2004]
- Monopoly [1961]
- No. 12 Gilbert Chemistry Set [ca. 1950-60]
- Trivial Pursuit [1982, 1990s]
- Western Chess Set [1942]

Community Input

130+ artifacts, of which:

- 60+ on loan from members of the southern Alberta community
- 10+ on loan from the Esplanade Museum, Medicine Hat
- Visitors will be able to vote for their favourite toy, to be updated in a weekly online tally

Moving 'n Shaking

- Ball
- Frisbee
- Handmade Acrobat [ca. 1990s]
- Homemade Doll Dress [1940-50]
- Jacks [ca. 1970s]
- Lego [1975]
- Marbles in Cloth Bag [ca. 1970s]
- Meccano Set [ca. 1950s]
- Model Sewing Machine [1890-99]
- Pick-Up Sticks [ca. 1900]
- Pictionary [1993]
- Tinkertoy [1965-2000]
- Tonka Loader [ca. 1974]
- Twister [ca. 1990s]
- Yo-Yo [ca. 1950s]

Bulls Eye!

- 3D Tic Tac Toe
- American Flyer Train [1945-55]
- Baby music box [1960-70]
- Blackfoot bone toss game [replica]
- crayons
- Crokinole [1911-14]
- jigsaw puzzle
- Mr. Potato Head [1952]
- Operation
- Play-Doh

- Schuco Tacho Car [1951-56]
- sidewalk chalk
- stencil set [1954]
- Unisonic Playstation [1976]
- Wii Sports

Go Outside and Play!

- Hobby horse [ca. 1960s]
- Hula Hoop,
- Ice Skates [1930-40]
- Jump rope
- Kick the can
- Kite
- Lumar Contractors Truck [ca. 1950-60]
- 'Radio Special' red wagon [1950s]
- Rocking horse [ca. 1800s]
- Roller skates [1931]
- Skateboard [ca. 1970s]
- Snow Sled [1950-60]
- Stick
- Tricycle [1960-70s]
- Ultimate Outlaw Watergun

Just a Sec'

- Circus animal train [n.d.]
- Crossword puzzle
- Deck of Cards
- Handmade Horse Puppet [n.d.]
- Lite Brite [ca. 1970s]
- Merlin Computer Game [1978]
- Pinball game [ca. 1950-60]
- Silver Bells and Cockle Shells book [1919]
- Slinky [ca. 1950]
- Star Wars Lego Wii
- Sudoku
- Talking View Master and set of 3 reels [1969]
- Teddy bear [ca. 1940-60]

Come On Let's Play

- Aggravation [1968, handmade]
- Bingo [1944]
- Bridge cards and tallies [1920s-80s]
- Canadian Brewopoly
- Deluxe Edition Scrabble [1989]
- Dominoes [1960]
- Games of Life [1970s-80s]

- Hearts [1950-60]
- Mah Jong [n.d.]
- Mater Tow Truck and McQueen car
- Nancy Drew Mystery Game [1959-70]
- Snakes & Ladders
- UNO
- We Ski - Wii
- World of Warcraft
- Yathzee [1966]

Playing at Growing Up

- Airplane [ca. 1940s]
- Baby Doll [n.d.]
- Betty's Scrapbook of Little Recipes [1932]
- Circus clothes & tent pattern [1960]
- Commodore "Super Smash" Game, [1981]
- Doll House and Furniture [ca. 1956-58]
- Dress Up Costumes [n.d.]
- Easy- Bake Ovens [1964]
- Fisher Price fire engine [1968-78]
- Homemade Clothes and Ken Doll [ca. 1990s]
- Ironing Board and Iron [n.d.]
- Pets Stores [ca. 1920-30]
- Snow shovel [ca. 1950s]
- Spelling game [1960-70]
- 'Stalker' Military Action Figure [1990]
- Thomas & Friends Learning Disks [2011]
- Tractor [ca. 1960s-70s]

Hey! This is Fun

- Barbie Doll [1959]
- Cardboard Box and Craft Scraps
- Civilization III [2001]
- Clown Puppet [1920-30]
- Diablo Pump Top [ca. 1965-80]
- 'Firecracker' Magic Wand [ca. 2003]
- Fisher Price castle and furnishings, [ca. 1970s]
- Jack-in-the-box [ca. 1950s]
- Kaleidoscope [1970-2000]
- Mechanical toy monkey [1960-70]
- Musical Instruments
- Pin the Tail on the Donkey [1942-45]
- R2D2 Robot [1970-80]
- Rumoli Game and Poker Chips
- Topsy Turvy Doll [n.d.]

Interactives include:

- Computerized game station sponsored by London Drugs, Lethbridge
- Giant 18 x 18 foot Snakes & Ladders game, designed by Curator Wendy Aitkens and painted by volunteers, featuring 5 snakes found locally ["with a little bit of artistic license!"]
- Board games like Twister, Operation, Junior Trivial Pursuit
- Checkers, Chinese Checkers
- A 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle
- Pick-Up Sticks, dominoes
- Card games
- Magnetized "Pin" the Tail on the Donkey
- Dress-up costumes
- Dolls, cars, planes
- Hula Hoops
- Voting station for toy favourites

Quotes:

I hope people will leave the exhibit feeling good, not guilty, about having spent time playing. I hope parents and teens will sit and talk about the pros and cons, concerns and bonuses of video games. And I hope parents will recognize and be reassured how important free play and playing outdoors is for children. Wendy Aitkens, Curator, 2011

Children's games are hardly games. Children are never more serious than when they play. Michel de Montaigne, 1580

Play is seen as an important part of children's personal and social development and the whole socialization process. Margaret Mead, Anthropologist

Imaginative activity is the basis of creativity in the arts and sciences. David Elkind, Ph. D., author, 2007

Play is the vital essence of life. It is what makes life lively. and Life-long play is central to our continued well-being, adaptation, and social cohesiveness. Stuart Brown, M. D., founder of the National Institute for Play, 2009

In order to learn and grow, children need to connect - to their own creativity and initiative, to each other, to family, and to nature. Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Ed. D, author, 2008

For children, play is serious learning. Fred Rogers, a.k.a. Mr. Rogers

RELATED PROGRAMS: ADULTS

Curator Presents... *The Challenges & Joys of a Cardboard Box*

Thu OCT 13 | 6:00 exhibit open, Curator on site | 7:00 presentation & conversation in the *Servus Credit Union Learning Studio* | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | refreshments

Often parents watch a child open a gift box containing a toy and, to their amazement, the cardboard box captures the child's attention more than the toy.

Curator **Wendy Aitkens** will explore why the ordinary box becomes the child's delight, a challenge and a source of endless possibilities.

Join us and bring stories of the creative toys you, your children or grandchildren made from that simple box!

Galt Workshops

Program 7:00 - 9:00 pm | doors open for exhibit viewing 6:00 pm | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | registration not required | includes supplies, refreshments

A monthly hands-on history programs for adults.

Wed OCT 19 **Checkmate** Ever wonder how to capture the king in chess? Find out the history, rules, and strategies of a game that has captivated the world! This beginner workshop led by **Brian Titley** will also give players a chance to practice their newly acquired skills against a worthy opponent.

Thu OCT 27 **Braided Rugs** Join **Karla Mather-Cocks** and Lethbridge Handicraft Guild to explore braided rugs and the history of rag rugs.

Thu NOV 17 **Spinning & Dyeing** Learn basic wool-spinning and dyeing techniques including thigh spinning, how to use a hand-made drop spindle, and dyeing wool using old-fashioned and modern techniques from **Connie and Dave Carlson**.

Wed NOV 30 **Amigurumi! Crochet in 3D** Learn crochet basics from local artist **Shanell Papp** and make a variety of awkwardly cute stuffed animals from one basic pattern! If you haven't crocheted before this is a great class since crochet is an easy-to-learn technique. Basic hand sewing skills needed to complete projects (don't worry, we'll teach you how!)

Thu DEC 08 **Save Your Family's Stories** Learn three basic oral-history methods for capturing your family's history through stories this holiday season. Join **Monta Salmon** from the Family History Center, Archivist **Andrew Chernevych** and researcher **Leslie Hall** to explore how you can capture and preserve your family history.

RELATED PROGRAMS: FAMILIES

Saturdays at 1:00

through DEC 17 | [adults required to attend with children] | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | registration not required

This interactive program animates our exhibits and collections for families with children of all ages.

08 **Cornhusk Dolls** Create a doll out of cornhusks! Learn the significance of Harvest and how these historic dolls have been making children happy for generations.

- 15 **Shadow Puppetry** Experience shadow play, an ancient form of storytelling and entertainment. Walk away with a personalized shadow puppet to act out your own imaginative tales!
- 22 **Pumpkin Creations** Express your creativity by carving or decorating a specially designed mini pumpkin. Fun for all ages of the family!
- 29 **Day of the Dead** This Mexican holiday recognizes past friends and family. Celebrate with storytelling and decorating your very own papier maché *calaca* mask!
- 05 **Photo Magnets** Remember history through photography with personalized photo magnets. Bring a photo of someone special or choose one from our Archives.
- NOV 12 **Artist Trading Cards** Recreate your favourite piece of history from our exhibit onto a unique art card! Trade them with friends and family to see how many you can collect.
- 19 **Doll History** Are all dolls the same? How have they changed over time? Find the answers to these questions and more, PLUS create a wooden doll/action figure to take home!
- 26 **Clown School** Try your hand at new tricks and skills by learning how to juggle and create balloon animals. School is always fun when it's taught by a clown!
- DEC 03 **Creative Checkers** Bring this classic board game to life by adding a touch of imagination. Use your creative skills to design your own board and play pieces.
- 10 **Pom Pom Animals** Show off your favourite animal when you create a pom pom character. Step-by-step instructions will bring out the artist in everyone.
- 17 **TBA**

Top 11 of 2011 Family Programs

DEC 27-31 | JAN 02-07 Winter break | 1:00 - 4:00 pm (drop in anytime) | *family program [adults required to attend with children] / admission rates apply / free for annual pass holders / registration not required*

We've had so many fantastic Saturdays at 1 and summer programs this year, we thought we'd reprise the top eleven during Winter Break!

- DEC 27 **Paint Like the Masters** Experience art history with exciting painting projects inspired by artists such as: Picasso, O'Keefe, and Warhol.
- 28 **Paper Flowers** Decorate your home during the holidays with unique and vibrant paper flowers.
- 29 **It's Not Magic It's Science** A fun hands-on science presentation!
- 30 **Apple Pie** Put on your chef hats! Using a historic pie-crust recipe, you will make a delicious pie to bake and share at home.
- 31 **New Year's Eve Decorations** Learn how other cultures celebrate New Year's as you make decorative crafts.
- JAN 02 **Soap Carving** Learn soap carving and make your own decoy.
- 03 **Shadow Puppetry** Experience shadow play, an ancient form of storytelling and entertainment. Use your personalized shadow puppet to act out your imaginative tales at home.
- 04 **Photo Magnets** Remember history through photography by creating personalized magnets. Bring a photo of someone special or choose one from Archives to create your masterpiece.
- 05 **Clown School** Try your hand at new tricks and skills by learning how to juggle and create balloon animals. School is always fun when it's taught by a clown!
- 06 **Felted Snake Bracelets** Learn the historic art of felting as you make a bendy snake, or bracelet.
- 07 **Creative Checkers** This classic board game to life by adding a touch of imagination. Use your creative skills to design your own board and play pieces.

RELATED PROGRAMS: SENIORS

Wednesdays at the Galt

Through DEC 21: first & third Wednesdays monthly | 2:00 - 3:00 pm / admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | registration not required / includes refreshments, exhibit access

From hands-on learning to lectures by special guests, behind-the-scenes tours and tutorials, historical anecdotes to contemporary conundrums for ages 55+.

OCT 05 Enjoying - and Winning - Scrabble Come learn about the most popular word game in the world from experts **Bill Payne** and **Siri Tillekeratne** just days before the largest Scrabble event in Canada: the 16th Annual Western Canadian Championship.

Scrabble is available in most major languages using the Roman alphabet (over 20 in all), and also in Russian, Greek and Hebrew. It is estimated that over half the households in N. America have at least one Scrabble set, and that in the US alone over 5,000 sets are sold every day.

19 Songs & Stories from the Crow's Nest The coal mines of the Crowsnest Pass were dark, dusty and dangerous. The pay was good and the work was hard. Join **Monica Field** from the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre as she tells tales of tragedy and triumph through mining music and dramatic demonstrations.

NOV 02 WWI Letters Retired Warrant Officer **Glenn Miller** presents letters from Sergeant Jack Murray of the 20th Battery. Sent home to his Mom and family in WWI, they tell the story of his experiences during those four years..

16 Lethbridge Correctional Centre Centennial History The Lethbridge Provincial Jail was the first provincial jail built in Alberta and the first west of Manitoba - come learn about the changes at the jail over the past 100 years from Security Intelligence Officer **Shane Hoiland**.

DEC 07 Coal, Culture and Confederation with **Jane Harris-Zsovan**. Three generations of Galt men - John, Sir Alexander and Elliot - shared a poetic vision for a united and vibrant Canada. Lethbridge, the only Canadian city co-founded by a Father of Confederation, is a living example of the Galts' Canadian dream.

21 Wild Rose Country: A Spirit of Heritage (60 min) This documentary explores the people and places of wild rose country. It is a story of spirit, determination and hard work, of freedom and prosperity, adventure and passion.

Contact Leslie for more information: leslie.hall@galtmuseum.com | 403.320-4700

RELATED PROGRAMS: SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Toys & Games exhibit-related programs are available for the duration of the exhibit. Contact Belinda for more information: 403.320-4248 | belinda.crowson@galtmuseum.com