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Fax: 403-269-6029
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HSA AGM - and Conference 2008
Red Deer, Alberta

WHO:
The Historical Society of Alberta Members and the General Public

WHAT:
Central Alberta Historical Society/The Historical Society of Alberta "David Thompson In Central Alberta" Conference and AGM

WHEN:
May 16 - 18, 2008

WHERE:
Red Deer Lodge, 4311 - 49 Avenue Red Deer, AB

WHY:
Learn about David Thompson's use of the trading post at Rocky Mountain House
Visit your friends of The Historical Society of Alberta.
Help honour the Awards recipients at our Annual Banquet.
Enjoy the 'hunt' for bargains at the Silent Auction.
Remember to Register ASAP See you in Red Deer!!

You may wish to register for only the field trip to Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site (leaves Red Deer Lodge at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, May 17th returning to the Lodge at 5:00 p.m.) at a cost of $30.00/member or $35.00/guest.

Tickets are available for the Awards Banquet at $30.00/person. Contact Debbie at the HSA office 403-261-3662.
Welcome to new members/subscribers

Robert Wasylik, Vermilion
Bill Gibson, Lethbridge
Mick Cooper, Calgary
Jim/Shirley Dalby, Sherwood Park
Wayne Gochee, Vermilion
Cam Walker, Spruce Grove
Monterey Park School Library, Calgary
Leonard White, Calgary
Lynn Arnold, St. Albert
Mary Morrison, Debolt
Adam Laliberte, Fairview
Rev. Antony Ward, Calgary
Barb Cholach, Grassland
Makin Tracks, Hanna
Jim Goodwin, Vermilion
Ledeon Skiba, Lethbridge
Jane Bankes, Calgary
Stuart MacPherson Public Library, Lac La Biche
Ray Hillman, Spruce Grove
Ken Lyons, Lac La Biche
Eric Gutsch, Mannville
Keith McMurdo, Calgary
A. Oseen, Turin
Doug Gillett, Fairview
Dennis Lagasse, Lethbridge
William C. Smith, Lac La Biche
Edwin Byram, Cochrane
Marjorie Lawrence, Clandonald
Char Smith, Calgary
John Mallinson, Calgary
Joyce Pallister, High River
Leon A. Wright, Vauxhall
Garry Braunwarth, Calgary
Christina Comfort, Calgary
Jenn Mercer, Lethbridge
Amy Shaw, Lethbridge
Mark Claxton, Lethbridge
Kimber Nielsen, Lethbridge
R. J. Evans, Red Deer
Shumei Hsu, Calgary
Susan Burrows-Johnson, Lethbridge
Jody Roetman, Lethbridge

Thank You for Your Donation to the HSA and/or Chapter

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Rondo Wood

Legacy 2007

Mark/Nancy Heule
Sheila Johnston
President’s Report by Linda Collier

Spring is here and that means thinking about gardening and new growth. This season is such a special one for Albertans, as we watch plants starting to thrive in the spring sunshine after the long winter. Such an encouraging sign fills all of us with rejuvenation!

With the euphoria of spring, I look forward to our upcoming activities in the historical community. In May we have the “double bill” of conferences in Central Alberta and I plan to visit both! The 2008 Rocky Mountain House Colloquium takes place in Rocky Mountain House from Wednesday, May 14 to Saturday, May 17 (or Sunday if you’re going on the field trip). I’m anxious to attend as many sessions as possible and to help celebrate the 200th anniversary of my favourite explorer’s work in the west.

Like many of the Colloquium delegates, I will leave late Friday to drive to Red Deer for the opening Wine and Cheese event for the “David Thompson - Central Alberta” HSA Conference and AGM, May 16th to 18th. Saturday’s events will include a Breakfast/HSA AGM, then we have a choice: either board the bus to return to Rocky Mountain House to visit the newly-redeveloped Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, or participate in the walking tour of Red Deer’s downtown, including a stop at the Red Deer Museum. The HSA banquet Saturday night will be at the Red Deer Lodge, and at Sunday’s breakfast/Silent Auction, we’ll hear from Michael Dawe, City of Red Deer Archivist. What a wonderful, exciting few days we’ll have in Central Alberta - I hope to see many of you there.

Another function I will be attending is in June at the University of Alberta, who hosts the Western Canadian Studies conference. More details are forthcoming on that event!

I also plan to attend some chapter activities this spring, including the Chinook AGM and the Edmonton AGM. Of course, all the historic festivals are beginning, with Red Deer and Lethbridge in May, Calgary and Edmonton in July. I’m hoping to attend as many of the events as I can at each festival. Be sure to visit the festival events in your area!

The HSA Casino is in Edmonton this time, on July 23 and 24. If you can volunteer to help us, please let Debbie know at the HSA office. It’s always a challenge to find volunteers, but I expect our historical community will step up. The HSA certainly couldn’t maintain its historic initiatives without the support of our casino every second year.

We are “keeping an eye” on some issues. We posted a letter to the Honourable Jim Flaherty (copies to Right Hon. Stephen Harper and Hon. Josée Verner) regarding our disappointment in the lack of funding in the recent federal budget for an incentive for the rehabilitation of historic properties. As well, the government showed no clear commitment to the Historic Places Initiative, so we voiced our concern there, too.

We’re also asking the Provincial Government for information on having a stone cairn placed on the legislative grounds to commemorate the 100th anniversary since the Historical Society of Alberta Act in 1907. We think it’s a fitting gesture to celebrate our organization’s century of historic preservation.

Other projects are in the planning stages and relate to educational endeavours, mainly with Historica Fairs, publishing incentives and website revitalization. We’ll keep you posted as the planning continues. If you have any suggestions please forward them to Bill Baergen, Chair of the Education Committee, care of the HSA office.

I hope you and your family are enjoying our spring rejuvenation season. I look forward to seeing you at our May conference and at the historic events in the weeks to come!

Respectfully submitted by, Linda Collier
Important Notice
HSA By-Law Change

Council has passed a motion to present the following changes in the By-Laws to the AGM in May.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the Annual General Meeting of The Historical Society of Alberta to be held in the Piper Creek Room, Red Deer Lodge, 4311 - 49 Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta, on Saturday, May 17th, 2008, at 8:00 am, the following revisions to the HSA By-Laws will be presented for consideration by the meeting:

That is,

**Article 4a** - is struck and replaced with:

4a. the government of the society shall be vested in a council of directors which shall consist of the following persons:

(i) president
(ii) two vice-presidents
(iii) secretary
(iv) treasurer
(v) up to three directors
(vi) Ex-officio members shall include the chapter presidents (or their designated alternates) and the past president. Ex-officio members shall have the right to vote.

**Article 4c** - is struck and replaced with:

4c. The executive committee of the council shall consist of the president, the first vice-president/president-elect, a second vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other council members as may be specified from time to time by the council.

The council, the executive committee or any other committee may meet in person, by telephone conference, by video-link or by any other means.

**Article 4.d** - is struck and replaced with:

4d. The terms for elected positions shall be as follows:

The president, the first vice-president/president-elect, and the treasurer shall be elected for two year terms on odd years. The second vice-president and secretary shall be elected for two year terms on even years, with the exception that persons elected for the first term following passing of this by-law shall be for one year.

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**We Need Your Help!!!**

The Historical Society of Alberta is holding a Casino on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 23 and July 24, 2008 at the Baccarat Casino, 10128 - 104 Avenue, Edmonton. We would very much appreciate having your assistance with this Casino.

Monies from the Casino are used for the publication and distribution of this newsletter plus the *Alberta History* magazine. As well, these funds assist with the publication of the Alberta Records Publications Board books.

Should you be available to volunteer for this Casino, kindly contact Debbie at the HSA office at 403-261-3662 or by email albertahistory@telus.net. HSA will gladly reimburse you for your travel time and one night's accommodation, if needed.
Historians

HSA offers a complete reference to add to your library

*Cumulative Index 1953 to 2006*
*Alberta History & Alberta Historical Review*

$29.95 plus $9.00 postage

This useful publication is issued to celebrate HSA’s centennial of it’s founding in 1907. The new index covers all issues of *Alberta History* and *Alberta Historical Review* from 1953 to the end of 2006. It includes all the information that was in the earlier indexes for 1953 and 1991, except for book reviews.

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**In Memory of Aubrey Kerr 1916-2008**

Aubrey Kerr died on February 19, 2008 at the age of 92. Aubrey Kerr was a native of Orillia, Ontario. He received his Masters degree in Geology from the University of British Columbia in 1942, and joined Imperial Oil the same year. He was in Leduc, helping with the geology and testing of the well, when Leduc No. 1 came in. Aubrey was promoted to Chief Geologist for the Leduc field under Vern Hunter.

In 1949, Kerr left Imperial Oil to become Chief Geologist for Home Oil and in 1960 he was appointed Senior Geologist for the National Energy Board in Ottawa. Kerr returned to Calgary in 1975 to manage oil and gas rights under Indian Treaty Lands and it was here he began to realize the importance of oil company history.

In early 1980, Kerr founded the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project (PIOHP), through which nearly 300 persons have been taped for posterity under his direction.

During his retirement years Aubrey published four books. Without his passionate dedication and love of the oil industry most of this history would have been lost forever.

He was a member of APEGGA, CSPG, CSEG, and had served in various official capacities with the CIM, the Petroleum History Society and the National Council.

Career Summary:
- 1990 Distinguished Service Medal—Petroleum Society - CIM.
- 1991 Distinguished Lecturer Award—CIM.
- 1995 Lifetime Achievement Award—Book Of The Year Award (Redwater)—Petroleum History Society.

— Information from the Petroleum History Society website
Before restoration!  
1900 Reber motor carriage as found in 1977 and purchased by the Reynolds Museum

After restoration. 1900 Reber motorcarriage and Bruce Olson, head restoration mechanic. Donated to the Govt. of Alberta for display in Reynolds-Alberta Museum, Wetaskiwin

1942 Indian 741 motorcycle

1943 Ford GTBC Navy 1/2 ton cargo truck

Stan Reynolds and his 1916 Ford race car #6 after winning the Canadian Model T Ford racing championship held at Calgary, AB. on Sept. 1, 1947. The hub broke and the wheel came off after crossing the finish line.

1940 Ford 800 weight truck
The West and Beyond: Historians Past, Present and Future

A Western Canadian Studies Conference to be held at the University of Alberta, June 19-21, 2008

This conference provides an opportunity to reflect on and assess the contributions of historians of Western Canada of the past and present, showcase the work of a new generation of scholars, chart new directions for the future and stimulate further interrogation of our past.

Organizers hope to encourage dialogue among generations of historians of the West, and among practitioners of diverse approaches to the past. Panellists will assess and critique the state of scholarship in major areas of activity in Western Canadian history: political, environmental, women and gender, Aboriginal, immigration and ethnicity, social class, comparative/borderlands, and African-Canadian. There is particular emphasis on the diversity of the social landscape of the West, the themes of memory and commemoration, and the modern post World War II West. The conference will advance lively and important discussions about what we have accomplished, what may have been overlooked and how we must expand our horizons.

Keynote speakers include award-winning authors Gerry Friesen, Adele Perry and Lyle Dick. Special events include a banquet with keynote speaker Rod Macleod whose talk is titled "Lewis G. Thomas and the Writing of Alberta History" as well as a special presentation at the Royal Alberta Museum by Catherine Cole and Maria Dunn titled "Piece by Piece: The GWG's Story."

Sponsors:
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Athabasca University
University of Alberta
NICHE (Network in Canadian History & Environment)
Canada West Foundation
Legacy Magazine

For further information please go to
www.arts.ualberta.ca/~wcsc
Or email Sarah Carter and Peter Fortna at wchc@ualberta.ca
Or call Melanie Marvin at (780) 492-9971
All are welcome.
George Stanley, designer of the Canadian Flag, was a native Calgarian. His boyhood home, situate at 1111 7 Avenue has been refurbished as the Laurier Lounge.

On July 6, 2007, to commemorate George Stanley’s 100th birthday, and the 100th anniversaries of the Canadian Club of Calgary and The Historical Society of Alberta we attended the Laurier Lounge to celebrate our centennials. This event took place because of the dedication of the Calgary Heritage Initiative Society and we are grateful for their efforts in acknowledging the significance of this home.

On February 15, 2008, Flag Day, the plaque dedicated to George Stanley was unveiled at the Laurier Lounge. Mrs. George Stanley was in attendance and expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the heritage community in Calgary in honoring her husband.
Painting Stories Exhibit at Ukchv

This summer, the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village is pleased to present Painting Stories - having fun with language hands-on exhibit. This display features the original artwork by famed international artist Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn for the Kazka production series of Ukrainian/English bilingual books. These books pioneered teaching children Ukrainian language though the telling of folk tales and modern verse put to music.

School (K-12) and adult workshops available with the artist. The exhibit will be on display at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village from May 17 to Thanksgiving Day, 2008.

May we please ask if you can display and share this information with your staff and clients. Copies of the attached pdf's can be found on the events section of the village's website at www.tprc.alberta.ca/uchv Please note we have two sizes of the poster (11 x 17 and then a smaller 8 1/2 x 11)
Henry George, MD, MRCS - 1864-1932

by Dr. Robert Lampard

"The bushes rustled, the trees parted, and the familiar face of Alberta’s pioneer amateur naturalist appeared from the Michener thicket."

Introduction: Dr. Henry George was a tall, forthright physician who held strongly to his opinions. Along with Dr. (Sir) John Richardson and Dr. John Rae, he was the only physician to write before the end of the 19th Century an authoritative study on the flora and fauna of Alberta.

Henry George’s father (Charles Frederick) and grandfather (Henry Sr.) were both physicians. They practiced in Kirton, England and St. Thomas in London. Henry George followed in their footsteps as the third Dr. George in succession. Mindful of their places in the George and Barnard family constellations, both Henry George and his wife Barbara wrote autobiographies from 1924-1926. In 1932, at the request of Dr. H.C. Jamieson, Dr. George forwarded to them the twenty medical certificates held by the George family.

England 1864-1889: Henry George was born in Kirton, Lincolnshire, England on August 10, 1864. After meeting the entrance requirements, he was accepted at St. Thomas’ medical school and hospital. As a student he would travel the 150 miles to London on bicycle. Dr. George received an LRCP in 1886 and an MRCS in 1887. He worked as an assistant to a Dr. Lloyd in London until September 1888 when he married Barbara Bernard. He then joined his father Charles in practice in Kirton, England.

Calgary 1889-1893: In 1888 Barbara’s father William L. Bernard made a business trip to Calgary. Impressed by the opportunities, William Bernard decided to move his family to Calgary from Ireland. The Bernard legal office, which became the respected Bernard and Bernard partnership, opened in 1888. In 1889 Mr. Bernard notified “Birdie and Harry”, that there was a doctor in Calgary Dr. N.J. Lindsay, who wanted a partner immediately. Barbara was anxious to join her family, and Henry jumped at the chance as well. They decided to seek their fortune in the youthful Dominion. On August 16, 1889 the Georges sailed from England and arrived in Calgary on September 1, 1889. Their arrival was three weeks after the 22nd annual CMA convention in Banff.

There were only three physicians in Calgary in 1889: Drs. E.M. Rouleau, N.J. Lindsay and J.D. Lafferty plus the NWMP physician P. Ayle. Dr. H.G. Mackid arrived soon afterwards in late 1889. Dr. Lindsay had acquired Dr. J.D. Lafferty’s contract for providing medical care for CPR employees on the mainline between Medicine Hat and Donald. Lindsay had also acquired the Indian medical contract to provide monthly medical visits to the Blackfeet (Gleichen), Sarcees (Sikaniska) and Stony (Morley) Indians; and was an assistant surgeon for the NWMP from 1890-92. Any prior agreement between the Drs. George and Lindsay was confirmed the day after Dr. George arrived in Calgary. Their partnership lasted for three years or until 1893, when Dr. George moved to Innisfail.

Dr. George’s life in Calgary was eventful from the start. Barbara George recounted how house calls, particularly those out of town were the most challenging. In January 1890, Dr. George traveled to High River to set a patient’s broken leg. It required an overnight stay.

When Dr. George awoke in the morning, his hair was frozen to the floor. The week before, the Georges’ own dog had frozen to death on the neighbour’s steps. On his way back from a trip to an Indian school, Dr. George’s dog started running ahead of the buggy. Looking backwards Henry saw a wolf trailing them. It followed them for the next mile or so, despite a “run for it”.

In July 1890, three thousand Calgarians including the George family watched as Mayor (Dr.) J.D. Lafferty and invited dignitaries turned the sod for construction of the CPR operated C&E railway from Fort Macleod to Strathcona.

On another occasion the Georges hastened down to the CPR Depot to watch the Indians perform a “Grub Dance”. By the summer of 1890 the NWMP had outlawed the Sun Dance, but one was held anyway at the Weasel Head. Indian “Wickiups” on roadsides were not uncommon, for sweat baths were the cure for many evils. Often the Indians would come to the George home waiting for “Sukenaiki” or the doctor. When he was not in, Mrs. George would put some tea in a paper bag and give it to them. They would “go off” quietly but often returned.

After attending a NWMP sick parade, Dr. George was told the fleet-footed Deerfoot was in the Police cells and was dying. As he approached Deerfoot’s cell another Indian commented, “if [Dr. George] said he would die then he [Deerfoot] would, just as he has said Crowfoot would die and he did”. Dr. George found Deerfoot’s vital signs normal. He concluded Deerfoot was holding his breath and said to him. “If

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you don’t stop dying I will take you out and put you under the hose. What are you dying for?” Deerfoot laughed and answered “for a smoke”.

The Death of Crowfoot 1890: The Georges moved in the spring of 1890 to a more central home which had electricity, lighting, and a telephone. While doing a locum for Dr. Brett, in April 1890, Dr. George was asked by Dr. Lindsay to go to the Blackfoot Indian Reserve at Gleichen and attend Chief Crowfoot. “Doc” Lauder the former Indian agent to the Blackfoot accompanied him. On their arrival at the Blackfoot Crossing, there were seventeen medicine men in attendance and eight tom-toms going full blast. Crowfoot, then age fifty-nine, had not been in good health. Dempsey listed Crowfoot’s known diagnoses as erysipelas, probable TB, congestion, a fever and headache.

After the examination, Dr. George diagnosed Crowfoot as having left lung congestion, a fever and headache. Brandy and eggnog were offered, but refused because they might make the Chief drunk. Dr. George then made a linseed poultice and gave him ten grains of Dovers (sleeping) powder. He asked for the tom-toms to stop so Crowfoot could sleep. Lieutenant Governor Dewdney ordered Dr. George not to leave so he stayed for another three days. Crowfoot’s condition continued to deteriorate and he died on April 25, 1890.

Dr. George described Crowfoot’s death in 1925. In his description, he did not mention Crowfoot giving any “dying speech”. Years later the story of Crowfoot giving a “dying speech” was attributed to Dr. George by his son Ernest George in 1938. The attribution raised serious questions about the accuracy of the Henry and Barbara George recollections, particularly since parts of the “dying speech” were actually written by Ryder Haggard in 1885 in King Solomon’s Mines, five years before Crowfoot’s death.

The “dying speech” was one of five historical inconsistencies that surrounded the death of Crowfoot. A second question was whether Crowfoot’s horse was shot when he died as was the custom. Were his fingers cut off for his three wives following the Indian tradition? Did Crowfoot lapse into unconsciousness on April 24 and then revive and pass away on April 25? Did Dr. George stay three or five days, and did Dr. George author the “dying speech” story?

The Smallpox Outbreak of 1892: Two years later Calgary faced a serious racial test. The CPR’s Empress of Japan docked in Vancouver in April of 1892 and smallpox was diagnosed in a Chinese passenger. Within a few months there were seven smallpox deaths on the Pacific Coast. In June 1892 a Chinese Calgarian returned from Vancouver to his laundry on Stephen Avenue in Calgary. On June 28 he was positively diagnosed as having smallpox.

The Municipal Board of Health quickly established a Nose Creek quarantine camp for any smallpox contacts. The NWMP were assigned to guard the camp. The town ordered the Chinese laundry shack burned. Potentially infected laundry had already been distributed. When Dr. George made a house call to see Albert Keast who lived across the Elbow bridge, he found him to have smallpox. Dr. Mackid visited the patient and agreed with the diagnosis. The government asked Dr. George if he would take charge of the quarantine camp to which he agreed. It meant quarantining himself. Two Grey Nuns also volunteered to help. Sister Claire and Dr. George both stayed in the quarantine camp for about two months.

Despite the quarantine, Calgary police Chief English drove into the camp and delivered a wagonload of supplies on July 4. The NWMP had been ordered to stop any persons who entered, and if they did enter, to quarantine them. When English tried to leave the police stopped him. He was released by the NWMP on the guarantee of Mayor Lucas who agreed to assume responsibility for him. Chief English was also charged for disobeying the NWMP order. The relationship between the city officials and NWMP, which was already tense, continued to deteriorate. Chief English left town July 23 on an extended vacation, as did Mayor Lucas.

By mid-July there were five confirmed cases of smallpox, all in quarantine. By the end of July three more cases were diagnosed. Two pregnant mothers and one baby died. Town tension reached resentment level. On August 2 the first Chinese quarantined patient was released. It triggered a riot by a drunken mob of two hundred, after a cricket game. The NWMP were called out. Three citizens were arrested. Ten Chinese citizens sought NWMP protection. Property damage was considerable. The mob threatened Mrs. George, at home alone with her two children. Inspector Cuthbert of the NWMP personally came to her home and gave her a 44 mm revolver, loaded it, and showed her how to use it. The NWMP policed the streets until 4:00 am that night.

The quarantine was lifted on the evening of August 16. Dr. George closed the Nose Creek camp and burned all his clothes before leaving. Inspector Cuthbert complimented Dr. George for his help. Privately he wrote that Dr. H.G. Mackid had not been so helpful.

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On August 17 the outcry and riot, brought an anti-Chinese agitator and orator, Lucas, no relation to the Mayor, tried that evening to rally sufficient followers for another riot. He failed, so he attempted suicide with a dose of morphine.

The NWMP vaccinated forty-five members and patients and probably quarantined about the same number. Trains were stopped at Banff and Winnipeg for quarantine inspections. Foot movement in and out of Calgary was strictly controlled. The stringent measures stopped the spread of smallpox to any nearby towns. The outbreak totaled nine or ten confirmed cases, of whom three died. It never reached Vancouver proportions.

Innisfail 1893-1906: The smallpox experience must have unsettled the George family. Later in 1892 the Georges' received an inheritance from Henry's grandfather. In March 1893 Dr. George decided to visit and assess the prospects of the town of Innisfail, on the recently completed CPR operated C&E railway. The town was ninety miles north of Calgary and provided an opportunity to raise a few animals on an acreage. The family decided to move in May. They began by building the spacious and now historic Dr. George/Kemp House overlooking Dodds Lake. Because it was not finished until the fall of 1893 the family lived in a hotel. Ernest developed a cold followed by peritonitis, but fortunately survived. Mrs. George later recorded some of the illnesses that affected her family including the septicemia that killed her son Ewan, typhoid fever, convulsions, infantile paralysis, the flu, and infantile cholera.

With his arrival, Dr. George became Innisfail's first physician. It was pioneering work. Out of town house calls required a horse. Crossing or fording swollen rivers in the spring led to falls through the ice and buggy breakdowns. Rural calls stretched thirty miles to the west to the Icelanders at Markerville, and thirty miles to the east to the homesteaders at Pine Lake.

On one rural house call Dr. George passed a bird's nest high in the trees. An amateur oologistist, he stopped to climb the tree and examine its contents. George lingered long enough to forget where he was heading. Later he was discovered by the pregnant lady's frantic relatives, up a tree. On an organized egg hunt in 1895, he found thirty-one eggs from eleven different species of birds. Dr. George published his observations and findings in articles on, 1) the "Pocket Gopher," in the Canadian Entomological Society of Canada's 1899 Annual Report, 2) "Birds of Prey of Alberta in 1903," and 3) the "Rodents of Alberta," in the Department of Agriculture Annual Reports of 1903 and 1904.

Dr. George's interest in nature led to a display of his artifacts as early as 1893. Wanting to share and broaden his knowledge in natural history, Dr. George became a charter member of the NWT Entomological Society in 1899. Four years later in 1903, he was appointed Branch Director (Ornithology) of the Territorial Natural History Society. In 1905 Dr. George opened the first natural history museum in Innisfail. It was the second such museum in Alberta and was open to the public. The first was the Rocky Mountain Park Museum, which was opened in 1895 by Norman Sanson in Banff. Sanson was Calgarian Dr. R.D. Sanson's brother.

Dr. George and Norman Sanson were founding members of the 1905 Alberta Naturalist Society. The first meeting of the society was held in Innisfail, where Dr. George was elected as the President. He occupied the President's chair in 1906-10, 1912, 1916 and was Vice President in 1911 and 1917.

Red Deer 1906-1923: In 1906 Dr. George moved his burgeoning family of eventually twelve children to Red Deer to improve their schooling. As part of the move to Red Deer, Dr. George traded his Innisfail house for some agricultural land. He then bought another house in Red Deer. The house was too small for his natural history collection, so he built a two floor annex onto it. The George house and museum were located west across the street from the present day United Church.

By 1907 Dr. George was the medical officer for Red Deer's 15th Light Horse and later the 35th Central Alberta Horse. In July 1907 he organized Red Deer's first cadet course and personally supervised the training of the cadets. Dr. George was also the Medical Officer to the Red Deer Sea Squadron and the 12th Mounted Rifles under Major H.L. Gaetz. After the outbreak of WWI, three of his sons enlisted. One son, Desmond, was killed in the trenches in France while taking rations to colleagues who had been stranded for three days in shell holes. Desmond lived only long enough to "tell them I died like a soldier". It was an unexpected sentence for an articling law student.

During the War, Dr. George was the Medical Officer for the 89th, 187th and 191st Battalions which were raised in Southern Alberta. They all trained in Red Deer. Later in the War when he could not enlist, Dr. George was assigned to a traveling medical board to examine new recruits in Southern Alberta. His association with the military continued for thirty-three years, ending in 1923.

Dr. George was the Red Deer coroner

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for thirty-one years, an anesthetist, and a general practitioner. He was the Red Deer Medical Officer of Health and the doctor responsible for managing the 1918-1919 flu epidemic. He was also the Medical Officer for the RCMP, the Fire Brigade, and the Indian Residential School.

Dr. George started the first Library in Red Deer with a donation of five hundred books in March 1909. In 1922 he suffered a heart attack and was advised by his physician to move to the Coast. His naturalist collection represented a major dispersal problem. On January 1, 1923 an inventory of the collection was made in preparation for the move to Victoria. It contained twenty-seven whole specimens, sixty-three mounted birds, several hundred wild bird’s eggs most of which were collected personally, twenty-nine bird’s nests, twenty-two skulls, seven sets of horns, and a number of newspaper first editions from Alberta and as far away as Johannesburg, South Africa. He also had a collection of guns and swords, souvenirs from the Great War, and other trophies from the Plains of Abraham and Spanish Armada. The collection contained three thousand Canadian Army badges.

The Georges took the smaller collections with them to Victoria, including the stamps, coins and the family “Breeches” bible printed in Geneva in 1557. The larger collections were donated to the Old Timers’ Association of Calgary. Some of Dr. Henry George’s memorabilia including Barbara’s artwork, were later acquired by the Glenbow Foundation. Years later the artwork was transferred to the restored Dr. George/Kemp Historic House in Innisfail, where it was placed on display.

Dr. George’s health stabilized in Victoria after the 1923 move. He lived another decade and passed away on August 13, 1932 at age sixty-eight a few months after surgery to repair a hernia. Mrs. George passed away on November 10, 1936.

The George Family: Barbara was a noted wildflower painter. She was thought to have designed the wheat fields, foothills, mountains and blue sky scene on the Alberta Crest. The inspiration for the design was said to be the westward view from the upstairs bedroom of their Innisfail home. Alberta’s Armorial Bearings (crest) were approved August 31, 1907. Barbara George’s talent as a designer was confirmed when she won the crest design competition circa 1911, for the City of Strathcona.


Related Profiles: Rae, Lindsay, Lafferty, Mackid

Key Words: Death of Chief Crowfoot, Smallpox outbreak in Calgary in 1892, NWT physician, NWMP physician, WWI physician, NWT and Alberta Naturalist, second museum in Alberta (Red Deer)

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Grant MacEwan Literary Arts Award and Other Awards

Last week, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts announced a revised the Grant MacEwan Literary Arts Award, along with a new Visual Arts Award and an up-dated Tommy Banks Performing Arts Award.

The new GMLAA recognizes literary excellence in Alberta and celebrates the achievements and contributions of an individual, a partnership, a collective or an organization from the literary arts community.

The value of the award has increased to $50,000.

The news releases for the awards are available at website:http://alberta.ca/acn/200803/23203CCB27D05-F10C-6C63-1AB2E020DED707E3.html

Guidelines and application forms can be found on the AFA website at: www.affta.ab.ca/artsawards.shtml

The deadline for submissions:

Thursday, May 1, 2008.

If you have any questions about the Grant MacEwan Literary Arts Award guidelines and nomination process, please contact Jonathan Meakin at Jonathan.Meakin@gov.ab.ca
On the Monday morning that the school opened, it was anything but lonely! The schoolyard was full of children. I looked at the bell on my desk and thought "This bell is mine to ring! I am the teacher!" At nine o'clock I grasped the bell firmly by the handle, leaned out the door, and rang loud and clear. Twenty-seven children rushed in through the door.

$24.95
Inquiries: Terry Rahbek-Nielsen, University of Calgary Press
MLB19, 2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB, T3B 1M2

Message from Tiffany Regaudie at NeWest January 2008

Hello everyone,
Our Spring list is almost here, and we want to let you know about it. Check out www.newestpress.com Regards,
Tiffany Marketing and Production Coordinator

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Empress of Ireland February Update


Preparations are underway for the grand opening of an exhibition of Empress of Ireland artifacts on May 29, 2008. Invitations will be sent out to every supporter who helped us to keep Empress of Ireland artifacts in Canada. This will be the first time a major display of Empress of Ireland artifacts will be professionally exhibited in a western Canadian museum.

Soon you will be receiving more details and registration applications concerning this great event. It will be the last time you can see these particular artifacts for a few years because the Royal Alberta Museum will be undergoing a 200 million dollar renovation starting in the fall of 2008.

Possibly the next time Empress artifacts will be on display will be 2014 at the one hundredth anniversary of the sinking.

Because of your support you will have the opportunity to attend an exciting gala evening to view some previously unseen Empress artifacts, enjoy some entertainment, dine on a bountiful buffet of hors d'oeuvres, and stroll amid a glittering social scene where you will meet many other Empressphiles.

We are working on having special rates for accommodation in hotels near the Royal Alberta Museum. If there is enough interest, we will organize a city tour on Friday morning. If you would like more information immediately, please contact me at czardust@telusplanet.net

NB: The Empress of Ireland Artifacts Committee has officially changed its mailing address to:

Empress of Ireland Artifacts Committee
265 Ormond St.
Brockville ON K6V 2L6

We have heard from Dave Zeni, author of Forgotten Empress. You may recall meeting Dave at the 2006 Empress conference in Calgary. Dave is being treated for cancer of the colon. He would appreciate your thoughts and prayers. Here is Dave Zeni's e-mail address: roughseas2@yahoo.com

We wish him a complete recovery in time for him to attend the gala opening at the Royal Alberta Museum.
Alberta issues First-ever Oil Sands Land Reclamation Certificate - March 19, 2008

Alberta issues first-ever oil sands land reclamation certificate.

Former oil sands site transformed into forested area

Edmonton Alberta has designated a rolling forested area with hiking trails and lookout points as the first piece of oil sands land to be reclaimed.

The Alberta government issued a reclamation certificate to Syncrude Canada Ltd. for the 104-hectare parcel of land known as Gateway Hill approximately 35 kilometres north of Fort McMurray.

"To confirm the success of reclamation takes time," said Environment Minister Rob Renner. "Both operators and government want to ensure that the reclamation is successful before a certificate is granted."

Under Alberta’s reclamation standards, companies must remediate and reclaim Alberta’s land so it can be productive again. Alberta requires reclaimed land to be able to support a range of activities similar to its previous use.

"This is an important first step in restoring land to its more natural state," said Sustainable Resource Development Minister Ted Morton. "We are continually learning more about the science of land reclamation, and we will apply that learning to ensure we have continuous improvement."

The site was used for placement of overburden material removed during oil sands mining. By the early 1980s, the area was no longer needed and Syncrude began to replace topsoil and plant trees and shrubs.

Remapping History in Banff

HSA members might be interested in a great story about a former Edmonton native, now Turner Valley resident.

To Shauna McGarvey, Banff National Park is more than just hiking trails, wooded forests and snow-covered mountain tops.

Shauna is working with the Stoney-Nakoda First Nation of Alberta to rediscover how they have shaped, experienced and valued the park.

Shauna has just been awarded the Canon National Parks Science scholarship to support her research efforts to map, for the first time, Stoney historical landmarks, gravesites, traditional hunting areas and medicine sites within the park.

By capturing and documenting the traditional land use and oral history of the Stoney’s, Shauna’s research is not only uncovering the legacy of some of Canada’s first Canadians, but also identifying ecological challenges for the future and revitalizing the relationship between Parks Canada and the Stoney First Nation.

If you would like to speak to Shauna about her research and the Canon National Parks Scholarship, please contact me at: phone: 416.644.2262 or by email at rgandhi@highroad.com.

Best from Riddhi Gandhi.
This will be my last report as president of Chinook Country Historical Society, since my two-year term ended with the election of Tom Hamp as the incoming president at the CCHS Annual General Meeting on March 25. Tom is a Petroleum Engineering Consultant and Professional Photographer. Tom’s interest in the rural life and themes of the prairies led him to study and photograph prairie grain elevators, which are displayed in numerous stores and galleries in Chinook Country.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with a wonderful dinner at the historic Danish Canadian Club, which has been a favourite meeting place since 1947. The presentation by David Finch based on his new book, Pumped, was interesting and most informative. I would like to thank Shona Gourlay and Diana Ringstrom for all their work in planning this wonderful event. And a big thank you to Laurel Halladay for all the work she did to plan this year’s silent auction. Thanks also to Ruth Kerr, the Chinook Country Historical Society newsletter editor who does such an efficient job of preparing the newsletter and keeping us all informed. I would like to extend special thanks to all the members of the board of Chinook Country Historical Society, particularly to Sheila Grogan and Haifa Selo who are stepping down this year. In addition, we are indebted to all the volunteers who have contributed close to 5,500 hours to the association.

We are well into planning for the 2008-2009 Programs at Fort Calgary under the guidance of Laurel Halladay; and the Historic Calgary Week Committee is actively planning for Historic Calgary Week 2008 with key committee chairs being Lynda Purdy, Roberta Ryckman, Janice Lowe, Kate Reeves, Diana Ringstrom and Gail and Ron Kessler.

Our programs at Fort Calgary have been very well attended — and the special program, the launch of Doug Francis’s new book, Prairie West As Promised Land — was no exception. The April 22 presentation at Fort Calgary featuring Jack Dunn on “The Westward March of the NWMP” and the May 20 presentation by Richard Parker, “Calgary’s Story: A Planner’s Perspective,” promise to be very worthwhile.

Once again, I would like to thank the board of Chinook Country Historical Society for all their help during my two years as president. I enjoyed working with all of you.

Best wishes to Bill Love, our insurance agent, on his retirement.

Bill has tirelessly worked for the HSA and the four affiliated chapters to ensure that we receive the best economically feasible insurance coverage.

Thank you Bill for your wonderfull efforts on our behalf. We look forward to working with your son, Mike.

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Our society continues to be busy with a number of projects.

Four more plaques will be unveiled in the downtown this May (tentatively set for May 6). When these are up, it will bring to fifteen the number of historic plaques placed by the LHS and the City of Lethbridge in the downtown area. Eight others are being researched and planned for either later in 2008 or 2009.

The Society is planning to launch one new book and re-launch another over the next few months. *Vice, Virtue and Lust: Lethbridge’s Cemeteries*, will be launched on May 10 during Historic Lethbridge Week. *Vice, Virtue and Lust* are all surnames of persons buried in Lethbridge and the book highlights biographies and local history. *The Canadian Pacific Railway High Level Bridge at Lethbridge* will be re-launched in a new edition on June 23, which is the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the steel work on the bridge.

In connection with the 100th anniversary of the High Level Bridge, the LHS and other partners are working with Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to put up a plaque commemorating the construction of the High Level Bridge as a National Historic Event. The unveiling is tentatively set for June 27 and more details will be available closer to the date.

The 5th Annual Historic Lethbridge Week is set to run May 3 to 10, 2008, and plans are well underway. Highlights of the week include “Taste of Downtown” (where for $15 participants can sample food at restaurants in the downtown, try some belly dancing lessons and learn more about historic buildings), the Southern Alberta Regional Historica Heritage Fair, kite flying lessons, concerts, tours and much more.

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From Bill and May Broscoe.

The letter on the right is from Douglas Fairbanks, the actor, from the early 1900s. It is dated August 4, 1923, and addressed to my Grandmother Mrs. Ernest Edwards, General Delivery, Rosse Ranch, Calgary, AB. (adjacent to the Bar U Ranch, Midnapore.)

The letter is in reference to either a horse race, or about a Polo game. I do recall in my early years growing up at my Grandparents farm in the south of England some mention of Mr. Fairbanks and this trophy.
The 2007—2008 executive is:
President: Janet Walter, Vice-President Bill Mackay, Past President Don Hepburn, Secretary Lu Piening, Treasurer Marion Hives, Membership Faye Hughes, Program Director Shirley Dye, Newsletter Editor Pat Macdonald, Directors: Bill Baergen, Bob Lampard, Rod Trentham, Marguerite Watson, Carolyn Kent, and John Tobias.

CAHS continues our participation in the local: Cultural Charter Partners and also in the Heritage Preservation Committee, which is now a sub-committee of the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery. Central Alberta region of Historica and Historic Red Deer Week are direct sponsorships of CAHS.

Our internal publications committee will soon launch the Markerville Story. This is a new edition of an out of print book published earlier by a Markerville group. Similar to the CAHS, Fred Shutz book, West of the Blindman, The Markerville Story is a compilation of a series of newspaper columns first printed in a newspaper, in this case, The Innisfail Province. Born in the village, this columnist, Carl Morkerberg spent many hours in the creamery operated by his father and that he operated until 1972. He was a key community citizen and used his wide contacts to create many columns that now serve as a valuable account of the life and lives in this unique community. Icelandic, and with communitarian roots so deep that newcomers graft on and become part of continuous new community projects, Markerville on the Medicine River is a treat for visitors. The creamery has become a Museum with permanent summer staff and is still a gathering place for local people who meet for morning coffee year round.

CAHS members and board are readying for an engaging series of spring events. The first weekend in May is the Historica regional fair. Students, parents, teachers, project judges and the public will come to a local mall, all drawn there to view exhibits and talk to school students about their chosen representations of a historic topics that interest these young historians.

The Historical Society of Alberta Conference and Annual General Meeting is an opportunity for members and visitors to be part of the International Bicentennial commemoration of the great explorer and mapmaker, David Thompson. The conference theme is David Thompson in Central Alberta and the dates coincide with the Rocky Mountain House portion of the Bicentennial. The Saturday program will include a bus tour of Rocky Mountain House and the newly renovated Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site. Chair of the CAHS hosting committee, Bill Baergen and the team of co-workers have arranged an outstanding weekend May 16 to 18, for historians to enjoy history and the parkland and foothills of Central Alberta.

May 24 to 31 is the 2008 Historic Red Deer Week. The first four Historic Red Week celebrations followed directly after the Historica Fair, the first weekend in May. None of the district museums open until the May long weekend. By extending the events beyond the city, participants can explore the independent history of town and country. Homestead sites have long been changed to large farms, industrial sites, towns and the City of Red Deer. The mutual relationship continues. Now on a larger scale, where city health, education and cultural institutions serve both city and surrounding counties and city residents have easy access to beaches, rural landscapes and farmers’ markets for local food. The official opening of Historic Red Deer Week will take place in the Red Deer County Centre. Here on May 26 Heritage Preservation awards will be given to city and area residents or organizations that have made significant historical contributions to preservation.

To complete the historical menu in Central Alberta we’re going right into the mountains, on the Mountain Heritage Tour, June 3 to 6 with two nights in Jasper and two nights in Banff. This bus tour will include the stops and history all along the way from Red Deer and back.

Mountain Heritage Tour information is available from Don Hepburn 403-342-2245 and application forms at Red Deer Museum, CAHS Tours, 4525 47A Avenue, Red Deer Ab. T4N 6Z6.
Since last report, EDHS has enjoyed two presentations as part of its Speaker Series. In January, Freda Jackson, author of *Search for Billie*, and Debbie Marshall, author of *Give Your Other Vote to the Sister*, talked about their respective books and how and why they had written them. Ms. Jackson provided insight into how she had used her research on women of the late-19th century and early 20th century, and on the “home children” who were sent to Canada ostensibly to a healthy environment and an education but who often ended up indentured workers. The tale she creates, using Alberta and the Edmonton area as the backdrop, provides an interesting view of life in the region at the turn of the last century. Debbie Marshall told of discovering Roberta MacAdams’ campaign brochure when she ran for office in Alberta while researching woman politicians, and how that discovery led to her to write about one of Alberta’s first woman MLAs. A group of Girl Guides who attended the presentation were co-opted by Ms. Marshall into reading letters written by MacAdams, which was a very effective way of engaging them in the presentation.

In February, Fil Fraser presented his book, *Running Uphill: The Fast, Short Life of Canadian Champion Harry Jerome*. He provided insight into Jerome’s family and the conflicts that plagued it, his triumphs over injuries and vilification by the press when he failed to finish critical races when he went on to become the world’s fastest man, winning a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics and gold medals at the Pan-Am and Commonwealth Games.

The winter session at the History Centre for Grade 5 is almost complete. Most of January was taken up with preparing activity stations and program. As mentioned in the previous report, the winter session comprised a presentation on the North West Mounted Police’s ride west, a centre on building the railway and the third centre on homesteading. Using the “trading post” built for the fall session on the fur trade as a NWMP fort, a slide presentation was created and volunteers used it to tell the stories of the expedition from Toronto to Fort Whoop Up. A game was created to demonstrate the difficulties and encountered and strategies developed to build the railway from Lake Superior across the prairies and through the Rocky Mountains, using a working model railway. The homesteading centre was a “soddy” in which students played a game to teach them some of the hardships settlers encountered on homesteads. Now that the sets and program have been designed for a full year of program, the call on volunteers will lessen and stabilize into a management workload. In addition to the sessions at the History Centre, teachers and volunteers gave a presentation at the Greater Edmonton Teachers’ Convention and staffed a booth for the two days of the convention. There was a great deal of interest in the History Centre and a large number of elementary teachers asked to be put on the broadcast list for information on next year’s program. We are hoping to expand the program to four days a week next year; the interest shown at the convention confirmed the need for more sessions.

Historic festival staff and volunteers are currently gathering information on partner event. Once again, the response to the call for participants in the festival has outstripped the previous year. It seems that the potential for growth of the festival is limited only by the ability of EDHS to reach untapped regions. We are looking at how to continue growing. This year’s theme is David Thompson’s explorations. The brochure will “hit the stands” shortly.
HSA Calendar of Events - 2008

Apr. 17  CAHS “Bending The Map” with Dr. Sheila McManus, Dept. of History at UofL, Red Deer Museum, 7 pm
Apr. 22  CCHS “The Westward March of the Northwest Mounted Police” with Jack Dunn., Ft Calgary, 7:30 pm
Apr. 29  EDHS John Rowand Night, AGM, Faculty Club, UofA, 6 pm. Guest Speaker Michael Payne, author and City of
Edmonton Archivist
May 16-18 CAHS HSA AGM & Conference, Red Deer Lodge 4311 49 Avenue. Red Deer, AB
Red Deer Museum, 7 pm
May 20  CCHS “Calgary’s Story - A Planner’s Perspective,” by Richard Parker, 7:30 pm, Ft. Calgary.

HSA Crossword

Across
1. Canola
2. West Jet
3. Lance
4. Wheat
5. Sam
6. Jones
7. Tupper
8. Spencer
10. NEP
11. DNA
12. Elect
13. Basic
14. Louis
15. Carlton
20. Earth
23. Annie
25. Helen
27. Her
28. Lynch
30. WI
31. Min
32. Yen
33. Tec
34. Wood

4. President of the HSA from 1980 to 1982, ___ Stewart
6. Transport, trade, or exchange
11. Legal advisor to the Famous Five, Henrietta Muir ___
12. Lord Strathcona, Donald ___
13. Transcribing
15. NWMP Officer ___ Steele
16. Early pioneers in the Westlock area, William and Esther ___
19. Former Manager of Lethbridge Research Centre and
president of the Lethbridge Chapter, Tracy ___
21. Cabinet minister during the Lougheed era, Hugh ___
24. He has others work for him
26. Early Calgary entrepreneur, ___ Prince
29. Early Calgary entrepreneur, ___ Prince
29. French onion ___
32. A ___ apple (2 wds.)

Down
1. Alberta Artist, Maxwell ___
2. A mineral for nuclear fusion
4. Violet Louise _____, a pioneer of music studies in Edmonton
5. A hamlet on Highway 547, southeast of Calgary
6. Sang like a crow!
7. Late-night T.V. standard fare
8. Affirmative response
9. The title of a well-known poem by Rudyard Kipling
14. Red ___, on the Queen Elizabeth II Highway
17. One of the first white men to see the Canadian Rockies, David ___
18. Author of a book on the history of polo in the Calgary region, ___ ___ (2 wds.)
20. The editor of Alberta History, Hugh ___
22. The Stony and Peigan are members of the First ___
23. A town on Highway 21, southeast of Red Deer
25. Rev. George Exton ____ , who planned a British colony for the
NW Territories
27. Sap from a pine

You have plenty of time to complete this crossword puzzle which was devised by a
member of HSA. The answer will be published in the next issue of History Now.