

The membership newsletter of the

## Historical Society of Alberta

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# History NOW

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### HSA Pin

The Historical Society of Alberta pin is available. You can pick it up from the office or mail your cheque or money order in the amount of \$5 plus \$.50 postage and handling to:

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### From Fort to the Future: Celebrating Edmonton's Centennial 1904-2004

Come to Fort Edmonton Park to celebrate Edmonton's centennial. Picture yourself living in Edmonton 80 years ago by spending three days at the Hotel Selkirk in Fort Edmonton Park and travel back in time.

In 2004 Edmonton celebrates its 100th birthday and the Historical Society of Alberta joins the celebrations with its Annual General Meeting from May 28 to 30. Host is the Edmonton and District Historical Society partnering with Fort Edmonton Park,

The Hotel Selkirk is a circa 1922 reconstruction located on the corner of 1905 and 1920 Street in Fort Edmonton Park. Representing a continuity from the 1905 settlement era to the 1920 metropolitan era, the Hotel is fully functional (28 rooms, 2 suites, Johnson's Café and the Mahogany Bar) with locally-made furnishings to replicate 1920s Mission furniture. The Hotel is wheel-chair accessible and rooms are equipped for internet (but not television) use. The cost is \$129 a night (plus tax) for Conference delegates.

The weekend's activities begin with registration at the Hotel Selkirk from 12:30 pm to 8:30 pm, and the official launch, with a wine and cheese reception, is from 6:30 to 9 pm. Special guests will attend and rag-time music is provided by local pianist, Mitch Spratt.

The Annual General Meeting of the HSA is set for Saturday 8:30-10:30 am.

On Saturday afternoon delegates may wander through Fort Edmonton Park or take a guided tour at 2 pm. Or you may

select one of four bus tours offered which begin at the Park 12:30 pm and return by 4:30 pm. The bus tours are the "Historic Sports Tour" guided by Bruce Ibsen; "Historic Fine Arts" tour of Edmonton theatres; Historic Francophone visits Edmonton's "French Quarter," or Historic Beginnings, the history of Alberta and its capital which includes "high tea" at Rutherford House, the home of Alberta's first premier. (tour details are on page 18).

Saturday evening is the Awards Banquet at the Alberta Aviation Museum. Come to visit the museum, have cocktails at 5:30 pm and listen to the big-band sound of the C-Jammers. Dinner will follow at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker is Edmonton author Myrna Kostash who will give a talk entitled "Reading the River." The author of *Baba's Children* and *The Doomed Bridegroom* will explore her research into Alberta's history, particularly her work on her upcoming book *The Literary Companion to the Saskatchewan River*. An article based on that work is featured in the November/December 2003 issue of *Canadian Geographic*.

Sunday morning begins with breakfast (7-8:30 am) at the Hotel Selkirk, followed by "Edmonton Sports History Through the Eyes of an Archivist," a short presentation by Bruce Ibsen, City Archivist. Also, from 8:30 to 10:30 am there is a silent auction.

Alternative accommodation is offered at Edmonton House Suite Hotel located in downtown Edmonton.

The Historical Society of Alberta is a registered charitable organization.

Donations are gratefully received to help further the work of the Society which includes the publication of *Alberta History* and this newsletter, *History Now*. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in *History Now*, unless otherwise requested.

*History Now* is published quarterly. We welcome information about your upcoming or past events, activities, publications, etc. They should be in the hands of the editor prior to deadline.

**Submission deadlines:**

Mar 1 for Apr-Jun issue  
Jun 1 for Jul-Sep issue  
Sep 1 for Oct-Dec issue  
Dec 1 for Jan-Mar issue

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**Welcome to new members**

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James Haney, Lethbridge  
Jim Douglas, Montreal, Quebec  
Douglas R. Law, Edmonton  
Bruce Paterson, Edmonton  
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Jack & Christine LaMarsh, Calgary  
Lawrence W. Barany, Taber  
D. M. & Harold K. Coulter, Nanton  
Sylvia Gibson, Calgary  
Thomas Sheehan, Grande Prairie  
Beth McMurchie, Lethbridge

Faye Nelson, Lethbridge  
Howeard Forsyth, Lethbridge  
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Wendy Bush, Banff  
Douglas J. Misfeldt, Calgary  
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Michael & Elizabeth Thain, Red Deer  
George Tremaine, Grande Prairie  
Learning Technologies Branch, Alberta  
Learning, Barrhead  
Susan deCaen, Calgary  
Jean-Pierre Decorby, Edmonton  
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Karen Simonson, Edmonton  
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Dr. Johan Dormaar, Lethbridge  
Mara Green, Dewberry  
Danece Workman, Red Deer  
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Hans-Juergen Hermens  
Helen Bickford, Red Deer  
E. Jane Ming, Red Deer  
Barbara Clarke, Lethbridge  
Janay Nugent, Lethbridge  
Boise State University, Boise, ID  
Pat Rodriguez, Calgary

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

Catherine Smith  
Jean Johnstone - (2)  
Bev Leggett - (2)  
Gordon Franson  
Fred Holberton  
Roberts Ryckman, In Memory of Diana Sim  
Stephany Proudfoot  
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Lorraine Kerkegi  
Sandra Thomson  
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Ian Hay  
Bruce & Peggy Ferguson, Q.C.  
Myrtle Seguin & Family  
Malcolm MacCrimmon  
Marg Welch, Donation In Kind  
**Legacy 2003 Campaign**  
Arthur Jones  
**Legacy 2004 Campaign**  
Donations to the Legacy 2004 Campaign  
will be published in the October 2004 Issue  
of *History NOW* as well as the Autumn 2004  
Issue of *Alberta History*

# President's Report

by Don Hepburn

This is the time of year for our annual report to the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. AHRF provides a substantial grant to our Society each year to assist us in carrying out our programs, and in return we provide an accounting of how the money has been spent. Preparing the report provides an excellent opportunity to review — and be amazed by — the amount of work done by our members.

This year's report shows a total of 18,405 volunteer hours, the equivalent of nearly ten full-time jobs, which is an impressive figure. My guess is, though, that even this figure is considerably lower than it should be. I think people are generally quite modest when they estimate the amount of time they have contributed, and the actual amount of volunteer time is probably higher by a half. That's a very significant contribution.

What does all that effort achieve? Some of the Society's activities are high profile events, such as the Historic Weeks, soon to be an annual feature in four Alberta cities. Edmonton and Calgary are old hands at it, of course, having held very successful Historic Edmonton and Historic Calgary weeks for a number of years in midsummer, and May of this year will see the second annual Historic Red Deer Week and the first ever Historic Lethbridge Week. Our "how-to" manual, *Celebrate Our Heritage*, is now complete and is being piloted in four communities. It will be readily accessible to communities, in Alberta and beyond, in electronic format on our website.

Publishing continues to be an important activity. Our quarterly journal, *Alberta History*, has been in publication for half a century now, and last fall's excellent special issue celebrated fifty years of publication. I had the privilege and the

pleasure, at the February meeting of the Central Alberta Chapter, of awarding editor Hugh Dempsey the Society's Volunteer Service Medallion for his many years of devoted service. Hugh has edited the journal for most of its fifty years.

Society members have been active in book publication as well. The Alberta Records Publication Board's latest volume, *The Mountaineering Diaries of Margaret Fleming*, is now available (see page 14 for details). The Lethbridge Chapter published its Sweetgrass Hills in 2003 and it has already gone into its second printing. Another Lethbridge publication, *Prairie Prisoners*, has also gone to a second printing. The Central Alberta Chapter, in partnership with the Central Alberta Regional Museums Network, published two books: *West of the Blindman*, a

collection of newspaper columns written by Fred Schutz of Rimbey over a 40-year period, and *Aspenland II: On Women's Lives and Work in Central Alberta*.

Advocacy has occupied many hours for many members. Rouleau House in Calgary, the Michener Centre Administration Building in Red Deer, the Lieutenant Governor's official residence in Edmonton, the National Historic Site at Rocky Mountain House all come immediately to mind as heritage "hot spots" that have been, and continue to be, the focus of advocacy work by members and by chapters.

Underlying all of this activity are the regular monthly public education programs offered by each of the chapters, the regular publication of four chapter and one provincial newsletter, and the many unseen but valuable contributions made by chapter members who sit on committees and boards of one kind or another, both local and



provincial, to further the cause of history and heritage preservation in our province.

Taken all together, it is a very impressive picture. It is something to celebrate. I hope you will take the opportunity to do just that by attending the Annual Conference of the Society to be held in Edmonton, May 28 to 30. "From Fort to the Future: Celebrating Edmonton's Centennial 1904-2004" promises to be an exciting event and a tremendous opportunity to share with others your enthusiasm for Alberta history. I hope to see you there

## We'd like to hear from you

I am interested in volunteering for the Historical Society of Alberta.

I am interested in:

- Events
- Fund Raising
- Membership
- Publicity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

The skills I have to offer are:

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Phone: 403-261-3662  
E-mail: albertahistory@telus.net

## In Appreciation of Wes Johnston September 30, 1928 - December 10, 2003

by Geoff Wilson



Many organizations have people who, without it being well known to their memberships, put in a great deal of time behind the scene. Wes Johnston, who passed away last December, was one of these unsung heroes for the Historical Society of Alberta.

Before he became ill Wes spent many hours, initially maintaining the HSA's somewhat ramshackle computer systems and later expanding them in stages and at minimal cost until they were only slightly obsolescent. Those of us who were involved with Wes in this effort remember with appreciation his patience in resolving conflicting hardware and software needs and in undoing problems caused by some of our actions. Wes continued to help at the HSA office until shortly

## HSA Members News

before his illness. It is proving more difficult to sort out bugs now he is no longer with us.

Wes brought to his work both flexibility in adopting suggestions and tenacity in working to overcome the inevitable glitches in setting up computer systems in a less than optimal environment. Wes's integrity was apparent in his strict adherence to software licenses, sometimes frustrating to his more flighty coworkers. We will also remember Wes's gentlemanly, quiet, dry humour in his interactions with all those he met.

## A tribute to Wes Johnston by the Archaeological Society of Alberta

by Brian Vivian

Although Wes never had any formal training in archaeology, he came by his interest and understanding of archaeology honestly. In earlier years his father Russell Johnston had made one of the better artifact collections in the Province. Russell found one particularly unique spear head that came to be called an Alberta Point — this was adopted by the Archaeological Society of Alberta as its logo — a fact Wes was modestly proud of.

Wes's interest in history and love of Southern Alberta archaeology was demonstrated by his years of service for the Archaeological Society. He was a member of the Calgary Centre for over thirty years, voted into the Executive as Lifetime Director and acted as Provincial Representative for the Calgary Centre. At other times he represented the Centre at public displays, artifact identification and always participated and enjoyed field trips and other outings.

At meetings, when debate became heated Wes would break the deadlock in a unassuming manner. With a twinkle in his eye and a bit of a shrug he would offer an honest and simple answer that he said was only his opinion — yet we would agree he was correct.

Last fall when Wes became ill and had to resign his post, the entire Executive felt his absence.

To recognize Wes and all he meant to the Archaeological Society, the Calgary Centre decided to rename the Annual Student Award in his honour. The Wes Johnston Prize in Archaeology is an Award to the Top Undergraduate Student in The Department of Archaeology at the University of Calgary. I appreciate that Wes was still with us when we announced this new award and he was able to convey his thoughts to the first recipient.

The members of the Society were blessed to have been in his company.

Wes Johnston was born on the family farm at Helmsdale, AB. He was a 1950 graduate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alberta, and spent his entire thirty-eight-year professional career with Calgary Power, later TransAlta Utilities, mainly in the communications and telecontrol field. He was a life member of APEGGA and past section chairman of IEEE. Upon retiring in 1988, he was able to pursue his other interests, including archaeology and genealogy, the latter combined with the love of computers. Wes and Sheila (his wife of 52 years) spent time in their beloved Kananaskis, and combined travel with genealogy whenever possible. Wes lent his technical expertise to keep computer, audio and other equipment running at the Historical Society of Alberta, the Alberta Family Histories Society, and Northminster United Church. He was a man of strong, staunch, and upright character, who valued honesty, fairness and forthrightness throughout his life.

## Mary Finlay: A Mother for Strangers

by Alan Kausy

“Edmonton has had no better citizen than Mrs. Mary Finlay.” Perhaps this was a generous statement, but in May of 1964 when the *Edmonton Journal* stated this, the individual who refuted the remark was likely unaware of Mrs. Finlay’s outstanding character and unmatched accomplishments. With any mention of the Beulah Home of Edmonton, Mary’s name was unquestionably raised and probably referred to as ‘the lady of the house.’

In an era when horses and buggies lined the streets, coal oil lamps were casting dim glows within wooden walled homes and running water was as scarce as a rut free road, Mary Finlay came to Edmonton. The year was 1909 and Mary, then known by her maiden name of Miss White, was 25 and in search of a job. The same year she began work with the Beulah Mission. The Mission was a place where a single woman was ensured a safe place to stay. Later, the home was renowned for taking unwed mothers into a warm, caring and comfortable environment. Also, the Beulah harboured young ladies and fostered a compassionate atmosphere that did not allow their unmarried patrons to be looked down upon as the pioneering society tended to do at the time. Perhaps it was the Beulah home that helped to change that particular perspective of unmarried mothers.

Mary became a common sight at Edmonton’s Railway station where she would welcome the women in need of assistance and transported them to “the place out in the bog.” That was in the early days when the Beulah home was on the outskirts of Edmonton. Gradually, as the city grew, the mission was surrounded by new homes and businesses. Shortly thereafter, the home was blessed with running water,

electricity and the installation of a city telephone line.

In 1919, Mary married Mr. John S. Finlay of Didsbury, Alberta. Sadly, the marriage was short-lived as Mr. Finlay passed away in 1921. She did, however, give birth to a daughter, Joyce. Although it must have been a difficult time for Mary, she persevered and became superintendent of the home in 1922.

The Beulah House was a pillar within the community. Every fall there was an open house where tea was served and tours of the house were given to the visitors. The backyard was one that certainly did not lack space. A full vegetable garden was seeded every spring and the women at the mission were responsible for its maintenance. During warm weather barbecues were held in the backyard. Musical entertainment was commonplace and a good-sized library was in the home for all to peruse. All in all, it was a good, safe and decent abode which was well respected.

Mary was superintendent for 42 years. During this time, over 5300 ladies stayed at the home and 4660 babies were born into its care — approximately one baby born every two weeks for 42 years. It indeed required a special type of person to fulfill the related duties involved but Mrs. Finlay did just that.

The City of Edmonton and the Beulah Home appreciated the immense contributions made by Mary and the Mission to the now mature society. In 1963, a scholarship was established. Set up by the trustees of the Robert Tegler Trust, it recognized an individual annually for their advanced study contributions to social welfare and other

related studies. Furthermore, when Mrs. Finlay retired in 1964, the Board of the Beulah House gave her a modern home to live in for “as long as she needs it”. It was in a good area — right across the street from the mission.

It was only recently, in August 2000, that the city further honoured the late Mrs. Finlay by naming a park after her. Located in the well-established district of Forest Heights at 8008 102 Avenue, it is certainly a wonderful place for mothers, married or not, to take their children for an afternoon of activity. There is a well-equipped playground, lush grass and plenty of shade provided by birch, elm and spruce trees. They can relax on one of the many benches and enjoy a day outside. And in the winter time, there is an outdoor skating rink adjacent to the grounds complete with a well insulated community hall where they can thaw out on a chilly winter day.

In 1962, when Mayor Elmer Roper presented Mary with the Junior Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award, he summed up her achievements perfectly, “Mrs. Finlay’s life and work have been an inspiration to all who have been privileged to associate with her through the years of devoted service to Beulah Home. Dedicated in her youth to the ideal of Christian service to others, her zeal and devotion, her deep love and sympathy for those in need has never diminished.”

The compassionate lady that was instantly recognizable in her regal blue suit jacket, frilly white blouse and hat, passed away on November 27, 1970, at the age of 86. Though considerable time has gone by, her spirit shall remain in the hearts of all Edmontonians as a role model which continues to instill inspiration and loyalty into all our actions and endeavours.

## Empress of Ireland

by Marion Kelch

This is: The year of the 90th anniversary of the sinking of the Empress of Ireland. The year of the 100th anniversary of the ordering of the construction of the Empress of Ireland at the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering in Govan, Scotland. The first anniversary of the Empress of Ireland Artifact Committee whose mission is to keep in Canada Philippe Beaudry's incomparable collection of artifacts. The question is: Will Canadians and the Government of Canada have sufficient foresight, integrity, and resourcefulness to retain this collection for future generations to study and appreciate?

It is essential that the new Heritage Minister, the Hon. Helene Scherrer, MP from Louis-Hebert, Quebec, is made aware of our campaign. We ask **everyone** to please e-mail/write Hon.. Helene Scherrer. Here are addresses: e-mail to Scherrer.H@parl.gc.ca Or mail to: Hon.. Helene Scherrer Minister of Heritage House of Commons Parliament Buildings Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

In the subject, write **Empress of Ireland Artifacts**. Identify yourself as: a descendant of someone who perished on the liner, or who sailed on the liner on other voyages. Congratulate Hon.. Scherrer on her appointment to Minister of Heritage. State your concerns regarding the Empress of Ireland artifacts and that you consider them to be historically significant. Insist that Heritage Canada act quickly to work out an agreement with Mr. Philippe Beaudry, the Canada Science and Technology Museum, and the Empress of Ireland Artifact Committee so that the artifacts can be procured in commemoration of the 90th anniversary. Also, that Heritage Canada initiate legislation to have May 29 declared Empress of Ireland Memorial Day in time for the 90th anniversary. Similar letters could be sent to: The Right Honorable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada.

Martin.P@parl.gc.ca Deputy Prime Minister, Hon.. Anne McLellan  
McLellan.A@parl.gc.ca Honorable Mauril Belanger (Party Whip)  
Belanger.M@parl.gc.ca Mr. Gary Schellenberger, Heritage Critic (PC)  
Schellenberger.G@parl.gc.ca Ms. Wendy Lill, Heritage Critic (ND)  
Lill.W@parl.gc.ca Mailing address is: House of Commons Parliament Buildings Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
**Meeting With Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Anne McLellan.**

On December 19, I attended Hon. Anne McLellan's Open House in Edmonton. I had the opportunity to chat briefly with Hon.. McLellan and handed her a prepared statement concerning our Mission and our requests.

### **Empress of Ireland Article in the Calgary Herald by David Bly**

On December 29, the Calgary Herald featured a superb article by Heritage writer David Bly entitled "1914 ship sinking still making waves". Mr. Bly intricately portrayed how the disaster impacted the lives of Calgarians in particular. He then very graciously mentioned the Empress of Ireland Artifact Committee and listed the website [www.empressartifacts.org](http://www.empressartifacts.org) We are grateful for David Bly's interest in the Empress of Ireland. Mr. Bly can be contacted at: Dbly@theherald.canwest.com Because of Mr. Bly's article, another Empressphile, Mr. Duke Joy of Brooks, Alberta contacted me through our website. Duke's great grandfather, Nils Sundberg, who was returning to Sweden to bring back his family, perished on the liner. It was the first time Mr. Joy had heard of our Committee and he indicated positive concern about keeping the artifacts in Canada. We are happy to hear from Mr. Joy and look forward to providing him with more information about the Empress and the artifacts. We also look forward to learning more about Mr. Sundberg for our archives.

### **Have You Visited Our Website Lately?**

[www.empressartifacts.org](http://www.empressartifacts.org) Here you can now view Briana Bach Hertzog's beautiful painting of the Empress on its last voyage. The painting will be reproduced via photo canvas in various sizes and will soon be available for sale. We are always grateful to Brian Palmer for donating and maintaining this web site.

### **On May 29 Will You attend the 90th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony in Rimouski?**

If we can get a group of 20 or more, we will organize a tour which will greatly reduce the price for all. Here is a tentative schedule: Friday, May 28 Participants fly in to Quebec City. Evening reception and introduction of Empressphiles. Hotel pre-booked at a special rate. Saturday, May 29. Depart early for 3 hour chartered bus ride to Rimouski. Attend ceremonies and events planned by the Musee de la mer. Tour of museum and Empress related sites. Board ship to go out to site above the wreck. Divers send up photos to be shown on screen during dinner. Overnight in Rimouski. Pre-booked hotel at a special rate. Sunday, May 30 After some more sightseeing, chartered bus returns to Quebec City. Tour of harbour and other Empress related sites in Quebec City. Farewell Dinner. Overnight in Quebec City. Pre-booked hotel at a special rate. Monday May 31 Bus to airport.

Coming soon some exciting information on a proposed genealogical project resulting from research on the Empress of Ireland passenger lists. Derek Grout, author of *Empress of Ireland: The story of an Edwardian Liner*, will be making presentations in the next few months. I am scheduled to present in Salmon Arm, BC on February 19. Thanks to everyone for all your reports. Please feel free to send any comment or ideas. Marion Kelch [czardust@telusplanet.net](mailto:czardust@telusplanet.net)

## Alberta 2005 Centennial History Society - News March 2004

The Society has received grants from Alberta Community Development and from the Centennial Legacies Program to continue the preparation of volumes marking the 100th anniversary of Alberta. The Directors of the Society have commissioned a series of approximately 30 essays focussing on significant years in the Province's history from 10,000 BC to the present. It is expected that the essays will fill three volumes when published in the fall of 2005. Authors were selected in the fall of 2003 and will submit their first drafts in June, 2004. General editor of the project is Dr. Michael Payne, assisted by Dr. Donald Wetherell and Dr. Cathy Cavanaugh as volume editors.

Dr. Jerry Petryshyn of Grande Prairie Regional College has replaced Dr. Carl Betke of the University of Alberta as President of the Society. Dr. Betke was President for several years and continues as a director of the Society. Other directors include Doug Cass, David Jones, Sarah Carter, Rod Macleod, Kathryn Ivany, and Marianne Fedori.

The fifth volume in the Alberta Reflections series, by University of Alberta historian Paul Voisey was published in early 2004 by University of Alberta Press, *High River and the Times: an Alberta Community and its weekly newspaper, 1905-1966*. The volume traces the history of the *Times* under the management of the Clark family of High River

and is one of the first books in Canada to analyze the development of a rural weekly newspaper. A number of book launches are planned. Please watch for announcements.

Other volumes in the Alberta Reflections series include a two-volume *Literary History of Alberta* by George Melnyk [1998-1999], *Town Life: main street and the evolution of small town Alberta, 1880-1947* [1995] and *Alberta's North: a history, 1890-1950* [2000] by Donald Wetherell and Irene Kmet, all published in collaboration with the University of Alberta Press.

The next Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place in Calgary in June 2004. Details will be announced.

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## History Teacher Tips – Presented by the Education Committee of the HSA

by David M. Smith

In the pendulum swing of educational theory, cross-curricular education has come up again and again as a sound approach to communicating concepts and ideas. In short, the idea is to teach the interconnectedness of disciplines such as mathematics, chemistry, biology and . . . history. In fact, a very good case can be made that a central component in this scheme of teaching is history. Everything has a history — chemistry, mathematics, biology — everything. But perhaps more importantly, all these “things” are in history. It would be hard to teach 19th Century history without at least touching on Darwin and Wallace's ideas of natural selection and evolution. World War II would not be complete, both literally and figuratively, without a knowledge of the atom bomb and the scientific process and principles that led to its development. This leads us to the conclusion that you can use history to teach darn near anything.

First, however, a caveat. Of course very few History teachers will have the requisite knowledge of physics to teach the detailed principles of atomic reactions. But schools are wonderful places in part because they bring an amazing amount of talent and knowledge together under one roof. Use your colleagues!! Bring in the physics or chemistry teacher when you are teaching the A-Bomb. Ask the English teacher to talk to your class about Tennyson and the “Charge of the Light Brigade” when you teach the Crimean War.

Is it then possible to use one major historic event to teach a wide variety of disciplines, the sum of which would be the teaching of the event itself? Let's look at World War I. Here is a very brief outline that uses World War I to teach many things.

History – Historiography: The causes of the war – various interpretations

Strategic Planning – Battle Plans:

Vimy Ridge & Learning from Your Mistakes – Sort Of

Economics – The Wartime Economy; Fiscal Policy and Government Intervention

Mathematics – The Statistics of War; Casualties

Science and War – Gas; The Science of Ballistics

Literature – The War Poets

Visual Arts – War Artists & Their Work

Music – The Legacy of the War – America Brings Jazz to Europe

Political Studies – The Peace; The Treaty Process; Political Geography – The New Map

If you can use everything to teach history, and everything has a history, does that mean that all teachers are really History teachers? Well, maybe not, but it's a scary thought, isn't it?

## Heritage Updates

### Heritage Canada Calls For the Preservation of the Lieutenant-Governor's Official Residence in Edmonton, Alberta

Ottawa, ON, February 25, 2004 – In his February 19th letter to the Honourable Ty Lund, Alberta Minister of Infrastructure, Brian Anthony, executive director of the Heritage Canada Foundation, expressed shock and dismay upon hearing of the provincial government's plan to demolish the Lieutenant-Governor's official residence in Edmonton and to sell, for development purposes, a significant portion of the land on which it stands.

Constructed in 1950, the long, low-slung cedar bungalow at 58 St. George's Crescent, with its fieldstone fireplaces and low-pitched roof, was designed by prominent Edmonton architect John Rule, whose other designs include Glenora school, the Rutherford Library, as well as the Mayfair Golf and Country Club and the University of Alberta's Faculty Club. Vacant since 2000, the house, which was originally built as a private home, was purchased by the province in 1966 to serve as the vice-regal residence. Despite its architectural and historical significance, however, the house has not been designated — although it is on a list of modern heritage buildings that are being considered for such status — with the end result that the government deems the structure and site as having no heritage value.

In support of the Alberta heritage community, Anthony stressed that it was often the most recent forms of modern heritage that are most endangered and argued that “the demolition of such buildings in their middle age means that they will never be permitted to grow old gracefully and acquire the additional

heritage value that generation after generation would otherwise bestow upon them.”

The Heritage Canada Foundation supports the conservation of works of Modern Movement architecture, a cultural imperative of the 20th century.

Letters of protest concerning the proposed demolition were written by Bradley McDonald, Vice President, EDHS; Don Hepburn, President, HSA, and Brian Anthony, Unfortunately, these efforts were in vain. The residence has been demolished. That is why we must keep a diligent vigil to preserve our few remaining treasures.

### Re: Maison Rouleau House, Calgary, Liliane Coutu Maisonneuve, Heritage and History Coordinator - February 11, 2004

The mandate of the Heritage and History sector of our Association is to preserve, educate and promote the history of francophones in Alberta.

Francophones have a long history in Alberta starting with the French Canadian voyageurs in the 1700's. Linguistic evidence demonstrates that the Blackfoot Nation referred to French Canadians as the “old man or original people” and used another term for other non aboriginal people. French was the first European Language to be spoken in Alberta and was where the first white woman Marie-Anne Gaboury Lagimodière settled with her family (Louis Riel's grandparents) at Fort Edmonton. Fort Brisebois was the early name of Calgary and later the history of the Rouleauville district and Rouleau House became important to the history of Calgary and of Alberta.

The preservation of Rouleau House concerns 3 main areas: history, education,

## Heritage Issues



and tourism. Rouleau House has a significant history.

Judge Charles Borromée Rouleau played a role in the North West Rebellion of 1885, the greatest social upheaval to take place in Western Canada. He was the personal emissary sent by Prime Minister John A. MacDonald to assess the situation. His impression of the starvation and results from a change of way of life was unheeded. Today we still witness the regretful effects of this period of our history where French Canadians & Metis demanded land and language rights.

Dr. Edouard Hector Rouleau worked as a surgeon for the local North-West Mounted Police detachment. He served as the Belgian Consul, was the first President of Calgary's St-Jean-Baptiste Society and was one of the founders of the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. One of his sons was killed in action during WWI in France in 1917.

These are important figures in our history and the most important aspect of preserving and restoring Rouleau House is the recognition and respect of the history of the early French Canadian pioneers and Oblate Father Albert Lacombe and Father Leduc. As Professor Robert Stebbins wrote in his book the Franco-Calgarians.

“In autumn 1889, in a move to achieve official recognition of their community, the homesteaders incorporated themselves as the Village of Rouleauville, named in honour of the contributions of the two brothers”.

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This neighbourhood was named after them and deserves to be preserved and interpreted in Rouleau House.

Another important aspect of the preservation of Rouleau House is in the area of education. In 2005 a new Social Studies program will be implemented in Alberta and will bring an Aboriginal, Metis and Francophone perspective to the diverse cultural history of Alberta. This is a perfect opportunity to preserve and interpret the history of Rouleau House which will complement the new Social Studies program and enable teachers and students from across Alberta to participate in the historical aspects of Rouleau House.

The last aspect deals with the new phenomenon of heritage tourism. Tourists are no longer content to view historical sites. They want to experience different cultures and participate in thought provoking ideas and attitudes. This incites them to discover more about historical events and personalities which have shaped our history.

Therefore, our association recommends that Rouleau House be preserved, restored and interpreted as a historical site to enable future generations to celebrate the history of Alberta.

Jim Bowman, chairman of the Friends of Rouleau House, Heritage Planner Darryl Cariou and Neil Richardson, president of Heritage Property Corp., are looking into ways to relocate and preserve the Rouleau House. Cost to relocate the building is estimated at \$108,000. — From the Calgary Herald, November 15, 2003 - Sean Myers

**Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site. March 2, 2004**  
Hon. Helene Chalifour Scherrer  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Scherrer:

I am writing to you concerning the proposed changes to the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, and specifically to express our disappointment at the proposed closure of the visitor centre at the site. The public notices from Parks Canada refer to the changes as "proposed", and indicate that comments will be accepted until March 15, 2004. Therefore I am assuming that the decision to close the centre is not firm, and there is still the possibility of a different resolution to the problems being faced at the site.

I am advised by members of the Board of Directors of our Central Alberta Chapter that there was really no discussion in the community concerning alternative solutions before the proposed closure was announced. The public meetings that were held focused on how the proposed changes could be implemented, not on whether they were necessary or acceptable. These Board members have raised serious concerns about the effect of closing the visitor centre and would much prefer a different solution.

All of this is happening at a time when one would expect the site to be assuming greater importance rather than less. The David Thompson Bicentennial will begin in 2007, and the Rocky Mountain House site should be playing a key role in those celebrations. Instead, it seems, Thompson is to be ignored here in his own country while the Americans celebrate his achievements and claim him as their own a few hundred miles to the south.

The fur trade played such a major role in the exploration and development of Canada, and especially western and northern Canada, that one would expect Heritage Canada to be looking for opportunities to tell that story to as many Canadians as possible. Sites such

## Heritage Issues



as Fort St. James may be excellent, but they are few in number and not readily accessible to travellers. The Rocky Mountain House site, in contrast, is on a major highway and is relatively close to the mountain parks and their millions of visitors. It is readily accessible to tourists from Alberta Highway 2 as well as from the Icefields Parkway, and is located in an area well supplied with tourist accommodations. There is a great opportunity to make the site a major interpretive centre for the fur trade era, as well as a suitable memorial for the man who, although neglected in his old age and forgotten for a century, is now acknowledged as this country's greatest cartographer and perhaps the world's foremost land geographer.

It is therefore difficult to understand why the site is to be downgraded at this time. The reasons given by Parks Canada for the proposed changes are primarily financial. The potable water system at the site, it is said, does not meet national standards and needs upgrading. The visitor centre is in need of extensive repairs. The septic system needs to be excavated and reconstructed. No doubt money needs to be spent to resolve these difficulties, but if the site is viewed in its proper perspective, no doubt ways can be found to meet the costs. Amounts much larger than those required in this case have been spent on other heritage sites across the country. What is required first of all is a revaluing of the site, and a determination to make this an important interpretive site that people will see as a worthwhile destination. If costs remain an insurmountable impediment for Parks Canada as the sole

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operator of the site, then surely there are partnerships with local or provincial organizations that could be explored.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts in this regard, and hope to hear that the proposed closure of the visitor centre is being reconsidered.

Yours truly

Donald Hepburn, Ph. D. President

### Heritage Canada Foundation

As the new Alberta Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation, I'm pleased to let you know of our current Strategic Planning process. The Board met in February to discuss the Mission, Vision and Strategic Directions for the organization. Priorities and a 5-year Action Plan will be agreed to at our next meeting in mid-June. One emerging priority is to become more involved at the local level, to expand membership and strengthen our collective voice. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch with me.

This year's Heritage Day educational guide *Defending Canada Our Military Heritage Sites and Buildings* was distributed to schools across the country. Stewardship is the theme of the annual conference to be held in St. John, New Brunswick from September 8-11, 2004. Membership in the Heritage Canada Foundation is only \$25, for which you receive the quarterly magazine *Heritage*, and support ongoing efforts to preserve our heritage nationally.

For further information, please contact me at 780-424-2229 Catherine.Cole@telus.net; visit the website at [www.heritagecanada.org](http://www.heritagecanada.org) or write to the Foundation at 5 Blackburn Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1N 8A2. Catherine C. Cole, Catherine C. Cole & Associates, heritage consultants, Edmonton.

### Garneau District Report

From: Douglas Gorman

Have a look at updated information posted on our home page. Visit [www.preservegarneau.org/index.html](http://www.preservegarneau.org/index.html)

Thanks to Colm MacCarthy and Kevin Perrot for all their hard work with the website. It is an important tool for getting out information about this unique neighbourhood and the challenge that faces us in working to preserve it. Website "hits" tripled in the months before and after the UofA Open House.

Read some of the feedback sent to the UofA about their new residence and about the UofA's plans for the next phase of development in North Garneau.

Interesting to see information from the Calgary Herald on collaboration between the UofC, the City of Calgary, downtown communities, and others in Calgary on development of a downtown campus. Why can't the UofA engage in similar collaboration with the community here in Edmonton?

### Paddle Plant Project: Preserving green space and modern heritage at the same time

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, local communities and recreational River Valley users have been working on the preservation of a unique lot and tree site, on 87 Street north of Rowland Road since March of 2003. Riverdale residents received notice that the City owned river valley lots totaling about 1 acre or more would be rezoned from parkland, sub-divided and sold for residential development. This land currently serves as the entrance to Dawson Park. A group has been formed to try and keep the site parkland.

The river fronting lot also contains a decommissioned power sub station built between 1958 and 1962. It was designed



by City Architect, Robert Duke and is one of a distinct architectural collection of substations in the City. Two paddling groups have shown an interest in using the building as an office-training centre, and the rear fenced yard as a place to store boats. Both made a presentation to City Council on March 1. The paddling groups are to work with Community Services in developing a plan to use the building, and the matter is to come before Council again on July 20, 2004.

The project to conserve the Robert Duke building is being termed the 'Paddle Plant' project and we are hoping to reuse the building for non motorized paddling groups. The large open warehouse style of the building is seen as an asset by potential users. We are currently doing the research to nominate the building to the Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton.

Contacts are Eric Gormley and Raquel Feroe at 780-421-0975 in Edmonton.

(Many members may remember that Eric Gormley was formerly a Glenbow archivist.)

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### Happy Anniversary Rutherford House — May 16, 2004

On Sunday, May 16, come and help Rutherford House celebrate 30 years as a museum. Explore our past and delight in our future. Enjoy the music and festivities and share a cup of tea and your stories of Rutherford House with others.

## A new Dawning

by Pat MacDonald

Recently Parks Canada submitted a Proposal to remove the Visitors Centre at the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site that has evoked a tremendous amount of impassioned response from the public and Historical Societies across Canada.

Although national historians such as Dr. Barbara Belyea, (Columbia Journals) D'Arcy Jenish, (Epic Wanderer) and Jack Granastein, (Who Killed Canadian History) have been supportive, additional support has also come from well-known Red Deer Archivist Michael Dawe and Dr. Robert Lampard, President of the Central Alberta Historical Society. Our hard working political representatives, Ty Lund, Bob Mills and Joe Clark continue to mount pressure on the Liberal Government as best they can. Bob Mills is taking this situation to the highest levels and the Rocky Mountain House Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club is in strong opposition to the sudden proposals of Parks Canada.

But the real issue is what do the residents of this historic area want to do about it? In many ways it is also a national concern one that every Canadian should be made aware. One thing becomes readily apparent — that once the building that includes the museum, meeting room, library, artifacts and gift shop goes, it is not coming back.

In the notice of meeting by Parks Canada dated January 27, 2004 it became readily apparent that the major decision to close and remove the Visitor Centre at the RMH National Historical site had been made arbitrarily and more importantly, unilaterally. No input was accessed from stakeholders and there are many, including the Friends of the

National Historic Site, a group who have laboured so long and hard supplementing the meagre budget that Parks Canada has allotted over many recent years.

Parks Canada now invites the Friends and the public to attend meetings to determine ...'how you would recommend the proposed changes be implemented at the site.' The operative word is how not whether. It is not deciding whether the condemned man should be executed but rather asking him to decide how he would like his execution implemented.

The tragedy of all this is that this current strategy of Parks Canada comes after several years of cut budgets and neglect of this Historic Site and other National Sites. York Factory, that proud old Historic Site on the Hayes River where David Thompson also served and close by the Hudson Bay, is now in danger of falling into the river!

Even though the great explorer and cartographer, David Thompson, played a prominent part at Rocky Mountain House, you would be hard pressed to find much evidence of that at the Historic Site. There is no significant memorial or statue of Thompson here in Rocky Mountain House but there are in many other places including the Pacific Northwest of the United States. Rocky Mountain House is where the great missionaries such as Fr. Lacombe, Robert Rundle, or John McDougall, worked their touch yet there is no recognition of that here. This is where the great Blackfoot warrior chief Kootenae Appee, mentor and protector of David Thompson, came to trade and where Maskepatoon, the legendary Cree Chief visited Robert Rundle. Very little about that around here.

At a time when the Americans are promoting David Thompson in a huge way in anticipation of the David Thompson Bi-Centennial 2007-2012, including a hugely funded musical entitled "Downriver!" another enthusiastic group of American Thompsonites are attempting to access hundreds of thousands of dollars for the approaching David Thompson Bicentennial as it recognizes the great mapmaker's contributions in the Pacific Northwest. It is ironic isn't it that we live in an area called the David Thompson Health Region, the David Thompson Highway, the Land of David Thompson, an area aptly named the Explorers Trail, where David Thompson mounted his first treks to the south, and eventually through the mountains at Howse Pass and the Athabasca. It was at the fur trade post here that David Thompson's first child was born to Charlotte Small.

So we respond to the question; "what are you doing?" Why proposing closing down our visitors centre, dismantling and removing our artifacts, journals, library, documents, museum, gift shop and probably the puppet show! That's what.

Parks Canada is a political entity and as such bound to budgetary restraints. Although these restraints did not stop the last Heritage Minister proposing that a \$90 million political museum be built in Ottawa. This extravagance was protested and condemned to political leaders which was seen by many as extravagance at the expense of the small Historic Sites across Canada in desperate need of money and support to maintain their connection to the past for future generations.

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Fort Henry in Ontario will receive over \$2,000,000 this year to repair part of Fort Henry "to rehabilitate the roof of the advanced battery casements". Fort Henry is in Kingston, the Liberal stronghold of Peter Milliken, the Speaker of the House of Commons. Even this money did not arrive without strong public petitions. Sadly, historic preservation should never be political. No matter whom we vote for, each of us wants our history and its treasures preserved for future generations.

Unfortunately the decisions being made now are fragmented and reactive. For instance, Parks Canada is pouring millions into repairing structures throughout Canada including the roof of one of their buildings in Banff. As for our National Historic Site, Parks Canada refers to the water supply not meeting standards, and not wanting to "invest in failing infrastructure" and the "available operating budget does not allow Parks Canada to sustain current operations". This building was only constructed in 1979 for heaven's sake!

Parks Canada goes on to write, "money saved by not completing major renovations will be reinvested in new outdoor self-guiding media". The cost to finding good water and repairing the existing structure would be in the neighbourhood of 600 thousand dollars. Certainly a pittance by the large-scale budgets of recent heritage ministers. Very little promotion is done and very little to support and advertise any re-routing at Saskatchewan Crossing to travel the spectacular scenery of the David Thompson Highway through the historic Kootenay Plains, Abraham Lake, the Historic Town of Nordegg, Rocky Mountain House and then on to Red Deer which offers many options to the tourist.

Basically Rocky Mountain House has been seriously neglected over the years in respect to maintenance and badly needed repairs. Advertising budgets have been practically nil and staff at the Site has relied on the generosity of the media who have donated thousands of dollars of free publicity.

How does Parks Canada expect to increase attendance without the proper promotion of this Historic place, which has always included woefully inadequate signage. Many travellers pass through Rocky Mountain House each year either not knowing of our great history or being unable to find the National Historic Site. David Thompson, Peter Fidler, Alexander Henry, and a host of fur traders had a much easier time of finding the Historic Site than our tourists do.

Over the years, and especially in the last 6-8 years, there have been drastic budget cuts resulting in the infrastructure of the Site not being maintained as best it could. The Friends of the Site have done much to assist financially, including assisting with the campsite shelter, digging a successful well, purchasing the sound system, developing an Edu- Cart for area schools, purchasing the huge outdoor tent, employing students for over 20 years, assisting in developing the present Playfort Garden, and of course the wonderful Puppet Show after the Friends won a National Award 'Kids At The Park' grant of \$30,000.00. In addition the Friends paid for the labour and materials to erect a storage facility and some outhouses and the purchase of the 42 ft. York Boat and trailer that was on display.

Now we are asked as "stakeholders" how best to implement the changes.

Historic Sites in the Pacific Northwest and in British Columbia are already preparing in anticipation of the David

Thompson Bicentennial beginning in 2007. Next year Alberta celebrates it's 100th birthday. Communities all across Alberta are gearing up for this. Yet, one of Alberta's very few National Historic Sites will instead be downsizing.

Since the town house meetings a few weeks ago, letters of support have arrived from not only the Professional Cartographers Assoc., but also from a number of Welsh Societies. What Parks Canada has done is strike a raw nerve with many individuals and associations. One particular concern is with the "Make Do" approach of the Federal Government when it apportions monies.

It is also very difficult to buy into the Government's Heritage visions usually accompanied by an undying love of our historical legacies when one could suspect that these statements are made with very little knowledge of that history and at a time when those undying embers are precariously close to going out.

## Fire at Lougheed Building

On Wednesday, March 10, 2004, the City of Calgary approved a \$3.4 million in tax relief and annual grants for the next 15 years. Earlier that day the Lougheed suffered extensive fire damage but is still considered salvageable by fire officials.

Owned by Neil Richardson of Heritage Property Corp., he is pleased that the first step to fund the 93-year-old building has been taken. Mr. Richardson intends to go ahead with the restoration of the building.

## Little Chicago

by Helen Goldenberg

The town of "Little Chicago/Royalties" originated as a result of the 1936 crude oil discovery in the South West flank of the Turner Valley Oilfields, approximately 22 kilometers south of Turner Valley along Highway 22. This happening was an historic event. The well was named Turner Valley Royalties #1 Well, the deepest well drilled in Alberta at that time. This strike was the best news for the province since the onset of the depression.

Oil workers, roughnecks and their families quickly moved to the area. Settlements grew into towns. Little Chicago soon grew to a population of approximately 2000 inhabitants. Because there was a minimum market for gas, the surplus dry gas from the wells flowed unregulated directly through pipes to burn off as roaring flares. Gas tapped from the pipes, was free and provided homes and out houses with heat and fuel for cooking. Most back yards contained an old oil drum with both ends removed, and a gas jet on the bottom of the drum provided a

fire, which burned all our refuse. The flares lighted the area and paths for the children on their way to and from skating, hockey and sleigh riding.

As the community grew, churches, public school, hockey rink, theater, grocery, furniture and dry stores, a post office, dentist office, cafes, and other such business including a lumberyard were established. Service supply companies were also an integral part of the business section. In 1939 the South Turner Valley High School was opened. A few permanent buildings were constructed among the many tarpaper shacks that most called home. By now Little Chicago was named Royalties after the well that started it all.

The town developed into a very close community, activities included knitting socks and scarves for the war effort, attending weekly school and community dances, baseball games with neighbouring settlements, school and community picnics along the Highwood River.

With the discovery of oil in Leduc in 1947, the oil workers in the area were in

heavy demand. As the workers moved to Leduc, Little Chicago/Royalties dwindled, until today there is no sign of our historic town.

To quote David Bly of the Calgary Herald — "The money will soon be preserved in solid masonry through the efforts of those who lived there." A wonderful committee consisting of former residents is busy planning the erection of a cairn on the site of our former town. Encouragement is coming from all over Canada supporting the project.

The site for the Cairn has been donated by Talisman Energy. The lessee of the area has also given permission for us to use the site. The project has been approved by the Department of Transportation.

One day very soon we will be able to show our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren the marker honoring the historic town of Little Chicago/Royalties — the wonderful town we called home.

For more information contact: Helen Goldenberg, 403-281-2225.

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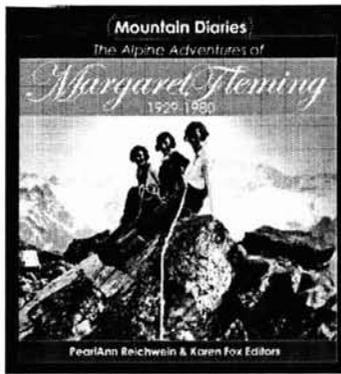
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The ASA gratefully acknowledges the following...

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Have you seen the new web site for the Archives Society of Alberta?  
If not visit: <http://www.archivesalberta.org/> — to see 'what's new.





### **The Alpine Adventures of Margaret Fleming 1929-1980**

by PearlAnn Reichwein & Karen Fox, Editors

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Published by the Historical Society of Alberta. Special Introductory Price to HSA Members \$15.

### **Brindle & Glass news, Winter/Spring 2004 New Releases**



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#### **Stop the Car! Discovering Central Alberta** by Judy Larmour and Henry Saley

[<http://www.bluecouchbooks.com/stopthecar.htm>]



This guidebook continues our mission to bring the undiscovered Alberta to your bookshelf. If you have notions of Central Alberta as a wasteland of grain silos and cattle fields, *Stop the Car!* will turn those notions upside-down.

#### **Succession** by Art Norris



[<http://www.brindleandglass.com/succession.htm>]

It was named one of the best books of 2003 by Calgary's A-Channel and CFCN television stations, and was one of Pages On Kensington's top 30 sellers of 2003!

For information on the above books, including pricing and ordering:

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### **Three New Mountain Titles From Rocky Mountain Books**

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by Chic Scott

A companion volume to *Summits & Icefields: Columbia Mountains*, this guide to alpine ski touring in the Canadian Rockies features popular ski ascents, glacier tours and commercial lodges as well as the grand traverse from Jasper to Lake Louise.

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Chic Scott is one of the most prolific alpine ski tourers in Western Canada and has pioneered several of the grand traverses. He has written four books, including the multi-award-winner *Pushing the Limits: The Story of Canadian Mountaineering*. For his contribution to leadership and documenting Canada's climbing history, he received the 2000 Summit of Excellence Award at the Banff Mountain Film Festival.

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#### **Mixed Climbs in the Canadian Rockies** by Sean Isaac



This is a guide to mixed ice and rock climbs in the Canadian Rockies. Detailing some of the world's most difficult climbs, this second edition describes an additional 150 new routes, ranging from the time-honoured classics of Joe Josephson's Waterfall Ice to the

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#### Other New Books:

***Naming Edmonton*** by Ada to Zoe



City of Edmonton, Historic Sites Committee, Edmonton Historical Board, University of Alberta Press, 2004 424 pages. ISBN 0-88864-423-x \$39.95

***Developing Alberta's Oil Sands***

by Paul Chastko, University of Calgary Press, 2004 ISBN 1552381442, \$44.95



***Coming of Age: A Century of Educating Alberta Girls and Women.***



Detselig, Calgary 2004 ISBN 1550592629, \$27.95

***Wild Theatre: The History of One Yellow Rabbit by Morrow, Martin***



Banff Centre Press ISBN 0920159974, \$22.95

#### Stampede History comes alive at UofC

This summer, Dr. Max Foran will teach a special history course for the first time on the history of the Calgary Stampede. The course, The Culture of Stampede, will be offered for credit through the Faculty of Communications and Culture from July 9 to 18, 2004. A variety of lecturers including historians, aboriginal leaders, tourism experts and businessmen have been asked to participate. Students will also visit the exhibition grounds. For more information call 220-4366.



***The Food Lover's Trail Guide to Alberta*** by Mary Bailey and Judy Schultz



[<http://www.bluecouchbooks.com/foodlovers.htm>]

*The Food Lover's Trail Guide to Alberta* is shortlisted for – Non-Fiction Book (Trade) of the Year at the Alberta Book Awards!

Congratulations to Mary Bailey and Judy Schultz, the authors. The awards will be announced on April 17 at the Book Awards gala at the Palliser Hotel in Calgary.

Lee Shedden, publisher Brindle and Glass Publishing, Ltd.

#### Celebrating Anniversaries: In 2004

The City of Edmonton Celebrates its 100th year of civic incorporation.

The Towns of Brooks and Alberta will turn 100.

The Edmonton Oilers celebrate their 25 year as a NHL team.

Edmonton based Stantec Engineering; one of Canada's top design firms celebrates its 50th year.

## Books & Websites



#### Alberta 2005 Centennial

2005 Centennial Initiative, Terry Keyko, Executive Director. 500, HSBC Building, 10055 – 1-6 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 1G3

#### Web Sites to Try

Wings Over Alberta  
<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/flyboys/>

This website details the story of Alberta communities that hosted the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan bases during World War II. The website was developed by the Heritage Community Foundation and is divided into three sections: Canada's Air War Our Canadian Girl  
[www.ourcanadiangirl.ca](http://www.ourcanadiangirl.ca)

A website based on the popular historical fiction series for young readers. The website includes historical activities, excerpts from the books and lesson plans for teachers. One of the latest books in the series is by Deborah Ellis entitled, *Keeley: The Girl from Turtle Mountain* (Penguin, 2004 ISBN 0143014846).

CBC looking for greatest Canadians. Starting April 5 and ending May 16, 2004, you can submit your choice(s) with a brief explanation, online at [www.cbc.ca/greatest](http://www.cbc.ca/greatest) or toll free phone 1-800-303-VOTE. To qualify, a nominee must have been born in Canada or lived here and made a significant contribution to the country.

by Diana Ringstrom

It has been a wild and woolly three months, and quite a learning experience for me coming from obscurity to board member, to acting president in the past year. I've enjoyed every sometimes frustrating minute of it as I tried to climb over the learning curve. Due to an accident that left me on crutches and unable to attend meetings and other functions that I wished to attend as acting president, I had to depend on the CCHS board who were diligent in keeping me updated on events and happenings of interest to the CCHS.

The annual report of the CCHS was submitted in February. When adding up the volunteer hours served by the board and the group of volunteers who dedicate their time to breathing life into the history of Calgary and Alberta, is nothing short of impressive.

Since January, the board has been concentrating on the upcoming AGM on March 23, 2004. this year the AGM will be held at the Carriage House Inn. Our program committee headed by Jack Dunn has been fortunate to engage

University of Calgary professor and author David Jones who will be speaking on the 1912 economic boom in Alberta. So many decisions were made during the period from 1906 to 1912 that molded our city that it will be interesting to hear Professor Jones presentation on that era.

This year, Henry Murzyn who has taken on the responsibility of organizing the AGM is introducing a silent auction to this years' AGM. So far, Henry has received twenty-five donations to be put on auction. These items will be on display for people to examine and write down their bid.

With the appointment of a new executive, an entertaining speaker, and a silent auction, it promises to be a lively evening. Plans for the 2004 Historic Calgary Week are underway, and Joan Davis and David Peyto are working very hard at putting this years program together. AS HCW depends on volunteer support, they would be very happy to hear from people who can volunteer their time to this important annual CCHS event.

## News & Views from HSA Chapters

It was gratifying to hear that the Loughheed Building is receiving historic designation. The Calgary Herald reported that the demolition of the St. Mary's High School even after the Herculean efforts of Jim Bowman and countless others to save this historic structure was a wake-up call to Calgarians that our heritage is quickly disappearing. According to the Herald, Heritage Planner Darryl Cariou, there are four hundred forty potential heritage sites, but only sixty of these sites are legally protected. With this apparent new awareness of our city's past and the importance of preserving it, we can only hope that we can continue to remind ourselves that we won't know where we're going if we don't know where we've been.

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### Barons Area 2004: A Centennial Celebration of Homesteading & Heritage July 30 - August 1 2004

Descendants of pioneers of the Barons area and their friends are invited celebrate their prairie pioneer heritage. The celebration will be in the village of Barons, Alberta, Canada.

Displays and programming will include the heritage of pioneers from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Settlers in the Barons area



originated in many places including Crimea, Estonia, Norway, Finland, England, Scotland, and the USA. The one room prairie schools were the first english immersion schools with multilingual students!

#### Mission statement:

The centennial event will celebrate the history of the early homesteaders in the Barons, Alberta area. Their cultures, tradecrafts, inventions,

social and recreational activities will be exhibited and relived.

The centennial celebration is intended to attract to Barons families and friends of early homesteaders and business-people, as well as those who have lived in the community through the past 100 years. In addition, visitors interested in historical events in Alberta may attend.

For full information and registration for this event please visit their web site at: [www.barons2004.net](http://www.barons2004.net)

Despite January 27 being one of the coldest nights of the year, an enthusiastic gathering of members and guests enjoyed the presentation by local author and photographer Sophi Hicken following the business meeting. Ms. Hicken has created and collected images of hundreds of prairie grain elevators for her two volumes: *Still Standing: The Grain Elevators of Southern Alberta* (1999) and *Still Standing II: The Grain Elevators of Northern Alberta* (2003). The post-presentation discussion included a surprising number of personal reports and recollections regarding the specific elevators depicted, most now gone, but still standing tall in the memories of those who had visited and used them.

Pat McDonald was guest speaker at the LHS Annual Banquet held February 24. Following a spectacular sunset, in panoramic view from the Chief Crowfoot Room at the Top of the Grandstand in Exhibition Park and a delicious meal, Pat offered "New Perspectives on David Thompson." His presentation included a "power point" slide show highlighting the life and travels of this remarkable explorer and mapmaker. This was followed by a lively discussion which included supportive comments, opinions and feedback to the McDonald "team" (Pat and his wife Joan) regarding the recent Parks Canada announcements about the Rocky Mountain House site and facilities.

### Spring Programs

March 23 – Following the Society's regular business meeting, Bryan Smith will speak about the Riders of the Plains Troupe Commemorative Association and its activities, including the reconstruction of the 1884 North West Mounted Police Barracks in Fort MacLeod.

April 27 – An "Insider's Evening" at the Galt Museum. Following the regular business meeting we will be treated to a

museum tour arranged specifically for history buffs, plus a preview (on paper) of the Galt Museum's planned expansion.

### Historic Lethbridge Week

Plans for the first Historic Lethbridge Week are taking shape. Activities will commence with "Southern Alberta Heritage Fair" on Saturday May 8, an event that has been organized for some years now by the Galt Museum to encourage students' interest and involvement in history. The week following will include a wide variety of events organized by sponsors and groups to engage the public in their particular aspects of history and heritage, including a conference on downtown revitalization and redevelopment. The "week" will close with a very special event: Doors Open Lethbridge on May 14 and 15.

### New Book

The Lethbridge Historical Society is publishing a new book: *Sterndale Bennett – A Man for All Theatre* by local author George Mann. The book focuses on prominent theatrical personalities from Lethbridge, southern Alberta and Canada. We hope to launch the new publication during Historic Lethbridge Week.

### Heritage Places Initiatives

The City of Lethbridge and County of Lethbridge projects to create inventories of potential historic places, buildings and sites have continued over the winter months with the Lethbridge Historical Society recruiting and providing volunteers, particularly for the City project. The City project involves an inventory all buildings for areas of the city where historic buildings and sites are most numerous (e.g. the downtown and other older and special areas). The County's inventory will include town, village and rural buildings and sites developed prior to 1964. Work is continuing on both

projects to complete the inventory and information gathering phase. Subsequent phases will involve the identification of historically important buildings (or places), research to establish their significance, and actions to facilitate designation and preservation.

### Historic Building Markers

The Lethbridge Historical Society is working with the Downtown Lethbridge Business Revitalization Zone and other sponsors to identify and mark buildings and sites of historic interest and importance with interpretive plaques. The first phase of the project will include up to ten buildings, most of which are likely to be in the downtown area of the city. At least three plaques are to be unveiled during Historic Lethbridge Week in May 2004. Subsequent phases will include ten more buildings and/or sites in 2005, the Provinces Centennial, and ten more in 2006, the City's 100 Anniversary.

### Galt Museum Expansion

Good news recently that the City of Lethbridge will provide interim financing to ensure that construction on the Galt's 14,000 square foot expansion will commence in September. When completed in the spring of 2006, the project will provide additional exhibit space, collections and archives storage, an archives resource room, an education centre, and expanded gift shop, viewing gallery and event space. Funding is committed from the Federal Government (\$1.9 million), the Province (\$1.3 million), the City (\$2.0 million), and other sources (\$400,000), leaving \$2.4 million to be raised through a capital fund campaign.

## Edmonton & District Historical Society

Write to  
PO Box 1013  
Edmonton, AB.  
T5J 2M1

### The Annual Conference of the Historical Society of Alberta Saturday May 29 Bus Tours

You may choose **one** from the four bus tours offered. The tours begin from Fort Edmonton Park at 12:30 pm, returning at 4:30 pm. Seating is limited as the tours are open to the general public. Register early to guarantee your seat and choice of tour. The cost is \$25.

**1. Historic Sports:** Would you like to find out what the dressing room at Rexall Place looks like? Guided by Bruce Ibsen, the "Historic Sports Tour" will be a comprehensive look at Edmonton's sports history. You will be whisked down memory lane, driving by some early sporting event locations and stopping for tours at some of the most notable venues, including Telus Field and Commonwealth Stadium.

**2. Historic Fine Arts:** If live theatre, music, and the arts are more in line with your historical appetite, then take a tour of Edmonton's lively arts community. Highlights of the tour include visits to the Princess Theatre, home to alternative film; Walterdale Theatre, renowned for its melodramas; the Arts Barns, and the rehearsal space for Edmonton Opera, the beautiful Gazebo Park.

**3. Historic Francophone:** Explore Alberta's rich francophone heritage with a visit to Edmonton's "French Quarter." On rue Marie-Anne-Gaboury Street (named after Louis Riel's grandmother) read a series of historical plaques profiling francophone history. Then visit the "salle historique" of the Faculté Saint-Jean and the La Cité Francophone. In downtown Edmonton we will identify

several buildings related to francophone history, including a stop at the historic Saint-Joachim Roman Catholic Church.

**4. Historic Beginnings:** Indulge in the history of Alberta and its capital. The tour will begin with a visit to the site where Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier inaugurated Alberta as a province, followed by a tour of Government House (the home of the first lieutenant governor). We'll drop by the home of one of Alberta's first women legislators and tour McKay Avenue School, the temporary home of the Alberta government while the legislature Building was under construction. After "high tea" at Rutherford House (the home of Alberta's first premier) we tour the Legislature. Don't be surprised to meet a few "ghosts" of Alberta's part along the way!

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## Elementary School Archaeological Educational Programming From the University of Calgary's Department of Archaeology

Fish Creek Provincial Park, one of the largest urban parks in Canada, has a long and rich history of human use. Over 80 identified pre-contact and historic archaeological sites span 8,000 years of human presence in the park. Under the direction of Dr. Dale Walde, the University of Calgary's Archaeological Field School has been conducting research and public education programs at Fish Creek Provincial Park since 1998.

With support from Alberta Community Development, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, the Archaeology Society of Alberta, the Community Initiatives Program, and the University of Calgary, the University of Calgary Archaeology Interpretive

Centre at Fish Creek Provincial Park opened in April 2002. This educational facility is managed by the University of Calgary, and addresses First Nations and early European use and settlement of the Fish Creek area.

With the mission to conduct archaeological research and participatory public education programs that build new understandings of how human beings lived in the past, the University of Calgary's Archaeology Interpretive Centre offers interactive, hands-on public archaeology outreach programs.

Susan de Caen, the Coordinator of Public Archaeology Programming, developed and instructs the school outreach program with the objective of instilling in children a sense of pride

and wonder in the human history of Alberta and a deeper understanding of their public role in stewarding historical resources. The elementary school program addresses Alberta's grades 4 and 5 Social Studies curricula, and the grade 6 Science curriculum. Through an Introduction To Archaeology, a Simulated Dig, and a Field Studies component, students learn the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" of archaeological research and excavation.

For details on these programs, please contact Susan de Caen by:  
phone: 403-271-6333  
email: csade@ucalgary.ca  
website:  
<http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/arkyeducation>

by Janet Walter

Write to

c/o Red Deer and District Museum  
45-47A Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4N 6Z6

Central Albertans who value and work for preservation of significant historical buildings and archives have been required to be active in many areas. The Central Alberta Historical Society Board find an increasing number of issues and events where our effort and input are welcomed and needed. The issue of restoration of the fire damaged Michener Administration building continues to be neglected by the Alberta government. In 1916 the Province became the owners of this impressive building as well as the twenty acre site around it. The land was originally donated to the Presbyterian Church by Harvey Jamieson Sr. in 1908. Citizen benefactors are a common feature of Red Deer history. Along with thousands of other petitioners including a great granddaughter of Marion and H Jamieson, Wendy Aiken of Calgary CAHS continues to request that historic designation be given and restoration of this Edwardian brick structure begin.

A new critical historic issue that involves government, this instance the federal government. It became public in January when Parks Canada announced that they planned to remove the visitor centre at the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site. This site is an integral part of our national history. It marks the history of the upper reaches of the North Saskatchewan river during the fur trade era. The rapids on river below determined where the trade forts were located. Here ended the fur brigade trade route from Fort William for the Northwest Company and the long route from the Hudson Bay for those who worked for the Bay. This was the end both geographically and historically as this is the site of the last

forts built. Central Albertans who care about history, join with local residents and particularly, the group, Friends of the Site, who are shocked by this disregard for historic significance. This later group has volunteered many hours to educate students and to organize events to spread the heritage preserved here. An important consideration is the added significance given this site in September 2002, when First Nations people conducted a reburial here of those dislodged by a gas plant installation. On that occasion Peter O'Chiese an honoured 107 year old elder said, "This is a crossroads country where people meet, so all should be welcome." This inclusive attitude should extend to those who want to see history where it happened.

The June CAHS bus tour is going northwest this year. The destination of this ninth tour is, Land of the Mighty Peace. Dates are June 10-13. Tour guide will be author and historian David Leonard. As with all of our tours, members of other chapters and anyone interested are invited to apply for registration application through the Red Deer and District Museum. 403- 309-8405. Final registration date is May 3 and only forty can be accommodated.

During National Women's History month, October 1997, a collaboration of the Museum, Alberta Women's Outreach Society and CAHS hosted a Saturday afternoon event in the Museum, A Salute to Red Deer Pioneer Farm Women. Local districts around Red Deer were invited to select, write and present a biography of a pioneer farm woman from their area that they wished to commemorate. One of those

honoured was Hazel Braithwaite of the Shadynook district. A proposal was put forward to work with the Red Deer Downtown Business Association to make a bronzed likeness of farm woman Hazel Braithwaite as one of their historic Ghosts project. She was to represent both the contributions of farming and pioneer women to Red Deer's early days. The audience at the event supported the proposal with their approval and initial financing. In the intervening years CAHS has given consistent back-up for the project and along with the Historic Preservation Committee, welcome the unveiling of the Braithwaite bronze during Red Deer's May Historic week.

The January and February CAHS public presentations: "Doctor on Horseback," the story of Dr. Mary Percy Jackson given by Janice Dickin of UofC and, "A Half Century of Alberta History" by Dr. Hugh Dempsey, were received by appreciative capacity audiences in the Stewart Room of the Museum. CAHS plans for a 2005 centennial event are underway, by a committee chaired by Program director, Shirley Dye.



## HSA Calendar of Events – 2004

- Apr 27** CCHS: "Stories Behind the Headlines" by Brian Brennan, Ft. Calgary, 750 9 Avenue SE, 7:30 pm.
- May 25** CCHS: "Characters of the Highwood" by Vivian Sampson, Ft. Calgary, 750 9 Avenue SE, 7:30 pm.
- May 28 to May 30** EDHS: Annual Conference of the Historical Society of Alberta "From Fort to the Future: Celebrating Edmonton's Centennial 1904-2004 at Hotel Selkirk, Ft. Edmonton Park. Information: 780-439-2797, email: christine.prokop@telus.com
- Jul 25 to Aug 4** CCHS: Historic Calgary Week. Watch for information on the CCHS web site [www.albertahistory.org/chinook](http://www.albertahistory.org/chinook).
- Jul 27 to Aug 2** EDHS: Historical Edmonton Week please call our information line 780-439-2797 or email Linda Collier at [lmcollier@shaw.ca](mailto:lmcollier@shaw.ca)

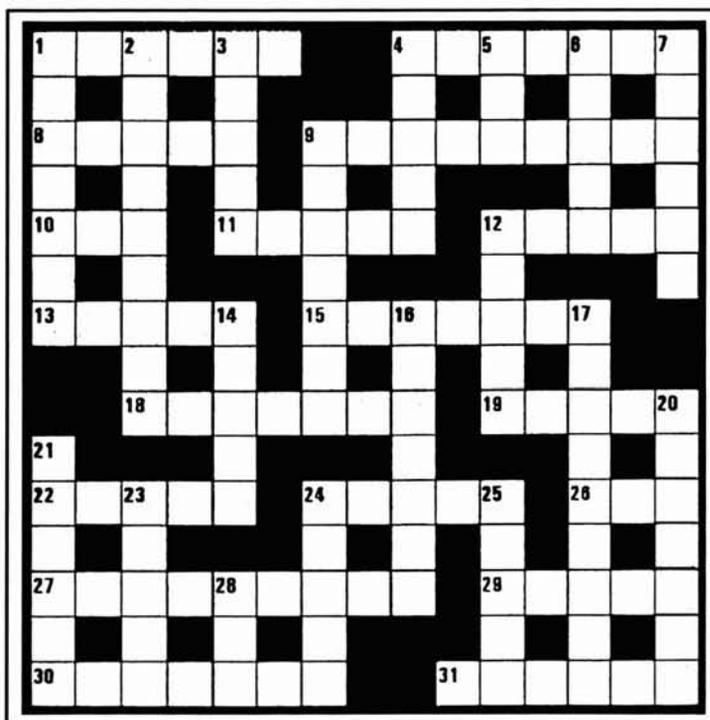
## HSA Crossword

### Answer to last newsletter crossword:

**Across:** 1. Tommy Banks, 6. view, 9. Stewart, 10. wedge, 11. extra, 12. immigrant, 13. woo, 14. ons, 15. neaps, 16. Nellies, 19. DOS, 20. bid, 21. Medalta, 22. music, 24. loins, 25. Union Jack, 27. sash, 28. Saskatoons.

**Down:** 1. taste, 2. Maestro, 3. yea, 4. Art, 5. Kinsmen, 7. Indians, 8. Wheatland, 10. wigwams, 12. ifs, 13. windmills, 14. orioles, 17. laddies, 18. spatula, 19. derrick, 20. Bassano, 23. cakes, 26. net.

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*.



### Across

1. This Albert town has World's First UFO landing pad
4. Our president
8. People of the Netherlands
9. Town names for inventor of the Rod Wheeler Weeder and plough to reduce growth of Canada Thistle
10. Fifth sign of the Zodiac
11. Chancy
12. Ancestors of the guitar
13. Alberta's official mammal is a type of this animal
15. Most recent issue of *History Now* announced this 2003 winner of the HSA Annual Award
18. Lake in Jasper Park
19. Needles of this tree turn gold then drop
22. Bird man of Red Deer-Lacombe area
24. This pioneer doctor of Banff became a Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta
26. That woman
27. Community group of towns on Highway 3
29. Scandinavian giant or mischievous dwarf
30. How coureur de bois went upstream
31. Trees: *populus tremuloides*

### Down

1. Pommel, cantle and stirrup are part of these seats
2. This industry made Alberta the fastest growing province, economically, in the mid-20th century
3. Aisle guide
4. Pursuit for pleasure leisure
5. Word with mag, bald or apple
6. Boat of prey during War
7. One who bares all
9. Holder for Dobbin's oats
12. Legitimate community on Highway 651
14. Where we go on election day
16. Calgarian Laurie Skreslet was the first Canadian to climb to the top of this mountain
20. Newspapers of Lethbridge and Calgary
21. Bag toter at railway stations
23. Alberta half of a border town?
24. Staff of life
25. Alberta Ballet costumes
28. Song *My Gal ...*