

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 \$.94 postage and handling to:

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The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Heritage Awards

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Heritage Awards recognize significant contributions by individuals, teams, organizations, corporations, congregations, institutions, municipalities, First Nations or Metis Settlements, in the protection, preservation and promotion of heritage in the province.

Categories:

- Heritage Conservation Award
- Heritage Awareness Award
- Municipal Heritage Preservation Award
- Outstanding Achievement Award
- How to submit a Nomination
- About awards: jury and presentation
- Who is eligible

Heritage Conservation Award

For excellence in the preservation/restoration/rehabilitation of a historic structure or site having local, regional or provincial significance and for excellence in architecture, engineering or craftsmanship that contributes to the conservation of Alberta's historic resources. Projects nominated in this category have shown a sustained commitment or outstanding contribution to heritage conservation.

Heritage Awareness Award

Projects nominated in this category have made an outstanding contribution to local, regional or provincial history through:

- "innovative programs which educate, interpret or promote public awareness
- "excellence in research, writing or publishing

Municipal Heritage Preservation Award

This award recognizes a municipal government which has shown exemplary commitment to heritage conservation through its identification, protection and promotion of municipal historic resources.

Outstanding Achievement Award

This award recognizes an individual whose long term leadership and contribution to the preservation and presentation of Alberta's history has been exemplary. Nominees should have a minimum of 10 years' involvement with heritage in the province and have made personal contributions to the field well beyond the responsibilities of any heritage related employment. Their efforts to preserve, promote, interpret or otherwise encourage heritage preservation and awareness

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/subscribers

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Wasil E. Swityk
Delcie Gray, In Memory of Mrs. Betty McKay
Sheila Bannerman
Maxine O'Riorden

Legacy 2009

Sheila Johnston

President's Report

by William Baergen

My fellow historians.

Did you know that March 21 has been designated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination? You did not know that? Well, I'm not surprised. And it's not your fault. I happen to know it only because I was on the Human Rights Commission for eleven years, whose job it is to make people aware of this 1966 United Nations Declaration. It was declared in memory of the 69 people who were killed by police in Sharpeville, South Africa, on March 21, 1960. They were having a peaceful demonstration against Apartheid "pass laws" when the police opened fire on them.

Further, did you know that the Canadian Immigration Ministry wants new Canadians to know more about Canadian history before they are granted citizenship? That puts the onus on us "so-called" historians to talk more about our development as a country because — as the Ministry sees it — that knowledge helps produce better citizens. I think that's neat. Maybe we can reduce the number of people who go around saying: "History gives answers to questions that nobody ever asked." We can say with some smugness, "We are in the business of producing better citizens." And we can add: as Tom Brokaw said "It's easier to make a buck than a difference" So there.

Our Historical Society of Alberta has something to learn from this. As Professor Campbell Ross of the Grande Prairie Regional College (and Founding President of the newly-formed Peace Country Chapter of the HSA) would have it: "I have a dream." A dream I share personally with him. That is to have the Historical Society of Alberta truly represent ALL of Alberta, and not just the areas settled largely by Europeans. Let us

broaden our vision to include areas of the north, for example, where many of our aboriginal peoples predominate. At the moment, our Society does not give them fair representation at all. A serious omission. In fact, a crime.

So when Duane Nichols of the Grouard & Area Historical Society contacted our Debbie Goodine indicating an interest in communicating with our Society, I jumped in like a dirty shirt and got Irene Nicholson and Campbell Ross to join me in meeting the Grouard folks for a preliminary information-sharing meeting at Grouard. I was on my way to the Peace Country Chapter's regular meeting on Jan. 30 anyway, so I arranged to meet with Grouard on Jan. 29.

Wow! Have they got a story to tell! I call it a sleeping giant. A gold mine for historical diggers! Since I had a personal connection to that history (My MA thesis was on the fur trade there in 1815-1831) I reacted a little too excitedly and made them wonder what it was we thought we were going to get from them. They have some 290 members signed up in their historical society—all with some connection to Grouard itself, and they are planning a Homecoming in 2013 which Duane feels will attract more members yet. Some of you probably know something about Grouard. The Catholic Church known as St. Bernard's Mission contains a mural of Christ on the Cross above the altar that was painted by Bishop Grouard himself in 1908. There is fur trade history on Buffalo Bay.

Our first meeting gave rise to several questions about how our organization works so I asked Debbie Goodine to join me for another meeting with a few Grouard people. Vicky Barsalou, Director of the Native Friendship Centre in High Prairie, set it up for March 14, and



Campbell Ross once again made the trip from Grande Prairie to help us establish a relationship with the Grouard & Area Historical Society. Our main message was that we apologized for coming on too strong and that what we wanted from them was their story—their history. They wanted assurance that we were not out to take control of their culture or ways of operating. We want the rest of Alberta to know this rich history and if they are considering becoming a chapter of the HSA we want them to know the door is open, but even if they don't do that, let's keep the communication lines open and let us learn their history. We assured them the editor of *Alberta History* would welcome their contributions. Those two meetings were the excitement of the last three months for me. We sincerely hope a few of them can come to the AGM in Edmonton — which I know you have all registered for already. We need you May 28-30 at the Queen Alexandra School.

I need to thank the many volunteers organized by Vivian Sampson and Debbie Goodine to run the Casino on February 22-23, at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino in Calgary. We were sorry to learn that Ron Williams was under the weather at that time and could not lend his experienced hand to us for that event, and we assume he has completely recovered to be his own unique self again.

Hope to see you in Edmonton.

Editor History NOW

Dear Ms. Amsden,

The January issue of History NOW contains a poem called "Strangers In The Box" and the author is not named. As editor of the Lethbridge Historical Society Newsletter for past years I also found that poem most interesting and applicable after it was published in The Lethbridge Senior Centre Newspaper in 2002. I approached that group for permission to include the poem in our Lethbridge Historical Society Newsletter, and they graciously gave me permission to use it providing I acknowledged their input. It was included in the November Newsletter in 2002. I thought you might like to know they had a credit for an author.

I had received a large quantity of photographs from relations in Holland and they were all identified as to who and when they were taken. I found it a great reminder to myself to make sure I also didn't end up with a lot of "Strangers in the Box". I am enclosing a copy of the item as it appeared in our newsletter. This is not meant as a criticism, simply a matter of interest. I enjoy History NOW very much and particularly like the article about "Little Leftie". He is the same age as my husband, who also was raised on a farm and has a similar setting in his family.

Sincerely, Irma Dogterom

Thank you so much Irma for your help in tracing the author of this poem. I do appreciate it and I imagine Bud Squair in Edmonton will also be glad to receive this information.

From the November issue of the Lethbridge Senior Citizen Paper

Strangers in the Box

*Come look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
Faces proud, still, serene.*

*I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories
Are lost among my socks.*

*I wonder what their lives were like.
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.*

*If only someone had taken time
To tell who, what, where, when,
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again.*

*Could this become the fate
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories
Someday to be tossed away?*

*Make time to save your pictures,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours could be
The strangers in the box.*

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An appropriate message. It is easy to assume it unnecessary to identify and date our casual photographs. Yet how many families end up with 'Strangers In The Box' because no one can name long deceased family members? Relatives in Holland recently returned a box of photos to Canada sent from here in earlier years. The majority of the photos were not only identified as to who they were, but also marked when they were received. A valuable gift.

HSA Members News



The Mirror

In a dusty prairie town
There's an old hotel
With a mirror large tall.
"old-timers" say
The mirror once graced
Another room, in another town.
There, every evening at dusk
A beautiful maiden gazed
with her lover
Into the clear wall of glass.

Then, one horror-filled day
The mirror saw the saddest tale of all...
The law took the girl away
Her lover was no more
And in dread — disgrace
The lovely girl lost her life —
Oh mirror, mirror!

The old hotel still stands
In the dusty prairie town
And if you gaze into the mirror
You know the saddest tale of all!

submitted by Elsie Marie Marquess Bassano, a long time member. It is about the mirror which was originally in a Hotel in the Pass but now is in The Bassano Hotel, in the restaurant part.

AHRF Heritage Awards - continued from page 1

should demonstrate either exceptional diversity or high achievement. Achievements must be identifiable as provincial in scope. Improved public understanding and appreciation of the province's heritage should be a consequence of their contribution.

Submitting a Nomination

Nominations will be accepted at any time during the year and will be held for the jury. The nomination must be postmarked no later than June 1st to be eligible for the fall awards ceremony.

Candidates may be nominated in only one category.

Projects nominated for an award should have been completed within the past two years.

Each nomination must be on the Nomination Form. If hand written, please use black ink.

Provide as much information as possible about the nominee including:

"a description of the project/nominee's pertinent work, role and contribution to heritage conservation or awareness: why is this project, municipality or individual being nominated (approximately one typed page)

"a biography/profile of the individual(s), team or organization involved

"press clippings, letters of support or any other pertinent material

"photographs illustrating the project where applicable

It is the responsibility of the nominator to provide sufficient and specific details and documentation in support of the project/candidate(s).

Incomplete submissions will be considered ineligible for consideration by the jury.

Nomination submissions and accompanying material will be retained by the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. Please do not send original materials that you will want back.

Awards Jury and Presentation of Awards

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation will convene an independent jury to evaluate the contribution of the nominated candidates and the Board of Directors will select the final winners.

An Awards Ceremony will be held in the fall of the award year.

The Foundation reserves the right to not give awards in any of the categories.

Eligibility

Eligible Nominees

"any individual(s), organization, corporation, congregation, institution, municipality, First Nation, Metis Settlement or other candidates deemed eligible by the Board of Directors

Ineligible Nominees

"posthumous awards are not given

"candidates who are unaware of or who disapprove of the nomination

"self-nominations

"Main Street projects funded through the Alberta Main Street Program, which has its own award program

"Alberta Historical Resources Foundation board members and their immediate families

"Alberta Culture and Community Spirit staff and agencies

Ineligible Nominators

"Alberta Historical Resources Foundation board members and their immediate families

Submit Nomination Form to:

Heritage Awards

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

8820 - 112th Street NW

Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P8

Phone: 780.431.2305

website: <http://www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf/heritageawards.aspx>

Little Leftie from Fort Vermilion Part II

by Don Edgcombe

Yes my Father made a substantial impact on my formative years. We shared a keen interest in local and professional sports. We listened to the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey games together when I was only seven or eight and to the World Series of Baseball, rooting for any team that opposed the New York Yankees. Professional boxing was very big at that time and we cheered on Joe Louis when he fought Max Schmeling the German challenger in the mid-1930's. Little did I dream then that I would eventually become a fur trader like Dad, not an independent trader like him, but a clerk and later a manager for the Hudson's Bay Company. But that's another story.

This chapter of my life appears to dwell a lot on the respect and admiration I felt for my father, but I am proud to say I also had a great relationship with my mother. I began helping her with the vegetable and flower gardens and became her right-hand man during wild berry picking season. I'm not sure why my older sister and brother didn't seem interested in this necessary endeavour but I recall driving our team of horses on berry picking expeditions, often four to eight miles from home. Sometimes we were accompanied by our neighbors Mrs Clarke or Mrs Bourassa, but often it was just Mom, Phyllis and me.

She made sure we four kids attended Sunday School regularly and accompanied her and Dad to church on Sunday mornings. She convinced me to join the Boy Scouts which provided several years of great experiences. Mom had been a missionary employee of the Anglican Church at Indian Residential Schools in Sault St. Marie, Ontario and at Grouard, Alberta where she met and later married Dad. My elder sister Dorothy and my brother Harold followed in her footsteps as later they worked at the Anglican Residential

School in Gleichen Alberta.

To say that my brother Harold was accident prone would be a gross understatement. As a little guy about two he nearly lost his life playing in a pile of fresh dirt from a hole Dad had augered for a new clothes line. Dad had left the open hole for a few minutes to fetch the large pole he had peeled, from about one hundred feet away. Harold ran out of the house holding a little wooden boat which promptly fell into the open hole. When he reached down the hole to retrieve it his shoulders became stuck. He would have surely suffocated if Dad hadn't returned to see two little legs kicking frantically from the hole.

Another time, when he was about seven, we two, plus our neighbor Buddy Hallett, were helping our hired man haul a wagon load of rocks from the river bed for landscaping. Buddy being older was in the wagon rolling rocks off the back end, while Harold and I on the ground rolled them out of the way. Buddy didn't see Harold standing behind the wagon as he was shorter than the height of the wagon box floor. Buddy rolled a big rock, about ten inches in diameter, off the back of the wagon onto Harold's head. He was knocked down but not out.

Another time when he was twelve and I was ten, we were both splitting a huge pile of green poplar firewood. Normally we kept a safe distance apart from each other but somehow we both lost our concentration. Just as I began to swing my axe he bent over in front of me to pick up my fire-log and place it on his chopping block. It was too late for me to check my swing, but luckily my axe wasn't very big or very sharp as I only cut his head open about an inch and a half. He carried that scar for the rest of his life.

Dorothy, Harold and I played together on the school softball team as eleven, thirteen and fifteen-year olds. Harold was usually the catcher, but was versatile enough to play any position. Dorothy always played first base and did a good job. She was quite a big girl and could really hit a softball. At eleven, I was a runt so the teacher positioned me at second base to shorten my throws to just when grounders were hit my way. But, I found a way to turn my limited size into an advantage by going into an extreme crouch and learning to be a shrewd judge of balls and strikes. Also, I drew a lot of walks as lead off batter, frequently frustrating the opposing pitcher. I also developed an unorthodox stance for a small leftie by taking advantage of the opposing infielders that were usually shifted towards second and first bases and I was able to hit grounders down the vacated third base line, or drop a blooper fly behind third. Unfortunately, our sister Phyllis was too young to play on our team. There were usually only one or two girls on the team with Dorothy being one.

During the spring breakup of the Peace River in 1934 the villages of Fort Vermilion and North Vermilion were flooded. We were forewarned by Leo Auclair, the ferryman and local expert, about the river's behavior so we had time to move our animals to higher ground and live in a tent for five or six days before the river receded. It flooded our house to a height of four feet above the floor. The local telegraph operator, Art Bowtell, waited until the last minute to evacuate as he was reporting to the Edmonton media by morse code. In his haste he forgot his typewriter on his office desk. My Dad said, "No problem,

continued on page 7

Donnie can ride a horse right into your office and retrieve it. So old Jack and I did just that and I leant forward, as flat as possible on his back, to get through the door. Fortunately, the water hadn't yet risen over the height of the desk and I saved the typewriter. Our house didn't sustain much damage other than the huge mess of mud and silt. The most severe damage occurred at North Vermillion where the Paul and Sanderson families watched helplessly as their homes were lifted up and swept down stream. My future wife Velma Sanderson was only five years old but remembers it vividly.

I met Velma at a dance. This wasn't your typical teen age love at first sight story as frequently depicted in old movies. She was five and I was seven so we didn't even do any dancing or smooching. It was winter-time and the common practice for families was to bring all their children to the dances rather than risk exposing them to a possible house fire at home with only a baby sitter in charge.

Our dance hall had at one time been a general store and the three foot high counters, lined up along the side walls, were ideal for piling our winter coats. They were also used by the mothers as a safe place to park their babies in their wicker baskets. A row of benches in front of the counters prevented square dancers from accidentally bumping the babies. We youngsters sat on the benches, watched the dancing and listened to the music, usually a violin and a couple of guitars. I spent my time admiring all the cute babies, some sleeping, some crying, and some nursing from their baby bottles. I soon spotted a pretty little baby girl with an older sister doting over her. The five year old was Velma Sanderson and we spent most of the evening huddled together over her little sister Stella, while our parents visited and danced.

Velma and I were destined to meet only a few more times before we shared the same class room in junior high several years later. Our parents were friends but we lived on opposite sides of the river and only met at dances, sports days, and ball games. I was certain Velma and I had more common interests than just a fascination with babies. Years later we discovered that to be very true, but that's another story.

My brother and I had a couple of hair raising experiences, both in the middle of the night. One winter day when I was about ten there was a fatal shooting as a result of a dispute over a rented farm. The victim was Mr Bill Ware an older man who happened to be our next door neighbor. His assailant was the object of a two day manhunt. Late on the night after the shooting, we boys were awakened by the sound of our back door opening and closing. Terrified, we huddled in our bed fearing it might be the killer. I won't mention his name but we knew him well. We worried that if he had intentions of shooting Mrs. Ware, or her adult son, our house would serve as a possible vantage point for a sniper. We lay awake all night and didn't dare move out of bed to alert our parents. In those days no one locked their doors in case of a house fire as a locked door would only hamper a rescue attempt by neighbors. What a relief at seven-thirty to hear our hired man Andrew Sarapuk holler, "Dorty, Harlo, Donnie, Felix, school day today." Andrew had returned from Tall Cree outpost in the middle of the night, walked in as quietly as possible and went to bed in his main floor bedroom. The gunman committed suicide the next day, holed up from the police in a vacant granary near the farm that was at the center of the dispute.

I got a terrible fright another night when I went down to the kitchen to get a

drink of water. It was a moonlit night so I didn't need a candle. When I opened the kitchen door I saw a huge black object lying on the floor. It had a large head with horns similar to a buffalo. I ran back upstairs, awakened my brother and with a candle we ventured down to the kitchen. It turned out to be a Halloween costume that Andrew had made for a dance and he had simply discarded it on the kitchen floor.

As a boy I was fascinated with air-planes and we knew most of the famous bush pilots such as Wop May, Grant McConachie, Charlie Tweed, Dal Delziel and Stan Warren. I often went down to the river to help them gas up the float planes from forty-five gallon gas barrels with a hand cranking pump. When Yellowknife was a new gold mining boom town I used to make up boxes of fresh vegetables and raspberries from our garden and sell them to Dal Delziel. He gave them to crew chiefs at the mining camps where he did charter work.

I watched in horror from my school window in grade nine as Stan Warren was killed while landing on the river. It was a bright sunny day and the theory is that he misjudged his altitude above the river, came in too steeply causing the pontoons to dig in and break off at the struts. The plane flipped forward and Stan was either killed on impact or was drowned as the plane floated half submerged, kept partially afloat by the wings and broken pontoons. It took almost a half hour for bystanders to attach a long rope and tow the plane to shallow water where the pilot could be reached.

The Peace River impacted everyone's life at the Fort. Drinking water was hauled in barrels and in winter we cut ice blocks and stored them in sawdust in our cellars or ice houses, using the ice to keep milk, cream and meat from spoiling

and to make ice cream in our hand cranking ice cream maker. We swam and fished in summer with wooden poles, string line, and basic black metal hooks of varying sizes. We caught jackfish, goldeye, pickerel and chubs. In winter we shoveled snow off the ice to make a skating and hockey rink. When there wasn't a pick-up hockey game in progress, dozens of small children, older girls, and a few adults skated on our rink

Once during the Easter holidays Harold and I spent four or five days visiting Andrew Sarapuk and his new wife Annie at their farm about twenty miles west of town. As we crossed the Peace on our way to Andrew's place our horses waded through overflow on both edges of the main channel. Opposite town was a large island covered with trees, then the north channel, which was about as wide as the main river but much shallower. We stayed at Andrew's place four or five days then headed home on our saddle horses. For some unexplained reason we agreed to switch horses coming home. I was riding Tiny and Harold rode Bunty. When we reached North Vermillion, one of the locals advised us strongly against crossing the river as during the past few days it had been very warm and the river was becoming dangerous. Apparently no one had ventured across for the last two days.

We thanked him, considered our options, and decided to proceed as it was the Sunday after Easter and we were due back at school the next day. We proceeded to cross the north channel. I rode ahead and stayed on the bobsled trail where the snow was well packed, but tricky for the horses as it was six or seven inches higher than the shallow depth of melting snow beside the trail. Harold decided to steer Bunty off the trail as it was easier for her to walk in the shallow snow. Suddenly, Bunty broke through the ice, but

fortunately the water was only about three feet deep at that point and after several jumps and more ice breaking she reached the trail where the packed snow had shielded the ice from the hot sun. We stayed on the trail and reached the island without further incident. When we crossed the island and observed the main channel we were shocked to see the overflow at the edge beside the island was over one hundred feet wide.

We sized up our situation and agreed we had to proceed across. Our house was just over a half mile away on the south bank and we were anxious to get home. We coaxed our horses into the frigid water which was about four feet deep. Our feet and legs got wet but we managed to navigate the overflow and reach solid ice. We stayed on the old bobsled trail hoping that the packed snow would be favorable for us once more. Thus we picked our way carefully over the half mile width of the river. Asking the horses to run would have been foolish as the footing was so tricky and one of them might have fallen off the packed trail and possibly broken through the ice again, which would have been fatal for horse and rider. When we neared the south shore we found the expanse of overflow even wider but we were two hundred feet from dry land and home so it was no use turning back: Tiny was eager to get home so he hit the water first with Harold and Bunty right behind us. A few steps into the water Tiny suddenly dropped into deep water and started swimming to shore. The water was up to the saddle seat and very cold but I just hung on and let Tiny carry me to safety. Harold and Bunty followed right behind. The river had risen at least four feet and the ice was lifted up, eventually breaking away from the shore ice.

Fortunately for us the same scenario hadn't yet occurred on the north edge as

we couldn't possibly have climbed onto the main ice while the horses were swimming. When we walked into our house soaking wet, but safe, Mom made hot soup and we finally warmed up. It was about one in the afternoon and at four o'clock the main channel broke and the ice began moving downstream.

That was just one of the foolish things we did on the river. In early fall as soon as the Peace froze over about six or seven of us boys would be skating. There was an old man named Joseph Lizotte who lived on the north shore. He had a long standing tradition of being the first to walk across the river after freeze up. Many years ago his son had drowned while skating on early fall ice so he felt it was his responsibility to select the safest route across the river. Each fall he would chop several small spruce trees or branches in the island and place them as markers on the route he selected. One good swing with his small axe cut right through the ice and he placed a spruce tree or branch in the hole to freeze in place as a marker. He was careful to stay on the pack ice that had stopped drifting and avoid the new ice that formed around and between the thicker ice flows.

One fall, we were skating near the south shore when we noticed Mr. Lizotte emerge from the island with his armful of spruce branches. We decided to race him across the river by skating north while he walked gingerly south toward town. When he saw us he started hollering, "Go back, go back," but we were young and foolish and ignored his advice. We skated to the island and back with no mishap, but we were all sternly reprimanded when our parents learned of our foolish escapade.

Of all our friends I only remember one who could have drowned when his canoe capsized near the middle of the river.

Velma's older brother Clarence swam out from shore fully clothed, and rescued him. He was presented with a gold watch by the parents suitably engraved in appreciation of his heroism.

While recollecting my childhood I realize that most of my interesting experiences occurred when I was young. When I entered my teens I had to accept more responsibility with chores and farm work. We had horses and cattle to care for, wild hay and firewood to cut and haul, and a hobby farm to operate. When I was about fourteen Dad's health had become a problem after a scary heart attack and he decided to sell his store to Warren Clarke

He had bought a quarter-section farm about two and a half miles south of town. Every summer our family moved to the farm and returned each fall to our house in town because the farmhouse was not practical in cold weather. The summers were great. We had horses, cattle, pigs and chickens. Due to Dad's heart condition, combined with his limited vision that prevented his involvement other than in a supervisory capacity, Harold and I did most of the farm work. We plowed and planted the field, cut grain with a four horse binder, mowed, raked, hauled and stacked wild hay.

One of our neighbors Mr. Ben Newman owned a tractor and thrashing machine. He organized several families into a small co-op type arrangement to thrash all the grain. As supplier of the tractor and thrashing machine he didn't have to contribute any teams and drivers to haul the wheat and oat bundles from the fields to the thrasher. Each neighbor supplied one, two, or three teams with drivers and we all worked together seven days a week, weather permitting, until each farm's grain was threshed and in the

granary. Each neighbor kept track of the number of days worked multiplied by the number of teams they supplied for each of the other neighbors in the co-op, they repayed them with a similar number of man days. The system worked well, no money changed hands and the host family prepared wonderful meals.

I was the runt of the crew, but I had a good strong team of big black Percherons, Darky and Prince, who scarcely needed steering while I pitchforked onto the wagon the stooks of grain neatly arranged in long rows across the fields. We worked from daylight until dark and I was so tired at night that some of the neighbor's men offered to feed and water my team so I could go to bed right after supper. If the crew happened to be working within a couple of miles of our place Harold and I drove home to sleep, but for farther distances it was more practical to use our bedrolls and sleep in our hayracks. If we had good luck with the weather the thrashing season was finished in about three weeks, but I still missed some school.

At fourteen I started grade nine in the new Separate School as the public school only taught grades one to eight. Dorothy had completed grades nine and ten by correspondence. Harold had failed grade eight and lost a year, so he and I were together in grade eight and part of grade nine until he quit school at Christmas to be a full-time farmer and part-time trapper.

My teacher was a young woman from Calgary named Kay Moran, who was in her first year of teaching. The school was a two-room frame building with grades one to six in one room and seven to eleven in the other. I could write a whole book on the pranks we played, (mostly on the teacher) in our classroom. My future wife Velma was in grade seven when I was in grade ten; her family had

moved from North Vermilion to the Fort. We weren't going steady at that time, in fact I only recall one guy and girl, both a year or two older than me, who were considered steadies. In grades ten and eleven our teacher was Sister Louis Orner, one of the best teachers I ever had, but probably not as well loved by all students as was Mrs. Ironfield my grade seven teacher at the public school.

After completing grade eleven I was obliged to move to Peace River as grade twelve was not offered at the Fort. Andrew Sarapuk was working for Peace River Meat Company, having rented his farm to his brother-in-law. He and Annie lived in a tiny two room house owned by the company and situated right next door to the slaughter house and stockyard. It had electricity but no plumbing, and this was in a town of perhaps two thousand population in the fall of 1943. My parents arranged for me to board with them for \$25 per month. I'm sure Andrew didn't tell my parents what my accommodation was like, or they would have been devastated. I slept on a cot in the kitchen and had to wait until Andrew and Annie retired to their tiny bedroom before I could go to bed. While the meals were fine I didn't have the heart to describe my humble accommodation in my weekly letters home, for fear of upsetting my parents. I worked every Saturday for Bishop Sovereign, splitting and hauling wood, shoveling coal for the furnace, clearing the driveway and sidewalk etc all for thirty-five cents an hour.

My social life at Peace River was almost non-existent, partly due to my financial situation, and to the fact that I was living in slum conditions. I got excellent marks in all my subjects as I had plenty of time for homework while my classmates were dating and hanging out downtown. At sixteen, turning seventeen I didn't feel comfortable



Historical Society of Alberta Annual General Meeting and Conference

May 28 – 30, 2010 – Edmonton



Friday, May 28

Welcome and Wine & Cheese 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Breakfast Room, Days Inn Edmonton South (10333 University Avenue)

Enjoy a social evening with your historical colleagues as we are entertained by the music of Al Brandt and receive a warm welcome from both the HSA and EDHS Presidents. Special guests include Lord Strathcona and Emily Murphy, who will be attending to bring greetings from Old Strathcona and to chat with delegates about matters or issues of everyone's concern. Be sure to bring a list of your questions for our noted guests, who are making a rather difficult journey from their present residences. Registration desk at the Days Inn Edmonton South opens at 4:00 pm.

Saturday, May 29

9:00 am

A Day at Work and Play in Old Strathcona

Queen Alexandra School (7730 106 St)

Coffee, Refreshments and Opening Remarks. Greetings from the Presidents, announcements for the day and the morning caffeine jolt to set up energy for the day.

9:30 am

The Story of Strathcona

Our noted Friday evening guests, Lord Strathcona and Emily Murphy, will present colorful friends from Strathcona's past, as they are introduced by a reporter from the Strathcona Plaindealer.

The Plaindealer was Strathcona's newspaper from 1899 to 1912, reporting on the business, concerns and issues of the area. In 1977, when the Old Strathcona Foundation began publishing its newsletter, it chose the Plaindealer masthead. In 1999, the Foundation published a compilation of articles entitled *The Best of the Strathcona Plaindealer*, edited by Ken Tingley. Over 70 stories tell of the people, places and events of Strathcona – what better resource to use in order to learn about Old Strathcona, the district with the unique designation of a Provincial Historic Area, as declared by an Order-in-Council in 2007.

We have enlisted the assistance of many of the people from *The Best of the Strathcona Plaindealer*, to relate the story of Strathcona's history. Our "celestial

guests" will be interviewed by the Plaindealer reporter; by hearing their tales, we will learn first-hand everything we wanted to know about the old town of Strathcona. Once again, we will ask our audience to participate by asking our guests any questions they may have regarding the life of our celestial visitor.

As a bonus, each member of the audience will receive their own copy of *The Best of the Strathcona Plaindealer*, courtesy of the Old Strathcona Foundation. We're sure everyone will enjoy this unique and informative resource.

10:45 am

Annual General Meeting of the HSA

The AGM will present its usual features, including reports and Society business, as well as updates from the five chapters and the election of the new Council. Our President, Bill Baergen, has promised a joyful, spirited meeting that will delight all attendees, or else . . .

12 noon

School Lunch and Recess Games

As our conference is being held at 104-year-old, historically designated Queen Alexandra School, we are going to go back in time for an old-fashioned school lunch. That is to say, the style will be old fashioned — the food will be fresh. We will dine either in the yard in the shade of a canopy or in the school gym (depending on weather). Just like any school children, we will be allowed to

swap sandwiches, fruit and sweets with our colleagues, if so desired. Our School Marm will ensure that no wastage occurs and that all diners mind their manners.

Following lunch, we will celebrate our recess break with fun and games. Weather permitting, egg races, sack races, hopscotch, 7-up, Red Rover; and other outdoor games will be held in the playing field. For those not so actively inclined, chess, checkers, Parscheesi, Sorry, crokinole and other board games will be stationed in the gym. Also, for those not wishing to participate in organized games, the playground will be open — a warning to watch the twirly slide, as it can be hot on a warm day.

For the academic students, the History Centre will be available for those who wish to participate in activities, such as teepee-making, CPR building, the NWMP March West, land surveying, Treaty 7 issues and living in a soddy on the homestead. If activity is too stressful, take an old book from the shelves of the Enid Fitzsimonds Reading Corner and enjoy a quiet read!

1:30 pm

Discover Old Strathcona Tours

You will be driven to the starting point of the tour of your choice. Please choose only one (1) of the four offered.

Bookings will be taken on a first-come first-served basis until the tour is full. The cost is \$5.

Saturday, May 29

(a) Streetcar and Legislative Tour

Enjoy the exhilarating ride on a vintage streetcar as it departs from Old Strathcona and travels across the High Level Bridge to it stop near the Legislative Building. A short walk takes you to the Great Domed Edifice, where you will have a guided tour of the Alberta Legislature. The streetcar will bring you back to Old Strathcona where our chauffeur will meet you to return you to the conference site.

(b) Rutherford House

Situated on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River on the campus of the University of Alberta, Rutherford House is the post-Edwardian home of Alexander Cameron Rutherford, Alberta's first Premier, and the first President of the HSA.

After your guided tour, you may enjoy the Gift Shop and/or the Tea Room, and stroll the beautiful grounds before you're chauffeured back to the conference site.

(c) Mount Pleasant Cemetery Tour

Participants will be chauffeured to (and from) the site of Strathcona's vast hill-top graveyard, where our tour guide will escort you throughout the grounds. As you visit the various gravesites, you will hear the entertaining, informative stories of the Strathcona pioneers who are buried there — our guide, **Kathryn Ivany**, has a huge repertoire. As your tour will be conducted during daylight hours, it's doubtful that celestial hauntings will occur, but one can always hope.

(d) Old Strathcona Bus Tour

While the bus is a modern one, the places you will see are not. Enjoy the stories of the people and landmarks of this provincially designated area. Our guide, **Ernie Bastide**, has conducted bus tours for our Historic Festival for many years, and he hopes to not only drive through the Strathcona area, but the University and downtown core as well. This will be a thoroughly entertaining story of Strathcona and the surrounding area!

6 pm

Saturday evening Banquet and Awards Dinner

We return to Queen Alexandra School for a community event — the HSA Awards Banquet.

Turning the school gym into an elegant dining room will be our goal, but more importantly, offering a fine meal, music by Al Brandt and the annual awards presentation will be a certainty.

Our entertainment will be a return appearance by Emily Murphy, as we enjoy the play written by Tony Cashman on the life of Emily Murphy. We are both thankful and delighted that Tony has allowed us to present his play for our HSA delegates — usually it is offered in grand theatres — the performance will be a memorable one.

Sunday, May 30

Celebrating Our Heritage Fairs

9 am

Queen Alexandra School (7730 106 St)

Coffee and Refreshments

9:30 am

Heritage Fair Presentations

Representatives from the five regional student Heritage Fairs will be on hand to present their displays. Delegates will then be encouraged to wander about the displays asking the students about their research, resources and passions for their topics.

10:30 am

Queen Alexandra History Centre

Enjoy a visit to the History Centre

where history comes to life. Participate in the student activities, such as teepee-making, CPR building, the NWMP March West, land surveying, Treaty 7 issues and living in a soddy on the homestead. If living in the past is too stressful, take an old book from the shelves of the Enid Fitzsimonds Reading Corner and enjoy a quiet read!

Sadly, the History Centre requires climbing to the third floor of the school and there is no elevator. However, once you're up there, there will be liquid refreshments and chairs — there's even a couch for those needing a nap! The History Centre is worth the struggle up the steps, as it is unique in all of Canada — an educational program without equal!

11:15 am

Raffle Draw and Closing Remarks

Everyone will be anxious to purchase one (or twenty) of our raffle tickets at \$5 apiece. Tickets will be sold before and during the conference. The prizes include the following:

- a Via Rail return trip for two to Jasper
- a large quilt hand-made by Shirley Rnaghan
- a Victorian-lace shawl knitted by Lisa Maltby

Once the winner's screams have died down, our illustrious President will bid us all a fond farewell until we meet again in Lethbridge in 2011.



Amazing Flights and Flyers

by Shirlee Smith Matheson

Flight can be a combination of thrills beyond compare – and sudden full stops. The stories in *Amazing Flights and Flyers* encapsulate nearly every human emotion and scenario, and range from the early days of the 20th century to the present.

Some accomplishments seem to be beyond human endurance, such as the two mid-winter medical evacuation flights pioneered by the intrepid crew of Kenn Borek Air; the continuing efforts by volunteers from CASARA to search for lost people and planes; the determination of aviation pioneers who fight to fly the volatile conditions experienced in our Maritime provinces; the amazing lifestyles of those who choose to live in the Far North and never want to leave.

On the other side of the flying field are those who used flight as an opportunity for personal escapes or hijacking capers, or whose fates were suddenly decided by bad luck – engine failure, sudden weather changes, or chances taken with unfamiliar machines and terrain. A high-risk wartime story chronicles the attempt of enemy forces to dock their U-boat on Canadian soil to install a weather reporting station. All are remarkable stories, and most are little-known.

ISBN 978-1-897181-29-4

\$19.95 Frontenac House Publishers

<http://frontenachouse.com>



Artillery Flyers at War: A History of the 664, 665, and 666 Air Observation Post Squadrons of the Royal Canadian Air Force

by Darrell Knight

This book is an acknowledgement and special thanks for the contribution made to the fighting and winning of the Second World War by members of the AOP squadrons of the Royal Canadian Air Force, where artillery gunner and airman from two distinctly different services worked together toward a common end, while serving harmoniously in a unified, hybrid military unit, in an act of nation building a generation before Canada's government attempted unification of the Canadian Forces on a grand scale. May their dedication to duty, their personal sacrifice, and lack of recognition for their accomplishments by their countrymen be remembered for all time.

From the time of their unit's inception to the cessation of hostilities in Europe and the subsequent disbandment of the squadrons, members of 664, 665, and 666 Squadrons almost unanimously referred to themselves as serving or having served in the AOP; later-day historians would, in time, refer to this branch of the service by the British referent, the Air OP. For the sake of historical consistency, all references to the squadrons herein remain as the Canadian members themselves knew of their organization during the war. To further add to the confusion and mystery of their background and training, only one of the men who became a pilot in the Canadian AOP received his training under the aegis of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada, perhaps another reason for their history being an almost forgotten footnote of World War Two, from the Canadian perspective.

ISBN 978-0-557-32963-2 Paperback:

\$29.95 retail price Special pre-publication price: \$24.95

Perfect bound, full-color wrap-around cover Hardcover: ISBN 978-0-557-32963-2

\$49.95 retail price Special pre-publication price: \$39.95

Blue linen cover with title stamped in gold on spine, full-color dust jacket

482 6 x 9 inch pages

90 photos/illustrations 5 documents and 3 maps

A Merriam Press Original Publication

Military Monograph MM8 ISBN

Books & Websites



Riding with the James Gang by

Gayle Martin

As their summer vacation draws to a close Luke and Jenny have camped out on their great-grandmother's back porch. But their sweet dreams are interrupted when Kate, the ghost of a young farm girl, takes them back in time and they discover the life and times of the James-Younger gang.

All this takes place within the pages of *Riding with the James Gang* — a Luke and Jenny Adventure, the latest installment of the award-winning series of historical fiction novels by Gayle Martin, famous throughout Arizona for bringing alive the state's colorful past as a performer and storyteller.

Kate guides the two siblings through the events of that fateful time, explaining to them what is happening and why. Young readers are right there with Luke and Jenny as they learn firsthand the true story of the James-Younger gang through the Civil War and into their outlaw days. Adults, too, will learn facts about this notorious gang that they may never have known.

"Because history is too often taught as simply names and dates," says Martin, "youngsters find the information boring and difficult to absorb." But history doesn't have to be that way, she says. "History is really the story of people and what they've done."

ISBN 9788-158985-164-1. Historical fiction. Five Star Publications, Inc. PO Box 6698, Chandler, AZ, 85246. The book is available through Ingram and Baker & Taylor.

Contact: Linda F. Radke

Phone: 480.940..8182.

email: info@FiveStarPublications.com

Website: www.LukeandJennyBooks.com



Sovereign Ladies
by Maureen Waller
St. Martin's Griffin:
New York
ISBN 13-978-0-312
38608-5

This book tells the stories of the six Queens Regnant of England and the United Kingdom. It tells clearly how each was different and lived in different times.

The first was Mary I whose five year reign was not a success. She was very prejudiced and could not rise above her past. Her extreme efforts to re-establish the old religion left her with the title, "Bloody Mary". She was unable to compromise and went into history as a failure.

The next was the greatest ruler of England; Elizabeth I 1558-1603. A clear picture of her is presented with perhaps an over emphasis on her style and efforts to spin her image. After all there were many events in her 45 year reign. When she came to the throne England was a near bankrupt small island nation on the edge of Europe. She left a prosperous nation with world wide trading connections. England had taken on the super power, Spain, and survived. England was a vibrant nation with a vibrant culture. England was on the road to greatness.

The third, Mary II 1689 – 94 gets a sympathetic covering even though she was a background figure. It is really a loss that Mary was not more active as she was intelligent and capable but regarded herself as only a support for her husband, William III. Her reign was cut short by her early death so she may have moved out of his shadow given more time.

Next came her sister, Good Queen Anne. The author does a good job in rehabilitating her reputation. In the past,

partly because of laziness, many historians have taken the jealous, vindictive writings of her one time friend, Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, as fact. Anne, while not as brilliant as Elizabeth I, was capable. She did lead England through a long war and peace settlement that greatly expanded the British Empire. She also united the crowns of England and Scotland into one, the United Kingdom, not bad for one rather short reign.

Next is Victoria, 1837 – 1901, so far the longest reign. This section traces her progress from an isolated young girl of 18 who came to the throne through her life – wife, mother, matron, shattered widow, Great White Mother, and finally Matriarch of Europe. As the political power of the crown declined, her influence rose. Queen Victoria began much of the role of the modern monarchy, especially its public service and support of good causes.

The last section deals with Elizabeth II. In many ways it is the least satisfactory. It begins with a good summary of her background. With the summary of the reign, however, there are problems. In an effort to appear knowledgeable she tries too hard to show an understanding of the inner workings of the monarchy. She simply could not know such things as the feelings of the Queen Mother on leaving Buckingham Palace, or what was said during a conversation between the Queen and the Prince of Wales, or what Prince Philip thought about the name of the dynasty.

She also takes without evidence the statements of press reports and gives too much influence to those reports. In this age of instant, if often incorrect reporting, the reports disappear as quickly with little long term effect. Queen Elizabeth has reigned for 58 years and the Crown has been around for over 1000 years, so an interview given by and unstable manipulative individual is hardly going to shake the foundation.

Books & Websites



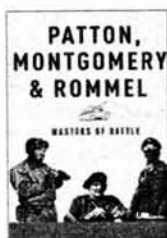
She also, by choosing some reports and ignoring others, attempts to place the blame for the break-up of the Wales' marriage on Charles. Even more objectionable is the attempt to place responsibility for the break-up of royal marriages on the Queen. Over half of all marriages fail. Does that mean that the majority of parents have failed in giving their offspring proper guidance?

Over a decade after the death of Diana it is time to move on and not continue to broadcast speculations. It is totally unfair to criticize the Queen for not immediately knowing that the country would undergo a collective and very unBritish nervous breakdown fanned by irresponsible media coverage; much of which was based on ignorance. The flag question is one example. Even a 50-second inquiry would have told anyone the Royal Standard flies where the sovereign is in residence and only there. On that day the standard was flying over Balmoral where the Queen was. The Royal Standard never flies at half mast because the Sovereign is never dead: the King is dead, Long live the King.

When the Queen returned to London the good sense of the people and their feelings for tradition showed their real feelings despite the vamping of the media which the author gives credence to.

She ignores the quiet courage the Queen showed at the time of terrorist attacks on the London Underground which certainly compares very favorably with the panic reaction shown by President Bush.

Generally this is a well written book and despite its shortcomings is worth reading.



***Masters of Battle:
Monty, Patton and
Rommel at War***

by Terry Brighton

Penquin Books 2009 London
ISBN 978-0-141-02985-6
\$17.00 cdn paperback

As the veterans of World War II age, books about the struggle continue to come in an unending stream. This book by an English writer who has worked for many years on the staff of The Queen's Royal Lancers Regimental Museum deals with the roles of three generals in that struggle.

If asked to identify the three greatest generals of that war most knowledgeable people would choose British Montgomery and German Rommel but the author's addition of Patton is debatable.

Since the author is English it is surprising that he is very anti Montgomery and attempts to undermine his reputation. Monty was a difficult person to like and he was very conscientious of his position and abilities. There are many stories showing this side of his character. During the Normandy Campaign Monty and his troops were visited by King George and Chief of the Imperial Staff General Allenbrooke remarked: "I think Monty wants my job." The King replied, "Oh, I thought he wanted mine."

Despite his flaws, Monty was a great general. During most of the war he had to fight not only Germans but also Americans. The first contact between Generals Montgomery and Rommel came in North Africa. Rommel was sent there with a German Army to stop the ongoing defeat of the Italians. This he did brilliantly and going on the attack he drove the British back to Egypt. Enter Montgomery sent by Churchill to command the British 8th Army.

Montgomery was a cautious general; planning carefully and building up resources before attacking. He always tried to keep casualties as low as possible because needless killing was a waste of resources. This approach brought about the first defeat suffered by Rommel and the first great British victory of the war at El Alamein.

After North Africa came the invasion of Sicily. This brought Patton as Commander of the American 7th Army. George Patton was flawed as a man and as a commander. He actually enjoyed killing. He was self centered, egotistical. He could only see his section, not the overall campaign and his own glory. Casualties, including American, did not matter only his own reputation as a fast moving, hard driving leader.

His total lack of self control was demonstrated when he went to two military hospitals and physically attacked two traumatized soldiers; slapping and kicking them. No general in any army ever did anything like this. He was not sacked because Eisenhower, the overall American commander, was too weak. He said, "I can't sack him. He is the best general I have got!". If that was true, it is a sad judgment of American leadership.

The American bickering against the British, especially Monty, continued during the Italian campaign until the three, Monty, Patton and Eisenhower were all sent to London to prepare for the Normandy invasion. Rommel was sent to France also to prepare for this.

The next struggle involving the masters. Rommel worked wonders in preparing the "Atlantic Wall." During the planning process, Patton continued his anti-British nitpicking being unbelievably rude even in the presence of the King.

The campaign began in June of 1944. The book gives good coverage of the rest of the war in Europe. The reader can see the debate about strategy; thrust versus broad front. Monty's approach in his section, the northern section, Belgium,

Books & Websites



Holland and the Ruhr, shows the effectiveness of his method-plan, build up resources, attack. Patton is attack and if not successful, blame someone else, Monty if possible.

Rommel was the first to leave; being seriously injured by a RAF attack on his car and then accused of being involved in the plot to kill Hitler, he was forced to commit suicide. The reader will be able to judge if he in fact was involved.

Patton was next to leave. As the war ended he was obsessed that Monty received most of the German surrenders. Being placed in command of Bavaria, he ignored the denazification policy saying belonging to the Nazi Party was no different than being a Democrat or Republican. Eisenhower finally relieved him of command and a few days later he was killed in a traffic accident.

So Montgomery was the only one of the three to survive a full lifetime. He was created a Viscount in 1946; served as chief of the Imperial General Staff and then Deputy Supreme Commander of NATO. He retired in 1958 and died in 1976 at age 88.

Eisenhower, of course, was Supreme Commander of NATO; President of Columbia University, and, finally, 1953-1961, President of the United States, one of the weakest, least memorable to have held that office.

This book tells a good story, giving many details and much background. It is, however, difficult to leave it without a feeling of anti-Americanism. Patton was an extreme of the American attitude of self-centredness, not an attractive picture.

— Ron Williams

Planning of Heritage of Winter Sports in the Peace

This was conceived as an accompaniment to Artic Winter Games 2010, to be held in Grande Prairie in the second week of March. This event, to be presented March 4, has generated considerable interest among older members of our community who have been associated with hockey, curling, and skiing in our community since homesteaders came here in the period following WW1. We have worked along with South Peace Regional Archives to add to their collection on this subject. It is amazing to see again the community-built full

size ski jumps that were constructed here on some of the tributaries of the Peace River.

Production of the **Edson Trail Map** in collaboration with the Edson Trail Centennial Committee.

The Edson Trail 1911-1916 was the last great homesteader trail in Alberta, following the opening of homestead registry office in Grande Prairie in 1910 and the arrival of the transcontinental railroad in Edson in 1911.

Our society plans to publish and sell (in time for centennial events next year) a booklet containing historical essays,

photographs, and a map folded into a pocket in the rear sleeve. This trail route through the northern wilderness, which was researched by members using GPS, has been superimposed on a present day topographical map by Focus Geomatics, a major oil and gas survey company in Alberta with offices in Grande Prairie. The production costs were absorbed by Focus 'pro bono'.

Little Leftie from Fort Vermilion Part II

continued from page 9

socializing with my grade twelve classmates who were eighteen and nineteen. I played on the school baseball team which required a bit of adjustment as I had only played softball at the Fort. I also played on the school hockey team with limited success.

I joined the Air Cadets along with my friend Lloyd Jones who was also from the Fort. Our principal, Mr Schnieder was the Commanding Officer. Our Flight Sergeant in charge of drill team, was Lachlan Phimister, a grade twelve nineteen-year-old who took great delight in ridiculing the two country bumpkins from Fort Vermilion especially when an officer from the Air Force would arrive to inspect our flight's performance doing drill detail.

Commanding Officer Schnieder must

have felt sorry for Lloyd and I as he gave us extra tutoring in Aircraft Recognition and Morse Code which were his specialties. When the final results were compiled in June Lloyd and I were the only two cadets with marks of 100% in these two disciplines. I remember Mr Schnieder congratulating us and muttering quietly, "You guys sure showed Phimister."

At the end of June the entire Cadet flight was offered a week long course at the Penhold Airbase where we lived in real Airforce barracks, flew in an Airforce plane, and attended lectures and training sessions conducted by Airforce personnel

Most of our flight signed on, I considered it but decided not to go when Andrew advised me he had arranged a job for me scrubbing and painting the interior walls

of the slaughterhouse for thirty-five cents an hour. It was the toughest job I had ever undertaken as I had to use boiling water, steel brushes, and lye to remove the blood and guts from the walls before painting. My hands were a raw mess when I finally finished the ten-day job.

I went back home and tended the farm for a year until my older brother returned from the Airforce. He had always said he wanted to be a farmer, but I wanted to be a fur trader like my Dad so I joined the Hudson's Bay Company and spent ten very interesting years with them, three as an apprentice clerk and seven as a store manager in the Northwest Territories, Alberta, and British Columbia. But that's another story.

Chinook Country Historical Society

Write to
311, 223 12 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB. T2R 0G9

by **Henry Murzyn, President**

On March 23, 2010 Shona Gourlay became President of CCHS for the next two years, assuming office at the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Ranchmen's Club. A tour of the Ranchmen's started at 5 pm, with the AGM commencing at 5.30 pm, followed by dinner and the guest speaker, Alida Vishbach, President and CEO of the Heritage Park Historic Village.

As well, the nominating committee chair, Carrol Jaques, presented a full slate of 13 directors for the year 2010/11.

The programs, at Fort Calgary, were/are as follows:

January 26: The Fall of Guy Weadick
by Max Foran

February 23: Movie Theatres on Stephen Avenue: The Case of the Empress (1911) by Robert Seiler

March 23: AGM, Alida Visbach, President/CEO Heritage Park Historic Village

April 27: Ernest Manning – The Accidental Politician by Brian Brennan

Historic Calgary Week (HCW) organizers are preparing for the July 24 – August 2, 2010, events after a successful 2009 year. Ron Kessler will be the CCHS liaison with the co-chairs of HCW.

Volunteer Hours (Other than Board Members) 2009:

| | Number of Volunteers | Number of hours |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Newsletter Mail outs | 2 | 40 |
| Newsletter Editor | 1 | 40 |
| Historic Calgary Week | 141 | 3,174 |
| Coste House Event | 6 | 170 |
| HSA 2009 Conference | 2 | 52 |
| Working on CCHS archives | 2 | 50 |
| Programs at Fort Calgary | 10 | 120 |
| Development/Mtce. website | 2 | 50 |
| Total (Non-board) | 166 | 3,696 |

Members: Membership in Chinook Country Historical Society stands at 270 as of December 31, 2009

Heritage Canada Foundation DND Proceeds with Demolition of Downsview Hangars

Ottawa, ON March 12, 2010 – The Heritage Canada Foundation expresses its disappointment with the Department of National Defence's (DND) decision to proceed with demolition of two historic Downsview Hangars (Buildings 55 and 58) at former CFB Downsview air base in Toronto, Ontario. Demolition resumed last Friday.

Mr. Paul Oberman, President and CEO of Woodcliffe Corporation worked tirelessly to find a solution that could both meet the needs of DND and save the historic Downsview hangars. His proposed land exchange between Parc Downsview Park (PDP) and DND would have allowed the hangars to stay and provide significant benefits for both

parties. In the end DND and PDP were unable to reach agreement.

The Heritage Canada Foundation and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario advocated for the buildings and worked to bring federal decision-makers to the table. "A private sector developer was fully prepared to invest in recycling and adapting these heritage buildings, but the federal heritage system failed to support that option," says Natalie Bull, HCF's Executive Director. "In 2004 the Auditor General called for a legal framework to protect heritage buildings in federal ownership, and we continue to press for that."

Constructed in 1943, the Downsview Hangars were designated as Recognized

heritage buildings by the federal government in 1992 for the role they played in Canadian aircraft production during the Second World War.

Globe and Mail article, March 6, 2010 "Preservationists Fail to Save Historic Hangars."

The Heritage Canada Foundation is a national, membership-based, non-governmental organization created in 1973 as Canada's National Trust.

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Throughout the past year we have been focused on the question "What is history?" and for our February banquet we invited Fred Sillito to share with us some old-time music and tell some of the stories behind the music. It was fun watching people around the room tap their toes and sing along. I think as this year progresses I am getting further away from having a concise definition of history because it encompasses so many things.

Our April program will be the final one of the "What is history?" series. This program highlights one of the most visible reminders of our history — our heritage buildings and especially the work being done in Lethbridge's downtown to preserve and promote historic properties.

April General Meeting, Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 7:15 pm

Historic Buildings

To me "history is as much about the present as it is about the past. Each historic building tells a story of the people and businesses that have made our community so unique and special."

Ted Stilson will highlight Lethbridge's historic buildings and how, by investing in our historic buildings, our history is being brought back to life.

For the 2010/2011 program series we have again decided to work around a theme and it will be southern Alberta communities. We are inviting in speakers from communities around the area to share some aspect of their community's history.

The Historic Lethbridge Festival runs May 1-9, 2010. This year's theme is the 1940s. As part of the larger festival, the LHS has a few events planned. We will be unveiling the Chinatown plaques that

week. Also, the LHS has partnered with the Family History Centre and organized a panel discussion on the Second World War on Tuesday, May 4 at 7 pm, at the Centre. The panel will feature three local authors — Georgia Fooks, Garry Allison and Bill Lingard — who have written books related to the Second World War. All three are also LHS members. Sheila McManus will moderate the evening. Admission is free. The Centre is located at 1912 10th Avenue South here in Lethbridge.

I encourage everyone to come down and participate in the events. You can check out all of the events at <http://www.historiclethbridge.org/>.

This year, 2010, is the 20th year of the Alex Johnston Lecture. Early planning for the November lecture is under way. If you have ideas for speakers, please pass them along.

Heritage Awards Program

The **ALBERTA HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION** is soliciting nominations for its 2010 Heritage Awards Program. These heritage awards recognize and celebrate outstanding accomplishments and projects by individuals, organizations, corporations and municipalities in the protection, preservation and promotion of heritage in the province.

AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Heritage Conservation Award, for excellence in the preservation/restoration/rehabilitation of a historic structure or site having local, regional or provincial significance.

Heritage Awareness Award, for outstanding contributions to local, regional or provincial history through:

- innovative projects which educate, interpret and promote public awareness of Alberta history
- excellence in research, writing or publishing

Municipal Heritage Preservation Award, recognizes a municipal government for exemplary commitment to heritage conservation through identification, protection and promotion of municipal historic resources.

Outstanding Achievement Award, for an individual whose long term leadership and contribution to the preservation and presentation of Alberta history has been exemplary.

The Nomination must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2010.

The Nomination Form and detailed guidelines can be obtained at:

Heritage Awards
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
8820-112 Street, Edmonton, AB
T6G 2P8

ph: 780-431-2305
or online at:
www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf



Government of Alberta

This past calendar year has been a year of change and some uncertainty as long-time members adjusted to new meeting places and times, and the Board adjusted to being "homeless" while the Red Deer and District Museum underwent renovations. The Museum has reopened in a vastly changed and adaptable new space for collections, teaching purposes, programs, and travelling exhibits, but maximizing space for these purposes means the Historical Society has had to look elsewhere for public meeting space. This has required shaking off a natural aversion to change, and admitting that change can be energizing and can open up new avenues for growth and expression.

We are very excited, therefore, to announce our new permanent home for our public evenings, in the Snell Gallery at the Red Deer Public Library, Downtown branch. Our speaker series will continue on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, and will always be the third

Wednesday of the month (Sept – Nov. and Jan - May). We feel that a partnership with the library will increase our contact with the general public of Red Deer, perhaps giving rise to some new directions for topics and future programming and opportunities for new members. Thank you to Dean Frey, Director of the Library, for offering us this opportunity for collaboration.

In January of this year, the Board held a visioning session, at which we revisited committee work, did some brainstorming and evaluated our speaker series. Fundraising for the Arches project continues, although slowly, and the work of the Arches Plaques committee was discussed in detail. We believe that the work of the Society is valuable and that the speaker series is successful and should continue in its current form.

Program planning for next year is well underway, thanks to the template for

planning set by Shirley Dye. Shirley is retiring as Program Co-ordinator, and the Society extends its heartfelt thanks for her dedication to our speaker series. Thanks to new committee members for stepping up to ensure the continued success of CAHS programming.

Our January topic, the Michener Administration Building was a glimpse into the future of the CAHS as we try to present history in a format that has relevance, not just to the history of the area, but the preservation of our heritage. Michael Dawe presented an intriguing combination of history combined with architect drawings and photographs of the restoration, interspersed with anecdotes that gave our audience an expanded understanding of the difficulties and triumphs of preserving our rich heritage. Thanks very much to Michael for an inspired presentation.

Casino Volunteers - THANK YOU !!!

As the HSA President advised in his report the Casino was held at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino on February 22 - 23, 2010.

Thank you to the following volunteers for their assistance:

Vivian Sampson, Linda Collier, Geoff Wilson, Anne Rudiak, Laura Jauch, Ron Kessler, Ian Kirkland, Gus Barron, John Brook, Neil Hughes, Bev Johnson, Roland Kieken, Bonnie Laing, Kelly Sandberg, Brad McDonald, Bev Schlage, Bill Baergen, Pat Rodriguez, Don Smith, Elisabeth Reder, Robert Cormack, Bev Swan, Donna Zwicker, Richard Tanner, Betty Tanner, Bud Squair, and Betty Squair.



We are blessed to be the recipient of a tremendous number of volunteers who rack up over 6000 volunteer hours in one year.

They supported the History Centre in the Queen Alexandra School, our Speaker Series, board meetings, publications, fundraising, the annual Historic Festival, other admin duties such as the treasurer, and advocacy.

The annual Historic Festival, spread over much of Northern Alberta, brings in over 63,000 attendees. EDHS even offers "historic event training," if requested by other communities.

Please don't think for a moment that we don't welcome new volunteers — we do, most enthusiastically. As I say, we are blessed

Historical Library at Vermilion Agricultural Society

by Nicholas Yahn
Vermilion Standard September 2, 2008

The Agricultural Society of Vermilion has been given the opportunity to share with area communities a different perspective into our past.

Allen Ronaghan has been subscribing an collecting magazines that stem back to 1950 and believes they are an insight into Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba's history. Ronaghan at the time was a social studies teacher and was attempting to entice his students it gaining knowledge about the provinces past.

"I was teaching school and trying to get my students interested in history. At that time I had learned a lot about Saskatchewan history and after all, the three provinces are very much prairie provinces that share in a history together," said Ronaghan.

The magazines have been donated by Ronaghan to the Agricultural Society of Vermilion and the collection includes, *Alberta History*, *Saskatchewan History*, *Manitoba History*, *The Beaver*, *The Canadian Geographic* and *Folklore*. The collection dates back almost 70 years and has a wide variety of interesting articles about western Canada's History.

Ronaghan hopes to allow local areas that are not close to urban centers the ability to learn about our history.

"Eastern Alberta has to have these magazines where they can consult them and get interested in history. They don't

have to drive to Edmonton every time they learnt to read an article about history. My hope is that they will come here and spend a few minutes here to learn about all the different topics," said Ronaghan.

With fears of losing connection with the past Allen Ronaghan believes it is crucial for people to know and learn their history. The attempt is to reach out to the majority, but Ronaghan feels it is about giving a few the opportunities to learn about the past.

"If only one person comes in a month, I will consider the notion that I have done something useful," said Ronaghan.

The library kind of fell into place when Allen Ronaghan was in Craig's department store discussing the magazine collection and how he was interest in finding a home for them. It just so happened that Doug Stewart himself is part of the Agricultural Society as the second vice President and the two men discussed Ronaghan's collection of historical magazines, and decided to place them at the Society's office for public viewing. The Agricultural Society is open on Tuesday and Thursdays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and the collection can be viewed at the office and/or photocopied take the information with them.



This article which appeared in The Vermilion Standard September 2, 2008, was submitted by Shirley Ronaghan,

HSA Calendar 2010

- Apr 27 **CCHS** Ernest Manning – The Accidental Politician by Brian Brennan
- Apr 27 **LHS** General Meeting, Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 7:15 pm
- Apr 27 **EDHS** Canoe across Canada, 6 pm, followed by John Rowand Night & AGM, Faculty Club, UofA, 11435 Saskatchewan Drive, Edmonton
- May 1-9 **LHS** The Historic Lethbridge Festival runs This year's theme is the 1940s
- May 28-30 Historical Society of Alberta Annual General Meeting and Conference, Edmonton, Alberta
- Jul 23-Aug 1 Edmonton and Northern Alberta Historic Festival, website: www.historicedmonton.ca. Phone: 780.439.2797
- Jul 24-Aug 2 **CCHS** Historic Calgary Week (HCW) organizers are preparing for the events after a successful 2009 year. Ron Kessler will be the CCHS liaison with the co-chairs of HCW.

HSA Crossword

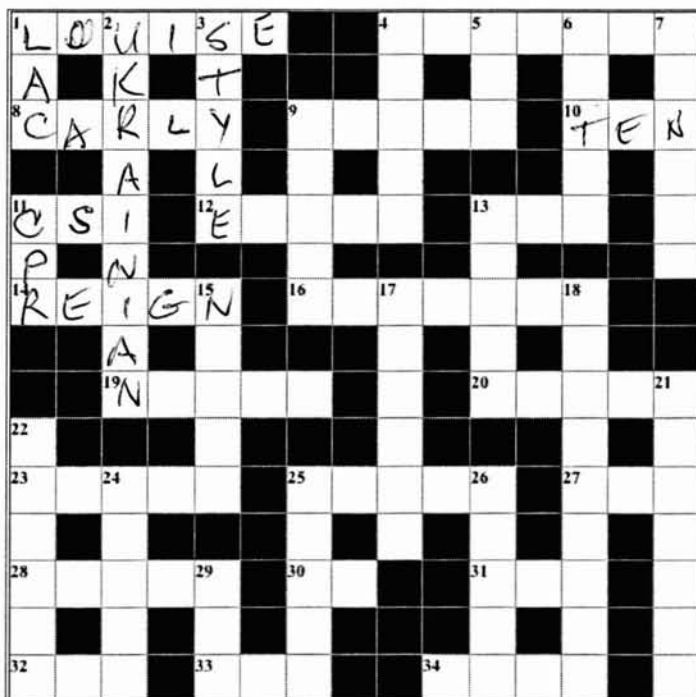
This crossword puzzle devised by Jennifer Prest

Answers to January #21 newsletter crossword:

Across: 1. W.O. Mitchell; 6. NWMP; 9. Lichen; 10. UN; 11. Snake; 13. Unser; 14. IGA; 15. Canoe; 17. Yen; 18. Riviere; 21. HMS; 22. CPR; 23. Eliza; 24. Ellis; 26. Ali; 27. Eye Opener; 29. Doge; 30. Slave Lake.

Down: 1. Walsh; 2. MacEwan; 3. Twerp; 4. HO; 5. Lindsey; 7. Weadick; 8. Pieman; 11. Springs; 12. Gull; 15. Carseland; 16. Elevator; 19. Veiling; 20. Empress; 21. Hythe; 22. Col; 25. Sir; 28. EEK.

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. Queen Victoria's sixth child, Princess ____
4. Col. McLeod settled in ____ Creek
8. A past-president of the Lethbridge Chapter, ____ Stewart
9. Hamlet 71 km south east of Calgary
10. The Valley of ____ Peaks in Banff National Park
11. A popular TV series (initl.)
12. A law; rule
13. Soap ingredient
14. To rule; hold power
16. Unbiased; without taking sides
19. Hollywood celebrity of the 1950's, ____ Jeane Mortenson
20. Calgary police chief, 1984-89, ____ Reimer
23. "Sing along with ____" Miller
25. Comic strip character, ____ Kutzenjammer
27. An edge; rim
28. Hamlet 8 km north of Leduc
30. Calgary's former mayor, ____ Duerr
31. Hebrew letter
32. Beard in chaff
33. Cartoon shriek
34. To stare rudely; leer

Down

1. ____ la Biche
2. William Hawrelak, the first ____ mayor of Edmonton
3. Fashion; mode
4. President 1988 Calgary Olympic Organizing Com, Bill ____
5. Calgary philanthropist, ____ Cohen
6. Village approx. 50 km. north west of Grand Prairie
7. Methodist missionary, 1840-48, Robert ____
9. 1988 Silver Medalist, figure skater, ____ Orser
11. Railway company with its head office in Calgary (initl.)
13. Marquis of ____ Trail
15. "The ____ West Passage by Land", published in 1865 by Cheadle and Milton
17. An ideal society
18. Chief Buffalo Child ____, an American who gained notoriety by claiming to be of native Ancestry
21. Village north east approx. 108 km of Medicine Hat
22. Girl's name
24. Balladeer Ian ____
25. Site of a horrendous natural disaster in 1903
26. One of 2 UofA bioscientists who were pioneers when they mapped the human genome in the 1980's, Jianzhong ____
29. A Rockies' Indian tribe.