

The membership newsletter of the

## Historical Society of Alberta

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# History NOW

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### In this issue

PCHS First Birthday	1
President's Report	3
Don Freckleton	3
Members Page	4-5
Detective Don	6-9
Land-Rush Lecture	9
HSA AGM & Conference	10-11
Book Reviews & Web Sites	12-13
Arbor Day Celebrations	14-15
Chapter Reports	15-19
Strome Centennial Celebrations	16
CAHS Fall Tour	18
Heritage Canada Foundation	19
HSA Calendar of Events and Crossword	20

## Peace Country Historical Society Chapter Birthday Celebration — May 8, 2010

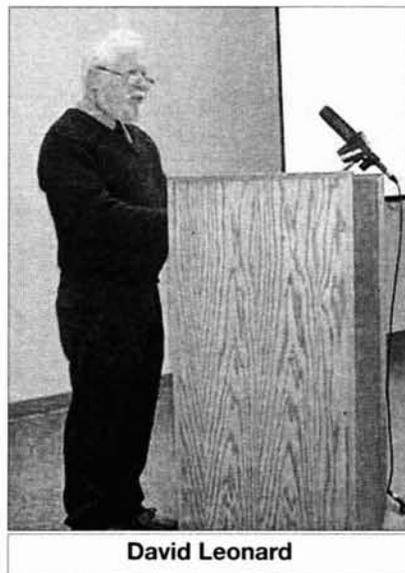


Campbell Russ



On May 8, 2010,

President Bill Baergen congratulated our newest Chapter, the Peace Country Historical Society, on the successful completion of their first year as a chapter of The Historical Society of Alberta.



David Leonard

PCHS is a hardworking diverse Chapter and you can read more about them and their ongoing projects in their Chapter Report on Page 15.

At their first AGM, the inaugural lecture was delivered by Dr. David Leonard. The appropriate topic of the lecture was the "land rush of 1910," which started the development of the Peace Country. The land rush of May 23, 1910 was a new beginning in the South Peace. How appropriate that just fifteen days shy of the centennial of this momentous event that the Peace Country Historical Society celebrates their new adventure with their provincial family. We are proud to have the Peace Country as part

of The Historical Society of Alberta and we are confident that this is the beginning of a long and happy association. HAPPY BIRTHDAY PCHS!!!!

### 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 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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2010–2011**

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**Welcome to new members/subscribers**

Bruce Stonell, Red Deer	Betty Lahucik, Kamloops BC
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Mario Hopkins, Calgary	Paul/Lila Balisky, Grande Prairie
Faye Mortimer, Calgary	Ted Stilson, Lethbridge
Melba Kerby, Calgary	Irena Karshenbaum, Calgary
Thomas Long, Edmonton	

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

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Clancy Patton In Kind	Richard Bailey
John Brook In Kind	Mary Mishra
Bud Squair	Alan/Irene Hiles
Frances E. Losie	Jack Dunn
L. Helen Keffer	Jean Crozier
Rondo Wood	David Innes
M. Fahrner	Evelyn M. Brown
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Murray/Marilyn Younger	Marianne Fedori
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Marjorie Lilley	Anna Fahrion
Jean Wells	Belinda Crowson
Albert deVos	Ron Williams
David Leonard	Mark/Nancy Heule
Katherine Braid	Joyce Thompson
William Baergen (3)	John A. Hawkins
Kim Mills	Darlo Albrecht
Raymond/Violet Ball	Heritage Committee – Fort Vermilion Agricultural Society

## President's Report

by William Baergen

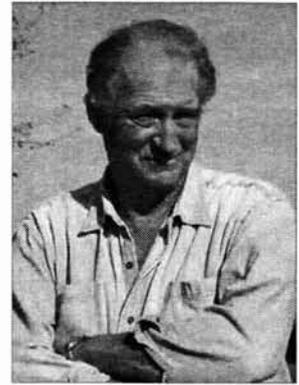
Congratulations to the Edmonton and District Historical Society for hosting one of the best conferences/AGMs in living memory! You chose a most appropriate theme, hosted us all in an appropriate place for the theme, and made history fun! Well done, indeed. Some people found it the best conference they had ever attended, and the school games at "recess" and noon added immeasurably to the spirit of the thing! As the "designated" superintendent for the proceedings, I must say the conduct of all 'students' was exemplary, though the attendance could have been better. We all hope that next year's attendance at Lethbridge will be up a little from the 61 this year. The banquet was well-attended and Tony Cashman's play about Emily Murphy was scintillatingly performed by daughter-in-law Laurel. Thanks for all that, Edmonton.

An important reason for the special feeling at this conference was the contribution of the Heritage Fairs winners from four of the five regions of Alberta. Tim Marriott and Rod Trentham are to be congratulated for bringing this about. The winners presented their fascinating research findings at the Sunday morning session and were warmly received by an

appreciative audience. Carly Dietrich from Grande Prairie presented her research on Ghosts; Fei Qi and Marissa Zhang from Edmonton researched the RCMP; Mikayla Berger from Lethbridge did the Olympic Games and Evan Schollie, from Red Deer, charmingly presented his history of Albert Johnson, the mad trapper. Unfortunately some miscommunication somewhere along the line resulted in Calgary's representative not being present. I'm sure the general feeling of all assembled was that this is something we must do again next year. Well done, Heritage Fairers, and thanks so much.

We promise we will continue to fund your operation until other sponsors are found.

We were so pleased to see the Peace Country Historical Society represented at our conference and to learn that they are increasing their membership. Campbell Ross and Janet Peterson are continually working in the vineyard and growing their chapter. That is much appreciated as we drive to truly represent our entire province in our Historical Society of Alberta. We were thrilled, also, to



welcome Marjorie McIntyre, the aunt of Duane Nichols from the Grouard and Area Historical Society as we continue to pursue the addition of that "sleeping giant" of northern history as a chapter of HSA. We have our eyes on Medicine Hat as well. I hope we don't scare them off but I know several members have said, "Where is Medicine Hat?" The next question in all of this is: What can we offer Fort McMurray?

It was good to hear the reports from the five chapters. I sense a vibrancy in Alberta historians that belies the image of dry-as-dust academics so often bandied about by those "not-in-the-know". Hats off to those leading the charge in the chapters.

Have a fine summer.

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## Don Freckleton

Don Freckleton at Don's Print Three died Friday, April 2, 2010. He will be missed by all who came in contact with him, especially by those of us who remember him at the Alexandra Writers and The Historical Society of Alberta.

Back in the late 1980's he started in the business of printing after many years as a mining engineer. From the

start he made sure that his business would be distinguished from other print three outlets by calling his operation in Calgary Place, *Don's Print 3*. I first met him during the process of starting a magazine at AWCS. I walked into his shop, which was near my office, and he became interested in our project and eager to help with the birth of FreeFall magazine.

He took on the task of printing the HSA newsletter, *History NOW*. He was always a good friend and freely gave his

advice and support for over 15 years. Nothing was too much and he ensured material arrived on time and in good order.

I know all of you at HSA, who also used his services to print their manuals and brochures, will be sad to learn that he has gone.

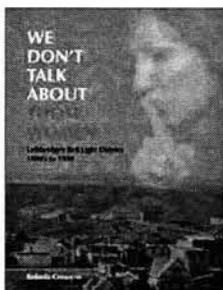
## University of Lethbridge Alumni Association Announces 2010 Honour Society Inductees



**Belinda Crowson**  
(BEd '92, BSc '99)

Belinda Crowson is a woman who actively pursues excellence as the Museum Educator at the Galt Museum and Archives in Lethbridge, Alberta.

She is an enthusiastic history professional - her interest, knowledge, organizational skills, research publications and teaching expertise at the grassroots carry her into many areas where she comfortably wears many hats.



### ***We Don't Talk About Those Women Lethbridge's Red Light District 1880-1940*** — by Belinda Crowson

Belinda is the “go to” person for all things historical – past and present. She has and does “make a difference” in the lives of many people in southern Alberta. Belinda engages students in making history come alive.

Wanted: a Mountie, a minister, a mayor and a doctor. No, it's not the start of a bad joke. These are four characters in the

## HSA Members News



upcoming Readers Theatre that is being performed in September for the launch of the Lethbridge Historical Society's latest book. *We Don't Talk About Those Women: Lethbridge's Red Light District 1880s to 1944*.

The book studies the history behind the district but also looks at the economic, political and social role played by prostitution in Lethbridge's early history. It personalizes, but never glamourizes, a part of the Lethbridge story that is rarely studied in-depth; telling, as much as possible, the personal stories of the women, men and children associated with this industry.

If you want to pre-order this book, be informed as to when the launch is, or join the fun as one of the actors in the Readers' Theatre. You can contact directly the Lethbridge Historical Society by phone 403.320.4994 or by their email at [lhs@albertahistory.org](mailto:lhs@albertahistory.org).

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Editor History NOW

Dear Ms. Amsden,

### **Correction: History NOW Issue 2 Page 13**

I enjoyed the book review about Sovereign Ladies by Ron Williams in the last issue of History NOW — No 2 April 2010.

An error of historical fact got into the review.

Queen Anne DID NOT unite the Crowns of England and Scotland. Following the death of Queen Elizabeth I, in 1603, King James VI of Scotland, her successor, became the first monarch to rule The British Isles

This is known as The Union of the Crowns.

Parliaments continued to meet in both Edinburgh and London.

The Union of the Parliaments was accomplished with The Act of Union, 1707, which also created The United Kingdom during the reign of Queen Anne.

Sincerely, Ed McCulloch

Thank you Ed for setting us  
straight on this matter.

## Fred Holberton turns 90

by Carly Stewart

On Saturday, May 22, 2010, friends and family got together to celebrate the 90th birthday of Fred Holberton at a afternoon function in the Hawkwood area of Calgary. Fred was the Historical Society of Alberta's treasurer for about eleven Years. The society's financial umbrella grew considerably during his term as treasurer when it was decided to take on the responsibility of holding casinos, in Calgary or in Edmonton. Fred's bookkeeping, accounting and reporting skills were greatly appreciated by the Government controllers who audited the society's books. Also, over the years, all members of the HSA executive came to appreciate Fred's knowledge and procedures of the Society's accounts.

In the early 1980's, Carly Stewart recalled that during his tenure as HSA President, Fred who was not then a member of the HSA, accidentally met shortly after a annual general meeting in Calgary. Fred said "If you folks are ever in need of a Treasurer/Accountant I would be interested in the job." As the treasurer's position had just been filled at the AGM Carly said he would keep the offer in mind.

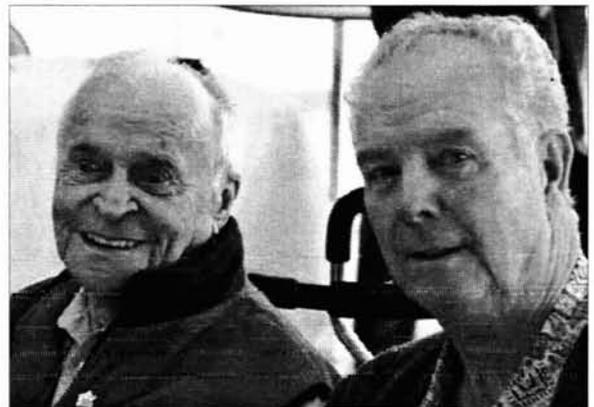
A couple of years later, Carly's last task on the HSA executive was nominations chairman and it was his honour to ask Fred if he was still interested in being treasurer. Fred accepted the position.

And again, near the end of Fred's eleven years at the financial controls, while Carly was the HSA Vice President and chair of the Financial Committee, they got the opportunity to work first hand together.

Own best wishes go out to Fred on this occasion and we hope that he is still around to see his 104th birthday. (Private joke from his party)



Annie and Fred Holberton



Carly Stewart and Fred Holberton

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## Sheila Johnston receives the City of Calgary Community Achievement Award for Heritage — June 9th, 2010

The following is her acceptance speech. Greetings:

"Your Worship, members of City Council, Families and friends, Ladies and Gentlemen. I very much appreciated being nominated and feel very humble to be receiving this award.

I, too, would say some thanks: To family members who, over the years, supported the work I was doing, some of whom are able to be here tonight; to my nominator, Brenda, and her team (and they know who they are), and to those who wrote letters of support.

Working in the historical or heritage field is usually a cooperative venture, so I

extend my thanks to all those, both volunteers and professionals, that I have worked with, and learned from, over the years. I would also like to think that this award is a recognition of the work that the Calgary Heritage Authority continues to do, along with the City Heritage staff, in striving to protect our remaining heritage, especially our built heritage.

My love of history began at our kitchen table as my sister and I listened to our parents relate their experiences as children coming with their parents to Alberta homesteads. I then had the good fortune to marry into a family steeped in archaeology. In so many ways, our history and our heritage, archaeological and built, is a

treasure entrusted to us by past generations. It is our responsibility to maintain good stewardship of those treasures that remain. As we now reflect on the loss of many examples of our heritage whose existence was in the way of what was deemed to be 'modern' or 'progress', we should do everything in our power to avoid adding to these losses. "These old things," really are important, and we all need to be aware and ever vigilant to ensure that we can pass down to the next generation something that speaks of another day and another time.

Thank you for this incredible honor

— Sheila Johnston

## Detective Don

by Don Edgcombe

In early May 1955 while managing the Hudson's Bay store at Lower Post, BC, I was a player in a rather bizarre burglary. Lower Post is the most northerly community in BC along the Alaska Highway. I went in to work early that morning, probably about 7 am, to do my bookwork before opening the store at nine. The spring rush was on with the trappers bringing in their beaver catches, and had plenty of money to spend. I unlocked the front door of the store which was about 200 yards from our residence, and went directly to the office. I immediately noticed the store safe was conspicuously absent. A quick check of the premises revealed a broken glass in the back door. Obviously thieves had released the interior dead bolt by reaching through the broken glass in the top half of the door. Being careful not to touch the deadbolt or doorknob to avoid obliterating possible fingerprint evidence, I immediately phoned the nearest RCMP detachment at Watson Lake, Yukon about 18 miles north on the highway. Constable John McDowell arrived shortly and examined the fresh tire tracks near the back door.

I asked if I could be of any help, while he took photographs and tire impressions. His answer was a rather curt "No this is a job for professionals." We reasoned that burglars wouldn't be likely to drive a great distance on the Alaska Highway with a stolen vault in their vehicle, so I offered to take my car and drive the highway looking for a spot they might use to break open the safe and abandon it. I needed a spotter to help me check both shoulders of the gravel road so I enlisted the assistance of neighbor Don Miller, a native trapper, prospector, and hunting guide.

Our next decision was basically a coin toss. Do we start the highway search northbound or southbound? I reasoned

that south was the obvious route favorable to most burglars as it led to more populated communities of northern BC and Alberta, where one could easily lay low and avoid suspicion. The highway northward lead only to Whitehorse and Alaska. My instinct was to try and read the robber's minds and consequently I chose the less obvious and headed north. As I drove I scanned the left shoulder and Don Miller kept a sharp hunter's eye peeled on the right shoulder. It was now nearing 8 am and broad daylight so I reasoned we should soon spot fresh car tracks onto a sheltered wood cutters trail or a gravel pit, both of which were plentiful in the area. Since it hadn't rained for several days we found that spotting fresh tire tracks would not be easy. We soon reached Watson Lake and decided not to stop and check side roads there as we reasoned that robbers would not likely chance cracking a safe in a town where someone might notice their suspicious presence late at night. So we elected to continue north.

About eight miles north of Watson is the small village of Upper Liard, where the Alaska Highway crosses the Liard River. A customer of ours, Bud Wimp, operated a small gas station and restaurant there. I recalled Bud telling me he operated round the clock, his staff worked days and he took the night shift. He mentioned that he would sit by the window, drinking coffee, and watching for vehicles coming down the long hill from the south. When he saw one coming he would rush out to the gas pumps hoping drivers would stop for gas. When I explained my reason for calling he instantly remembered every vehicle that had passed northbound since midnight. The last one he mentioned aroused my curiosity. He had spotted a set of headlights coming down the long hill, then it

parked on the bridge with the headlights turned off. Bud assumed the occupants were probably young lovers from Watson Lake parking and necking, and wouldn't be buying any gas, so he went back inside to finish reading his newspaper.

I decided to check out the bridge deck, so we parked on the approach and walked along the northbound lane which was the upstream side of the bridge. Less than halfway across the 400 foot long bridge I spotted a broken window crank from a vehicle lying on the deck in the accumulation of sand that had built up near the concrete curb. Nearby I spotted green paint scraping on the twelve inch high curb that looked to me very similar to the green paint of the stolen vault. I deduced that the vault had been removed from the vehicle at this point and in the process the window winder crank had been broken. I looked over the guardrail to the river about 20 feet below and spotted my vault in the shallow water with the nickel finished hinges and handle shining brightly in the morning sunlight.

The whole scenario began to focus in my mind. The burglars had either punched the safe open in the back seat of a car, while one person drove, or if there was a lone robber he would have to park in a secluded spot to force it open. I concluded there were probably at least two burglars as it was a medium sized vault and probably weighed about 200 pounds. Throwing it over the guardrail would have been a tall order for one man.

At the time of the beaver hoist I regularly ordered fairly large supplies of cash from our district office in Edmonton. Lower Post was unique with it's location on an all weather highway and trappers would arrive from various points up to 200 miles north and south

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

of our store. Since we didn't extend credit to these transients it was necessary to offer cash for their fur in order to compete with transient fur buyers who came from as far as Vancouver to try and outbid us. Driving home I calculated roughly that there would have been between five and seven thousand dollars in the vault.

Don and I returned to the store to find Constable McDowell still processing tire tracks near the back door. Can you imagine the stunned look on his face when I handed him the broken window winder wrapped in my handkerchief to protect possible finger prints. When we told him we had found the vault at the bottom of the Liard River, approximately 26 miles from the store within less than two hours, he was flabbergasted.

He examined the crank and concluded it was from a late model Ford. He called his supervisor Corporal Russ Bakewell at the Watson Lake detachment, who relayed this information to the RCMP in Whitehorse. One of their members drove over to the local Ford dealership and inquired if anyone had been in that morning looking for a replacement window crank. "As a matter of fact, yes there were three young men in here a while ago but we didn't have the right one in stock." "Did you happen to notice the vehicle?" "Yes it was a light green Ford four door sedan." The Mountie correctly assumed that if they were the robbers, they had been up most of the night and early morning as the drive from Lower Post to Whitehorse was 298 miles on gravel. So he checked two or three motels and in no time spotted the light green Ford. After verifying that it had a broken winder from the back right window, he obtained the owner's room number from the office and arrested the three young men without incident. I

recall the names of two of the suspects but I don't think it would be discreet of me to reveal them as they were not convicted at this point and I knew the parents of one of the three.

Mounties Russ and John and I then met at the Liard River bridge to recover the safe. It was lying on it's back in about five feet of water on a gravel river bottom so it was relatively simple to slip a heavy wire loop over one of the front wheels and drag it to shore. Bud Wirop told me there had been an ice jam on the pier yesterday evening but the warm morning sun melted enough ice to free the jam and expose the vault through the clear water. Possibly the robbers saw the ice jam late at night and knowing the vault would drop right through the shell ice, assumed it would escape detection.

We noted that the safe had been punched open as the combination dial was missing. We took it to the police station and had to hire a mechanic with a cutting torch to cut the back open. Thanks to efficient work by the Whitehorse detachment we now knew there were three men involved in the heist. Russ deduced that at least one of them must have been experienced in safe cracking and possibly they managed to open it while driving north. Or perhaps they found a secluded spot to park and punch it open.

When we cut the back off the vault we found the contents had been ransacked. Of course the cash was missing but fortunately the important company records that I kept in the vault were still intact and readable despite the soaking. An interesting side note to this episode was the fact that we found several *shinplasters* strewn around in the vault plus a few coins, but of course no large bills. Russ and John had never heard of *shinplasters*, but due to my father being a fur trader during my early childhood I

remembered them vividly. The nickname "*shinplaster*" referred to .25 cent paper currency, about two thirds the size of a dollar bill. They bore the portrait of King George the Fifth and were issued prior to 1917.

Here's how the *shinplasters* came to be in the vault without my knowledge. When I assumed management of the store in November 1954, following routine procedure for all changes in store management, we took inventory of all merchandise, balanced the accounts receivable, and the cash on hand. I noted a small packet about three by four inches square sewn in an old red headscarf. I asked the outgoing manager about it and he replied, "Oh don't worry about that, its been in the safe for years. It belongs to Mary Larsen and she asked that it be kept in safekeeping." Mary, an elderly Metis lady, lived in the village, so I went over to see her that evening to ask about the packet. She was visibly disturbed to learn that we had found the packet ripped open in the vault. Because the *shinplasters* bore the picture of a bearded king I knew they were of no value to the robbers and would cause suspicion and questioning if anyone tried to pass them as legal tender.

Mary related a sad story about the packet and the red headscarf. Her late husband had been an employee at this store many years ago. He suffered a nervous breakdown, became violent, and was forcibly shipped to a mental institution near Vancouver, possibly Essondale. Mary was devastated. She took his wallet as he was being led away, sewed it up tightly in her old red head square and asked the Bay manager to take good care of it. As I questioned her about the year of her husband's forceful arrest she replied, "Right after he was taken away our teen aged daughter Lucy started

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

doing crazy things. She had a baby, his name is William Johnnie," whom I knew and he was 38 years old. Mary wasn't sure how much cash her husband had in the wallet, we didn't find any vintage bills in larger denomination, but she thought there might be about \$200.00. If she was correct, and if any of these bills were found in the robber's possession they would have contributed substantially to a conviction. I reported Mary's story to our district office and I was instructed to reimburse her \$285, as soon as a new vault and supply of cash arrived. No doubt she could have made good use of her husband's money many different times in her later years but she hoped some day he would return. When he passed away in the mental institution, she still refrained from touching the wallet, saying it *wasn't hers*, and possibly as a tribute to her late husband.

The trial was held in Prince George BC, in the fall of 1955. The two Mounties, Bud Wimp, Don Miller, my clerk Thor Anderson, and I were flown to Prince George. There were two other witnesses called by the prosecution, one of which would become a key player in the courtroom drama that was about to unfold. I don't recall his exact name but it was distinctly Irish, the surname being O' something along with four given names which he eloquently stated when called to testify. The other was a young man named Magnusson. These two men were summertime carpenters for CN Telecommunications, doing renovations on the company's many buildings at the repeater stations located about every hundred miles along the Alaska Highway. They had finished their summer work and intended to drive Magnusson's old car back to Vancouver, so they timed their trip to reach Prince George the day before the trial began.

I was the first witness called by the prosecuting attorney, and related in detail all my testimony. Surprisingly, the defense attorney chose not to cross examine me so I was excused and allowed to remain in the spectator's gallery, and listen to the other witnesses testify. Thor Anderson, Don Miller, and Bud Wimp were called, mostly to substantiate my testimony. Then the two Mounties were called. Their testimony was mostly of a technical nature, regarding tire tracks, the broken window winder, and the condition of the vault when recovered.

Next to testify was the eloquent Irishman. He and Magnusson were working on the roof of a CN building in Whitehorse on the day before I reported the safe stolen. Just before quitting time, a newer light green Ford sedan drove up to their job site. The three young occupants were casual acquaintances of theirs through work. They suggested the two carpenters join them for a beer at Tourist Services bar. The Irishman admired the new car and asked if he could drive it to the bar. The owner agreed. Here's where it got interesting. The prosecutor asked the Irishman to describe the car in question, which he did in great detail. When asked by the the lawyer about his extraordinary memory his response was, "I like new cars."

When the prosecutor asked him if he remembered the odometer reading on the Ford when he drove it back from the bar to the CN staff house he immediately rattled off a mileage number, and the prosecuting attorney was quick to point out to the judge that this number, plus the round trip mileage between Whitehorse and Lower Post, matched almost exactly the odometer reading on the Ford when the arrest was made in Whitehorse.

The defense attorney, somewhat shocked, attempted to discredit the

Irishman's testimony. He asked, "When did you last drive a vehicle?" "This morning sir," "Where is this vehicle now, describe it and identify the owner." Our eloquent Irishman described Magnusson's old beater, including the license plate number, and said it was parked in the parking lot behind the courthouse. "If your memory is so good about vehicle mileage will you please tell the court what the present odometer reading is on Mr. Magnusson's car." With absolutely no hesitation the Irishman replied, "Certainly sir, 225,342 miles. I was dumfounded as I wasn't even previously aware that this was to be part of the prosecutor's case. I began clapping from the spectator's gallery. The judge didn't appreciate my outburst and sternly warned me that another such act would result in me being expelled from the courtroom. Then the defense attorney requested a recess, and asked the judge, court reporter, prosecutor and Magnusson to accompany him to the parking lot to check the odometer. The Irishman was correct within a half mile. The prosecutor asked him at recess how he remembered mileage so well. His reply made sense to me. "I'm a carpenter driving a company vehicle to work every day, and I'm required to keep a vehicle log of my daily mileage. Some days I'm too tired, or too lazy, or too drunk to write up my log book so I glance at the speedometer when I shut her off and remember the reading so I can write up the damn log the next morning. That's how I remembered the Ford." "But what about Magnusson's car?" asked the lawyer. "Well you see sir all us witnesses got to town yesterday afternoon, we were all staying at the same motel, out on the highway. We all decided to go down town for supper, a beer or two, and maybe shoot a few games of pool I drove Magnusson's car there and back and when I shut her off I

continued on page 9

continued from page 8 They must have worn gloves at the store

checked the mileage, force of habit you know. Then I just added on what I estimated the mileage from the motel to the courthouse, pretty good guess wouldn't you say now sir."

In conclusion the three suspects were acquitted. The judge stated in his summation that the crown had done an excellent job of convicting the automobile, but failed to prove who used it to commit the robbery. Obviously the robbers were thorough, as the police found no fingerprints on the store door to match theirs. Most of the prints were mine and Thors.

and handling the vault. There were no suitably identifiable prints on the window crank. If Mary Larsen was correct that there were larger vintage bills in her late husband's wallet, they were not found in the possession of the accused. Perhaps realizing they would be incriminating, they threw them out of the car window while driving. To my knowledge they were never found. The accused were searched upon arrest and had several thousand dollars in their possession in denominations of twenty, fifty, and one hundred, which was compatible with the cash I had locked in the vault. It was

impossible to prove that these bills came from the Bay store at Lower Post. Soon after this case the Hudson's Bay Company head office instructed all store managers to keep a record of random bills twenty dollars and larger.

This was one of many interesting experiences during my ten years as an employee of Canada's oldest Company. Oddly enough, my wife Velma and I owned three different stores over a period of 21 years and were never burglarized. In an odd twist of fate, about a week after we sold our menswear store in Grande Prairie to our clerk he was robbed.

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## Historical Society Hosting Land-Rush Commemorative Lecture

by Damien Wood - Herald-Tribune staff

Why not start at the beginning, 100 years ago?

Saturday will be a big day for the Grande Prairie Historical Society (GPHS), which hosts its first annual general meeting and the inaugural lecture will focus on the event that started it all – the land rush of 1910. Dr. David Leonard, northern Alberta historian for Alberta Culture and Community Spirit and a GPHS member, was more than pleased to give the Daily Herald-Tribune a sneak peek of his address.

The land rush of May 23, 1910 was several decades in the making. "A couple of surveyors were sent out in the 1880s," said Leonard. "Whereas there always were rich crops grown in the Peace River valley around Dunvegan, Fort Vermilion and Fort St. John, the first farmers up in the Fairview area to try to farm beyond the river valley were suffering from early frost and that was always a consideration. "And yet by the turn of the 20th century there were enough farmers around this area ... to demonstrate that farming could be successful this far north."

The Yukon gold rush of 1896-99 brought more people into the area on their way north – some deciding to stay

to join the Cree settlers already living from Jasper House north to the Flying Shot Lake area. "The federal Minister of the Interior beginning in 1904 was Frank Oliver from Edmonton ... who was very much of the opinion that if the Peace River Country developed, the town of Edmonton – which just became a city – would develop into a city the size of Winnipeg," said Leonard. "The Canadian Northern Railway arrived Edmonton in 1905, giving a direct link to the eastern market, and before long Premier (Alexander C.) Rutherford had his Liberal government committed to railway development by way of guaranteeing the bonds of major railway companies."

Leonard explained the government felt safe establishing a land office at the Athabasca Trail settlement of Grouard at the west end of Lesser Slave Lake in 1909 and hiring on surveyor Walter McFarlane to subdivide 17 townships in the Grande Prairie area. Even then, people began coming in large numbers to what was proclaimed "the Last Great West," but homesteading was first allowed May 23, 1910. Leonard said 282 initial parties officially applied. "Of those, 80% proved up their land, which

was very, very high," he said. "Of the people who came, 61.7% were British subjects and 49.4% of them, as we've determined by looking at the land records, were born in Canada. Of the other, 26% were American by birth ... seven were born in Norway, three in Sweden, three in Russia, two in Austria and one each in Australia, India, Iceland, Switzerland and Poland.

"Over half of them described themselves as farmers. The rest came from varying occupations — blacksmiths and railway workers and what-have-you." By the end of 1914, the 282 had grown to 6,789 in the Peace Country, and "the Grande Prairie" was the heaviest-settled area. Leonard will go into far more detail at the meeting Saturday, and his hope is that as many people as possible will be drawn to Centre 2000 at 11 a.m. to hear it. "We're trying to promote a Peace Country Historical Society. I don't know what the membership is right now but we really would like to have anybody who — in any way — is interested in history show up," he said.

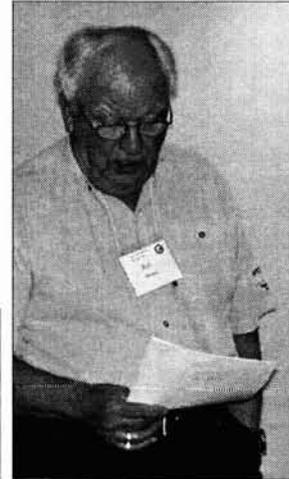
Copyright © 2010 Grande Prairie Daily Herald Tribune — May 7, 2010.



**Historical Society of Alberta Annual General Meeting and Conference**  
**May 28 – 30, 2010 – Edmonton**



HSA Awards Banquet



Bob Rintoul Presents his book *No Regrets, No Apologies*



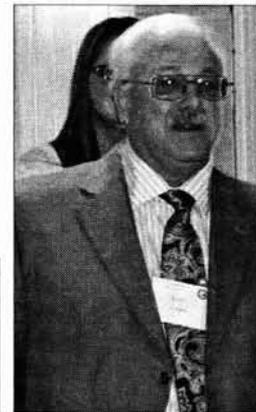
**The Birthday Cake**

Celebrated the birthdays of Carina Naranjilla, Grant Program Coordinator, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and

Brad McDonald, Secretary, The Historical Society of Alberta

photographs courtesy of Bornn Marketing Inc.

Ken Tingley  
 Edmonton's First History Laureat



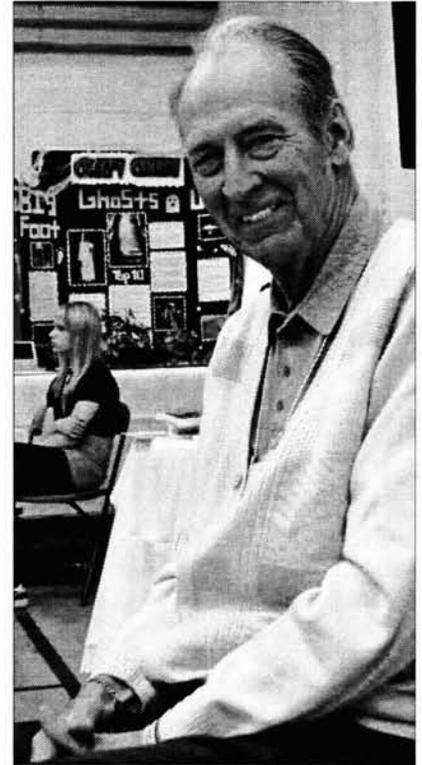
L to R: Bill Baergen, Mikayla Berger (Heritage Fair Rep for Lethbridge), Don Hepburn (Honorary Lifetime Membership), Tony Cashman (Annual Award), E.J. (Ted) Hart, (Annual Award), Evan Schollie (Heritage Fair Rep for Red Deer), Barbara Dacks and Gurston Dacks, *Legacy Magazine*, (Award of Merit), Fei Qi and Marissa Zhang (Heritage Fair Rep for Edmonton) and Carly Dietrich (Heritage Fair Rep for Grande Prairie).

# Alberta Heritage Fairs - May 2010

Representatives from various regions in the province displayed and presented their projects at the HSA conference



Hosting the World  
Mikayla Bergér - Lethbridge



'Superintendent' Bill Baergen enjoying the weekend



RCMP — Fei Qi and Marissa Zhang - Edmonton

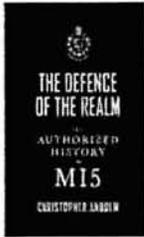


The Mad Trapper  
Evan Schollie -Central Alberta

Rod Trentham is the Chair of the Alberta Heritage Fairs Council, who have now become a committee of the HSA. The Heritage Fairs will become part of the AGM for the next two years at least.



Creepy Canada  
Carly Dietrich - Peace River



## The Defence of the Realm

by Christopher Andrew

This is a big book – 851 pages plus appendices. It is also unusual in being the authorized history of an intelligence agency; MI5. It is impossible to imagine the CIA opening its files for something similar.

The book traces the history of MI5 from its beginnings in the early years of the twentieth century to the present. The modern organization of the British intelligence agency began in 1909 not under Elizabeth I as myth has it. It was set up in answer to public panic about German spies and fifth columnists. This panic was ignited and fanned by fiction writers. Several books were published which fanned the fears and suspicions of the people including *The Thirty Nine Steps*, by John Buchan who later as Lord Tweedsmuir was Governor-General of Canada.

With very limited resources the organization was successful in capturing all German spies and saboteurs in Britain so Britain unlike the United States experienced no incidents of sabotage during WWI.

Then after WWI came the Communist threat. The agency had successes but also failures and misdirected efforts in this struggle. These are fully dealt with.

In the run up to the Second World War the agency was slow to get into gear but had great success. It wiped out the entire German spy system; but its greatest success was in turning agents and inventing agents so that shortly all German agents were run by MI5. This *double cross* system was an outstanding success. The story as told in the book is totally fascinating. Several of these turned agents were awarded Iron Crosses. One was also awarded a MBE. This must be the only time an agent got an award from both sides in a war for the same action.

The deceptions of, “the man who never was,” and about D-Day make fascinating reading.

The wartime and post war struggles against Communist agents also make fascinating reading.

There were successes; the spies Klaus Fakes, Blanke, Lonsdale and others but also failures; eg. *The Cambridge 5*. These lead to damages caused by their efforts but also by the waste of resources used in chasing shadows. The damage, however, was less than it might have been because while the information gathering was effective, the assessment was dismal as in a dictatorship based on terror the leaders were told what they wanted to hear.

Immediately after the war, there were the Zionist terrorist actions. Again there was a mixture of success and failure. There were major terror attacks in Palestine but none in Britain.

The book covers so much and so well it is not possible to choose a central theme. There is the post Imperial period as the Empire shrank with special note concerning British Guyana and Cyprus. Then there are the scandals of the Macmillan era which reached into the bed of the Prime Minister’s wife.

While there were failures in dealing with the Communist threat there were also outstanding successes in placing agents in key positions, or turning people in key places such that when Gorbachev visited Britain the information and analysis he received was provided by a British agent.

There is also the Irish trouble, state terrorism, and growing Muslim threats. The British have dealt with all of these in a calm, orderly way without panic or paranoid reflects. This compares very favorably with the American reaction to the same threats. (We don’t panic, we’re British).

This is a superior book in every way. It is certainly a very worthwhile read.

— Reviewed by Ron Williams.

Published by: Viking Canada: Penguin Group, Toronto  
ISBN 978-0-670-06450-2  
\$45 hardcover

## Books & Websites



### Agent Zigzag

A True Story of Nazi Espionage, Love, and Betrayal

by Ben Macintyre

During WWII, Eddie Chapman was the most remarkable double agent serving both Britain and Germany. He was also a petty criminal, philanderer and a great con man; all skills he used to great advantage in his dealing with the German Secret Service and MI5 in Britain. In true James Bond fashion he seemingly carried out the plans of his German masters while at the same time spreading disinformation. He was a shameless liar who lived his story while at the same time he carried on seductions of various women.

The Germans thought highly of Chapman and awarded him the Iron Cross, while MI5 arranged pardons for his crimes and provided for his child and mistress.

This is an exiting story, based on actual, formerly top secret documents released by MI5, where the hero walks a fine line between loyalty to his country and also profiting from his spymaster contacts. Throughout his life he was “Eddie Chapman, the gentleman crook.”

Published by: Three Rivers Press, NY  
ISBN 978 0 307 35341 2 sc \$16.95



### Operation Mincemeat

The True Spy Story that Changed the Course of World War II

by Ben Macintyre

This is not an untold story. The tale of the transformation of an “unknown” corpse into the fictitious Captain William Martin – whose body, complete with an entirely

invented past life (theatre stubs, love letters) and, crucially, misleading information on the forthcoming invasion of Sicily, was deployed, apparently drowned, into the sea off Spain in 1943 as a "Trojan horse" to find its way back to German intelligence — was the basis of the 1956 film, "The Man Who Never Was." But as with so many films and books in the two decades following the war, propagandising and officialdom prevented the entire story from coming to light: Macintyre, by means of extensive sleuthing — there are more than 30 pages of impeccable annotated notes — and a fortuitous visit to the son of intelligence officer Ewen Montagu, one of the main players possessed of the necessary "corkscrew mind", gives the final word on this extraordinary episode.

It was, ultimately, a success. Hitler was persuaded that the Mediterranean offensive would come at Greece and Sardinia, and any attack on Sicily would be a feint. His defences were radically, disastrously shifted and the rest is history. But a huge part of the story, of course, is of the strange men, and the strange world they inhabited, behind the planning. There was ego and rivalry and brilliance aplenty in Whitehall in those days, from Montagu and the odd-ball Charles Cholmondeley and the smattering of novelists, Ian Fleming included, brought often from civilian life to plot, to imagine, to deceive: egos that might have imploded were it not for the constant shared enemy.

416pp, Bloomsbury Publishing PLC,  
\$19.83



### Spycatcher

The Candid  
Autobiography of a  
Senior Intelligence Officer

by Peter Wright

Peter Wright was asked in 1954 to join MI5 formally as its first science officer, though he had been providing technical aid and information for several years, and he worked there until his retirement in 1976. Wright's insider's view

is fascinating: the personalities of senior officers, the infighting between MI5 and MI6 (the Special Intelligence Service, responsible for collecting foreign intelligence), Wright's interrogations of Anthony Blunt, the methods of collecting and analyzing information.

Wright's first years at MI5 were marked by advances in various methods of electronic eavesdropping, accomplishments that were personal triumphs for Wright and that often yielded valuable information, yet the greater part of *Spycatcher* concerns Wright's long search for a high-level mole within MI5. His investigations convinced him that the director of MI5, Roger Hollis, was a long-standing Soviet spy. This allegation, however, has never been proved. The reader becomes intrigued and baffled by Wright's efforts in the "wilderness of mirrors," sorting through the varying interpretations that can be given to a single fact, yet, by the end of *Spycatcher*, one begins to wonder whether Wright is the British James Angleton, obsessed with finding betrayal where there is none.

Wright's account, though basically chronological, often skips back and forth in time as one incident reminds him of another, and this can confuse the American lay reader trying to keep straight the plethora of initials and code names that can make a page of *Spycatcher* look like alphabet soup (a glossary and an index help). Wright also assumes a rather detailed knowledge of recent British history that many Americans may not have. Wright's bitterness over his failure in the Hollis case and over his parsimonious pension show through, and one begins to take his words with a grain of salt, but one nevertheless continues to read, shocked by such allegations as that a group of MI5 officers sought ways in which to oust Harold Wilson as prime minister, considering him a security risk because of his choice of friends.

Publisher: Heinemann (Australia)  
Penguin Viking (USA)  
Publication date July 31, 1987  
Pages 392, ISBN 0-670-82055-5

## Books & Websites



A new series to explore the virtues of 10 of history's greatest generals; Lee, Patton to be released in fall.

Each title in *The Generals* series focuses on a particular personality trait and examines how it influenced the subject in the crucible of war, will set the biographies apart from those that have come before.

"The series highlights the best of American leadership at a time when American leaders need inspiration," said publisher Joel Miller. "Patton's sense of destiny and Lee's commitment to virtue make them uniquely relevant to the moment at hand." The powerful, compact biography of Lee, focuses on intrinsic goodness — and how it shaped everything from his battle tactics to the treatment of his troops. It also addresses what many consider to be misconceptions regarding his position on slavery.

Patton, while impulsive, impatient and better known for carrying ivory-handled pistols than for his humility and chivalrous temperament, was no less accomplished or esteemed. It was simply a different arsenal of virtues — including a steely and indomitable determination — that helped carved his place in history, not only as a military pioneer, but as one of the most colorful and controversial American generals of the twentieth century.

Contact:

Jason Jones, Publicist  
615.306.8627

Thomas Nelson Publishers  
Publication date: August 17, 2010  
\$19.99 printed case hardcover

## Arbor Day Celebrations in Alberta

Submitted by Dorothy Gray

Each spring the commemoration of Arbor Day in Canada, USA and in many other countries around the world has become an annual event anticipated by citizens of all ages and walks of life. Their common goal is sharing a belief in the importance of planting trees and the necessity of taking care of the environment.

Civic records show that tree planting initiatives in Alberta began with some regularity in the 1950's. Each year in Calgary a different elementary school was selected to plan the major event. On May 6, 2010, the Father Scollen School in the community of Temple hosted a fun filled day for students, teachers and members of the public. Calgary and area Grade 1 children were given white spruce tree seedlings to take home and plant on private property. The celebration also included the planting of an official Arbor Day Tree. In Edmonton, Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park next to the Valley Zoo was the scene of the annual Arbor Day celebration on May 7, 2010. Visitors here, as well, listened to the proclamation and watched as each grade 1 student received an evergreen seedling and participated in a "tree-rific" day of learning about the care and maintenance of trees from City of Edmonton Forestry Section workers who were on site.

Without a doubt, one enthusiastic proponent and supporter of Arbor Day activities was Alberta's former Lieutenant Governor J.W. Grant MacEwan (1902-2000). Ten years after his passing, the writings and speeches he delivered while on the public stage continue to be referred to when local historians and journalists report on current environmental issues. During McEwan's remarkable career as an author, educator, politician and conservationist, his influence and commitment to developing a caring and sustainable

relationship with nature was evident in his daily pursuits throughout his active and long life.

To commemorate Arbor Day in 2000, the year of the millennium, Dr. MacEwan generously gifted a Schubert Chokecherry tree to his friends at Grant MacEwan University (formerly Grant MacEwan College) in Edmonton. The *Prunus virginiana schubert* was transported from Golden Acres Garden Centre in Calgary and planted in May of that year on the south lawn of the downtown campus.

A formal dedication held in October 2002 was attended by the namesake's daughter, Heather MacEwan Foran. She unveiled a bronze plaque which read in part "...your own lives will be richer if you appreciate nature's creations and are in harmony with them." Invited guests each received a spruce sappling and were encouraged to take it home and plant it in memory of what would have been Grant MacEwan's 100th year.

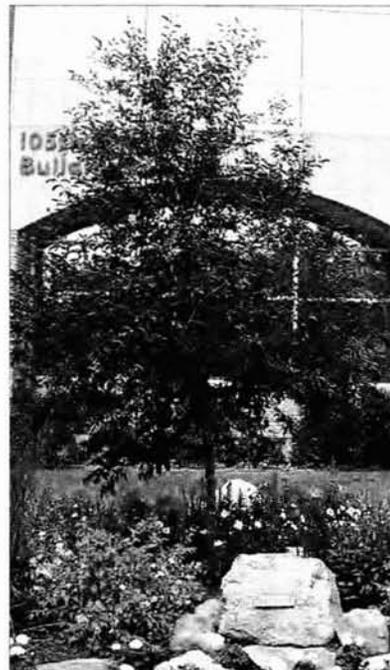
During the summer of 2006, a rock garden incorporating native shrubs and flowers was constructed around the tree which also featured the commemorative plaque affixed to an imposing boulder.

In the fall of 2006, the Heritage Tree Foundation of Canada announced the creation of the Alberta Heritage Tree Project with an emphasis on recognizing that "trees provide a living link to our past and may hold stories and carry meaning for people."

A regional selection committee campaigned for nominations for trees considered special by individuals and organizations throughout the province. Successful nominators would receive an inscribed plaque which could be placed on the trunk or directly in front of the tree. Further acknowledgement would appear



Schubert Chokecherry



in the upcoming *Heritage Trees of Alberta* book scheduled for publication in 2007. Members of the J.W. Grant MacEwan Environmental Studies Institute shortly thereafter (October 2006) submitted the paperwork for the university's Arbor Day gift — the Schubert Chokecherry.

A congratulatory letter from the Heritage Tree Foundation of Canada was

continued on page 15

## Peace Country Historical Society

Write to  
10105 - 94 Ave  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0K7

by Campbell Ross, President

The last meeting of PCHS, for the fiscal period September–June, will take place June 26 at the Historical Heritage site of the Euphemia McNaught Homestead, close to the community of Beaverlodge. Our guest speaker will be Euphemia McNaught who studied with the Group of Seven in Ontario in the 1930s. She went on to become one of the most celebrated artists of the wilderness landscapes of northern Alberta, particularly the rugged terrain between the Peace Country and the northern reach of the Rockies, through which the Hinton Trail and the Monkman Pass carved their way.

We are in the final stages of the application process for a Community Initiatives grant to assist in the publication of the first in the series, *Maps of the Peace*, dealing with the Edson Trail 1911-1916. Next summer (2011) is the centennial of the opening of the Edson Trail. Major celebratory events are planned by the Edson Trail Centennial

Committee with hundreds of descendants of original homesteaders making that journey expected to attend. This publication will be available at all of these events.

**Can You Help?** Along with the work on recording the experience of Euro-Canadian homesteaders, we are working with the Grande Prairie Museum in trying to find an appropriate way to represent the experience of Native Canadians in our region in the last century, **since** the signing of Treaty #8 in 1899/1900. Like a lot of museums outside Edmonton and Calgary, our museum does a good job of representing traditional aboriginal life up to the Treaty, but thereafter there is silence. That silence is becoming deafening. We are investigating the possibility of using an unpublished manuscript by the Oblate priest, Roger Vanderseene, who served in the Trout Lake area for several decades

## News & Views from HSA Chapters

after World War II. He was extremely supportive of Cree ceremony and spirituality. He advocated for them in the face of development. His manuscript “And They Made Roads,” might act as an excellent springboard for approaching some aboriginal communities for collaboration on an exhibit of their experience in the last one hundred years in the South Peace. **But we cannot find the manuscript** in Vanderseene’s papers in the Provincial Archives. If anyone has any idea where this material might be housed, we would very much appreciate hearing from you.

PCHS has certainly grown over our first year as a Chapter of The Historical Society of Alberta and we look forward to further growth in the coming years.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer.

## Arbor Day Celebrations in Alberta

continued from page 14

received in October 2008 informing the Institute that the “Schubert Chokecherry tree has been proudly accepted as a Heritage Tree of Alberta.” By the summer of 2009, a distinctive marker was installed in the signature garden in front of the 5th Street Building on 104 Avenue. Documentation of the prestigious award was noted in a permanent record within the web-placed Tree Registry of Notable Trees in Alberta ([www.heritagetreefoundation.com](http://www.heritagetreefoundation.com))

Heritage Trees of Alberta (582-16097 HER) was finally released in 2008 and is available in local bookstores and public and school libraries throughout the

province. One chapter in the book also provides information about the location of five other trees planted in north west Calgary in memory of Grant MacEwan.

Fortunately today, many non profit conservation organizations and foundations complement the yearly Arbor Day celebrations by promoting conservation awareness and stressing the need for vigilant stewardship of our forests, public



lands and wildlife. Their message — a healthy eco system is the best legacy we can provide for future generations.

## Chinook Country Historical Society

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

by **Shona Gourlay, President**

As the new CCHS president, I would like to thank the retiring board members (Kristi Johnson, Carrol Jaques, Susan Turner, Henry Murzyn, Janet McMaster) for their work on behalf of the Society. Also, welcome to our new board members Gail and Ron Kessler, Gayle Thrift, and Chelsea Clark. We look forward to your ideas and input. Lastly, thank you to all the returning board members Laurel Halladay, Vivian Sampson, John Brook, Robert Cormack, George Milne, Sarah Harvey! (Apologies if I have missed anyone's name!)

The AGM was held in March at the historic Ranchmen's Club. We were treated to a tour, followed by a wonderful meal, and a talk by Alida Vishbach of Heritage Park. Thanks to Vivian for being the contact person with the Club, and to the others who assisted with the meeting/event.

April and May's respective programs were on Ernest Manning (presented by Brian Brennan) and Arab Canadians (presented by R. Awid), both were very informative and interesting! Don't forget

to pencil in Historic Calgary Week at the end of July to get your summer history fix!

Several people from Calgary attended the HSA Conference/AGM in Edmonton at the end of May. It was held in the Queen Alexandra School in Strathcona, and had a school-based theme. The tours, activities, and presentations by Heritage Fair student winners were very enjoyable. Thanks to the organizers for a wonderful event! Next year's conference is in Lethbridge.

## Strome Centennial Celebrations August 13-15, 2010

### Friday, August 13, 2010

Registration & Sign In - Bob

Butler 780.376.3624

Welcome Potluck, 5:30pm, Community Hall, Marlene Mohler

Family Music & Sing Along, 7:00 pm,

Community Church, Marie

Harty, 780.376.2241

Youth Movie Night, 8:30 pm, Sports Grounds, ECS

Ball Games, Sports Grounds, Pat

Hayes, 780.376.2131

### Saturday, August 14, 2010

Muffins & Fruit Breakfast, Main Street,

CWL Tannis Zimmer, 780.376.0004

Opening Cerimonies, 9:45 am, Main St

Parade, 10 am, Main Street, Shauna

Wisener 780.376.3663

Kids Activities 11-5:00, School

Grounds, Cheryl Holben, 780.376.3999

Firemen's BBQ, 12-3:00, Curling Rink

Bar Service, 12-5:00, Curling Rink

Old Time Thrashing & Plowing, noon-

4pm, Hobert Rawe acreage, Philip

Harty, 780.376.2241

Concession, 12-5:00, Skating Rink

Ball Games, Sports Grounds

Beer Gardens, 1pm-2am, Gazebo

School & Cemetary Tours, 1pm

& 3pm, Senior Center (Handi

Van, Bob Buttler

Car Show & Shine, Ball

Diamonds, Ron Borgel,

780.376.2420

Various Entertainment, 2-5 pm,

Various Locations

Tony Michael & Fiddling Trio

music clips [tonymichael.org/](http://tonymichael.org/)

Supper/Dance pre-registration required,

Community Hall, Brenda Wolbeck,

780.376.2294

Fireworks, 11 pm, Sports Grounds

Photo Display, Museum, Jay Robbins,

780.376.2114

Museum Tours, Museum

### Sunday, August 15, 2010

Breakfast, Community Hall, TBA

Church Service, Community Church,

Gloria Swain, 780.374.2482

Old Time Thrashing & Plowing, noon-

4pm, Hobert Rawe acreage, Philip

Harty, 780.376.2241

Museum Tours, Museum

For General Inquiries: Don Kroetch,



780.376.3539 [dkroetch@yahoo.ca](mailto:dkroetch@yahoo.ca)

Inquires of Reprint of History Book:

Joyce Dalueg, 780.376.2161

Participation In Any Events: Call

Appropriate Contact

We are also putting together a cook-book. To purchase, call Carey Hauck @ 783.376.2266.

For any suggestions to help make this celebration even better, please e-mail Don Kroetch.

Free camping available. Sites assigned @ Pre-Registration or Sign In.

Registration forms available @ ATB Strome. Contact Brenda 780 376 3550

**Details on website:** [www.villageof-strome.com/centennial\\_celebrations](http://www.villageof-strome.com/centennial_celebrations)

## Lethbridge Historical Society

Write to  
PO Box 974  
Lethbridge, AB. T1J 4A2

by **Belinda Crowson**, President

We had such fun with our "What is history?" series that we decided to pick another theme for this year's programs. The 2010/2011 program series is telling community stories. Throughout the next year we hope to learn all about the history of some of the towns of southern Alberta.

In September we are heading out to Barons to see what the Barons Historical Society is up to. Barons is hosting a Centennial Celebration this July and we know they will have a lot to show and tell us.

We have two books to launch this fall. In October, Dr. Johan Dormarr's new book on the Milk River will be available. We are hoping to work with Writing on Stone Provincial Park/Áísínai'pi to do a program around John's book late in October or early

November (in addition to the launch here in Lethbridge). We'll keep you posted with details.

And my book is set to be launched sometime this September. The book is called *We Don't Talk About Those Women! Lethbridge's Red Light District 1880s to 1944*. We have prepared a Readers' Theatre to be part of the book launch and if you enjoy a bit of drama, we are still looking for a mountie, a minister, a doctor and a mayor. Let me know if you would be interested in playing a part.

We just finished finalizing all of the details for the nineteen plaques that we helped to put up in May and we are already researching, writing and discussing the 2011 plaques. At present it looks like there

will be at least five building plaques to put up in the downtown. Though we have already been approached by a building owner who has asked to be considered so that number could certainly be going up.

And we've also started planning for the 2011 Historical Society of Alberta Conference which will take place in Lethbridge next May 27 to 29. We hope you will all come down and join us and see what Lethbridge has planned. Watch for more information and for a conference brochure early in 2011. But if you want any advance information (or even hints about what we're up to), don't hesitate to contact us.

## PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA



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of Alberta ■

The Central Alberta Historical Society is very pleased to congratulate founding member Don Hepburn on his HSA Lifetime Membership award. Don received this award at the HSA AGM in June.

This spring has been both busy and unusual for the CAHS. We decided not to hold our annual historical festival while we concentrated on issues related to our Arches project. The Arches fundraising committee has made some headway on dealing with the financial issues, in great part thanks to Bob Lampard, and the plaques committee has recently completed the first mock up designs, so we feel that we are making good progress.

In spite of not having the community wide historical festival this year, we have gone ahead with a few events that have always been well attended. The first, the Historic Churches Tour, is an annual event themed towards a particular geographic area. This year, the tour visited five churches southeast and west of Red Deer, including one that will soon cease

to be a church, so that was particularly interesting and meaningful. We have also decided to continue with our one room school event, which is held in salvaged heritage buildings in Red Deer's Heritage Square. Home-schooled students look forward to this annual event where a teacher holds a "class" in the old building, and then the students gather for a picnic lunch and activities in the afternoon.

Our spring tour has been postponed to the fall — see below on this page for complete information and registration.

Members of the CAHS have volunteered for a variety of events over the summer, including celebrations at the consecration of the cemetery at the Indian Industrial School, a combined United Church and First Nations initiative. There are also a number of events at our newly renovated Museum and Art Gallery that members will be helping out at, as well as the ongoing work of the City Heritage Preservation Committee, which a CAHS member chairs.

Our spring programs have been varied,

and have met with an enthusiastic response from our members and the public. We now meet the third Wednesday of each month (Sept through May). Our new venue, the Snell Auditorium in the Red Deer Public Library has resulted in increased visibility and some new interest, which is gratifying. We will be working with the director of the library in developing some collaborative displays for the upcoming year, as well as programming related to Red Deer's upcoming Centennial of incorporation in 2013.

The Red Deer Centennial will be an ongoing focus of the CAHS as our proposal to be the umbrella group co-ordinating the events and projects was accepted by City council just recently. We've lots of good ideas and will be looking forward to working with members of Council, City Culture and Heritage departments and community groups as planning commences and progresses.

## Central Alberta Historical Society's Growing Influences Fall Tour Edmonton and Central Alberta after the Fur Trade September 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2010

Edmonton's roots in the fur trade are well known, but what happened after that?

From a settlement of perhaps 150 souls in 1870, how did it grow to be a city of over a million (1,035,000 in the Edmonton Capital Region in 2006)?

This year's four-day CAHS bus tour will explore some of the factors that have influenced Edmonton's growth:

- rich cultural diversity
- transportation (railways and bush

pilots for example)

- energy resource development (coal, petroleum and electricity)
- education (from the 1881 one-room school to its universities and colleges)
- governance (from the first legislative chambers in the historic MacKay Avenue School to the Provincial Legislature Building)

We'll be staying in a comfortable, modern hotel and making trips out from there each day, travelling by comfortable motor coach. Our plans include a visit to a museum of Black settlement, a streetcar ride across the High Level Bridge, afternoon tea at Rutherford House (home of the province's first premier), a tour of the

Legislature, Alberta's Petroleum Museum, a guided bus tour of stately homes, a visit to several Ukrainian churches with their unique architecture and interior decoration, and much more. And all of this in the good company of congenial people who share your enthusiasm for history. The cost for the tour of \$550 per person (based on double occupancy) includes travel costs, all admissions, hotel and most meals.

Deadline for registration is **August 14, 2010**. Registration forms can be obtained by writing to CAHS Tours, 4525 - 47A Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4N 6Z6, or by emailing to Don Hepburn at [dhepburn@telus.net](mailto:dhepburn@telus.net).

## Celebrate Our Heritage ... Open Our Doors - JULY 9 - 18, 2010

### The Edmonton and District Historical Society presents the 14th annual historic festival July 9 -18, 2010.

This family oriented festival showcases the stories of our history and cultural heritage with tours, activities, exhibits, storytelling and more at museums and historic sites in Edmonton and northern Alberta communities.

Doors Open Edmonton takes place July 9 – 11, 2010 and is presented by the Edmonton and District Historical Society in partnership with Realtors Association of Edmonton.

Doors Open Edmonton is a celebration of our built heritage and features free tours of architecturally significant buildings, behind-the-scenes tours, lectures, movies, theatrical presentations and more.

The historic festival region includes the Edmonton area and extends from Camrose in the south, Fort Chipewyan in the north, Vermilion in the east and Jasper in the west.

The theme of this year's festival is "Celebrate our Heritage...Open our Doors" recognizes the significance of our built heritage and its influence on our past, present and future.

Free festival guides are available at museums, libraries, visitor information centres, and at over 100 partner sites throughout northern Alberta. Visit [www.historicedmonton.ca](http://www.historicedmonton.ca) or call 780-439-2797 for more information.



## Heritage Canada Foundation /La fondation Héritage Canada

### DFO Declares All Lighthouses Surplus Undermining Intent of New Act

Ottawa, ON – June 10, 2010

The Heritage Canada Foundation (HCF) is deeply disappointed to learn that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has declared surplus all of its active and inactive lighthouses, numbering close to 1,000. The move undermines the intent of the new Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act (HLP), leaving the door open to their abandonment and demolition by neglect.

The intent of the HLP is "to conserve and protect heritage lighthouses"—legislation that elected officials, HCF, the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society, and other groups across Canada worked tirelessly to enact for over 10 years.

Passed into law in 2008 and only recently brought into force, the HLP recognizes that lighthouses form "an integral part of Canada's identity, culture and history" and that measures are needed to protect them for posterity. The Act establishes a process to: select and designate federally-owned heritage lighthouses; prevent their unauthorized alteration and disposal; require their maintenance by the federal government; and facilitate sales or transfers in order to ensure their continuing public purpose.

However the Act excludes lighthouses that are declared surplus from being designated unless a community group or private owner commits to acquire them and protect their heritage character. The impact of DFO now declaring all its lighthouses surplus effectively emasculates the HLP and shifts the responsibility

for their protection entirely onto local communities.

Lighthouse divestiture was a component of the Act, but never the principle intent.

HCF calls on communities across Canada to petition for the heritage designation of lighthouses regardless of their "surplus" status, and urges the Minister of the Environment to ensure the full intent of the Act is adhered to.

The Heritage Canada Foundation is a registered charity and voluntary organization created in 1973 as Canada's National Trust to encourage the conservation and use of heritage buildings and historic places for the benefit of all Canadians.

#### Contact:

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613-797-7206

# HSA Calendar 2010

- Jul 9-18 **EDHS** Edmonton and Northern Alberta Historic Festival, website: [www.historicedmonton.ca](http://www.historicedmonton.ca). Phone: 780.439.2797
- Jul 24–Aug 2 **CCHS** Historic Calgary Week (HCW) website: [www.chinookcountry.org](http://www.chinookcountry.org) Phone: 403.261.4667.
- Sep 28 **CCHS** Free Program “Eugenics in Alberta,” presented by Jana Greku, 7:30 pm, Fort Calgary Historic Park 750 9th Ave SE.

For other events please check the HSA website:  
[www.albertahistory.org](http://www.albertahistory.org) for a calendar of the upcoming speaker series  
 for the chapters commencing in September.



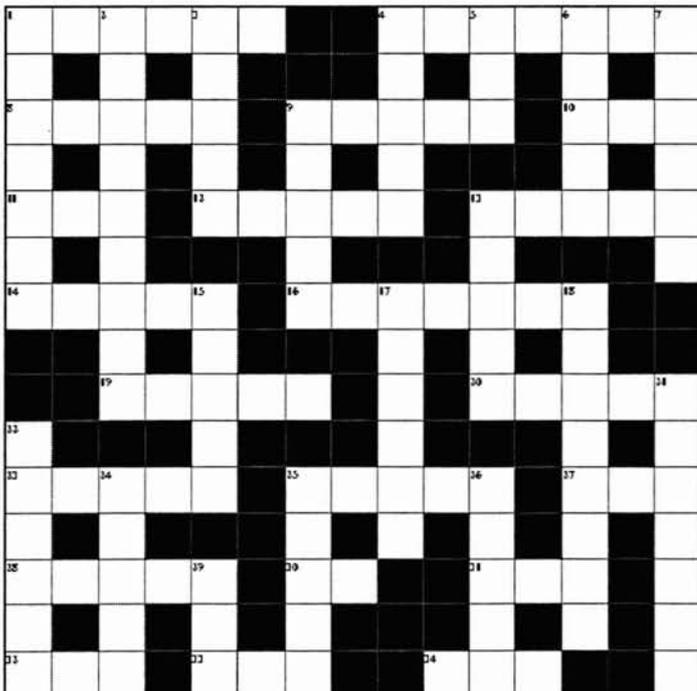
## HSA Crossword

This crossword puzzle devised by Jennifer Prest

### Answers to April #22 newsletter crossword:

- Across:** 1. Louise; 4. Pincher; 8. Carly; 9. Brant; 10. Ten; 11. CSI; 12. Edict; 13. Lye; 14. Reign; 16. Neutral; 19. Norma; 20. Ernie; 23. Mitch; 25. Fritz; 27. Lip; 28. Nisku; 30. AI; 31. Ain; 32. Awn; 33. Eek; 34. Ogle
- Down:** 1. Lac; 2. Ukrainian; 3. Style; 4. Pratt; 5. Nat; 6. Hythe; 7. Rundle; 9. Brian; 11. CPR; 13. Lorne; 15. North; 17. Utopia; 18. Longlance; 21. Empress; 22. Amanda; 24. Tyson; 25. Frank; 26. Zhang; 29. Ute.

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. Once Director of the Alberta Game Farm, Al \_\_\_
4. Alberta Minister of Culture, 1971-79, Horst \_\_\_
8. To happen
9. Nursing pioneer, Maude Lucas \_\_\_, 1886-1963
10. Alberta's 11th premier, \_\_\_ Getty
11. A brand of meat additive
12. Village 50 km north west of Grand Prairie
13. Used to enforce the law in the old Wild West, so the legends tell
14. Lesser \_\_\_ Lake
16. A ski resort near Banff, Mt. \_\_\_\_\_
19. A form of nightclub popular in the 1960's
20. An ancient inhabitant of the British Isles
23. Stan's sidekick
25. Village 30 km west of Hanna
27. A common business abbreviation
28. Educator and historian, Max \_\_\_\_\_
30. A musical note
31. Sick; in poor health
32. Adam's partner
33. Girls' name
34. Member of the Crazy Canucks ski team, \_ Read

### Down

1. Town 18 km south of Calgary
2. Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. \_\_\_
3. Hamlet on Hwy 35, 7 km S of Manning, \_\_\_ Star
4. A nation; condition; to declare
5. Medicine \_\_\_\_\_
6. Hamlet 17 km south east of Calgary
7. A Mormon pioneer and farmer in the Lethbridge area, Joseph \_\_\_, 1859-1927
9. A luxurious fabric
13. Jumping \_\_\_\_\_ Ridge, near Exshaw
15. Teacher & playwright, \_ Park Gowan, 1905-1999
17. Banff landmark, Mt. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_ Residential School, established by the Grey Nuns in 1892
21. Francis \_\_\_ of the NWMP, son of famous novelist
22. Hamlet 19 km east of Red Deer
24. Alberta Minister of the Environment, 2001-2004, \_\_\_\_\_ Taylor
25. Creator of Robinson Crusoe, Daniel \_\_\_\_\_
26. Canada's first female architect, \_\_\_ Mailhot Ross (1890-1968)
29. The \_\_\_ Perce or Nimipu people of Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho