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# History NOW



## In this issue

|                                                        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| HSA Annual General Meeting                             | 1     |
| President's Report                                     | 3     |
| HSA Office has moved                                   | 3     |
| HSA Members News:<br>Fred Holberton<br>Reynolds Museum | 4     |
| Edmonton's Origins                                     | 6     |
| Heritage Issues                                        | 8-9   |
| History Teaching Tips                                  | 10    |
| Heritage Updates                                       | 11    |
| What is the value of our heritage?                     | 12    |
| British World Conference II                            | 12    |
| Books & Websites to Try Out                            | 13-14 |
| Peggy Holmes: Oldest Broadcaster                       | 15    |
| Chapter Reports                                        | 16-19 |
| HSA Calendar of Events &<br>Crossword                  | 20    |

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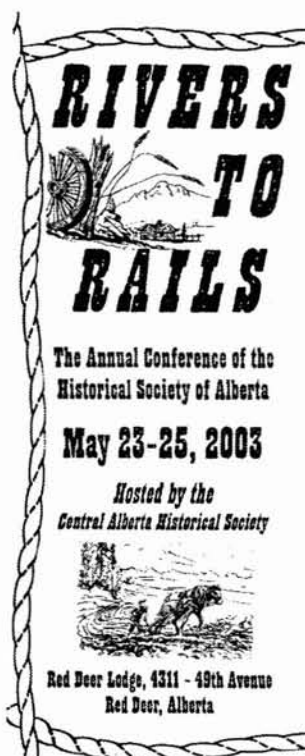
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## HSA Annual General Meeting in Red Deer



The Central Alberta Historical Society has the honour of hosting the Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of Alberta at its conference at the Red Deer Lodge, May 23 to 25, 2003. The theme of this year's conference is "Rivers to Rails," reflecting on the changes society underwent during the transition from following winding rivers to following straight rails and highways.

### Banquet Speaker, Friday, May 23: Fred Stenson, Calgary.

The award-winning author of *The Trade*, and frequent contributor to *Alberta Views*, will speak about "Two Albertas: Before the Rails and After" in which he offers his reflections on the impact on society of the change from following winding rivers to following straight rails and roads.

Fred grew up on a ranch in Twin Butte, at the foot of the Rockies, immersed in the landscape. Fred believes that we "live in a

big landscape that constantly tests our senses, our ability to see, smell and hear, and that over time, the landscape is welded into us." "For rural people especially," says Fred, "the land and the weather are an integral part of our human experience."

### Big Valley Tour, Saturday, May 24:

Allan Johnston, President of the Big Valley Historical Society, with the help of other members of the society, will take us to St. Edmund's Anglican Church on the hill overlooking the valley. This "blue church" was built in 1916 and has been restored and preserved by the Historical Society. We will also see a fully-working grain elevator, now owned by the society, as well as a museum in the former railway station, and Jimmy Jock's Boardwalk. Named after a Chinese restaurateur, this collection of unique shops features an art gallery, Hully's Hideaway (restaurant) and the Tipple Gallery which includes the Fudge Factory, an antique

continued on page 5

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

Michael Willis, Calgary  
Crystal Willie, Edmonton  
Allan Hustard, Richmond, BC  
Lougheed House Conservation Society,  
Calgary  
Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village,  
Edmonton  
Tina Crossfield, Okotoks  
Vern Wishart, Edmonton  
Nicole Reaman, Red Deer  
Josh Holgerson, Olds  
John & Doris Watson, Calgary  
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Suzanne Visser, Calgary  
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Glenn Finney, Ft. McMurray  
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# President's Report

by Ron Williams

2003 is moving along. Time waits for no one; so we must all be involved in making our province the best place it can be. Heritage is part of what makes a place the kind of place it is. The purpose of The Historical Society of Alberta is to preserve and promote the history of our province so that our heritage remains a vital part of our present and future.

The Society by itself and in conjunction with other societies performs a vital role in the preserving and popularizing of our history. In this regard, the President represents the Society on the Heritage Council where the five provincial societies: Museums Alberta, Archives Society of Alberta, Archaeological Society of Alberta, Documentary Heritage Society, Alberta Genealogical Society, and The Historical Society of Alberta meet to discuss mutual problems and concerns. He also is a member of the Advisory Board of the Provincial Archives. That is an exciting board to be on just now as the new Archives building at 8555 Roper Road (corner of 86th Street and 51st Avenue) in Edmonton nears

completion so that the movement of the past amount of records can begin. There will be an official opening in October 2003.

In addition to the many day to day tasks of the Society, work is proceeding to plan for major events in our Society's history and in the history of our province and communities. The special issue of *Alberta History* to mark the 50th anniversary of that publication will be coming along shortly.

The Edmonton and District Historical Society is preparing to take part in 2004 by celebrating the centennial of incorporation of the capital city of our province.

Preliminary work has begun on planning a joint commemoration with the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society of the centennial of the formation of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

A busy and, we hope, productive time for our Society is at hand. We look forward to a very interesting and exciting Annual Conference May 23—25, to be hosted by the Central Alberta Historical



Society in Red Deer. I look forward to meeting you all there.

I wish to thank all of our members for their generosity. Another Legacy Campaign is beginning. I thank everyone for making our past campaigns so successful. I am sure we can count on you all to make this campaign as successful as those past ones were.

---

## We've Moved HSA New Office Address - Effective February 1, 2003

Suite 320, Barron Building  
610 8 Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 1G5  
Phone: 403.261.3662  
Fax: 403.269.6029

This building is a block from the LRT and the No. 3 Bus stops on 5th Street SW between 7 & 8 Avenues.



Please note that the new e-mail address for The Historical Society of Alberta is:

**albertahistory@telus.net**

## Fred Holberton

Last fall, Fred Holberton finished his long association as archivist of the Banff Men's Conference Society, the organization responsible for the ongoing work of the conference. He is 82, but he still plans to attend future gatherings.

Fred was at the first Banff Conference for United Church Men held in October 1955. He returned the next year but missed the third and fourth annual conferences. At the fifth conference he was the newly appointed field secretary of the Board of Men for Western Canada. Since then he has attended the conference each year without fail.

His dedication earned him the name of "Mr. Banff," and he easily recalls the details of bygone conferences—such as when a bagpiper played a "rising bell" in the morning, until the good citizens of Banff complained.

Fred plans to attend the 50th annual conference in 2004 with his "Mr. Banff"

licence plate around his neck as his own special name tag.

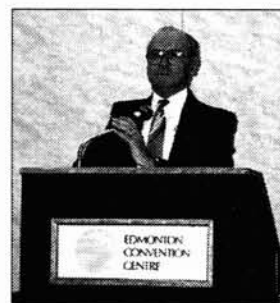
Fred has been a member of the Historical Society of Alberta since 1984. He put his accounting talents to good use as HSA treasurer from 1985 to 1993 and 1996 to 1999. He spent long hours to help keep the society financially sound, and devoted much of his time to fund raising. He also played crucial roles in the mechanics of the membership committee and the provincial committee that struck the present HSA by-laws.

Fred was one of the visionaries who saw the society establish its first office in the historic Lancaster Building in downtown Calgary. Fred did much of the groundwork required for such an operation, such as seeking grants, negotiating the lease of the office space, and the hiring and training of the new staff.

## HSA Members News

Fred was an active member of the organization, structure and promotion committees that facilitated the visions of the Historical Society of Alberta. He was also involved in the revamping of the society's journal, *Alberta History*.

In 1995, Fred's many years of volunteering were acknowledged when he was nominated for Honorary Lifetime Membership Award by the Historical Society of Alberta.



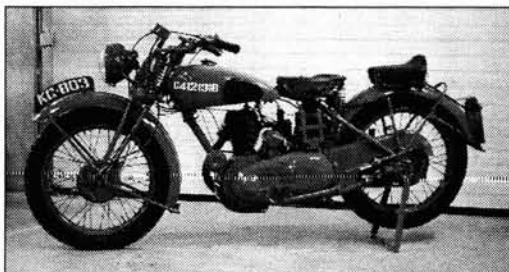
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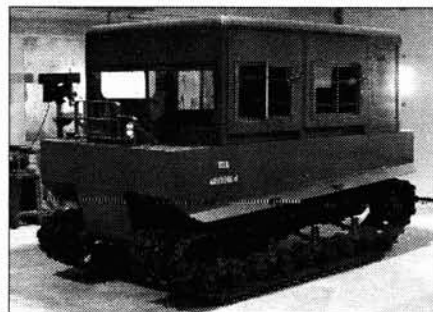
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store, and a picture-framing studio. Then we'll have dinner in the Seniors' Centre in Big Valley.

### **Irene Parlby**

Irene Parlby was born Mary Irene Marryat in London, England, January 9, 1868, and died in Red Deer, July 12, 1965. Irene was an early supporter of the United Farmers of Alberta and in 1913 she helped form the first women's local. In the 1921 Provincial election, Irene won the Lacombe riding for the UFA, holding it for 14 years as Minister Without Portfolio. She was one of the five Alberta women who participated in the 1929 Persons Case which determined that women were indeed qualified for the Senate. Irene was the Canadian delegate to the League of Nations in 1930 and retired from politics in 1935.

Irene and Walter Parlby had a son Humphrey. His wife, Beatrice Buckley, is the great-aunt of one of our own Central Alberta Historical Society members, Bruce Buckley. Irene's grandson, Geoff, lives at Dartmoor, the Parlby Estate on Parlby Lake.

Eve Keates is our narrator on the tour to Dartmoor. Born at Tanglewood, Eve works at the Alix Museum. Her grandmother was Irene Parlby's sister, hence she is the grand-niece of Irene Parlby, and well-versed in the family history.

### **Sunday Morning Speaker: Gilles Allard**

Gilles Allard is the fourth of 12 siblings raised on the shores of Lake Manitoba in St. Laurent. Among the numerous skills passed down by his parents, Gilles and Laurette, was guiding, trapping and preparing the food. As the proud father of five, Gilles hopes to pass on knowledge he gained and supplement it with historical facts on the Metis and their contribution to Canada.

The Metis unlocked the furs of North America in the early days of development through native mothers passing on their knowledge of land and water routes, traditions, language, survival skills and extended family connections.

### **Book Launch**

*Aspenland II: On Women's Lives and Work in Central Alberta*, edited by David Ridley. Red Deer: Central Alberta Regional Museums Network (CARMN) and Central Alberta Historical Society.

Women—their lives, their work, their joys and their sorrow—usually appear as background figures in historical accounts. With this publication, women from the transitional parkland region of central Alberta emerge from the shadows.

Aimed at a general audience, this compilation of articles by and about women entertains and informs readers with profiles of individuals, theme articles, an excerpt from a play, and documented research. It is an important contribution to the cultural and social history of central Alberta as well as a delight to read.

Nanci Langford of the University of Alberta has written the lead essay "Modesty and Meaning: Women in Alberta Local Histories." Langford discusses the portrayal of women in community local histories and the tendency to show women's experiences as remarkably uniform in these chronicles.

Red Deer television journalist Dianne Finstad's "Cowgirl Class: A Trio of Ladies in Rodeo;" Annette Gray's "Myrtle Ravio: Canada's First Woman Guide;" Robert Lampard's profile of Kathleen Swallow; and Janet Walter's "Apprenticeship for Community Service: Guiding in Central Alberta," are but four of the fifteen pieces in this collection that develop the theme.

## **Museum of the Regiments General Wolfe Statue Project**

In 2003, the Museum of the Regiments, in partnership with the City of Calgary Civic Art collection, will resurrect a unique piece of Calgary history. The General Wolfe statue, which at one time stood in front of the Calgary Science Centre, will be erected on the ground of the Museum of the Regiments.

The statue of General James Wolfe (1727–1759) by Scottish sculptor John Massey Rhinn was purchased and presented as a gift to the city of Calgary in 1967 by the late Eric Harvie, founder of the Glenbow Museum. In the year 2002, the 1400 lb statue was relinquished by the Science Centre and transported to its future home at the Museum of the Regiments on Crowchild Trail.

The City of Calgary is currently working to provide funds to transport the statue from its storage and to clean, conserve and mount it. The Museum of the Regiments is currently looking for interested parties to contribute to the cost (estimated by the contractor at \$2,500) of installing the concrete platform on which General Wolfe shall be placed overlooking Calgary's Crowchild Trail. The block needed is of heavily reinforced concrete with the correct mounting port to keep the statue secure. When in place, the top of the statue will be at approximately four metres.

If you are interested in contributing toward restoring this piece of Calgary's history please contact Ian Gray, Museum of the Regiments Executive Director at 403-974-2851.



**Museum of the Regiments**  
4520 Crowchild Trail S.W.  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2T 6J4  
Tel: (403) 974-2854 Fax: (403) 974-2858

# Edmonton's Origins

## The stories behind the people who raised Edmonton

by Lanny Boutin

*There is a history in all men's lives.*

– William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

A proposal to write an Edmonton Regional history book Edmonton's Origins. The stories behind the people who raised Edmonton.

### What's in a name?

Names, names everywhere a name, livening up the scenery, exciting the mind. Names of the famous, the infamous, the characters of our past whose names grace our buildings, roads, bridges, parks and schools. The heritage names of our fore-fathers, the newly rich or famous, or the wondrous people who never guess they were making history. Names given lovingly, accidentally or sarcastically, which for good or bad have stuck.

As the years pass we lose sight of the stories and the people behind the names; the people who raised our city and shaped the future where we now live.

For three years, I wrote a monthly column, Edmonton Origins, on historical place names in Edmonton, for Our World magazine, reporting on many fascinating people whose dedication and pizzazz made Edmonton the great city it is today.

Using my research and new anecdotes about historical Edmonton names, I propose to tap into my fascination for history to write Edmonton's Origins: The stories behind the people who raised Edmonton.

Each story will run 200 to 900 words and will explore one historical Edmonton place name and history behind it. Looking at people like:

Abraham Abbott the beloved Beverly area caretaker who had a school and subdivision named after him.

Izena Ross, Edmonton's first female City Father.

Edgar Millen, the young RCMP officer, from Edmonton, who was shot by the Mad Trapper of Rat River, Albert Johnson.

T. E. Bissell, the inventor of the Bissell disc harrow, who in 1935 left the United Church of Canada thirty thousand dollars to build a western mission, the Bissell Centre

The wife of Highlands developer William Magrath, Ada Lake who's name graces Ada Boulevard, one of the more prestigious streets in Edmonton.

Richard H. Secord, the great-grand-nephew of Canadian heroine Laura Secord who history books mistakenly list as Edmonton's first teacher.

Writer John Patrick Gillese, one of Alberta's most prolific freelance writers.

### The Market

Edmonton has a vibrant and fascinating history, one to be celebrated in October of 2004 when the city rolls out the red carpet for its 100th birthday. The Edmonton: A City Called Home committee which includes representation from the Edmonton Public Library, the University of Alberta, Grant MacEwan College, NAIT, and the city's schools and post-secondary Institutes has already began its search for interesting reflective stories illustrating our city's colourful past. During our recent conversation Carolina Roemmich a researcher with the Edmonton: A City Called Home project assured me that they would be interested in a place name stories for their centennial web

site, and offered me her help in publicizing the book, when it becomes available.

Almost a year after Edmonton's shindig, in September of 2005, Alberta will celebrate its centennial with even more pomp and ceremony. Their centennial web site also allows writers to post work and bios.

During the two years of celebrations teachers across Edmonton will be placing greater emphases on the city's history, and will be searching comprehensive books that can help bring history to life for their students.

There has never been a book based on Edmonton place names and the people behind them, a book which looks into the history of the city through the lives the people who raised it, and I believe one is truly over due. And what better time to introduce Edmontonian's to their history than during these two years of centennial celebrations?

### The Author

As a freelance writer specializing in consumer, health and parenting, I have in the last 4 years sold over 100 articles to magazines like Canadian Living, Chatelaine, Homemakers, Canadian Geographic, Sympatico, Second Wind, Treehouse Canadian Family, Canadian Insurance, Mocha Sofa, Airborn, Hospital News, and Canadian Health and Fitness.

I was a regular contributor to [www.straightgoods.com](http://www.straightgoods.com), a national consumer web magazine for two years and the monthly Edmonton history columnist for Our World magazine for three

years. Two of my stories, Internet Gambling and Medical Self-Testing were featured on morning talk radio shows.

I'm a professional member of the Periodical Writers Association of Canada, hold a diploma in Radio and Television Arts from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, and teach Writing for Magazines and Business Writing, for the Edmonton and Elk Island schools continuing education departments. I have 15 years of Administrative experience in the private sector, and hold a Certificate in Local Government—in Municipal Administration from the University of Alberta:

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### Sample Chapters

At 6:30 am, on August 24th, 1958, the morning after a group of youths held a party on his property, James Alix marched down 111th avenue, firing randomly at passing cars. He targeted a car pulling into his neighbour's driveway; the driver was not hurt, but the car sustained twelve dints in the trunk and rear bumper.

Alix, 65, a world war one veteran, who lived in a converted boxcar, banked with dirt and ringed with a maze of trenches, at 149 Street and 122 Avenue, told bystanders that he believed the French army was coming to get him. Constable Joseph Grandish, of the Jasper Place police department, the first officer on the scene also reported that

Alix said he "was going to shoot a few people in Jasper Place."

Fearing a major confrontation, JP police called in the Edmonton detachment. They arrived with two rifles, a submachine gun and tear gas. The wind blew the tear gas back towards the crowd and the police. The fire department sprayed the trenches with water forcing Alix out temporarily, but the crowd of close to 3,000 spectators, made it impossible for police sharpshooters to get a clear shot.

The exchange of gunfire continued. At least one of Alix's bullets hit Fire chief Barney Weygood in the right side, while he adjusted the fire hoses. Weygood survived.

Richard D. Butler, a Jasper Place (JP) Town Councillor, since JP's incorporation in 1950, deputy fire chief and member of the Protection of Persons and Property Committee, the equivalent of a police commissioner, was reluctantly given a police revolver with four rounds, by Chief Constable Rod Stevenson. He and Constable John P. Rogers set out to see if they could get a better vantage point. The two were quickly separated.

A witness saw Butler crouching on Alix's property. Butler fired off all four rounds before he was hit by a shotgun blast from Alix's gun. He died instantly.

Five and a half hours after the stand-off began, a neighbour ran his bulldozer through Alix's hedge creating a diversion so officers could apprehend him. Alix was deemed "insane and dangerous to be at large", and remanded to the Oliver Mental Institution.

Richard Butler Park sits on the site of the old Jasper Place skating rink, at 100 Avenue and 156 Street. Jasper Place became part of Edmonton in 1964.

The Rat is dead. The one hundred and ninth Street Subway, as it was officially

named, was in 1999 unceremoniously, replaced with a six-lane at-grade roadway, at a cost of 2.25 million dollars.

Opened on October nineteenth 1928, the one hundred and sixty eight meter tunnel had a colourful history. Before its conception, only 101 and 116 streets had underpasses bypassing the downtown rail lines. Citizens had been petitioning council for a rail crossing at 109th since 1912.

The subway's cost of two hundred thousand dollars was forty thousand dollars over budget, forcing an inquiry into why the contract was not originally awarded to the lowest bidder. The subway was subsequently dubbed the Rat Hole, by an anonymous city councillor, a name which endured.

Located on a truck route, the three-meter height restriction and towline construction limited its usefulness. And as the low point in the area's topography, it was vulnerable to flooding, and needed to be pumped out after every heavy rain.

In the winter pedestrians endured slippery sidewalks and giant icicles, in the summer stale air heavy with exhaust fumes and the noise; it was a deafening and nerve-racking experience just to walk through the tunnel, especially during rush hour.

Even on bright sunny days, the Rat Hole was dark, dank and dingy. Its dim light illuminating the colourful memorials to vehicles whose sides had scraped along the tunnel walls. Drivers who neglected to switch on their headlights were quickly lost in the tunnel's blind spots.

Like traffic circles, the Rat Hole, with its floods and spectacular truck extractions, was a part of our city's charm. And if only for the sake of nostalgia, will be missed.

## SPARE Update

by **Bradley McDonald**

A number of issues are already heating up for the upcoming year. As the Rosedale Power Plant issue is starting to settle down, it looks like another major struggle is to be fought against the University of Alberta.

The University owned land in Edmonton's historic Garneau neighbourhood is threatened by expansion of parking, fast food and commercial developments, and new residences by the University. Within the neighbourhood are several significant historic houses including Emily Murphy's modest home. In addition to the history of the neighbourhood, the collection of houses is an excellent representation of architecture and materials used in Edmonton in the early 1900's.

Due to sweeping powers given to the University under the Provincial Act which governs post-secondary institutions, the U of A does not have to follow any zoning or development regulations, with the exception of the Building Code and other safety legislation. Compatibility or appropriateness of land use need not be considered, let alone preservation of heritage.

Essentially, the University is above the law when it comes to land development. The powers were given to such institutions to enable them to conduct business related to research and education but, unfortunately, the U of A would like to use these powers to act as a profit-motivated developer. Parking, fast food, and apartment buildings are superfluous to its core purposes of education and research. The University has already demonstrated its commercial motives in the College/Windsor Plaza development.

Fortunately, not all is bleak. The City of Edmonton is now looking into expanding the criteria for historic registration to include buildings up to 1955 from the original cut-off at 1947. This move will allow important modern structures to be recognized.

Architecture is always evolving and during the 1950's clear trends were beginning to develop. Lines were becoming simpler and a strong emphasis was being placed on structural elements of the buildings. Large plate-glass windows and strong horizontal lines were distinctive trends of the 1950's. As Edmonton grew rapidly in the 1950's we are fortunate to have a number of recognizable '50s era buildings around the city.

SPARE is looking forward to assisting in the registration of new buildings and to helping to preserve our threatened historic neighbourhoods. Be sure to stay "tuned" to our column to follow the progress on these and other issues.



## Heritage Issues



### Garneau News!

Last fall, I contacted a number of heritage groups and heritage architects who would potentially support our efforts to encourage the U of A to "develop" the remaining part of University owned North Garneau, that area between 110 & 111, north from 87th Avenue to Saskatchewan Drive, in an historically sensitive manner.

I received very positive feedback. I just received a copy of a letter of support from Heritage Canada, written to Dr. Rod Fraser, outlining the importance of the area under discussion. Heritage Canada is run through the patronage of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales; its patron in Canada hence is Adrienne Clarkson. Heritage Canada has offered to offer its counsel to the U of A as regards the historic homes owned by the U of A in an area which will be "developed" to begin this June.

You are all encouraged to attend the University's meeting on Monday, April 28, 2003, 7-9 pm, Room 1-003 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC) and support the enhancement of "The Campus in Garneau."

Every voice does make a difference in this important City of Edmonton issue.

Sincerely, Karin MacCarthy

PS: Visit our website:

<http://preservegarneau.org>

## Why not use the Heritage Trust Fund for heritage?

To the Editor,

How does one begin to put a dollar value on a love letter from Col. James MacLeod to his wife? Or a series of drawings by a First Nations artist of the changes he saw taking place on the prairies in the 19th century? Or a bible that stopped a bullet, saving a soldier's life in the First World War? Well, the provincial government has named their price and it comes up short.

From the history of Alberta's military units, to its artists, to its early settlers, to its First Peoples—artifacts and archival materials relating to all of these areas are preserved at the Glenbow. It is staff research, knowledge and care that brings our history alive and gives meaning to our culture and heritage for thousands of museum visitors every year. The services Glenbow staff provide to the public are the exhibitions themselves, a range of public programs, loans to communities, community outreach, responding to reference inquiries, and collaboration with First Nations people, to name but a few.

A quick review of recent history demonstrates chronic financial challenges at the Glenbow. While the annual revenue for the Glenbow is derived from many sources, a major source exists in the provincial government's legislated responsibility for the collections. It began in 1966 when Eric Harvie donated his collection to the province on the understanding that it would be cared for in perpetuity. But, over the last two decades, the provincial government has consistently broken that trust.

In 1983 the provincial government froze its annual funding to the Glenbow at \$3.51 million eliminating the annual 10 per cent increase that was to account for inflation. The result was a proposal to lay off 26 employees. Eventually, it was private donations that saved many

of those jobs. In 1993 a 26 per cent drop in provincial funding forced the layoff of 31 employees and 11 employees reduced to part time status. This time no private funding emerged to bail-out the museum. As an example of the breach of trust created by these layoffs, the Conservation department (which is in charge of restoring and stabilizing damaged or deteriorating artifacts) was reduced from 10 staff to 3.

In 1996, the Glenbow became an independent non-profit institution and contracted with the government for the care of the provincial collections. At that time it was demonstrated that the basic care of the collection cost more than the value of the provincial contract. Today, the provincial government only gives \$2.563 million towards the care of the collection—\$1 million less than in 1983! The funding shortfall has compounded over the years. In 2000 four of the five library staff were eliminated, and half of the Military History staff in 2001. Most recently, in 2002, 15 staff positions were cut from a variety of areas. The Museum is at the point now where further cuts to staff will seriously endanger the care of the collections and limit attempts to increase public interest in the museum as exhibit preparation and community outreach are compromised. The heritage collections and staff knowledge base at Glenbow are a provincial resource. We think it is time the provincial government recognized it.

We know that there are a number of important competing claims for provincial funding today. Support for health care, education, transportation, community services, clean water and safe communities are essential to us all. Let's not pit one against the other. So, here's a novel idea for the province. Why doesn't the provincial government access the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to preserve Alberta's heritage? The

## Heritage Issues



Heritage Fund currently stands at over \$12 billion. This is an investment in our past, but also in our future. Culture and tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the province, and currently our fourth largest. Open the coffers and support Glenbow and other heritage institutions around the province. Keep Alberta's history alive.

Sincerely,

The executive of CUPE Local 1645,  
employees of the Glenbow Museum.

### Provincial Archives of Alberta New Building Opens October 2003

In the spring of 2003, the Provincial Archives of Alberta will move from its reading room location at the Provincial Museum and storage facility to an integrated and renovated building at 8555 Roper Road, Edmonton.

The Archives will move an estimated 200,000 containers of information to its new state of the art facility, one of Alberta's 2005 Centennial Legacy Projects.

The official opening for the new Provincial Archives of Alberta is scheduled for October 5, 2003. To enable the move the archives will be closed in part during the months leading to October.

Contact:

Provincial Archives of Alberta  
8555 Roper Road  
Edmonton, AB T6E 5W1  
phone: 780-427-0605 fax: 780-427-4646  
[http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/preserving/provincial\\_archives/index.asp](http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/preserving/provincial_archives/index.asp)

Ron Williams, the HSA President  
is the Society's representative on the  
Provincial Archives Advisory Board.

# History Teaching Tips

presented by: **David M. Smith**, BEd, MA, the Education Committee of the HSA

A Presentation of the Education  
Committee of the HSA

## Using Primary Documents

The Internet is not only an excellent source of information on a vast number of historical topics. It is also gives teachers and students access to a large number of primary historical documents that had previously been available only in archives or in collections of published documents. This is a wonderful development because it allows students to understand how history is written by showing them the raw material of history. It helps them practice the skills of a historian.

1. Here is a simple sequence of skills that can be used when examining any document or collection of documents.

2. Reading comprehension. Students need to understand what the document is saying. This can be challenging and interesting when dealing with old English usage. Activities can involve vocabulary exercises, paraphrasing passages, and summarizing documents in point form. This is also when students need to pay attention to dates. They need to determine when was the document written.

3. Validity. Once students understand what the document is saying, they need to determine if they can believe what it is saying. Does the document correspond to what we already know or think we know about the event? How does the document relate to other primary documents? Does it contradict them or corroborate them? What are possible explanations for differences in documents? Comparison charts and interlocking mind maps can help students discover similarities and differences. This is also a skill that can be practiced in groups,

with groups examining a different document and then coming together in a larger group to compare the documents.

4. Reliability. Students must also determine if there are factors that would make the document less believable. This can be tricky because most students will examine to the simple idea of bias. The truth is that all documents exhibit some degree of bias. This bias does not make the documents useless to the historian. It is more useful for students to approach this issue from the perspective of the strengths and weaknesses of the document. Important questions to examine are who wrote the document? Why did he or she write the document? When did he or she write the document? How would the document be useful for a historian? Once these questions have been discussed, students should explore what the document can tell us about the event and what it can't tell us.

5. Putting it all together. This is the stage in the process where students combine the information in the document(s) with other sources of information (other primary documents, secondary sources, previous research, etc.) to shed light on the event being studied. This is often easier if the entire process starts with a question to which this stage then becomes the answer. The documents they are using are the clues. For example, when using a group of documents to study Canadian Confederation (perhaps the 72 Resolutions, the Diary of George Brown, etc) you might start out with the question "Why did Canada adopt a federal system of government?" Using the question approach focuses the students on a manageable task within an otherwise very large and unwieldy topic.



This process can be modified for younger grades by studying historic artifacts and other material culture rather than text based documents.

Along with established published sets of documents such as the excellent Documenting Canada edited by Dave DeBrou and Bill Waiser there are a number of online sources for primary documents for both Canadian History and World History:

The Avalon Project—a collection of legal documents from a wide range of countries and time periods including the transcripts of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/>

World War I Document Archive  
<http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/>

Eurodocs: Primary Historical Documents From Western Europe  
<http://library.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs/>

Learning and Researching Canadian History—an extensive collection of Canadian documents from 1000–1995 maintained by the University of Victoria  
<http://web.UVic.CA/hrd/history.learn-teach/documents.html>

Punch—a collection of cartoons from the famous British magazine  
<http://65.107.211.206/periodicals/punch/punchov.html>

# Heritage Updates

from **Marianne Fedori**

## Writing History

Women's Words Summer Writing Week, May 31 to June 6, 2003 at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension will offer several courses that will appeal to the historical writer including "Come to the Table: Writing Memoirs of Food and Family" and "Taking it Out From Home: Writing for your Region of Locality." For more information call 780-492-3093 or visit [www.extension.ualberta.ca/womenswords/](http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/womenswords/)

## Anniversary 50th Anniversary Issue of Alberta History

Did you know *Alberta History* will celebrate its 50th year of publication in 2003?

When James G. MacGregor became President of the Historical Society of Alberta in 1952, one of his first actions was to arrange for a quarterly magazine.

In 1953, he met with Hugh Dempsey who was then working at the Publicity Bureau of Alberta Government. The two men master minded and the first issue of our magazine, then known as the *Alberta Historical Review*, was released in April of 1953. W. Everard Edmonds, editor, worked closely with Hugh Dempsey to produce the early issues.

*Alberta History* has been published continuously since that time and it is considered one of the finest historical journals of its kind in the country.

The Historical Society of Alberta is extremely proud to celebrate this achievement. It will recognize the event by printing a special commemorative issue which will be distributed to all schools, colleges and universities in Alberta.

To acknowledge its release, the HSA will hold public open house evenings in our four regional locations. If you wish to make a financial contribution to the HSA to help realize this project please call 403-261-2662.

## Heritage Sites and Issue News

Good news for the following sites and places in Alberta:

Heritage Minister Sheila Copps awarded National Historic Designation to the **Nordegg Mine Site, the Atlas Coal Mine, Drumheller** and the town of **Coleman** in the Crowsnest Pass. All celebrate Alberta's important mining history.

The **Lougheed Building** in Calgary has been saved from demolition. Calgary heritage developer and member of the Chinook Country Chapter Historical Society, Neil Richardson, Heritage Property Corporation, purchased the building from Hanover Properties this past February. There are still many challenges to keeping the building alive, but Richardson remains hopeful that he will raise the capital to restore it to its once splendour. Kudos to all those members who have given this building life. Especially to Donald Smith, UC Historian who is writing a social history of the building and helped preservationists make their case.

The **Leduc Elevator** has been rescued after a three year fight to save one of a dozen or so remaining elevators in Alberta. It is one of 13 elevators that have been designated by the Province. These include the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in Andrew and the Krause Milling Company Elevator in Radway.

The Alberta Legacy Development Society in Leduc under the direction of Chair, Bob Caine, will endeavour to raise the funds to develop a museum project on site.

## Register of Historic Resources

Past President, Marianne Fedori's own home has been added to the Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton by City Council this past December. It was the home of prominent Alberta architect **William Blakey**. **Blakey** designed this residence for himself in 1946 in the International Style. This residence and a neighbouring home designed by **George H. MacDonald** for Hydman Senior are among the growing number of "modern" heritage sites being recognized by heritage agencies.

The Southern Art Gallery of Lethbridge coordinated this past year 'Lethbridge Modern: Aspects of Architectural Modernism in Lethbridge from 1945 to 1970.' The work and home of Lethbridge member and retired architect **Norman Fookes** was featured throughout the exhibit.

## Lougheed House News

**Lougheed House:** Restoration work at Beaulieu will start in full force again this spring with an anticipated date of completion in late 2004.

Trudy Cowan, recently retired from the Board of Lougheed House will now assume the position of Executive Director of the Society. Diana Sim represents the HSA on the Lougheed House Conservation Society Board.

## What is the value of our heritage?

What is the value of our heritage?

In the days of debates over the value of public services and the role of our government to ensure their provision, the forgotten relation is the heritage industry, more specifically museums.

The impact of these reductions is hard to measure. But the impact is there to be sure. Consider the day when a family visit to the museum is simply too expensive. When the researcher needs to add another couple of thousand to the research proposal in order to access the archives, when school programs about our rich heritage just evaporate. We tend to take for granted the existence of our museum and the valuable work that the Glenbow employees do to care for our

heritage collections and bring them alive through a multitude of exhibits and public programs.

Today the employees of the Glenbow Museum are telling us that all of this may be at risk if the provincial government does not start to live up to its legislated responsibility. And, they need our support. The Alberta Heritage Campaign is being undertaken by Glenbow's union, CUPE 1645, to raise awareness and lobby the government for increased financial support. They are distributing postcards addressed to the Premier urging the Government of Alberta to increase its financial commitment to our heritage. You can help by filling out a postcard, or writing

a letter and talking to your friends.

For more information contact CUPE 1645 at 403-268-4247 or by sending an e-mail to [cupe1645@hotmail.com](mailto:cupe1645@hotmail.com).

Better yet, visit their website: [www.cupe1645.org](http://www.cupe1645.org) where you can send e-mails to various levels of government and get more information on the campaign.

Our heritage is too important to ignore.

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## British World Conference II – July 10 to 12, 2003

The British World Conference II will be held at the University of Calgary, hosted by The Calgary Institute for the Humanities, University of Calgary, Canada in conjunction with The Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, England

The British World Conference to be hosted by the Calgary Institute for the Humanities during July 10-12, 2003 is the second of five conferences that address British identity both in homeland settings, and overseas colonies settled by British emigrants.

The working assumption of the five conferences is that historically the British empire was not only united by ties of trade and defense, but also by a shared sense of identity. A British identity had various interpretations at

home, and also in the colonies where settlers of British origin were in the majority—or at least, as in the case of South Africa, formed a substantial minority. Also, those who were not of British origin embraced a British identity. It appealed to people who found the idea of belonging to the empire and holding imperial citizenship important for their own self-definition and identity. The goal of the conferences, in addition to fostering research on an important scholarly matter, and the dissemination of new knowledge—is to create a network of scholars doing comparative analysis of British societies.

Keynote Speakers:

**James Belich**, Department of History, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

**Phillip Buckner**, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, England.

**Sarah Carter**, Department of History, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

**Jeffrey Grey**, School of History, University College, Australian Defense Force Academy in Canberra, Australia

**Catherine Hall**, Department of History, University College, London, England.

**Stuart Forbes Macintyre**, Faculty of Arts, and Department of History, University of Melbourne, Australia

Visit our website:  
[www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/CIH](http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/CIH)

Click on Upcoming Events for information.

## New Books



### A Prisoner of War Diary:

The Ray Heard Memoirs 1939-45 by  
Raymond P. Heard

Review by Janet Walters

The core of this new book are the diary entries that Ray Heard wrote between June 13, 1941 and June 1, 1945. Most of the entries were written while the author was a prisoner of war in three German POW camps, 60 years ago.

Ray saw a demonstration of aircraft when he was 14, and resolved to make flying part of his life. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve at 17 and became part of the regular air force with the September 1939 declaration of war. He left his job as a newspaper reporter to take a year of training as a navigator before he was assigned to air craft duty. It was on his third assignment, while flying on a bomber transport aircraft that he was shot down in Libya on November 1941.

Heard's training as a journalist make his diary entries much more than a record of daily events. Humour, philosophy and the the author's keen appreciation of human traits create a broad setting for his accounts. He reports the hardships of the prisoner of war camps but only as a background for the extraordinary human interactions that such circumstances brought about. Prisoners organized team sports, musicals and craft exhibits. The book includes photos of theatre and sports events and of intricate model trains and boats. Men built these models on their bunks in the crowded huts where they lived. They used food cans and bits of packaging for materials.

Ray and an Australian friend learned to speak German from an incarcerated Yugoslavian veterinarian. This language

achievement permitted him to relate German newspaper accounts of the war from their perspective. Toward the end of his internment, Heard learned enough Russian for limited communication with the Russian internees. The starvation and brutality experienced by Russian POWs was a stark example of ethnic disparity. Brits, and British Commonwealth nationals were provided with some basis for humane treatment in camp by the provisions of The Geneva Convention. Although it was often flouted, it did provide a basis for negotiations and a connection to how German POWs might fare. Red Cross parcels received by the Allied prisoners kept them alive and hopeful.

Ray Heard's diary was written at the time when aircraft first enabled remote warfare. Readers will appreciate what his account offers by way of understanding the global military might of the present. The seeds of denouncing war as a way of conflict are contained in the book as well. On February 6, 1942 he wrote, "The tragedy of war is that it brings its load of suffering on people who can least endure it—the little children, women, the old and the ill."

Published by the Joint Publications Committee of the Central Alberta Historical Society and the Central Alberta Regional Museums Network. ISBN: 0-929123-12-3

4525-47A Avenue  
Red Deer AB T4N 6Z6  
Phone: 403-309-8405

From Donald Hepburn:

Back in civilian life, Ray Heard attended university and became a teacher. In 1954 he emigrated to Canada to teach school in Acadia Valley, and since 1956 has lived in Red Deer, where he was a teacher and administrator in a city high school until his retirement. He is well known and highly regarded in his chosen home.

## Books & Websites



### Web Sites to Try



The Heritage Community Foundation and the Famous 5 Foundation have launched the Famous 5 Website.

This comprehensive education web site has been made possible through the support of Industry Canada and the Alberta Law Foundation.

The Famous 5 Website brings the story, the times and the achievements of Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney and Emily Murphy to life. These remarkable individuals led the battle to have women declared "persons" in Canada and won a victory for all future generations of Canadians. The website was launched at the Oliver School in Edmonton, the site of the Nellie McClung Girls' Junior High Program on March 6, 2003. The Hon. Anne McLellan, Minister of Health represented the federal government and met with students to discuss women's issues following the reception.

Visit the entry site of the Heritage Community Foundation to learn more about the Famous Five at:

[www.AlbertaSource.ca](http://www.AlbertaSource.ca)

The Gateway to Online Learning Resources.

## New Books



### Sister Heroines

The Roseate Glow of Wartime Nursing  
1914–1918 by Marjorie Barron Norris

The inspiration for *Sister Heroines*, was the author's mother, WWI QAIMNAR Staff Nurse and CAMC Lieut. Nursing Sister Jessie Barron, eldest daughter of John Gerrie and Ellen Vaire Barron of Carberry, Manitoba.

Jessie graduated from the Calgary General Hospital in 1910, then nursed for six years before enlisting at Winnipeg, with the British Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. She proceeded to duty at Imtarfa Hospital, Malta, and a year later returned to England, where she joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Her overseas military nursing career lasted another two years after which she served on the staff of Tuxedo Military Hospital in Winnipeg.

*Sister Heroines*, chronicles the history of the relatively unknown contribution made by some twenty-eighth Calgary nurses whose varied military nursing postings encompassed service abroad in the Eastern Mediterranean, on the Western Front, in Britain and at home, in Canada during the world war one years 1914–1918.

The author has researched official records, personal memoirs, newspapers and interviews to tell of the courage and compassion exhibited by these Canadian nursing sisters. Extracts from nurses' letters and journals are included. Oddly enough researching the part played by her own mother was the most difficult. Early attempts were frustrated by discovering that records had been destroyed during WWII and only her dates of service confirmed by the Ministry of Defence in Britain.

The enthusiasm, dedication and the prejudices that the nurses faced, both from bureaucracies and their families is vividly brought to life by the Marjorie Barron Norris with wit, humour and understanding.

Norris shows how these nurses made the transition from a quiet life in Calgary before the outbreak of WWI before being plunged into the turmoil of the Western front, or tested by privation and disease in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Photographs, maps, excerpts of poetry and a few cartoons from the period complement the chronicles. A useful feature of the book are the chapter notes citing references sources.

Published by Bunker to Bunker Publishing, 4520 Crowchild Trail SW, Calgary, AB ISBN 1-894255-19-4

Foran, Jill

*Mary Schaffer: An Adventurous Woman's Exploits in the Canadian Rockies*

Canmore: Altitude Press, 2003  
ISBN 1-55153-999-3 \$9.95

Litzgus, Hazel

*Where the Meadowlarks Sing: Cherished Scenes from an Artist's Childhood*

Calgary: Fifth House, 2003  
ISBN 1-894856-09-0 \$24.95

Quan, Holly

*Sam Steele: The Wild West Adventures of Canada's Most Famous Mountie*

Canmore: Altitude, 2003  
ISBN 1-555153-997-7 \$9.95

## Books & Websites



Sanders, Harry  
*The Story Behind Alberta Names*

Calgary: Red Deer Press 2003  
ISBN 0-88995-256-6  
\$19.95



### We'd like to hear from you

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

I am interested in:

- ☐ Events
- ☐ Fund Raising
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Publicity

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

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

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

PC: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The skills I have to offer are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail or E-mail to:  
The Historical Society of Alberta  
PO Box 4035, Station C,  
Calgary, Alberta T2T 5M9  
Phone: 403-261-3662  
E-mail: albertahistory@telus.net



## Peggy Holmes: Canada's Oldest Broadcaster

by Alan Kausy

If one attempted to depict the image of an ideal grandmother that could warm hearts and inspire the minds of all age groups, the late Peggy Holmes was an individual that was just that. Mrs. Holmes possessed an incredible zest for life and an endless supply of energy that drew the attention and envy from the youngest to the eldest of people.

Peggy's life began in Hull, England where she was born on November 11, 1897. Her days in England lasted until she married her husband Harry and, shortly thereafter, Peggy descended as a war bride onto the wide open and wild prairies of Alberta. Harry, while still in England, had longed to own land in Canada and finally had his dream fulfilled when he and Peggy arrived at their newly adopted homestead near St. Lina, Alberta, about 35 kilometres north of St. Paul.

The experiences for Peggy as a homesteader in the vast and lonely wilderness of Canada in the year 1918, were not always ones that she later recalled as being fond memories. Often, as her frustration mounted on the homestead, usually due to the new life not being as glorious as she had hoped, Peggy would go out to the barn and let out such a scream that often sent a very concerned Harry running for home on more than one occasion. But, she maintained all her life that venting aggravation that way is something everyone should do.

After spending approximately three years in their self constructed two-story cabin, Harry and Peggy, who had both become quite attached to the land and animals, were heartbroken when health-related circumstances forced them to move from the farm, to Edmonton. Harry, who was a few years older than Peggy, passed away in 1976 after a

lengthy and interesting career as a court reporter. Soon after, Peggy, who previously had worked as a realtor and bookkeeper, began to establish herself a reputation as Canada's oldest radio personality.

When, at the age of 77, it was suggested to Peggy that she share some of her written stories regarding her days as a homesteader, she obliged by impressing the staff at CBC radio. She was told she was a natural broadcaster. Her radio career spanned 15 years before she read her last script at age 93.

However, she still had plenty to keep her busy during her senior years. At the age of 60, Peggy decided to take up painting. She once said that her work turned out to be just big messes on canvas and was so ashamed, she would sign her name backwards (Semloh) so that no one knew it as her. Over time, though, she improved greatly and ended up selling hundreds of paintings, mostly of Alberta landscapes and a large variety of flowers.

In 1980, at age 82, Peggy had her first book published and it was an instant success. "It Could Have Been Worse" was an autobiographical account of her days homesteading in northern Alberta and remains as an entertaining read for anyone interested in the "good old days." She followed that literary feat with the release of "Never a Dull Moment" in 1984. This book details Peggy's early life in Edmonton and is also a must read for those who are intrigued by the city's illustrious past. Then, in 1987, "Still Soaring" was published. This particular publication contains additional anecdotes from her days as an early Albertan and Edmontonian.

As well, at the request of many people, Peggy spoke at a large number

of social functions and rapidly became a well known and popular public speaker. Her easy going nature and dynamic personality made her a beloved figure of Edmonton's community. When it was mentioned by a reporter that most people her age are knitting in a rocking chair she responded that was "not bloody likely" to happen in her life. Her personal mottoes exemplified her life lessons; "Avoid worry-it's a killer", was commonly heard, as was "love, laugh and live." Another time she was quoted as saying "They say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. I believe you can." And she proved it well.

Peggy was named to the Order of Canada in 1989; she received an honorary diploma from Grant MacEwan College for Community Service and was the recipient of an honorary degree from the University of Alberta in 1991. Earlier in her career, Peggy was also awarded the Provincial Achievement Award of Excellence for art, literature and broadcasting.

Then in 1984, a park, located at 15803 109 Street, was dedicated in her honour. As it happened, the park opened in the winter time. Being extremely excited by the recognition, Peggy rushed out in her first free moment amidst one of the colder and stormier days in January. With a smile from ear to ear she had her picture taken in front of the park sign that bears her name.

The lady who celebrated her 85th birthday with a hot air balloon ride and her 88th birthday with a West Edmonton Mall submarine ride, passed away at the age of 99 on October 20, 1997. She will always be lovingly remembered and cherished by many as "Canada's oldest broadcaster."

by Vivian Sampson

Greetings from Chinook Country!

Our October and November programs saw many non-members come out with a few actually taking out memberships. Operation Lifesaver, a 1955 National Film Board production of a Civil Defense exercise of the evacuation of a part of Calgary, had many people in the audience who had actually participated in the exercise. Did you know that the Tar Sands at Fort McMurray were discovered long before Turner Valley and Leduc? This and other oil discoveries were presented by Frank Dabbs at the November program. We would like to thank HSA President, Ron Williams, for attending our Christmas Dinner held at the new barracks at Fort Calgary. A sell out crowd of over 150 people came out to hear CFCN-TV news anchor, Darrel Janz, reminisce about family Christmases of rural Saskatchewan. We ended the evening with Darrel leading us with Silent Night and O Canada. For those who missed it, we have already booked the barracks for December 10th, 2003.

The new year of 2003 began with many CCHS members attending the New Year's Day Reception at the Museum of the Regiments. This invitation only event had close to 300 in attendance. The "camel's milk" was quite tasty. It gave us a chance to view The Dieppe exhibit which was very interesting.

Storyteller and author, Brian Brennan, told us about "Emperor Pic" Picariello and Florence Lassandro at our January meeting. This is a story of bootlegging in the Crowsnest Pass. At age 22, Florence was the last woman hung in Alberta. The newly commissioned opera "Filumena" by Calgary Opera and Banff

Centre was premiered Saturday, February 1 in Calgary to a sell out crowd. CCHS booked group seating for the Friday, February 7 performance at a discount rate for those members wishing to see some of Alberta's history set to music. HSA/CCHS members were invited to live performances of "Hudson's Bay Boy" at Fort Calgary on Wednesday, February 12 and Friday, February 14. This play was written by John Seagrave of Yellowknife on his experiences as a representative of the Hudson Bay Company in remote postings in northern Canada. Storytelling at its best. The HBC representative from Toronto was quite impressed that we had over 50 members in attendance.

The Alex Johnston Lecture, The Horn in the Ice: Borders Between the Tsuu T'ina Nation and Calgary with Patricia Wood was held on February 18 at Chula Elementary School on the Tsuu T'ina reserve outside of Calgary. Fourteen non-members and 11 members were in attendance. A half hour of questions and answers followed. We couldn't have asked for a more appropriate venue as in the teepee shaped library. The following Tuesday, 71 persons heard Sheila Ross on her talk on Mother Greene and the Faithful Companions of Jesus in Calgary. As I was working at the HSA Casino, I missed this program, but you can't be at two places at once.

It gives me great pleasure to thank all those members from Lethbridge, High River, Red Deer and Calgary who assisted at the HSA Casino February 24 and 25. A special thank you to Geoff Wilson for a great job in the advance work of contacting and placing our volunteers in their positions. Your help was greatly appreciated.

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

## News & Views from HSA Chapters

### Around Chinook Country

The 100 year old Banff Park Museum will not be opening until summer. Repairs to the roof and the second floor need to be addressed before the public can view this beautiful piece of history.

The Rodger Blackwood family of Davisburg was presented with the Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award from Highwood MLA Don Tannis on January 10th. The farm has been in the family since 1885 when Rodger's grandfather, Alex S. Blackwood received 320 acres as a land grant for participation in the Northwest Rebellion. Rodger currently owns 235 acres of the original half section.

St. John's Roman Catholic Church in the Kensington District of Calgary will be receiving an appointment with the wrecking ball. The building originally began in the 1930's and was completed in 1954. It was closed about a year ago with the stained glass windows removed and placed in a new church in southeast Calgary. A fire gutted the interior on New Year's Day and officials have deemed it to be unsafe. It's a great loss to that community.

Not all is lost. There has been a demolition permit on the 1911 office and retail block, the Loughheed Building, in downtown Calgary for a couple of years. Neil Richardson or Heritage

continued on p 17

**Lucille Dalke**  
1910 - 2003

Lucille was a founding member of the Lethbridge Historical Society in the early 1960s. She was the treasurer for many years and was also social convenor for the group until we were forced to find a new meeting location in the late 1970s.

Lucille was an member of the executive when the Lethbridge Historical Society decided to start a museum in Lethbridge. Shortly thereafter this it became the Sir Alexander Galt Museum where she was a regular volunteer during it's public hours of operation. And she continued to volunteer at the museum even after the City took over the management of it. She was also the registrar for a conference in 1974 jointly hosted by the University of Lethbridge and the

Historical Society of Alberta when we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the arrival of the NWMP to Fort Whoop-Up and Fort Macleod.

Lucille was the first recipient of the **Lethbridge Historical Society Meritorious Service Award** which has now evolved into the Alex Johnston Award of Merit.

Her hard work, smiling face and outgoing attitude was missed by members of the Society and the Museum when she gradually reduced her involvement with both.

A widow for 61 years, Lucille passed away on the March 2, 2003 at 93 years of age.



L to R: Jean Johnstone, President LHS  
and Georgia Fooks, Author, *Prairie Prisoners* -  
December 4, 2002

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## Around Chinook Country continued from p 16

Property Corporation has purchased this historic building. Neil's company has restored the Lorraine Building after a devastating fire and is currently restoring the Northwest Travelers Block (formerly the Salvation Army). Here is one businessman who believes in our built heritage.

St. Benedict's Anglican Church in High River celebrated its 100th Anniversary on March 1st and 2nd. They held Labyrinth Session at Spitzee School, a banquet and a festive Eucharist and Celebration.

The Vulcan and District Historical Society has been very busy expanding the Vulcan and District Museum. In 1997, Telus donated their Vulcan offices to the town and the town leases the property to the Vulcan and District Historical Society for museum purposes. They opened their doors in 1998 and expanded in 1999 with the addition of a country school. President Henry Hansen has been busy collecting artifacts from the four elevators that are being demolished to be displayed in an expanded addition to the museum on lots purchased from Telus. The museum is totally operated by 25 volunteers.

## We Need Your Help

Can you spare some time to help EDHS? If you are able to assist in any way, please complete this form and mail to: EDHS, Box 1013, Edmonton, AB T5J 2M1. Thank You.

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of assistance you can provide:

☐ Help with social events      ☐ Newsletter      ☐ Staffing Displays

☐ Clerical Work      ☐ Graphic Design      ☐ Programs

☐ Serving on the Board      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Times available: ☐ Evenings      ☐ During the Day      ☐ Weekends



## Doors Open

submitted by **Trudy Cowan**

Hello all,

You may have heard about the Doors Open program that is gradually spreading around the world and across Canada. It is a program where the owners/operators of significant buildings open their doors free of charge to the public. These buildings can be historic or modern, large or small, they may be schools, industrial buildings, religious buildings, apartments, private homes, theatres, and commercial buildings (stores, banks, restaurants, etc.), indeed any type of architecture.

Every community that has undertaken a Doors Open program has found it to be an overwhelming success, bringing crowds of people (residents as well as tourists) who become more aware of the architectural resources the community has to offer.

If Doors Open Calgary is to follow all the other successful examples, we'll need to gather a coordinating committee and set up the many task committees who will make the event a success. Among other roles, we'll need to establish the list of sites that might be opened and then contact the owners/operators to get them to agree. We'll also need people to ensure promotion of the event, prepare maps showing the Doors Open locations, provide the public with information about the buildings, and create signage/banners for each site.

The site owners/operators open the doors and provide volunteers to show people around. They may even undertake some special program for the event.

A number of us are interested in creating a Doors Open Calgary program, to

begin on a modest scale this summer, and to grow in future years.

Any people who are interested in finding out more about Doors Open and who may be interested in helping plan and stage Doors Open Calgary are most welcome to participate. Please let me know by e-mail so we can keep you informed and find a niche for your interest in architecture, your time if you have any, and talents which are many.

Feel free to call if you have any questions about Doors Open.

Trudy Cowan  
Lougheed House Conservation Society  
403-244-6333  
trudycowan@lougheedhouse.com

*Editor: Edmonton and Lethbridge have expressed interest in this initiative. Details and progress of the program will follow in future newsletters.*

The activities of the Central Alberta chapter of Historical Society of Alberta are expanding in number, variety and in collaborations. Publications have become both prolific and diverse.

Vernon Wishart spoke at the annual Christmas Dinner and the research into his Metis forbearers is the basis for the next publishing venture. All of CAHS publishing is done in conjunction with the Central Alberta Region Museum's Network.

Three print editions are currently in circulation. The first was Bill Baergen's, *The Ku Klux Klan, in Central Alberta*. Thanks to funding received from the Alberta Human Rights Commission and the work of Dr. Darren Lund and The Alberta Association of Multicultural Educators a teaching guide for use in High Schools is now available. Workshops for teachers that include copies of both guide and book are available.

The second published book, Ray Heard's, *A Prisoner of War Diary, The Ray Heard Memoirs 1939-45*, was released just before Christmas. A very successful book launch was held in the Red Deer Museum February 2, 2003. Friends and teaching associates crowded the Stewart Room to hear Ray speak and read from his memoirs. His clarity of recall and warm human perspective in person, is matched in his personal written record of WWII.

Five years ago, Central Alberta Region Museum's Network published a book called, *Aspenland 1998, Local Knowledge and a Sense of Place*. CAHS is collaborating with CARMN on the second book in this series. *Aspenland*

2002, will be launched in May at the HSA Annual Meeting in Red Deer. Fred Schutzi, *West of the Blindman*, is due for a release next September.

Central Alberta Historical Society has added two new members to the Board of Directors. Pat McDonald from Rocky Mountain House and Lu Piening from Lacombe will add broader representation to the board and needed input to CAHS activities. Pat McDonald was the January Program presenter on, David Thompson: a fresh Perspective. He is part of an international committee planning a 2007 bi-centennial commemoration of David Thompson explorations and his mapping of a large portion of the north western section of the continent.

Brochures for the CAHS June Bus Tour are available with registrations open on April 17.

With the title of "Bones and Boomtowns" the four day tour will compare with 12 separate historical programs. Each day includes morning, afternoon and evening items with some extras added. The Lethbridge Historical Society will be hosts for the historic features of their city and the Galt Museum. This tour will follow a diamond shaped route, east as far as Brooks, south to Waterton National Park, west as far as Pincher Creek and back to Red Deer via Highway 22. It will be an excursion of few miles and many stops. The expected cost will be \$400.00 (twin sharing).

A new activity for the CAHS chapter will be a historic week in Red Deer planned for May. This is a venture with

other historical affiliates. Last year CAHS members worked with a historic homes committee for a very successful Saturday self-directed public tour of a number of locations. Each site had volunteer hosts who acted as interpreters and to ensure visitors respected the property they were invited to view.

Hosting the program for HSA annual meeting has led to some interesting plans to depict our area with the theme of what happened to people here during the "Rivers to Rails" period. CAHS hopes that members from the other HSA chapters will make their way to Red Deer to ride the rails with us, and enjoy the historical aspects of the area of Central Alberta that lies east and south of Red Deer.



## HSA Calendar of Events – 2003

- May 27** CCHS: "Crossing the Line" American Prostitutes in Western Canada 1895–1910. Charleen Smith. Fort Calgary, 750 9 Avenue SE 7:30 pm
- Jul 25 to Aug 4** CCHS: Historic Calgary Week. Watch for information on the CCHS web site [www.albertahistory.org/chinook](http://www.albertahistory.org/chinook).
- Apr 23** EDHS: John Rowand Night & AGM. "Reflections on the Monarchy." Governor's Room, Prince of Wales Armouries, 10440 108 Ave. 6 pm. RSVP by April 18. Phone: 780.439.2797. e-mail: [lmcollier@shaw.ca](mailto:lmcollier@shaw.ca)
- Apr 29** CCHS: "Quinkola: Tom Payne's Search for Gold. Dr. Alice V. Payne, CM. Ft. Calgary, 750 9 Avenue SE 7:30 pm

**Happy Easter  
to all HSA  
members**



## HSA Crossword

### Answer to last newsletter crossword:

**Across:** 1. SPCA, 3. plow, 6. gaped, 10. Chateau, 11. diamond  
12. Somme, 13. sciences, 15. canyon, 16. Glenbow, 19. brander,  
21. Debbie, 24. smallpox, 26. Aug, 29. trustee, 30. Goodine, 31. Peyto,  
32. song, 33. Gem.

**Down:** 1. Sicks, 2. Chapman, 4. Louis, 5. Wedding, 6. grain,  
7. proverb, 8. dude, 9. Herefords, 14. NWSE, or SWNE, 15. cubs, 17.  
elevator, 18. trappers, 20. armoury, 22. bagpipe, 23. oxygen, 25. Lotto,  
27. Rees, 28. stop.

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. Town featured in HSA book *A Preacher's Frontier*. French word for beaver
4. President of the Central Alberta Historical Society
8. Those who are mischievous and annoying
9. The Loyal Edmonton, Calgary Highlanders or the S.A.R.
10. Notable period
11. Edmonton's HMCS Nonsuch & Calgary's HMCS Tecumseh, are . . . . . stations
12. The man who would eat no fat
13. Town and campground NE of Edmonton, . . . . Lake
15. Indians cargo trailer
18. Car gear position
19. Grouard's Lesser . . . . Lake
22. Indebted

24. Alberta Premier and Edmonton quarterback
26. Follower of Attila
27. River and town near *Writing on Stone* park
29. Visitors to certain ranches
30. Existing only in name
31. Construction material for political platforms

### Down

1. Hills of SE Alberta
2. Serviceberry of Alberta
3. Senator "Bud" from Medicine Hat was also Alberta's 14th Lieutenant Governor
4. Legitimate ? town, north of Edmonton
5. The late Queen
6. Lil' guy from Dogpatch
7. Chrysler Company auto, now from the past
9. Wartime Rosie's occupation
12. HBC often selected these men to manage their trading posts
14. The "Y" word in YMCA or YWCA
16. A top athlete
17. *Head* . . . . Buffalo Jump
20. . . . . Manning and Watkins
21. Cardston's . . . . Temple
23. Mohammedan religion
24. Judge's mallet
25. Wilf Carter's warble
28. HSA president Williams

