



Volume 49, No. 1
September 29, 2016
Barbara Watson, Editor

Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

General Meeting
Thursday, September 29, 2016
Esplanade Studio Theatre
7:30 p.m.



Philip Pype – Archivist - Hat Esplanade
Our September Speaker

Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District
401 First St. S.E., Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8W2
Membership is \$10 per person.
This includes 5 editions of
SMOKE SIGNALS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our New Year! I hope to make this a productive and progressive year for the Society as we move to solidify and expand our Board.

First of all, we are well gratified to have Larry Godin accept the Treasurer's position, with the Members' ratification. In order to make Larry's job easier, as well as to bring some longer-term stability to the Treasurer's role, we have engaged a bookkeeper to attend to the bookkeeping duties, report preparation, and banking for the Society. I have brought the books up to date and will be transferring them to the bookkeeper after approval of this relatively nominal expense in the budget.

It has been brought to my attention that some may feel that Board duties are onerous and perhaps beyond their capabilities. If you have an interest in supporting your Society, be assured that this is intended to be a fun undertaking and not one to engender fear! We all make mistakes from time to time, and there is nothing that can't be repaired or that is so serious as to cause undue anxiety. Come join us – we would love to have you.

On that note, we wish to thank and acknowledge the work done by two members who have left the board – Phyllis McLaughlin and Carol O'Brien. We wish them well and thank them for their strong service to the board and to the Society. With Phyllis' leaving, the Membership Director's duties are being carried by Barbara Watson, in addition to her excellent work on the newsletter you are now reading. Thanks so much to Barbara for stepping up while we look for a Membership Director. This is a great position with lots of opportunity to 'meet and greet' and we hope that you readers might consider taking this up. Barbara, Allan and Phyllis have spent the past while bringing the records up to snuff, so all should be well for the new Director.

A word to the excellent cemetery tours that Lorine has been hosting. I attended the last one this summer, and, as I mentioned at the podium previously, they are curiously evocative in that you are hearing the life story and seeing photographs of the individual beside whose mortal remains you are standing. These events are extremely worthwhile in bringing the past into the present and I wish to support and promote them as strongly as possible. I am very much looking forward to the coming year's program.

You will be asked to vote on the budget for the coming year at the September 29 General Meeting. While we are blessed through the efforts of Judy and Earl in having a healthy Casino Account, spending this money on worthwhile and qualifying projects is something that has become a priority for the coming year. We have a 'shopping list' only at this time, but will be seeking members' approval for individual projects through the coming months. As well, we will be working with AGLC to ensure that these projects qualify for funding from the Casino funds.

Finally, you will read elsewhere in this newsletter about the interview with Zoe Best at the Eaton Building on October 2. We are always in need of camera operators and

this is one of those occasions. If you would please consider donating your time to this fun event (Earl, Judy, Laurel, I have all done this without physical damage!), it would be greatly appreciated. It is quite a fun thing to take part in and not at all difficult. You could become a Shaw camera operator. I look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting on September 29. Come along and enjoy the fellowship and conversations with old friends!

Living History Project Report

In early Spring, the Project assisted the I-XL / Medalta Committees with planning a series of interviews that would outline the history of I-XL and its employees. Several planning meetings were involved and Shaw Cable was a huge part of the success. A total of 9 videos were recorded over a period of 3 ½ days. Eight were recorded on location at the I-XL site, and the 9th in studio. Once the videos were completed, the Living History Project assisted in the editing of the final videos. I received word from David Gee these are presently airing on Shaw and each video will run 5 times. You can find out the times through their channel information guide and it is under the heading Local History.

The success of this is due to the tireless efforts of everyone involved. The planning began in February and ran through to June, with a taping scheduled in mid June. These interviews covered a wide range of topics including the early history, the employees' perspective, the impact of the 2010 flood, the consequences, and the future outcome.

During this time frame 2 separate interviews were also being conducted through the Living History Project. Earl and Judy Morris had the pleasure of interviewing Hammy Hamilton, who has sadly since passed on. Earl Morris and Laurel Schlaht interviewed David and Ralph Heydlauf, ranching brothers from the far southeast of the province, in the Duggan House.

Since June, the Project has been asked to assist with another larger project involving the history of local members of the Metis community.

An additional interview was suggested by Shaw and on Oct 2nd Zoe Best will be interviewed in the old Eaton's building. Zoe is a 92-year-old former model who among other things, was photographed for the Eaton's catalogue.

(President's Note: The success of the I-XL interviews is owed largely to the efforts of Carolyn Haggart, who tirelessly coordinated all the volunteer camera-people for the 9 interviews, edited and processed 600 photographic images (of which 300 were

used in the broadcasts), and helped in the final editing of the material for broadcast. Well done, Carolyn!

PROGRAMME NOTES

Thursday, September 29, 7:30 pm Studio Theatre Esplanade
AV at the Archives (Speaker: Philip Pype)

The Archives Division of the Esplanade was established in 1981 to serve the collective memory of southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. It seeks out, collects, preserves, and makes available to researchers the paper records and photographs about our community. The Esplanade Archives also collects and provides access to audio-visual recordings such as film and sound.

Archivist Philip Pype will discuss the variety of materials the Archives handles, how they care for this content, and how they make it accessible for the public. The presentation will conclude with a viewing of some key materials from the Esplanade holdings.

Allan Jensen, Program Chair

A SNEAK PEEK AT SOME PROGRAMMES FOR 2016-2017

1. Thursday, September 29, 2016
AV at the Archives
 Speaker: Philip Pype, Archivist at the Esplanade
2. Thursday, November 24, 2016
 Rails, Trails, & a Few Tall Tales
 Speaker: Earl Morris, Historian and trains guru
3. Thursday, January 26, 2017
 Members Nite: Show-and-Tell
 Presenters: members of the Historical Society of Medicine Hat & District
4. Thursday, March 30, 2017
Hope Johnson: Paleontologist & Nature Artist
 Speaker: Darren Tanke, Royal Tyrrell Museum, Drumheller
5. Thursday, May 25, 2017
Annual General Meeting
 Guest Speaker TBA

A Summer Bus Trip seen through the eyes of a reluctant 15-year-old – as reported by delighted grandmother

Allan Jensen always organizes very interesting bus tours. Saturday, June 4, 2016 was no exception. We left the Medicine Hat Cultural Centre at 7:00 am sharp. My husband Bruno and I decided to invite our 15-year-old grandson Dawson Lyon. He told me as we pulled out of the parking lot, "Grama, I will be really bored."

We arrived in Lethbridge at the Nikka Yuko Japanese gardens to be welcomed at the gates by lovely ladies in kimonos and carrying rice paper parasols. Dawson's eyes opened wide at the sight of wonderful shapes, colours, and textures in these carefully tended gardens. Trees and manicured lawns bordered streams, stone bridges and winding paths, with stones - collected for their pleasing shapes - punctuating the tranquil layout. Allan led the way to the large bell, sounded it, and was followed by Dawson as well as others eager to accept the invitation. Those with cameras took advantage of the opportunity to get that great shot.



On the road again, we travelled to Fort Macleod and the "North West Mounted Police Interpretive Centre and Gift Shop." Here Dawson posed beside a mannequin dressed as an early "Redcoat." Buildings full of history surround the fort's courtyard. Dawson's interest rose at the sight of guns and arrows. My highlight was the chapel with its altar and stained glass.

A few souvenirs later we were on the way to "Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump."



At this point Dawson said to me, “Alberta has a big history to see.” We lunched on bison then viewed the natural cliff with huge mounted buffalos. The scenery was spectacular with foothills and prairies.

Pincher Creek and the Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village, as well as the 1885 Father Lacombe Hermitage, were our next stop. As was often needed in bygone days, six men of the fire brigade pulled the ladder truck while the basket at the back held coats, helmets and rubber boots. The collection also contained an early Shell station with vintage cars guaranteed to interest old and young.

Heading back towards Medicine Hat we saw miles of wind turbines, returning us home and to the modern age and a very tired Dawson.

As reported by Leona Parasynchuk Mitzner

Stories on Stone – Season Two: Kin Coulee Cemetery

The final tour for Season Two of **Stories on Stone** will be held on October 16 at Kin Coulee Cemetery at 2 pm. The first two tours - held earlier this summer - were well attended. Lorine Marshall, who conducts these walks, has been receiving encouraging feedback from the families that were profiled.

Of particular interest are information and photographs that have surfaced from the Bruce family. John Bruce was the superintendent of this early cemetery during the 1930s, and his granddaughter, now nearly 90, shared her personal archives with Lorine This was a generous gesture. Some of this new information will be added to the October tour.

The tours are one hour in length, and the visit to this very early local cemetery, dating back to 1883, includes a cross section of those pioneer people, who lived and worked in our community.

Admission for Lorine's tours is free and parking is available within easy walking distance.



MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 6

Cocktails 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm

MEDICINE HAT GOLF and COUNTRY CLUB

Tickets \$25

Sing-a-long with Wanderin' Wally

Door Prizes

Buy tickets at the November 24 Meeting or phone Delle 403 526 6057

As always, we reserve the right to incorporate a few errors for your searching pleasure. It is really the only original work I can include in a newsletter to which so many capable members have contributed. Photographs submitted were wonderful, but I could include only a few. I will have the remainder printed for you to see on the 29. Our photographers were Frank Webber, Tye Carnelli, Leona Mitzner, Tony Giesinger, and Corrie Kilback.

Thanks to everyone.
Barbara Watson, editor

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat & District partners with the **Esplanade Archives** in *preserving* and *promoting* our rich *heritage*. The Archives is a valuable resource for family research and local historical information. To make an appointment, the Archives may be contacted at 403 502 8582 or at 401 First Street S.E. Medicine Hat, AB. T1A 8W2, also at kimunr@medicinehat.ca

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The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District website: www.histsocmedhat.ca
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Membership form:
Please Print

Name.....Tel. #.....
Address.....
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Postal Code.....Email.....

Fees attached for.....person(s) at \$10 per person for a total of \$.....

Return to: **Barbara Watson c/o
Historical Society of Medicine Hat & District
401 First Street SE,
Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 8W2**

Any member wishing to receive the newsletter by email, kindly email Barbara - margbar@telusplanet.net