

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Medicine Hat and District Newsletter



President's Message

Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

Our Society and Board activities over the past month or so have caused me to think quite a bit about cooperation. While we value and celebrate our individualism, we should probably pause to consider the importance of our group efforts as well. Volunteer organizations such as ours would not be able to function without it them, as we have witnessed recently.

As many of you know, my extended family has been dealing with some serious health issues. My youngest brother was undergoing treatments in Winnipeg. He asked that I help as he would otherwise be alone. I did not hesitate even though I would miss our last Board Meeting. I was able to agree, and make the trip, because I knew that our First Vice President, Malcolm Sissons, an experienced administrator himself, would be there to manage it. As it turned out, I was still able to make our Meeting, but Malcolm still arranged and ran it in extremely well. As an organization we benefitted by getting a lot of work done because we cooperated even though a disruption had occurred.

Laurel Schlaht has agreed to be the Secretary of our organization for the coming year, but had prior plans for a holiday to Australia. It would mean that there was no one to take the Minutes of our last Board Meeting. Jenn Barrientos immediately volunteered to help and a record now exists of your Board's deliberations on our planning, policy and financial matters because of the cooperation. We are also cooperating as your Board to define the boundaries of our organization. We are Medicine Hat and District, but how far does that district reach? After our presentation last month, we realized that while "borders may be dumb" they still had their purposes one of which was defining an area of activity. Your Board is currently discussing a proposal which would see us focus our activities in an area bounded by the International Boundary to the south, the Provincial boundary to the east and the existing boundaries of the Counties of Forty Mile and Cypress, but north to the Red Deer River. The Board still has to discuss it further and a formal proposal will be brought to you in the near future.

What all of these issues have in common is cooperation. While we rightly celebrate individual effort and achievement, we should not overlook how much is also done through voluntary group cooperation. As we mourn our military sacrifices this month it should be worth noting that what they accomplished, saving our freedom, was by their willingness to cooperate with one another.

Warm Regards;

Bruce Shepard

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President
Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

Next Meeting:

November 21, 2024

@7pm, Monarch Theatre

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Historical Society Upcoming Program

“A Tribute to Medicine Hat’s Veterans”

We are pleased to welcome MWO (Retired) Scott Schall to be our presenter at this month’s program, entitled “Medicine Hat’s Military Presence and Veterans”. Mr. Schall has a robust military background, from a six week cadet exchange to Germany where he was a rifleman for the Canadian Army in West Germany before the fall of the Iron Curtain, to the Primary Reserves for the South Alberta Light Horse (SALH) where he retired only five years ago as a Master Warrant Officer.

Mr. Schall currently resides in Medicine Hat, and is well versed in military and local history. He currently holds the position of Sergeant-at-Arms, as well as 1st Vice President of the Robertson Memorial Branch #17. He holds a Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety Professional from the University of Alberta, and in 2008 he was Mentioned in Dispatches for actions in Afghanistan in 2007.

There are always two sides to every coin. The history of places and the history of the people who serve in those places. Mr. Schall hopes to better enlighten us on the local Medicine Hat connection to the military and how we can all do our part to better preserve those memories of people and places, for years to come. A wonderful tribute to our local community veterans, hosted at the Monarch Theatre, this November 21st, 7pm.



MWO (Retired) Scott Schall

Credit: The Military Museums
<https://themilitarymuseums.ca>

We hope to see you there.

Regards,

Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District



“Duffy” The tank in Riverside Veterans Memorial park, ca. 1980
Credit: Image Courtesy of the Esplanade Archives, 1070.0876



The Dedication of Camp Crowfoot

The Historical connection between BATUS and Chief Crowfoot by J. Barrientos

All those who are currently deployed to the British Army Training Unit (BATUS) are accommodated and welcomed to an area called “Camp Crowfoot”. This offshoot base of the Canadian Forces Base Suffield (CFB Suffield), was so named and dedicated ca. 1972.

Camp Crowfoot takes its name from the man Chief Crowfoot, or Isapo-Muxika, who was a key negotiator for Treaty 7, and Chief of the Siksika (Blackfoot) from 1869 until his death in 1890. A full history and summary of Chief Crowfoot’s many exploits could certainly fill all the pages of this Newsletter! A wonderful summary, by Dr. Hugh Dempsey, can be found online at the Canadian Encyclopedia, here: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/crowfoot>

A dedication of a military base using an Indigenous historical figure’s name was warmly welcomed, with The Medicine Hat News at the time announcing that: “White man and [Indigenous people] took council together on the great plains near Medicine Hat Friday, as Chief Leo Pretty Youngman Sr., his councillor Arthur Youngman, and commanding officer of the Price of Wales’ Own Regiment of Yorkshire met at the Canadian Forces Base, Suffield” (May, 1976). Chief Leo Pretty Youngman Sr., is pictured below (left), with Gen. Sir Antony Read KCB, CBE, DSO, MC, quartermaster general of the British Army (right) in front of the Camp Crowfoot dedication stone monument, ca. 1972. The British Army had to get permission from the Department of Indian Affairs, the Canadian Armed Forces and the Siksika Nation to use the name “Crowfoot”, which is so reflected with the text on the monument.

Of note, Chief Pretty Young Man Sr. was a direct ancestor of the famed 19th century Chief Crowfoot, which highlights his strong historical and genealogical connection to the area. Chief Pretty Young Man Sr. himself was paramount in the development of the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park which opened in 2007, long after his death. As well, he met with then-Prince Charles in 1977, and gave the monarch honorary Siksika Chief status under the name “Red Crow”.



Archives Image 8689-A

circa. 1972

Camp Crowfoot, con't

Indigenous Roots, Indigenous Connection

by J. Barrientos

Choosing an Indigenous historical figure for a name for the BATUS base was revolutionary at the time in the early 1970s. While Chief Crowfoot's history was enough to justify naming the base after him, BATUS was also paying homage to the physical history of the land the base was constructed on. During the creation of CFB Suffield, there were many indigenous artefacts and archaeological sites which were documented throughout the area. Buffalo kill sites, tipi rings, stone alignments, tools and beads were found throughout the British Block area, revealing a wealth of information, and a firm connection to the early First Nations peoples.



Esplanade Archives

8689-A

"1976 to 1980 Salvage Investigation" pg. 5



Figure 132: View looking south-southwest at mapping in progress, EcOp-61, Stone Alignment 1.



Figure 133: General view of possible Bison Kill at the head of the Stone Alignments, EcOp-61.

Esplanade Archives

To read more about the archaeological work done around CFB Suffield, feel free to visit the Archives and view the series of papers entitled: "1976 to 1980 Salvage Investigation on the Suffield Military Reserve, Alberta", by J. Brumley, B.J. (Barry) Dau, and L. Heikkila (image left).

This 3 volume series uses images and text to document the many archeological sites around CFB Suffield. This work was conducted under the direction of the Suffield Environmental Advisory Committee and the Alberta Energy Company Ltd., and published around 1981.

The volumes are a wealth of information about the area, and meticulously maps locations with site numbers and details of finds. Many items are Indigenous in nature, which further highlights the cultural, archaeological and lasting historic importance of the entire British Block; and why using the name "Camp Crowfoot" is a beautiful, fitting tribute.

Christmas Party

Upcoming Historical Society Festivities

by Judy Morris

Tickets for our Christmas Party are now for sale. The party will be held Tuesday, December 3rd at the Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club. We will be partnering with the Friendship Force of Medicine Hat and the Archaeology Society. Members of the Historical Society will pay \$40 per member person to attend, others who are not members will pay \$45 per person.

Anyone who would like tickets or more information, please contact Judy Morris at 403-952-7796 or by email at ej.morris@shaw.ca

If you are interested, please connect before the end of November for your tickets.



Display Case & Remembrance Day

Come view the Historical Society Display Case at the Esplanade

J. Barrientos

While our meetings have moved to the Monarch Theatre, we encourage you to view the Historical Society Display Case located in the front lobby at the Esplanade. Currently, items, artefacts and images relating to First World War service are on display, graciously loaned to us by Malcolm Sissons.

As always, the Esplanade is offering a Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11. The public is invited to join, with seating in the main theatre, first come first served. Overflow seating is available outside of the theatre.



The doors open at the Esplanade at 8:30am, with Theatre doors opening at 9:00am. The Ceremony begins at 9:30am, and at 10:30 there is a Remembrance Day Parade to Riverside Veterans' Memorial Park.

If you attend the ceremony, please take a moment to view the display and the interesting original artefacts on loan.

Any new display case ideas would be gratefully received, and can be submitted to Lorine Marshall.

Submitted Photo - J. Barrientos

Membership Dues

Join the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

by Lynne Rance

Membership dues for 2024-2025 are now past due.

Thank you our current 72 paid-in-full members! Your \$10 membership to the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District allows you to cast your vote on deciding factors at our meetings, as well as receive 5 editions of our Historical Society Newsletter via email or printed copy. If you do not remain up to date, this might be the last copy of the Newsletter you receive! You can pay your \$10 membership dues by cheque by mail to the address below. Please make cheques payable to:

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

401 1 Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8W2

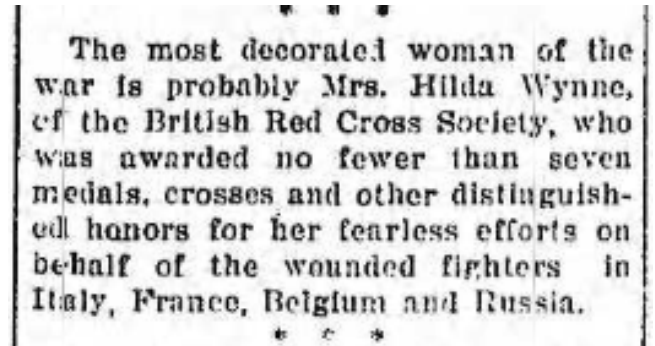
This day in History

December 10, 1919



Image credit:
<https://inspirationalwomenofww1.blogspot.com>

Mrs. Hilda Wynne was mentioned in the social pages in Medicine Hat as the “most decorated woman of the war”. Further research suggests she was a British woman, born in 1884, and made a widow in 1913. Mrs. Wynne became almost a celebrity figure for being a woman in service during the First World War. While her connection to Medicine Hat (if any) is unknown, she served as a nurse on the Flanders front, and after the war, founded the Wynne Bevan Ambulance Corps. During the last Austrian offensive in 1918, she helped transport over 800 wounded.



Word of Thanks

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District partners with the Esplanade Archives in preserving and promoting our rich heritage. The Archives are a valuable resource for family research and local historical information. To make an appointment at the Archives, please call 403-502-8582, or email Jennifer Barrientos at jenbar@medicinehat.ca. The Archives are located at 401 1 Street SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8W2, and as always, are free for you to use.

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District website: www.histsocmedhat.ca

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