

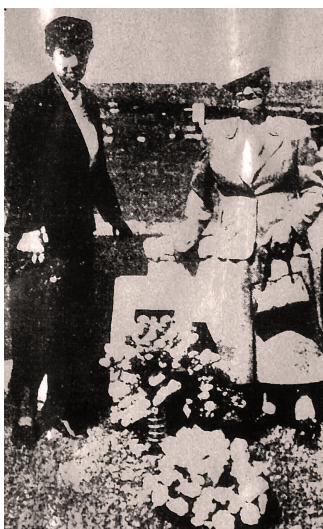


Volume 49, No. 4
March 30, 2017
Barbara Watson, Editor

Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

General Meeting
Thursday, March 30, 2017
Cutbanks Room

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME
7:00 p.m.



Lucille and Wilhelmina
Let Lorine tell you their story.

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

We are extremely pleased and gratified to announce the arrival to our board of a new member – Wayne Craven. Many of you know him from his extensive service on City Council as well as from his broadcast career. It is a great honour to have him with us. The Board voted his acceptance on March 9 (under the bylaws), and the members will be asked to ratify the vote at the March 30 General Meeting. At that same meeting the appointment of Larry Godin as Treasurer will be ratified. We seem to be building a strong Board again!

Respecting Board development, a Nominations Committee has been struck, including Judy Morris (Chair), Tom Hamp, Larry Godin, Malcolm Sissons, Kris Samraj, Jan Barnes and Allan Jensen. Our first meeting took place on Friday, March 10, and a forward direction and names of first nominees have been decided. The Committee will be approaching the nominees to determine their interest and acceptance.

In addition to those brought forward by the Nominations Committee for election at the May 25 AGM, we highly encourage members to attend the AGM and to make nominations from the floor as provided in the bylaws. This is your chance to make a contribution to the Society by bringing your excellent talents to the table. You will note elsewhere in this newsletter that the Living History Project is functioning well. Not included in that report (with apologies) is the addition to the committee of Dennis Beierbach who brings strong technical and leadership skills to the project. We are highly grateful for his interest and involvement. Again, please note the change in starting time for the General Meeting on March 30 and thenceforth to 7pm – thanks to Kris Samraj for the excellent suggestion. We will be located in the Cutbanks Room for this occasion.

Cheers!

Tom

Living History Project Report

The Rural and Ranch Video Project (Pat Cook and Laurel Schlaht) has been proceeding at full steam with the following to report by Laurel:

- Helen Gilham interviewed February 17, 2017 – focus of interview was her father's farm being expropriated from Suffield Block in 1941. They lived in the northern part of the Block in an area called "Little Sweden". The agreement was signed on April 11, 1941 and existing farmers were ordered under the War Measures Act to vacate their property by June 30 of that year.

(Camera Operator Pat Cook, Interviewer Laurel Schlaht)

- Dave Spencer will be interviewed by Allan Jensen on March 17, 2017 at the Redcliff Museum.. Dave is an expert about the “Historic 76 Ranch “at Stair (Redcliff area).
- A full schedule has been put forward by Laurel Schlaht - interviewer (thank you, Laurel!) for the rest of the year, working with Pat Cook, videographer.

Photoshop work has been completed on reproducing the DVD panels and the slipcase covers for final production of our videos, and are in the capable hands of David Gue who is handling all post-processing for the project.

Our Living History Project Coordinator (Carolyn Haggart) is taking a temporary hiatus from the project; in the meanwhile Tom Hamp will assume coordinating and leadership functions for the committee. With the established structure of the project - individual teams managing their own initiatives and progress - we expect that interviews will proceed apace.

PROGRAMME NOTES

“A Triumph of The Spirit” – presented by Lorine Marshall

Be sure to attend our March programme at the Esplanade. Lorine Marshall, longtime member of the Historical Society (and a past president of the organization) is noted for her dedication to study and research regarding the persons, events and history that comprise our area of Alberta.

This presentation includes visuals and is centered on Medicine Hat’s Prisoner of War Camp and the time period extending from 1942 - 1972.

The meeting and programme will be held in the Cutbanks Room of the Esplanade on March 30, beginning at 7:00 pm.

MORE PROGRAMMES TO COME

Thursday, May 25, 2017
Annual General Meeting
 Guest Speaker TBA



Back by Popular Demand -

The spring bus tour will take place on Saturday, June 3, 2017.

The destination is the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (AB & SK)

*TRAAX bus lines.

Highlights include Reesor Ranch, Fort Walsh, Eastend (including T. Rex Discovery Centre) and Maple Creek.

*Details at March meeting

*Contact Allan Jensen at (403) 502-9006

Allan Jensen, Programme Chair

A spotlight on January's contest .



Here is a current photo of the Canada flag on the hillside just opposite the driveway to the River Ridge Estates. To get any closer one would have to abandon the car and climb up the hill. Climbing was out of the question, but I had a zoom lens. It allowed me to see two interesting boxes in front of the flag housing something special. Lights? I could not make out the surface of the flag or determine its dimensions. Is it as large and special as the white horse on the escarpment of the Salisbury Plain? Probably not, but it is rather spectacular and in this year of Canada's sesquicentennial a rather significant feature. We still don't know who was responsible for its creation, but those structures are indeed floodlights, and someone is paying the bill. I checked them out at 5:30 am, and they make the flag look fabulous.

Membership Reminder

Please be ready to pay your yearly membership to May 2017 if you have not done so at this time. We appreciate cheques so that we have a clear record of who paid. My mind gets muddled when I have all kinds of \$10.00 bills flying at me. Some people have already paid up to May 2018 and should be honoured with something fantastic, like Trump fantastic. If you do pay in cash, please sign my notebook and you will receive a receipt as soon as it can be made out.

My staff can only write a few at a time. I hope I have staff. At our AGM in May you are invited to pay the membership to May 2018.

Arts & Heritage Advisory Board (A.H.A.B.) Report

The meetings of A.H.A.B. I attended as the Medicine Hat & District Historical Society Representative were held Monday January 30, and Monday February 27, 2017. Following are some of the items considered:

Monday January 30, 2017

- Two new members, Katalin Lang and Martin Povey were welcomed.
- C. Wilson was elected Chair. Anita Pinder was elected as Vice-Chair.
- Special Cultural Events Assistance Grant applications were presented and reviewed. Five were recommended for support to be forwarded to City Council for approval.

Monday February 27, 2017

- Civic Recognition Awards Selection Committee nominee – Anita Pinder selected as delegate. Information available on the City website.
- Resignation of Board Member received.
- Public Art Committee – Veiner Centre location viewed. Canalta Centre funds still available.
- Cultural Manager Reports: Council approved the Special Cultural Events Assistance Grants recommendations. Upcoming Events: Hometown Hockey March 3 – 5; When We Were Young Exhibit – opening March 31 at 7:p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 27, 2017.

A.J. "Tony" Giesinger

March 8, 2017

And now for something totally different – The Silent Interview

This month's subject is Earl Morris. Thank you, Earl.

I. Signage

B. Tell me what signage is, but keep it simple and short for people like me. (I am not using quotation marks since I have done some minor tweaking of Earl's replies.)

E. What I am talking about here is signage to call attention to historical sites, sites that do not qualify for bronze plaques. Currently there are four registered on the Federal Registry. There are eleven on the Provincial Registry and twelve on the Municipal Registry. These twelve were recommended by the Heritage Resources Committee, and passed by City Council. The last two designations - the First Street South Municipal Historic Area and the Monarch Theatre will have plaques installed once we have decent weather.

B. Who puts up the signs?

E. The existing signs, of which a few are scattered around the City, are installed by the City. There are two outside City Hall and several at Echodale Regional Park. Some of these signs are seriously in need replacing.

B. How many of these signs are there around the city?

E. Other than three outside at City Hall, one near CORE on Third Street, and several at Echodale I am not aware of any others. However, there is a project of the HRC to begin to install a number of signs around the City. The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District is funding the project.

B. What criteria are used to decide where signs should go?

E. As the lead on this HRC / Historical Society project, it is up to me to create a prioritized list of such signage, based on historical importance. That process has just begun. My personal priorities are a sign on the yellow stucco building on Kipling Street. This is the storage shed for the last locomotive used to haul coal out of the Ajax coal mine (now Echodale). Perhaps further signs will be located along the trail upon which the rail line wound its way from Kin Coulee to the mine site.

B. Why is signage important?

E. There is an incredible amount of history in our small community. I personally believe that for both residents and tourists it is important to bring this history to life by way of signage.

A Story From January's Show and Tell

Dorothy Patry (nee Nelsen) elaborated on the amazing pipe she brought to January's meeting. " This pipe was brought from Denmark by my grandfather Peter Nelsen in 1886. He immigrated to Wisconsin and then to Crookston, Minnesota, 1908 with six-year-old son Walter. My father came by train to Medicine Hat and then to his homestead 8 miles north of Irvine 'Long Valley.'



The pipe has been in our family 135 years." *(Can you imagine the amount of tobacco this held and how long Dorothy's grandfather puffed away on it?)*

We received a message – from Margorie Dunlop a far-flung member of our club. "A project that I chaired and coordinated for several for the Historical Society was the *College Essay Contest*. The papers were written by 3rd year college students under the direction of Professor Dr. Roy Wilson. The topics were of Historical Nature in and about the Medicine Hat area e.g. Medalta, the year Harry Veiner lost his election, Echodale, Woolfrey's Coulee, Kin Coulee, and many others. The Historical Society formed a committee to judge the essays and chose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. I organized a reception and presented excerpts of their papers to the audience. Families, friends, and members attended the evening. Refreshments were served.

We had copies of all the essays printed and offered for sale. These essays are now in the possession of the Esplanade."

Submitted by Margorie Dunlop – February 27, 2017

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat & 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, 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 \$.....

Please make cheques payable to:

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 -
barbara.watson78@gmail.com