



The Historical Society of  
Medicine Hat & District

Volume 50 no. 4  
March 29, 2018  
Barbara Watson - editor

# SMOKE SIGNALS

*Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District*

## **General Meeting**

Thursday, March 29, 2018  
Studio Theatre - 7:00 p.m.



Petty Officer Mollie Webster  
Royal Navy  
United Kingdom  
Member  
The Royal United Services Institute of Medicine Hat

**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**

Hello again!

As reported last time, we are coming around to the time of the year when we plan for our incoming Board for 2018-2019. We still have a few positions open, and if you are interested in being involved in the running of our organization, now would be a good time to let us know... At the upcoming General Meeting, you will be asked (Wes Krause presenting) to approve the following donations that were included in the approved budget for this year, subject to further member approvals:

- Up to 3 donations of \$2000 each to rural museums in the area. These donations come from our Casino Fund, which is very healthy, and which needs to be expended to comply with AGLC regulations. We are very fortunate to have this possibility due to the excellent work of Judy Morris in keeping the Casinos going and providing these most significant funds. She has secured and organized another casino which is coming up on March 18-19.
- A donation of \$5000 to the Esplanade as has been done in preceding years. This will come from our Operating Account.

Regarding donations, Wes Krause has wisely suggested the need to have policies in place to guide us in our determination of future donations, particularly to avoid overuse and to ensure fairness to those applying. Additionally, Wayne Craven has developed an excellent form to be submitted by those requesting donations to assist in determining the best use of funds, particularly those from our Casino Account. Wes has graciously offered, and will head up, a small committee to produce policies for donations going forward.

Please look for a Living History Project report elsewhere in this newsletter...Laurel Schlaht and her team of Pat Cook and Frank Webber continue to do an amazing job on the Rural & Ranching Project.

I look forward to seeing you at our next General Meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2018 in the Studio Theatre.

Cheers!

Tom

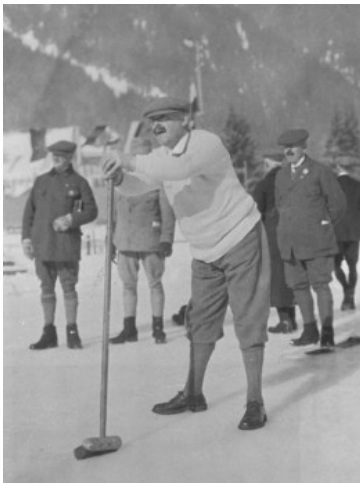
## **Living History Project Report**

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

- Two master copies & two regular copies of Helen Gilham interview & Dave Spencer DVD's have been deposited with Archives.
- The following interviews have been done and are being processed by Pat Cook:
  - Evelyn Hausauer (Irvine history)
  - Everett Burke (All-Around Cowboy)

- Marilyn Burke (Western Sculptor)
- Ben Lee Hern (1977 Canadian All-Around Cowboy Champ)
- Don McLennan (former Medicine Hat Stampede President; his life growing up on a large ranch along Red Deer River west of Empress, Alberta)
- Next interviews:
  - Doug Ellis - his great grandfather was brought over from Scotland to run the Redcliff Stair 76 Ranch. Doug runs a large ranch by Box Springs & is a former cattle auctioneer.
  - 1-2 more interviews to be determined.
- We owe much thanks to Frank Webber for his outstanding contributions to the project - still photography of interviewees and artifacts - as well as running a second camera, enabling the interviewer to be included in the video. This latter has been suggested by many and is a significant improvement in the quality of the work.
- And, of course, much thanks to Laurel for her fine leadership and overall organizing and interviewing – well done! This project has only been possible because of her deep insights and understanding of this most important aspect of our local history.

### **Some Anecdotal History - A Canadian Strategy Sport (borrowed from Scotland)**



We've just enjoyed the Olympics from South Korea. One of the sports that has been part of these events is curling, and if you live in Southern Alberta you are either a dedicated curler or know one or watch curling yourself. As for me, I would prefer watching paint dry, honestly, but that is definitely no slur.

I do acrylic pour painting, and part of that art form is to watch the paint develop beautiful cells as it dries. So, no, I am not making fun of this sport that requires skill, talent, and above all, strategy. I have checked with the folks at Starbucks who provided me with a cornucopia of information. Among their experiences were jam pail bonspiels, so I checked to find that Medicine Hat had just arranged one for youngsters. This year's event was the 54<sup>th</sup> for our city and was held at the Kinplex on February 21 and 22. I have to watch out for it next year, now that I know how exciting it is to watch paint dry.

Jan Barnes had amusing stories about curling in her Saskatchewan home. Another coffee friend talked about an outdoor rink right here in Medicine Hat where he curled as a young person. I forgot to write the name down, and won't guess, but among our members there will surely be some avid curlers who have practiced the required strategy there.

While having coffee at Café Verve, Lil Torrie gave me the most in depth information I was able to find. She had curled only two years as a young married woman, but I learned so much about the sequence of the game, the names of the players, and why there is so much yelling involved. The two key words are 'hurry' and 'hard'. In certain situations, both words are combined to increase the excitement. Here is where the brooms are given a real workout. Those

granite rocks are supposed to make it to the bull's eye and stay there. Sometimes they need a little help. Lil said that she enjoyed curling except that her feet got cold after 8 ends, no matter what foot gear she wore. A ten ender was sheer agony. Besides such discomfort, there is another aspect of curling that has to be mentioned.

Let's call it celebrating. The Scots invented that, too, and called it getting 'fou' and 'unco happy.' Burns' words for drunk and very happy, not mine. This was strategy used after the games. But sometimes it was wantonly used before the bonspiel was concluded. Those who had celebrated rather more did not throw their rocks too well the next day. Would alcohol in your blood when competing disqualify Olympic curlers?

This year 13 nations participated in the Olympic curling event. Canada and South Korea sent the most athletes. That's interesting. There is so much about curling that fascinates for participants and spectators, but paint drying in acrylic pour art might be a close second.



**Programmes:** As always, Allan Jensen has found a piece of interesting history for our meeting.

March 2018 brings us history that links a long-time Medicine Hat resident, Molly Webster, to Britain. She worked in England for the war effort against the Nazi threat in one of Britain's underground facilities. Molly cannot be with us, but Earl Morris, a sincere fan, will make a presentation about Molly and her World War II work for the Navy. Earl visited Molly's underground and secret work station and will share his research at our March meeting.

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A CONTINUED REQUEST

*In order to keep up with current regulations, we ask that you fill out the following form. It will ensure that we deal with your contact information in an appropriate manner. **FOIP***

About 6 people have handed in the forms. Thank you. If you are **not** one of the six, please consider filling out the form and getting it to us.

Barbara

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

The personal information is collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 33c. I authorize that the following personal information may be used for membership purposes only and will not be made public.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	
<b>Residence address:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	
<b>Residence phone number:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Cell phone:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Business phone number:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>E-mail address:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Date:</b>			
<b>Signature:</b>			

**Membership Dues**

Thanks to those who updated their memberships to the end of May 2018. There are still a few members who have not yet paid to May 2018. I will attach a list of paid members, and if your name is not on it, we request that you pay in order to receive the May newsletter and to vote. Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to complete your payment. Cheques are ideal, but cash is fine if attached to the form, please, to make sure your money is connected to your name.

Please do **not** hand your fee to a friend to give me. If you cannot give it to me or to someone working the desk with me, mail it in with the form. The address is on the form. I have a lot of receipts to hand out. Stop by at the meeting to pick up yours. BW

**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](http://www.histsocmedhat.ca)

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**Membership form:**

*Please Print* (or use copperplate script. How I wish someone could!)

Name.....Tel. #.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....

Postal Code.....Email.....

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

Date..... Signature.....

*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 contact Barbara Watson - [barbara.watson78@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara.watson78@yahoo.com)

**Members paid from May 217 - 201**

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME				
		Givens	Lorraine	Picotte	June
		Godin	Larry	Pinder	Annita
		Grimm	Ted/Ruth	Povey	Martin
*Barnes	Jan	Handley	Arne	Rance	Lynne
Barth	Peter	Hirning	Lorraine	Rose	Shirley
Beck	Gwen	Ironchild	Christopher	Samraj	Kris/Safira
Bell	Wes	*Jensen	Allan	Sargent	Claire
Bender	Melvin	Knowles	Dawn	Schlaht	Laurel
Brandt	Elaine	Kusler	Dennis/Arlene	Seifert	Sandy
Browne	Elizabeth	Krickhahn	Uwe	Sharland	Len/Laurie
Bruins-Jacober	Julia	Krause	Wes	Sissons	Malcolm/J
Carter	Dr. David	Lachapelle	Safira	Smith	Theresa
Charbonneau	Lee Anne	Lamirade	Linda	Spencer	Dave
Christie	Grace	*Langdon	Marjorie	Stojke	Greta/Walter
Ciona	Sylvia	Linden	Lane/Edna	Suffield Dist.	Hist. Soc.
Clay	Sharon	Lovig	Delle	Symmonds	Celina
Cowtan	Eileen	Lust	Wayne	Tiegs	Sheila
Cumberland	Penny	Malek	Tannis	Tingley	Ardis & C David
*Currie	Ethel	*Marshall	Jim	Varney	Myrtle
Crawford	Margaret	Marshall	Lorine	Wallace	Mary L.
Dooley	Vivian	McLaughlin	I /Phyllis	Waller	Alan
Dowler	John/Maureen	Michalopoulos	Helen	Watson	Barbara
Dunlop	Margorie	Mitzner	Bruno/Leona	Wilson	Charleen
Egan	Del/Iris	Murray	Jacque	MHMAG	
Flaig	Carmen				
Foster	Christine	Patry	Dorothy		
Freedman	Elaine				
Gartley	Jeannie	Picotte			
Giesinger	Davida		Gail		

