



The Historical Society of
Medicine Hat & District

Volume 51 no. 5
May 23, 2019
Barbara Watson - editor

SMOKE SIGNALS

Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Studio Theatre, 7:00pm



Heritage Village Schoolmarm

Program: Living History Review

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 MESSAGE

The annual General Meeting of our Society is just around the corner. I hope you will make a point of coming out to support the efforts by Board members and other volunteers, who work throughout the year to help make projects and programming a success.

We continue to search for a permanent home for the historic stained-glass windows from the former historic St. Theresa's Academy. The HSMH&D rescued those windows in 2016 and continue to house them in safe keeping.

Video recording of local and district history continues with the Living History project. This past year saw the district ranching community spotlighted.

Recently we initiated a \$3000.00 donation to the Etzikom Wind Farm Museum, towards the needed purchase of a landscape maintenance lawnmower.

Many of these and other initiatives rely on monies raised through Casino participation. I thank those volunteer members who give of their time to this very important part of what we do and need, to survive as a viable organization.

My special thanks to the Board of Directors for the service they have given in the past and are prepared to give in the future. It is truly amazing to me, that in a time when it is increasingly difficult to get people to commit to service, they are so ready to jump in and work on your behalf.

Our Annual General Meeting date is May 23 at 7 pm in the Esplanade Studio Theatre. Show your support to those who work to keep the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District an important part of our community's way of life!

Wayne Craven.

Medicine Hat and District Historical Society Executive

Past President: Tom Hamp

President: Wayne Craven

First Vice President: Wes Krause

Second Vice President: Earl Morris

Secretary: Kris Samraj

Treasurer, Finance, and Budget: Larry Godin

Programmes: Allan Jensen

Casino: Judy Morris

Director at Large: Len Sharland

Historian: Lorine Marshall

Newsletter Editor and Membership: Barbara Watson

Bookkeeper: Brenda Bryce

PROGRAMMES

1. May 23, 2019 - **Annual General Meeting**

Esplanade Studio Theatre - 7:00p.m.

2 **Programme:** Tom Hamp and Laurel Schlaht will make a brief presentation about the Living History project, its past, present, and future.

Living History Project Report for AGM

The Rural and Ranching Video Project (Laurel Schlaht, Pat Cook and Frank Webber) is now being concluded. The following interviews have been done and are being finalized in post production:

<u>Interviewee</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>
Helen Gilham	Laurel Schlaht
Dave Spencer	Allan Jensen
Evelyn Hausauer	Laurel Schlaht
Everett Burk	Pat Cook
Marilyn Burk	Laurel Schlaht
Ben Hern	Don McLennan
Don McLennan	Laurel Schlaht
Doug Ellis	Laurel Schlaht
Lyle Taylor	Dave Spencer
Gena LaCoste	Tom Hamp

Several of these are now being broadcast on Shaw Cable 10 (now Shaw Spotlight).

The project has been ably run by Laurel Schlaht who conducts a large amount of research for each interview, Laurel coming from a solid ranching background herself.

For the May 23 AGM, Laurel has chosen 15 minutes from the Ben Hern interview. Ben Hern is a rancher in the Bindloss Area, and 1977 Canadian All-Around Cowboy Champion.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and hope you enjoy the presentation

3. September 26, 2019

Speaker: Darren Tanke (author and scientist) from the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller will highlight Hope Johnson and the publication of the book about her lifelong contributions to the visual arts (painting, drawing, illustration, and the world of science and palaeontology.). The program serves as a book launch for the Medicine Hat region and copies will be available for sale.

Don't forget:

Casino News: Please mark **September 12 and 13, 2019** on your calendar and consider strongly volunteering to work at the Casino those days. We earn a substantial amount of money this way, which goes to our operating budget. Thank you, Judy Morris, for continuing to organize this event. Contact Judy as soon as you can to commit to contributing this valuable fundraising effort:

403 529-9231 - ejmorris@shaw.ca.

Treading In the Footsteps of Dinosaurs - proposed trip

A unique experience to explore on-site fossil beds amid awe-inspiring landscapes set in some of the finest badlands to be found in North America; a full-day experience.

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019

Location: dinosaur Provincial Park (48 km northeast of Brooks)

Transportation: bus or car-pool (TBA)



Credit: Robin and Arlene Karpan

Dinosaur Provincial Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site about a half-hour drive northeast of Brooks. The park is situated in the valley of the Red Deer River, which is noted for its striking badland topography. The park is well known for being one of the richest dinosaur fossil locales in the world. Fifty-eight dinosaur species have been discovered at the park and more than 500 specimens have been removed and exhibited in museums around the globe. The renowned fossil assemblage of nearly 500 species of life, from microscopic fern spores to large carnivorous dinosaurs, justified its becoming a World Heritage Site in 1979.

An hors d'oeuvre - appetizer - Vorspeise - for a September article. The executive has spent some time on a project many of you will remember - the windows salvaged from the St. Theresa Academy that was and is no more. Many historically inclined members will certainly be interested in what has happened to them. At this point a select group is meeting to discuss the future of these windows that came from France in 1913. If I said any more, I might break some glass, so I will add a photo taken on May 8, by Tom Hamp with his iPhone. To be continued



One of the beautiful stained-glass windows, which is now in storage and awaits its future.

School House in Pioneer Village - located in the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Grounds

Our speakers in March gave us a wonderful overview of the entire village, but I was asked to expand on or put a magnifying glass on the School House. Delle Lovig has been part of the school house promotion for several years, and invited me to take a closer look. Delle, Doug Glock, and I met to enter a place where learning took place in McKay Creek school which was south of Walsh. The first building was built in 1927 but destroyed by a fire started by lightning in 1933. The second school was built in 1934 and in operation until 1961. One of the teachers was Miss Rockman, who must have taught several grades in this one room school. No information is available about her, but those of us who were teachers will sympathize with her challenge of attending to the needs of such an age range of youngsters. 1991 school moved to Pioneer Village. We took our time inspecting myriad artifacts of those days in school life. One enchanting item was the school lunch pail - usually an empty syrup pail or a five-pound lard pail. These pails had a wire

handle, and a metal cover. The pail in this school was a Rogers' Golden Syrup that held 10 pounds net. That's quite a size. A school lunch in the dirty thirties would have rattled around in either of those containers. Some children had a chicken leg or a hard-boiled egg for a substantial lunch. Sandwiches with lard sprinkled with salt or cocoa were more common. Anyone with cakes and cookies was envied by the rest. The lovely essay from which I took this information gives much more information. When you visit the schoolhouse next, be sure to read it. It is taped beside the pail.

There are photographs of a number of classes, from 1942 to 1958. The clothes say so much about these children as do their hairstyles. As Archie Bunker would say, "girls were girls," and I would say that boys were dressed for life on a farm with jeans and overalls. It is highly unlikely that any boy would wear bib overalls to school today, and most girls do wear pants. In those days girls wore skirts or dresses.

There were maps on the walls, and I for one remember the Mercator projection that was advertising for Neilson's Jersey Milk and Crispy Crunch. One of the maps was given to the school in 1935. Considering their plain lunches, did the children dream of chocolate bars while doing geography?

There is also a unique globe where the oceans are black and colours used on the landmasses are in pastel colours of yellow, pink, and blue. It would be a history lesson to check the borders on those maps and that globe against today's countries' boundaries. Above the teacher's desk there is a copper plaque given to any school that requested one. It was to commemorate confederation - 1867-1929. At that point this school was already a museum. Who applied for the plaque?

It is time to come to the people who work as volunteers to promote the school. Delle is one of a host of retired teachers who spend their time showing this wonderful relic of the past. They reveal something to children and adults who would never have known how their great grand parents learned the basics of literacy and calculation. Those children learned how to interact with one another without social media and went on to become members of the adult communities where they grew up. Maybe they moved on to other communities. We could take this a little farther and research the names of the children in the classes pictured. Allan Jensen recognized one name - Ron Mund - who became a writer. Researching the names underneath these pictures and telling the stories of the ordinary and extraordinary lives they lived would be quite an adventure!

Delle asked me to be sure to tell that the teachers run a 50/50 draw in the summer and have a pre-Christmas party with hot chocolate and a horse-drawn wagon ride. I think that teachers cannot help involving themselves in the adventures of this school house. They have to pass on information that is valuable and enjoy entertaining children of all ages. They invite you to enter the school house and see how memories of your own school experiences surface. See the strap on the desk? The mannequin teacher looks sweet, but there is that strap in front of her.

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.

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.

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

Membership Dues

Thanks to those who updated their memberships to the end of May 2019. If you have not done so, 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 your best 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 that form. I have a few receipts to hand out. Stop by at the meeting to pick up yours. BMW

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

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

Address.....
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.....

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