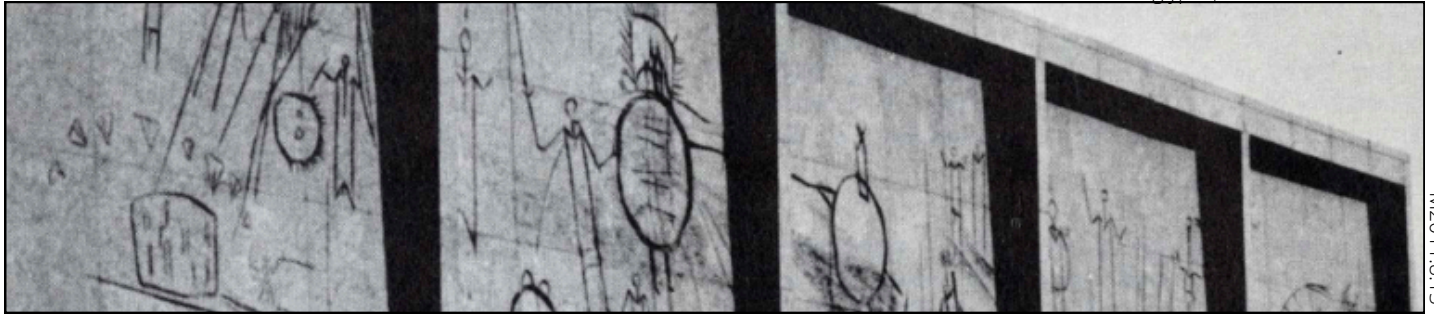


# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Medicine Hat and District Newsletter

Petroglyphs, Edmonton ca. 1970



M2011.8:13

## President's Message

*Medicine Hat and District Historical Society*

One of the things that I appreciate about being the President of our Society is that I get to work with passionate, knowledgeable and dedicated people on the Board of Directors. They are also polite. These days too many people are rudely shouting past each other, neither side really listening, nor trying to understand and little seems to be accomplished.

Your Board does not work that way. Our sessions can get emotional, because all us care about this community, our Society and the work we are tasked to do. One of my jobs is to make certain everyone is heard, but I find it relatively easy since your Directors want to hear each others opinions and the evidence which they bring to the table.

We have recently been discussing important questions regarding where we meet and how we conduct our Meetings. You, our Members, were asked to fill out a survey and almost half did; which statistically is a very good polling of opinion. We had some clear direction from you on several points, while others were more divided. We also contacted a considerable number of facilities in town for information on availability, equipment and cost, among several factors. Taken together these information fueled a vigorous, yet polite discussion which led us to what we hope will be an enjoyable experience for you in the coming year.

Some work is still required before we can make any announcements. Locations and dates need to be finalized, while a new Board coming in will have to decide who does what and when. It promises to be an interesting and exciting time.

And to think that we were able to do it without insulting, belittling or demonizing each other!

We hope to see you all at our upcoming AGM on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering for our Board, please feel free to connect with us for more details, as we look forward to another successful year for the Historical Society, together.

Sincerely;

*R.B. Shepard*

President  
Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

## Next Meeting:

**AGM May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

**doors @ 5pm, Holy Family Parish**

**Show and Tell Event**

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# Historical Society Programs

*Show and Tell Night at the AGM*

*R.B Shepard*

We are at that point in our year when we need to look back and evaluate what we have accomplished. We have had several very good speakers, but attendance has fluctuated. Our two best responses have been to a controversial topic, by a speaker from elsewhere, and to a well known local speaker on a local topic.

While at first glance this appears to be a division, upon reflection it says that you, the Membership, and potential new Members in the community, want both. It will probably not be easy, but we will try. We can reach out to the scholarly communities of our Province to see who is interested and available to join us on the days we meet. Local speakers can also be a challenge to arrange as we have found over the years. As always, please get your suggestions to me.

While not everyone is comfortable with computers, there is an exciting option which we may want to try. Zoom is a service, to which we can subscribe, which would allow us to invite speakers from around the Province, across the Country, and even internationally, to present to us electronically. Although some help may be required, it would also allow shut ins and rural Members to take part from the comfort of their own homes. Should we try it? Again, please give us your thoughts.

At our upcoming AGM on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will again be hosting the ever popular Show and Tell Night for our Program. If you would like to bring your items for Show and Tell, please connect with Sheila Tiegs (403-580-8283) or Lynne Rance (403-527-7914 ) before **May 15<sup>th</sup>** to R.S.V.P.



A selection of arrowheads brought to the Show and Tell event, ca. 2016  
Credit: Submitted Photograph, Allan Jensen

# Modern Hands, Ancient Symbols

*Luke Lindoe's Work on the Petroglyphs in Edmonton*

by J. Barrientos

If you have lived in Medicine Hat for any length of time, you should easily recognize the name of Luke Lindoe. Luke Orton Lindoe (1913–2000) was a pioneering Canadian artist, ceramicist, sculptor, and entrepreneur who played a foundational role in shaping Alberta's visual arts and ceramics landscape. Born in Bashaw, Alberta, he spent much of his life in Medicine Hat, where he became a central figure in our mid-century art scene.

Lindoe's early years were marked by instability; he attended 28 different schools but never actually completed high school. The Archives has a very interesting collection of images of Lindoe's early life, donated by his family and his estate after his death. Many images come with the air of mystery - like the photo to the right - where it was taken, or what the monument was for, has not yet been explored. Lindoe's youth was nomadic at best, and we have many images of Lindoe in various landscapes: at the lake in B.C, on a farm in Alberta, moving a house in Saskatchewan.

By the 1930s, he worked as an underground coal miner while studying painting and sculpture at the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary (now Alberta University of the Arts). He later pursued sculpture at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto, where he developed a lasting interest in ceramics.

Lindoe's career was multifaceted—he was a painter, ceramicist, teacher, and businessman. He was among the first Canadian ceramic artists to receive public commissions for large-scale murals and sculptures. Some of his notable works include the cast concrete Virgin Mary and Christ Child on St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary and limestone relief panels on the Alberta Provincial Museum and Archives in Edmonton.



Esplanade Archives Image: Luke Lindoe as a young boy, in front of a monument.

0868:0039

# Lindoe, con't

*Artistic Legacy in Petroglyphs and in Time*

by J. Barrientos

In particular, the limestone relief panels on the side of what was formerly the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton, have been in the forefront of late, due to the Province exploring the possibility of demolishing the building. Lindoe worked on these panels over the course of three years. The petroglyphs are inspired by the petroglyphs at Writing-On-Stone/Áísínai'pi but are not a true exact replica of them.

Lindoe was creatively attentive with his work on the petroglyphs, as he wanted to be faithful to their origins but not to fully replicate or copy them.



Esplanade Archives

M2011.8.13

Interestingly, Lindoe refused to sign the finished artwork, despite the amazing amount of creative energy and time spent on the project. This was perhaps due in part to the difficulties that Lindoe faced during and after the commission was completed. Information from the Archives details the financial and tax issues that Lindoe faced about the work; the provincial government refused to pay for the commission in increments, meaning that Lindoe had to pay taxes on the entire lump sum at the end, causing him to lose a substantial amount of money.

Lindoe in a 1965 letter said of his ongoing work on the petroglyphs: “there is nowhere else in Alberta to see such sights as these original petroglyphs [in Writing-on-Stone]. I think they are entities from the mind of the artist, just as we see them. The artists are sensitive and much more intellectual than is at first obvious. I hope to do them justice.” (Esplanade Archives, M2011.08.13).

For the time being, you can still view the petroglyphs, along the side of the former Royal Alberta Museum building, though its eventual future is uncertain.



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Esplanade Archives, Luke Lindoe in his studio

*Samples of the petroglyphs from Writing-on-Stone (right)*

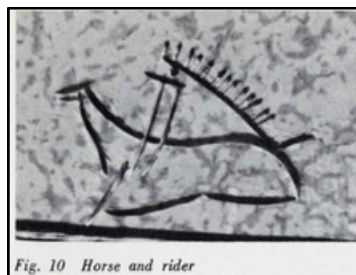


Fig. 10 Horse and rider

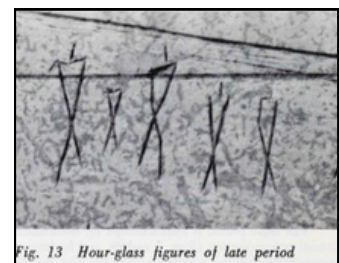


Fig. 13 Hour-glass figures of late period

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# The Ewart Duggan House

*Oldest Brick Residence in Alberta*

*by J. Barrientos*

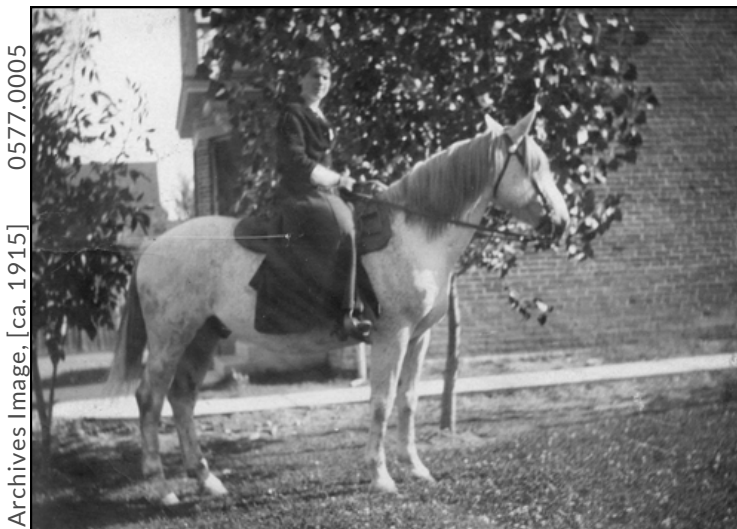
Many of you will be quite familiar with the downtown landmark of the Ewart-Duggan House. If you've ever wished to take a look inside, the Esplanade is offering Open Days for the public this summer.

Located beside the Esplanade, The Ewart-Duggan House is the oldest brick residence in Alberta, and was built by John Ewart in 1887. Ewart's daughter, Jacqueline "Jackie" Duggan, lived in the house for over 80 years until her death, in 1987. From there, the house was designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in 1993, and eventually donated to the Esplanade in 2002. In 2010, the Ewart-Duggan House received a beautiful front garden makeover, restoring the front grounds of the house to a more historically accurate look.

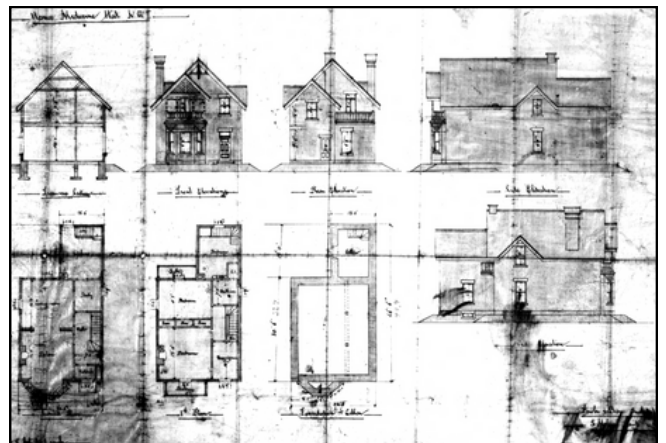
The white picket fence was remade using historic images as a guide, and heritage garden plants such as rhubarb and prairie roses were chosen to fill out the space. Today, the garden is managed by volunteers from the Medicine Hat and District Horticultural Association, who do a beautiful job making the Ewart-Duggan house garden a welcoming historic area for anyone to visit. Of note, the public is welcome to walk through the gardens at any time.

Currently, the City of Medicine Hat is hosting open house dates for anyone to view the interior of the Ewart-Duggan House. Normally by appointment only, these open house dates allow you to explore the remarkable residence, and immerse yourself in the stories of those who once lived there through hands-on, heritage inspired activities. The Open Days are: May 17, 24, 31, and June 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 1 to 4pm. No registration is required, you can drop in and enjoy!

While you're there, feel free to take a look through a recreated photo album, with images from the Archives, including images of the original floorplans and blueprints from 1887. One of my favourite images is a picture of Jackie Duggan as a young woman, on a horse, in the side yard of the Ewart-Duggan house (below). If you stand near that spot today, and look at the bricks on the side of the house, you will see one that is carved with "H.E. Duggan, June 24, 1928". Hector Ewart Duggan, was Jackie's oldest son, (born 1915) and as a naughty 13 year old, and seemingly carved his name in the side of his brick house! Truly, a place full of history, and available to tour at the upcoming Open Days.



Archives Image, [ca. 1915] 0577.0005



Original blueprints for the floorplan of the Ewart-Duggan House, ca. 1887. Esplanade Archives Image 0329.0021

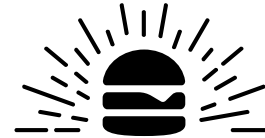
# Membership Information

Join us at our Upcoming AGM

by Sheila Tiegs

Our Annual General Meeting will be held May 22nd, with dinner served at 6pm at the Holy Family Parish on Strachan Way. The doors will be open at 5pm, cost will be \$20 per person, paid at the door, plus your \$10 membership renewal fee. The menu for the meal will include: salad, baked beans, dessert and hamburgers! There will be a short annual meeting, followed by our Show and Tell. We encourage you all to bring your antiques and antiques. We would appreciate if you would let us know by May 15<sup>th</sup> if you will be attending. Please call Lynne Rance at 403-527-7914 or Sheila Tiegs at 403-580-8283 to R.S.V.P.

As a reminder, Memberships expire in May and must be renewed. We hope to see you all there!



# Historical Society Display Case

Our Historical Society display case at the front lobby area of the Esplanade is looking sharp once again, with a new feature exhibit on “St. Theresa’s Academy: The Convent”.

The case includes local and sourced artefacts, and copies of archival and museum materials related to St. Theresa’s, which was in operation from 1914 to its demolition in 1973.



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.histsocmedhat.ca)

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- |                      |                    |
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