

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Medicine Hat and District Newsletter



View of Burnside 02921.0006

President's Message

Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

As the year is coming to a close it is my hope that all of our members are staying healthy and secure in this rather tumultuous time. In the interim we, as the executive and board of directors, have determined that it would be prudent to postpone face to face general membership meetings until such time as the province lifts or reduces their restrictions on public gatherings. Our primary focus regarding this matter is to protect the health and safety of our members and provide a safe venue to conduct the business of the society.

One of the key things that I feel is important is maintaining a connection with our members that has been lacking in the past year. To this end we are organizing a Christmas dinner for December 16, 2021 at Paradise Valley. We are excited to offer a chance for our members to connect.

Something you may notice is that the name of the newsletter has changed. This is something that I, as president, fully support and endorse as we move the Society into a new socially open and respectful world. The original name of the newsletter was "Bulletins" and a change to "Smoke Signals" was made sometime in the 1980's to reflect the districts loose connection to an indigenous presence. However, over time the name has brought on a somewhat negative connotation that we as the Society should strive to avoid. We will strive to have a simple title for our high-quality and informative newsletter that reflects our focus on the respectful and inclusive preservation of history.

The Society has been pursuing the Living History project through our dedicated committee. The executive is also involved in provided some limited historical background in another interview conducted through Shaw Spotlight. The work continues on these projects and our own sponsored programs.

In closing I will implore our members to be mindful of the sacrifices our Canadian Forces have made to ensure we live a free and prosperous nation. Take a moment to remember those who have been lost to foreign conflicts and pay respect to them in your own way. Please do extend that respect to others during this time and the decisions they have made regarding their personal health and safety. This is not a time to be divisive or angry; it is a time to be understanding, respectful and compassionate.

I remain, respectfully, at your service.

Sincerely,
Wes Krause

1 President, Historical Society

Next Meeting:

No planned meetings at this time

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Historical Society's Christmas Dinner

We Welcome you to Attend our Soiree!

Judy Morris & Executives

With some of the restrictions being relaxed, we thought we would try to get as many of our members as possible to come out for Christmas dinner on **December 16th starting at 5:00 pm.** at Paradise Valley Par 3 Golf Club. This is a very fine establishment and the food is very good. Also, with having our dinner at this site, we won't have to have a minimum number of guests.

When booking your dinner the first option is - there is a lovely Christmas turkey dinner with trimmings for \$35.00, including tax and tip of 15%.

The second way would be to ask for any of the following options:

- Asian Stir-fry (\$18+tax+tip) totals \$22.00,
- Pesto and Asiago Chicken Fettuccine (\$18 +,+) totals \$22.00
- Baked Parmesan Garlic Shrimp (\$20 +, +) totals \$24.00 and
- Bacon wrapped meatloaf (\$21 +tax+tip} totals \$25.00.

The Society will be providing you with a decadent dessert of Chocolate cake with candy cane bark, as our gift!

Our process with this dinner will be each member wishing to attend will let us know, by phone or email at the numbers below, your meal choice. Then, on the evening of the event, pay Paradise Valley the amount owing for the meal ordered. We are hopeful everyone who acknowledges they will attend, do follow through with the plans.

We will need to know whether you wish to attend, and what you wish us to order for you by no later than 6pm, Monday, December 13.

Please note: the restaurant has the same restrictions as other restaurants for dine-in service. It has been 2 years since we all got together - please come out and share a bit of this wonderful season.

Judy Morris

My telephone numbers are 403-529-9231 (H) or 403-952-7796 (C)

Email: MorrisJudy92@gmail.com



Image Courtesy of Esplanade Archives, FL00159B

Colonel Scholten's Hill

The Colloquial Naming of Scholten Hill

by J. Barrientos

Have you ever travelled around Medicine Hat and wondered, what's in a name? Many landmarks have been around for so long, that some of their nuanced beginnings can get lost to time. I was recently asked by someone new to the area, about a few interesting local names. A double take was had when I heard: "Why do you call Carry Drive, 'Scholten Hill'?"

Imagine my surprise when I realized it wasn't *actually* named Scholten Hill. While I couldn't find any definitive naming story, I would say that Scholten Hill was named most likely after Colonel Dirk A. Scholten. Colonel Scholten was many things to Medicine Hat, including manager of the Cecil Hotel, rancher, former president of the Cypress Club, automobile dealer, Alderman (1948-1952), and chairman of the Medicine Hat Stampede Company Ltd.

Col. Scholten lead a colourful life. Born in Holland in 1903, he settled first in Saskatchewan, before joining the reserve Army in 1938. He was the commanding officer of the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers Battalion, and rose quickly through the ranks. According to the Medicine Hat News, his accomplishments were so great (yet so secretive that they couldn't be spoken about) that the royal family in Holland commissioned a portrait of him (image below). He married a nurse, Velma Thompson, of Edmonton and after the war they settled in Medicine Hat. He had many connections, and multiple jobs and positions throughout Medicine Hat, but was perhaps best known for his work on the Medicine Hat Stampede. Through his connections, he was able to negotiate with the Canadian Army and secured the Prisoner of War buildings to be used for the Stampede, at a cost of \$1.00. He retired from the general manager role with the Stampede in 1975.



Undated

Archives Image 0055.0127

As I mentioned, I was not able to find any official naming rights to Scholten Hill. In fact, if you search online or using any maps, you will not see the name "Scholten Hill" listed--but instead it is called formally, Carry Drive.

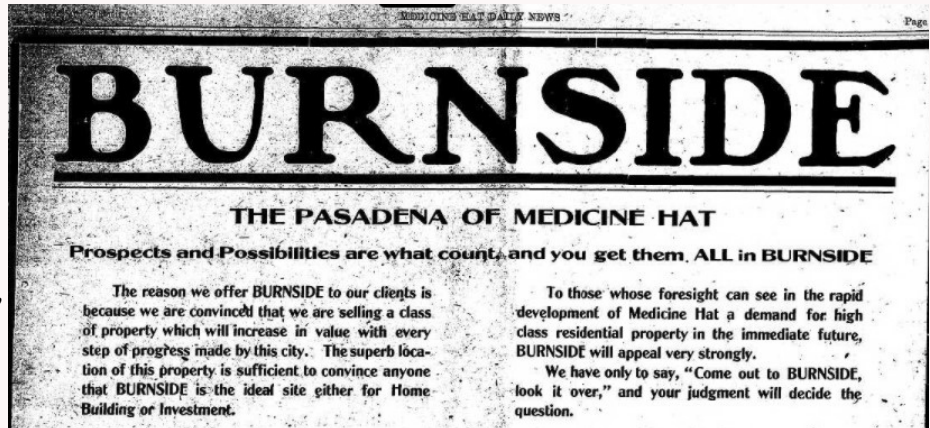
Ask any local though, and you will undoubtedly hear "Scholten Hill" being used in an every day sense. Upon a search of the Medicine Hat News, the first reference to "Scholten Hill" being used occurred in 1977, which was two years after Col. Scholten retired from his work with the Medicine Hat Stampede. Also considering that Scholten Hill itself is a wonderful landmark, near to where the Stampede Grounds are, it is likely that the locals of the time took to 'naming' that portion of Carry Drive after the colourful Colonel Scholten.

Burnside's Boom and Bust

The Plans of What Could Have Been in Burnside

by J. Barrientos

A small, unassuming area of Medicine Hat, located near the TransCanada Highway, in Riverside, is called Burnside. Currently used as agricultural land, the area is lush and green for most of the summer, and rather forgotten in the winter. Yet, Burnside was a prospect in the early years of Medicine Hat, and was described at one time as "the choicest residential section of the city", and "destined to become Medicine Hat's most fashionable residential area." Named after local entrepreneur A.P. Burns, Burnside was a classic Boom and Bust story.



The property was 351 acres purchased in 1911 by the newly created Burnside Development Company for \$25,000. Members of the Burnside Development Company include local early pioneers such as H.L. Tweed, C.S. Pingle (of Pingle's Drugstore), A.P. Burns, and Dr. C.F. Smith.

The area was prime development, close to the city. Soon, a portion of the Burnside area was sold to a development company, Perry, Sewell & Perry, to create residential lots, and was to be called the Windsor Terrace subdivision. The News heavily reported about the sale, valued at almost

\$500,000 in 1913 (a stunning \$13.8 million in today's dollars). While gas lines were secured and speculated for the area for residential use, suddenly 160 acres was sold back to Burnside Ltd., for \$192,000 in early 1913.

No residential development commenced in the area, despite the hype and speculation, and by 1919 the entirety of the property is owned again by Burnside Company, and is used for farmland. By 1923, the Burnside Co. Ltd includes only A.P Burns as president, and C.S. Pingle.

The company applies in 1925 to irrigate the land in its entirety, and cements its fate as agricultural land, and it never becomes the "Pasadena of Medicine Hat".



Irrigation at Burnside. [ca. 1919]

Archives Image 0466.0020

Medicine Hat Daily News, Nov 1911

Echo Dale's Echo In Time

Echo Dale Farm to Echo Dale Regional Park

by J. Barrientos



Echo Dale ca. 1980s

Image 1003.0013.0044

Some might be interested to learn that Echo Dale Regional Park is a fairly 'new' park, as it was formally opened on May 16, 1987. Of course, some still might know that it was first a farm, as the farmhouse still stands at the site and is sometimes used for historical re-enactments and tours.

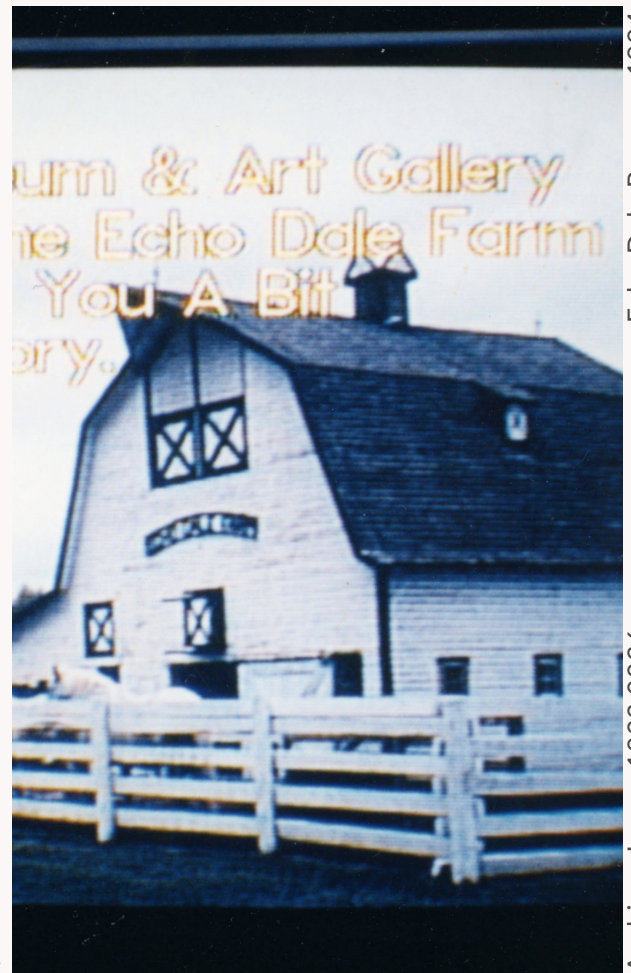
Echo Dale Farm was first owned by the Millington Family. The family had many adventures in farming, and were well known for their Dairy Cows. The barn, the residence and other structures at Echo Dale Farm still stand today.

Frank Millington first worked at a farm site called Golden Valley (sometimes attributed as "Golden Vally Farm" and met his soon-to-be business partner, Bill Weir.

Together, they decided to open a farming operation near the city. Mr. Millington eventually would partner with Bill's son, Charlie Weir, and together they built Echo Dale Farm from the ground up.

As for the interesting name of "Echo Dale", the Archives has a first person account from Frank Millington: "One summer evening, Charlie Weir and I decided to go repair the fence between the pasture and the alfalfa. It was about 8pm. The fence ran under a power line, that is still there across the flat and river. I was tightening the wires, Charlie was stapling a few yards away. I shouted to him, to ask if the wire was tight enough. The echo of my voice came back as clear as a bell from the cliffs across the river. It was so clear it was hard to believe. I suggested to Charlie we name the place Echo Valley Farm, after Golden Valley Farm, [which Frank had worked at in the 1920s]. After going through a few more names, we decided to register it Echo Dale Farm in 1947."

Frank Millington owned Echo Dale Farm until 1966, when he sold it to Perry Minor. In the 1980s, the City of Medicine Hat bought the land, and established Echo Dale Regional Park, with a swimming area, boating area, baseball diamonds and many other outdoor activity spaces.



Echo Dale Barn ca.1994

Archives Image 1023.0036

Membership Dues

Join the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

Membership dues for 2022 are now due. Any members who paid for 2021 will have their memberships extended to 2022.

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 Smoke Signals Newsletter via email or printed copy.

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



*Please join us for our
Christmas Dinner on December 16th at 5pm
At Paradise Valley Par 3 Golf Course*

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 jenutr@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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