

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Medicine Hat and District Newsletter

Indigenous Archery Contest, Banff



0658-001-0096

Interim/Acting President's Message

Next Meeting:

November 24, 2022

@7pm, Esplanade Studio Theatre

Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

Greetings all;

First of all, there have been changes to the Board:

- Wes Krause will be retiring from the Board early in January, and Barbara Watson has also resigned – we wish them both well and expect to present them with awards in appreciation of their service these past several years at a future General Meeting.
- We welcome the arrival of our new Secretary: Leahandra Peterson. Leahandra is a highly capable and intelligent young lady and brings youth, enthusiasm and computer skills to this important position. We wish her well in her new role!

Also on a positive note, I am renewing my commitment to remaining in the President's role until the AGM in May 2023, at which time, Judy Morris will assume the role until another incoming president can be found. Regarding the latter, current First Vice President - Nick Martin – has indicated substantial changes in his life will prevent him from becoming President in May 2023, as is normally the case for the First Vice President Position. Nick may remain in his position for the time being.

We have had two very worthwhile funding requests from Lorine Marshall (\$2,000 for a new oral/video history project) and from Jenni Barrientos (\$5,000 for a book entitled "Saratoga Park in Medicine Hat"). Both projects have received Board approval. However, because both require revising (again) the recently approved/modified budget, they will be advanced for members' final approval in a revised budget at the late-January program meeting.

Finally, the annual Christmas Dinner will again be held on December 15 at the Paradise Valley Golf Course. Dinner will be traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings and dessert. Cost will be \$30/person for members and guests, payable to Judy Morris. We wish to thank Judy for her extraordinary efforts in organizing these well-received events!

Further announcements will be made at the General Meeting on November 24th at 7pm in the Studio Theatre, Esplanade. There will be an exciting Program at the meeting, which you will find more information on below.

See you all on November 24!
Cheers,

Tom Hamp

Acting/Interim President

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Historical Society Christmas Dinner

THE MEDICINE HAT AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO INVITE MEMBERS AND GUESTS
TO THE ANNUAL 2022 CHRISTMAS DINNER



WHEN: DECEMBER 15TH, 6PM

WHERE: PARADISE VALLEY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

COST: \$30 PER PERSON

PLEASE RSVP TO JUDY MORRIS, 403-529-9231 OR EJ.MORRIS@SHAW.CA.

CUT OFF DATE IS AT 12 NOON, DECEMBER 12TH TO SECURE YOUR SEAT.

Historical Society Upcoming Program

Presenting: The Canadians at Passchendaele

Bruce Shepard

Norman Leach is a historian, award winning freelance writer, professional speaker and adventurer. He has written twelve books on military history including the best-sellers "Passchendaele," "Cavalry of the Air," and "Sam Steele."

Norman was also the historian on a number of movies and documentaries including: "Passchendaele" – the Canadian WW1 Epic produced, directed and starring Paul Gross. His documentary credits include "The Road to Passchendaele" which aired on Global, "The Mad Trapper of Rat River" on Discovery and "Hitler's Stealth Fighter" – a National Geographic documentary.

He has received the Canada 125 Medal for his community service, the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for telling the stories of Canada's soldiers and the Alberta Centennial Medal for establishing Global Fest - the International Fireworks Festival in Calgary.

Norman is in constant demand speaking at Universities, conferences, schools and historical societies across Canada as he brings Canadian history to life in his speeches and presentations. We are pleased and excited to be welcoming Norman Leach, Historian, for our upcoming Program on November 24th. We hope you can attend.



Norman Leach, Historian

All the Best,

Bruce Shepard

Programs Director

Credit: Speakers Bureau
of Canada

History in My Movements

The Roots of Archery

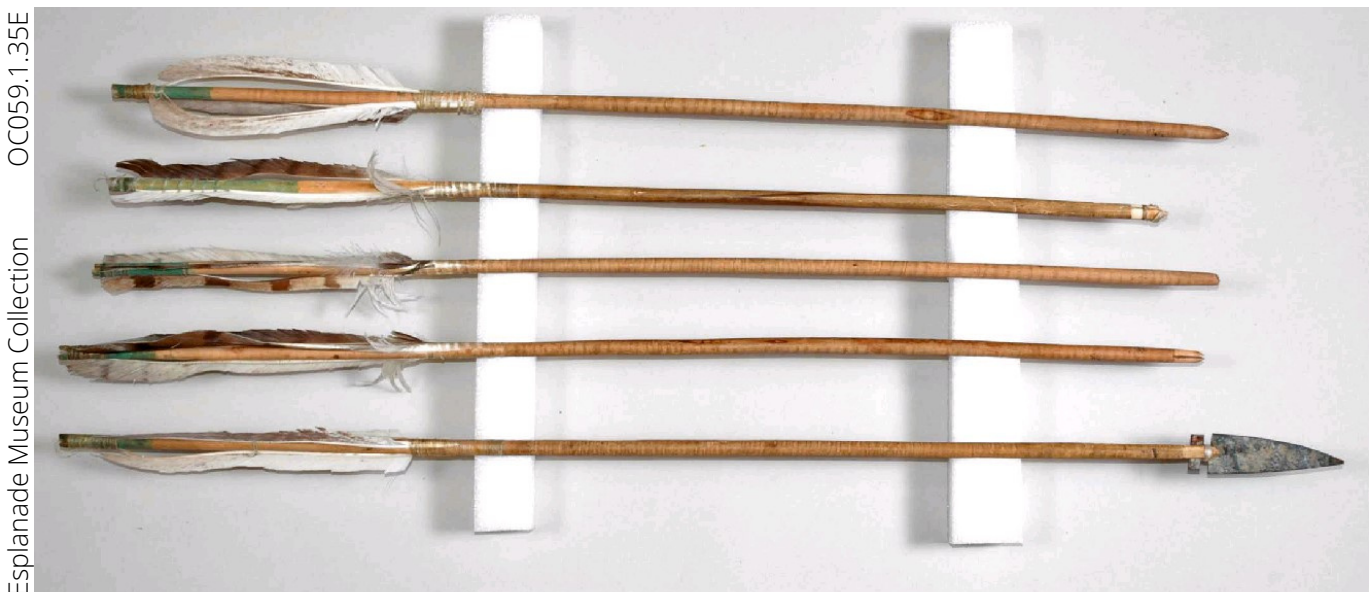
by Lomikia Gerling-Douglas, Freelance Writer

Archery has long since been a sport that has captured my attention. I was obsessed with this weapon of choice for some of my favourite mythological characters from a young age. Enchanted as I was with Greek culture and myth, you can only imagine why Artemis enchanted me the most. Her skill with the bow and arrow danced in my dreams and immediately found its mark, much like Cupid's arrow. More modern archers portrayed in fiction, like Hawkeye, Princess Merida, Robin Hood, or Katniss Everdeen were just as beloved to me as Artemis.

Alas, Archery is not just like in stories; you don't just pick up a bow and arrow to become the hero of your own story. Archery takes practice, patience, and concentration. As a child, I never dreamed that I could do anything with a bow and arrow except hang it on my wall as a reminder of stories, war, and hunting. Today, you can find that many people still practice the ancient art of Archery on and off horseback in competition. In fact, it is an Olympic sport, but how did it get there?

The earliest arrowheads found date back to 20 000 B.C. often, these were made from flint, a quartz stone that chips into sharp pieces, making it easy to produce tools and arrowheads. Over time many unique styles developed based on geography and use. For example, throughout Asia, archers were often on horseback. Therefore the longbow used to make England a military power would not have been functional. Instead, they developed shorter bows called composite bows. These bows were made of several materials glued together, such as horns, wood, or sinew. Modern-day bows use materials such as laminated wood, plastic, and fibreglass.

Arrows are as unique as their bows and are made from various materials. Arrow shafts can be made from wood, such as the ones in the image below, to fibreglass, aluminum, or carbon fibre. In contrast, arrowheads, once made of flint or bone, now use high-carbon steel.



History of Archery, con't

The Sport and the Weapon

by Lomikia Gerling-Douglas

Some arrows are heavier, while others are much lighter. Archers could use arrows to deliver messages or give off a signal by making a whistling noise. And, of course, the age-old use of poisoning arrows before firing them at the enemy. Using gunpowder made Archery obsolete, and we no longer needed a bow and arrow to hunt or wage war.

Archery, however, was not to disappear. In the late 16th century, a competition was held for the first known time in modern history. As its popularity grew as a sport, it first competed at the Olympics in 1900, and its run lasted only eight years. It wasn't until 1972 that archers of the time were able to establish it as a permanent program among the games. In 2022, we are no longer limited to composite bows or longbows.

Archers like me enjoy a recurve barebow. You can learn to shoot using only your intuition, like fictional Katniss Everdeen or add equipment like that of classic Olympic archers. Whatever your choice of bow, your technique will be your only focus as you learn to go through the shooting cycle. Even young children were often taught Archery classes as a part of their sports and education, such as the image below of two local Boy Scouts, B. Buchanan and T. Allen, learning archery on a simple wooden bow in the 1930s.



Esplanade Archives (1992)

1075.0162



Esplanade Archives

1098. 0146

Archery is teaching me a level of discipline that eluded me much of my life and has taught me to reflect inwardly.

Whenever I shoot, I must reflect on what my body is doing. Have I taken the correct stance? Is my bow sitting in the V of my hand, or is my grip too strong? Should I loosen it up? And what about my shoulders? Have I activated the muscles in my shoulder? There are so many body parts, from my fingers to my head, that I must train to move as our ancestors did to execute the shot cycle. History seeps through every movement of an archer's body and brings forth a long-forgotten intuition.

Lomikia Gerling-Douglas is a Freelance Writer, currently based out of Germany. They have made visits to the Esplanade Archives, and enjoy writing historical articles and original fiction.

Medicine Hat Ice Derby

The Icy Prize taken by the Precise Bidder

by J. Barrientos

FLAGPOLE SET FOR ICE DERBY

Finlay Bridge users may have noted a miniature flagpole this morning securley sunk in the ice.

It looks like the work of the fish and game boys and probably is an indication that plans are maturing for the spring ice derby.

The pole was planted by Imperial Oil Interests, Tom Irwin and Alex McMillan, for the sportsmen's club. It is located about 100 feet offshore from The News office.

Medicine Hat News, January 26, 1949

Before there were smart phones and on-demand TV programmes, you had to find fun and games in a little more of a creative way. Especially during the long, cold, winter months. Of course, there are the classic outdoor winter sports, but what about something with a little more pizzazz?

I'm talking about the annual Medicine Hat Ice Derby. You might think to yourself: that this sounds like yet-another outdoor sport, but you'd be a little off the mark. The Ice Derby was actually a city-wide betting extravaganza. What were people betting on, you might ask? The bets were on when the winter ice break up would happen on the South Saskatchewan River. The Ice Derby was usually set up by the "boys at the Fish and Game Association", and it was quite an inventive affair. The Fish and Game Association used the event as a fundraiser, usually netting the group over \$300 in proceeds.

The thrill of the game started in early winter, when a slim pole was firmly planted in the ice on the river. From the pole, a long, thin signal wire was led across to a timing clock. When the ice broke up and the pole started moving down the river, the clock would exactly register the time of breakup. The person who was closest to that time, by date, hour and yes--even minute--would win the grand prize of \$100 (almost \$1300 in today's dollars!). Each person could place their bet, down to the minute, and would wait until spring to see if they picked the right prediction.

The Medicine Hat News provided a bit of context for the contest in 1949, by publishing the past 6 years' winning times, which you can see on the right. With each person only being able to pick one day, hour and minute slot - it meant that the winner didn't have to share the prize, and you had to bet early!

The Ice Derby ran from at least 1943-1952, but the year 1953 was too unseasonably warm, and the Derby was called off due to lack of ice. After that, the Derby never seemed to get off the ground again; and floated off into the icy flows of people's memories.

An electric timing clock is now in position in The News editorial office in connection with the Fish and Game Association's South Saskatchewan ice derby.

It is just one of the steps in advance planning to put this ice derby business on a reliable footing this year. The clock will eventually be connected by a signal wire with the pole which has been sunk in the ice in the river opposite The News office.

The wire will break the electric connection to the clock when the pole moves out and this will be the official time to decide the derby. The ice break in the South Saskatchewan occurred at the following times in past years:

- 1948—April 16, 2:10 p.m.
- 1947—March 21, 12:12 midnight.
- 1946—March 15, 3:05 p.m.
- 1945—March 23, 11:55 p.m.
- 1944—April 3, 8:05 p.m.
- 1943—March 29, 9:10 p.m.

Readers may keep these times for reference in making estimates on the 1949 break-up for the fish and game contest. Tickets will soon be available for the ice derby.

Medicine Hat News, January 28, 1949

Membership Dues

Join the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

Membership dues for 2022-2023 are now past due.

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 Historical Society Newsletter via email or printed copy. *If you do not remain up to date, this might be the last copy of the Newsletter you receive!* 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

This day in History

November 19, 1913

Cold and Flu season is nothing new. Though, this interesting concoction might not be our tonic of choice. An advertisement in the Medicine Hat News for Mathieu's Syrup in 1913 happily announced the included ingredients such as Tar and Cod Liver oil. Though, the instructions for use were even more dire - for a head cold, one should "sneeze up a dessert-spoonful" of the stuff. Yikes.

A bottle of Mathieu's Syrup is housed in the Museum of Health Care in Kingston, Ontario.



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

Executives

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Tom Hamp | Interim President |
| Wes Krause | Past President |
| Nick Martin | 1st Vice President |
| Earl Morris | 2nd Vice President |
| Leahandra Peterson | Secretary |
| Judy Morris | Treasurer |

Board of Directors

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Bruce Shepard | Programs |
| Sheila Tiegs | Book Sales |
| Jenni Barrientos | Newsletter Editor |
| Lynn Rance | Membership |
| Don Weiss | Director-At-Large |