

Lethbridge Historical Society Newsletter

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For your Growing LHS Book Collection

Coming Events

Thursday, September 16 @ 7pm

Galt Museum

Reader's Theatre and Book Launch for

We Don't Talk About Those Women: Lethbridge's Red Light District 1880s to 1944 by Belinda Crowson

Tuesday, September 28 at 7 pm

Barons: Wheat Heart of the West

Meet either in the Galt parking lot at 6:15 pm to carpool or

@ 7 pm at the Barons History Centre (main street Barons).

Note: special time -- 7 pm start

Tuesday, October 25 at 7:15 pm

Stirling, Village of Gardens: The Junction Town

Galt Museum & Archives Service Credit Union Learning Studio.

Wednesday, October 20 @ 7:30pm

Galt Museum

Book Launch for

The Alberta Stretch of the Milk River and the Mystique of its Surrounding Landscape by Johan Dormaar

In 1910, Lethbridge citizens had mass meetings, demonstrations and presentations regarding prostitution in Lethbridge. In 2010, the Lethbridge Historical Society published a book on Lethbridge's Red Light District.

Join us September 16, 2010, for a Readers' Theatre and book launch for *We Don't Talk About Those Women: Lethbridge's Red Light District 1880s to 1944* by Belinda Crowson. The book provides a detailed history of prostitution in

Lethbridge from the late 19th century to the Second World War and personalizes, but does not glamorize, this underground history of Lethbridge.

Time: 7:00 pm

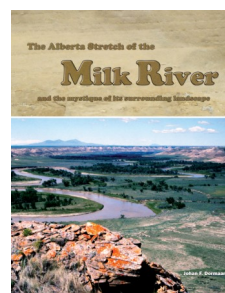
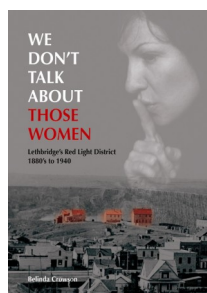
Location: Galt Museum & Archives Viewing Gallery

The Readers' Theatre highlights historical Lethbridge personalities (including Mayor Hardie, Dr. Lovering, Supt. Deane, Pearl St. Clair, Miss Miller and Madeleine) and some

of their opinions and attitudes towards the Red Light District. Actors appearing in the Readers Theatre: Bobbie Fox, Kelti Boissoneault, Lori Harasem, Duane Petluk, Bill Lingard, Richard Amery and Aaron Fitchett.

The book will be for sale following book launch: \$20 for general public (reduced price for LHS members). LHS memberships available for sale at the book launch.

The book will be for sale at select retail venues across southern Alberta starting September 17.



New Book Released on October 20 @ The Galt:

The Alberta Stretch of the Milk River and the Mystique of its Surrounding Landscape

Written by Johan Dormaar will be launched from 7:30pm to 8:30PM on October 20th at the Galt Museum. 92 pages, with 150 photos and illustrations, full colour, laminated cover, and features a fold - out 8 page full coloured section with map and Landsat 7 image of the Milk River as it flows into and out of Southern Alberta. This is the fourth book donated to us by the author. Book for sale following book launch: \$20 for general public (reduced price for LHS members). LHS memberships available for sale at the book launch.

The book will be for sale at select retail venues across southern Alberta starting October 21. Selected school and public libraries across southern Alberta will receive copies thanks to fund raising efforts.

For details, see the flyer included with this newsletter.

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Programming Notes

The title of this year's program series (2010-2011) is:

Communities of southern Alberta — Their History, Their Stories

Discover some of the many communities of southern Alberta and see how each place has its own unique story to tell.

Tuesday, September 28 at 7 pm

Wheat Heart of the West

Tour the Barons History Centre and discover the work being done by the Barons Historical Society.

Meet either in the Galt parking lot at 6:15

pm to carpool or at 7 pm at the Barons History Centre (main street Barons).

Note: this is the only program in the series that will take place outside of Lethbridge

Note: special time -- 7 pm start

Tuesday, October 25 at 7:15 pm

Village of Gardens: The Junction Town

The Village of Stirling is a National Historic Site, one of only three communities in Canada to be so designated. Discover why Stirling is known as Stirling Agricultural Village and why Stirling has been called The Town of Two Towns.

This and That....

Alex Johnston Lecture Series

Details are currently being finalized for this lecture. Once this year's speaker has been confirmed, details will be printed in the November issue of the LHS newsletter. The 2010 lecture marks the 20th anniversary of this series presented jointly by the Lethbridge Historical Society and the University of Lethbridge.

\$1,000 Essay Contest

Please pass this on to any post-secondary students you know:

As part of the Historical Society of Alberta's continuing commitment to Alberta history and to the teaching of Alberta history in schools, colleges and universities, the H.S.A. is pleased to continue its essay contest. The aim of the contest is to encourage more students to learn about Alberta's rich history.

All post-secondary, undergraduate students in Alberta's universities and colleges are invited to participate in the inaugural Historical Society of Alberta's \$1,000 Essay Contest.

For the contest guidelines and application, please

checkout the HSA website at

<http://www.albertahistory.org/default/index.cfm/hsa/essay-contest/>

Donor Found

Our plea printed in the last newsletter resulted in an anonymous donor coming forward with \$200.00 to assist us in providing selected copies of our publications to the new *Crossings Branch of the Lethbridge Public Library*. The list of books is yet to be determined. It is hoped the gifting may take place in late September 2010.

Donor Needed

20 Libraries of the Chinook Arch Library System (So. Alta. Libraries) have shown an interest in getting copies of: *We Don't Talk About Those Women*. This amounts to \$250 which the Society will be able to issue an income tax deduction receipt. Anyone interested in donating should contact Carly Stewart as soon as possible through the Society office phone at 403-320-4994, leave a message and Carly will get back to you as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Your Society At Work

Written by Belinda Crowson

An H.S.A. Chapter

In some ways, there are two histories of the Lethbridge Historical Society – the history of our society and our history as a chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta. These two histories met in 1961 when Lethbridge became a chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta. Today, the Lethbridge Historical Society is one of five chapters in the Historical Society of Alberta. This dual personality means the LHS, and its members, work both locally and provincially.

Historical Society of Alberta

Established in 1907 by the Province of Alberta, the founding father of the Historical Society of Alberta was Alexander C. Rutherford, Alberta's first premier. When incorporated in March 1907 the Historical Society of Alberta had support from across the province and the following Lethbridge/southern Alberta names are noted as being founding members of the society: C.A. Magrath, William Cousins, R.L. Naismith, C.F.P. Conybeare, John Herron and Leverett G. De Veber. Part of the incorporation document includes the following statement: "And whereas the said persons have prayed to be incorporated under the name of "The Historical Society of Alberta" and it is expedient to grant their prayer;".

While started from a provincial base, for many years, the

H.S.A. was Edmonton-focused until 1958 when it expanded to Calgary and then to Lethbridge in 1961. In the 1990s, the Central Alberta chapter joined H.S.A. and then recently the South Peace chapter. Today the H.S.A. has five chapters: Edmonton & District, Central Alberta, Chinook Country, Lethbridge and South Peace.

A representative of the Lethbridge Historical Society (usually the President) sits on the Historical Society of Alberta council. And as one of the chapters of the H.S.A., every few years the Lethbridge Historical Society organizes the H.S.A. annual conference and AGM. In May 2011, the Lethbridge Historical Society will play host to the province and the other chapters.

Lethbridge Historical Society

The Lethbridge Historical Society has had several early iterations. In 1888 a Scientific and Historical Society was formed in Lethbridge. This group, which met bi-monthly to hear "papers," disbanded in the 1890s. In 1923, residents of Lethbridge and southern Alberta became concerned that the early coal mining history was being lost and that something needed to be done to mark the memory of Nicholas Sheran and other early coal miners. A historical society was formed and this society was instrumental in the 1928 celebration of Alberta's

coal pioneers and in securing the monument for Nicholas Sheran/Alberta's coal industry that stands in Galt Gardens. The Lethbridge Historical Society disappeared again in 1928 but reformed in 1935 to celebrate Lethbridge's 50th anniversary. As soon as the celebration ended, the society once again disappeared.

In 1958, the City of Lethbridge wished to have a Municipal Museum and worked to reform the Lethbridge Historical Society. In 1961 the Society was registered as the Whoop-Up Country Chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta. One of its main responsibilities was the operation of the museum (later Sir Alexander Galt Museum). The Society stayed in full operation of the museum until 1972 when it became too much for volunteers to operate and manage. The city then hired a full time staff for the museum while the society remained actively involved in daily operations.

In 1986 the Society felt it should be reincorporated and renamed itself the Lethbridge Historical Society. In 2011, when the LHS hosts the conference, coincidentally it will represent our 50th year as part of the H.S.A. and our 25th year since our re-incorporation as the Lethbridge Historical Society.

Buried Treasure: Lethbridge 25 year time capsule

December 28, 1985: Three time capsules in 25, 50 and 100 year increments were buried deep in the ground to commemorate Lethbridge's centennial. Each vessel a snapshot of time with a community's hopes, dreams, and achievements sealed away waiting to be unearthed. The contents encased within are part nostalgia and part learning experience. David Sarsfield from the Lethbridge City Clerk's office offers insight into this unique part of Lethbridge history:

As part of the 1985 Centennial for Lethbridge, a time capsule project was initiated. Individuals, organizations, institutions, and businesses were invited to place letters, photographs, and histories in three different time capsules: 25 year (to be opened in 2010), 50 year (to be opened in 2035) and 100 year (to be opened in 2085). Funds for the time capsule were raised through the purchase of time capsule envelopes:

- 25 year - \$2.50
- 50 year - \$5.00
- 100 year - \$10.00

The Time Capsules were buried in a cairn between the High Level Bridge and the Tourist Information Booth. There were approximately 270 items stored in the 2010 capsule, 131 items in the 2035 capsule, and 103 items in the 2085 capsule. Each item had a person listed who

would inherit it when the time came to open the capsule.

The unexpended funds of \$1,574 from the 1985 Centennial Celebration Committee were invested in the

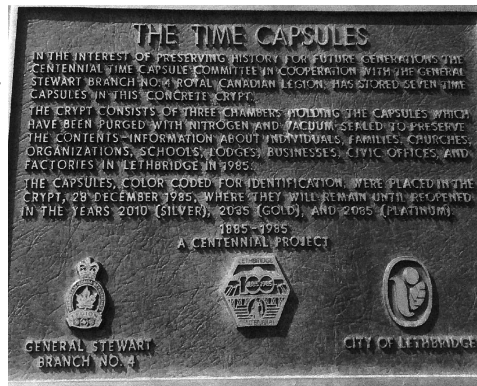


Photo above: Burying the Time Capsules in 1985.

Photo courtesy Galt Museum

Below: Plaque that marked the location of the Time Capsules

Photo courtesy David Sarsfield



hopes that there would be funds available for each of the three openings. There was \$2,747.76 available in funding as of December 31, 2009. The City Council provided an additional \$5,000 to cover the cost of the 2010 opening.

The 2010 Time Capsule Committee, consisting of representatives from the Galt Museum & Archives and the City of Lethbridge, opened the 25 Year Time Capsule on May 4, 2010.

Because both the cairn and the time capsule had water, all of the envelopes (and contents) were frozen. This placed limitations on the distribution of items. As of August 23, 2010, there are five envelopes remaining, three of which the Committee have no known contacts.

The Committee has not been able to locate the following people that were either the donor or recipient of an envelope in the 25 year time capsule. Any leads on any of the names would be appreciated so that we can forward their envelope. These people were most likely associated with the Lethbridge Region in 1985.

Do you know these people?

John Wayne Gwinner, Edna Gwinner, Linann Gwinner, T.W. Goodrich

If any of these names seem familiar to you, please contact David Sarsfield by phone: (403)-329-7329 or email: david.sarsfield@lethbridge.ca.

Haunted History of southern Alberta By Belinda Crowson

As this newsletter runs September/October and as Bobbie knows I've been collecting ghost stories of southern Alberta, she asked if I would include one for this month's newsletter as a sort of Halloween Haunted History. I decided to share one that has a family connection – the ghost is said to be my Great Uncle, Orville.

Orville Ziegler owned a garage in Rolling Hills, Alberta, and died of a heart attack on the property. The family who later bought the garage reported several strange occurrences on the property and always believed it was Orville still looking after the place. One of the members of the family (who was a child/teenager when he lived at the garage) later married one of my cousins and told me these stories. These are just a few of the stories of the place. If you want to know the rest, you'll have to wait until I have the book ready.

Several people broke into the garage to steal wrenches and items to use to break into the bank across the street. Inside the garage was a large garbage pit and while investigating, the police noted that one of the cans in the pit was dented. It became obvious that one of the thieves has fallen into the pit so the police were certain that the person who had fallen would have sustained some type of injury and knew they could use that in identifying the person. The



Above: Brewery Garden's with Halloween Theme, October 1968.

Photo courtesy Galt Museum & Archives.

police did catch the culprits (three of them) and, sure enough, one had an injury. The thief claimed he had been forcibly pushed into the pit and accused his two compatriots. The other two men, though, both claimed they were on the far side of the garage when he fell and that neither of them had pushed him. Did Orville, while trying to protect his garage, push the man into the pit?

The door for the cellar was in the floor just inside the entrance to the house and if the cellar door was open and a person was not careful, it would be all too easy to fall down the cellar stairs. One day, as the others were all gone, the Dad left the cellar door open while he was working. He was outside when he noted the rest of the family coming home with groceries. He yelled at them to be careful entering the house as the cellar door was open. But when they walked into the house – the cellar door was closed and all was safe.

The two boys were out in the garage working on the car one

winter day. As they were working they could hear someone crunching through the snow walking up to the door and the boys could hear and see the door opening. But no one entered. And when they walked over to the door to see who it was, there was absolutely no one there. They looked outside and realized there were no footprints in the snow and no sign at all that anyone (at least anyone human) had been there!

And, remember; keep sending in whatever ghost stories or leads to ghost stories you have...

Editor's note: The Galt Museum's Flashlight Cemetery Tours with Belinda will be running **OCT 01, 02, 08, 09, 15*, 16*, 21 | 8:00 and 9:00 pm nightly | * additional 10:00 pm tour | TICKETS \$5/\$4 annual pass holders, available SEP 07 at the Galt Museum Store only | 403.320-3954**

The family who later bought the garage reported several strange occurrences on the property...

Up and Coming in Southern Alberta

Art Days/Art Walk 2010 3rd annual 3 Dimensions sculpture show @Galt Museum

SEP 17 – 18 | 10:00 – 4:30 SEP19 | 1:00 – 4:30

Free admission | admission to Discovery Hall exhibits applies

Southern Alberta is home to many talented artists who create three dimensional artwork. Their range of expression, media, style, genre, colour and size is boundless and intriguing. Don't miss the sculpture demonstrations each afternoon: 1:30 - 4:00. *A Lethbridge ArtWalk and Alberta Arts Days event.*

Saturday, September 18: 6pm

Sunday, September 19: 11am - 9:30 pm

Galt Gardens Park

Join us for this community celebration of the arts in Galt Gardens Park on Saturday evening and all day Sunday.

Saturday evening will feature live local music and performers as well and many downtown live music venues will open their doors presenting live music & other special events.

Sunday features live music & performers, an artisan market, demonstrations and food. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the festivities!!!

The Wind City Kids Fest will incorporate family focused activities and entertainment on Sunday. The kids activities will take place from 11-5pm.

If you are a museum, heritage site, or local history society within the Southern Alberta area, we want to advertise your events! Please submit your events to the editor by mail: Box 974, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4A2 or by email: bship-pobotham.fox@gmail.com or phone:403-795-6113



3RD ANNUAL PIG ROAST

CORN, BAKED POTATO & BAKED BEANS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 @ 6 PM

PIONEER VILLAGE, COYOTE FLATS

PICTURE BUTTE, AB (ONE MILE SOUTH OF HIGH SCHOOL)

SILENT AUCTION

\$20.00 PER PERSON (LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS)

NO HOST BAR (WITH DINNER)

TRACTOR PULLS 12:30PM

Tickets: 382-0361, 381-7433, 732-4875, 320-0714

Come early and view offerings of our quality village.

Watch for for our antique auction on October 2, 2010

Museum Community Day: Galt Hospital 100 Years | Galt Babies Birthday Party

Sun SEP 26 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm | Exhibit Grand Opening 11:00 am East entrance weather permitting

The Galt Hospital wing of the Galt Museum is 100 years old this year, so we're throwing a Centennial celebration and Galt Babies [born at the Galt Hospital until 1955] Birthday Party! Free admission, tours and activities all day, including the official opening of the new exhibit *Galt Hospital: 100 Years*.

Wednesdays at the Galt

Wednesday | 2:00 – 3:00 pm | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | registration not required | refreshments

SEP 29 Cowboy Cooking by David Poulsen Enjoy stories from cowboy culture with **David Poulsen**, author of *The Cowboy Country Cookbook*.

OCT 06 Thoughts from the Grasshopper Joseph L. Lothian shares some tales and thoughts from his recent historical fiction book, *The Grasshopper* in which an immigrant boy follows his father's steps into the dark world of the mines in the 1930s.

13 Medalta in Song Ron Mason performs from his CD "Move the Earth" inspired by the people and history of the Historic Clay District, a national historic site highlighting early 20th Century industrial pottery in Medicine Hat.

20 Learn to use the Archives Explore the basics of archival research and see behind the scenes in our archives

27 Passing on the Quilting Tradition Elissa and Heather Wilms, the mother daughter/team from Hopscotch Quilt Shop in Coaldale, share their quilting journeys and the fresh new look that young quilters are bringing to traditional quilting.

Explore Downtown Lethbridge

Have a free afternoon? Why not head downtown to see the plaques that the LHS have placed. Please note: This list does not include the many plaques that have been placed around the city like Whitney Farm or the location of POW camp 133.

These plaques are made possible thanks to the devoted efforts of our Plaques Committee working in conjunction with the city of Lethbridge. Together we have saved some treasures from the wrecking ball but there is always more to do. If you're interested in helping out, please contact any member of the executive or the co-chairs of the committee.

As you are walking or driving around downtown see if you can spot the following plaques:

Canadian Pacific Telegraph Office (310 6 St. South, now Downtown BRZ office)

Acadia Block (616 3 Ave. South, now Dove Christian Store)

Henderson & Downer Block/Coaldale Hotel/Metcalf Block (301 5 St. South, now Club Cigar)

Firehall No. 1 (402 2 Ave. South)

Bell's Welding (317 4 St. South, now Mocha Cabana)

Lethbridge City Police Station (502 5 St. South, now Mongolie Grill)

Lethbridge Herald/ Buchanan Building (504 7 St. South)

S.S. Kresge Co. Building/ Balmoral Block (321 5 St. South, now King of Trade)

Galt Hospital (west end of 5th Ave. South, now Galt Museum &

Archives)

NWMP Mess Hall/Navy League (1714 10 Ave. South)

Jock Palmer, Flyer & Broadcast Pioneer (1015 3 Ave. S.)

Vendome Hotel/Alberta Rooms/Roloff Beny Studio (110 8 St. South)

Lethbridge Public Library/ Southern Alberta Art Gallery (601 3 Ave. South)

Canadian Pacific Railway/ Union Station (801 1 Ave. South, now the Health Unit)

Union Bank of Canada (222, 5 St. South, now Express Coffee)

Pat Burns Block/Hotel Alexandra/Alec Arms Hotel (332 5 St. South)

I.O.O.F. Lethbridge Lodge No. 2/Oddfellows Hall (505 4 Ave. South)

Lethbridge Conservatory of Music/Spudnut Shop (501 11 St. South, now Crazy Cakes)

"The Point"/Lethbridge's Red Light District (west end of 4th Ave. South)

Bow on Tong (316 2 Ave. South)

Manie Opera Society (318 2 Ave. S.)

San Mang Sang (312 2 Ave. S.)

Chinese Free Masons (310 2 Ave. S.)

Kuo Ming Tang/Chinese National League (309 2 Ave. S.)

Nakagama Co. (322 2 Ave. S.)

Our Plaques in Pictures: Plaques presentations for China Town, Alec Arms Hotel, IOOF building

Photos courtesy Andrew Johnstone and Judy Robins, LHS scrapbook





Lethbridge Historical Society

The Southern Alberta Chapter of the
Historical Society of Alberta

Contact:

403-320-4994 (messages)

P.O. Box 974

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lhs@albertahistory.org

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can make it so!

Story Inquiries or Submissions, Please E-mail:

bshippobotham.fox@gmail.com

Come Join us and Make History!

Single Membership in the Lethbridge Historical Society is only \$15 or \$ 25 for a family. The membership lasts for 1 year from date of joining.

Your membership includes the Historical Society of Alberta Newsletters and the Newsletter from the Lethbridge Chapter.

A stand alone subscription to Alberta History magazine is \$25 and is published quarterly. Include this subscription with your membership and save! \$35.00 for an individual and \$45 for a family.

Your membership expiry date will be highlighted on your envelope when it is time to renew. Dues may be sent to:

Treasurer

Box 974

Lethbridge, Alberta

The Southern Alberta Chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta

President	Belinda Crowson (403)381-4316
Past President	Jean Johnstone (Andrew)
Vice President	Barry Snowden
Secretary	Carol Megaw
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Historian	Velda Sjovold
Newsletter Editor	Bobbie Fox

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Basic Membership

Individual \$15 _____

Family \$25 _____

Combined Membership

(includes subscription to *Alberta History*)

Individual \$35 _____

Family \$45 _____

Mail this form with your cheque to:

Lethbridge Historical Society

Memberships

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