



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009

## The One-Cent Penny

The Calgary and District Chapter  
of the Historical Society  
of Alberta

OFFICE:  
#311, 223 12 Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T2R 0G9  
(403) 261-4667

ONLINE:  
[www.chinookcountry.org](http://www.chinookcountry.org)  
[www.albertahistory.org/  
hsa/chapters/chinook](http://www.albertahistory.org/hsa/chapters/chinook)

The Vision of the Society:  
"to promote a greater  
understanding of Canadian and  
Alberta history in Chinook  
Country for people of all ages."

Chinook boundaries  
are from Olds to Nanton,  
from the B.C. to the  
Saskatchewan borders.



There are reports of a move to eliminate the "one cent coin". (Evidently the word *penny* is no longer acceptable.)

It now costs Canada \$130 million a year to keep the "penny" minted and in circulation. It used to be a fairly large coin but the size was reduced in 1920 and more so in 1978. A bill to eliminate this coin has been on the parliament floor two times but twice the government fell before the bill could be debated.

My memory of a penny in my youthful days is one of fondness and of value. Do you remember the penny in the same way?

When I was young, I cycled some long distances to sell a five-cent *Liberty Magazine* from which I netted one cent. What did you do for a cent? There must be many good stories here.

The Rexall one-cent sale made good use of the penny as a sales promotion. They offered one of their articles for sale for the regular price but also offered a second of the same item for one cent.

So many things could be bought for a penny including one-cent candy. I recall going into the Lorraine confectionery on

Fourth Street S.W. where kindly Mr. Sol Libin trusted us kids to go behind his counter and select our one-cent favorite from the showcase. We could obtain one "jaw-breaker", a licorice-flavoured hard ball-shaped candy with a coriander seed in the centre. Many other small favours could be had, several for one cent – and it is probable that some kids took more than they should. (It is also probable that Mr. Libin knew this.) But it may have saved an aching back from bending over, so he put up with the kids. Up on the counter were licorice cigars or pipes with red candy "embers" for one cent. (I recently saw some for 30 cents each.)

My first employer, Mr. W.F. "Billy" McGill, sometimes spoke of his early days in business when there were no pennies. Price tickets then all ended with a five or a zero. One cent could buy a stamp for a postcard, but did one have to purchase at least five one-cent stamps at a time?

There was no "nickel" then. We had a small coin made of silver with a five-cent value but a "Nickel", made mostly of nickel, took over and we still have it. The "dime" is an American term for a ten cent piece but we have adopted the word too. Remember "Brother, can you spare a dime"? Now it might be: "Buddy, can you spare a loonie?"

Now, pennies have been retired to a jar, a tin, or to a tray labeled "take one, leave one". One won't buy much, but we still have our memories of when a penny bought quite a bit. —CHS

—Ken Penley



## Discover John Laurie: September 12-13/09

Do you know who John Laurie Boulevard is named after? Or Mt. Laurie (Yamnuska)? Join us on the weekend of Sept 12-13 to find out!

On Saturday, September 12, we will be hiking to Raven's End on Mt. Laurie (Yamnuska) with climbing legend, Chic Scott, and recently retired U of C history professor (and CCHS member!), Don Smith.

You'll also have a chance to hear Don at the McDougall Stoney Mission Church, historic site, near Morley on Sunday, September 13 at 3pm. Besides a brief biography we will hear Stoney elders reminisce of John Laurie and hear Grant Reddick, an actor and former student of John Laurie, read a poem by John Laurie.

Everyone is welcome. Contact Kate at 403-809-7341 for more details. -CCHS

—*The Summer Interpreters and Hosts at McDougall Stoney Mission*



## Historical Events in Alberta This Fall

Summer may be drawing to a close, but there are still many great things to do in Alberta in the Fall. Here are a few events to take in:

**Fall Fair - Celebrating our Rural Roots**  
September 12 & 13, Heritage Park

**Innisfail Historical Village Friday Teas**  
Friday afternoon teas @ 2:00 pm,  
Innisfail Historical Village

**Alberta Arts Days in the Historic Clay District (Medicine Hat)**  
September 19  
Celebrating Alberta's rich arts and culture

# From the President

**G**reetings all! Summer has been a busy time for our many volunteers on numerous great activities.

Our wonderfully successful premier event of the Summer – Historic Calgary Week – was launched on Friday, July 24, at the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants Memorial Building, with David Ballard as Master of Ceremonies. The 11-day event ended at Fort Calgary on Monday, August 3 with my presentation of “Sentinel Snapshots” – the Prairie Grain Elevator in the Landscape Photograph. Participants in Historic Calgary Week attended just under 60 events, including presentations, talks and tours of and about the varied history and historic locations in and around Calgary.

Historic Calgary Week's theme this year was “History All Around Us”, taking a look back at the people who helped establish our city both in and around Calgary. The event was a result of heroic effort on the part of the Planning Committee, ably led by the ‘Infamous Four’ – Janice Lowe, Kate Reeves, Roberta Ryckman and Lynda Purdy, as well as all the volunteers who led tours and helped at the actual events. Besides those already named, particular appreciation goes also to: Colleen Robarts who worked on the Brochure, and Ron and Gail Kessler for handling the audio equipment, and Carrol Jaques for all her excellent work on funding.

We also wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the Calgary Herald for printing the Historic Calgary Week Crossword Puzzle and to Jennifer Prest for her extensive work in preparing it once

again this year. Our thanks also go to the following additional sponsors: the Alberta Family Histories Society, Canadian Heritage Initiative, City of Calgary – Central and Memorial Park Libraries, Central United Church, Fort Calgary, Glenbow Museum & Archives, Lougheed House, Memorial Park Library, Southern Alberta Pioneers, the Military Museums, Nose Creek Historical Society, Sage Hill Farm Ltd., St. Mary's University College, University of Calgary, and Wild Rose United Church.

Volunteers and history buffs are invited to join in next year's Historic Calgary Week; you are always welcome! You can make your interest known by calling and leaving a message on the Society's telephone at 403-261-4667.

Included with this newsletter is the program for 2009-2010. Our thanks go to Laurel Halladay for assembling this great program for the coming year. As well, Laurel organized and hosted a most successful Yard Sale in July as a fundraiser. We received lots of donations, and we appreciate the hard work put in by the many volunteers involved.

Finally, be sure to refer to the Chinook Country website at [chinookcountry.org](http://chinookcountry.org) for other interesting programs and events that take place throughout the year. We hope to again be emailing announcement and reminders to those who have provided email addresses, while ensuring your email address is kept confidential.

I look forward to seeing at Fort Calgary over the coming months. -CCHS

—*Tom Hamp*

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## Solutions to Crossword

(Crossword on page 4)

**Across:** 1. Inglewood; 6. Patsy; 9. DNA; 10. Bus; 11. Venison; 12. Sod; 13. Wee; 14. Cross; 16. Hanna; 17. BA; 18. Riley; 21. Lorikeet; 23. Edward; 26. Henry; 28. Robin Hood; 31. Round-up; 33. Orb; 34. NRA; 35. Trail; 36. Wit; 37. Elsie.

**Down:** 1. Indus; 2. Grandin; 3. Elbow Park; 4. Oyster; 5. Devonian; 6. Panic; 7. TBS; 8. Yanks; 15. Oil; 16. Hillhurst; 18. Rod; 19. Yod; 20. Bearspaw; 22. Ran; 24. Abounds; 25. Abbott; 27. Yodel; 29. Noble; 30. Deane; 32. UFA. -CCHS



# Winners of the *Calgary Herald* Historic Calgary Week Crossword

**T**hank you to everyone who tackled the *Calgary Herald* Historic Calgary Week Crossword challenge. Congratulations to those who completed the puzzle and submitted an entry.

We tried something different this year; the puzzle appeared on the web site as well as in the *Calgary Herald*. However, despite some printing problems, most of the record 149 entries were from the newspaper.

Ten winners were drawn from the 17 correct entries:

**Laine Simpson**

framed Emily Carr print, courtesy of Prints Charming

**Denise Macleod**

Glenbow Museum one-year complimentary membership

**Carol Christensen**

Gift certificate for the Kensington Riverside Inn

**Vera Cuthbert**

HSA one-year membership

**Gordon Imlach**

HSA one-year membership

**Pat Hughes**

Gift certificate for the Lazy Loaf and Kettle

**Donald Stiles**

Gift certificate for Rice for King Vietnamese Restaurant

**Berny Hartfelder**

Gift certificate for Rice for King Vietnamese Restaurant

**Lois Kerslake**

Gift certificate for Rice for King Vietnamese Restaurant

**Michael Zenaitis**

Gift certificate for Rice for King Vietnamese Restaurant

The prizes will be presented at the CCHS general meeting in September.

I would like to thank Gail Kessler, Carol Lacey, David Ballard, Janice Lowe, Irene de Boni, and Martin Stocker for helping me with the proofreading and marking. -CCHS

—Jennifer Prest



## Newsletter Editor Wanted

**T**he current editor of the *Chinook Country Historical Society Newsletter* is resigning and is seeking a replacement.

Duties include: gathering stories; editing submitted articles for content and length; page design/layout; and preparing the files for print. A small honorarium is paid for each issue.

There are four issues per year, and the time commitment is approximately 5-10 hours per issue.

The position is available immediately; however, the current editor will remain until a replacement is found.

For more information, please call Ruth Kerr at (403) 609-8337 or email rakerr2@telus.net. -CCHS

## Voices from the Past

...I am very much amazed that I have been so completely ignored in the selection of the nurse, seeing she is to live in our institution.

There are some things that I wished to have made plain to the lady.

1) She must look after her own room and be responsible for the cleanliness and tidiness of the ward and dispensary.

2) Be willing to attend to any ailments of the children at the request of the principal.

3) Be regular in attendance at the services in Church and also at Daily prayers in the school unless hindered by other duties.

4) Attend to her own washing and ironing as do the other lady members of the staff.

5) Be punctual at meals.

We shall be prepared to welcome the nurse on these conditions and make her as comfortable as possible.

—from an official at the  
*Calgary Indian Mission on the Sarcee Reserve to Indian Agent Fleetham on 19 April 1915, Glenbow Archives*

—Submitted by  
*Laurel Halladay*

# Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

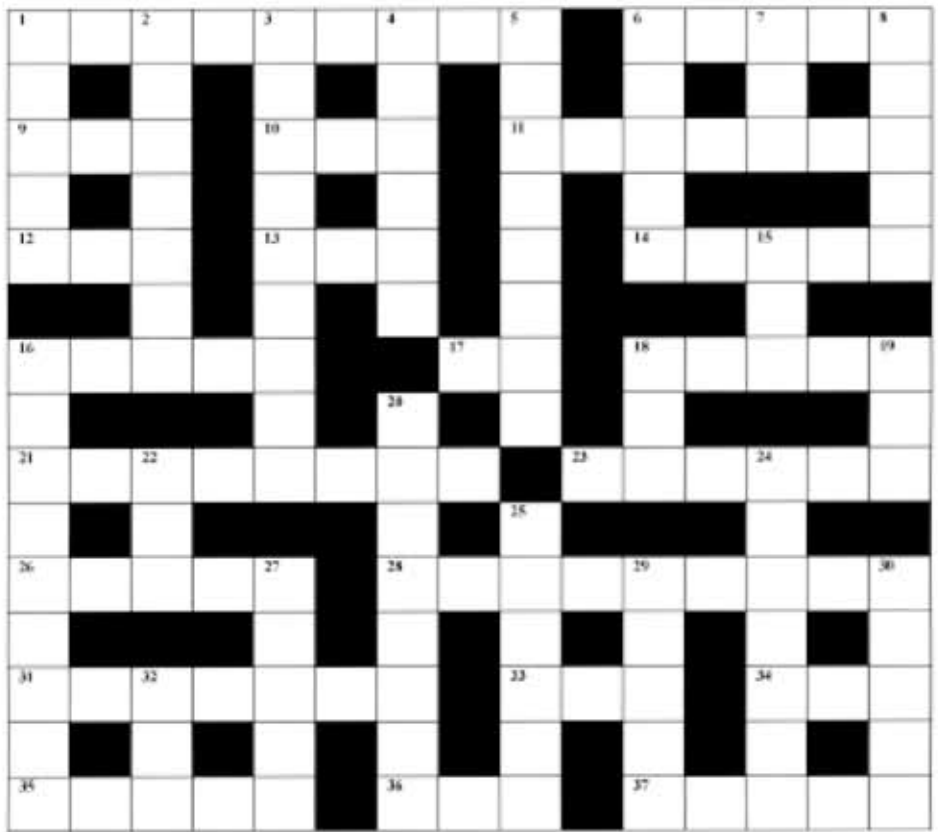
## Across

1. Calgary's first neighbourhood
6. Calgary's first Stampede Queen, ----- Rodgers Henderson
9. The genes are in it! (abbr.)
10. A means of public transportation
11. Deer meat
12. The early settlers on the prairies made homes from this
13. Scottish word meaning 'little'
14. One of the Big Four, A.E. -----
16. A town on Hwy 9, south-east of Red Deer
17. An international airline now with daily flights from Calgary
18. Early Calgary settler, Thomas E. ----- (1842-1909)
21. An Australian parrot
23. Sandstone school in SW Calgary, King -----
26. Past President of CCHS, the late Professor Emeritus, ----- Klassen
28. The flour mill on 9th Avenue SW used to bear this name (2 wds.)
31. Part of the annual routine on the ranch! (2 wds, hyphenated)
33. The poet's moon
34. A powerful political lobby in the U.S.
35. Crowchild or Stoney -----
36. A humorist or quick-thinker
37. Alberta playwright, ----- Park Gowan, 1906-1999

## Down

1. A hamlet on Hwy 22X, southeast of Calgary
2. Bishop -----, the first Catholic bishop of Alberta
3. A district in SW Calgary (2 wds.)
4. A local delicacy, the prairie -----
5. The ----- Gardens, currently under reconstruction in downtown Calgary
6. Widespread fear, alarm or terror
7. An Atlanta TV station
8. Americans (Slang)
15. A mineral resource
16. An inner-city NW neighbourhood
18. Calgary's 33rd mayor, --- Sykes
19. A linguist's term for the 'y-sound'
20. The ----- Dam, east of Cochrane
22. Hurried on foot; raced
24. Teems; overflows
25. "Sweaty Betty", a notorious Edmonton landlady, Elizabeth -----
27. Alpine singing
29. Charles Sherwood -----, (1873-1957), inventor of a blade cultivator
30. The ----- House, site of many a murder mystery
32. The political party that took control of Alberta in 1921 (Initials)

—Jennifer Prest



## CCHS Board Members

### President

Tom Hamp  
TomHamp@PrairieLight.org  
403-874-7375

### Past President & Fundraising

Carrol Jaques  
cjaques@telusplanet.net  
403-286-5955

### First Vice President

Shona Gourlay  
cms@marigold.ab.ca

### Second Vice President/ Special Projects

Henry Murzyn  
hmurzyn@telus.net  
403-652-1323

### Secretary

John Brook  
brookj@shaw.ca  
403-242-1893

### Treasurer

Janet McMaster  
jmcma@shaw.ca  
403-236-3406

### District Liaison

Diana Ringstrom  
dianarin@telus.net  
403-240-9828

### Publicity

Vivian Sampson  
vivians1@telus.net  
403-277-1013

### Archives

Robert Cormack  
403-283-5906

### Research

Kristi Johnson  
Kristi.Johnson@paramountenergy.com

### Programs

Laurel Halladay  
lmhallad@hotmail.com

### Director at Large

George Milne  
403-253-5469

### Membership

Sarah Harvey  
sarharv@gmail.com

### Social Convener

Susan Turner  
seturner@telus.net

### Web Page

Irene, Walter and Neil DeBoni  
iwdeboni@shaw.ca

### Legal Advisor

Brad Pierce  
403-232-9605

### Newsletter Editor

Ruth Kerr  
rakerr2@telus.net

**Newsletter Submissions:** The deadline for the Winter issue is **OCTOBER 19, 2009.**

Please send your article and/or photos to Ruth Kerr at [rakerr2@telus.net](mailto:rakerr2@telus.net).

## Membership

Please check the address label on your envelope and note when your subscription expires. Membership cheques are payable to: The Historical Society of Alberta, PO Box 4035, Station "C", Calgary, AB T2T 5M9

Individual membership	\$15.00	Family membership	\$25.00	Affiliate membership	\$55.00
Annual subscription	\$25.00	Annual subscription	\$25.00	(school, museum, library, historical society)	
Total	<u>\$40.00</u>	Total	<u>\$50.00</u>	Associate membership	\$120.00
Purchased together	\$35.00	Purchased together	\$45.00		