



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

Historic Elbow River Promenade

The Calgary and District Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

Office:

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Website:

www.albertahistory.org/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.



Calgarian Doug
Hawkes and his
brother livin' the
high life in Mission
c.a. 1918.

*Photo courtesy of Doug Hawkes, 91,
former resident of 26 Avenue at
1st Street S.W.*

A historic urban village oasis, on the edge of downtown, just before the suburbs start – that's how many would describe the character of Cliff Bungalow-Mission. Teeming with history, bordered by 17 Ave. and the Elbow River, this is where many Calgarians bring out-of-town visitors to unique shops, wonderful Elbow River walks and quaint, century-old architecture. This area includes houses that hearken back to a bygone era, with their porches, steps, closeness to the sidewalk and old-roots trees.

Enter Gentrification

Many alternative-lifestyle people were attracted to live in modest suites in these old houses; mingling among the well-heeled property owners – until 2000's gentrification

"Urban gentrification is a process in which low-cost, physically deteriorated neighbourhoods experience physical

renovation and an increase in property values, along with an influx of wealthier residents who displace the neighbourhood's original inhabitants." *Gentrification* is a term coined by sociologist Ruth Glass in 1964 who was describing London, England. "Once this process of 'gentrification' starts in a district it goes on rapidly until ... the whole social character of the district is changed," says Glass. (Source: Wikipedia)

But sometimes we don't recognize gentrification until it's upon us. Wake up, sleepy Cliff Bungalow-Mission! At the turn of the millennium, we at the Community Association (CBMCA) began to sound the alarm that our historic neighbourhood character was fast disappearing. An emotional wake-up wrench for many residents was the gaping wound that was St. Mary's High School (despite community objection) on 2nd Street.

–Continued on page 5

Upcoming CCHS Programs

February, 2008

The Bow: Living with a River
Presenters: Gerald Conaty and
Daryl Betenia
Tuesday, February 26
7:30 p.m.
Fort Calgary Historic Park

March, 2008

Prairie West As Promised Land
Presenter: Doug Francis
Tuesday, March 4
7:30 p.m.
Fort Calgary Historic Park

CCHS Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, March 25
AGM: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Danish Canadian Club

April, 2008

The Westward March of the NWMP
Presenter: Jack Dunn
Tuesday, April 22
7:30 p.m.
Fort Calgary Historic Park

May, 2008

Calgary's Story: A Planner's Perspective
Presenter: Richard Parker
Tuesday, May 20
7:30 p.m.
Fort Calgary Historic Park -CCHS



New & Improved Website

Have you visited the CCHS website at www.chinookcountry.org recently?

It has been updated and improved with new feature, including archives for CCHS Newsletters, and a new section, called Kristi's Heritage Corner, that will have articles on places of historical interest in the Calgary area.

You should also check periodically for progress on the planning for Historic Calgary Week. —Walt DeBoni

From the President

Chinook Country Historical Society is proud to announce an extra program for 2008. We have agreed to be a partner in the Book Launch of *Prairie West as Promised Land*, the new book by U of C History Professor and Chinook Country Historical Society member, Dr. Doug Francis. This exciting event will take place at Fort Calgary on March 4, 2008, beginning at 7:30.


Once again, the Chinook Country Historical Society Christmas Dinner and Program was a smashing success. Nancy Millar presented "A Child's History in Dixonville," a heart warming reminder of Christmas Concerts of long ago. Nancy was accompanied on the keyboard by Frank McKittrick, a well-known Calgary musician. Thanks to both Nancy and Frank.

Thanks to our new CCHS board member, Shona Gourlay, for acting as Master of Ceremonies and to Past President, Diana Ringstrom, for organizing the Christmas Dinner. This year, the decorating committee was headed by David Ballard, but the inspiration for the wonderful decorations was from Jennifer Jack, and her assistants, Norma Lake and Ivy Cameron, who were there to make sure everything was in its place. Thanks also to Bert Peters for all his help. Thanks to Janet McMaster and Tom Bytynen, and Sheila and Ken Grogan for acting as hosts at the dinner.

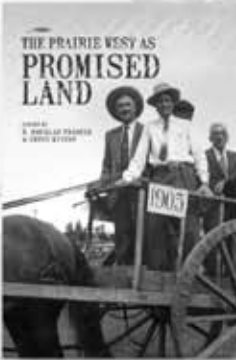
The Chinook Country Historical Society Board has been busy updating CCHS by-laws and policy documents. So far we have spent two Saturdays together working on the project under the capable leadership of Henry Murzyn and Tom Hamp.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank CCHS Board member, Sheila Grogan for being responsible for mailing this newsletter for the past 3 years. Thanks also to Ron Kessler for his invaluable help, and to the volunteers who have gathered to stuff envelopes: Margaret Russell, Margaret Gilbertson, Catherine Filipowicz, Frances Kramer and Frank and Audrey Miklos. -CCHS

—Carrol Jaques



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
PRESS



DOUG FRANCIS,
CHRIS KITZAN,
and the UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY PRESS
invite you and a guest
to the launch of

**THE PRAIRIE WEST
AS PROMISED LAND**
Edited by R. Douglas Francis
& Chris Kitzen

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 FROM 7-9 P.M.
at FORT CALGARY
750 9th Avenue S.E. (free parking)
RSVP to sslabine@ucalgary.ca 220-3087

Solutions to Crossword (Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. Temple; 4. Elveden; 8. Serac;
9. Cathedral; 10. Awl; 11. Seton;
12. Sushi; 14. Dan Hays; 17. Swilled;
18. Ranch; 21. Husky; 23. Jacob;
25. Sox; 26. Measles; 28. Krona;
29. Ritchie; 30. Orwell.

Down: 1. Tuscany; 2. Mary Lynas;
3. Lucas; 4. Exton; 5. Vie; 6. Doris;
7. Nellie; 9. Citadel; 12. Starr; 13. Emily;
15. Nodical; 16. Sandstone; 19. Hextall;
20. Chumir; 22. Smart; 23. Jesse;
24. Baker 27. Lah. -CCHS

Chinook Country Historical Society Presents

CCHS Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Danish Canadian Club (incorporated 1947)

727 - 11 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB

5:30pm Annual General Meeting

6:00pm Cocktails & Silent Auction

7:00pm Dinner

Tickets: \$40/person

Call Ruth Manning @ 249-3144 or e-mail: albear@telusplanet.net

OR leave a message at the CCHS office: 261-4667

Tickets available only until March 19, 2008!

Featuring Guest Speaker

**David Finch:
Booms & Busts**

in the

**Alberta
Oilpatch**

**SILENT
AUCTION
DONATIONS**

Contact
Laurel Halliday:
lmhallad@hotmail.com
OR leave a message
at the CCHS
office: 261-4667

A History of King Edward School (Part 1)

Calgary's King Edward School has been a topic of much discussion in the last while. For those who are not familiar with the story, the Calgary Board of Education has sold the school and the area around it to Lake Placid Group for around \$14 million. While the exact plan for the site is not written in stone as yet, Lake Placid Group appears to be quite keen about incorporating the building into their plan. In fact, the CBE made the sale contingent on the preservation of the building.



The stately King Edward School at 1720- 30th Ave. SW

Photo courtesy of The Alison Jackson photo collection, Calgary Public Library website

With all the excitement around the future of the building we thought it was a good a time to look at its past. There was no shortage of information on King Edward. So much so, that we will be presenting a history on this school in two stages.

From the late 1800s to early 1900s, Calgary saw a staggering growth in the student population. This population boom caused considerable stress on the few schools that were in existence at the time. In 1899 enrollment had grown to the astounding number of 472, and there was nowhere to house the additional students. An emergency decision was made by the school board trustees to rent out rooms at The Alberta Hotel for \$15 a month until a more appropriate solution could be made.

Between 1894 and 1914, 19 sandstone schools were constructed in Calgary. These schools satisfied several goals. They would combat student overcrowding and were built in a grand style which would showcase Calgary's

newfound wealth and popularity. King Edward was one of those sandstone schools, and it was completed in 1912.

King Edward was originally a 20-room school built of sandstone which was acquired from the 17th Avenue quarry. Construction cost of the school was around \$172,000. The school proved to be much more to the immediate area than just a place for education. King Edward became a community centre and would host dances, bridge nights and church groups.

With the onset of World War I, many of the stone masons went overseas to fight and construction came to a grinding halt. By the end of the war, many of these men opted to live in Europe, and brick had replaced sandstone as the preferred building material. These factors would end the era of sandstone constructed buildings in Calgary.

King Edward, like most schools during this time, was constantly evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of the surrounding community. About 1918, King Edward accepted high school students and was referred to as "South Calgary High". Once Western Canada College turned public, many of the high school students from King Edward left to attend Western Canada High School. In 1931, the first junior high school was tested out at King Edward. This concept proved to be successful, and in 1935 junior high schools were adopted province wide. From about 1940-1944, the Provincial Government converted King Edward to a Normal School and focused on the training of teachers.

During both World Wars, schools often instituted cadet training for the boys. Training exercises for the male students at King Edward in 1932 involved, among other things, rifle training. Often this rifle training would involve live

ammunition. Interestingly, it was the rule at King Edward School to use only .22 caliber weapons in the gym. The .303s were segregated to the outdoors.

In the second installment of our history of King Edward School, we will take a look at some of the memories and events that made this school such an important part of the lives of the students and employees. -CCHS

—Submitted by Kristi Johnson
Research Committee
Chinook Country Historical Society

Research material courtesy of:
School Days. A Century of Memories. by Robert M. Stamp
Long live the King: The history of King Edward School. by the King Edward School Alumni

VOICES FROM OUR PAST

Cold and Lonely Winter Months in Calgary: The King vs. May Emory

"Be it remembered that on the 29th day of February in the year 1916, at Calgary, May Emory is convicted before the undersigned W.S. Davidson, a Police Magistrate having jurisdiction in and for the City of Calgary, for that she between the 1st and 25th days of February, A.D. 1916 at 620 and 622 Ninth Avenue East, did keep a disorderly house, to wit, a common bawdy house, contrary to Section 228 of the Criminal Code of Canada and Amendments thereto, and I adjudge the said May Emory for her said offense to forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars to be paid and applied according to law; and also to pay to the Informant the sum of six 50/100 dollars for his costs in this behalf; and if the said several sums are not paid forthwith, I adjudge the said May Emory to be imprisoned in the North West Mounted Police Barracks at the town of Macleod and there to be kept at hard labor for the term of sixty days..."

-from the J. McKinley Cameron Fonds, Glenbow Museum.

—The Calgary Weekly Herald,
October 9, 1902

Submitted by Laurel Halladay

Elbow River Promenade (cont'd)

—Continued from page 1

Enter Mission 26 Ave. River Path Project

Reeling from construction blues, where we could hardly navigate around the neighbourhood, we at CBMCA realized gentrification was upon us, like it nor not. We thought of trying to preserve some of our precious, fast-disappearing history through an urban treatment of our rundown north Elbow River Path east of Mission Bridge for just two blocks. We realized we'd have to spearhead this ourselves!

In Fall 2006, with the aid of Parks Foundation, Calgary, we began to launch the idea to the City. In March 2007, we secured commitment from the City to fund the basic path and "bumpouts" (lingering and viewing spots with interpretive information plaques). However, we would have to fundraise for "extras." With the help of The Calgary Foundation, we launched an awareness and fundraising campaign. To date, we have raised close to \$30,000 gross of the \$50,000+ we need, and, with nearly 800 volunteer hours so far, are presently applying for matching funding.

History Revives!

During this process, we have teamed up with River and Water groups, 1900s residents to explore the history of the area with help from the Glenbow. John Gilpin is writing a history of the Elbow on the 75th birthday of the Glenmore Dam*. We have also revived



Donations for AGM Silent Auction

Donations for the upcoming silent auction can be made by contacting Laurel Halliday: lmhallad@hotmail.com, or by leaving a message at the CCHS office @ 261-4667.

The silent auction will be held during the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 25. See page 3 for details. -CCHS

interest in the rich history of the area through fundraisers, guided walks and rafting.

The result is that plaques are being designed*, with information based upon surveys we randomly addressed to path-users. We are optimistically organizing Grand Opening for the Promenade (tentatively Sunday, October 26) and are planning follow-up programs like monthly "Adopt-a-Park" rosters with City volunteer training. -CCHS

**If you have historical input that may help with content for these plaques, or would like to talk to John Gilpin, please e-mail elbowriverpath@yahoo.com or phone 252-9686.*

—Submitted by Elish Heibert



Book Review: The Outlander

It took her 10 years to finish it but Gil Adamson's latest book, *The Outlander*, gives great credence to that old chestnut "quality takes time." This volume should be of great interest to all fans of historical fiction, and especially to members of the CCHS.

The plot centers on "the widow" Mary Boulton, a woman on the run through the challenging terrain of western Canada, away from the grief and hardship of her ill-fated marriage. Made a widow by her own hand, her only choice is to leave civilization and seek redemption in the wilds. Unluckily for Mary, the place she finally finds herself is in the shadow of Turtle Mountain, specifically the town of Frank. The year is 1903.

The Outlander gives readers a new perspective on how fortitude and resolve often triumphed over desperation and loneliness in early Alberta. -CCHS



Upcoming Programs at Calgary Public Library

The Jewish Community in 1930's Calgary

Jack Switzer tells stories of the colourful people and ideas that formed this remarkable pioneer community.

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, February 27

Local History Room, 4th Floor North

Arctic Explorers by Frances Hern

Learn about the amazing stories of the fearless men who braved treacherous conditions in search of the Northwest Passage.

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, March 11

Meeting Room, 4th Floor North

Introduction to Calgary History

*with Historian Harry Sanders
New to Calgary? Historian Harry Sanders presents fascinating stories of our city's past.*

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, March 4

Meeting Room, 4th Floor North

Family History Coaching

Drop in the last Saturday of each month for help with family history research.

No advance registration required.

10:00am - noon

Saturday, February 23,

March 29 and April 26

Genealogy Area - 4th Floor North.

To register for these and other interesting programs go online to: calgarypubliclibrary.com/library/programs or phone 260-2620. -CCHS

—Submitted by Carolyn Ryder,
Calgary Public Library

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

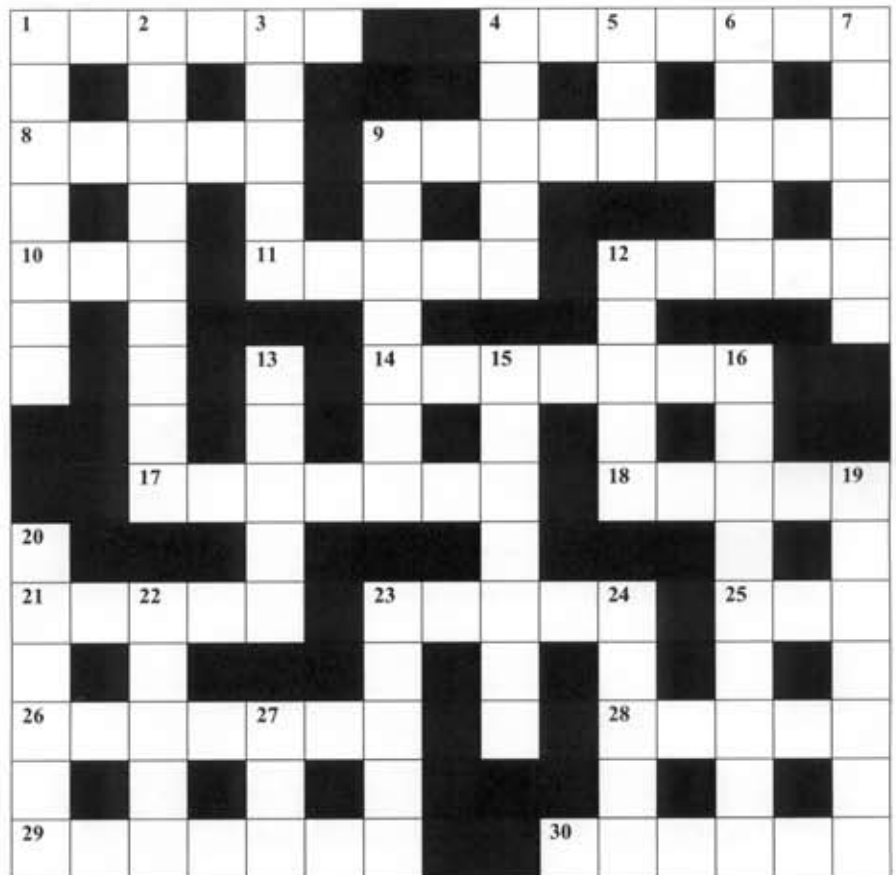
Across

1. A district in NE Calgary
4. One of Calgary's first office buildings, owned by the Guinness family, ----- House
8. Glacial ice
9. The ----- Church of the Redeemer
10. Tool used by shoe makers
11. Historic novelist Anya -----
12. Japanese cuisine
14. Calgary's senator and Speaker of the Senate (2 wds.)
17. Rinsed or washed out
18. A rural spread in the foothills or a salad dressing?
21. The former name of the Calgary Tower
23. The son of Isaac
25. The Boston Red ---
26. A common childhood illness
28. Swedish currency
29. Chief of police, 1919-1941, David -----
30. Author of "1984", George -----

Down

1. A district in NW Calgary
2. The granddaughter of Col. Walker and member of the CCHS, (2 wds)
3. Calgary mayor 1892-94, Alexander -----
4. Margaret -----, a dedicated volunteer who served on the Lougheed House project
5. To compete
6. Editor of *Chatelaine* magazine, ----- Anderson
7. Member of the Famous Five, ----- McClung
9. A district in NE Calgary — or a theatre in Edmonton
12. The Ernie ----- Arena
13. Leader of the Famous Five, ----- Murphy
15. An ecliptic point
16. Calgary was once known as ----- city
19. One of the first developers in Bowness, -----
20. A Liberal MLA from Calgary who died in 1992, Sheldon -----
22. Maude Lucas -----, 1886-1963, nurse, worked for many years with Indian Affairs
23. American outlaw, ----- James
24. Calgary's cancer hospital, the Tom ----- Centre
27. A musical note

—Jennifer Prest



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Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the Spring issue is **MARCH 24, 2008.**

Please send your article to Ruth Kerr at rakerr2@telus.net.

Membership

Please check the address label on your envelope and note when your subscription expires. Membership cheques are payable to:
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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		