



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July/August, 2005

Honouring Freddie Lowes



Alberta Centennial

The Calgary and District
Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

Office:
#311, 223 12 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta
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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.

I was asked to be a guest speaker at an memorial tribute in Elbow Park, honouring one of the most remarkable early citizens of our city, Fred Charles Lowe.

The unveiling ceremony, hosted by the Elbow Park Heritage Committee, took place on Friday, June 24, 2005 on the original site of Freddie Lowe's home. The garden is located on the east side of Elbow Drive, just north of 30 Avenue S.W.

Freddie Lowes created the new suburbs of Elbow Park, Glencoe, Elboya and Rideau Roxborough between 1906 and 1912.

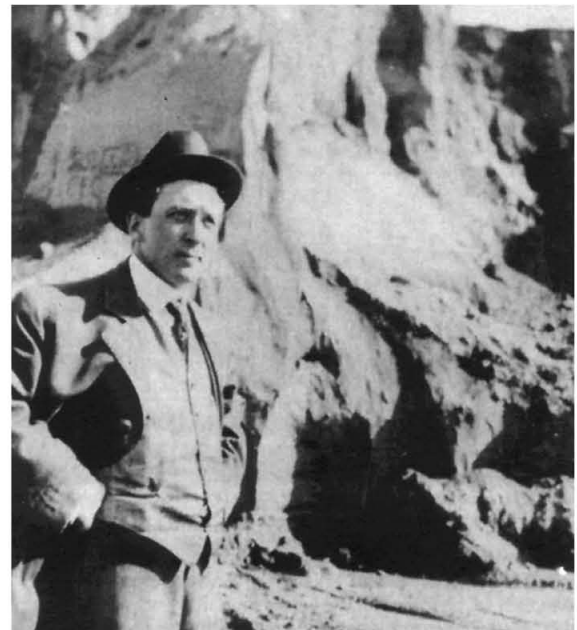
He was an innovative man, just right for the challenges of his time. -CCHS

—Submitted by George M. Milne

Milestones in Freddie Lowes' Life

- 1880 - born in Brampton, Ontario
- 1899 - finds employment with Canada Life Assurance
- 1902 - transfers to Calgary
- 1906 - starts the F.C. Lowes & Co. Real Estate, Insurance, and Financial Brokers with \$400
- 1911 - owns the largest real estate company in Western Canada
- 1912 - becomes founding member of Calgary's Planning Commission
- 1913 - fortune estimated at \$7 million

Unfortunately, Lowes' success was not to last. By 1916 he was basically broke, and he later died in virtual obscurity. —Source: *Elbow Park Gazette*, Summer 2005



ABOVE: Fred C. Lowes, real estate man, 1912. Beside Mission hill which was washed down by hydraulic pump to fill in swamp and form base of Roxboro subdivision. This was considered an amazing engineering feat at the time. —Glenbow Archives, NA-2957-2

BELOW: Site of Freddie Lowes Garden and Memorial. —Photos submitted by George M. Milne



Pioneer Profile:
James I Brewster, Sr. (1854-1937)

When the death of James Irvine Brewster was announced on the CFCN news in 1937, he was described as "one of Alberta's best known and respected pioneers." This tribute was given to a man who, throughout his life, put generosity and honesty ahead of personal advantage. When he died, many tributes came from those who had been given a "leg up" when they were struggling to get a foothold in the province.

Jim Brewster came west from his home in Kingston, Ontario, in search of adventure, when he was 17 years old. For several years he freighted for the Hudson's Bay Company and other traders, bringing supplies from Winnipeg to Fort Edmonton by Red River cart. On one such trip, his cargo was the first printing press for Frank Oliver's *Edmonton Bulletin*. He arrived in southern Alberta in 1879, when he freighted a load of supplies from Fort Edmonton to Morleyville, west of Calgary.

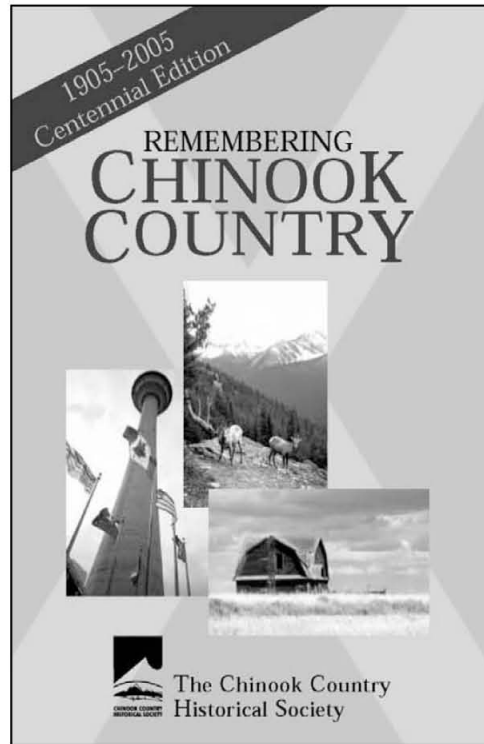
Jim responded to the freedom, potential – and the outright beauty – of southern Alberta, and once here, never left it. He and his wife, Mary Jane Boyd of the McDougall pioneer mission family, homesteaded land near Bowden in 1889, and started one of the early "stopping houses" on the Edmonton Trail. He later built a hotel at Bowden and invested in real estate in Edmonton and Calgary. In time, he encouraged his three brothers to come west to build lives in the new land.

Jim and Mary had a son and daughter, Jim and Bessie. Several of their descendants have been active in historical preservation. Some of the great adventures of Jim's life in the early days remain in the family archives to remind his descendants of his place in the growth of Alberta. -CCHS

—Submitted by *Ralphine Locke,*
James I. Brewster Sr.'s granddaughter

Remembering Chinook Country

An Anthology by The Chinook Country Historical Society



Written in commemoration of Alberta's Centennial Anniversary, *Remembering Chinook Country* conveys a spirited depiction of the maturity of a small town and its surroundings. With an emphasis on Calgary and its region, the book offers a vivid look into the history of this constantly evolving area. *Remembering Chinook Country* will interest anyone who desires an understanding of just how this vicinity managed to become a leading force in economic, social, and political development in the modern world.

The anthology includes experts in their respective fields of social, economic, and legal history. Chinook Country's story is that of responsible persons working over numerous generations to ensure the ongoing progress of a vibrant and forward-looking region, as well as a dedication to the preservation of our shared history.

Remembering Chinook Country
 ISBN # 1-55059-287-4; 6x9; 360 pg;
 \$25.00 for members,
 \$30.00 for non-members

The Chinook Country Historical Society
 223 12th Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0G9
 Phone: (403) 261-4667

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Solutions to Crossword

(Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. University, 6. Olaf,
 9. Cathedral, 10. Lydia, 11. Eight,
 12. Nose Creek, 13. Gardner, 15. Camel,
 16. Robeson, 19. Sue, 20. Cog,
 21. Okaying, 22. Bilko, 24. Light,
 25. Ignoramus, 26. Side, 27. Ascensions

Down: 1. Uncle, 2. Integer, 3. Elect,
 4. Shriner, 5. Telus, 7. Liddell, 8. Frank King,
 10. Lacombe, 13. Gargoyles,
 14. Nesbitt, 17. Bragged, 18. Noggins,
 19. Shawnee, 20. Colombo, 22. Bores
 23. Oasis -CCHS

Stephen Avenue and Palace Theatre Honoured

Thanks to the dedication of past HSA president James Mackie, the Palace Theatre and Stephen Avenue have been officially designated as historic sites.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada unveiled two plaques on June 22, 2005, that commemorate the role of Stephen Avenue Mall and the Palace Theatre. The wording on the plaque reads:

“Stephen Avenue is a superb illustration of the central role that retail streets have played and continue to play in the Canadian urban experience. As a well-preserved commercial street, the avenue bears eloquent witness to the emergence of the modern retail sector in Canada from 1880 to 1930. With the coming of the railway, Prairie cities grew at an unprecedented rate, and their gridiron urban plans reflected a new functional pattern: financial and commercial sectors located near the train station, surrounded by residential areas while factories were farther away. Elegant illustrations of Calgary’s sandstone era, the buildings of



The newly-unveiled plaque on Stephen Avenue Mall.
—Photo by Vivian Sampson

Stephen Avenue are handsome representatives of the architecture of their time, featuring Victorian, Art Deco and Beaux-Arts elements.” -CCHS

—Submitted by Vivian Sampson



A Portrait of Ever-Changing Canmore

The Canmore Museum & Geoscience Centre opened its centennial exhibition on June 17.

Entitled “Changes: Portraits and Voices of Canmore”, the exhibition uses portraiture and video and examines the views of 28 long-time Canmore residents aged 21 to 100 years of age.

It is a personal account of a historic period in a community which, barely 25 years ago, wondered if it would survive the closure of its last coal mine. It’s a record

made for and by a selection of its citizens.

Featuring the photography of Colin Ferguson, this exhibition of black and white portraits is teamed up with video interviews shot by Joseph Potts and hosted by Cathy Jones. These 28 citizens speak about their own relationship to the town, what they see today and what they think awaits it in the future.

The Canmore Museum & Geoscience Centre is located inside the Canmore Civic Centre at 902B – 7th Avenue, Canmore. -CCHS

New Books — Hot off the Press!

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER: 100 YEARS

The Cathedral Church of the Redeemer has just released its centennial book. It features 64 large-format glossy pages, lavishly illustrated with beautiful full-colour photos, including meticulous details about the building, its woodwork, the stained glass windows, various war memorials and its historic architectural features.

Books are available for purchase at the Cathedral weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., or from the Cathedral office (located next-door to the Cathedral at 604 – 1st Street S.E.) weekdays from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for \$25 each.

Call 269-1905 for more information. -CCHS



BOWNESS: OUR VILLAGE IN THE VALLEY

The Bowness Historical Society is having a book launch and open house for their book, *Bowness: Our Village in the Valley* on Saturday, September 10, 1:30 p.m. at the Foothills United Church, 3803 – 69 Street N.W., from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. Drop by and purchase your own copy of the book.

For more information, please contact Carole Carpenter at 288-1737. -CCHS

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

Across

1. A place of higher learning, located near Brentwood
6. The patron saint of Norway
9. St. Mary's -----
10. Name daily (anagram)
11. "Pieces of -----!" A pirate's booty
12. A stream that runs from Nose Hill to the Bow; Calgary's former red light district
13. Clem -----, all-round Canadian cowboy champion, Calgary Stampede 1912
15. Dromedary
16. Paul -----, a singer from the 20's and 30's, well known for his rendition of 'Old Man River'
19. --- Higgins, former Alderman
20. Part of a gear
21. approving (sl.)
22. Sgt. -----, a popular T.V. character of the 1950's
24. The Charge of the ----- Brigade
25. A dolt or oaf
26. East ---- Mario's
27. Upward movements

Down

1. ---- Tom's Cabin
2. A positive, whole number
3. To vote someone to power
4. A member of a philanthropic society seen in the Stampede Parade
5. Canada's second largest telephone company
7. Ken -----, a well known Calgary Herald columnist
8. Chairman of the 1988 Olympics Committee
10. An early missionary after whom a centre in south Calgary was named
13. Unique sculptures that once decorated the Herald building
14. ----- Burns, stockbrokers, now part of Bank of Montreal
17. Boasted
18. Small mugs or cups or heads?
19. A subdivision in south Calgary, ----- Slopes
20. A T.V. detective portrayed by Peter Falk
22. Drills
23. A popular spa in Mt. Royal Village

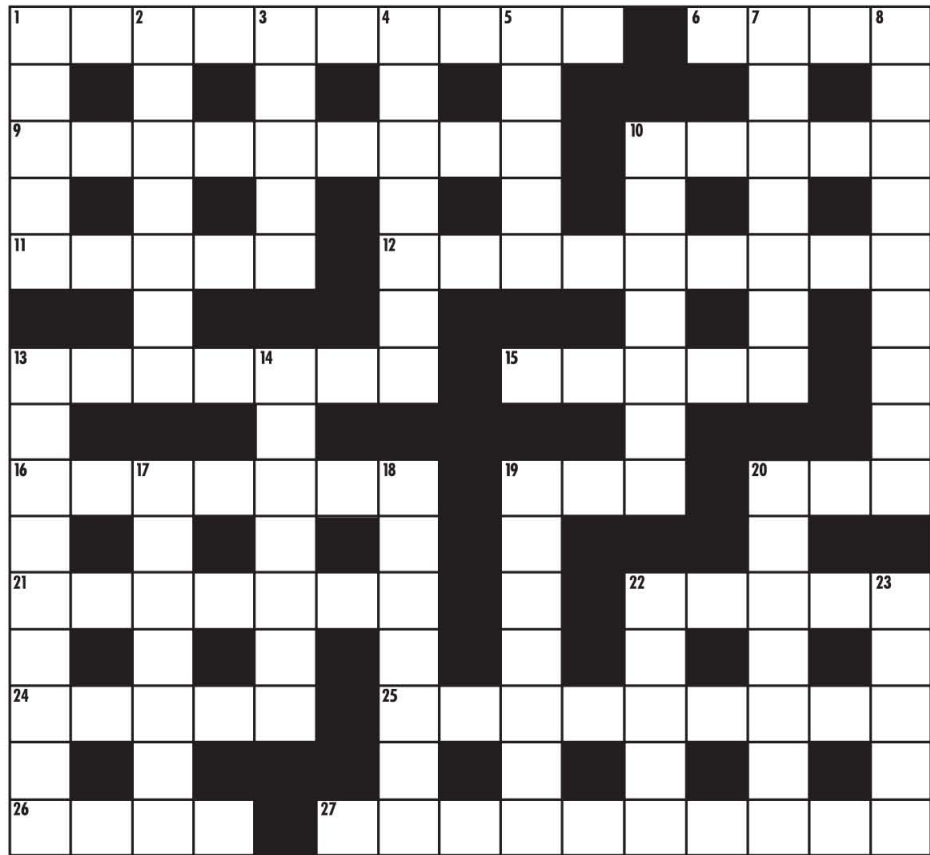
by Jennifer Prest



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		



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Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the September/October issue is August 26, 2005. Please send your article to Ruth Kerr at rakerr2@telus.net.