



Nose Creek Commemorates Area Schools



The Calgary and District Chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta

Office:
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Calgary, Alberta
T2R 0G9

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.

Did you go to school in the vicinity of Nose Creek? The Nose Creek Historical Society has been erecting cairns and plaques to commemorate various historical aspects of the area since 1974. They are now focusing on schools that were located in the area north of Calgary to Crossfield.

Last June, the Society arranged for the unveiling of cairns and plaques to commemorate Beddington School, Beddington Church and Beddington Hall. The three plaques are in a playground in Coventry Hills called "Barker Memorial Park". The plaques were donated by Genstar Development Company. A pamphlet designed for the occasion gives the history of the three institutions and lists the locations of all the cairns and plaques the society has had constructed.

If you would like more information, contact Val Jobson at 283-1393 or vjobson@telus.net.

Oh yes, and if you went to school in the area or know of someone who did, the Society would be pleased to hear from you.

— Submitted by Kate Reeves

Barker Memorial Park: In Memory of Jack and Elizabeth Barker

Jack Barker came by train from Ontario to Calgary in 1889. He established a homestead on this land in the Beddington District in July, 1893. In 1899 he married Elizabeth Adams and together they created an inviting home to eleven



Unveiling of cairns and plaques to commemorate Beddington School (1902-45), Beddington Church (1913-68), and Beddington Hall (1922-90). The unveiling was on June 26, 2005 at Barker Memorial Park in Calgary. Above: Doris Evans, Walter Bushfield, George Waite and Don Vestrum in front of school plaque.

children and all others who passed by their homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Barker were very interested in community development having donated land from this homestead for a school, church, and community hall that was located about 400 meters west of this park. The Beddington School opened in 1902 and Mr. Barker was the first chairman of the Beddington School Board. He was also a Division 2 councillor for the Rural Municipality of Beddington from 1914 to 1916. Both Mr. and Mrs. Barker were instrumental in establishing the Beddington United Church, which opened in 1913. Mrs. Barker remained on the homestead until 1927 when she sold the land to the Ole Bilben family. She passed away in 1944. Barker Memorial Park was established in August 2004 and is situated at the location of the Barker homestead.

— Words on Plaque in Barker Memorial Park

Now Available:
**Stone by Stone and The Buffalo
People** by Liz Bryan

The Native people of the Canadian prairies have been living on the land for at least 12,000 years, finding sustainable lifestyles from the grasslands and the aspen parklands. Our knowledge of these people is limited: they had no writing, no large settlements, and very little in the way of lasting material things.

Liz Bryan takes the clues from decades of archaeological research and presents an immensely entertaining and informative account of these ancient people.

To order your copy of *Stone by Stone and the Buffalo People*, call Karen Berreth (800) 665-3302 or email her at: distribution@heritagehouse.ca -CCHS

Book Launch:
**Lost: True Stories of Canadian
Aviation Tragedies**

Fifth House Publishers and the Aero Space Museum of Calgary cordially invite you to the launch of Shirlee Smith Matheson's newest book, *Lost: True Stories of Canadian Aviation Tragedies*.

When: Thursday, October 6 at 7:30 PM

Where: Aero Space Museum of Calgary, 4629 McCall Way N.E. (Refreshments will be served.)

This compelling collection of stories chronicles intriguing aviation anomalies from the shores of Labrador to the British Columbia coast, and beyond our aerial borders to describe Canadians' participation in far-reaching aviation mysteries and disasters.

For more information call (403) 250-3752 Ext. 108. -CCHS

From the President: What a Week!

What a week! (We're keeping with the Calgary tradition of one week being 10 days.)

Historic Calgary Week started with a bang at the Calgary Outdoor Resource Centre, and ended with a bang at the Red Barn in Shawnessy Community Centre.

In between these two events, 38 walking tours and talks were given at different venues throughout the City and surrounding area. All our presenters gave informative talks giving us a glimpse into our City's past. We owe them all a special thank you for all the time and effort they put into researching their topics on our behalf.

Cathi Elsey and Susannah Windrum and the Historic Calgary Week Committee have done a wonderful job again this year in putting together a very professional package by a group of non-professional volunteers. The number of hours these volunteers spend is huge, and the logistics of programming these events is mind boggling. They deserve our appreciation and gratitude.

As part of Historic Calgary Week, our anthology *Remembering Chinook Country* was launched at the Memorial Park Library. One hundred were in attendance and had the opportunity to listen to the delightful comments of the authors speaking on their anthology contributions. Those authors included John Gilpin, Louise Crane, Don Smith, Jim Bowman, Bob Pearson, Karim-Aly Kassam, Trudy Cowan, Cheryl Foggo, Kate Reeves and Harry Sanders, acting as emcee for the evening as well as commenting on his chapter in the anthology on the history of the Chinook Country Historical Society.

The evening was hosted by Detselig Enterprises who provided wine and finger foods for the occasion. Thank you to Ted Giles and his staff at Detselig Enterprises for making this a book launch to remember.

Our thanks also to Marje Wing, manager of the Memorial Park Library who again put

together talks by Brian Brennan, and Don Smith as part of the HCW. In appreciation for all her support, the CCHS has given the Memorial Park Library an enlarged copy of Calgary's first university held at the Memorial Park Library 1912-1915.

We will be selling copies of *Remembering Chinook Country* at the September 27 program featuring David Peyto with his presentation on "Banff Town Warden" at Fort Calgary. The cost of the book to members is \$25, non-members \$30.

You will find an information on the Commonwealth Airfields bus tour taking place Saturday, October 1 on page 4 of this newsletter. This will be a round trip, with speakers along the way to give us the history of those young men from all over the Commonwealth who came to train in Canada. As this is the 60th anniversary of V-E day, we felt this could be our contribution to the "Year of the Veteran". I hope you can take in the trip.

The secret is out. This year we have the honour of having our new Lt. Governor, the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, as guest speaker of the December 7 dinner meeting at Fort Calgary. Tickets may be ordered through the November newsletter and at the November program.

Before closing, I have to mention that after Harry Sanders' great tour of the East Village Saturday night, and after nine hot days of events there were many of us in the audience with tired legs and sore feet. As Harry was making his final comments, there was the tinkle of bells in the background. No sooner had Harry finished talking when the "Good Humour Man" appeared with a truckfull of cold, tasty delights. A welcome sight for most of the 120 plus attendees, and whether by good management or just plain good luck, it was a lucrative night for one "Good Humour Man". -CCHS

—Diana Ringstrom

Hanna Elementary Students Write History

Note: In the latter part of June, Linda Many Guns made a presentation on Native History to the Grades Three and Four Classes of Hanna Elementary School. Below are two (unedited) essays submitted to the Chinook Historical Society.

Dear Linda:

Thank you for coming to our school. Your presentation was awesome. I really liked your dress, it was beautiful. I never knew that the beads were made of glass. I learned about the furtrade. I think it was very responsible of your tribe to stand your ground and be the last tribe to trade with Europeans. I like how you did everything the old way. You have made it way easier to understand social now. The pictures on our wall have become so more real from your speech. I now can believe the readers.

From, Courtney Fecho

Family History (Dad's Side – Armstrong) By "The Armstrong Family Historian"

They came from Cumberland England before 1842. They came to Catheart Ontario and my great-great-grandpa John moved to Hydepark in 1873 where he got married to Jane Milburn. They had ten children and the third oldest was named Leonard (my great-grandpa). Leonard went to Boston Mass. before 1900, and worked as a horse buyer and later moved to New York City and worked for an express company. In 1908 he moved to Manitoba where he worked in Winnipeg at a

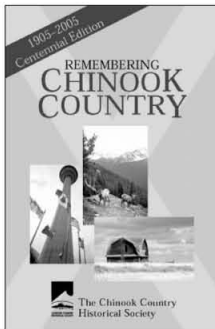
desk job. In 1916 he married Maud Evans and they moved to Youngstown, Alberta to a farm her parents gave them as a wedding gift. They had 5 children together and she had 2 from a previous marriage. My grandpa (Jim) was the 6th child out of the 7. He was born in 1923. He lived in Youngstown, Handhills, Dorthy and served in the navy as a very good cook throughout 1944-1946. He worked as a rancher before and after the war and in 1954 he married Clara Radke from the Handhills. They had 5 children, Brenda, Sandy, Lori, Hazel, and my dad Jeff. And of course my dad lives in Hanna, works at the power plant and has my brother and I.

Maud and her 1st husband Truman had 2 children, Mary and Margaret. Truman went out into town to pay his taxes and he never came back. Maud then married Leonard (my great-grandpa) and they had 5 kids. 1 of them was my grandpa. -CCHS

—Essays Submitted by Susan Turner

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 pp;
\$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

Who, Me? Write My Memoirs?

Deborah Grey did it. So did Pierre Trudeau. And Bill Clinton made a fortune with his.

What about you? Is it time to you wrote your memoirs?

Give your children and your grandchildren the story of your life. It will contribute to their sense of identity and

their self-esteem. And it will give you the good feeling of achievement.

Plans are underway for a memoir-writing workshop. If you're interested, please call Bill Corbett at (403) 283-5413 or email him at dbcorb@shaw.ca. Details will be announced in a future newsletter. -CCHS

—Submitted by Bill Corbett

Calgary Opera Finds Home in Wesley Church

The new owners of the Wesley United Church are supporting the relocation of Calgary Opera's administrative offices and new rehearsal centre to this historic property. This will bring an important arts institution and much positive activity to the Beltline Communities of Victoria and Connaught.

It appears that both the owners and Calgary Opera are planning adaptive reuse of the sanctuary with a high degree of sensitivity to heritage.

Wesley is a Category A building and a "registered" provincial resource. Built in 1912 as Wesley Methodist, congregants and supporters included Sen. James Lougheed, pioneer industrialist and Public Works Minister W.H. Cushing, future Prime Minister R.B. Bennett, and Nellie McClung of the Famous Five.

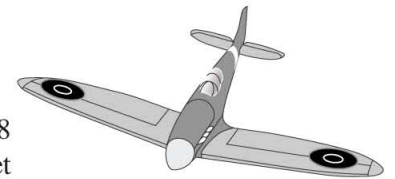
Here are some of the proposed details I've heard about for the interior volume of the sanctuary:

- the pews will be removed and stored;
- the raked floor will be built up to flat with a "floating floor" on top – this will be done in a way that retains the existing floor underneath;
- the Casavantes organ will be retained;
- the stained glass et al will be retained;
- some changes will be made to the riser at the front of the room and all significant woodwork retained.

The above is not a fixed plan. Rather, it's a general description of what I heard from a board member architect about Calgary Opera's intentions. -CCHS

—Submitted by Rob Taylor, President, Beltline Communities of Victoria & Connaught

Bus Tour to Air Training Sites in Southern Alberta



The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) was one of Canada's most important contributions to World War II. Under the Plan, aircrew training schools were established throughout Canada. Trainees were from Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand plus a number of other allied countries. When the BCATP ended in 1945 the allied war effort had been successful due in part to the training that occurred in Alberta and other parts of Canada.

Join Chinook Country Historical Society members and friends on **Saturday, October 1, 2005** for a bus trip to several of the BCATP sites in southern Alberta. You can expect to see the remaining evidence of the airports on the flatlands of Alberta at Vulcan, Fort Macleod, Claresholm, and High River, and to visit the Nanton Lancaster Society Air Museum.

The tour will leave Calgary at 8 am and return around 6 pm. Meet the bus at the parking lot of Home Depot, 6500 Macleod Trail SW. Use the west side of the lot near the pedestrian overpass. Arrangements have been made to leave your vehicle at the site.

Special presentations will be made by members of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Preservation Society and the Nanton Lancaster Society Air Museum.

Cost for the trip and lunch is \$40 payable to Chinook Country Historical Society, c/o 40 Roseview Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2K 1N7. **The deadline for registration is Thursday, September 22.** There will be three rest stops and the opportunity to purchase refreshments along the way.

The number of participants is limited to 45. The trip is subject to cancellation if not enough participants register. Please register early. Once the limit is reached we cannot accept further registrations. The telephone contact for this trip is 403-282-3716.

This unique opportunity will provide you with a look at a very important contribution made to the war effort by many residents of communities in southern Alberta. -CCHS

—Submitted by David Ballard

Calgary Herald Historic Calgary Week Crossword Winners

This year we received 130 entries from as far afield as Crossfield and High River! Fifteen people completed the puzzle correctly. They are:

Lois Kerslake, Calgary	Mel Crawford, Calgary
Sheila Simonot, Calgary	Tim Buenher, Calgary
Maureen Osis, Calgary	Audrey Rice, Calgary
Patricia Gaudet, Okotoks	Elaine Robinson, Calgary
Marion Holgate, Calgary	Donnalee Powell, Calgary
Carol Christensen, Calgary	Bonnie Fischer, Calgary
Edward Dunn, Calgary	Michael Zenaitis, Calgary
Patricia Barnes, Calgary	

The winners will be contacted by the Chinook Country Historical Society and will be invited to attend a general meeting at which they will receive their prizes.

I would like to thank all those people who participated and to apologize for any confusion caused by the spelling of the name of Calgary's first police chief, J.S. Ingram or Ingraham, both spellings were acceptable. Clue 90 Across should have read "____ Christie" and Clue 179 Across "Odd Fellows" but neither of these misprints seemed to cause difficulties for our seasoned puzzle solvers. -CCHS

— Jennifer Prest

Board Members

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Newsletter Submissions: EARLY DEADLINE! The deadline for the Sept./Oct. issue is **October 1, 2005**. 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:
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,	
Total	<u>\$40.00</u>	Total	<u>\$50.00</u>	library, historical society)	
Purchased together	\$35.00	Purchased together	\$45.00	Associate membership	\$120.00