

We'll Meet Again: Unseen History Brought to Life
By Walt & Irene DeBoni

Historic Calgary Week completed its 11-day run on August 1, following a modified format in recognition of the continuing risks posed by Covid-19 and the appeal of virtual events for certain programs. In the end, our 65-event program included 15 virtual presentations. Most of the in-person events restricted numbers with registration required. This was both for health reasons or for a more intimate experience at the events.

The festival opened with four morning and afternoon events organized by the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants at their Memorial Building. During the rest of the festival, in addition to many neighbourhood visits, events explored our archeological and palaeontological history, delved into the underappreciated role that women played in building our province and highlighted visual and literary artforms that brought our unseen history to life. Many other interesting topics explored genealogy, little-known stories, the contributions of our military, our built history and family stories. We may not have had any Quirks and Quarks, but we did have Quilts and Quarries!

Events throughout our region, including Okotoks, Rosebud, High River, EP Ranch, Morley, Glenbow Ranch Park, Chestermere, Nanton, and Irricana highlighted the regional diversity of our program.

Our giant crossword puzzle, entitled Alberta Road Trip, took us to some 39 sites throughout the province, highlighting the diverse history in many small towns. This year, nine people completed the puzzle without any errors, a higher-than-usual number. Several people said that they very much enjoyed the “trip” around our province.

We would like to thank our sponsors, partners and donors as well as our legion of volunteers whose efforts in these extraordinary times resulted in a successful history festival. The passion and perseverance of our presenters was instrumental in delivering many inspiring events. In particular we thank Heritage Calgary for its generous sponsorship and Calgary Public Library for hosting the majority of our virtual events as well as several in-person events.