



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

William Roper Hull and “Langmore”

The Calgary and District
Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

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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.

While researching a presentation on Calgary's first skyscraper, the six-storey Grain Exchange Building, located at the corner of Ninth Avenue and First Street SW, I came across a photograph of a particularly elegant historic building. It depicted “Langmore”, the home of William Roper Hull and his wife, Emmeline.

This residence at Twelfth Avenue and Sixth Street SW was located on 1.7 acres (equal to 22 city lots) and had extensive gardens surrounding it. It had been completed in 1905 and was named after the Hull family home in England. When it was completed there were only three other homes in the immediate vicinity: the Lougheed House, the McCarthy home which became the site of the Ranchman's Club, and the Braden home.

William Roper Hull and his brother, Jack Roper Hull, left England and sailed to the Isthmus of Panama where they crossed to the Pacific Ocean to continue their trip to San Francisco, Victoria and Vancouver. In 1874, they set up a large cattle ranch in the Kamloops area, and in 1883 they set out to take 1,000 cattle and 1,200 horses over the mountains and through the Crow's Nest Pass to Calgary, NWT.

They purchased a ranch located in present-day Fish Creek Provincial Park and kept one-third of the herds to raise more stock. Their live- and dressed-sales to the North West Mounted Police, the Canadian Pacific Railway and other livestock concerns, proved



“Langmore”, residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Roper Hull, Calgary, Alberta (ca. 1910s).

—Glenbow Museum Archives NA-1984-1

to them that there was potential for further expansion. They amiably dissolved their partnership and John returned to the ranching operations in British Columbia, while William remained in Calgary to expand his business by developing large cattle holdings and butcher shops. Those operations he eventually sold to Pat Burns.

William built Calgary's first Opera House (1893) on what is now the parking lot north diagonally from the Calgary Chamber of Commerce Building on Centre Street. He also built the 1902 Alberta Block on Eighth Avenue and First Street SW, the 1910 Grain Exchange Building (Ninth Avenue and First Street SW), along with the now lost-to-progress Victoria, Albion, and Radio Blocks.

—continued on page 3

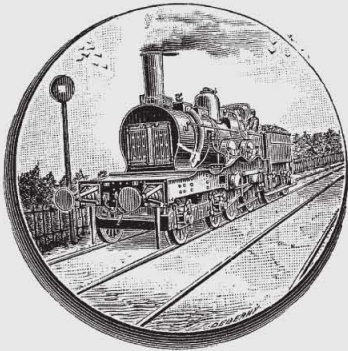
Calling All Heritage & Railway Buffs!

Join us for the Conference of the British Columbia Historical Federation, May 4-7, 2006 in Kimberley, BC.

The program includes entertainment, a book fair, lunches and speakers on East Kootenay history. You can also take a tour of the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel and of the Bavarian Mine Railway to the Sullivan Mine power house and mini-village.

Early Bird rates available until March 15, 2006. Log onto www.bchistory.ca to download the registration package. -CCHS

—Submitted by Naomi Miller



Volunteers Needed for Historic Calgary Week

Volunteers will be needed to act as hosts at the presentations, and to fill other positions during the ten days of Historic Calgary Week. We know we can count on our members who have always been generous in giving their time and expertise in the past in making HCW a success.

Please contact Vivian Sampson at (403) 277-1013. -CCHS

From the President

Our first 100 years as a province has passed, and now we have to get busy making history for the next century.

The Christmas program was held at Fort Calgary on December 7, with our Lieutenant-Governor, His Honour Norman Kwong, and Her Honour Mary Kwong as our guests. His Honour, as our guest speaker, was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

In his address, His Honour talked about his own love of history, and visiting museums and viewing the artifacts on display. He said often displays haven't any meaning until you know the history of the people and events they represent. He emphasized the importance of giving our youth a sense of history, which gives them a sense of belonging.

After the presentation, Program Coordinator Tom Hamp presented His Honour with one of his famous photographic prints.

Again this year, our decorating committee did a wonderful job of decorating the tables with a Christmas flair. Out thanks to committee members Jennifer Jack, Norma Lake, Ivy Cameron, Ruth Manning, Theresa Geddes, Meg Gillespie and David Ballard.

Our two Board members, Vivian Sampson and Susan Turner, deserve all the credit for the many hours spent coordinating the event. Thank you both for a job well done.

And a special thank you to pianist Sylvia Jones who did a marvellous job for us on such short notice.

On December 7, I attended the first Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Annual Western Legacy Awards. Dr. Frits Pannekoek received the Western Legacy Award for Innovation for his single visionary project on

the digitization of Alberta History. This website is visited by Canadians and researchers all over the world. Dr. Pannekoek is the president of Athabaska University and is one of the contributors to our anthology, *Remembering Chinook Country*. Congratulations, Dr. Pannekoek.

The Historic Calgary Week committee has had several meetings and plans are well underway for this year's event. The theme is "City of Treasures: Calgary's Historic Gems", and will take place from July 28 - August 6. Walt DeBoni has taken on the role as chairman of HCW and, for the first time, we will have a coordinator. Laurie Hill will lighten the load of the committee by looking after all the tasks that have to be done to make the event run smoothly.

I would like to thank Margaret Russell for graciously loaning her home to us for the newsletter mailouts, and to Sheila Grogan and all the volunteers who donate their time. If you are interested in helping with future newsletter mailings, please call Sheila at (403) 282-6860.

The Grand Theatre, Calgary's original "culturehouse" is having its grand opening on March 4 at 8:00 pm. The Grand, built in 1912, was the biggest and best theatre in the northwest and attracted stars such as Fred Astaire, Ethel Barrymore and Arthur Rubinstein. I hope many of you can attend the Grand Opening and support Theatre Junction in their efforts in bringing the Grand back to centre stage in Calgary's cultural scene.

This will be my last report as your president. We will be nominating new directors at the AGM dinner and auction on March 21. I look forward to seeing you there. -CCHS
—Diana Ringstrom

Solutions to Crossword (Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. Eugene; 4. Tom Baker; 10. Ringstrom; 11. Final; 12. Gosling; 13. Headers; 14. Erect; 16. Should; 18. Carillon; 20. Thyme; 22. Prompts; 24. Evictor; 27. Plato; 28. Enslaving; 29. Beekeeper; 30. USSR

Down: 1. Earl Grey; 2. Genes; 3. Nesbitt; 5. Oomph; 6. Buffalo; 7. Ken Penley; 8. Relish; 9. Original; 15. Evaporate; 16. Sanders; 17. Me; 19. Implode; 20. Trimac; 21. Up; 23. Sheep; 25. Trips; 26. Roger; 27. Pub -CCHS

William Roper Hull's "Langmore" (cont'd)

After the sale of his ranching and meat packing interests, William Roper Hull set about to concentrate on his real estate, land development, insurance and financial interests but, ever the rancher, returned to ranching and farming soon after.

In 1905 "Langmore" was constructed of brick on a sandstone foundation. The large, square-shaped building was two full storeys, an attic and basement. A veranda stretched across the west side and along much of the south side providing a second storey wrap-around balcony. There was an upper storey balcony on the east side of house where the morning sun could be enjoyed from the bedrooms located at that level. The exterior was highly decorated with narrow Doric columns and the building was complemented by a red Spanish-tile roof.

Inside the building, light streamed through bevelled, leaded and stained glass windows. Richly decorated wood paneling, beams, flooring and trim were used throughout. A sweeping paneled staircase rose from the entrance hall to the second floor, with a slightly less impressive stairway to the third-level attic which housed the billiard room. There were several fireplaces on each level.

The estate garden was beautifully terraced and was the site of elaborate garden parties where games of tennis, croquet and lawn bowling were played. One of the larger parties was held in 1913 where 400 guests listened to an orchestra while having tea from a marquee erected on the lawn.

William died in 1925; Emme died in 1953. As they did not have a family, the entire contents of their home were sold at auction, and no doubt many Calgary homes and art collections contain items from this sale.

The house then served as the depository of the rapidly growing Eric L. Harvie collection of Canadiana until 1958, when the Glenbow Foundation had outgrown the Hull House. Following this, the home served as administrative offices for Eric Harvie's Ace and Riveredge Foundations, until it was sold and demolished in 1970 to make way for Hull Estates, a high-rise condominium development.

The brick two-carriage coach house from the Hull Estate was moved to Heritage Park for display. There you can visit the reconstructed coach house and view the stables. *—David Ballard*

Silent Auction Items Needed



Items are needed for the Silent Auction which will be held at the AGM, March 21, 2006 at the Calgary ZOO, Safari Lodge.

If you have items to donate, please phone Haifa Salo (282-2673) or Brenda Everitt (251-7366). Tax receipts will be provided for the value the item sells for. Your generosity is needed and appreciated. -CCHS



How do I Register for the AGM?

Mail cheque payable to:
Chinook Country Historical Society
c/o Henry Murzyn,
1636 St. Andrews Place NW,
Calgary, AB T2N 3Y5

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

_____ Ticket(s) for society members
@ \$35 each = \$ _____

_____ Ticket(s) for non-members
@ \$40 each = \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

For information and reservations call:
Sheila Grogan (403) 282-6860.

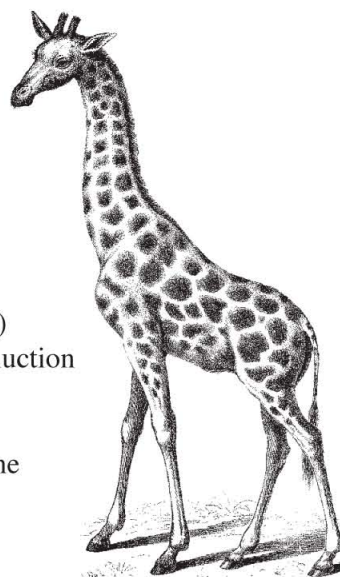
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Safari Lodge, The Calgary Zoo, 1300 Zoo Road N.E., Calgary

Topic: History of the Calgary Zoo

- 5:00 pm Doors Open (Free Parking, North Parking Lot)
Registration, Memberships, Cash bar, Silent Auction
- 5:30 pm AGM Meeting
- 6:15pm Break, Cash bar and Silent Auction
- 6:30 pm Buffet – Slow Roasted Beef, Pork Rolino, Wine
- 7:45 pm Break, Silent Auction, Cash bar
- 8:15 pm Program Speaker: Alex Graham
President and CEO, Calgary Zoo



For information and reservations call Sheila Grogan at (403) 282-6860.

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

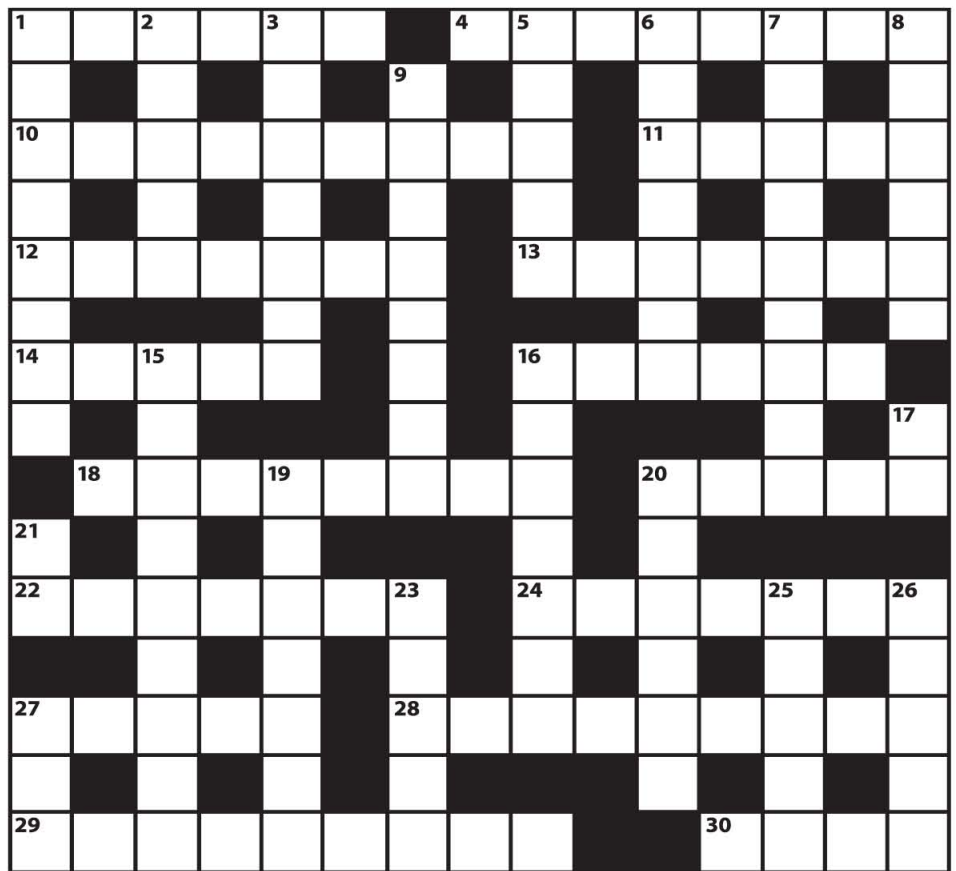
Across

1. ----- Coste, pioneer oilman
4. ----- Cancer Centre (2 wds.)
10. Our president, Diana -----
11. Last, ultimate
12. A fledgling found along the Bow River
13. ----- and footers
14. To build
16. "Would've, could've, -----'ve"
18. Peel of bells
20. A common herb
22. Incites, urges
24. One who turns out tenants on to the street?
27. Greek Philosopher
28. Captivating, bonding
29. Apiarian
30. One of the key players in the Cold War

Down

1. His trophy is vied for each November (2 wds.)
2. The means by which characteristics are passed from one generation to another
3. Former investment company, ----- Burns, now BMO
5. Pizzazz, élan (slang)
6. Haultain wanted to create a province called -----
7. My mentor, wordsmith and retired pharmacist, ----- (2 wds.)
8. To enjoy, or something to add to your meal?
9. First, primal
15. To disappear, condense
16. A well-known local historian, Harry -----
17. Personal pronoun
19. To destroy, as in the case of the old Calgary General Hospital
20. A Calgary trucking company
21. "Shut _____, keep quiet!"
23. Okotoks' river
25. Voyages, tours
26. -----'s Communications
27. The Ship and Anchor ---, on 17th Ave. SW

—Jennifer Peddlesden



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Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the Summer issue is May 13, 2006.
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
Annual subscription	\$25.00
Total	\$40.00
Purchased together	\$35.00

Family membership	\$25.00
Annual subscription	\$25.00
Total	\$50.00
Purchased together	\$45.00

Affiliate membership	\$55.00
(school, museum, library, historical society)	
Associate membership	\$120.00