

# TELLING

ARCHIVE NEWS

OUR

LOCAL HISTORY

# STORIES



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SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

Inside This Issue:

Take Note Announcements	p. 3
Letter from the Editor	p. 4
Contact Information	p. 4
Wanted: Canada Winter Games Records	p. 5
Featured Fonds:	
Grande Prairie Rotary Club fonds	p. 6-7
Featured Photos:	
Isabel Campbell collection	p.8-9
Glen Leslie Church Celebrates Its Centennial	
By Wanda Zenner	p. 10-11
Explore the History of Crystal Lake	p. 12-13
Map of Crystal Lake & Environs	p. 14-15
Featured Paper Artifact:	
HBC Employment Agreement	p. 16-17
Memories of a Pioneer Doctor: Part 2	
By Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle	p. 18-19
What Archives Do & Why We Do It	
By Leslie Gordon	p. 20-22
Kathryn’s Pick: New Coach Route	
By Kathryn Auger	p. 23
Film Grant Report	
By Leslie Gordon	p. 23
Friends of the SPRA:	
The Round-Up of Harry Adair	p. 24
SPRA Society & Member News	p. 25
What’s New at the Archives	p. 26
Membership Application Form	p. 27

On the Front Cover: (SPRA 0032.08.08.0002) A young boy with a ribbon exhibits a calf at the 1951 Beaverlodge Calf Show. Taken from the Isabel Campbell collection (p. 8-9)

Take Note

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

City of Grande Prairie Historical Cemetery Walking Tour

Join South Peace Regional Archives on a guided walk through the Grande Prairie Cemetery from 7-8:30pm and discover the rich and interesting history of the City through the lives and stories of its people. Phone 780-830-5105 to register.

Sunday, July 12, 2015

The Round-Up of Harry Adair

For more information, see page 24

Sunday, July 19, 2015

Glen Leslie Church Centennial Celebration

Everyone is welcome to share in the centennial celebration of the Glen Leslie Church on Sunday, July 19 at 1:00pm. Events include a rededication of the church, the history by Dr. David Leonard, children’s games, supper and refreshments, and more.

Sunday, August 16, 2015

M.D. of Greenview Cemetery Tour

Goodwin Anglican Cemetery  
DeBolt Community Cemetery  
Crooked Creek Catholic Cemetery  
Phone 780-830-5105 to register.

June 1, 2015

Dear Members & Supporters;

Once again, we present to you some of the stories and collections which have come into the Archives—stories which are too good to keep to ourselves and deserve a wider audience. They are, of course, just a sampling, so if there is any aspect of the history of this area that you are wanting to know more about, please give us a call.

The City of Grande Prairie is the featured area this quarter, so there is some material on the Hudson’s Bay Store, the Grande Prairie Fire Department, and Crystal Lake. We have also included Wanda Zenner’s article on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Glen Leslie Church, a milestone that should be celebrated!

One of the recent collections which Archivist Leslie Gordon processed was the Cultural Program of the 1995 Winter Games, donated by Carol-Lee Eckhardt, and identified as Iskoteo and “Fire in the Sky.” The description of this collection can be seen on our website under Holdings (Finding Aid 603), but it made us realize that there may be more Canada Games records still out there. Hence the article on page 5.

We are also pleased to announce the completion of phase 1 of our film digitization project, which gives all of us access to a number of 8mm films donated by local families. The report is on page 23.

Reader feedback is fun, and I am pleased to include Evelyn Millman’s memory of her Shirley Temple haircut. Don’t miss the cute photo on page 25.

The Friends of the Archives and the general Society have recently received a number of donations in memory of friends who have passed away. Check out the “Gifts In Honour” page under the Society tab on our website for the list of those remembered in this way. Thank you donors for sending the message that the preservation of history is an excellent way to remember those who have gone before.

Sincerely,  
Mary Nutting, editor

TELLING OUR STORIES

PUBLISHED BY  
South Peace Regional Archives Society

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**Our Vision:** Preserving and Sharing the Past.  
**Our Mission:** The purpose of South Peace Regional Archives is to gather, preserve, and share the historical records of municipalities, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals within the region, both now and in the future.

Wanted: Canada Winter Games Records

The Canada Games started in February 1967 and are held every two years, alternating between summer and winter games. The 1995 Canada Winter Games were held in Grande Prairie, Alberta from February 19 to March 4. At the time, Grande Prairie was the smallest city to ever host the Games and only the second Albertan city to do so. Twenty-one sports were featured at the games with 2517 athletes, 617 coaches and managers, 8000 volunteers, and 115 staff. The theme for the Games was “Capture the Vision”.

Grande Prairie’s bid was accepted by the Canada Games Council on November 9, 1990 and planning began in earnest. An event of this magnitude took an enormous amount of planning to run smoothly. In fact, a whole new society was incorporated for this very purpose: the 1995 Grande Prairie Canada Winter Games Host Society with the mandate of “creating a positive climate for an unparalleled celebration of sport and culture which will leave the athlete and all those touched by their involvement in the 1995 Canada Games with a legacy rich in memories, new opportunities, and pride as Canadians.”

That was 20 years ago now. So how can we keep the “legacy rich in memories” alive? One of the best ways is to ensure that the records are preserved for future generations to experience and learn from the efforts of the past.

South Peace Regional Archives received the records of the Cultural Division of the 1995 Grande Prairie Canada Winter Games Host Society from the Vice President of Culture, Carol-Lee Eckhardt, in 2012. We’ve recently finished processing them and they provide great insight into the massive amount of planning and creative energy required to pull together the nightly “Fire in the Sky” performances.

Right: WANTED: Two moose, known as Boreal and Aurora. Last seen wearing Canada Winter Games sweaters. Actually, the moose can stay wherever they are hiding, but we do want any records created by the 1995 Canada Winter Games Host Committee. (SPRA 190.02.01.1557.113)

However, the Host Committee Management Committee was composed of fourteen other different divisions: Administration/Volunteer Services, Athletes’ Village, Facilities, Finance, Friends of the ’95 Games, Health and Medical Services, Jasper, Language Services, Legal Counsel, Logistics, Marketing, Protocol and Ceremonies, Special Projects, and Sport, plus a President, Senior Vice President, and General Manager. Where are all their records now? We’d like to say that they are being preserved at South Peace Regional Archives, but so far, all we have are the Cultural Division records, a few photographs in the Panda Camera fonds, and the final published report of the “The Best Games Ever.”

So, if you have 1995 Canada Winter Games records squirrelled away in your basement, shed, attic, or wherever, dig them out and haul them down to the Archives. Or if you know anyone who was involved, such as the President or Vice-Presidents, encourage them to give us a call: Tom Thompson, Alex Figel, Judy Laughy, John Webster, Carol-Lee Eckhardt, George Keen, Fred Estlin, Bill Bowes, Turk Taylor, Dr. Hilary Wynters, Roger Smolnicki, Marie Stevens, Lyle Carlstrom, Bill McCubbin, Wayne Jobb, Grant Menzies, Perky McCullough, and Rick Hryciuk. As I skim over the list, there are plenty of names I recognize, but many that have already passed away or moved away. Let’s all work together to capture any 1995 Canada Winter Games records that are still available. We want to be able to keep that legacy alive, but we need your help.





# Rotary Club of Grande Prairie fonds

**Rotary Club of Grande Prairie fonds. -- 1939-2009. -- 68 cm of textual records. -- 823 photographs. -- 202 negatives.**

## Agency History

The first organizational meeting of the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie was held on January 11, 1951 at the CFGP Radio Station. Sponsored by the Edmonton Rotary Club, the group formed a provisional club and applied to Rotary International for a charter, which was granted January 22, 1951. Charter members included Ferrell Swanston, Alexander H. Brown, Percy Clubine, Robert Miller, Morley Lidster, Dave Dowser, Charles Husel, William Kerr, John Duffy, Ernie Harrison, Olaf Hanson, D. W. Pratt, Charles Litman, Donald W. Patterson, Louis Kowensky, J. B. Oliver, Harry W. Archibald, Bryant D. Richards, President Arthur J. Balfour, and directors John A. Wilson, Fred T. Johnson, Thomas B. Griffith, John H. Nelson, Elmer Logan, John Lynn, and R. Harry Watcher. Women were not admitted to Rotary Club membership in Canada until 1988. Bobbi Lambright appears to have been the first female member of the Grande Prairie Rotary Club, joining in 1991.

Rotary International, to which the local Club pays dues, was founded in 1905 by Paul Harris, a Chicago attorney. Rotary has a strong commitment to service, as evidenced in its official mottos: "Service Above Self" and "One Profits Most Who Serves Best." Rotary members and clubs are encouraged to use the four-

way test: "Is it the TRUTH?" "Is it FAIR to all concerned?" "Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?" "Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?" and to pursue service in five avenues: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service, and Youth Service.

When it was first organized, the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie was part of District 536. District 536 was renumbered in 1991, becoming District 5360. In 1998, the District was split in two, with clubs north of Ponoka becoming part of the new district 5370. At the present time, the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie is part of Area 12 of District 5370. The Districts are further grouped into Zones, with District 5370 being part of Zone 24, which includes Canada, Eastern Russia, and parts of the United States, including Alaska. Rotary International is led by the International President, every two zones are led by a Director, each District is led by a Governor, and each club is led by a local President.

As part of providing service to the local community, the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie has funded and participated in numerous projects and programs, including the building of the Golden Age Centre (1973, 1984 addition), the Legion track near Grande Prairie Composite High School (1982), Hillside School grounds Change/Dressing room (1995), Skateboard Park (1997-98), Grande Prairie Regional College distance learning equipment (2000), Salvation Army Soup Kitchen re-model and Wapiti Community Dorm upgrade (1998), Muskoseepi Park playground equipment (1998), PARDS hay barn upgrade (2000), Rotary House/Wapiti Community Dorm Society (2005), Grande Prairie Public Library community meeting room (2008), QEII Hospital helipad (2008), Sunrise House (2008), Odyssey House, Clairmont School Playground, Lawn Bowling Centre, Smith Field Soccer facility, Grande Prairie French School Playground, Grande

Prairie Multi-Plex, and various other local organizations. The Club's longest-standing project is sponsorship of the Grande Prairie Air Cadets 577 Squadron, which it first undertook in 1953.

The Rotary Club of Grande Prairie has also operated the municipal campground on the Bear Creek Reservoir since the 1970s and provided several campground upgrades and renovations. The Club also runs a bus tour of Grande Prairie for tourists. The City's annual Clean-a-Thons/Green-a-Thons have also been run by Rotary since 1973.

The Rotary Club of Grande Prairie's overseas projects have included participation in the Polio Plus Campaign and Operation Eyesight, funding a hospital in Belize, a Bolivia school/dormitory project, a Guatemala Literacy Project, and purchasing used vehicles (buses, fire trucks, handi-vans, ambulances, etc.) and driving them to Mexico.

In order to have the financial backing to support their various local and overseas projects, the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie has engaged in numerous fundraising ventures, including selling birthday and anniversary calendars (up to the early 1970s), selling Rotary cookbooks, running a snack bar at the County Fairgrounds (before the grounds moved to Evergreen Park), running bingos and casinos, partnering in the Great Peace Country Duck Race from 1993 to 2007, and partnering in the Dream Home Lottery.

The club also participates in various social and networking events, including banquets, barbeques, bonspiels, and conferences, and meets weekly. The Club has met in various locations over the years, including the York Hotel, Joe's Corner Coffee Shop, the Golden Star Restaurant, the Grande Prairie Inn, and the Quality (now the Paradise) Inn.

The Club has been involved with Rotary International and other Rotary clubs in a variety of ways over the years. In 1958 and 2012, they hosted District Conventions. The Club became involved with the International Youth Exchange program in 1974-75 and has hosted an exchange student nearly every

year since. The Club has also been involved with the Group Study Exchange program since 1975. The Club participates in the Rotary Ball Tournament with other local Rotary clubs and has done so since 1992.

The Rotary Club of Grande Prairie has also been involved in sponsoring other fledgling clubs, including the Rotary Club of Fort St. John (1963), Swan City Rotary Club (1986), Rotaract Club of Grande Prairie (2001), Rotary Club of Grande Cache (2008), Interact Club of Sexsmith (2009), Grande Prairie After Five Club (2012), Grande Prairie Composite High School Interact Club, and Rotary E-Club of Canada One (2013).



*Entertainment at the Grande Prairie "Rotary Around the World" Convention in 1958 with Gottfried Sprecker on the piano, Wayne Rodacker on the bass, Bill Dyck on the guitar, and ? Racicot on the accordion. The photograph was likely taken by Paquin Photographs. (SPRA 0601.06.016)*

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records created and received by the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie in the course of their operations and activities. The records include minutes and reports, planning documents, correspondence, committee minutes and planning materials, membership lists, rosters, and cards, financial statements and general ledger, newsletters and publications, photographs, newspaper clippings, and Rotary International manuals and booklets.

No	2276
Name	
Address	
Phone	
	
<b>ROTARY CLUB</b>	
<b>ONE GRAND</b>	
1,000.00 Dollar Bill Draw	
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1974	
Proceeds to Community Projects	
Tickets	No
\$1.00 each	2276



# Featured Photos: Isabel Campbell Collection



Left: A man riding on a tractor with a swather, ca. 1955. (SPRA 0032.08.08.0449)

Isabel also amassed a large collection of archival materials, including over 1200 photographs. After her death in 1998, this portion of her collection was donated to the Grande Prairie Public Library, which kept it until 2013, when the photographs and newspaper clipping reference files were donated to South Peace Regional Archives. The Archives reunited the Library portion of Isabel’s collection with the Campbell Family fonds, which had been donated to the Grande Prairie Museum.

Isabel Campbell’s photograph collection covers the history of the Grande Prairie area from earliest settlement to the 1960s and features photographs on many topics, including agriculture, animals and nature, arts, businesses, buildings, communications, education, events, First Nations, industry, local communities, military, organizations, personal and family life, politics, services, settlement,



Right: Young girls exhibit calves at a 1951 Beaverlodge calf show. (SPRA 0032.08.08.0001)



Above: Men and women working on the 1959 provincial election campaign. (SPRA 0032.08.08.0290)

Left: Ira McLaughlin during the 1955 provincial elections. (SPRA 0032.08.08.0289)

sports, and transportation. A sample of photographs from the collection, now in the Isabel Campbell series of the Campbell Family fonds (032.08.08), can be seen here or online on the “Our Future, Our Past” website.



Above: Henry McCullough delivers a copy of the new City charter to Mayor Jack Mackie on the steps of the Court House in Grande Prairie, after riding from Edmonton on horseback, 1958. (SPRA 0032.08.08.0190)

Left: Henry McCullough has a drink on his way to deliver a copy of the new City charter to Mayor Jack Mackie. McCullough had ridden from Edmonton on horseback, 1958. (SPRA 0032.08.08.0191)



# Glen Leslie Church Celebrates Its Centennial

By Wanda Zenner

The Glen Leslie Church is celebrating 100 years of existence. On July 19, 2015, everyone is welcome to attend the rededication of the church and an old-fashioned picnic to be held at the church grounds located 20 km east of Grande Prairie.

Once the area in northwestern Alberta known as the “Grande Prairie” was surveyed in 1909 and subsequently opened for homestead applications in 1910, an area east of Grande Prairie received considerable attention. This district was intersected by an old trail which preceded the Edson Trail and extended from the Bezanson Townsite to Grande Prairie. One of the homesteaders, Thomas Leslie from Roslin, Ontario along with his wife Margaret and their sons, Norman, Bruce and Edward, filed on land in close proximity to each other. The community soon became known as “Glen Leslie.”

Once the local residents had their homes and outbuildings established, a dedicated church building was deemed necessary as up to that point, services



Photo courtesy of Grande Prairie Public Library, ca. 1915

were held in the Leslie home by Reverend Alexander Forbes. In November 1913, Mr. Leslie and Reverend Forbes applied for and received a church grant of 10 acres on SW 6 72 3 W6. Thomas Leslie became the first postmaster in August 1914, operating the post

office and small store out of his residence. A meeting was held in 1914 to implement a plan to construct a log building. A subscription list was drawn up with donations of cash, materials, and labour. A carpenter was hired to oversee the project. Construction of the building was completed and the first service was held on October 31, 1915. Although the Glen Leslie Church was ostensibly a Presbyterian Church, the congregation included adherents of various Protestant denominations. However, it eventually became affiliated with the United Church of Canada in 1925. The Glen Leslie Church held regular worship services until 1964; however, it was still used occasionally in subsequent years for various social events. As in most rural areas of the same era, the Glen Leslie Church was also the community centre. Ownership of the church and surrounding six acres were transferred to the County of Grande Prairie in 1977.

Although the building was purpose-built as a church, it also served as a school house for the



Photo courtesy of Bill Leslie, ca. 1923

Somme School District #3634 from 1918 to 1928. The first teacher was Marion Morrison with the school term being March 1 through December 31.

On May 10, 2010, the Glen Leslie Church was designated as a Municipal Historic Resource, followed by its designation as a Provincial Historic Resource on October 6, 2011.

Although the church was resingled and renovated in 1942, had a cement foundation poured under it in 1970, and again resingled in 1976, it had suffered the ravages of time and was in dire need of a full restoration. On May 30, 2011, a meeting was held to see if the community was interested in the restoration of the Glen Leslie Church. The consensus was that the church was indeed an integral component of the history of the surrounding area and should be preserved if possible. A volunteer Board of Directors was formed who immediately set out on a major donation recruitment campaign. Donations along with funds provided by means of grants from the County of Grande Prairie and the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation proved to be sufficient to complete the project.

In May 2013, the project was underway. Chinook Log Buildings of Ft. St. John, BC was hired to restore the logs. It was a tedious

operation as the intent was to lift off the roof along with the top three rows of logs by a crane. The lift was successful and the building came down very quickly log by log. A cement foundation was poured followed by the task of reconstructing the building. The walls went together quickly, with logs being replaced where necessary, and then it was time for the roof to go back on. The process went smoothly and the roof fit back on like it had never left. The roof was resingled and the chimney repaired. Remediation of mould and lead paint occurred in the spring of 2014. The

original hardwood flooring was reinstalled and refinished. The Glen Leslie Church once again stands proudly on a little knoll adjacent to the Glen Leslie Cemetery. In 1914, Mrs. Grace Parker, aged 22, was the first burial in the cemetery. Grace and her husband, Fred, were residents of the Bezanson Townsite where he had a jewellery store. Ownership of the four acres on which the cemetery is located was transferred to the Municipal District of Grande Prairie in 1928. The cemetery and adjacent grounds are maintained by volunteers in the area who hold an annual clean-up day. As one of the very few non-relocated sites in the eastern part of the County of Grande Prairie, the church is considered a focal point, a testament to the early settlement of the area and is a great source of community pride.



Photo by Wanda Zenner

# Explore the History of Crystal Lake

June is such a lovely month in the Peace Country. Let's go for a walk around Crystal Lake instead of our regular driving tour. You can reach the park by going east on 116 Avenue, then north on Lakeland Drive, across from Crystal Park School.

The families which first settled around Crystal Lake may not have been your ordinary farmers, for they chose land with lake and marsh, a spot of beauty on the ridge northeast of the fledgling community of Grande Prairie. This is a spring-fed lake with the overflow running into the marsh at the northwest end of the lake, a wonderful place for birds.

As you turn into the park, note the line of maple trees and caragana bushes running north to south. This is the old shelterbelt for Walter and Dulcie Medlock's farmstead.

*Walter Medlock was originally from Manchester, England, where he had apprenticed as a barber. He and his wife Dulcie immigrated to Canada in their early 20s, and he spent a few years working on railway construction between Edmonton and Jasper. When the Edson Trail was built in 1911, Walter came north with a friend to view the Peace Country. He filed on this homestead and then went back to get his wife Dulcie and a year's supply of goods, returning in February 1912. Their first home was a tent with timber walls and floor. Within two years, he had received patent on this land, but their livelihood came from his barbershop in "Grande Prairie City" about two miles to the southwest, which he ran in partnership with Ed Crerar. The second issue of the Grande Prairie Herald advertised its hours as "Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and all day Saturday." Two children were born on this homestead, Dorothy in 1914, and Hazel in 1916. Dulcie died in 1923, and Walter in 1949, but their descendants still live in the area. Granddaughter Kathryn Auger remembers taking the path from the*

*homestead to the Ag Society grounds at fair time.*

From the car park, inside the shelterbelt, take the graveled pathway north, along the caragana hedge, but look for the patch of spirea behind the park building, another evidence that this was once someone's garden site. This land became part of the City in 1961.

As you near the north end of the lake, the path emerges from the woods to join the paved park path. You are now on P.J. Tooley's land.

*Percy J. Tooley was 27 years old when he filed on this land in 1912. Born in Whitwell, Hertsfordshire, England in 1885, he immigrated to Canada in 1905, headed for the Yukon in 1906 to look for gold, and railroaded near Edmonton before journeying to the Peace River country over the Edson Trail in 1912. He filed on this homestead bordering Crystal Lake and immersed himself in business and community life as the owner of P.J. Tooley Real Estate, Farm Lands and Insurance Co. He was also active with United Grain Growers, selling shares for the first elevator to be built in Grande Prairie, and on the board of directors for the local Conservative Association, Grande Prairie School District 2357, the Board of Trade, the Agricultural Society, and the Old Timers Association. He served seven years on town council and six more as Mayor from 1933 to 1939. He is best known for working tirelessly to get an airport and passenger service in Grande Prairie in 1935.*

*Mr. Tooley also immersed himself in helping others. The first time we see his name in the paper, in November 1914, he is collecting money for cigarettes to send to soldiers from this area in World War I for Christmas. In 1918, he took on the volunteer job of being district agent for farm help, surveying the farmers in the area for the number of men required, the type of work and the wages offered, and matching the farmers up with men coming in on spring and harvest excursions to the farms. In the*

*1930s he headed the Central Committee for relief work. P.J. Tooley died in 1948.*

For a short while the path follows Lakeland Drive then takes an abrupt turn southeast to follow the north shore of the lake. Here you will see Beth Sheehan Park, one of 100 parks named for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grande Prairie in 2014. Beth was a fierce protector of the Trumpeter Swans, so this is an appropriate place to remember her. Hopefully there are some swans on the lake the day you visit.

When you have reached the next path connector to Lakeshore Drive you are on Edwin Sisley's land. Both Mr. Sisley and his neighbour to the south, Thomas Vickers, were from the Spring Creek, Saskatchewan district and arrived in 1912. But beyond that their stories differ.

*Edwin Sisley was from Ontario, 51 years old when he filed on this land in January 1912. According to an article by his UFA Grande Prairie local, he was born at Richmond Hill, Ontario, the oldest of a family of six. The early death of his father left him in charge of the farm, and meant the end of his education, but he made sure his siblings received a good education. His four brothers all achieved doctorates. Edwin branched out into public life, as a councillor for Markham township near Toronto, a founding member of one of the first farmers organizations in Canada, and as a Methodist lay minister.*

*Sometime after Edwin moved to Grande Prairie in 1912, his wife Ellen died. His children, like his siblings were well educated. When his son Fred enlisted in World War I in April 1916, it was with the University of Alberta Company, 196<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He gave his address as the Yale Hotel in Edmonton and his trade as teacher. He was killed in action at Ypres, Belgium.*

The path turns north at 90A Street, and we now wend our way through the Crystal Lake subdivision, following Lakeshore Drive to its end in a cul-de-sac, then taking the path through T.J. Gorman Park and on to 122 Avenue. Tom Gorman worked for the Department of Lands and Forests and was responsible for awarding land to many who settled in this area. After he retired, he lived in a cabin on this land, then owned by his son, Pat Gorman.

The paved path west from Gorman Park takes you onto Thomas Vickers' land.

*Thomas Vickers arrived in Canada from Lincolnshire, England, after his wife had died, with six grown children. After a number of years in Spring Creek, Saskatchewan, he came to the Peace Country at 74 years of age. This land was filed for him in proxy by his son, Thomas Jr., in 1912, who took another quarter about a mile northeast. He lived here for only a year, cared for by his daughter Katie, and died in December 1913. A week after he died, Katie married Edwin Sisley in a quiet ceremony in the Presbyterian manse (Montrose House, which still exists). This was perhaps a marriage of convenience to give help to Edwin and protection to Katie, but probably not unusual in frontier towns. The Sisleys continued to live on this quarter, although it was farmed by brother Thomas, until Edwin died in 1921. A few years later Katie went back to Saskatchewan.*

The Vickers land was later owned by Tom Gorman's son, Pat, and the Gorman house is still there, a beautiful acreage in the middle of the subdivision, on the east shore of the lake. It can be seen from 122 Avenue as you hook on to the paved path which will take you to Cygnet Boulevard then into Chandelier Park. The [City of Grande Prairie 100 Parks Legacy](#) says only that this has been known as Chandelier Park for many years. If anyone can explain to me why it is called this, I would be grateful.

The right arm of Chandelier Park path will lead again to Cygnet Boulevard which connects, on the south, to the sidewalk along Crystal Lake Drive. As the road curves south towards 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue, we will take the right fork of the path through a tiny park on the edge of the woodland. This is Walter Medlock Park, so we are back to the beginning of our story. Enjoy the pathway through the woods back to the car park.

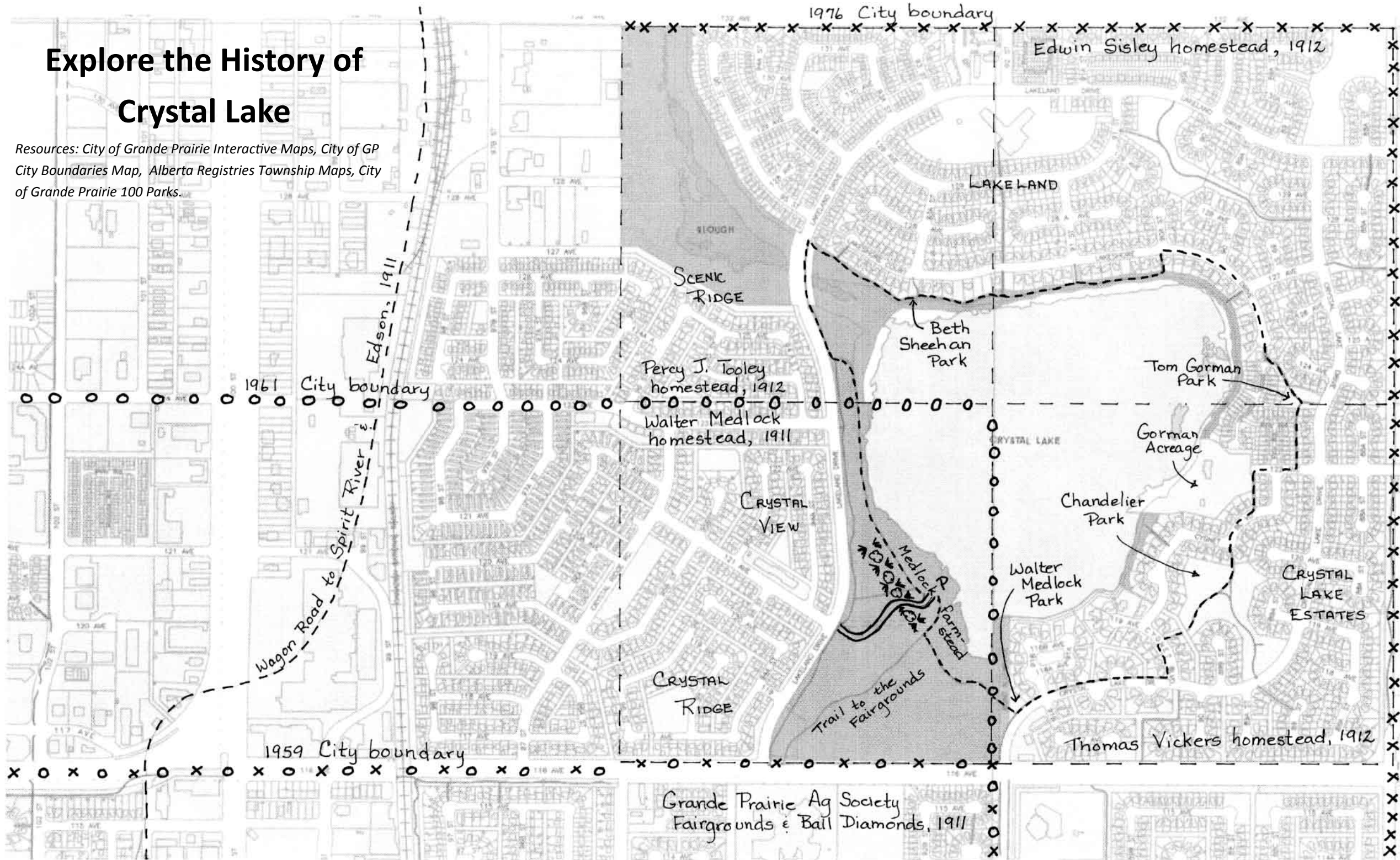
The whole of Crystal Lake was annexed by the City of Grande Prairie in 1976, and construction on homes in the Crystal Ridge subdivision began soon afterwards.

*Resources: Grande Prairie Herald, Isabel Campbell Names Index, [City of Grande Prairie 100 Parks Legacy](#)*



# Explore the History of Crystal Lake

Resources: City of Grande Prairie Interactive Maps, City of GP City Boundaries Map, Alberta Registries Township Maps, City of Grande Prairie 100 Parks.





# Featured Paper Artifact: Hudson's Bay Company Employment Agreement



Above: The Hudson's Bay Store located on the south-west corner of Richmond Avenue and 100<sup>th</sup> Street in Grande Prairie. (SPRA 2014.063.03)

When the Grande Prairie Hudson's Bay store opened in 1948, it was part of the Hudson's Bay Company Fur Trade Division. Campbell's assistant, Hal Tipper, put it this way:

Both Bob Campbell and I knew that the store we were about to open would be a far cry from the store folks in Grande Prairie were expecting. The gurus in Fur Trade Department headquarters in Winnipeg envisioned a fur trade post, albeit a bit larger than normal. Grande Prairieites envisioned the Edmonton Bay store, albeit a bit smaller. Bob Campbell, and to some extent myself, were continually frustrated by our inability to give folks the store they were expecting. Our initial inventory included dog sleds, dog harnesses, and horse collars, along with traps, rifles, and ammunition. The rifles and ammunition sold well as at that time (post war), supplies were still scarce. Little by little we transformed the store, ignoring for the most part the Fur Trade Department Merchandise Depot in Winnipeg and dealing with more normal suppliers. I believe it was 1950 when management accepted the fact that trying to operate Grande Prairie as a Fur Trade Post was an error and moved our store into what was then called the 'Inland Stores Division.'

Right: The original staff of fifteen at the Hudson's Bay Company store in Grande Prairie when it opened in 1948. Robert Campbell is standing in the centre of the back row.

Right: Employment agreement between the Hudson's Bay Company and Robert John Campbell made on June 30th, 1948. Mr. Campbell is being hired as a Post Manager as of August 1, 1948, for the sum of \$300/month. (SPRA 2014.063.01)



Above: "Cute Teens" fashion show at the opening of the Hudson's Bay Grande Prairie Store in 1948. (SPRA 2014.063.15)



This Agreement made in triplicate this THIRTIETH day of JUNE 1948.  
BETWEEN

**The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay**

herein called "The Company"

AND

ROBERT JOHN CAMPBELL

herein called "The Employee,"

OF THE FIRST PART

OF THE SECOND PART

WITNESSETH that in consideration of the mutual agreements herein the parties agree as follows:

1. The Employee will serve the Company in its Fur Trade Department at such place as the Company or its officers shall direct from the FIRST day of AUGUST 1948 until this agreement is terminated, in the capacity of POST MANAGER and in such other capacity as the Company or its Officers shall from time to time direct, and will diligently, honestly and faithfully perform all such work and services as he shall be required or directed to perform by its Officers, and will obey all rules and regulations now or hereafter made by the Company applicable to his employment, and will not during his period of employment engage or be concerned directly or indirectly in any trade or employment whatsoever except for the benefit of the Company and according to its orders.

2. The Employee's remuneration shall be THREE HUNDRED (\$300.00) Dollars per MONTH to be computed from the FIRST day of AUGUST 1948.

3. This agreement may be terminated at any time by either party giving to the other THREE MONTHS' notice in writing to that effect, or by the Company at its option paying to the Employee salary for a like period in lieu of such notice. Such notice shall be given by the Employee to the officer in charge of his Post, District or Department.

4. This contract cancels all existing contracts between the parties and contains the entire agreement between them and the employee does not rely on any representations, verbal or written, made to him before entering into this contract.

For the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Witness [Signature]

Witness [Signature] Employee

N.B.—This form will be filled out and signed in triplicate, one copy for The Manager, Fur Trade Department, one for District Office, and one for the Employee.

# Memories of a Pioneer Doctor: Part 2

By Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle

*Our 2015 newsletters will feature the memories of Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle in serial form. Dr. Carlisle moved to the Grande Prairie area in 1921 and had many fascinating and humorous stories to tell about his early years as a country doctor in this region.*

*If you wish to listen to the whole recording, you can find it on our YouTube page:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilPnMdFJU2g>*

In 1928 I was lucky enough to get a great fur coat. It had been ordered by the Russian ambassador in England but by the time they had it made for him diplomatic relations had been cut off with Russia. A man who worked at the furriers in London sent it to his brother, a farmer south of Lake Saskatoon, and I got it from him by a trade and some cash. It was reindeer calf on in the outside and wombat skin on the inside, with a thick woollen lining in between and a high beaver collar. It was huge and had been made for a much bigger man than I am. I had to get six or eight inches cut off the bottom before I could walk in it. I already had a coonskin coat, and this new one slipped over the top of the coon one nicely. I had large beaver gauntlets and a fur hat. The Grande Prairie paper had an entry in it one day under a column called "Things I Have Seen" saying, "Dr. Carlisle had enough fur on for an Arctic Expedition," but it sure kept me warm.

When I would start out on a cold trip with the cutter and team, dressed conservatively in heavy Stanfield underwear, with all this fur on which was like a mattress, with a charcoal heat warmer burning at my feet under a big buffalo robe, the weather didn't seem too bad. Eventually the reindeer calf fur on the outside started to wear off and it was christened by our family on account of asthma.

The worst time for getting around in the car was in

the spring. The snow on the roads would melt all day in the warm spring sun, forming pools which would freeze over each night, just mining the roads like tank traps for cars. I was coming home from Grande Prairie about 4:30 one April morning when I broke through the ice in one of these tank traps. There was just one thing to do, get a team to pull the car out, so I walked a third of a mile west, then a third of a mile north to the farm house of an Irishman I knew, Mike Cochrane. I threw some snowballs and pebbles at his upper window to waken him, helped him hitch his team, and we walked out to the car in the spring dawn dragging a chain. On the way down he said, "Have you got your toothbrushes with you, Doctor?" I said, "Oh yes, Mike, I always carry them." So he hitched the chain to the Ford and we splashed through the water, ice, and mud to firm ground. Then he pointed to a lower molar. So I said to him, "Oh yes, Mike, sit down," so he sat down on the wide running board of the Ford and I pulled out his aching tooth. As he sat there afterwards spitting blood on the snow he said, "Well, what do I owe you, Doc?" and I said, "Well, what do I owe you, Mike?" "Well, I guess one good pull deserves another." I said, "That's very generous of you, Mike," but when I went to help him up his trousers were frozen solidly to the running board. He said, "You are a heck of a dentist, you don't freeze me up here but down there." Dentists were scarce in Canada in 1921 when I graduated, so the University during our fifth year gave medical students some instructions on tooth extraction and local anaesthesia which was a big help to me.

When I got married, first I promised to give my wife all the money I made taking out teeth. But I soon had to break that promise as that was the only service for which I usually got cash. I had many calls to the country, and the farther out the patients were the less money they had. So I wrote to the Public Health Department in Edmonton and eventually they paid

me \$100 a month for the next three years for my work in the three unorganized districts west of Lake Saskatoon. I was the only doctor between there and the B.C. border for 45 to 65 miles, and the only ambulance. On one far-out trip the only food in the bachelor's shack was eggs, so a district nurse and I had just six boiled eggs apiece for lunch and a mug of tea and we were grateful as we were hungry. In the summer of 1921 I first met my future wife, a student from Toronto University, home on her summer holidays. We became engaged in the following summer and the next year, 1923, we were married. She had graduated and I had bought and fixed up a house, and where do you think we went on our honeymoon? To Victoria, B.C., and we liked it and still do.

The country was in a recession when I got there in 1921 due to a cow bill passed in 1912 to encourage farmers to buy cattle and the banks were allowed to lend farmers money up to \$500 just for cattle. But in 1920 the price of cattle went a way down and the banks needed their money back and money was tight. The banks held mortgages on all the farmers' chattels, which left the businessmen and merchants without any security. You may have heard this story. A man was seeing a bank manager when the phone rang. The manager answered and said, "No no, oh no, yes no no no," and hung up. The man laughed and I said, "I was just wondering what you said yes to." The banker said, "Oh, he asked me if I could hear

him." The bankers were having a rough time too.

The early days in this new country were the hardest for me, but the most interesting to look back on. The hungry twenties and thirties, so called, but few, if any, ever went hungry or cold. The settlers hadn't been there long enough to become established. They had no bank loans, especially when the great depression came in the 1930s. We knew a few thrifty farmers who said that all they bought in the stores during that time was sugar and salt, but it was a very fertile, productive land. I have a newspaper article here that claims that the soil around that area of Lake Saskatoon, later called Wembley, had grown more world champion grains for farmers than the soil of all the rest of Canada put together. Herman Trelle, whose farm was two miles south of Lake Saskatoon, won the World Wheat Championship four times and was crowned the Wheat King of the World and barred from further competitions. In 1926 on his first exhibit he won both the world championship in wheat and in oats. The first time in the history of the Chicago World Fair that both championships had gone to the same exhibitor. His first and second prizes in grains at the various shows in Canada and the United States numbered more than 600. I had the honour of taking out the King's appendix and bringing their first princess into the world in their farmhouse. Several other exhibitors won world championships there too, in wheat, oats, timothy, peas. It became a yearly habit to go to Chicago. Garden crops were very good. Wild game and wild fowl were plentiful; wild fruits, raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, and blueberries etc. were abundant. There was lots of poplar wood and open-faced seams of coal on the banks of the Wapiti River five miles south to be had for the hauling. For only a few could pay cash for a doctor, they did keep us well supplied with wood and coal, meat and fowl, milk and cream, butter and eggs, vegetables, and sometimes homemade coffee. They roasted a mixture of grains and ground them up. The drink tasted a little like Postum. I remember one young man who brought us a load of wood saying, "Well, one more load and the baby is ours."



Above: Bill Archer, Mary Jean, David, Jim, and Murray Carlisle on Stoney Lake. (SPRA 0399.09.13)



# What Archives Do and Why We Do It

by Leslie Gordon



Grande Prairie Fire Department in front of the old Pete Eagar Fire Station, October 2000. (SPRA 190.02.01.1473.01)

*Author’s Note: Some people who come to visit the Museum are intrigued by the sign “South Peace Regional Archives.” Not knowing exactly what an Archives is, they wander down our hallway, in search of more things to look at. For some it is a rude awakening to find that the Archives is geared toward researchers coming with definite questions, but we try to soften the blow by having some displays available for casual browsers. But why else do we do displays? Read on to find out!*

At any given time, the Archives has a few displays up around the Grande Prairie Museum (in the Community Room, in the Gallery’s Visual Storage Area, and outside our own door) and in other places around the City, including the Provincial Building, and occasionally City Hall. We also have a good supply of virtual exhibits available on our website under the “Stories” tab (<http://southpeacearchives.org/publications/photo-essays/>).

Displays allow us to get our records out there and share them with a wider audience, helping us meet one of our core objectives – Access. Archives are of very little use if we only meet our first two objectives of acquiring and preserving historical records. We recognize that the vast majority of

people may never come through our doors with a pressing research question, but most they are interested enough in history that they will stop and browse if a large photograph catches their eye. Once we’ve caught their attention, our displays can be used to educate on a topic, encourage people to dig deeper, or simply raise awareness about the Archives and our holdings.

The kinds of displays we construct usually consist of a combination of photographs and documents with captions and some explanatory text. The displays focus on a particular fonds (eg. Monkman Pass Highway Association, QEII Hospital Auxiliary, Carlisle Family, etc.) or topic (World War I Centennial, Helping Out, Arts and Culture, Fashion, etc.). Very seldom do we use originals in our displays. Most often we display copies of photographs and documents. By displaying copies, we can expand the kinds of places our displays can be put and don’t need to worry about security, length of exposure to light, or display case temperature and humidity.

The most recent display we created was in honour of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grande Prairie Fire

Department. Since this topic also fits well with the City of Grande Prairie theme running through this newsletter, I’ll give you a sneak peak of the GPFD display here. Come

*Volunteer fire brigade, including chief Leonard Smee (in white) and Abe Smith, Cecil Bell, Arthur Porteroff, Matt York, Isaac Nelson, Morris Syndiff, William Cameron, Tom Masse, Archie Wilson, Emil Auger, Charles Field, George Duncan, and Harry Watcher, in front of the new fire hall built in 1920. (SPRA 1979.167.1c.)*



down and visit the Grande Prairie Museum’s Visual Storage Area for the full story.

*The Grande Prairie Fire Department was founded in August 1915, as a volunteer brigade with 23 members and William Carll as chief. Earlier in the year, the village had purchased two 60-gallon, hand-drawn, chemical fire engines, for \$450 each. The brigade appears to have had a bumpy beginning with numerous subsequent efforts and meetings to organize the group and hold regular practices. For many of the early years, the brigade consisted of about 14-17 volunteers. The transition to a full-time, paid fire department began in 1957 with the appointment of Pete Eagar as full-time chief. By 1967, the department had four full-time, three part-time, and 20 volunteers on the roster. By the late 1990s, there were 24 full-time firefighters employed by the department, with plans to hire 8 more each year in 2000 and 2001.*

*There were various discussions in the years after 1915 about building a combined town and fire hall, but the building on the corner of 99 Avenue and 101 Street was not actually completed until 1920. A hose-drying tower, with a fire bell, was erected beside the building, and the 1917 water tower stood nearby. By the spring of 1952, the foundation and floor of the fire hall were so unstable that the fire trucks had to be stored off-site. In May 1954, a new brick fire hall, costing \$65,000, was opened with a chief’s apartment, one dormitory room, and a recreation room above the garage. This building was replaced in 1969 with the Central Fire Station, on the northeast corner of 102 Avenue and 101 Street. An addition was made in 1980 and in 1993, the station was renamed the Pete Eagar Fire Station, for a long-serving fire*



*chief. As the City grew and response times reached the 5 minute threshold, two new fire halls were built to replace the old Central Fire Station.*

Grande Prairie Fire Hall and trucks, 1960. (SPRA 2007.42.22)

*The Billy Salmond Fire Station at 11906-102 Street was completed in 2001 and the new Pete Eagar Fire Station at 8111 Resources Road was completed in 2002. Westgate Fire Station at 9606-118 Street, to cover the west end of the city, was constructed in 2010-2012 at a cost of \$6.3 million.*

*From the earliest days of hand-drawn chemical engines and hose reels, the brigade slowly upgraded their equipment. In 1930, the first truck was purchased to carry a chemical tank. New trucks, a combination of pumpers and aerial trucks, were purchased in 1949, 1956-57, 1960, 1968, 1976, 1982, 1989, 1995-96, and 2012, with prices ranging from \$31,000 in 1968 to \$1.97 million for three trucks in 2012. Other equipment was added to the fire department’s inventory, including a portable resuscitator in 1956, donated by the Grande Prairie Kinsmen Club, a smoke ejector machine in 1963, and a hazardous spills trailer in 1990.*

*A reliable water supply was also essential. The first block of water main was laid in about 1918, with extensions and pipe upgrades from wood to cast iron in the following years. By 1960, the entire City, with the exception of some areas in the creek bottom, was covered in the hydrant system.*

*The town had also constructed some “fire walls” downtown in the 1920s and 1930s to help protect businesses, with a special tax levied on business owners who benefitted. Improvements were also made in fire detection and starting in 1957, some downtown businesses began to be equipped with fire detection systems that would trigger an alarm at the fire hall if an abnormal rise in temperature occurred. A free*



Fireman standing beside an ice-covered hydrant during the Corona Hotel Fire, February 12, 1936. (SPRA 0032.08.07.019)







# Friends of the Archives News

Plan to join the Friends as they tell the story of Harry Adair and the three women who helped him herd 700 head of horses from Montana to Bear Lake in 1906. The play will be enacted with live animals in the country where the Adair Ranch once dominated the landscape! Here's another chance to dress up in period costume, listen to music, and dance in the Pavilion.

FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES PRESENTS

## THE ROUND-UP OF HARRY ADAIR

**Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



Summer barbeque & campfire play at the Scenic Heights picnic grounds featuring Lexie Balisky's horses. Includes dinner and dancing in the pavilion.

**Phone 780-830-5105**  
for more information

### WANTED!

HARDY AND HIGH-SPIRITED WRANGLERS TO TRAIL 700 HEAD OF HORSES FROM MONTANA TO THE PEACE COUNTRY.

**South Peace Regional Archives**  
PRESERVING AND SHARING THE PAST



Above, the Harry Adair Campfire Play, first enacted in 2011, and below, the Adair Ranch at Scenic Heights ca. 1930. (SPRA 032.08.08.1208)



# SPRA Society & Member News

In response to our most recent issue of *Telling Our Stories*, we received the following letter and photo from Evelyn Millman:

*Dear Folks:*

*Thank you for sending the latest Telling Our Stories. The story about Spirit River brought back memories for me as my mom and dad sent me to Spirit River for two weeks in the summer when the Lee Taks lived there. Mrs. Lee Tak had a hair salon in the veranda of her home and Mr. Lee Tak worked in the hotel there. They had three children, June, Laddie, and David, all older than me. David would drive me all around the town and environs on the crossbar of his bicycle. Because it was basically prairie we were able to see far into the distance and the views were just so spectacular.*

*Those were the days when Shirley Temple was at the prime of her childhood movies. They were also the days when hair salons used a machine with hot curling irons dangling from a central electrical source at the top to curl women's hair. Without my mother's consent Mrs. Lee Tak gave me a Shirley Temple hairdo for my straight black hair. I think I was about four or five years old. It was quite an ordeal for a young child but I was none the worse for wear despite the hot curling irons.*

*Thanks for the trip down memory lane.*

*Sincerely,*

*Evelyn Millman*



Above: Mrs. Lee Tak and Evelyn Millman with their Shirley Temple hairstyles.

New at the Archives

Thank You Donors!

The collections at SPRA have all been donated by individuals, organizations, and municipal governments. You are our only resource for the preservation of the history of the south Peace. Here are a few of our recent donations.

Square Round Dance records, 1984  
By Shirley Temple

History of St. Edmonds Catholic Church, ca. 2015  
By Elaine Baker

Clearhills County Grave Marker Photos, 2012-2013  
By Sandra Wasylciw

Fire Department Training Manuals, ca. 1970  
By Ken Burgess

Photos and Oral History of Billy Blair, ca. 1970-1980  
By Rudiger Schmidt

Township Reports, 1913-1914  
By Evelyn Hutchings

For the Records materials and Courthouse Cookbook, 1986 & 2015  
By Grace Wallace

Writings of Dave Williamson, Mary Walters, & Norman Ramstad, ca. 1900-1970  
By Fran Moore

Adolf Steiner’s Homestead Papers, 1930-1939  
By Margaret Nielsen

South Peace Regional Archives

is funded by  
City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview, MD of Spirit River, grants from the Archives Society and the Province of Alberta, and donations from people like you!

New on the Archives Website

Gifts in Honour or Memory

You can create a lasting legacy for a loved one by making a monetary donation to South Peace Regional Archives. Gifts can be used to celebrate special milestone events, remember a special person, or honour someone for their contributions.

Our new “In Honour Of” pages lists the names of those people who have been remembered in this way by their friends and family:

http://southpeacearchives.org/honour/

The Perfect Introduction

If you hear someone say: I have reels of 8 millimeter film in the attic, and recordings of Uncle Charlie telling stories about his early days living in the South Peace. What can I do with them?

You can tell them: Have you thought about bringing them to the archives? They take more than just documents and photographs.

Are You Enjoying This Newsletter?

Would you like to receive it mailed to your home four times a year? It’s free when you are a member of the South Peace Regional Archives Society. See the Membership Form on the back of the newsletter. You can also give memberships as gifts to friends or family.

Submissions to this Newsletter

SPRA Society encourages submissions in the form of stories, poems, memories, letters and photographs. Do you have a story, or does someone you know have a story about the past in the south Peace? Submit it to us by mail or e-mail, or call us at 780-830-5105.

South Peace Regional Archives Society  
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in being involved as a: \_\_\_\_\_ volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ board member

There are two types of membership:

Full membership--get involved in the society, attend meetings, vote on issues and run for office.

Associate membership--receive communications (like this newsletter) to stay informed about issues and happenings at the Archives.

This membership is \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_ renewal

Full Membership  
\$20.00/person or \$30.00/couple \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member  
\$15.00/person \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate to the  
South Peace Regional Archives \_\_\_\_\_

Total Membership and Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay by cash or cheque to  
South Peace Regional Archives Society  
Box 687, Grande Prairie, AB. T8V 3A8  
Phone: 780-830-5105  
Fax: 780-831-7371  
E-mail: [spra@telus.net](mailto:spra@telus.net)



THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING



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