TELLING OUR STORIES

Ladies Race
Lake Saskatoon
Fair
.1916.

THE OLD WEST

SPORTS DAYS
AT LAKE SASKATOON
AND STURGEON LAKE

TREATY 8 RECORDS
IN THE ARCHIVES

PEACE RIVER COUNTRY
LAND SETTLEMENT
DATABASE

IN THIS ISSUE

10

6

20

Cover: Spectators watch the Ladies Race at the 1916 Lake Saskatoon Fair (SPRA 0032.08.08.0327, cropped). See full image on page 20.

Note on Photographs: Photographs featured in *Telling Our Stories* are unedited, apart from minimal cropping. In cases where substantial cropping may impact the context of the photograph, this will be noted in the caption.

Letter from the Editor

Howdy! This issue of *Telling Our Stories* explores the "Old West" in the South Peace Region of Alberta. This term refers to the period in time when European settlers migrated en masse to western North America. The Old West is often characterized by open tracts of untouched land, boundless opportunities for ambitious and self-reliant individuals, and the establishment of law and order in an otherwise "wild west."

In America, most of the best tracts of land were considered settled and the frontier declared closed by 1890. In Canada, these concepts persisted much later; the term "Last Best West" was used to market the Canadian prairies to prospective homesteaders well into the twentieth century. Subsequent media often romanticized and idealized the period, resulting in an exaggerated stereotype that took hold of popular cultural imagination in North America.

Many of the attitudes associated with the Old West captured the imaginations of Canadian settlers. In much of the west, including the South Peace region, these ideals continue to inspire people today. This issue of *Telling Our Stories* explores the history of early settlement in the South Peace, including several aspects that are often overlooked by popular representations of the "Old West." We hope you enjoy this opportunity to experience new materials and resources from the Archives, as well as reflect on the history and concepts that inform our cultural identity. Enjoy and giddyup!

Alyssa Currie
SPRA Executive Director

Upcoming Events

Join us this fall as we celebrate **Alberta Archives Week**! The theme of this year's Archives Week is "Visit Us," celebrating the users and uses of archives. On October 4th 3:30—5:30pm, we will be hosting an opening reception for our newest exhibition: **"Archives at Work."** This exhibition showcases the numerous ways our users have put photographs and artifacts from our collection to work. Refreshments will be served at this free, public event.

The Archives is partnering with the Grande Prairie Museum once again to present **Folktales in the Heritage Village**: an evening walking tour of atmospheric tales. Come on out to the Museum on the evenings of October 18th and 19th to enjoy stories based on local archival records. Tickets will be limited. Stay tuned for details.

Missed your chance to attend the summer Historical Cemetery Walking Tours? Join us in November for a special **World War I and II Cemetery Walking Tour**, celebrating the veterans of the South Peace area. Like and follow us on Facebook for dates and details!

Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect that the South Peace Regional Archives is located on the ancestral and traditional lands of many Indigenous peoples. This territory is covered by Treaty 8, signed in 1899. The continuing relationship between Indigenous peoples and this land contributes to the rich knowledge and culture of the South Peace region.

We are grateful to serve the people on this land and honor the Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

TELLING OUR STORIES

WINNER OF THE ALAN D. RIDGE AWARD OF MERIT (PRINT)

Archives Society of Alberta

The Archives Society of Alberta (ASA) announced *Telling Our Stories* magazine, 2018, as the winner of the Alan D. Ridge Award of Merit (Print) at their AGM this spring. The nomination stated that *Telling Our Stories* is a "high-quality publication.. an inspiration to the other heritage institutions in our Network and is what many aspire to achieve." ASA Board Member Carson Murphy visited the Archives to present the award to Archives staff.

Alan D. Ridge Award

Each year, the Archives Society of Alberta (ASA) "recognizes excellence in the form of research, opinion, analysis, etc. on some aspect of archives studies, records management, the use of records, archival institutions, or the archival profession." The Alan D. Ridge Award of Merit (Print) recognizes these contributions via print resources such as books, pamphlets, brochures, peer-reviewed articles, etc.

The award is named in honour of Alan D. Ridge, Provincial Archivist of Alberta from 1968-1984. His active involvement in archives and records management in England, Canada, and the United States has provided leadership and stimulation to the archival community in Alberta and beyond.

ALAN D. RIDGE
Award of Merit
(Print)
Presented to
South Peace Regional Archives
for
Telling Our Stories, 2018

May 25, 2019

Board of Directors

Rene Georgopolis
Executive Director

archives
SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
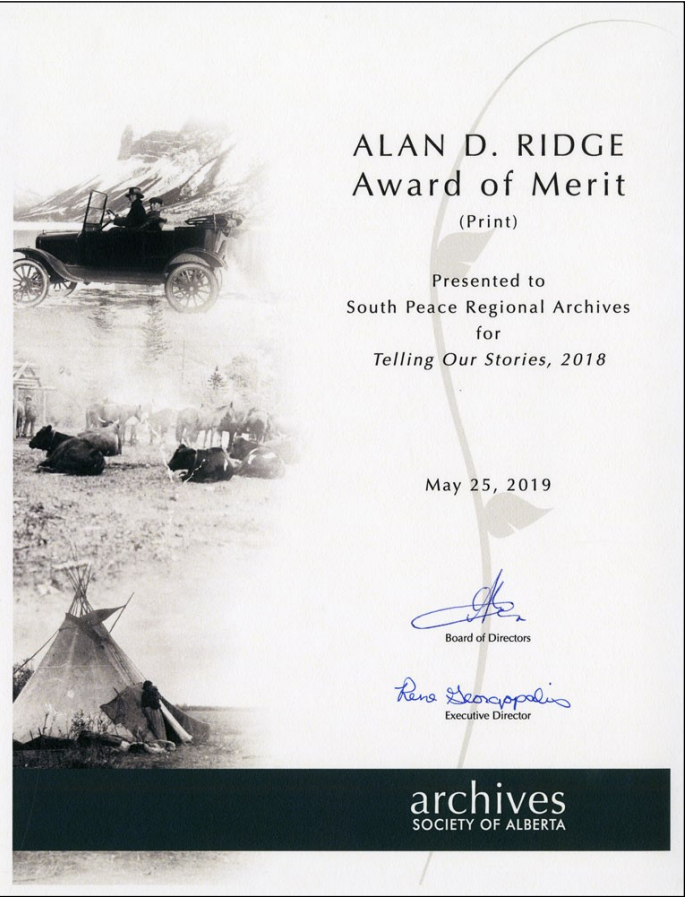
Thank You, Readers

Telling Our Stories would not be possible without the help of Archives staff, volunteers, and guest contributors. But, more importantly, it wouldn't exist without our readers! Thank you for subscribing through your Archives membership and sharing *Telling Our Stories.*

Treaty and Land

The Foundations of Settlement and Settler Culture

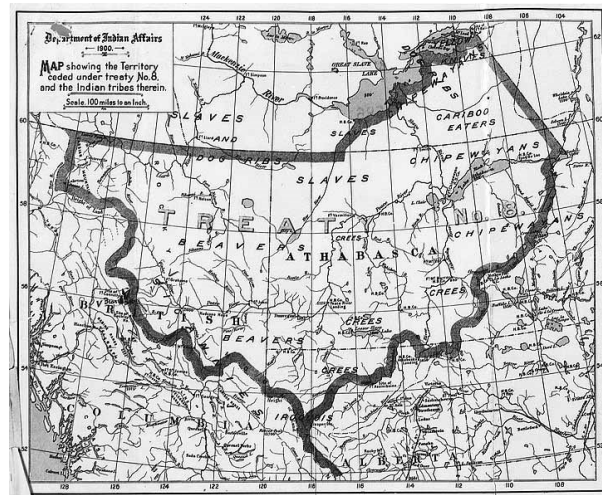*The following article was contributed by Duff Crerar. Duff is a Emeritus Instructor at Grande Prairie Regional College, where he taught History and Native Studies courses for over 20 years. He serves on the Archives Board of Directors and Indigenous History Committee.*

Although most of the very first settlers in the Peace Region respected and cooperated with the Indigenous people who had been resident since time immemorial, few who came later had very much interest in the Indigenous political and legal background to settlement and, eventually, land patents. With getting housing, first gardens and crops, and proving up their claim, and always with the thought of the next winter coming on— there was too much work to do. While fur traders depended on the good will and continuing collaboration with original inhabitants and, indeed, with the very ecology of the region as it was, the settler agenda was to develop, or, in their language, "improve" that land with plow, road and railroad.

In the Peace Country, though, none of this could even begin without the implementation of two centuries of tradition, history and law. Canadians and the British before them had learned that land surveyors and agents could not simply walk onto the Grande Prairie and begin making lines on the land. Beginning in 1763, the King of England decreed that, in British North America, land would only be secured for settlement by treaty with the Indigenous residents: their

Right: Map of the territory covered by Treaty 8. (Source: Library and Archives Canada)

tribes and territories treated as virtual nations. The principle behind the Royal Proclamation of 1763 was accepted by the Canadian Government at Confederation, though events would prove that Ottawa would take a more cavalier attitude to honouring Indigenous sovereignty than London. What followed, along with the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was a sequence of numbered treaties across the prairies, establishing access to the land for surveyors, reserves and other aspects of acquiring the land from Indigenous peoples. The Canadian Government was in no hurry, however, to send Treaty Commissioners north into the Peace Country. Treaties cost the Dominion money, and added to the burdens of government policing and other services. Ottawa considered the people best left as they were, assuming self-sufficiency was the norm.

Trouble was, thanks to the Klondike gold rush, Indigenous self-sufficiency was already under threat. If the

fur trade from time to time had caused conflict and sometimes devastated local animal populations, the attitude and sometimes lawless behaviour of those pushing through the Peace left Indigenous people feeling threatened. To many of their leaders who found themselves in the paths of such intruders, it was time to ask Ottawa for Treaty, for treaty brought as one of its benefits the provision of the Northwest Mounted Police, and some legal protection. As word of the agricultural prospects for the Peace— the last undeveloped section of the Canadian Prairies— spread, attracting the interest of settlers and speculators, Canadian officials arrived in 1899 and by 1900, negotiated what became Treaty 8.

Ottawa heralded the Treaty as a triumph, but locally there were serious complaints and a severe test of Indigenous goodwill. There was no evidence that David Laird, one of the chief authors of the 1876 Indian Act (which reduced treaty signers to the status of wards of Ottawa, without vote or status to own their own property, or oppose the instigation of residential schools) ever explained to his audience in 1899 that taking treaty automatically placed them under the limitations of the very Act he was responsible for. Those who personally attended the negotiations also complained that verbal agreements about immunity from taxation and interference in their religious beliefs had not been included in the written treaty, which they had been pressured to ratify. Missionaries were caught between regret at their role in supporting the government's duplicity, and hope that the Treaty's final clauses still would clear the way for their ambition to develop strong and devoted, literate Indigenous churches.

Over the next decade, the results of the Treaty, for better or worse, worked themselves out on the land of the Peace. Surveyors moved across the territory,

noting the locations of traditional roads, trails settlements and graveyards. Land offices opened at Peace River, and in 1910, Grande Prairie. Settlers moved in, the most adventurous pushing over the primitive trails to claim or pre-empt land, sometimes travelling thousands of miles on the new southern railways to hit the trails for cheap and easily developed land, free of the deep dark forests of the previous Eastern pioneering of their ancestors or drawn from overseas by the need to escape oppression or poverty. To these, the dominant drive of ambition and the quest for independence would be realized when they received the treasured patent: land in their own name. They drove deeply into the region, jostling each other and often those who already had their claims recognized by the surveyors. For the settler, the Treaty and its stipulations quickly became history. For those under its continuing control, however, it was the foundational structure of everyday life.

Further Reading

The following books are available for consultation in the Archives Reference Library. Reference materials must be consulted in the Reading Room.

- *Indian Treaties and Surrenders, Volume 1, Treaties 1-138* by the Government of Canada

- *On the North Trail: The Treaty 8 Diary of O.C. Edwards* edited by David Leonard and Beverly Whalen

- *Through the Mackenzie Basin: A Narrative of the Athabasca and Peace River Treaty Expedition of 1899* by Charles Mair

- *Lobstick Volume 1: Treaty 8 Revisited* edited by Duff Crerar and Jaroslav Petryshyn

- *Aboriginal Rights Claims and the Making and Remaking of History* by Arthur J. Ray

- *From Treaties to Reserves* by D.J. Hall

"Half-a-Dozen Horses"
Wild Horses in the South Peace

There is nothing like an image of wild horses roaming the wide open prairie to conjure up memories of the "Old West." Several intriguing clues in the Archives' collections suggest that wild horses played a part in our "Old West" period and beyond.

The earliest mention of horses within the records in our collection comes from the published *Dunvegan Post Journals for 1822 to 1830* and —*for 1834 to 1845*. In the earliest journal entries, horses are an important, if sometimes unruly part of the work force. Entries in the 1834 to 1845 journals contain numerous references to wrangling the horses: "Same work going on except Dubreuil who went in search of the horses..." On Wednesday, 27 September 1828, Archibald McDonald wrote while travelling from Fort Vermillion to Fort Dunvegan: "Towards evening the appearance of a half-a-dozen horses convinced us we were near Dunvegan..."

By the time O. H. Johnson arrived here some sixty years later, wild horses were a feature in the landscape: "September 9 George Stone was here for dinner hunting horses south of creek... December 2 Glandey[?] came up hunting horses."

Above: Theresa & George Stoll with their two young boys, John and Frank, perched on horses. c 1920. (SPRA 0140.01.01)

A very blurry 1911 photograph of a cowboy riding a bucking bronco on the open prairie suggests that wild horses may have become a regular source of income for Indigenous people. The original caption claims "Often it was first nations young men who caught and broke wild horses for re-sale to settlers" (SPRA 0155.05.11).

In 1918, 19 year old Stanley William Bird wrote in a letter to his family that, besides bear and moose and foxes and a timber wolf, "there's wild horses here too."

Frank Stoll, born to local pioneers, George and Theresa Stoll, remembered the family's first team of horses: Jess and Dolly. They were "Cayuses or Indian ponies." The picture in this article, from the Frank Stoll fonds, may be these horses.

Don Nelson, interviewed for the Kakwa/Two Lakes Oral History Project (fonds 133) relates stories about hunting wild horses with the Wanyandie boys, two local Indigenous men, well into the forties.

The stories of local rodeos and stampedes illustrate that a local supply of horses would have been very important to the region, for work and for fun. It seems likely that wild horses played a part in helping to shape our northern communities.

Treaty 8
Records in the Archives

Treaty 8 played an important and contentious role in the development of Indigenous and settler relations in the South Peace Region. Although Library and Archives Canada holds all official Treaty 8 records, the holdings at the South Peace Regional Archives contain information to help our users gain a broader and deeper understanding of the topic.

The Indigenous reference files are a great starting point for researching Treaty 8. Subseries 510.12.22 (Indigenous—Treaties) contains articles, images, research materials about Treaty 8 and Treaty days, as well as a list of First Nations in Alberta's three Treaty Areas. Several of these references, including three copies of photographs, date back to 1900.

The reference library also contains numerous titles on the subject, including two personal accounts. Charles Mair's *Through Mackenzie Basin* (1908) was originally considered an adventure book. It includes Mair's first hand-account, as well as transcriptions of key Treaty 8 documents. Two separate introductions provide historical context and an Indigenous perspective. O.C. Edwards, physician to the second treaty commission in 1900, kept a daily diary of his journey through Athabasca. The published version, *On the North Trail: The Treaty 8 Diary of O.C. Edwards* (1998), also includes maps and photographs. *Lobstick Volume 1: Treaty 8 Revisited,* (2000) contains selected papers from the 1999 Centennial Conference of Treaty 8. On a lighter note, *Stops of Interest in Central and Northern* Alberta (1982) contains a map and descriptions of sites commemorating the signing of Treaty 8.

Above: Copy of a photograph captioned "Treaty Time in the Peace River Country, 1904. GAA. NA2617-49" (SPRA 510.12.22.05)

Other research materials include a series of five video cassettes discussing Indigenous genealogy and related historical research techniques (SPRA 505.12-16), as well as an accompanying *Treaty 8 Centennial Research Workshops Handbook.*

For an Indigenous perspective, St. Pierre Ferguson recorded his memories of the Treaty 8 discussion and the signing of the Treaty in a 1966 oral interview (SPRA 2013.011). Various fonds include photographs of Treaty Days, regular reminders of our ongoing relationship with each other and with Treaty 8.

While many of these records can be found elsewhere, having them close to home makes them more readily accessible for local communities directly affected by Treaty 8: over 94,0000 people in the South Peace. The local records, particularly St. Pierre Ferguson's account, are irreplaceable treasures that help remind us of the human story behind the national interests that spurred the creation of this pivotal document.

The Old West

Top left: "My partner H. C. Plum. The best pal a man ever had. Overlooking Smokey River flats. The best cow ranch ever put outdoors." 1914 (SPRA 2014.061.004b)

Top right: Stanley William Bird in sheepskin chaps and cowboy hat, 1918 (SPRA 594.01)

Left: Joe Gladue, son of Betsy Calliou, 1910 (SPRA 179.01.05)

Below: Sports Day at Calais, Sturgeon Lake. Tents are visible in the background. n.d. (SPRA 175.032.01)

Top left: William J. Noll, H. C. Plum, and T. Moroney (fire ranger) with three bear cubs outside a tent, 1917 (SPRA 2014.061.011c)
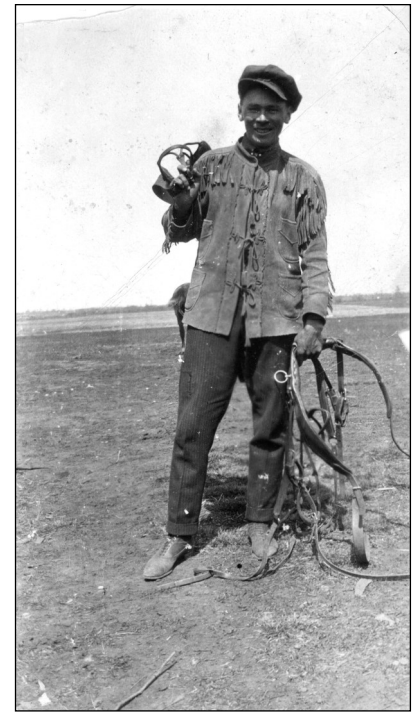
Bottom left: Teepee Creek Stampede, Lloyd Chalifoux hangs on until the horn blows and gets his points., 1971 (SPRA 2009.32.22)
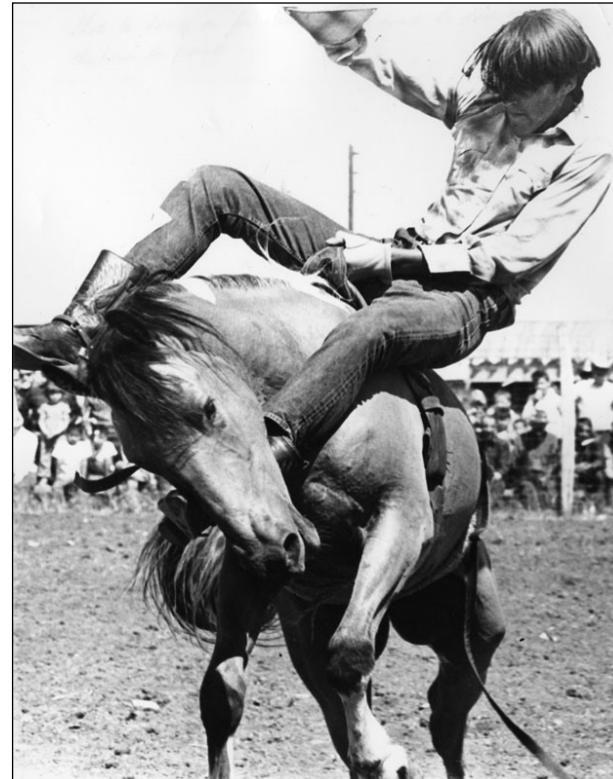
YEE HAH!

Top right: Frank Beatty, son of Betsy Calliou, 1945 (SPRA 179.01.04)

Bottom right: Rodeo clowns Delmer and David Weegar on horseback at Bezanson Stampede, 1957 (SPRA 2010.48.03)

Bigger, Better, Busier

Lake Saskatoon Games

Lake Saskatoon's first annual sports days opened on July 1, 1910, hosted by Mr. Wynn on his homestead on the north shore of the lake. For the families on the prairie, the event was a welcome opportunity to socialize with their neighbors and a much-anticipated diversion from the hard work of life on the homestead (although milk cows and chickens still needed tending – they were transported to the fairground for the event). The Archives' collections include photographs of this first event.

The following year, the festivities lasted four days. The event schedule included horse races, wagon races, and other rodeo events. Athletes could compete in foot races and pole vaulting. A few "novelty events," including a pillow fight and a button-sewing relay race, were added to the program as well.

On July 6, 1915, the Grande Prairie Herald reported that "this year eclipsed all previous efforts." That year, the community decided to build an exhibition on the fair grounds for future events. The Lake Saskatoon sports days continued until 1926, when the grounds were sold and the village was moved to Wembley.

Top Left: Ox teams racing at the July 1st 1910 Sports Day at Saskatoon Lake (SPRA 0056.01.020-02, cropped)

Top Right The Grande Prairie Herald, July 6, 1915 (SPRA Fonds 618: Grande Prairie Herald fonds)

Lake Saskatoon Celebration
Bigger, Better, Busier Than Ever

The atmospherical individual worked in perfect harmony with the officers of the Lake Saskatoon sports in their sixth annual celebration, so that old Jupe Pluvius held over the farmer's needful during the days of June 30th, July 1st., and 2nd.

For six years the citizens of Lake Saskatoon have been holding as their days of celebration, Dominion Day and the days succeeding, but, to say the least, this year eclipsed all previous efforts. The track was in perfect condition and the horse races for the three days were fast and interesting. Athletic events played a large part and from start to finish were strenuously contested and at times proved very exciting.

Above: Spectators watch the Ladies Race at the 1916 Lake Saskatoon Fair (SPRA 0032.08.08.0327)

Sweet Smell of Bannock

Sturgeon Lake Games

It is unknown when the first Sturgeon Lake sports days were held, but, by the late 1920s, it had become a popular event for crowds from all over the South Peace. Les McLaughlin in *Granddaddy of the Peace* describes the games as "a highlight of the early summer… There were horse races, tee dances, and many games. The most fun was the tug of war, a simple sport but very effective in showing off team spirit… People came from all over the Peace Country by horse and car to take part in the games. [Indigenous] people built traditional teepees and served traditional foods during Sports Day. The sweet smell of bannock fried in bacon or moose grease lingered in the warm spring air. They served moose stew in large helpings, but certainly not on paper plates. [It was] a time to get caught up on all the news from around the Peace country."

The sports days were still drawing crowds in the 1940s. Tom Kerr, who had come to the area in 1878, hosted a dance at his lakeside resort on the final night of the sports days until his death in 1946.

Top: Barrel Race at the Sturgeon Lake Sports Day at Calais. Donald Williamson is on the front barrel - he eventually won the race. n.d. (SPRA 175.032.06, cropped)

Right: The Herald-Tribune, July 4, 1940 (SPRA Fonds 620)

Indian Sports At Sturgeon Lake Drew Big Crowd

Sturgeon Lake was the scene of great activity on July 1 when a crowd estimated at nearly five hundred attended the sports staged by the Indians.

The program included baseball, horse racing and athletic events.

Many took advantage of the opportunity to swim and do some boating. Louis Joyce made an efficient manager of the sports.

The horse races were exciting and there were many thrilling finishes.

In the baseball section DeBolt eliminated Clarkson Valley and defeated Valleyview in the final.

The DeBolt girls defeated a picked team from Valleyview and Clarkson Valley to win the ladies' softball competition.
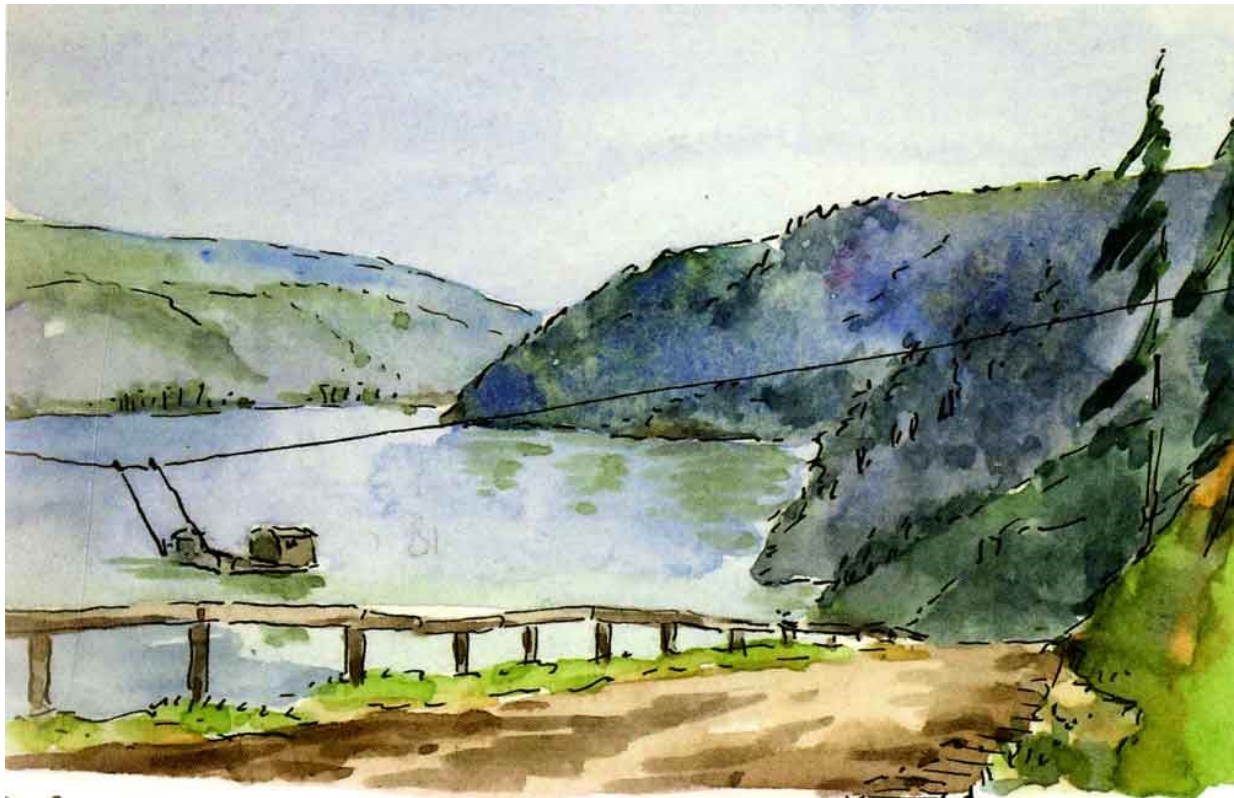
In the evening the Indians held a dance on a platform built on the grounds, while white people enjoyed a dance in Taylor's Hall.

Olwen's Own Words:
Visiting Dunvegan

In 1933, Olwen Sanger-Davies travelled from England to the Peace Country to visit her younger brother, Morgan. Olwen documented her visit in two personal scrapbooks. "Olwen's Own Words" features excerpts and illustrations from these scrapbooks.

Olwen's Scrapbook: A Journey to the Peace Country in 1933 can be purchased from the Archives for $40.⁰⁰ + $2.⁰⁰ GST. Cash and cheques are accepted. Limited quantities are available.

Sunday, July 23rd (Mother's Birthday)

We took Mrs. Mcdonald and Mrs. Flood, who had both come over the same ground 22 years ago when there was only a trail; the former arrived with her father, mother, sister & brothers (in two horse & two ox-waggons with cows running behind,) at Grande Prairie "City," after 46 days of trekking the 400 miles

Site of Church where we had the Service — Old Ferry — Old Hudson Bay Fort or Stores

from Edmonton to find nothing there not even a tent; they exchanged the "claim" that they had bought at Edmonton & lived on it in a tent from July 4 to December; her father became the first post-master.

There were about 150 at the [church] service, which was held outside the old Rectory in the shade of

maples planted by Mr. Garrioch. Bishop Sovereign preached & told us of the Hudson Bay Company's Fort at this place in 1800, (the houses still remained,) of Bishop Bompas' visit when going on still further north & of the cemetery near by where the missionary's baby's grave is still cared for.

The Dunvegan Ferry across Peace River

The Peace River Country Land Settlement Database

The Peace River Country Land Settlement Database (PRCLSD) contains information relating to nearly 33,000 applications for Crown land, homesteads and other public lands by settlers in the Peace River Country of Alberta and British Columbia up to 1930 (1914 in BC). The original land files were created by the Canadian Department of the Interior, and are now held by the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the British Columbia Archives and Records Service. This searchable database is available for consultation on the South Peace Regional Archives website.

The Land Records for the Peace River Country

The Peace River Country is considered by many to be an appendage of the great central plain of North America. It is also the last region on the continent to

have been thrown open for agricultural settlement on a broad scale. Between May 1910 and December 1914, nearly 6,500 applications for land were taken at the Dominion Land Offices at Grouard and Grande Prairie. During these years, the farming frontier of North America was extended to its most northerly extremity.

The files in this database deal with these and earlier non-Indigenous settlers who attempted to establish farms in the region in advance of the arrival of the railway, which occurred in 1916. The first dispensations of Crown land in the region had been made by Treaty 8 and Half-breed Scrip Commissioners in the summer of 1899. As well as concluding Treaty with (some of) the First Nations and distributing scrip to other people of Indigenous descent, the Commissioners verified the declarations of those Euro-Canadians who had, by this time, occupied and improved parcels of land. Provided that they remained on the land, these early settlers would subsequently be given title to their holdings as free grants to the extent of 160 acres apiece. Following the Treaty signing, reserves were surveyed for some, but not all, Indigenous groups, while certain holders of land scrip staked their claims to the extent of 240 acres apiece. When the Dominion Land Surveyors began to subdivide settlements and mark out quarter-sections, they, too, veri-

Left: The Peace River Country Land Settlement Database (PRCLSD) search page on the South Peace Regional Archives website

Above: Sample Homestead Application Form, PRCLSD

fied the declarations of people who were then occupying and had improved parcels of land as squatters. These squatters were given the right of pre-emption of the quarter-sections or settlement lots they occupied provided that they filed for title within three months of the land being declared open for settlement. Finally, in the spring of 1910, 20 full and 15 partial townships recently surveyed on the Grande Prairie were declared open for settlement by home-

steaders or scrip holders. Others followed shortly thereafter.

When filing for Crown land, the homesteaders or scrip holders (or their surrogates) filled out application forms at the Dominion Land Offices at Grouard, Grande Prairie (after 1911), Peace River (after 1916), or Pouce Coupe (after 1921). Occasional occupancy declarations continued to be taken by Dominion Land Surveyors in the field as more land was subdivided. These application forms and subsequent documents were then forwarded to the Dominion Lands Branch of the Department of the Interior in Ottawa. Here, they were collated and filed with each file representing a piece of property. As the process of determining entitlement continued, other documents were added to the files until a land patent was either granted to the applicant or the application cancelled or abandoned. In some cases, the land was withdrawn from settlement.

To gain title, an official application for title was made by the applicant. Upon approval of this by the Dominion Land Agent in the area and the Dominion Lands Branch, title would be confirmed. If it was denied for some reason, the applicant was either instructed to fulfill the homestead duties by a certain date or advised that the application was cancelled. Applicants could also file for an official abandonment which gave them the right to file on a different quarter or lot. If the application was cancelled, another applicant could then file for the same quarter-section or settlement lot. If this was done, the same procedure would be followed, and similar documentation would be added to the same file. In 1930, when Alberta and Saskatchewan gained control of their Crown land, and British Columbia was given jurisdiction over its Peace

River Block, the files were split into three groups and transferred to the custody of these provinces. Those files pertaining to the Peace River Country are now held by the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the British Columbia Archives & Records Service. Here, they are available for consultation on microfilm. Each record in this database contains the land file number at the top which should be used as reference when consulting the files or requesting copies.

The first agricultural settlers in the Peace River Country were unique in that they traveled to the region in such large numbers with all the equipment and supplies needed to start a farm, and they did so without the benefit of a railway. Instead, they undertook a 400-600km trek northwest from Edmonton over primitive trails that often took over a month to traverse. In the spring of 1909, a railway had seemed an immediate certainty, yet neither the Canadian North-

ern nor the Grand Trunk Pacific chose to follow through on their much publicized intent to intersect the Pine Pass. Not until the spring of 1916 would the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway finally reach Grande Prairie, and its counterpart, the Canada Central, Peace River. In the meantime, the open parklands of the Peace River Country were essentially "settled" by farmers. By understanding the settlement patterns of these people at this time, we can achieve a greater understanding about northern Alberta overall, and also the process of Crown land disposition in early twentieth century Alberta. Furthermore, many people will be able to access personal information on ancestors they might not have known about. Likewise, anyone interested in a particular quarter-section of land on which a claim was made prior to 1931 will be able to discover information on the individuals who had filed for it.

The Project

The Peace River Country Land Settlement Database (PRCLSD) will serve several purposes. The project will reveal the nature of land settlement and settlement patterns in the Peace River Region of Northwest Canada. It will also reveal the personal circumstance of each of the applicants, successful or not, for Crown land in the region, as well as the background on every piece of property, quarter-sections or otherwise.

It will also make accessible information on the pioneer settlers of the region which researchers otherwise could not do, unless

Left: The Surveyed Portions of the Alberta side of the Peace River Country in 1910, from the Department of the Interior Land Disposition Map

Right: Sample search result from the database: Land Title Number 3442478, filed by Wesley George in 1915.

Land File Number:	3442478	Nature of the Claim:	HSD
Applicant Name:	George, Wesley	Female:	n
Quarters:	NW9	Township:	79
Range:	6	Meridian:	6
Number of Quarters Applied for:	1	Number of Quarters Proven Up:	1
Squatter:	n	First Residence:	CA, ON
Later Residences:	CA, AB, Spirit River	British Subject by Birth:	y
British Naturalized Repatriated:	Br	Stated Occupation:	Blacksmith
Date of Filing:	25/06/1915	Date on Land:	20/04/1916
Patented Cancelled Abandoned:	PAT	Date Patented:	9/1/1919
Age of Applicant when Filing:	53	Married when Filing:	n
Filed by Proxy:	n	Otherwise Employed While Proving Up:	y
How Otherwise Employed While Proving Up:	Spirit River Blacksmithing	In Military Service While Proving Up:	n

they visited the provincial archives in Alberta or British Columbia, or were able to glean information from the digitized microfilmed land files on the Internet Archive and Ancestry.ca. They will be able to better detect and analyze settlement patterns for the region. In short, the project will produce a greater understanding of the history of the area, individually and collectively, which will lead to greater community awareness and appreciation.

The project covers all land settled between townships 69 and 85, from Range 18 west of the 5th Meridian to Range 25 west of the 6th Meridian – or – all the land which flowed into the Peace River and was settled up to 1930 by farmers. This includes the region from as far south as Goose Lake to as far north as Fort Vermillion and from as far east as Lake Winagami to as far west as Hudson's Hope. This is, in effect, the Peace River Country, which is bordered by the Wapiti River to the south, the Rocky Mountains to the west, the Clear and Whitemud Hills to the north, and Athabasca drainage system to the east and down the Peace River. It also includes the Peace River block of British Columbia.

When complete, the total project will include nearly 33,000 applications for Crown land in the region between 1915 and 1930. Basic information on the land applications held on the land registers was undertaken by the Historic Resource Management Branch of

Alberta Culture in 2008. The Branch also undertook to enter expanded data on the first 8,000 land applications during 2010-12 by going into the files. Thanks to a generous grant from the Alberta Historical Resource Foundation and other partners in 2014, we were able to record information on the next 10,000 applicants during 2014-18. We are now entering into Phase IV of the project, which will expand the information on the remaining 8,350+ land applications.

Rode-oh?

Do you recognize these early rodeo grounds? Many communities in the South Peace hosted local "games" or rodeos, and many still do! Enjoy these photographs and test your local knowledge.
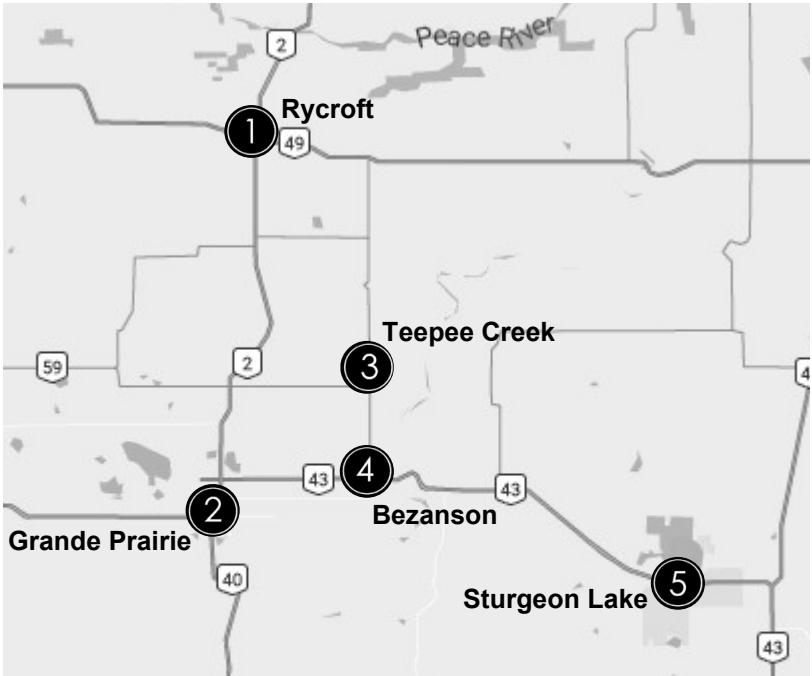
Rodeo Locations

A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5

Teepee Creek Girl Riders
Irene McAllister Collection

Settling the South Peace
# Edson Trail Historical Society

Rodeos are an essential part of summer for many people in the South Peace area, and for many years, they were essential to Irene McCallister. A recent donation from Irene included photographs of her participating in and attending rodeos throughout the South Peace region. These photos provide wonderful glimpses into rodeos past, so we caught up with her to hear some more stories.

Irene (Reaume) McCallister was born in a log house near Hythe in the 1920s. Irene began riding with the Teepee Creek Girls Riding Team when she was around 13 years old. The team performed drills where horses and riders executed choreographed maneuvers. Irene used to travel by horse from Hythe to Teepee Creek to practice with the team; she said that it took a whole day to get there. Irene loved to ride; she recalled feeling like a movie star while performing; she felt like all eyes were on her.

Above: Teepee Creek Girl Riders at Wilde and Lawless Stampede. Irene Reaume is front right rider, 1946. (Part of Irene McAllister Collection, unprocessed)

Right: A ticket from the 1959 Rio Grande Rodeo. Do you know what this ticket may have been used for? Contact the Archives to let us know. (Part of Irene McAllister Collection, unprocessed)

RIO GRANDE RODEO
1959
$1.00
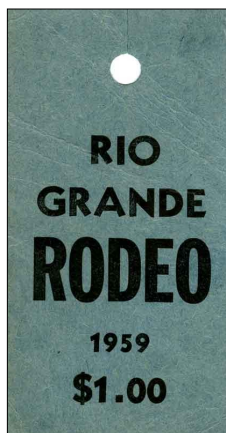
In 1946, Irene performed in the legendary Wilde and Lawless Stampede. Tommy Wilde and Jack Lawless are two legendary cowboys from the BC side of the South Peace who put on spectacular stampedes in the 1940s. She rode with the Teepee Creek Girls Riding Team for two years but continued to attend rodeos for many years after that.

Irene remembers attending the Rio Grande Rodeo many times. She said that everybody would go to the rodeo. The stands were always full, and people stood right up to the fence. The donation from Irene contains a ticket from the rodeo in 1959. The 1959 Rio Grande Rodeo was celebrated in the paper for being a massive success with over 5000 spectators.

One of Irene's favourite rodeo events to watch was the "roman races." She recalled a man, whose name may have been Tufflin, riding in the roman races. These races consisted of men standing on the backs of two horses and racing side-by-side.

Irene spoke of these memories with great joy and love. She hasn't been to the rodeo in a few years, but her stories still seeped with the delight the rodeos brought her.

Earlier this year, the Edson Trail Historical Society received an honourable mention for the Archive's Beth Sheehan Award for their contributions to the Archives' mission. In 2017, the Edson Trail Historical Society donated the production records and master copies for the 2005 film, *The Edson to Grande Prairie Trail: One More Mile*. The Society also provided a generous financial donation to the Archives. Both these donations— material and financial— support the Archives' goal of gathering, preserving, and sharing historical records of this region.

The Edson Trail facilitated the movement of thousands of early settlers into the Peace Country area between 1911 to 1916. People travelling over the Edson Trail experienced both hardships and wonder. Many books and stories have been written about the 240km route and those that travelled over it.

The Edson to Grande Prairie Trail: One More Mile provides a look into the long journey across the Edson Trail. The film features re-enactments of settlers

Above: Settlers On The Edson Trail, 1911 c. (SPRA 024.01.08.01)

crossing the Trail as well as interviews with local historians and archivists. The Edson Trail Historical Society has made the film available to watch, free of charge, on YouTube (City of Grande Prairie channel).

The Edson Trail Historical Society collection features production records for this film, financial records, and the planning for their Centennial Celebrations, including original drafts of the Homestead Rock Cairn. The Homestead Rock Cairn is a 7-foot tall memorial built at Kleskun Hills Park. The Cairn has 164 rocks with the names, occupations, and homestead locations of the settlers who crossed the Trail. The collection is expected to be available for public consultation in 2022.

Once processed, these records will be valuable resources for non-profit and amateur documentarians interested in telling stories through film. This collection will also add to existing information on the Edson Trail, and more broadly, the Municipal District of Greenview. Material and financial donations like these are a gift to future generations.

Above: Edson Trail Homestead Rock Cairn, 2011. (Edson Trail Historical Society, unprocessed)

Archiveology:

A Brief History of Canadian Archives

The "Old West" is closely identified with concepts of individualism and breaking with tradition. This is also the story of the Canadian archival tradition. Two strong "pioneers" laid the foundation for Canadian Archives as we know them. Those traditions continue today in the South Peace region.

Like many of the new settlers to the region, early Canadian archivists may have felt they were entering an untouched landscape. It was, however, already populated with ideas and traditions dating back to the French Revolution: the beginning of public archives.

As "Canada" came into being, so too did the need to build the national identity through the acquisition and of records. The thinking behind this concept combined old as well as new, bold ideas about what a public archives could be and do. With advice from the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, the new Canadian government appointed Douglas Brymner to create a national archives in 1872.

Brymner carved out a new path for Canadian archival practice that acknowledged the close ties between the personal and political lives of decision-makers and local citizens. Brymner made the first major acquisition: 400,000 items documenting the history of the British army in Halifax from 1759 to 1871. He also sent staff on copying expeditions to France and England, transcribing whole collections related to the early history of Canada.

His successor, Arthur Doughty, expanded on much of Brymner's early work and extended the copying expeditions to Spain and Rome. He also worked with

historians to create *Canada and its Provinces*. The goal was "to provide the cultural parallel to the new railways, canals, telegraphs and other technological enterprises linking the country." Doughty believed "in some ways, that is what history does for us. It helps us conceive of our futures, what we want, what we don't want, what we want to build on."

The National Archives went from virtually nothing in 1872 to over 500,000 volumes of manuscripts, records and transcripts, 30,000 maps, 20,000 pictures, 40,000 books, and 10,000 pamphlets in 1935. The collection outgrew both the original 1906 building and 1926 addition. These records are now stored at Library and Archives Canada Preservation Centre: a purpose-built, state of the art facility.

Something similar took place here in the South Peace. In 1999, Mary Nutting and group of dedicated volunteers contacted 370 people and organizations to determine the extent of historical records in the region. With support from the Archives Society of Alberta, the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, County and City Lottery Boards, and the Isabel Campbell Fund at the Grande Prairie Museum, they surveyed 94 collections.

Since that time, the South Peace Regional Archives has grown to over 600 described fonds, consisting of more than: 250 meters of documents, 1,000 maps and plans, 60,000 photographs, and a sizable audio recording collection. Our unprocessed materials now consist of more than 125 meters of records. In 2018, the Board of Directors approved renting an offsite office to accommodate our growing needs. This year, they established the Future Planning Committee to discuss spatial needs and other topics. We are proud of the work of our original Canadian Archival "pioneers" and we are proud to continue building the foundation for generations to come.

Archives in the Community

2019 Summer Events

Archives staff and volunteers enjoyed a busy summer of events and programs. Over 100 people enjoyed our Historical Cemetery Walking Tours! The Archives also hosted or visited community events in Grande Prairie, Valleyview, Grovedale, DeBolt, Grande Cache, and Spirit River. Like and follow us on Facebook for news of upcoming events.

Above: Board member Gail at MD Greenview's DeBolt Ratepayers BBQ

Middle: Executive Director Alyssa at Grande Cache's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Bottom: Visitors consult a 1935 MD Spirit River land ownership map (reproduction) at Spirit River's Chepi Sepe Days

Your Archives, Your Voice

The Board of Directors and Future Planning Committee need your help! The Archives contains your history and your memories. Help us shape its future by answering the following questions:

What can we do to serve you better?

Which services do you use at the Archives? Which services would like to see?

Ten years from now, what would an ideal Archives look like to you?

Contact us at Info@SouthPeaceArchives.org or 780-830-5105 with your answers. You will be entered to win a 1-year membership for you and three of your friends!

New at the Archives
Thank You Donors!

This has been a great season for newspapers. Both the Grande Prairie Public Library and the Valleview Town & Country News have begun donating copies of newspapers toward our collections and reference files. Newspapers are a valuable resource for information about people, events and communities. Our volunteers have now begun adding these to our personal, family, and general reference files.

Another group laying an important historical foundation is the Glen Leslie Church Preservation Group. The group, now inactive, worked tirelessly toward the restoration of the Glen Leslie Church and cemetery. Former president, Wanda Zenner, donated the group's records. Once processed, these records will provide valuable ideas and potential resources for other individuals or groups interested in saving a part of their history for future generations.

Many thanks go to the #2850 Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4PPCLI) Army Cadets for several recent donations and loan for copy donations of photographs, documents, and newspaper clippings that illustrate the history of this venerable youth institution. Records relating to the activities of youth are often in short supply. We welcome this addition to our holdings.

From Page 20-21: Rode-oh? Solutions

Note: All photographs have been cropped for this article

A,5: Spectators line wooden barricades alongside the track at Sturgeon Lake. Riders appear to be assembling for a horse race. 1925 (SPRA 430.01.30)

B,3: The Teepee Creek Stampede showing chuck wagon races, ca. 1948 (SPRA 2009.023.08)

C,2: Grandstand and watchtower at the Grande Prairie Stampede grounds, 1916 (SPRA 1986.60.2l)

D,4: Stampede Day showing entire Bezanson Stampede Grounds in 1957 (SPRA 2010.48.04a)

E,1: A horse race at the Rycroft Stampede grounds. A small crowd hangs on the fence to watch, ca. 1920 (SPRA 394.12)

Trick question? Although photographs A and E are labeled as Sturgeon Lake and Rycroft, respectively, we suspect they may be taken at the same location. Do you have photographs or supporting information that could help us solve this mystery? Contact the Archives!

South Peace Regional Archives Society
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____   Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like more information about becoming a: _____volunteer   _____board member

Select your membership:

Yearly membership: receive communications to stay informed about issues and happenings at the Archives, get involved in the society, attend meetings, vote on issues, and run for office.

Lifetime membership: receive all of the benefits of a regular membership, without the hassle of yearly renewal, and know that your membership could have a greater immediate impact.

This membership is   _____ new _____ renewal

Yearly Membership
    $20.00/person or $30.00/couple   _____

Lifetime Membership
    $500.00/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
Director@southpeacearchives.org

☐   Eco-option: I would like to receive a digital subscription to *Telling Our Stories*; I will receive an email link to a full-color copy of each issue. By selecting a digital subscription, I understand that I am opting out of receiving paper issues of *Telling Our Stories*.

Thank you for supporting

South Peace
REGIONAL ARCHIVES

www.southpeacearchives.org