


# TELLING OUR STORIES

Volume 12

SEPTEMBER 2021

Issue 4



## PETS & ANIMALS OF THE SOUTH PEACE

HEALTHY  
AS A HORSE  
MEDICAL CARE FOR ANIMALS

FOUNDING  
ANIMALS

ANIMALS  
AT WAR

WORKING  
LIKE A DOG  
JOBS HELD BY OUR FURRY FRIENDS

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

# IN THIS ISSUE

4 Letter from the President

4 Take Note

Heritage Village Folktale Tours & Preserving Family Records Workshops

5 It's About Time!

Fundraising for our New Home

6 Working Like a Dog

Jobs Held by Our Furry Friends

8 Animal Tales

Revisiting *This Week in History*

10 Animals at War

Guest contribution by Kaylee Dyck

12 Little Bo Sheep

Phyllis Stewart: Sheep Breeder



14 Olwen's Own Words

Sam & Whiskers

16 Indigenous Guides & Their Pack Animals

18 Paws-itively Adorable

This issue's featured photographs

20 Founding Animals

The First Creatures & Some of Their Ways

Guest contribution by Duff Crerar



22 Healthy as a Horse

Medical Care for Animals

24 Conservation: Pests & Paper

This issue's Archiveology

25 Pets & Panic

Excerpt from Anne Donaldson's *Homestead Memories*



26 New at the Archives

Discover our most recent material

27 Join Us Today

Membership Application Form

Cover: Mabel Lassen holding a dog, n.d. (SPRA 175.066.5)

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.

## A Publication of the South Peace Regional Archives

**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.

### Board of Directors

Jan Shields, President

Eleanor Dalen Whitling, Vice President

Meg Archer, Secretary

Gail Prette, Treasurer

Eunice Friesen, City of Grande Prairie

Peter Harris, County of Grande Prairie

Shawn Acton, M.D. of Greenview

Stan Bzowy, M.D. of Spirit River

Duff Crerar, Director

Gary Dixon, Director

Maxine Maxwell, Director

Shawn Morton, Director

Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown, Director

Gail Schau, Director

Alice Sims, Director

Kristen Smith, Director

Daryl White, Director

### Archives Staff

Stephanie Friesen, Archivist

Teresa Dyck, Administrative Assistant

Kaydence Redding, Archives Assistant (Student)

### Mailing Address

Box 687, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A8

Telephone: 780-830-5105

E-mail: [director@southpeacearchives.org](mailto:director@southpeacearchives.org)

[www.southpeacearchives.org](http://www.southpeacearchives.org)



## Letter from the President

For this issue of *Telling Our Stories*, our staff searched the archival records to cover a wide range of topics from family pets to working dogs, motherly hens, prize-winning sheep, and even World War I bears! Interwoven into the stories are glimpses of our early European settlers and Indigenous peoples and their experiences living in the South Peace. Duff Crerar, an historian and long-time Board member, explores the various animals who have populated the South Peace since early times, especially those that were used by both our Indigenous people and early settlers to sustain life. Enjoy!

As many of you are aware, Alyssa has resigned to take another position. She will be sorely missed, but we are currently advertising for a new Executive Director. We will be conducting interviews later in the month, hopefully with a positive conclusion.

Our remaining staff, including our summer Archives Assistant Kaydence Redding, have taken on many extra duties. Their work is greatly appreciated and I would like to commend them for completing extra tasks to keep the management of the Archives running smoothly, while continuing to complete their own archival work. An admirable job!

By now, most of you are aware that the Archives will soon have a new home. While the move will require rather hefty capital expenditures to renovate and furnish the new space, the Centre 2000 location will assure that SPRA can expand its collections, provide staff, volunteers, researchers, and other visitors with a more comfortable space, and offer greater opportunities to extend our services to our community. We are very grateful to our funding partners and other supporters for their contributions to make this a reality.

Jan Shields

*President, SPRA Board of Directors*

## Take Note: Upcoming Events

### Heritage Village Folktale Tours

The Archives is partnering with the Grande Prairie Museum once again this year for our annual Heritage Village Folktale Tours this fall. The tour will feature tales based loosely on local stories taken from archival records and sources. The dates for these atmospheric tours are not yet determined so keep your eyes peeled for more information on our website and Facebook page.

### Preserving Family Records Workshop

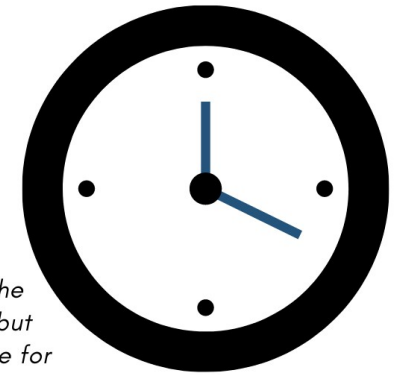
The Archives is partnering with the City of Grande Prairie to offer an archival workshop all about preserving your family records. This workshop will be happening in the fall but the specific date has not been finalized. Information about the event and registration will be posted to our Facebook page and the City's website once it has been finalized.

## 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.

# It's About Time!



*The South Peace Regional Archives is all about time. The time that has passed, the time that keeps on passing, but also the time that is given to all of us to create a future for that past time.*

*Mary Nutting, 2013*

Over six years ago, Mary Nutting and the Board of Directors began plans to find a larger space for the Archives that would allow us to expand and continue to share the histories of individuals, families, organizations, and businesses.

## OUR NEW HOME WILL BE LOCATED IN CENTRE 2000

The South Peace Regional Archives can continue to grow! All our memories will be safe and we will have space for visitors and volunteers to gather and learn about the individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who have contributed to this wonderful part of Alberta - the South Peace.

The renovations and equipment needed to expand and grow are budgeted at just over 1.1 million dollars. Every contribution moves us closer to our shared goal. Will you help us? Please give today.

### Thank You

Please make cheques payable to South Peace Regional Archives  
Memo: "Capital Fund"

***SPRA is a non-profit organization with charitable status  
Tax receipts will be issued***

Phone	Address
South Peace Regional Archives 780 830 5105	South Peace Regional Archives PO Box 687 STN MAIN Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A8

Contact
Jan Shields Board of Directors 780 532 4295 jansy67@gmail.com

# Working Like a Dog

## Jobs Held by Our Furry Friends

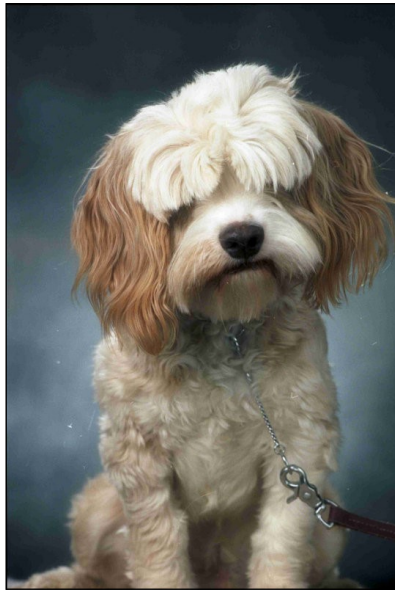
There's no doubt that dogs can be great companions, the perfect snuggle buddies, or even an unmatched exercise partner...but not everything a dog does is purely recreational! Records throughout the South Peace Regional Archives collections are filled with examples that prove the saying "working like a dog" is quite accurate. It seems that many dogs in the South Peace Region were rigorous workers.



*Left: Portrait of the dog that played "Toto" in the 1996 production of "Wizard of Oz" (SPRA 190.02.01.1377.02)*

The most unexpected example of a working dog that we came across was prompted solely by the adorable photograph below. After looking deeper into the story behind this photograph, it became clear

that this wasn't just a portrait of somebody's much loved pet, but rather the portrait of a hard working dog who starred in a 1995 production of Annie! That's right- this cute pup's photo was taken by Panda Camera to commemorate its success in portraying the role of "Sandy" in the play. Surprisingly, this is not the only example of an animal superstar in the South Peace. The Panda Camera fonds (fonds 190) also holds the story of a pup that found its way



*Above: Portrait the dog that played "Sandy" in the 1995 production of "Annie" (SPRA 190.02.01.1505.45)*

into the limelight for a Grande Prairie Regional Collage production of the Wizard of Oz in 1996. The dog, who is seen in the portrait on the left smiling for the camera, had the honour of playing the role of Toto. This pooch certainly fit the part with its small stature and long dark coat.

Our archival collections show that not every working dog required a captivating stage presence, but they often needed the ability to perform well under pressure. Our next example of a dog at work comes from the South Peace Regional Archives own collection of photographs (fonds 502) and was taken in 1975. The photograph, seen on the right, depicts a sheep dog, possibly a border collie, hard at work herding sheep during a parade. Dogs have long been used in many different agricultural roles, from herding sheep to guarding livestock, and dogs play a vital role on farms across the South Peace Region. In the case of this sheep dog, you can see that it is a dedicated worker and remained focused on herding, despite being in front of many spectators and likely surrounded by distractions. Considering the

length of most parade routes, this dog would have been hard at work for many kilometers as it kept the whole herd of sheep in line! Many photographs within the archives highlight the use of dogs to aid in hunting, particularly to fetch flying game (like geese) or to locate camouflaged game (such as pheasants or grouse).

Beyond the agriculture industry, dogs hold jobs that are centered on helping others. Service dogs are instrumental in helping their owners have a greater sense of independence while staying safe in their communities. A September 11, 1959 article from the Herald Tribune details one service dog, named Maggie, who belonged to former South Peace resident Mrs. Fowler, both pictured on the right. As a visually impaired person, Mrs. Fowler relied on Maggie to assist her when travelling from one destination to the next, completing her shopping, and accomplishing other daily tasks. The newspaper article was sure to mention how great Maggie was at her job. This working dog was highly decorated and held various international championship titles, 43 trophies, and 84 ribbons. Service dogs come in many shapes and sizes, while Maggie was a Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherds and Golden Re-



*Above: Mrs. Fowler with her service dog named Maggie, an award-winning Doberman Pinscher (SPRA 0032.08.08.0198)*

trievers are also widely used. Although service dogs for the visually and hearing impaired were the most common types of service dogs when the 1959 article was written, service dogs today can also have jobs helping people with a multitude of different illnesses and diseases, including anxiety, allergies, and diabetes, just to name a few.

From taking the stage to working as a guide, dogs in the South Peace have performed exceptionally in a variety of jobs. While archival records describe many other types of working animals, from camels harrowing fields to oxen being used for racing, these stories of hardworking dogs all serve as a reminder that dogs can often take on roles much bigger than a household pet.



*Above: A sheep herder in Scottish dress with his sheep and sheep dog on parade in front of the Simpson-Sears building on 100 Ave (SPRA 2006.011.12)*

# Animal Tales

## Revisiting *This Week in History*

Kathryn Auger volunteered at the Archives from 2011 until her passing in 2017. Kathryn's blog series, "This Day in History," featured articles published in Grande Prairie newspapers between 1913 and 1950. Her posts developed a tremendous following and remain some of the Archives' most popular to this day. We are delighted to share with you this post, originally published on 25 August 2016, that highlights various pet stories Kathryn found in 1930s newspapers. Kathryn shared with us that the story about the bulldog and three rabbits took place on her grandfather's farm.



### Warm & Fuzzy Animal Tales

*I've picked these three unusual stories this week because of all the various ones I have found in the papers, these create the most vivid images in my mind. It's pretty hilarious to picture a hen sitting on two piglets! The other two are the kind where you just have to say "awww!"*

### Faithful Canine Protects Pet Lamb 28 August 1931

The other evening while on his rounds, Chief Ross came across a lamb which was circled by a pack of dogs bent on destroying it. Fortunately the lamb was not alone. Within the vicious circle was a faithful dog which fought off the attacks. It so happened that at this time Roy Mitchell appeared on the scene, accompanied by the family dog, a diminutive female which immediately penetrated the circle, licked the lamb's face, and joined the brave defender in protecting the helpless lamb. Mitchell took the lamb and deposited it in Donald's barn. The faithful canine lay at the door



*Below: Hampshire ewes and ewe lambs, 1941 (SPRA 362.02.02.43 )*

all night.

In the morning it was found that the lamb, which happened to be a pet lamb, belonged to a family which recently arrived from the southern part of the province. Needless to say there was great joy within this particular family circle when the lamb and the dog were returned.

### Looks Often Deceiving; Bull Dog Adopted 3 Rabbits 7 March 1930

W.H. Medlock, pioneer barber of Grande Prairie tells the following interesting story which is just another proof that looks are very often deceiving:

"Some years ago we had some rabbits. One of the bunch was the proud mother of quite a sized litter. All at once we missed three. After two days just as we had concluded that some dogs had gotten them a neighbor woman called at the house and asked us if we had any rabbits, adding that their dog an old savage looking battle scarred old English bull dog had three young rabbits in a hole in their yard over which he was faithfully watching."

"I immediately went over," continued Mr. Medlock, "and sure enough there were our rabbits with the dog standing on guard. Every now and again the old dog by way of showing his affection for his adopted family would lick the rabbits. I took the rabbits home. A little later the dog appeared on the scene and carried the rabbits back as a cat would carry her kittens. After that we locked the rabbits up. If the old dog had the facilities for feeding the rabbits we should have been tempted to have left the rabbits with him."



*Left: This photograph depicts two adult pigs and four piglets in a field, n.d. (SPRA 676.03.03.03.122)*

"To look at the dog you would never have imagined that he had a particle of kindness in his make up," said Mr. Medlock in concluding the story.

### Hen On Farm Of L. Bodie, Bear Lake, Mothers 2 Pigs 12 May 1938

Hens have been known to mother kittens, pups, and other animals, but here is a new one.

About a week ago there was born on the farm of Lawrence Bode, farming near Bear Lake, fourteen pigs—two more than the mother could service.

Mr. Bodie, to meet the situation, after deciding to raise a couple on the bottle until such time as they could look after themselves, put them in a manger where there was a large Rock broody hen.

The pigs, which were only in the world a few minutes, in search of heat immediately made themselves comfortable under the hen, which did not object.

Mr. Bode informed The Tribune reporter that it is highly interesting and amusing to see the pigs jostling for position, adding that before they settle down they give the hen a rough time of it. When the pigs finally

get settled down the hen spreads its wings over them in true motherly fashion, seemingly quite content with the little adopted family.

"When the pigs grow up, there sure is a ride coming to this hen," remarked Mr. Bode.

# Animals at War

*This guest article was contributed by volunteer Kaylee Dyck. Kaylee researches First World War veterans of the South Peace in order to write biographies for the Archives' online Soldier's Memorial. Visit the memorial to learn more about the soldiers mentioned here.*

When war broke out in 1914, eager volunteers lined the streets, ready to serve their country. But only a fraction of the war's participants were of the two-legged, uniformed variety. Horses, mules, dogs, pigeons, cats, and even glowworms played important roles during the war. Like people, animals found themselves whisked away from their familiar surroundings and thrust into the chaos of war.

Horses and mules were the most widely used animals. Canada supplied approximately 130,000 horses for the war effort, many of whom were purchased or requisitioned from family farms. They served in the cavalry, pulled artillery, transported wounded, and hauled supplies through the Western Front. A total of eight million horses and mules died during the war and an additional 2.5 million horses were injured.

The Canadian Army Veterinary Corps (CAVC) was responsible for the care of sick and wounded animals. Each Canadian division had its own mobile veterinary section, and there were two veterinary hospitals and an evacuating station. The mobile sections provided first-aid treatment, while the evacuating station served as a clearing station through which animals were evacuated for further treatment. The CAVC also provided grooming and farrier services to the animals

near the front lines. Some veterinarians and farriers had worked in their respective professions prior to the war, while others were trained in England. A veterinarian's kit included tools ranging from scalpels and syringes to medication and horseshoes. At least four South Peace veterans served with the CAVC during World War One, while four more served with the British and American veterinary corps. **Roland Harvey** of Grouard and **Carroll Dunsmore** (who filed on SW 41-79-13-W6 in 1921) served at No. 1 Canadian Veterinary Hospital (CVH) in Havre, France. Dunsmore was taken on strength at the hospital on May 21, 1916; the next day, the hospital treated its 1,904<sup>th</sup> case. Private **James Smith**, who homesteaded near Bear Lake, was transferred to the newly formed No. 2 CVH after having been wounded in battle in June 1917. While his time at the veterinary hospital appears to have gone smoothly, James sadly died as the result of being kicked by a horse in 1920.

Like horses, dogs played many roles during the war. They laid telegraph wire, delivered messages, carried first-aid supplies to the wounded in No Man's Land, acted as watchdogs, and caught rats. One terrier was said to have killed 43 rats in the span of a few minutes. This would certainly have been appreciated by the men inhabiting the rat-infested trenches! In late 1918, a group of sled dogs was transported to Siberia to serve with the North Russia Expeditionary Force (NREF). **Milo Oblinger**, one-time editor of the *Grande Prairie Herald*, served with the Dog Detachment of the Canadian Syren Party NREF (also referred to in his service file as the Expert Dog Drivers Battalion). However, chaos ensued when the 180 huskies met reindeer on the trail and the dog sleighs were considered a failure.

In addition to dogs and horses, pigeons and glowworms were also recruited. Pigeons carried messages and glowworms provided lighting in tunnels. And per-

haps just as vital to the war effort were the animals that served as pets and mascots. Cats and dogs that had been abandoned by their fleeing owners were adopted by homesick soldiers. One wonders if perhaps **William Atkinson** of Valhalla, who raised Persian cats after the war, was one of those tender-hearted soldiers who squeezed a kitten under his jacket for a little extra warmth and comfort. Goats were common mascots and there is record of at least one pig as well. But the most popular creature with the Canadians was the bear. Having a bear as a battalion mascot gave the Canadians a special status and set them apart from British units. Between 1914-1917, at least twelve black bears were delivered to the London Zoo by Canadians. Most notable was "Winnipeg", whom we now know as Winnie-the-Pooh. But there was also a bear cub from the South Peace who served as a mascot. Her name was Lady Saskatoon, and she was a brown bear donated by **Arthur Buck**, who was later killed in action. It's not known whether Lady Saskatoon made it overseas, but she did travel with the company as they made their way to Edmonton. **D. W. Patterson** recalled, "... we boarded a gas-powered boat, on the Smoky River. Two boats, in fact, for there was about 40 of us with a bear cub for a mascot."

For many soldiers, animals served as a link to pre-war life. Most men from the South Peace would have been accustomed to having pets or livestock. While many grieved the losses of their four-legged companions as deeply as the deaths

*Right: Arthur Buck makes a bear cub stand on its hind legs, ca. 1912 (SPRA 298.16)*



of their comrades, sadly there were many creatures who were abandoned and left to suffer at the side of the road. A Canadian veterinary major in the 3rd Division dispatched patrols to seek out and care for these animals, while the donation-funded Blue Cross treated over 50,000 horses and 18,000 dogs "irrespective of nationality" throughout the war.

After the armistice, 23,000 Canadian horses and mules were sold to the Belgian government. Rather than enjoying a well-earned rest, they became draught animals, cavalry mounts, mining horses, or - most tragic of all - food. Fifty horses remained with the Canadians and served with the War Graves Detachment, assisting with the horrific task of exhuming and reburying corpses. While some pets and mascots were lucky enough to be snuck back to Canada with their units, most were held back by red tape. Men were forced to leave behind their furry companions as they returned to 'normal' life - which for some was more terrifying than facing battle. One can only imagine what the animals suffered, having survived a global war. Did they endure the same terrors and tremors that so many shell-shocked soldiers did?

Many soldiers and veterinarians continued to work with animals after the war. **Charles Ingstrom**, who had been a veterinarian in the American corps, returned to Rio Grande where his veterinary knowledge saved the lives of his own livestock as well his neighbours' many times. And thankfully, there have been those who've worked over the years to ensure that animals who served in war won't be forgotten. In Ottawa's Peace Tower, there is a tympanum that honours "the humble beasts that served and died" (inscribed in 1927) and in 2012, the Animals in War memorial was dedicated in Confederation Park, Ottawa.

# Little Bo Sheep

## Phyllis Stewart: Sheep Breeder

Phyllis Evelyn Mattoon spent most of her childhood in the prairie town of Consort, AB, where she was born in 1927 to Fred and Mabel Mattoon. She and her siblings were raised in a house ordered from the Eaton's catalogue that featured a stove with a warming oven and reservoir, a Winnipeg couch, maple floors, and a cement basement with a chute so firewood and potatoes could be sent down from the outside. The town relied heavily on the railway to bring in coal, wood, dried fruits, and baled hay. Although the family lived on a farm, Phyllis and sister, Patsy spent much of the school year in town staying with their grandmother to avoid the four-mile journey to the schoolhouse in lone.

During the 1930s, years of drought forced many families to find greener pastures. Eventually the Mattoons packed up their 1928 Plymouth and wagon, as well as two freight cars; one with horses, cattle, the dog, the



cat, and their cousin Ralph, and the other with machinery and furniture. The thresher followed later.

During the Second World War, Phyllis attended the University of Alberta War Emergency Training Program (WETP), a special program to fast-track teachers into vacant positions caused by World War II. She spent 8 months and emerged with a Letter of Authority from the Department of Education so that she could teach. In May 1946, she moved to the Bezanson area to teach at the Bezanson School.

In 1947, Phyllis married Charles Bevan Stewart. The young couple lived on his father's farm until they built their own residence on S.E. 35-71-3-W6 in 1949. They had four children: Cherry Lynn, Marvin Lee, Shannon Kelly, and Creston Zane. Phyllis spent many years teaching in the East Smoky, High Prairie and County of Grande Prairie School Divisions, as well as being Principal of the Hutterite Colony School. A lifelong learner, Phyllis continued advancing her education throughout her adult life. The records show that in the 1960s she took classes from Queens University, Grande Prairie Regional College, the University of Lethbridge and the University of Alberta, and in 1976 was awarded her Bachelor of Education.

Avid sheep farmers, in 1964 the couple started shifting from a commercial, mixed-breed flock of around 300 head to purebred Montadales. They started with a Montadale ram purchased from a farm in Saskatchewan.

*Left: The Stewart family had Montadale Sheep, and orphan lambs had to be fed by bottle, as their children and cousin Colleen Tarrant are doing here. 1962 (SPRA 059.01.05.15)*



*Above: Phyllis with sheep at a show. n.d. (SPRA 059.03.08)*

At the time, they were the only breeders of purebred Montadales in the South Peace. In 1965, they culled the flock down to around 25 head of their best animals. They also started showing their sheep at competitions such as the Edmonton Exhibition, where their ram placed third. By 1970, they had amassed 130 ribbons and trophies, and had taken their sheep to shows from Prince George to Edmonton. According to a 1970 article in the Herald-Tribune, they were hoping to compete at the Toronto International Winter Fair in the future.

In a resume from the 1980s, there is a "Personal" section, where her date of birth, height, weight, health, hobbies, residence, and marital status are listed. Here she is listed as being 5'4 1/2", 150lbs, of excellent health but wears glasses, and divorced. Her hobbies included singing and gardening.

After 30 years of being an educator, Phyllis retired in 1983 and was awarded a lifetime membership in the

*Right: Montadale sheep on the Stewart farm. n.d. (SPRA 059.03.03)*

Alberta Teachers Association. Retirement did not mean rest for Phyllis as she kept busy with the farm and local government. In October 1983, she was elected as County Councillor and served as a representative for Bezanson for nine consecutive years. During her tenure as Councillor she sat on many boards and committees. In the 1990s she was an active member of the Conservative Party.

Shortly after the Archives was created in 2000, Phyllis, along with Edie Burroughs, Marie Mencke, Cathy Van Everdink and Betty Welter, started coming to the Archives every Thursday to volunteer. They were eager to help with anything that needed to be done, whether that was peeling potatoes for harvest festival or translating documents from French or Dutch to English. Together, they contributed over 3000 hours of volunteer time by 2009 and were awarded the Beth Sheehan Award for their contributions.

Phyllis passed away in 2019 at the age of 91 after spending her last years at the Grande Spirit Lakeview Seniors Facility in Clairmont.

*This article was written by former Archives Outreach Intern, Alia Kolodychuk. This position was made possible by an Access to Holdings Grant from the Archives Society of Alberta.*



# Olwen's Own Words:

## Sam & Whiskers

In 1933, Olwen Sanger-Davies travelled from East Sussex, England to the Peace Country to visit her younger brother, Morgan. Olwen documented her visit in two personal scrapbooks, containing approximately 500 drawings and paintings. "Olwen's Own Words" features excerpts and illustrations from these scrapbooks.

*Sunday, July 9th*

*We motored into church; it was Mattins at 11:00 and Evensong at 7:30. Mr. Jackson preached about "unity" in connection with the Oxford Movement Centenary.*

*After dinner at 'The Royal Café' (kept by Chinese), we*



*Sam's Sunday Treat at the Royal Café, Grande Prairie*



*Sam and Whiskers*



*How we Travel*

*had a lovely drive. Passed the golf links, and on between Hermit and Bear Lakes.*

*Monday, August 28th*

*A frost having killed our tomatoes, I made pickles with them, cauliflowers, and onions. My recipe took a week, these Morgan found later.*

*On cold days Sam and Whiskers come into the house.*

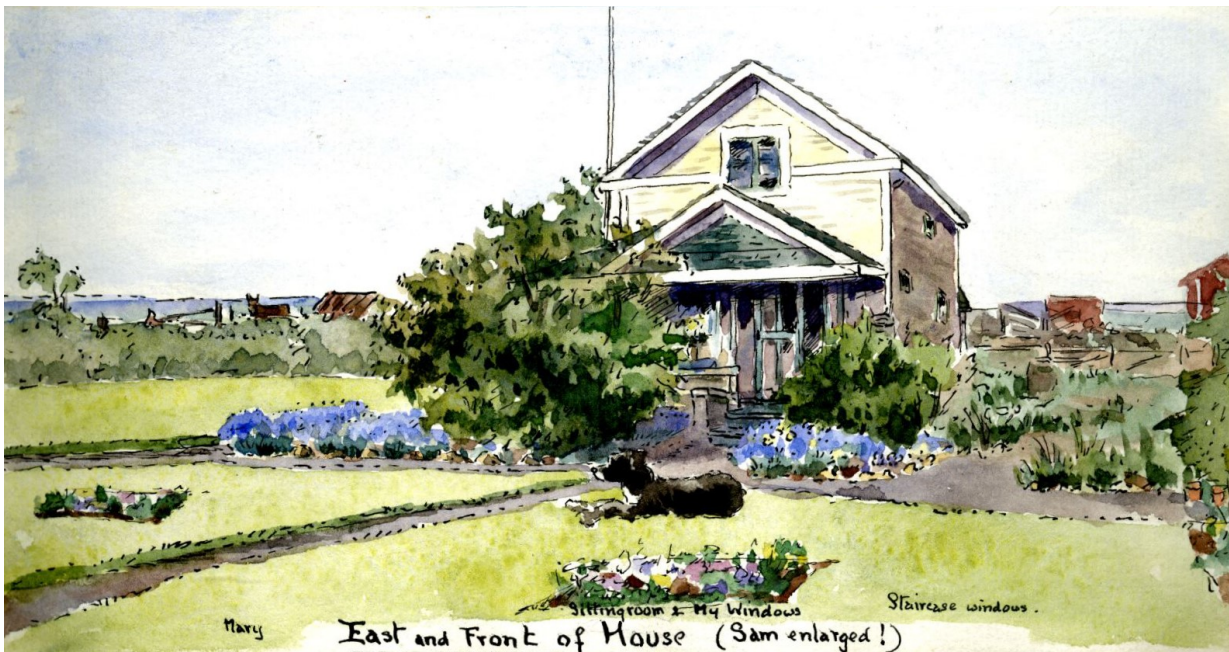
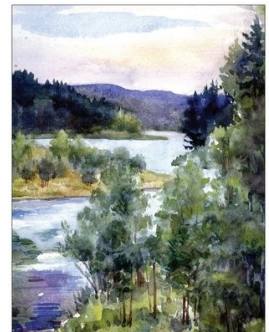
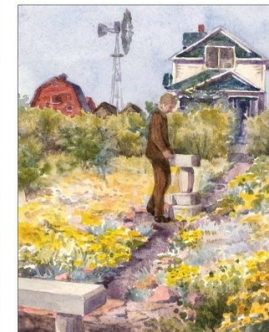
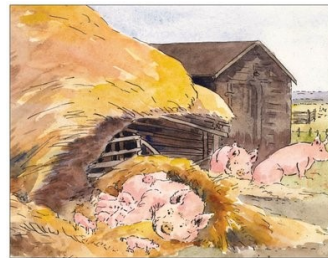
**Available Now!**

**Olwen's Card Collection**

**\$10.00**

Price Includes GST  
Curbside pick-up available

This beautiful collection of blank notecards features six of Olwen's watercolour paintings. Each set includes 6 cards ( 5½ x 4¼ inches ) and white envelopes. Limited quantities are available.



*Staircase windows. Staircase windows. East and Front of House (Sam enlarged!)*



# Indigenous Guides & Their Pack Animals

As an Archives, it is our responsibility to preserve and share historical records. Despite our diverse population, the majority of records we have in our collections were created by white settlers, and, as a result of that, they often don't contain histories of Indigenous Peoples. In the rare scenarios where the histories of Indigenous Peoples are recorded, it is important to remember that these narratives often do not reflect how Indigenous Peoples would interpret their own history. When looking for records relating to Indigenous Peoples and pets or animals, we must admit that items in our collections were scarce. However, one common theme we came across in many records was the use of animals by Indigenous Peoples who were serving as guides for settler families.

The Ann Macklin fonds (fonds 177) is an example. While travelling, the family commissioned two Cree families to provide food, shelter, transportation, and

guidance. A description on the back of the photograph below states that "two Cree families accompanied us on our trip. They killed our meat—moose, deer, bear, porcupine and skunk—and picked cranberries and blueberries for us. They pitched our tents and packed our horses. Last, but not least they were our guides." This gives insight into two ways Indigenous Peoples used animals, firstly as a source of sustenance, and secondly as a method of transport. Unfortunately, the names of the Cree family members were never recorded and their identities remain unknown. Throughout our collections, the use of pack animals, typically horses, to carry tents and other supplies over long distances by Indigenous Peoples is documented in many records.

In the Jerry Stojan fonds (fonds 253) we again see examples of settlers being joined by Indigenous guides while travelling. A video from this fonds shows several men sitting on the banks of a river smoking, including two Indigenous men, one of whom smiles at the camera. Again, we do not have information on the names of the guides, but it was noted that the Stojans frequently hired Indigenous Peoples to accompany them on their hunting trips.

Left: Cree family guides, 1935 (SPRA 177.070)



Left: A First Nations man and his dogsled team outside of McArthur's store in Sturgeon Heights. The McArthurs also had a store in DeBolt. Used in "Across the Smoky," p. 286. Ca. 1935 (SPRA 116.09.01.01.0272)

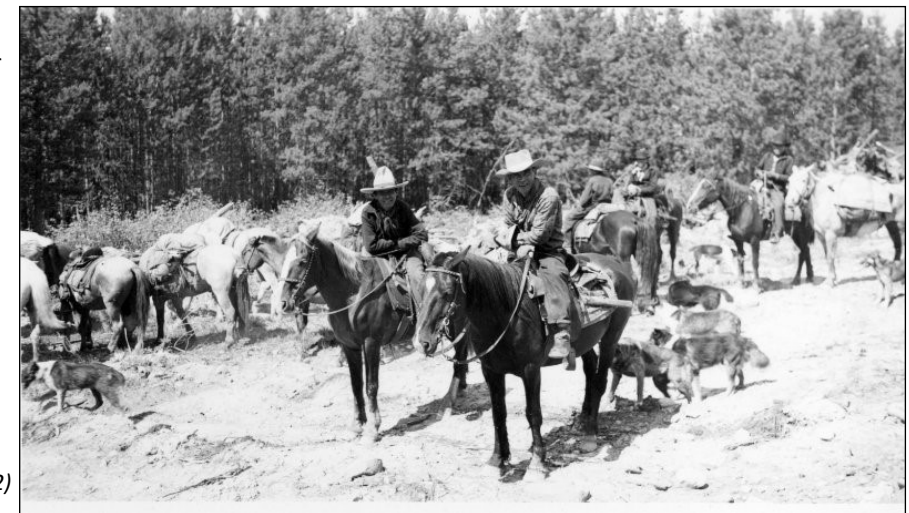
reference to travelling to nearby reserves to vaccinate against small pox. We can infer from this piece that Leo spent a great deal of time with horses.

Indigenous voices have historically been eclipsed by the dominant settler narrative. We don't know if the settlers who left out details, such as names, about their Indigenous guides were deliberate in this; but the end result is still a narrative where the colonial settler's version is the most prevailing. These stories of Indigenous guides and pack animals that are concealed among settler histories are just one example of the many relationships between Indigenous Peoples and animals, and serve as a reminder that the histories of Indigenous Peoples are often limited within the collections of many archives.

This article was written by former Archives Outreach Intern, Alia Kolodychuk. This position was made possible by an Access to Holdings Grant from the Archives Society of Alberta.

Another reference in our collection to Indigenous guides is found in the Carlisle family fonds (fonds 399). "A big Indian Agent, Leo Ferguson, half French and half Indian, a good friend of mine, always came with me ... Leo would send nine or ten horseback riders out in all directions and gather the tribe together and all the Indians were vaccinated except two families and two teenage boys" said Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle, in ref-

Right: As a pack train gets organized, two Indigenous horsemen are mounted and ready to head out, 1942-1943. (SPRA 291.05.02)



# Paws-itively Adorable

This issue's featured photographs highlight pets in the South Peace. Do you have a favourite photograph? Let us know on Facebook!



1938 Ann & Friends skating today on Dam

Above: Skating party given by Miss Ann Philips-Roberts was attended by: Earl Parrish, Dorothy Newton, Ann, Art Southworth, Gwen Grant, Gordon Wilson, Doris Gant and Dennys Law. Mrs. Philips-Roberts, Scott the dog, and Evelyn Knight are in the front row. 1938 (SPRA 177.081)

Right (opposite): Horse with a hat on, n.d. (SPRA 2001.002.731)

Below: "Louise Arnold and Duke & Kaiser. Taken in our Poplar Grove on the farm. Grande Prairie Dis't. June 1921." (SPRA 665.16a)



Above: Jim Carlisle touching a colt's nose, 1941 (SPRA 399.09.58)

Below: Ann Philips Roberts and her first cats outside the family home, 1918 (SPRA 177.045)



Above: Cow on the porch of an incomplete log house, ca. 1950 (SPRA 2001.002.500)

Top right: Jessie Norris holding a cat, 1925 (SPRA 635.02.04)

Middle right: Forest Falk's horse "Mike" with a dog on it, 1920 (SPRA 1991.03.035, Fonds 049)

Bottom right: Phyllis holding the reins of Joe Hill, the famous race horse, while she pats a dog, 1926 (Fonds 678.05-03)



# Founding Animals:

## The First Creatures & Some of Their Ways

*The following article was contributed by Duff Crerar, a member of the Archives' Board of Directors and Indigenous History Committee. Before retiring, Duff taught History and Native Studies courses at Grande Prairie Regional College for over 20 years.*

Reading the papers of our founding families made me ask if there are any “founding animals”: four-legged critters who have been here, perhaps longer than the two-legged who interact with them, and who have contributed to the success of the founding families.

Going through the old pictures in the Klukas-Norris Family fonds (fonds 635), bison feature prominently, as they did for thousands of years in the rest of the Peace, Athabasca, and Great Slave regions. Indigenous peoples have hunted the bison up here, including the gigantic ancient strain, as we can see in the archaeology evidence at Charlie Lake, since the dying days of the Ice Age. An iconic animal, giver of food, shelter, story and significance, the bison belong to two original families: Wood and Prairie. The Wood Bison were the mainstay, along with the moose, for most Indigenous peoples from the Great Prairies to the Slavey, Athabasca, and Peace River prairies. Originally long-lived (even today 20-year-old individuals can be found), the industrial predation for factory drive belts, hides and fur robes drove the population down from 40 million (we think) in 1835 to a dwindling band of survivors in the 1880s. The bison genocide, however, eventually was prevented by the Canadian government bringing north captive bison to establish herds. For a time, Klukas was a ranger protecting the Wainwright Herd (moved up north to bol-

ster the Wood Buffalo population, a controversial decision by government which brought disease and genetic blending with the original strain to Wood Buffalo Park). The work was hard, and not always safe, as bison can be herded, but never domesticated, and have always been a vital food source if dangerous prey. As Klukas would have been quick to warn, they remain as short-sighted, swift-footed, and easily angered as they have ever been.

The moose replaced the bison in much of our region, as they had in eastern Canada, in every northern forest and Canadian lake district. Largest of the deer family, weighing up to 5-600 kg, with extraordinary long legs for deep snow, the moose has fed the forest people and later the entire population of the north for thousands of years. The fabulous spread of antlers exhibited by the bulls advertise their strength and virility to the cows, though both are just as dangerous because of their kicks. Cows defend their calves with all the fury of a mother bear. Eating birch, aspen, and willows, moose are comfortable in deep water eating the submerged vegetation and are ambitious swimmers. Back east, I encountered them in my canoe crossing large lakes, and I can only admire their strength and versatility. Like the bison, the moose are central to the lives of forest people, as well as the wolves and sometimes other large predators. They were the main supply of meat to our earliest settlers and many today. Because their great size, dull colour, and eyes that do not reflect quite the same as deer, modern drivers must beware of their unexpected night presence on the roads, as they do not reflect or respond to vehicle headlights

like the deer. Moose pictures, stories, and even recipes are sprinkled through our archives.

The beaver is the largest of the rodent family in this land. With coarse reddish-brown fur on the outside, and soft, dense, water-resistant fur underneath, they are great swimmers but easy to find and trap. A beaver can stay under water for a quarter of an hour: long enough to swim behind their dams and through their underwater entrances to the lodge, where they live above water level. The dams provide water for protecting their lodge entrances, and their canal-like routes to the trees along the shore where the bark, buds, and twigs are their food, and also make it possible to float more food into the water for storing. This kind of civil engineering in the past has preserved wetlands and waterways, though their instinct to stop the sound of running water any way they can gives headaches to farmers and district engineers.

It is hard to imagine life in pre-contact Canada, except perhaps in the Arctic and on the Prairies, without the beaver, and impossible to imagine life without them after contact with Europeans. Pursuit of the beaver pelts, the key ingredient in luxury hats for the elite and soldiers of Europe, brought Europeans from eastern shores to the Rockies, while the Hudson's Bay Company pursued both beaver and sea otter, from the west coast to the mountains. The beaver in its homelands, including the Peace and Athabasca, predicted the travel routes and even the overall east-west orientation of the country of Canada itself. Locally, it is hard to imagine humans doing well without them. Great food, a rich and nutritious tail of nearly pure fat (try living in sub-arctic cold without fat in the days of wood heat and outdoor work) and covered with fur perfectly suited to wet and cold, beaver pelts made tremendous gifts, especially as a hint to newlyweds to start their families soon! Dr. A.M. Carlisle, one of the first physicians here, notes in his memoir

that he depended on beaver gauntlets and collars to survive the cold while getting to his patients on the cutter in -40 weather. The beaver fed, clothed, and, in many ways, literally built our land up here.

The rabbit was a population constant. With their fur highly prized for gloves and other uses requiring soft fur and for tender skin, the rabbit had to be very watchful to stay free and alive. Famously prolific, they were snared, shot, or just scooped up by everyone. The rabbit was an essential base for meals and found in many a pot, though too much of the lean meat exclusively could lead to a deadly condition called “rabbit starvation”. Rabbits in their white phase had some tricks for hunters: I was taught, when tracking rabbits, that I needed to look back along my snowshoe trail now and then. I found one peeking at me from under a branch. Sometimes the best way to dodge a hunter was to follow them, until they figured it out! I gave up hunting early: our pot was already full, thanks to my father. But I enjoyed playing snowshoe hide-and seek, learning how to see wildlife in their hideouts, and, best of all, being able to look them in the eye now and then. I find echoes of these encounters in the trails left in the Archives. I think those encounters with the animal founders have changed me.

*Below: Three young moose photographed by a member of Walter McFarlane's survey crew, ca. 1910. (SPRA 056.056.01.029-2)*



# Healthy as a Horse

## Medical Care for Animals

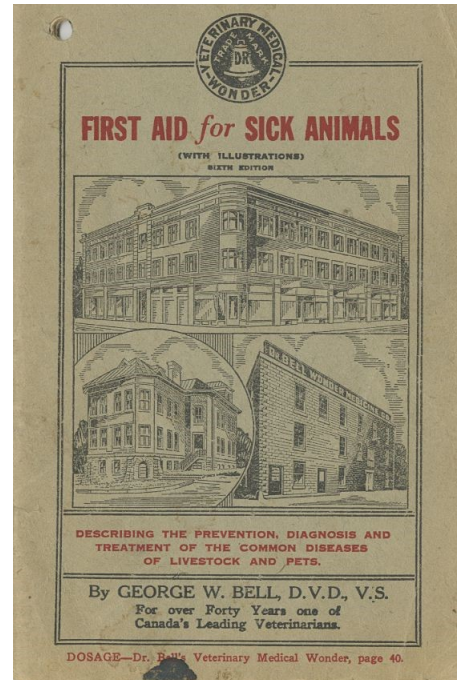
For various reasons, animals play important roles in our lives. Pets become members of the family and livestock are a source of food and, especially before mechanized farm equipment became widely available, labour. Whatever the case, people are concerned about the health of the animals in their care.

The earliest mention of a veterinarian coming to Grande Prairie is in the May 5, 1914 *Grande Prairie Herald*, which announced that Dr. Duff was setting up a veterinary surgeon office in Grande Prairie. Thomas Duff was an amateur veterinarian and divided his time between practices in Grande Prairie and Lake Saskatoon.

Dr. Louis Fredette first came to Grande Prairie in spring of 1918. He had graduated from Laval University in Quebec in veterinary science and by this time had 15 years of experience practicing in Edmonton and Hudson's Hope. He sold his practice to Dr. Little and Dr. Shawl in July of the same year and left for Edmonton. However, Dr. Fredette returned to Grande Prairie in July 1923 and this time stayed in the area, serving the South Peace as a veterinarian until a few years before his death in 1950.

Although there is relatively little information about the nature of the work of early veterinarians in the South Peace, newspaper articles offer a few hints. Several mention veterinarians being available for farm calls and Dr. Fredette's obituary mentions that his practice took him all over the South Peace. This

*Right: Dr. Louis Fredette, veterinarian, and Thomas Wilson Lawlor and Mrs. Lawlor picnicking on the banks of a river, with the attentions of a uniformed chauffeur, June 11, 1931. (SPRA 2000.30.03, Fonds 147)*



*Above: Booklet describing the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the common diseases of livestock and pets, 1935 (SPRA 197.04.01)*

suggests that early veterinarians may have spent much of their time providing care for livestock.

When a veterinarian was not available, doctors would also offer veterinary services. Dr. Ethelbert Reavley studied medicine at McGill University and settled in Spirit River in 1910, where he took up a homestead and opened a medical practice. A photograph from our collections shows Dr. Reavley operating on a small animal, perhaps a dog. Although no mention is made of Dr. Andrew Murray Carlisle having treated animals during his years as a doctor in the South Peace, several photographs show Bomber, the

*Below: Dr. Reavley, long-time doctor at Spirit River, is the first person on the left, assisted in small animal surgery by three other men, 1910 (SPRA 1985.31.90)*



*Above: Carlisle and Harris Children skating on Carlisle's backyard rink. The Carlisles' dog Bomber has his leg in a splint. 1941 (SPRA 399.05.04)*

family's dog, with his leg in a splint. Perhaps Dr. Carlisle also provided medical care for his family's pet.

Booklets like Dr. George Bell's *First Aid for Sick Animals* contained information that helped farmers themselves provide basic medical care for their animals. Most of this booklet is dedicated to caring for horses and cows, with smaller sections covering pigs, dogs, sheep, and poultry. The focus is clearly on livestock, the animals that would have contributed in practical ways to a family's livelihood, and not on pets. The Archives' copy of this booklet belonged to Jeanne Pivert, who used its advice to look after her animals.

# Conservation: Pests & Paper

## *This issue's Archiveology*

One aspect of conservation in Archives is pest management. Pests can do an incredible amount of damage to paper collections. Damage done by pests is often present before the records ever reach the archives, but we do try our best to prevent further damage once they are in our possession. Our foremost aim in pest management is to prevent pests from gaining a stronghold in our collections.

Different insects cause different types of damage. Some insects eat straight down through paper. Others, like Silverfish, skim the surface. Most pests aren't actually interested in the paper itself—they are more interested in the adhesives, starches, and mould (if the paper is or was damp) on the surface of the paper. Though they will eat the paper as well! Additionally, some pests eat wood which is one reason why we do not have wooden shelving in our vault.

One aspect of pest management is humidity and temperature control. Pests often thrive in high relative humidity and warm environments. We do our best to control the relative humidity and temperature in the vault and keep them both low. This is also generally good for paper conservation. Good housekeeping is also part of pest

*Right: An image of a Long-horned wood-boring Beetle to accompany Dr. Kozar's research in the field of biology, 1957-1983. (SPRA 192.05.02.0896)*



management. Dirt, dust, and debris give homes and food to pests. By keeping the vault clean and tidy, we take away those opportunities for pests to make a home there. We also monitor for pests by using sticky traps. This allows us to keep an eye out for any new pest activity and lets us know if we need to use targeted treatment like insecticide.

One more aspect of pest management is quarantining new materials. When new materials arrive at the Archives they are examined for evidence of pests. If there is an infestation, the infested materials are separated from the rest of the collection and a treatment plan is decided on. That treatment plan is dependant on several things—the severity of the infestation, the type of material, the type of pest, and the relative value of the items.

# Pets & Panic

*The following story is an excerpt from Homestead Memories, written by Anne Donaldson. Homestead Memories is one of many memoirs in the South Peace Regional Archives' reference library.*

We couldn't find her anywhere, but Donna insisted that she heard the peep of a small chick somewhere nearby.

The hen had come out of the bush almost a month before with five little balls of peeping fuzz trailing behind her, and until a couple of days ago, had managed to feed and shelter her babies. Then, one by one, they disappeared, and finally, all that was left was the pitiful cheep! cheep! cheep! of one lonely little pullet. We searched all over—under the step, beneath the old car that was used as a playhouse, and behind stray blocks of wood behind the wood pile. She finally found her own way from somewhere in the bush, and attached herself to the newest chick family—the ones hatched only a few days before.

They made a very happy brood until one day, while scratching out near the garden, a coyote got the old hen and little "Half Chick" as we called her, took upon herself the responsibility of motherhood.

Poor little Half Chick! She was a born mother, and after finding food for her little brood, she'd stand and cluck to them until they had eaten, then they'd find shelter under her, but she, being so small, would be lifted right off the ground. Half Chick discovered a new way to keep the little ones warm, though. It was a common occurrence to come out of the house and



*Above: Dinner for two. A dog and pig share a meal, 1920 (SPRA 1991.3.204, Fonds 049)*

find Tip, our big black dog, lying all curled up around the little yellow chicks, and Half Chick perched on top with little beady eyes peering out all around her.

Tip was so big that one bite, or a swat of his paw, would have killed the chicks; but he was so gentle, that everyone and everything loved him.

We had a young pig given to us while we had Tip. The pig was a runt, but we were happy to help her gain strength... She slept in the wood-box until she was big enough to go to the barn. Her name was Ink, and she loved it when we gave her a bit of freedom.

On nice days we'd let her outside for some exercise. She'd pick up a long stick and nudge Tip 'til he got up from his sunny resting place on the south side of the house. Ink would run around the outside of the house, with Tip behind him, pretending he couldn't keep up. This race would go on until Ink would tire and lie down completely exhausted. Tip would do likewise for a while, then pick up the stick and trot around the house with Ink in hot pursuit. This little game would go on for hours, until finally, Tip would hide the stick, and that was the end of that.

# New at the Archives

It has been a busy few months here at the Archives. We have been short staffed with no Executive Director which means the remaining staff have been doing more to help keep this place running. That being said, we have completed some great processing projects due to the work of our Archivist, Stephanie, and Archives Assistant (Student), Kaydence.

We have added seven audio recordings to the South Peace Regional Archives Sound Recordings collection (fonds 504). These particular audio records are interviews with Alberta Provincial Police officers. We have also added 55 images to the South Peace Regional Archives Photograph collection (fonds 502). These photographs consist of images of downtown Grande Prairie, the Dunvegan Bridge and its construction, the construction of the bridge crossing the Wapiti, and the ARR Bridge over the Wapiti.

Kaydence was thrilled to process the Hines-Sutherland Family fonds (fonds 679). This fonds contains a photograph album of images taken while the Hines family lived and worked on a British game farm. Kaydence also had the opportunity to process the Bezanson Community Blooms fonds (fonds 645). Our last completed processing project was an accrual to the Wally and Doris Tansem fonds (fonds 012). The records in the accrual contain Wally's research for his book, *Foulest of Murders*.

We have also been hard at work preparing the collections for our eventual move to Centre 2000. As part of this preparation, we have started inventorying and re-housing our newspaper collections.

*Right: An unidentified game farm employee riding on an ostrich, ca. 1908 (SPRA 679.01.101, Hines-Sutherland Family fonds)*

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the  
**Bill & Laura Turnbull Fund**

through the  
**Edmonton Community Foundation**

The South Peace Regional Archives are very grateful for the financial support provided by the Bill & Laura Turnbull Fund.

The grant received was used to fulfill our goal of increasing community awareness of the Archives. This aim remains a priority even as the Archives has been closed to the public. By increasing our digital presence and creating engaging content on our social media, we can continue to promote the Archives and our services.



## 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. Lifetime members will also receive an official donation receipt for income tax purposes.

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*



[www.southpeacearchives.org](http://www.southpeacearchives.org)

