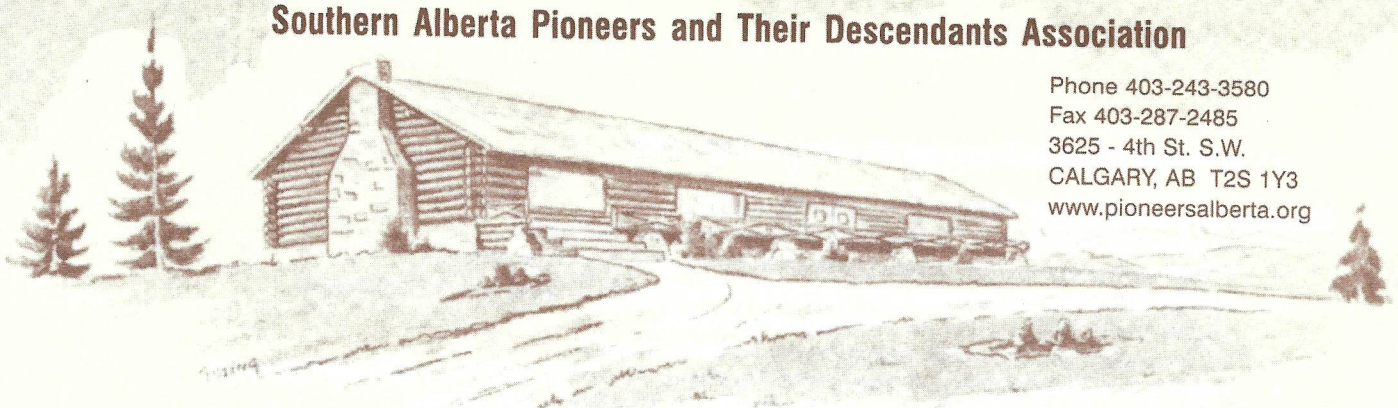


Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants Association

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Message from the President-March 2019

These are busy times at the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants, and I plan to periodically send out a brief communication as a supplement to our newsletters. This communication will not replace our newsletters, but are intended to keep you well informed of the planned capital Upgrade to the Memorial Building, as well as the activities of SAPD volunteers and the Board of Directors.

The New Member Orientation and Volunteer Appreciation is being held on **Sunday, April 7th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm** at the Memorial Building. The Vault will be open to view family histories and a time to celebrate and honor the volunteers and the contributions they have made to the association.

1. Memorial Building Upgrade Status:

- A presentation was held on January 30, 2019 to inform members of the Project scope, finances and schedule,
- Details on Building upgrades were outlined, including revamping of the Electrical, Plumbing and Heat, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC),
- Further and more in depth details of the Upgrade Project will be included in the May newsletter, subsequent presentations, and communications to the members,
- SAPD has received a grant in the amount of \$105,580.00
- The Project is on track and will continue to move forward.

Next Steps for the Project Committee:

- Conduct planning sessions with the Project Manager and Engineers
- Apply for the City of Calgary 2019 Community Conservation Grant (CCG) of \$300,000, and provincial 2019 Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant of \$125,000
- Implement fundraising initiatives through the formation of a Fundraising Committee
- Conduct presentations to the membership on the Project status in the coming months
- Solicit Construction Project Tenders from City of Calgary approved contractors in Fall 2019

Construction is planned for the First Quarter 2020, and the Building will be out of service during this time.

2. Work of Volunteers and the Board of Directors:

Past Initiatives (October 2018 – March 2019):

- Conducted new Board member Orientation, facilitated by the City of Calgary,
- Conducted a Strategic Planning session focused on budget creation, review of SAPD's Policies & Procedures, and Committee Terms of Reference, also facilitated by the City of Calgary,
- Organized and reviewed standing Committees to better understand their role in SAPD, and developed Committee Terms of Reference with Committee Chairs,
- Combined and restructured standing Committees to reduce Committee Chairs from 19 people to 7, in order to share work and expertise for Committees with a similar role,
- Investigated electronic payment options for ticket sales and payment of membership dues to reduce cost and simplify the process,
- Completed SAPF/SAPD financial audits for September 2017 to May 2018, as required by the City of Calgary,
- Hosted a Past Presidents meeting to improve communication, bring them up to date on current activities of the Board. To fill a vacancy for Past President on the Board of Directors.
- Approved new Rental Agreement and Rental Rates for the Building,
- Organized upcoming special events and secured 2019 contracts with subcontractors, for tent rentals, Rotary house and Stampede Parade
- Reviewed current investments of the Memorial Building Fund,
- Began the budgeting process for 2019 – 2020 fiscal year,

- Kicked off Historical Committee programs for 2019 / 2020.

Present and Upcoming Work (March 2019 – October 2019):

- Continue to develop internal and external communication strategies,
- Continue to review current administrative and Board governance processes,
- Update membership database with members' current e-mail addresses to minimize our environmental footprint, reduce printing/postage costs,
- Explore opportunity to create members only portal on website,
- Training and implementation of new Rental Database. This will provide more accurate reports for the Rental agent and Book Keeper, and is scheduled to go live in mid- March,
- Continue to review opportunities to reduce operating costs,
- Obtain quotes for new auditors to reduce costs, as motioned at 2018 AGM,
- Engage auditors to conduct SAPD/SAPF audits for 2018 – 2019 fiscal year,
- Finalize 2019 – 2020 budgets for SAPD, SAPF and Committees by the end of April, 2019,
- Explore funding options for Upgrade Project through possible donations, fundraising, and raffles through new Fundraising Committee,
- Develop Public Relations & Communication Committee.

3. Ways in which SAPD Members can contribute:

- Sign up to volunteer for the Q3 2020 Casino by completing a AGLC registration form **Contact – Gene Blakey (fshrcrk@xplornet.com)**
- Complete and submit Family Histories, the knowledge lies within you! This will help the Historian to identify eligible members and create a SAPD confidential electronic database of our pioneer families' genealogy. **Contact – Kerri Fipke (kfipke@telus.net)**
- Submit your current contact information and e-mail addresses via membership@pioneersalberta.org to reduce costs for postage, and printing of newsletters and notices.

4. Specific Volunteer Opportunities:

- Recording Secretary - to attend and record Minutes at Board meetings (**Contact president@pioneersalberta.org**)
- Treasurer - from within the Membership to work with current Book keeper (**Contact president@pioneersalberta.org**)
- Fundraising Committee - to plan and coordinate revenue generating initiatives to help support and sustain the ongoing needs of the SAPD/SAPF. **The first meeting will be held at the Memorial Building on Tuesday, April 23rd/2019 @ 7:00 pm for all members wishing to brainstorm, participate and volunteer. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact president@pioneersalberta.org**

This is a year of refocusing while building a foundation for our future. It is my hope that this communication is the first of many, delivering a clear understanding and clarity regarding some of the activities within SAPD and the Board of Directors. It provides an opportunity for volunteering, while drawing on individual skills, talents, passions and expertise within our membership.

Respectfully,

Sandy Pedlar
President
Southern Alberta Pioneers & Their Descendants