



SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS

AND THEIR DESCENDANTS NEWSLETTER

Southern Alberta Pioneers Memorial Building • 3625 4th Street SW Calgary Alberta T2S 1Y3 • Phone 403-243-3580

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Website: www.pioneersalberta.org

E mail: sap.office@pioneersalberta.org

May 2024

President's Message

I want to use this space to highlight the following people (volunteers) who were instrumental in making each of the events mentioned here a hit among attendees.

The conveners for the *International Wine Tasting Event (27th Annual)* were **Nancy Thompson, Lana Jones, and Stephanie West**. The event occurred in the Memorial Building on February 24th from 7 to 9 pm.

The Goals/Purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for our Board Members to host a social get-together that let them mingle with one another and with members of our association in a festive environment.

Each year, wines are chosen both for their popularity and variety. This year we featured wines from Australia, Argentina, and Spain.

A very big thank you goes to all who contributed their time and talents at the event and who provided the food. This event is only successful because of the volunteers.

Food:

Dylan Viste	Lana Jones	Sharon Hoiland
Steph West	Neil Brown	Kathleen Rogers
Carla Begalke	Mike Kobluk	Angela Boyes
David Mackie	Sandy Mackie	Nancy Thompson
Susan Turner		

These volunteers donated approximately \$350 of food costs.



Dexter Nelson
President

Southern Alberta Pioneers' and Their Descendants

2023-2024

Event Set-up, Hosting, Clean-up:

John Hutchings	Martin Jones	Lana Jones
Mike Kobluk	Dylan Viste	Russell Moore
Steph West	Angela Boyes	Sharon Hoiland
Carla Begalke	Lane Begalke	
Sandy Mackie	David Mackie	
Kathleen Rogers	Brian Rogers	
Geoff Thompson	Nancy Thompson	
Marcel Hebert	Marilynne Hebert	
Leanne Bateman (Pioneer Lady)		
Neil Brown (Pioneer Gent)		

The Historic Rendezvous, convened by **Gene Blakely** and **Lynn Hoosier**, took place on March 13th, and brought a number of historical groups to the Memorial Building in an opportunity to interact with each other.

Members of the Historical Committee set up a display in the basement area, opened the vault, and were in force to assist in answering any questions.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The speaker for the Historic Rendezvous, **Marcel Hebert**, spoke on Technology and its application to archiving historical documents.

Members in attendance from the SAPD Historical Committee were **Dave Wake, Carolyn Preston, Kathleen Rogers, Doug Coats, Manfred Baum, and Jean Stewart.**

I want to personally thank **Alan Lynas and his group** for making the SAPD part of *Jane's Walk*, an annual festival of free, community-led walking tours inspired by author and activist [Jane Jacobs](#). Jane's Walk takes place on the first weekend of May every year in hundreds of cities around the world. The Walks encourage people to share stories about their neighbourhoods, discover unseen aspects of their communities, and use walking as a way to connect with their neighbours.

The Gold Card Tea was, by all accounts, a resounding success. **Karen Clark** and numerous **SAPD volunteers** made this event a smooth and well-run affair. The Memorial Building was packed, and everyone enjoyed being served tea, coffee, and carefully crafted sandwiches.

During the tea, we recognized the most senior (I was going to say "oldest" but these folks are still in their prime) lady and gentleman who were in attendance: **Verna and Frank Arnold.**

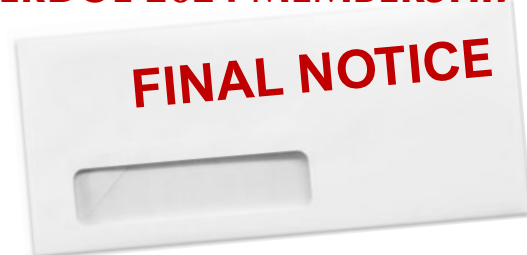
An honourable mention to **John Lawrence** who was in the running but who was squeaked out by a matter of months. Congratulations to all our recipients and to all who came.

Several people who attended also volunteered donations to the SAPD. I would like to recognize and thank **John Lawrence** along with **Roy and Mary Burke** for your financial support towards paying our bills and keeping the Memorial Building a special place to visit.

I would also like to mention **Gwen Hanna** who is, according to my understanding, the longest continuous member of the SAPD. Gwen joined in 1953 and has been a diligent volunteer in her role selling tickets for virtually all our events. What made it special was her belief that phoning people was the best way to make a personal connection. We thank her for knowing this and doing this.

As President, I can't thank **Shawn Hendry** and **Brian Rogers** enough for spearheading the SAP Charitable Endowment Fund Initiative. Your leadership is truly appreciated. SAPD members can read about this Initiative on [page 4](#).

OVERDUE 2024 MEMBERSHIP FEES



Thank-you to all who have already paid your 2024 Membership Dues!! \$40 per annum is a great price!

Haven't yet paid? Send **cheques** to: SAPD 3625 - 4 St. SW, Calgary, Alberta T2S 1Y3, Attn: Membership.

Send **e-transfers** to membership@pioneersalberta.org. They will be auto-deposited, so no security questions or answers are needed.

Please **write the names of members for whom the fees are being paid** either on your cheque or in the message space in the e-transfer.

Members more than 12 months in arrears have been sent an email or letter; you risk being inactivated by the end of May.

But you can maintain or reactivate your membership by sending us your 2024 membership fee. Thank-you.

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Membership Report

by Sharon Hoiland
Membership Secretary

Membership update since January 2024

Welcome to New Members

Descendant

- Jason Wilson - Descendant of John Hugh Wilson, Gleichen, 1887
- Justin Wilson - Descendant of John Hugh Wilson, Gleichen, 1887
- Ronald Shelley - Descendant of Henry Alfred Shelley, Calgary, 1887
- Trevor Shelley - Descendant of Henry Alfred Shelley, Calgary, 1887
- Tracy Olsen - Descendant of William Nimmons, Calgary, 1882
- Regan Diana Bourassa - Descendant of Neil Beaton - Calgary, 1885
- Mona Boyes - Descendant of James Francis Mckevitt, Midnapore, 1884
- Rhonda Christianson - Descendant of Samuel & Helen (York) Shaw, Calgary, 1883
- Susan Acres - Descendant of Adam Marshall Baptie, Calgary, 1888

Associate

- Geoffrey Thompson

Friend

- Mary Street
- Marianne Santopinto
- Irene Kerr

Welcome Back to Returning Members

Descendant

- Frank Duffin - Descendant of Angus & Harriet Sparrow, 1882
- Patricia Mrakawa - Descendant of Arthur & Annie Wolley-Dod, Calgary, 1887
- David Joffe - Descendant of Jacob & Maria Diamond, Calgary, 1888
- Rhonda Gervais - Descendant of Richard George Robinson, Calgary, March 1888

Friend

- Kate Reeves

New Gold Card Members

- Maureen Hoogenraad
- David Godlonton
- Audrey Whiteley
- Susan Turner

In Memoriam

- Beryl Sibbald
- Delores Woolrich
- Ruth Sutherland
- Robert Brewster
- Jim Colvin
- Anne Vincent
- We'd like to belatedly include Olga Bateman who passed away prior to 2023, but was not previously mentioned. Our regrets.



Please notify any member of the Membership Committee of member deaths, changes to mailing or email addresses, or to phone numbers. We can be reached at membership@pioneersalberta.org.

Membership Numbers at April 30, 2024

Descendant – 267 members with 79 in arrears

Descendant Gold Card – 114 members

Associate – 33 with 8 in arrears

Associate Gold Card – 29 members

Friend – 21 members with 8 in arrears

Honorary – 5 members

Total: 469

If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, have ideas or have time to volunteer, please contact Sharon at membership@pioneersalberta.org

The current membership committee is made up of Sharon Hoiland (chair and Membership Secretary), Joan Christianson (Telephone Tree), Lynne Marquess (Cards and Remembering), Megan Ballard (administration), Maureen Peckham (guidance and wisdom).

Charitable Endowment Fund Initiative

Shawn Hendry, Past President & Fundraising Committee Chair

Greetings from the Fundraising Committee. I hope the Spring season finds you all well! I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce you to a very important initiative that we are currently looking to put in place to maintain our legacy in our second century.

As you all know, the Memorial Building is a unique asset for the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants and is a prominent historical site in Southern Alberta. The building was constructed in 1955 as a memorial to our pioneer families.

The operating expenses and upkeep of the Memorial Building is the major cost for the Southern Alberta Pioneers' Foundation. Currently, income from renting the building is not sufficient to cover our annual expenses. This shortfall is covered in part by member and external donations, by fund-raising events (such as the Round Up Silent Auctions), and withdrawals (as a last resort) from the Memorial Building Fund.

The Foundation established the Memorial Building Fund in the mid 1990's to provide long term funding for the maintenance of the Memorial Building, the historical artifacts and library. The fund has been successful in raising funds for major building projects but was not intended to

cover annual operating shortfalls. We continue to have a goal of increasing this fund over time to support the long-term life cycle requirements for the physical maintenance of the building.

In 2024, we are looking to establish a **Charitable Endowment Fund** with the Calgary Foundation that would provide an annual grant as an additional revenue stream to cover the Memorial Building expenses. Our goal is to have the Endowment Fund in place prior to our AGM in October.

Why the Calgary Foundation?

The Calgary Foundation (<https://calgaryfoundation.org>) is a community foundation serving Calgary and area since 1955. Their focus is to support donors with their philanthropy and work with charities by providing grants to support their charitable purpose. They support charities beyond grants by focusing on building capacity, and offering endowment funds to create a sustainable, resilient charitable sector. The Calgary Foundation has close to 150 charitable endowment funds.

Why an Endowment Fund?

The Endowment Fund is a permanent fund whereby a charity transfers asset ownership to Calgary Foundation to be held in perpetuity on behalf of the

charity. A distribution (currently at 5%) is made from the fund each year that is undesignated for our use. Any extra fund earnings go back into the fund to help the fund grow.

The capital portion of the fund is secured as it cannot be withdrawn and will *remain in perpetuity* to support our association. This protects the capital and enables continuous growth. Once a fund is established, contributions can be made directly via the Calgary Foundation by both members and external donors to help it grow.

How can you learn about this initiative?

We are hosting an afternoon and evening information session for the membership with the Calgary Foundation present so that you can learn more and ask any questions.

Please mark your calendars for Monday, June 17, at 1:00pm for a day session, and Thursday, June 20, at 7:00pm for an evening session.

You are invited to attend either of the two sessions. Please let us know at events@pioneersalberta.org which session you would like to attend. We encourage you to attend to ask any questions or to show your support of this initiative!

Continued on bottom of page 5

Gold Card Tea

Report and photos submitted by Karen Clark and Rhonda Clark

Thirty-one Gold Card members and their guests responded to the invitation extended by President Dexter Nelson and the Board of Directors to the 2024 Gold Card Tea on Sunday May 5. It was a lovely afternoon and enjoyed by everyone.

Our most senior gentleman was Frank Arnold with John Lawrence being a close runner up (younger by 5 months) and our most senior lady was Verna Arnold. Frank and Verna are an amazing couple who are in their own home and are still loving each other after 71 years!

A huge THANK YOU to the board members and everyone else who volunteered to make the afternoon such a success.

This list includes:

- everyone who made sandwiches, squares and cookies
- the very capable kitchen crew that plated the food
- the table servers

- everyone who helped set up and clean up afterwards
- Martin Jones for keeping tea and coffee ready
- Dexter Nelson, John Hutchings, Marcel Hebert and Russel Moore for pouring tea and coffee
- Pamela Hilton for looking after the corsages and boutonnieres
- Lynn Marquess and Joan Christian for looking after registrations
- our Pioneer Lady Leanne Bateman for welcoming members and guests

Without the help and support of everyone, the Tea would not be possible. Our most sincere Thank You!



ABOVE: Frank & Verna Arnold with granddaughter Kelsey



LEFT: Dexter Nelson with the gold coffee/tea set

BELOW: Mary & Roy Burke and George & Georgia Edworthy



We will be (eventually) seeking donations to enable us to start the fund. We will plan to continue to grow this new Endowment Fund and our existing Memorial Building Fund to reduce our reliance on rental revenue and keep the building in great shape. Both the Memorial Building Fund and Endowment Fund support our organization,

and both are very important. They provide our membership options for contributions based on initiatives they wish to support, or the needs that we may have. Tax receipts will be available for contributions to either fund. The Calgary Foundation offers more options for contributions, which will be covered in the information sessions.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Fundraising Committee (myself, Dexter Nelson or Brian Rogers) directly if you have any questions.

It is a chance to leave a legacy for our Pioneers' legacy ... something that is near and dear to me!

Thank you for your support.

Stampede is Coming!

NOTE: SAPD Social Events are for SAPD Members and their Guests only

Pre-Parade Breakfast (Participants)

Location: Rotary House,
Stampede Park

Date: Friday, July 5/24

Time: 6:30 am

Contact: Sandy Pedlar at 403-991-8586



Stampede Grounds Display

Location: Western Showcase at the Stampede Grounds

Dates and Times will be available after June 5

Contact: Angela Boyes at a_boyes@telus.net

Stampede Pioneers Tea

Location: Memorial Building

Date: Monday, July 8/24

Tea Time: 2 – 4 pm

Contact: Pamela Hilton at 403-934-2637

Stampede Breakfast

Location: Memorial Building

Date: Saturday, July 13/24

Time: 9 am – 12 pm

Contact: Jeff Hill 403-225-2397 jeff.hill@shaw.ca

Steve Foote 403-938-6350 steve.foote@tieronetravel.com

John Hutchings 403-252-2428 Hutch27@shaw.ca



To volunteer at this year's Stampede BBQ (July 6) and/or Breakfast (July 13), contact Dylan Viste at 403-854-8978 via text message or contact Jeff, Steve or John (contact numbers or email listed above). Or email volunteer@pioneersalberta.org.

Available positions include:

BBQ

- Morning set-up crew (min. 6-8)
- Afternoon set-up crew (min. 4)
- Beverage ticket sellers (4 total on 2 shifts)
- Bartenders (4 total on 2 shifts)
- Water & pop (4 total on 2 shifts, ideal for youth working with parents or grandparents)

- Meal ticket collectors (2)
- Bar runner (1-2)
- Tear-down and cleanup at conclusion of BBQ

BREAKFAST

- Morning set-up crew (min. 6-8)
- Servers
- Grill Masters
- Kitchen Crew
- Clean-up Crew



ANNUAL STAMPEDE BBQ

Memorial Building | Saturday, July 6, 2024

Cocktails: 5 PM | Dinner: 6:30 PM
Traditional BBQ Beef with all the Fixings

Door Prizes | Cash Bar

Non-Refundable TICKETS

Adults: \$45 | Children: 6-12: \$20 | Under 6: Free

Deadline to purchase tickets is **July 1, 2024**

TICKETS must be bought in advance and picked up at the BBQ as they will not be mailed out.

Two Ways to Purchase your Tickets

1) **e-transfer** to membership@pioneersalberta.org; indicate payment is for the Stampede BBQ.

2) **Cheque** made payable to Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants and either mailed to or dropped off at the Memorial Building, 3625—4 Street SW, Calgary, AB T2S 1Y3 by July 1.

Ticket purchases MUST include names of attendees so they may qualify for DOOR PRIZES!

QUESTIONS?

Send text message to Dylan Viste at 403-854-8978

FOR STAMPEDE BBQ & BREAKFAST

Other Events to Mark on your Calendar

4th Street Lilac Festival YYC: <https://lilacfestival.net>

- Sunday June 2, 2024: 10 am–6 pm
- 17 Avenue between 2 Street & 5 Street SW
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for setting up at 8 am, taking down at 6 pm or doing an onsite 4-hour shift, contact Alan Lynas at 250-551-1450

Doors Open Calgary: <https://www.doorsopenyyc.org/>

- Date TBA; 10 am–4 pm
- Contact Alan Lynas at 250-551-1450 to see if SAPD will be participating

SAPD Casino:

- Tuesday August 6 and Wednesday August 7, at Elbow River Casino, Calgary
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for all shifts**
- Contact Gene Blakley at 403-931-2264 (let ring 7x to leave message) or email fshcrk@explornet.com

New Member Orientation & Volunteer Appreciation Event

- Saturday Sept. 28, 7 pm @ Southern Alberta Memorial Building
- Contact Russell Moore at 408-618-6277 or Dexter Nelson at dexter.s.nelson@protonmail.com

Family Roots 2024 Genealogy Conference

- October 5, 2024 at Hotel Blackfoot, Calgary
- Presented by Alberta Family Histories Society
- Details and registration at www.afhs.ab.ca

AGM for SAPD and SAPF

- Saturday October 19 @ Memorial Building
- Lunch at 12 noon; Meeting from 1 to 3 pm
- Contact Dexter Nelson at dexter.s.nelson@protonmail.com

Round Up @ Palliser Hotel

- Saturday November 2, 2024, arrivals start at 5:30 pm
- Contact Dexter Nelson at dexter.s.nelson@protonmail.com

Remembrance Day at Memorial Building

- Monday, November 11, events start at 10 am
- Contact Lynn Hoosier at 403-680-3113

Christmas Decorating

- Saturday, November 16, begins at 10 am
- Contact John Hutchings at 403-613-9798

Christmas Luncheon

- Saturday, November 30, begins at Noon
- Contact Lynne Marquess at 403-363-1103

FROM THE VAULT



Continued on page 8

A Pioneer's Account of the Hard Winter of 1891 – 92 in Lethbridge



Cattle on house roof, after snowstorm, Sid Hepburn's farm Elnora, Alberta 1950 – Courtesy of Glenbow Archives NA-2757-1

That hard winter of 1891 – 92 proved to be not entirely an unmitigated evil for it taught the big ranchers, who lost heavily, the lesson that it is best to be prepared for anything that may happen, now they keep hay on hand to feed the old and poor cows in case of necessity."

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My dear old friend,
I suppose you have been thinking before now that I should never write to you again, but I know you will excuse me when I explain to you how very little time I have for writing.

I think I last wrote you in Nov. 1891. On the fifteenth of that month snow fell to the depth of six or eight inches, and frost set in and we had real winter weather, froze again so suddenly that there was a scale of ice on it and the poor cattle could not get at the grass except just a little on the high coulee banks where the wind had blown it off; it went on like that for seven weeks until Jan. 1 when the Chinook wind came up and took it all away in short order.

One night toward the end of November some of our cattle would not face the north to come home, but turned down at the coulee to the river where there is good shelter, and on the third day I started out to hunt them, and soon found four cows dead in a well.

They had crowded in a barn for shelter, and the well in the corner of the barn had got uncovered. One of the cows I had bought not long before for seventy-five dollars. We covered up the well and nailed boards across the doors but someone took them off, and on Christmas Eve a policeman called and told my wife that there was a cow in very bad condition in the same barn.

I was away at the time and when I came home it was too late to do anything, but next morning I got three other men to go with me to help get the cow out of the fix she was in but we could not get her up out of the hole that she had got in.

There was a large cellar for roots across the middle of the barn and two square holes in the floor, the

cow had got one hind leg in the hole and could not get out, and as she was a very heavy cow we could not get her up so we cut the floor away and let her down in the cellar and found eight more in there that had gone down the same way. We cut the floor away enough to let them walk out but they were so far gone for want of food that we only saved one of them, and just in front of the barn was one that had fallen on the ice in the river and hurt herself so badly that she died.

It was nearly supper time when we got home and we had no supper. Was it not a miserable way of spending Christmas Day?

On the first of January it began to change and the prairie was very soon splashing over with water instead of snow. On the fifteenth of January winter set in again and lasted until the beginning of April. It was such a winter as the Indians had no record of.

After the first two weeks we began to feed the cattle with hay and kept it up thinking that it could not last much longer until the hay was nearly all gone; then we turned some over to the coulee and got bran to feed the balance but they got weak and when the grass began to spring up three or four more died.

One of them I paid seventy-five dollars for; but the worst of all Dollie died. I mean the one I bought at Dunmore, the best butter cow I ever saw. We got seventeen pounds of butter from her in one week at Woodpecker in her second season. If I had bought bran from the first and fed it with the hay, I need not have lost one, I mean from hunger. I lost thirty-six head of cattle altogether.

Excerpt from Job Reed's Letters, Jan. 1, 1894
Life in Lethbridge 1886 - 1906



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