



Parkland News

Fall 2015

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President's Message

A mid-summer greeting to all members of Parkland Chapter.

I certainly hope you all are having a wonderful summer so far, it has certainly been a scorcher. I wish to thank everyone who participated in the Spring BBQ. It was a great success. As we proceed toward fall your executive and I are focusing on the upcoming fall events. We will be organizing the gala fall banquet and getting ready for our Annual General Meeting and election of officers. The other major winter project is the Santa Letter Writing Program.

The notifications of time and place of these events are posted in the new

Heritage Club web site which I urge you all to visit. These notifications are also contained in this newsletter.

I would like to extend a welcome to all new members who have joined our ranks so far this year and hope you all benefit from your new membership.

I also extend our sincerest sympathy to all who have lost loved ones.

So for the remainder of this hot dry summer, I wish you all the best. May your health be with you and to use an old expression "SEE YOU IN THE FALL".

Lloyd Rogowski
President Parkland Chapter

WE'RE ON-LINE:



Our website; www.heritageclub.ca has undergone a facelift. Log on and have a look

Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up in life we could simply press Ctrl Alt Delete and start all over?

Social Activities:

Fall Banquet:



Parkland Chapter's Annual Fall Banquet will be held once again at the Continental Inn West, A registration form containing all of the information regarding this very popular event is attached as a separate sheet.

Good news! We have secured the same group as last year to entertain us again. We had a lot of very good comments last year, and they certainly had lots of people up dancing.

Come out and enjoy a great evening of good food, and entertainment with old friends and a chance to make some new ones.



Details:

Saturday September 12, 2015.
Cocktails at 5:30 PM
Dinner at 6:30 PM

Continental Inn

16625 Stony Plain Rd
Edmonton, Alberta,

If you would like to attend, but require a ride, please contact any of the executive (see back page), and we will ensure arrangements are made to get you there and back home.

October Luncheon & Annual General Meeting

On a quarterly basis, Parkland Chapter hosts a luncheon and social get together.

Our next event for this year will be a combined Luncheon and Annual General meeting. The event will take place on:

Thursday October 1, 2015

11:30 AM

Buffet Royale
12866 Fort Road
Edmonton AB

Come and enjoy a great lunch at a great price, and share some good times with old and new friends.



The Annual General Meeting will take place immediately following the luncheon. Please call Rene Plouffe at 780-476-7230 or Lloyd Rogowski at 780-458-8936 to confirm attendance.

Many of us are at that "metallic age: - gold in our teeth, silver in our hair and lead in our pants...



Spring BBQ

Parkland Chapter's 2015 Spring BBQ was held at Devon Lions Park on June 6. The weather was beautiful, and we were able to all sit outside on a great blue sky day.

It was great to see so many of our members enjoying a fine day. There was lots of visiting and catching up on what people had been doing over the winter.

The Devon Lions Park is truly a great location, and excellent facility for hosting this event, but the executive worries that some of our members are reluctant to drive this far out of town. We would like to remind the membership

that if you are unable to attend any of our events because of transportation issues, please get in touch with one of the executive and as long as we have enough advance notice, we will make arrangements to get a ride for you to and from the event.

We also want to say a great big thank you to Rene Plouffe for all his hard work in organizing this event, and for once again obtaining a supply of absolutely great steaks.



Golf Group:



The Parkland Heritage Club Golf Group continues to meet monthly during the golf season. We organize one golf outing per month for interested members. We attempt to go to a different course each month.

Not a serious golfer. Do you only play once or twice a year? Then you'll fit right in with this group. We are here for fun and camaraderie.

To date, we have had outings in May, June and July and we are planning outings in August, September and October. Call either Bob Broomhall 481-8627, or Larry Kruger 485-0767 for more details.

Santa Letter Writing Program:

It's still summer, and who wants to be thinking of winter and Christmas, but planning is already underway for Parkland Chapter's support for the 2015 Santa Letter Program. Starting in September we will be actively looking for volunteers to help man the Santa Letter Writing Booth at the Festival of Trees in November (a great way to see the Festival of Trees for free), and of course in the preparation, and answering of children's letters to Santa Claus.



If you would like to help with either of these events, please give Bob Broomhall a call at 780-481-8627.

Obituaries:

It is always with a heavy heart that we hear of the passing of one of our members. We have been made aware that the following members have recently passed away:

Walter Kulchysky
James Burkholder

Bob Kempton
George Pody

James Leech
Gilbert Hill

If you are aware of a member's passing, can you please contact one of the executive, and let us know the name, date, and any information that you may be aware of, as to their career with Canada Post.

New Members:

The Parkland Chapter of the Canada Post Heritage Club is pleased to welcome the following new members to the Parkland Chapter:

Denise Therrien - St. Albert
Mark Therrien - St. Albert

Linda Mills - Sherwood Park
Patricia Oleksyn - Edmonton

Alan Hung - Edmonton

Special Occasions

We would like to congratulate Lloyd and Doreen Rogowski on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary in July

Golf - You hit down to make the ball go up. You swing left to make the ball go right. And the lowest score wins.



Post Offices of Central and Northern Alberta.

For the next few issues we will continue a series of historical looks at post offices in Central and Northern Alberta. Over the years more than two thirds of the original post offices in Alberta have closed. Many of them have very interesting histories. For this issue, I have taken at random 3 post offices that have now closed, and 3 that remain open, and provide a bit of history for each.

Much of this history is taken from a book titled "Post Offices of Alberta 1876 - 1986", written by Neil Hughes of Edmonton. Sadly Mr. Hughes passed away in 2013. Mr. Hughes was an avid stamp and postmark collector. He spent 3 summers in the 1980's travelling

Alberta stopping at all the current and former post offices, collecting information about the office origin and history. I have also used the Government of Canada Library and Archives, and in some cases municipal websites and Wikipedia to verify and complete the information.

If you are aware of any errors or omissions in the histories presented here, please let us know. Also if there is a post office you would like to see featured in these articles, please let us know. We can be contacted by email at parklandheritageclub@gmail.com, or by mail at Heritage Club, 12135 - 149 St. Edmonton AB. T5L2J0

Closed Post Offices

Soda Lake

1907 - 1939

First established in 1903 at the present site of Hairy Hill AB. The Post Office was renamed as Hairy Hill in 1907. A second post office named Soda Lake was established in 1907 approximately 8 Km west of Hairy Hill on the shores of Soda lake. The Soda Lake area became home to a rich variety of settlers beginning in the 1890s. First came those of Métis and British heritage, then Romanians, Ukrainians and other settlers arrived from eastern Europe. By 1904 the school district was established, and the name Soda Lake was in general use. The name was taken from nearby Soda Lake, so called because of the high soda content in its shallow waters. A post office opened in 1907, as Soda Lake was becoming an important district service centre. With the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway branch line, and the establishment of the Hairy Hill siding to the north in 1927, the fate of Soda Lake as a district service centre was sealed, and the settlement continued its decline. The post office closed in 1939. **Postmasters:** John Ropceau (9 yrs), Ruth Boutillier (4 yrs), Marea Boutillier (8 yrs), Robert Boutillier (9 yrs)

Yeoford

1909 - 1969

A small community west of Pigeon Lake. In the early years of logging in the Battle Lake / Buck Lake area, it was a major center. It was a post office transfer point for several small communities in the

A penny saved - isn't much anymore

area, and had an Alberta Provincial Police detachment. It was named after a village in Devonshire England, the former home of Charles Marson, the first Postmaster. **Postmasters:** Charles Marson (1 yr), Mrs. Marson (2 yrs), J.P. Nowell (22 yrs), Edward Mattson (2 yrs), Peter Brookfield (2 yrs), Clifford Tuckey (4 yrs), Jurdis Forsberg (3 yrs), Colin Gillies (16 yrs), Margaret Holmes (4 yrs), Jane Williamson (2 yrs), Mike Meindert Visser (1 yr),

Keephills

1909 - 1967

A small community east of Lake Wabamum and south of Duffield. Established in 1909 and named by the first Postmaster, Harry Collins, after a place in Buckingham England. However according to Indian legend, Keephills obtained its name when the government offered the area to the Indians as a reserve, but the Indian Chief said "Keep Hills" they preferred the shores and trees around Wabamum Lake. In 1976 the Government of Alberta gave Transalta Utilities permission to develop and operate a large open pit coal mine in an area which encompassed the small rural community of Keephills. The utility company relocated the small village, built a new school and recreational center, and rebuilt the associated infrastructures at no cost to the community. **Postmasters:** George Collins (7 yrs), Alfred Bryant (30 yrs), Henry Bryant (3 yrs), Gordon Raymond (17 yrs)

A tribute to Keephills Postmasters (from Hills of Hope - Hills of Hope Historical Committee)

Our post office began in 1909
In Collin's general store
And pioneers from miles around
Just couldn't ask for more

For Thirty years he served them well
And he saw many changes
He and his son alone by now
With friends of different ages

They came once a week rain or snow
Along the timber trails
expecting that some news from home
Would be coming in the mail

With a heart attack in forty-six
He left us all in sorrow
Harry was Postmaster then
Beginning in the morrow

Times were hard and going rough
Some just couldn't make it
So Mr. Collins gave it up
And let the neighbor take it

But only for just three short years
And he had left us too
Then Gordon Raymond took it on
To him it wasn't new

Alfred Bryant a pioneer
But he was hale and hearty
And he was glad to serve the folks
Out there in the country

For seventeen years he carried on
And soon his task is over
The office soon will be exchanged
For a mailbox on the corner

Current Post Offices

Beaumont

1895 -

Originally a French farming community, Beaumont is now a town of 16,000 people a few kilometers south of the City of Edmonton. Its downtown core resembles a French village with unique architecture and red brick walkways. It is named for the "beautiful hill" within the centre of the town on which St. Vital Church, is located. The name was selected in 1895 as part of a petition for a post office. The Town of Beaumont began as a French Colony in 1895. Ten acres of land were purchased in 1894 from the Hudson's Bay Company and a founding resident donated twenty more acres. These 30 acres were the foundation to what became the hamlet of Beaumont. St. Vital Church was constructed and completed, in the spring of 1895. St. Vital Church burned to the ground in 1918 and was rebuilt in

He wondered why the Frisbee was getting bigger - and then it hit him!

1919 at a cost of \$30,000. **Postmasters:** Ludger Gagnon (2 yrs), Reverend Beauparlant (1 yr), Mary Bonin (2 yrs), Zenaide Lavigne (1yr), Charles Morneau (8 yrs), L.E. Moreau (1yr), Noe Champagne (1 yr) , Alcide Berube (2 yrs), A. Desnoyers (4 yrs), C.J. Dubord (6 yrs), Hercules Goyer (2 yrs), Marie Charbonneau (30 yrs), Marie Magnon (14 yrs), Gerard Goudreau (1 yr), M. Potvin (1 yr), Fernande Gobeil

Hairy Hill

1907 -

Hairy Hill got its name from the large amount of buffalo hair found on the hills left by bison rubbing on the trees in the area when the hamlet was founded in 1907. The region around what is now Hairy Hill has been historically known as both the Whitford District and the Soda Lake District. In November 1903, a post office named Soda Lake was established with A. E. Boutellier as the first postmaster. The post office name was in reference to a highly alkaline lake located nearby (which has since dried up). However, in February 1907, a new post office was opened closer to the lake. Probably in recognition of geographical realities and to avoid confusion, the new post office was given the name Soda Lake, meaning the older post office needed a new name, so in 1907 the regional post office was given the name Hairy Hill..

In 1928, the Canadian Pacific Railway built an east-west line through the community. Soon after the completion of the rail line, Hairy Hill boasted a large school, numerous stores, and up to six grain elevators. In 1946 the community became a village. The population continued to grow, until 1948 before beginning a steady decline, through the 1970s and 1980s, reaching a low of 54 people by 1993.

In 1996, the village was dissolved and Hairy Hill became a hamlet under the jurisdiction of the County of Two Hills. **Postmasters:** A.M. Boutellier (2 yrs), James Cunningham (3 yrs), C.T. McGowan (10 yrs), Maurice Destrube (5 yrs), Albert Spencer (2 yrs), Mike Greckol (1 yr), Samuel Lisogor (12 yrs), Chester McGowan (14 yrs), Josie Pearl McGowan (5 yrs), Jeanette Denman (1965)

Ponoka

1897 -

Ponoka began in the 1870s at the Battle River Crossing as a supply point on the wagon trail between Fort Edmonton and Calgary. In 1890 the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company was formed. The right of way through this area was completed in the spring of 1891 and named Siding 14. In August 1891 a railway official put a name opposite Siding 14 - "Ponoka". Ponoka is the Blackfoot word for Elk. Oddly enough, the local first nation's tribes in the area are Cree in descent. Ponoka was incorporated as a town in 1904 and grew as settlers arrived from Eastern Canada and the American Midwest.

The first post office between Red Deer and Edmonton was at Holbrook on the James AYLWIN Farm, located west of Menaik. In Ponoka the first postal service was from Algar's store with Mr. F.E. ALGAR postmaster. Later a separate post office was operated in the small building west of the store. After a disastrous fire the next site chosen was across the road where the Pay-N-Take now stands (1954). It occupied 600 square feet and had 200 odd boxes. The present post office was built in 1951 with 3,600 square feet of working space and 1,000 boxes. **Postmasters:** C.D. Algar (2 yrs), Fred Algar (14 yrs), George Gordon (33 yrs), Charles Healing (12 yrs), R.A. Best (11 yrs), Nick Komisar (1971)

Did you Know:

- The word "queue" is the only word in the English language that is still pronounced the same way when the last four letters are removed..
- Of all the words in the English language, the word "set" has the most definitions.
- "Almost" is the longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order
- What is called a "French Kiss" in the English speaking word is called an "English Kiss" in France.

What color socks do bears wear?
They don't wear socks - they have bear feet



TRAVEL OPPORTUNITES FOR 2015/16

September 15, 2015 - 10 day Hawaii Cruise on the Carnival Legend Vancouver to Honolulu. Enjoy five fun filled days on the ship before visiting, Hilo, Kona, Kauai, Maui and Honolulu. Extend your trip with a few days on the beach in Hawaii before flying home. Inside cabins start at \$1075.00; Window cabins from \$1245.00 and Balconies from \$1435.00 Cad pp. Taxes are additional \$186.39 pp and airfare from Honolulu home is extra.

NEW

July 20, 2016 - 35 Day Voyage of the Vikings MS Rotterdam. Boston return Itinerary: Boston, Bar Harbour, Maine; Sydney, Nova Scotia; Cornerbrook, Newfoundland; Red Bay, Labrador; Qaqortoq, Greenland; Cruising Prince Christians Sound; Reykjavik, Iceland (2 days); Alesund, Norway; cruising Hardangerfjord; Eidfjord, Norway; Rotterdam, Netherlands (2 days); Dublin, Ireland; Douglas, Isle of Man, UK; Belfast, Northern Ireland; Akureyri, Iceland; Cruising Eyjafjord; Isafjordur, Iceland; cruising Isafjardjur; cruising Prince Christian Sund; Nanortalik, Greenland; St. John's, Newfoundland; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Boston. Inside cabins starting from \$8,048.00; Outside cabins starting from \$9,199.00; Veranda cabins starting from \$16,098.00. Taxes and fees are an additional \$710.17 CAD p.p. All fares are CAD, based on double occupancy and availability at time of booking.

This itinerary is only offered once a year and always sells out very early. Book soon to get the cabin of your choice. A number of members have already booked this cruise.

REMINDER: Be sure you have out of country travel insurance for any trip you book and that it is in effect before you pay for your trip. For those with MEDOC, ensure you have renewed your Heritage Club Membership for 2015 and paid your dues to be covered.

Call the Heritage Club office at 604-482-4311 to reserve or for more information

Heritage Club - Parkland Chapter 28 2015 Executive

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Bob Broomhall
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Committee Members:

Bill Chrapko

Helen Chrapko

Doreen Rogowski

The executive will do their best to serve the members of the Parkland Chapter in every way possible. Please do not hesitate to call any one of us to answer any of your questions.

You can also contact us via our email address. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to let us know by sending us an email at: parklandheritageclub@gmail.com

If chickens rise when the rooster crows, when do ducks get up?
At the quack of dawn.