



# Heritage News

## Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #13

MAY 15, 2011

### WELCOME

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**Raoul Green**  
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In this issue, I have a couple of things to draw your attention to. First of all planning for the 2011 Blairmore Centennial Celebrations has begun in earnest. This would be a great opportunity to invite relatives from out of town to visit the Crowsnest and join in the festivities. See page 3.

Secondly, I would like to welcome Chris Matthews, the Crowsnest Museum's new Executive Director, to the Crowsnest Pass. He has his work cut out for him as he joins the Museum staff at the beginning of their busiest time of year. If any of you have time and skills to donate to the running of the Crowsnest Museum, please don't hesitate to give Chris a call at 403-563-5434.

Welcome to summer!

**Editor: Claire Allum**  
 cnheritage@shaw.ca  
 A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project.

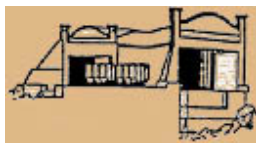
*If interested in submitting an article, news piece, or update, please send it to cnheritage@shaw.ca.*

### WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

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#### BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

Bellevue 403-564-4700



The Mine is open 7 days a week. The first tour begins at 10 am and the last enters the mine at 5:30 pm, and tours begin every half hour.  
 Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$9, Youth (6-17) \$8, Under 6 free, Families \$30.

#### PRAIRIE 'N PEAKS QUILT FESTIVAL

Crowsnest M. - 7701-18th Ave. Coleman 403-563-5434



**Prairie'n Peaks Quilt Festival.** *Friday, June 10th to Sunday, June 19th.*

A juried and invitational show sponsored by the Crowsnest Museum and the Kootenai Brown Museum. For more information visit : [www.prairienpeaks.com](http://www.prairienpeaks.com)

**Prairie 'n Peak Opening Celebration.** *Friday, June 10th.*

Polish Hall, Coleman. 7 - 9:30 pm.  
 Keynote Speaker: Lorraine Stangness, Country Creations.  
 \$25

Trunk Show: Lorraine will have a show of her quilts during the opening ceremony.

**Tea Time with Norma.** *Sunday, June 12th.*

Crowsnest Museum, Coleman. 2 - 4 pm.  
 Norma Oliva, creator and past owner of Calgary's popular craft shop Galleria, will speak on experiences and give you information on how to market your own works of art.  
 \$15

**Prairie 'n Peak Closing Ceremonies.** *Sunday, June 19th.*

Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village, Pincher Creek. 5 pm.  
 Recognizing all those who have made the show a great time, there will be music and the chance to enjoy all that has happened.  
 Cash Bar.

**Luncheon Lecture with Nina Stahlschmidt.** *Friday, June 17th.*

Kootenai Pioneer Village, Pincher Creek.  
 Nina Stahlschmidt is well known for her incredible designs and interesting take on vintage textile quilting. There will be a selection of handworks available and Nina's book for sale during her workshop.  
 \$25 includes lunch.

**Pam York's Challenge Quilts in Support of the Alberta Children's Hospital.**

Her quilts will be on display throughout the week at the Coleman Senior's Centre, Coleman.

**Crowsnest Museum Quilt Show.**

There will be a display of quilts at the Crowsnest Museum, Coleman, throughout the week.

**For More Information please call: 403-627-3684.**



**The Pioneer Market is open for the summer.** *Friday, June 10th, 11 am - 2 pm.*

The Museum is open 7 days a week from 10 am - 8 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free.

Quilting Displays as part of Prairie 'n Peaks from *Friday, June 10th to Friday June 17th.* Phone for more information.

**BAR U RANCH**

13 km south of Longview on Hwy 22. 1/2 km west on Hwy 540. 403-395-2212

**Site Opens.** *Sunday, May 22nd.*



Nestled between the rolling Porcupine Hills and the towering Rocky Mountains, surrounded by the prairie landscape and shaped by Chinook winds, the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site is one of the first and most enduring large corporate ranches of the West. Steeped in history, the Bar U commemorates the history and importance of the ranching industry in Canada.

The Bar U Ranch was one of a small group of very large corporate ranches in western Canada, including the Cochrane, the Oxley, the Walrond and the Quorn. From 1882 to 1950, the Bar U was one of the foremost ranching operations in Canada.

The key personalities associated with the Bar U - Fred Stimson, George Lane and Patrick Burns - were each in their day, leaders in ranching. They involved the Bar U Ranch in many of the major issues which shaped the industry. At the practical level, the Bar U was one of the best managed of the large ranches and served as a training ground for many cattlemen. Adults (17 and over) \$7.80; Youth (6-16) \$3.90; Seniors (65+) \$6.55; Children (under 6) Free; Family (2 parents and their children under 16) \$19.00.

*MARK YOUR CALENDARS*

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**FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE**

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388



**Hillcrest Mine Disaster Anniversary.** *Sunday, June 19th.*

Join us at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre in commemorating the worst underground mine disaster in Canadian history. 189 men were killed in an underground explosion in the Hillcrest Mine on June 19, 1914. There will be special interpretive programs and audio-visual programs at the Frank Slide Centre throughout the day highlighting this incredible and tragic story.

The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10 am to 5 pm Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

**HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



**National Aboriginal Day.** *Sunday, June 19th.*

A celebration recognizing First Nations' contributions to Canadian Society. First Nation, Blackfoot drumming and dancing, guided facility tours, arts and crafts displays, storytelling and traditional food sampling are part of this special day.

**Drumming and Dancing on the Plaza.** *July 6th to August 31st.*

Every Wednesday, join us on the plaza to watch spectacular dance performances. Listen to live Blackfoot drumming and singing while watching some of the best First Nations dancers in western Canada.

Daily performances: 11 am and 1:30 pm.

No charge for the performances.

Along with its displays the centre has audio-visual presentations, a cafeteria featuring bison burgers, a gift shop filled with First Nations handicrafts, and hosts tour groups and runs educational programs. Open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Admission: Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

**DOORS OPEN AND CROWSNEST PASS HERITAGE FESTIVAL**



**Call for Participants.** *Friday, July 29th to Monday, August 1st.*

The 6th annual Crowsnest Pass Doors Open and Heritage Festival committee is looking for interested groups or individuals who would like to participate in this weekend of activities that highlights the unique heritage of the Crowsnest Pass.

Join community groups, individuals and business as they offer free Doors Open events in the community. Guided hikes, garden tours, cemetery tours and heritage building tours will be a part of the celebrations. There will be special programs at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Bellevue Underground Mine, Crowsnest Museum, and other community venues. Highlights for 2011 include: Blairmore Centennial activities, the launch of the Crowsnest Pass Community Walking Trails, the Country Market, theatrical presentations and much more. Organizing an event for the Heritage Festival is a great way for your group to raise funds.

There are many ways to become involved in the Crowsnest Pass Doors Open and Heritage Festival. You can organize an activity with a group or club that you are associated with, give guided tours of your home or garden, or volunteer for an activity that is already scheduled. Although the committee raises funds through applying for grants to market all events taking place over the weekend, donations are appreciated, especially for the Crowsnest Pass Get-Away Packages. All donations will be acknowledged. In the past average attendance to the weekend's activities has been over 6,000 people. It is a great opportunity to highlight the Crowsnest's unique heritage and your place in it.

If you are interested in hosting an event or learning more about Crowsnest Pass Doors Open and Heritage Festival 2011, please contact Cathy Pisony, the Program coordinator, at **403-562-7388** (Frank Slide Interpretive Centre).

## BLAIRMORE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



On September 29th, 2011, Blairmore will celebrate its 100th birthday as a town. A number of events have been planned throughout the summer leading up to the major commemoration scheduled for the weekend of *September 23rd - 25th*.

*Sunday, July 17th:* **Canadian Pacific Railway Vintage Steam Locomotive Visit** (during Rumrunner Days).

*Friday, July 29th:* Unveiling of the **Historic Blairmore Walking Tour** (during the 6th annual Crowsnest Pass Doors Open and Heritage Festival)

*Friday, July 29th:* **Doors Open Launch** and keynote speaker at the Orpheum, Blairmore.

*Saturday, July 30th:* **Historic Blairmore Cemetery Tour**.

**Friday, September 23rd - Sunday, September 25th: Blairmore Homecoming Reunion**

- **Homecoming Centennial Social.** *Friday, September 23rd.* Albert Stella Memorial Arena (Keynote speaker and music)
- **M. Arty Art Market.** *Saturday, September 24th.* Albert Stella Memorial Arena.
- **Special Harvest of Memories Banquet and Dance** in commemoration of Blairmore's Homecoming, at the Crowsnest Pass Sports Complex. *Saturday, September 24th.*
- **Homecoming Centennial Breakfast** at the Albert Stella Memorial Arena. *Sunday, September 25th.*

Tickets for the Crowsnest Pass Homecoming Events and the Crowsnest Museum Harvest of Memories Banquet, will go on sale in June of 2011. For more information on Blairmore Centennial Events and tickets check [www.crowsnestheritage.ca](http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca).

## CROWSNEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY HARVEST OF MEMORIES



**7th Annual Harvest of Memories Fall Festival.** *Saturday, September 24th.*

This year the event will commemorate the Blairmore Centennial Homecoming. The event will take place at the Crowsnest Sportsplex. This gala event includes a fabulous dinner, entertainment, live and silent auctions, raffles, door prizes and dancing. Don't miss out on a great evening! Details will be announced in June.

## REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

Cardston, Alberta 403-653-5139



**World Miniature Horse 'Chuckwagon Championships.** *Friday, August 19th to Saturday, August 20th.*

These chuckwagons are approximately one half the size of those on the professional circuit and are pulled by a team of four miniature horses, but they pack all the punch of their regular sized counterparts? Racing is scheduled for both days.

The Museum has the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in North America with over 240 carriages, wagons and sleighs. The 63,000 square foot facility features video displays, a fire hall, a carriage factory, a restoration shop, a working stable, carriage rides, carriage rentals, a restaurant and a gift shop. There are free guided tours. Group tours and educational tours are offered. Open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: [info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com](mailto:info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com). Admission: Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5,

## BOMBER COMMAND MUSEUM OF CANADA

1729 21st Ave. (Hwy 2 S) Nanton 403-646-2270



Lancaster Merlin run-ups scheduled for:

Planes, Trains, and Elevators, Sunday, July 10

Yellow Wings Fly-In, Monday, August 1

Nanton Parade Day, Saturday, August 20

Nanton Lancaster Society 25th Anniversary, Saturday, September 17

**Please confirm run-ups and their times by visiting the web site before the event: <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/>**

## GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

502 1st. S., Lethbridge 1-866-320-3898



**Summer Wine and Beer Tasting.** *Thursday, June 23rd. 7 - 9 pm.*

presented by The Wine Cavern

Join The Wine Cavern at this tasty fundraiser for the Galt!

Leave your bank/credit card at home! Your ALL INCLUSIVE ticket includes:

- Samples of 45 wines
- Samples of 40+ beer products
- Imported cheese and fruit for pairings
- Riedel gourmet wine glass
- Wine Cavern bottle opener keychain
- Admission to exhibits
- \$20 tax receipt

The Museum is open all year round. Monday to Saturday 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays and Holidays 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults \$5, Seniors (65+) \$4, Youth (7-17) \$3, Under 7 free, Families \$12.



**Art Retreat: Photographic and Video Arts.** Friday, September 9th to Monday, September 12th.

Watch a Parks Canada video of this annual retreat at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t96eT6cro6I> If you are interested in registering or finding our more information please phone **403-647-2364 ext. 229**. Only 20 spaces available.

With its mild winters, Writing-on-Stone is a great destination to visit year-round! Hiking trails are clear for most of the year and can be most enjoyable in cooler weather. For inquiries regarding trail conditions or tour schedules please call the information desk at the Visitor Centre **403-647-2364 ext. 0**. Rock-Art Tours: Adults (18 and over) \$8.00; Youth (7-17) \$6.00; Children (under 6) Free; Family (2 parents and their children under 17) \$25.00. Camping all year \$21 - \$27 a night.

Check the web sites for dates and times.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

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### Raoul Green: and the Frank Slide by Monica Field

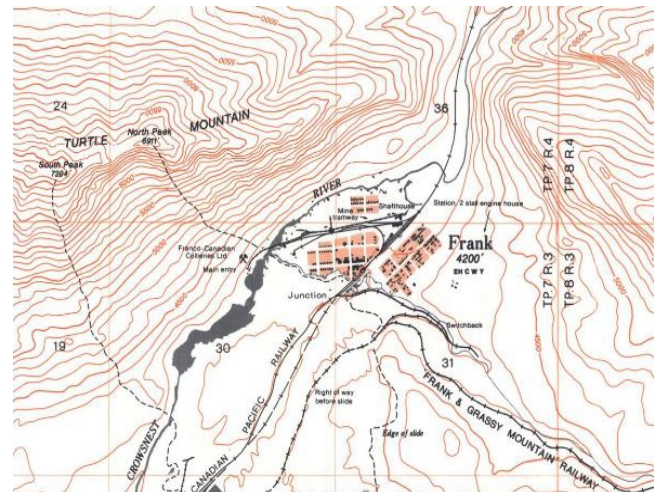
Raoul Green was a French engineer and geologist working at the Lille Mine eight kilometres north of Frank in 1903. Let him tell the story in his own words:

Mr. Green wrote from Calgary on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1963 in answer to an invitation for him to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Frank Slide (from Crowsnest and Its People):

*I and a helper were surveying for branch connection to C.P.R. Railway – so as to install coke ovens to be located along C.P.R., halfway between Frank and Bellevue. Coke ovens would have served both mines. The French Company had mines at both Bellevue and Lille (4 miles up Gold Creek), it was called the Gold and Coal Fields of B.C. It is now the West Canadian Collieries. Anyhow at 6:00 p.m. we started for home at Lille (not Blairmore), I took my instrument (transit) with me. I would not leave it hidden in the brush as usual, but packed it all the way to Lille. Why I did that I don't know – had been doing it (hiding transit) for several days. It certainly wasn't because I expected 90,000,000 tons of rock to fall down.*

Before the slide, Green was enjoying the scenery. In a March 23, 1947 letter from Raoul Green to Mr. John K. Terres, he wrote:

*Spring had come to the Crow's Nest Area...blue and clear skies...and soft winds...the snow had gone...grass greening...crocuses coming out. In fact it was lovely as only these foothills (sic) and entrance to Rocky Mountains can be at this time...It never entered my mind that my coke oven site would 12 hours later be covered by 24 feet of mixed limestone rocks...The crest of limestone ridge...looked foreboding enough and threw long shadows eastward, but I did not anticipate its flowing down into the valley beneath...even though more or less dare devil at that age...I would not have stayed there. Though I distinctly recollect that the mountain was noisier than usual and quite a few boulders were coming down...I remarked to my assistant and we put it down to usual spring thaw. So we jumped on our horses at 5 p.m. and went back to our Lille Camp 5 miles north.*



From <http://railway.library.ualberta.ca>



Turtle Mountain c. 1903. Before the Slide. Glenbow Archives NA-3011-1

Raoul Green could have stayed in the construction camp at Frank, which was completely buried by the slide. He was lucky to have gone back to Lille.

*The next morning around 7 o'clock our stable boss told me somebody was up from Frank with the statement that a volcano had erupted there. Of course I did not believe any such thing and after*

breakfast took my horse and went down. The sight was bewildering and no attempt at description. Where trees grew and the ground getting green, there was a solid white carpet of rock and dust. The mountain was fully shrouded with a cloud of dust so I can understand now how the impression got around that a volcano had erupted. Of course I was enough of a geologist to realize that we had an experience with a variety of slide larger than the average, but a slide nevertheless. This slide backed up the main Crow's Nest River and begat two little lakes, which at one time threatened to flood some houses, but dynamite soon blasted a way for the river course. There were no wounded – for as I remember, this was a case where nature did a complete job. I think there was a case or two of broken bones where slide had just somewhat manhandled a house and people inside were badly shook up. Of course there is the case of a baby being found among the rocks – both father and mother being killed in house. I believe said baby was taken care of by aunt in Cranbrook and is presumably still living. Otherwise it was a thorough job. I believe Dr. Malcomson

(since dead) but who has a son Dr. Malcolmson living in Edmonton, took care in his small two room hospital of any cases of shock or exposure. ... The slide covered the C.P.R. for a mile and half and operation of Frank mine stopped for two months till railway dug itself out and resumed traffic... The men went back to work in their own mine as there was little or no damage done to the mine – a number of timber sets cracked – some caves on gangway – a few rooms lost through cave-ins, etc. So in two months everything seemed on the go again. It is significant that many timber sets were cracked on gangway and that some rooms were affected and this would tend to indicate an earth movement of some kind. ... One portion of the peak may hang there for centuries, again it might come down. It could not cause such loss of life as the one before it, but would unquestionably cover main road and CPR tracks. I don't want to pose as a bird of ill omen, but people ought to face possibilities, let alone probabilities.



Backup of Oldman River because of the Slide c. 1903. NA-2833-16  
Photo Credit: Marks and Buchanan.



Rebuilding railway line. Glenbow Archives. NA-672-3

Raoul Green had stories to tell after the slide. He assisted with the work to rebuild the Frank and Grassy Railway Line to Lille. 1.5 km of this railroad was covered by the slide, and afterwards, the necessary elevation was gained by a switchback, as the luxury of winding up the valley as before had been lost. By November 1903, the railway line was finally realigned and rebuilt. Coal was once again transported from the Lille mines.

From Crowsnest and its People, letter from Raoul Green to Mrs. Kutcher in answer to an invitation to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Frank Slide: *"Thank you for your kind invitation to Frank Celebration. But I cannot come owing to my physical disabilities – as I am stone deaf and mostly blind. I don't enjoy company – and people don't enjoy my presence. In fact am mostly a nuisance. I refer you to Mrs. Gillis of Blairmore, a friend of myself, and dear wife of Mr. Gillis who predeceased some 15 years ago. Mrs. Gillis will tell you I am quite a character."*

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*Monica Field is a long-time resident of the Crowsnest Pass and Director of its Frank Slide Interpretive Centre.*

## *100 YEARS AGO: 1911*

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- **May 19th.** Parks Canada, the governmental agency which regulates national parks in the Dominion of Canada, was created as the Dominion Parks Branch of the Canadian Department of the Interior, and was the first national parks service in any nation.
- **May 18th.** Blairmore Enterprize. The Pass visited by Heavy Rains. Commenced on Friday and continued until Tuesday.
- **May 29th .** Representatives from the Village of Blairmore made application to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for the erection of the said Village to become a town. Signators Thomas Frayer Chairman of the Council of the Village of Blairmore and W.A. Beeke, Secretary of the Council of the Village of Blairmore.
- **May 31st.** The White Star liner RMS Titanic, at the time the largest mobile object ever constructed, was launched from Belfast at 12:13 pm. It was 883 feet long, 58 feet high and weighed 46,000 tons. It would sink less than a year later.
- **June 1st.** The 1911 Census was begun.
- **June 1st.** Frayer & Sinclair of Blairmore are erecting a hall for the United Mine Workers of America at Hillcrest. The building will...have two stories and will have a large basement. The ground floor will be used as a store while the upstairs will be made into a hall.

**HEAD-SMASHED-IN BUFFALO JUMP: May 4th Hike to the Drive Lanes.**



Wednesday, May 4th was the finest weather we had had in southern Alberta since the previous year. The sun shone hot and bright, the crocuses were in bloom and the wind was...well it's always windy. Jack Brink, Curator of Archaeology, and Bob Dawe, Inventory Curator, from the Royal Alberta Museum, Edmonton, joined Elders from the Blackfoot Nation as our tour guides for the hike. As Jack described it, the jump is just the end product of a very complex, religious and intricately scripted event. All the truly important stuff happens a long way back from the jump on land now privately owned. Once a year the landowners give the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre the opportunity to lead new guides and members of the public to visit the area.



Archaeologist Jack Brink pointing out a petroglyph.

We climbed up a gradual slope until the jump lip and interpretive centre were invisible. We walked to several sandstone outcrops which had shallow petroglyphs etched into their surfaces. They were made a long time ago and today neither Jack nor the Blackfoot elders know what they represented. We ate lunch on a slight rise above the gathering basin. This is the place where a portion of the *Bison bison* (the scientific name of the American buffalo) would be separated from the herd by pre-European hunters. Perhaps 100 to 150 animals would be gradually moved by skilled huntsmen using various tricks—animal disguises, noises, threatening movements—towards a narrow valley. Lining the upper sides of the gully are lines of old stone cairns. Stick figures (known today as “dead-men”), people waving branches and rude mounds of brush were probably placed at these cairns to stop the bison from climbing up the sides of the channel and escaping. Slowly the animals were moved along the valley towards the jump. Only at the very last minute were they spooked and then would have galloped madly toward the cliff. At the steep edge the ones in front, who could finally see the drop, were pushed over by the panicked animals behind them.

**CROWSNEST MUSEUM: New Executive Director, Chris Matthews.**

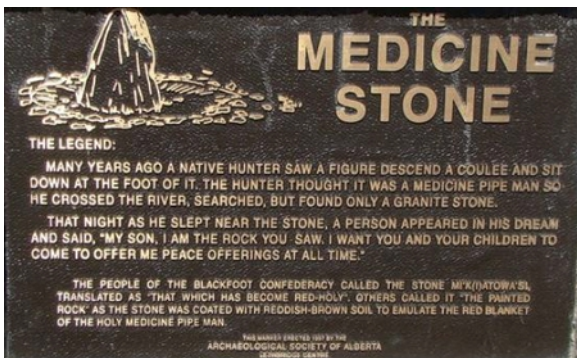
The Crownsnest Museum has a new Executive Director. Chris Matthews started work on May 1st, 2011. Christopher has a Masters degree in history from the University of Dalhousie in Halifax. As an undergraduate, he wrote his Honours Thesis on the impact of the short-lived “Large Lease” ranches of Alberta and west and their impact on the cultural history and identity of the province in later years and today. He has family in Pincher Creek. He looks forward to a busy summer and is already deeply involved in helping coordinate the Blairmore Centennial Celebrations.

**THE MYSTERIOUS MISSING MEDICINE STONE: Fort Whoop-Up, Lethbridge.**

On Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, employees at Fort Whoop-Up in Lethbridge noticed that a large 453 kg medicine stone in Indian Battle Park had been stolen. Dig marks in the ground suggested a front-end loader had been used.

The stone is sacred to the Blackfoot and a plaque commemorates its story. Sweetgrass, tobacco and money offerings are often left below it or close to it. At the time of its theft it was surrounded by an orange snow fence to protect it from nearby construction.

On Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> around 8 pm, Fort Whoop-Up scouts, camped within the fort walls, heard a loud thump. When they peered through the gates they saw a front-end loader drop the stone back onto the ground near where it had gone missing. They couldn't identify the driver and by the time they opened the gates the vehicle had left.



Returned Medicine Rock.

**KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE: to partner with Pincher Creek Co-op.**

An upcoming project at the museum that will see the east entrance of the Beere Hall transformed into a representation of the Co-op's long history in this community, in three dimension facade. Three years ago we accomplished a similar feat with the west facade. This, along with other big projects in the works, including moving three historical structures onto the grounds this year, will greatly add to the "village" atmosphere of our museum.

We will be selling advertising space in the newly expanded village, including having companies pay for the privilege of having their logos painted on milk bottles or burlap sacks.. We felt this would be a nice way to integrate sponsorship into our displays, very visible but not distracting from the atmosphere we are creating.