



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #14

June 15, 2011

WELCOME

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This month is the anniversary of the June 19th Hillcrest Mine Disaster of 1914.

I would like to remind readers of the ongoing research into the families of both the Hillcrest Mine Disaster and the 1910 Bellevue Mine Explosion. Very little is known of the victims or their families, or what happened to the families after the events. The human element is vital in interpreting the disasters and the effects they had on Crowsnest Pass society. Information will also be used to plan the Commemoration of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster in 2014. If anyone who reads this newsletter has any information that can be added to the database of information on either of these two tragedies, please contact Belle Kovach at bellekov@jrtwave.com. The editor of this newsletter will also pass on any information. Just email cnheritage@shaw.ca.

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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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 or phone 403-627-3684.

For the duration of the Quilt Festival:

There are quilt displays in both Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village, and Crowsnest Museum. Both Museums will be selling raffle tickets on lovely Quilts, Quilting Baskets, and a 50/50 Draw, and offer guided historical tours at 10:30 am, if pre-arranged and meet minimum requirements to allow for staffing.

Friday, June 17th

Dawn Hunt Appraisals, 10-4 pm. Pre-Book, to receive paperwork before the event.

Dawn Hunt: "How to care for your Antique Quilts" Lecture, 7 - 9 pm.

Friday, June 17th

Pioneer Farmers Market 11 am - 2 pm Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village
Merchant Mall-Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village Noon to 8 pm.

Dinner and Lecture: "Ribbons Roses and Women's Rights" Baltimore Albums, 6 pm.

Saturday, June 18th

Merchant Mall-Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village 10 am to 6 pm.

Sunday, June 19th

Merchant Mall-Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village 10 am to 5 pm.
Closing Ceremonies, 5 pm Kootenai Brown. Awards and Draws.

Cozy Covers for Kids Quilt Challenge: All the quilts have been finished and can be viewed at the Seniors Center in Coleman during the festival, and voted on. All Quilts will be donated for the use of the children at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

BELLECREST DAYS Friday, June 17th to Saturday, June 18th

FRIDAY

7 pm - 12 am Pinkest Little Town BBQ - burgers and smokies.

9 pm - 11:30 pm Jay Dee Hypnotist's Show at Hillcrest Miner's Club. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Purchase tickets at the Miner's Club.

11:30 pm Fireworks sponsored by the Hillcrest Fire Department and Bellecrest Community Association.

SATURDAY

8 - 10 am Pancake Breakfast at the Hillcrest Fish and Game Hall. Adults \$6, 12 and under \$3.

9:30 am Parade Set Up: floats, equestrians, vehicles, dignitaries, etc. meet at East Hillcrest (232 St. and 11th Ave.). All walkers, bicycles and children enter from the corner of Monte Vista Mobile Home Park. **The Parade is open to everyone!**

SATURDAY Continued

10 - 10:45 am	Parade judging.
11 am	Parade starts.
1 - 5 pm	Jam session at the Hillcrest Miner's Club.

MAP OF PARADE ROUTE

Go to <http://www.bellecrest.ca> and click on Bellecrest Days in the left hand column.

SATURDAY at Hillcrest Coke and Coal Park

10 am - 4 pm	Pinkest Little Town BBQ Meal Deal.
12 pm - 1 pm	Free hotdogs and pop for kids. Hosted by the Hillcrest Fire Department.
12 pm - 4 pm	Astro Jump, petting zoo, kids activities and games, food concession (proceeds to the Girls and Boys Club), Bucket Brigade (hosted by the Hillcrest Fire Department), music by Siegbert and Rose Gail, bake sale, Ellie the Clown, and face painting by Tammy.
12 pm - 1 am	Beer gardens at the Hillcrest Miner's Club.
1 pm - 3 pm	Bellecrest Days 2011 Cake.
3 pm	Kid's Ice Cream Eating contest.

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 \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

NOTE: Leitch Collieries has been closed, due to flooding. Historic areas, offices and the public washrooms are damaged. The site will remain closed into July and perhaps later.

COLEMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Coleman National Historic Site Monument Unveiling. Wednesday, June 29th at 2 pm.

The unveiling will take place in front of the Crowsnest Museum in downtown Coleman. Dignitaries will speak on the significance of Coleman's designation as a National Historic Site and its importance to Canada's historic memory. A reception will follow (details to be announced in the media in a few days and at the event).

Canada Day. Friday, July 1st.

Celebrate Canada's birthday at the National Historic Site of Coleman. There will be a parade and other activities in the main downtown area.

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 \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE

1037 Bev McLaughlin Dr. 403-627-3684



The Pioneer Market is open for the summer. Fridays, June 10th - October 7th, 11 am - 2 pm.

Canada Day. Friday, July 1st., 10:30 - 2 pm.

Free admission, live music, activities for the kids. This is a flag waving good time were everyone gets to eat cake! Come and see the grand opening of the Transportation Display, including a show of many antique and collectable vehicles ranging from a Red River Cart to state of the art trial bikes and vehicles.

Historic Walking Tours. The Museum will be conducting several historic walking tours of Pincher Creek in conjunction with the Prairie'n Peaks Quilt Festival. **A Graveyard Tour** will be held on Friday, July 15th from 10 pm to midnight. It will include live dramatizations. For more information visit: www.kootenaibrown.org/p/historic-waling-tours.html For the Graveyard Tour look under "Upcoming Events."

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.

BOMBER COMMAND MUSEUM OF CANADA

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



Yellow Wings Fly-In. Sunday, July 10th.

Vintage Wings of Canada (VWC) is paying tribute to one of Canada's greatest achievements during the Second World War. Canada trained over 210,000 people for the air war in Europe in four years - from a standing start! Of these brave air force and naval personnel who were trained in the BCATP, 50,000 were pilots.

One of the Yellow Wings will fly into Nanton as part of a cross-Canada celebratory tour. VWC planes include a Harvard IV, a Fleet Finch, a Fairchild Cornell MKII, a de Havilland Tiger Moth and a Stearman (Boeing) PT-27 Kaydet.

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

FORT WHOOP-UP NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



Heritage Weekend. Saturday, July 9th.

1884 Royal Canadian Artillery

Summer Hours are: Wednesdays - Mondays 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Admission: Adults \$7, Seniors (65+) \$6, Students (5-18) \$5, Under 5 free, Families \$18.69.

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! Tickets are \$50 each and available at the Galt Museum Store and before the event at the door. Great Father's Day gift idea! Contact Lori for more information at 403.320-4219.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY VINTAGE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE *Sunday, July 17th.*



The CPR #2816 steam locomotive will visit Blairmore as part of our Blairmore Centennial celebrations. You can book a ticket to ride on the train for a section of its trip and support the children's Wish Foundation. The train will stop 11:30 am - 1 pm at 125th St. to 129th St., adjacent to 20th Ave., Blairmore. There will be a stage, dignitaries and entertainment by a barbershop quartet.

Go to: www.cpr.ca/en/in-your-community/2816-empress/Pages/default.aspx to see the train schedule.

DOORS OPEN AND CROWSNEST PASS HERITAGE FESTIVAL *Friday, July 29th to Monday, August 1st.*



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, Downtown Coleman National Historic Site, Bellevue Underground Mine Tours, Hillcrest Cemetery, Teddy Bears' Picnic at the Crowsnest Museum, and the Crowsnest Museum itself.

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.*

Event Package tickets, which include the Friday Night Social, the Harvest of Memories Dinner and Dance, and the Centennial Breakfast can be bought for \$75. Please contact Al Martini C.A. at 403-563-2895 or almart@shaw.ca to purchase. For more information on Blairmore Centennial Events and tickets visit 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. The gala includes a fabulous dinner, entertainment (Crowsnest's own Mike Maguire and fellow musicians), live and silent auctions, raffles, door prizes and dancing. Don't miss out on a great evening! Tickets will go on sale August 1st at the Crowsnest Museum.

WRITING-ON-STONE PARK AND CAMPGROUND

32 km east and 10 km south of Milk River on Hwy 501 403-647-2364



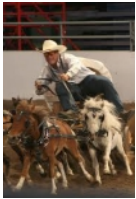
Art Retreat: Photographic and Video Arts. Friday, September 9th to Monday, September 12th.

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. 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.

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. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

FEATURE ARTICLE

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Pictographs: Pictures in Time

by John Kinnear

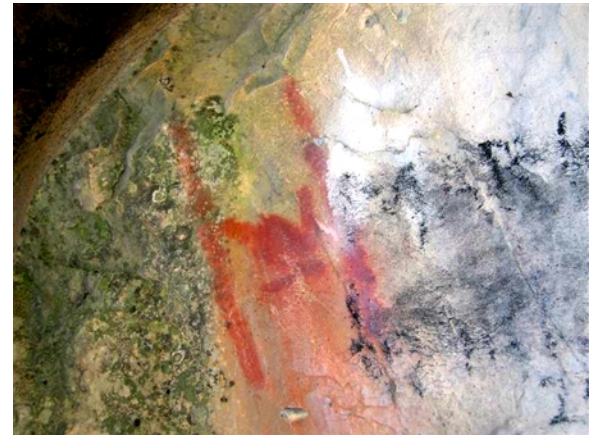
First published in the Fernie Free Press.

Pictographs are rock paintings that were used by prehistoric people for social and cultural expression. They are extremely rare and valuable archaeological sites.

Their makeup is typically mineral pigments like red ochre (colored earth) mixed with some type of grease and water and applied to rock surfaces. Sometimes the images were etched into the rock with a stone tool before the paint was applied. Vegetable dyes and charcoal were also used but rarely survive in our mountain climate.

Pictographs are intriguing to contemplate and tug at ones imagination. Physical descriptions of the images might mean differ from report to report but most archaeologists agree there is a religious significance to them. In an article on Alberta rock art some time back Jack

Brink, then with the Archaeological Survey of Alberta, suggested most pictographs are less than 2,000 years old.



Crowsnest Lake Cave pictograph. Photo by Claire Allum.

The three local locations of pictographs I am aware of make understandable the native notion of a sacred landscape, a place inhabited by spirits both good and evil. The source of the Oldman River emerges from below the microwave tower at the base of Crowsnest Ridge. Crowsnest Cave is a powerful place where the human and the spirit world appear to converge. The hollow rush of its waters and the echoes from deep within raise a sense of unease with me when I visit there.

This place was known to the Blackfoot as "where the Oldman comes out of the mountain" and was once smeared with ochre. George Dawson, renowned as an early geological explorer of this area, passed by the cave with his pacer J. B. Tyrell in 1881. He noted the existence of painted glyphs there. Alas vandalism has resulted in only a faint smear of ochre remaining in this still powerful place.



Crowsnest Lake Cave pictograph covered with modern graffiti. Photo by Claire Allum.

The second site I have visited can be found at the west entrance to the canyon that the McGillivray Loop trackage winds through. It is tucked under a rock outcrop and its glyphs are typical of traditional Columbia Plateau Art, generally found in South East British Columbia and Montana. It is thought "they represent dreams and the acquisition of spiritual power obtained during a vision quest."



McGillivray figure. Photo by author.

Interpreting these ancient relics of religious life in the mountains is open to question. What reinforces the vision quest interpretation is the physical setting of the sites. This is no more apparent than at the third and my favourite site, at Line Creek Canyon. Having traveled through it daily to work for the last 28 years I can attest to the awe inspiring power and sheer magnificence of this ancient pass.

Today, its narrow confines contain a roadway and an 11 kilometer long conveyor, but many years ago it was an important Pass used by the Ktunaxa (Kootenay) and possibly other tribes that traversed the Rockies. At its west entrance a remarkable collection of glyphs existed for perhaps several centuries. During the Line Creek Mine construction phase in the early 1980s it was recognized that these pictographs were in jeopardy. They were skillfully removed under the mining company's direction by a profession tunneling crew and preserved by the archaeology division of the British Columbia Heritage Conservation Branch.



McGillivray Loop c1900. Cranbrook Museum and Archives.

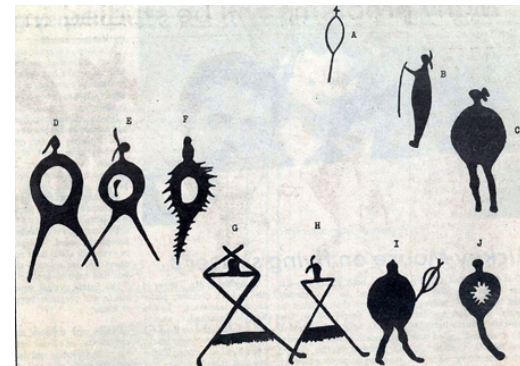
There are 10 individual glyphs in the collection, each which has its own significance and story. Some are bulbous human figures that represent shield figures. Before the horse, some warriors often carried large elaborate shields which nearly covered their entire bodies. Their depiction as balloon-type figures is apparently a common motif of the Shoshone who may have made contact in this part of the Elk Valley.

Some shields have symbols on them that probably represented the supernatural protector revealed to a man in a dream or vision quest. According to archaeologist R. K. Brulotte: "Because human shield figures are usually never associated with rifles or horses, the Line Creek rock paintings were done prior to the early 1800's. It is more than likely that they are not of Kutenai (Ktunaxa) origin. Nowhere else in the Kootenays do such design and element styles exist. Therefore they strongly indicate that other tribes visited the Elk Valley probably from the south and east. These pictographs may depict a battle or war between the Kutenai-Tuna xa and the Shoshone, a battle which may have taken place between Tornado Pass – Upper Oldman area and the Elk Valley or within the Elk Valley proper."



Line Creek Pictograph Panel. Photo in author's collection.

All in all pictographs give us a fascinating look back at a period of time we can only wonder about. A time when spirituality was truly an integral part of every day life.



Line Creek pictograph interpretive sketch by R.K Brulotte.

John Kinnear is a long-time resident of the Crowsnest Pass, local author and historian.

100 YEARS AGO: 1911

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- **June 15th.** Blairmore defeats Fernie at Baseball, 11 to 4. Blairmore Enterprise.
- **June 16th.** Halley's Comet was photographed for the last time in more than 70 years, as it moved on out of our solar system. It would not be seen again from Earth until October 16, 1982
- **July 1st.** D.G. (Dei Gra - Latin for "by the Grace of God") words on the obverse of Canadian coins were removed. It led to such a public uproar over the "godlessness" of coins that the words were returned in 1912. Today our coins have D.G. Regina beside Queen Elizabeth II's portrait.
- **July 6th.** Two men were killed in the Bellevue Mine. A rail car jumped its tracks and caused tons of coal to collapse. The accident killed the occupants of a rail car.
- **July 13th.** A report by the Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, Professor W. R. Brock, announced that the town of Frank is in grave danger of a landslide with heavy loss of life. This was based on an inspection made by Mr. Boyd reported on June 30th.
- **July 14th.** Rain began falling at Baguio City in the Philippines and, between noon until noon the next day, broke the record for most rainfall in 24 hours (45.99 inches or 1168 mm). By the time rain ended three days later, the total amount had been 88.85 inches (2239 mm). [27] The 46 inch rainfall represented 1,350,000 gallons of water, weighing 5,400 tons, per acre. **Sounds like our spring!**

THUNDER IN THE VALLEY *Thursday, July 14th to Sunday, July 17th.*

Volunteers are needed to be part of the organizing committee for this event, plus many venues need volunteers as well. Please Email marion@rumrunnerdays.com if you are interested in helping.

EVENTS:

7th Annual Green & Gold Bill Fukami Memorial Golf Tournament: Thursday at the CNP Golf & Country Club . Scramble, Dinner & Prizes! Support the Crowsnest Consolidated High School. To register call Kyle Draper at 403-582-0337 or email goosenip_4@hotmail.com

Crowsnest Museum: 7701 - 18th Ave Coleman. Visit the Museum & take a Historic Tour of Downtown Coleman & the Miners Path! Phone: 403-563-5434.

Bellevue Underground Mine Tours: Experience the Bellevue Underground Mine! For information call 403-564-4700

Blairmore Legion: Friday "Steak Night" 5 pm to 8 pm - Saturday "Food & Karaoke" For Information call 562-2182. Make sure to check the Road Closure Information!

Co-Ed Slo-Pitch Tournament: For more information about the Rum Runner Days Ball Tournament, please contact Shawn Ogertschnig at 403-795-4296.

RBC Sole Survivor: 2/5 km Walk/Run & 10km Run. Check thier website For More Information.

Thunder In The Valley®: Fireworks display at 11:00pm at Isabelle Sellon School Grounds (12602 18th Ave Blairmore) Please read Traffic Advisory/Road Closure BEFORE proceeding to the Fireworks!

Rum Runner Parade: Starts at 11:00 am on Saturday in Blairmore. Check the Road Closure Info . To register click here. Parade Route Map

Show 'n' Shine: Saturday. All Vehicles welcome! For More Info call Dennis at 403-564-5284.

Boys & Girls Club Duck Race: More information coming soon!

CP Empress 2816 Steam Locomotive: CP's community ambassador, the Empress 2816 Steam Train will be taking to the rails once again this summer, with all proceeds from public ticket sales in support of the Children's Wish Foundation.

Other Activities: Family Activities, Concessions & More at Gazebo Park. Co-Ed Slo-Pitch Tournament. Blairmore Lions Club Pancake Breakfast.

ALBERTA LABOUR HISTORY INSTITUTE: PROJECT 2012

In 2012, Alberta's workers and their unions will mark the 100th anniversary of the Alberta Federation of Labour, which was born in 1912, when a group of railway workers, miners, farmers, typographers and tradespeople met in Lethbridge, Alberta to advance their mutual interests in the face of rapid industrial development.

In 2007, delegates to the AFL's biennial Convention voted unanimously for a partnership with the Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI) to prepare for a province-wide celebration in the belief that this celebration provides a unique opportunity to draw attention to the role that Alberta workers, their unions and community organizations have played in building this Province.

In 2012 they're planning theatre, artistic expositions, and banquets – to celebrate Alberta labour history across the province, from Ft. McMurray to Medicine Hat, and to culminate in a Labour History Conference and special AFL Centennial Celebration in Edmonton in mid-June. At the same time, ALHI is producing posters, a Project 2012 Website, a series of historical booklets, a comprehensive book on Alberta labour history, a DVD series capturing specific landmark events; and several other components to add meaning to this Centennial.

They are conducting visits across the Province to discuss ways in which the Centennial could be celebrated in a manner appropriate for each area, as well as to advance other ideas for 2012 celebrations. They will be in the Crowsnest on June 22nd and 23rd.

Please contact Diane Peterson, of the Bellvue Underground Mine, if your organization has ideas or suggestions for this visit. Diane can be reached at cpets@shaw.ca.