



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #25

May 18, 2012

WELCOME

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**Julia's Story:
Hillcrest Mine
Disaster**

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CROWSNEST MUSEUM: Pennies are History Program.

The Crowsnest Museum is launching a "Pennies are History" program. With the last penny struck this month at the Canadian Mint in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the penny is now history. You can support the Museum by dropping your pennies in containers around town, at the Museum, and at special events all summer. Drop off locations will begin showing up shortly.

Canada's first penny was struck in 1858. Before this, Canada used British currency (pounds, shillings, and pence), bank and commercial tokens, US currency and Spanish milled dollars (silver "pieces of eight" or eight-*reale* coins). The term "penny" in Canada was originally applied to a two-cent coin (US), but when the US stopped making them, the name transferred to the Canadian one-cent piece.

An interesting aside: The two vertical lines on our dollar sign are derived from the two vertical "Pillars of Hercules" adorning the old Spanish "pieces of eight" coins, which were legal currency until 1858.

The Crowsnest Museum will commence summer hours starting June 11th and running until Labour Day. The Museum will be open 7 days a week from 9 am to 5 pm.



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

THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVES

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

**Open Tuesday to Saturday 9 am - 5 pm to June 9.
Summer Hours Starting Monday, June 11 – Seven Days a Week until Labour Day, Monday, Sept 3 – 9 am to 5 pm**

As well as exhibits on coal mining in the Crowsnest Pass, there are galleries on Pass life in the early 1900s, natural history, the military and on Emperor Pic and rum-running, and a gift shop. The Museum is run by volunteers.

Tours and educational programs are available. Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca.
Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.



Coleman National Historic Site of Canada – Heritage Sigs Unveiling – June 7

On Thursday, June 7th several interpretive panels about places and events in Coleman National Historic Site of Canada will be unveiled in conjunction with the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative. The event runs from 10am-12pm and will include a walking tour of downtown Coleman as three Crowsnest Heritage Initiative signs are unveiled. The starting point and the end point will be at the Crowsnest Museum. There will be snacks and beverages served at the Crowsnest Museum at the conclusion of the tour and unveiling.

Crowsnest Museum: Membership Challenge

The Crowsnest Museum thanks everyone who accepted Councilor Jerry Lonsbury's challenge and bought their annual membership to the Crowsnest Historical Society. Let your friends and neighbours know that their support through purchasing a membership helps keep our museum open. Memberships are available at the Museum and provide free access to the Museum, invitations to special events, and a discount at the Gift Shop.

Crowsnest Museum: Fundraising Raffle

The Crowsnest Historical Society is holding a fundraising raffle. First prize is a beautiful Gushul print of Crowsnest Mountain. There are also three other prizes to be won. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. There are tickets at supporting business around the Crowsnest Pass and at the Museum.

Crowsnest and it's Quilts Exhibit

This summer the Crowsnest Museum will be showcasing a "Crowsnest and it's Quilts" exhibit. Historic and meaningful quilts will be on display from past and present CNP residents. More details to come. Contact Isabel Russell at 562-8215 to find out how to get involved or call the museum at 403-563-5434.

Crowsnest Museum: Volunteers Needed

The Crowsnest Museum would like to put a call out for volunteers to help with this summer's special events and operations. We need volunteers to help with a BBQ, assist with parade floats, attend to our garden beds, just help to set up chairs at events. If you're interested in helping with the summer events or operations please either call or email the Museum. (403-563-5434 or cnmuseum@shaw.ca)

BELLECREST DAYS 2012

June 15 & 16

All events in Bellevue

Friday

6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Bellevue Legion – Food and Entertainment

Saturday

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. *Pancake Breakfast* at the Bellevue Legion - \$7.00/plate

9:30 a.m. Parade Set Up: Parade is open to everyone - floats, equestrians, vehicles, walkers, bicycles and children

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. *Parade Judging*

11:00 a.m. *Parade Starts*

All activities to be held at Bellevue Arena Memorial Park and area

(Kids 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *BBQ* by the Crowsnest Historical Society

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Free Hotdogs & Pop for Kids* hosted by Bellevue Fire Department

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Astro Jump*
Petting Zoo
Kid's Activities & Games
Concession (pop, coffee, popcorn, etc.) by Boys & Girls Club
Music by Siegbert & Rose Gail
Bake Sale
Book Sale
50/50 draw
Artisans/vendors
Face Painting

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Bellecrest Days 2012 cake*

3:00 p.m. *Kid's Ice Cream Eating Contest*

Visit www.bellecrest.ca for more details

If you are interested in a space to present your goods and wares, please contact **Kim Schultz @ 564-4745**

CROWSNEST HERITAGE SIGN UNVEILING – June 7th – 10 am to 12 Noon

Coleman National Historic Site of Canada

The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative in conjunction with the Crowsnest Historical Society and other partners will be unveiling three interpretive panels about people and events associated with Coleman National Historic Site of Canada on Thursday, June 7th, 2012.

The event will commence at 10 am outside the Crowsnest Museum in front of the Coleman National Historic Site of Canada monument with the unveiling of the first interpretive panel which focuses on Coleman National Historic Site. After the unveiling, a guided walking tour of downtown Coleman National Historic Site will commence and along the walk two further interpretive panels will be unveiled dealing with aspects of Coleman's history.

The tour will conclude around 11:30 am and light refreshments will be served at the Crowsnest Museum auditorium.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

THE FRANK SLIDE CENTRE

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388



Hillcrest Mine Disaster 98th Anniversary Sunday, June 17, 2012

Join guided driving tours/walks of the Hillcrest Cemetery, and enjoy audio-visual and interpretive presentations at the Frank Slide Centre. The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM

1037 Bev McLachlin Dr., Pincher Creek. 403-627-3684



Pincher Creek Pioneer Farmer's Market: Fridays from June 8 - October 19th, 11am - 2pm.

A variety of vendors will be selling their wares. Everything from plants, produce, baking and handicrafts and so much more. www.pioneermarket.org. If you are a vendor and would like to book a table, contact Tracy at 403-627-3684 or tglen.kbpv@gmail.com.

Queen Jubilee: Trees, Teas and a Tiara. May 21st 1pm—4pm.

Come out and celebrate the Queen's Jubilee with us. There will be antique cars, tea, and the dedication of a tree in her name. Tickets are free but must be reserved by May 14th.

Kootenai Brown is open to the public daily from 10 am to 8 pm through our summer season, starting May 19, unless otherwise posted. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free, Families \$25

BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

21814 28th Avenue Bellevue, AB T0K 0C0 (403) 564-4700



Bellevue underground mine tours will begin in early May.

Admission Adults \$12, Seniors (65+) \$11, Youth (6-17) \$8, Under 6 free, Families \$35. Pre-Booked Tours (15-25 people, one person pays for the group): Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Youth \$7. Youth Groups (School, Girl Guides, etc.) \$5 each. Adult Groups \$6 each. 1 free adult for every 8 students, remaining adults at student rate.

HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



HIKE TO THE DRIVE LANES: First Saturday of each month, May through October.

11 am - 3 pm. Bring a lunch. Phone to book. Blackfoot guides will lead these hikes. June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st and October 6th.

Along with its displays, the interpretive 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.

BOMBER COMMAND OF CANADA

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



Lancaster Merlin Engine Run-ups

- *Saturday, June 2nd Planes, Trains and Elevators*

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



The Fort is open weekends from 12 - 4 pm. Starting June 1st, the Fort will be open from 10 am-5 pm 6 days a week. (Closed Tuesdays). Admission: Adults \$7, Seniors (65+) \$6, Students \$5, Under 5 Free. The Fort has a great gift whop filled with cowboy hats, jewelry, Blackfoot crafts and books. They will ship.

REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

623 Main St. Cardston. 403-653-5139



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 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

BAR-U RANCH

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

Opens May 30th.



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.

Admission: 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.

FEATURE ARTICLE

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Julia's Story: the Hillcrest Mine Disaster

Re-printed from the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre's publication, Turtle Times, Summer 1989.

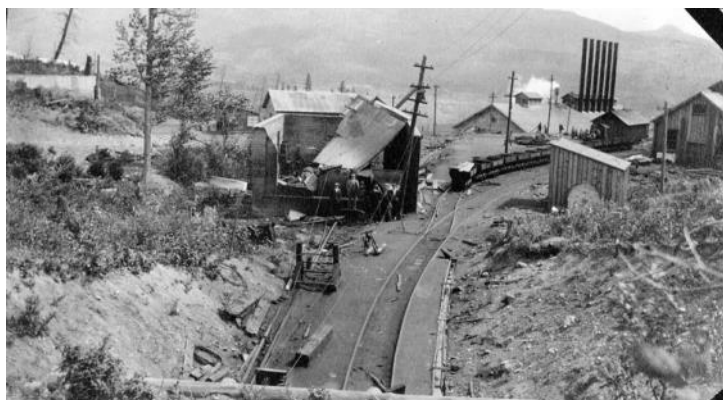
Minor changes have been made to the text for consistency in style and dates.

INTRODUCTION

On June 19th 1914, at 9:30 am, an explosion ripped through Hillcrest's #1 mine after 235 men had entered it to work. One hundred and eighty-nine men would not leave alive.

It has been said that there was no a single person in the Crowsnest Pass who did not lose a friend or relative. More than 130 women became widows, responsible for more than 400 children. June 19th marks the 98th anniversary of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster, CANADA'S WORST MINING DISASTER.

Following, is the story of Julia Makin whose father, Wasil "Charles" Elick, was killed in this tragic event.



Concrete hoist house destroyed by air blast from shaft no. 2. Hillcrest Mine. 1914 Galt Museum & Archives #19641120000-107

JULIA'S STORY

Of course I remember the Hillcrest mine disaster. My Father was killed in it. It was June 19th 1914.

We were at school. I was eight years old, in Grade Two. It must have been about nine o'clock when we heard the whistle blow. We didn't hear the explosion, but those whistles kept blowing and blowing. At first we started for home, but everyone was going to the mine. Mrs. Allcroft had a pail with coffee and sandwiches in it, and I helped her carry it.

When we got to the washhouse, they had a big rope tied around to keep everyone back. Every time the coal cars came up from the mine with the bodies wrapped up in blankets, the women would run to the cars. The mounted police were there in their red uniforms keeping them back.

Well, everyone from town was there, even the little kids. We were scared of the mine rescue men. They had all this equipment on, gas masks and breathing apparatus. We could see wagons at the washhouse and the men were wrapped in cheese-cloth like mummies. They brought them to town and laid them out at the Halton-Moser store and at the Union Hall.

It was snowing when we buried them. Snowing in June. At the funeral they had all the caskets lined up. Every time someone opened one up, I kept running up to see my Dad, but I never did. They took them in wagons. The horses had fancy red plumes on their heads and the wagons had lace things over them and the band was playing the funeral march. It took a couple of days to bury them. There were 189 men killed. They had a big trench and they buried them two-by-two, and they covered them all.

My Dad was only 42. You know, he was also one of the men trapped in the Frank Mine when the mountain fell in 1903. They got out of that okay, and then he ended up getting killed in the Hillcrest Mine. Mind you, some families lost more than one. Some were only 17 years old—just young kids.

My brother, John, was born the day after the explosion. Probably from the shock, although we didn't know anything about that then. Didn't even know Mother was expecting—not like kids now. And that night a big tree fell on our house and destroyed it.

Mother buried her husband, had a baby, and lost her home all within two days. And it was snowing in June.



Hillcrest Mine Rescue Team. Stanley W. Frolick. 1914. Provincial Archives of Alberta. A2413.



Funeral in Hillcrest. W.T. Young. 1914 Provincial Archives of Alberta. A1774.



Hillcrest Graves. W.T. Young. 1914. Provincial Archives of Alberta. A1781.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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CROWSNEST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES: Summer Events Schedule:

- July 1 – Canada Day – Museum admission by donation for the day
- July 21 – Rum Runner Days – Parade
- August 4 – Teddy Bears’ Picnic
- September 29 – Harvest of Memories Fundraising Gala w/ Alberta Culture Days
- “Crownsnest and it’s Quilts” exhibit – opening soon

HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



HIKE TO THE DRIVE LANES: First Saturday of each month, May through October.

11 am - 3 pm. Bring a lunch. Phone to book. Blackfoot guides will lead these hikes.
 July 7th, August 4th, September 1st and October 6th.

Introducing the 1st Annual Bellevue Underground Mine Fundraising Gala!

Music for the Mine

Come out and enjoy a fun-filled evening of dine and dance as Bellevue Underground Mine presents this exciting fundraising gala for a new interpretive centre. The evening includes a silent auction, best table in the house, and a 50/50 draw.

Entertainment by Dino Martinis
Catering by Country Encounters Hospitality

Date: Saturday, August 4, 2012
Time: Cocktails 6 PM / Dinner 7 PM / Dance 9 PM
Location: MD McEchern Community Centre Gymnasium
Tickets: \$50 each or \$350 for a table of 8

To purchase tickets please contact Diane at :
403.564.4711 or 403.564.4700

or visit Room 2 at MDM or the Bellevue Underground
Mine site before April 23rd

CROWSNEST PASS DOORS OPEN AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Thursday August 2nd to Monday August 6th.

The festival has been extended by one day this year to accommodate new activities and celebrations. Keep this time open to volunteer and/or attend the many heritage activities that will be offered during the festival.

BOMBER COMMAND OF CANADA



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

- Saturday, July 28th Joe English Memorial Fly-by
- Saturday, August 18th, The Calgary Mosquito

Lancaster Merlin Engine Run-ups.

May 6th, June 7th, July 7th, August 6th, August 18th and September 22nd.

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

100 YEARS AGO

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- May 16th. Miners out on Strike. The miners of Bellevue are out on strike against the new methods of mining being introduced by the new management. Blairmore Enterprise.
- May 24th. Charles Dawson brought the first five skull fragments of the Piltdown man to the British Museum. Dawson's "missing link" would be proven to be a hoax in 1953 .
- June 4th. Canada agreed to join in the celebration of 100 years of Anglo-American peace since the War of 1812 fought in Canada and in the United States.
- June 6th. Happenings in and Around Bellevue. As J. Cousins was coming out of the mine on Monday, he accidentally overbalanced himself and put his foot into a tub of boiling water by the lamp house. Blairmore Enterprise.
- June 13th. A Cave-in occurred in the Bellevue Mine about 3:30 Wednesday. It covered nearly 100 yards of the main entry way. No one was hurt. Blairmore Enterprise.
- June 17th. The Supreme Court of Canada held that Parliament could not pass a national law governing marriage, and that mixed marriages solemnized by a Protestant clergyman could not be outlawed.

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

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