



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #32

September 2013

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by
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A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project.

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

It's that time of the year. The temperature is dropping, the leaves are falling and the annual heritage event of the year—the Crowsnest Historical Society's **Harvest of Memories Gala**—will take place on Saturday, September 28th. Information and an order form for tickets is attached to the back of this newsletter. Better yet, pick up your tickets from the Museum next Tuesday.

Did you know that the carving of pumpkins at Halloween probably originated from the Irish and Scottish tradition of carving turnips and other root crops during *Samhain* ("summer's end"), a Gaelic harvest festival? *Samhain* is celebrated between sunset on October 31st and sunset on November 1st. The name Halloween (from All Hallows' Eve), or more specifically the term "hallow", can be traced back to the Old English word *halig*, meaning "saint".



Irish turnip lantern. Early 20th century. Museum of Country Life. Wikimedia Commons.



WHAT'S ON

THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM

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

Open : Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 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. There is a gift shop near the entrance. For tours and educational programs: Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca.

Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.

Harvest of Memories Fall Festival: Saturday, September 28th, 6 pm.

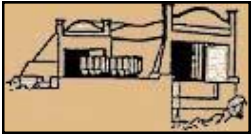
The Crowsnest Historical Society will be holding its "**Harvest of Memories Fall Festival**" fundraising event at the Spring Break Garden Centre in Hillcrest. This not-to-be-missed event supports the continued operation of the Crowsnest Museum and Archives. It is the largest annual fundraiser for the Crowsnest Museum. So, celebrate Crowsnest history and help preserve your unique past by attending this amazing night.

Single tickets are \$40, couple tickets are \$75 and tables (8 places) are \$280. Buy them at the Museum or at Copy Magic, Main Street, Blairmore.

A ticket order form can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

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



The Mine is closed for the season, but will open again in mid-May 2014. Off-Season tours can still be booked at a charge of \$150 plus admission.

THE FRANK SLIDE CENTRE

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388

Alberta Culture Days. September 27th to 29th.

The Centre will celebrate the arts, culture and heritage of the Crowsnest Pass. For more information, please contact Cathy Pisony at cathy.pisony@gov.ab.ca or call 403-562-7388.



The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre highlights the rich heritage of the Crowsnest Pass amid the breathtaking beauty of the Canadian Rockies. The Centre is open all year and visitors will be greeted by friendly, knowledgeable staff who will share the fascinating stories of the Frank Slide through dynamic interpretive programs and presentations. State-of-the-art interactive displays and exhibits throughout the Centre focus on the infamous Frank Slide of 1903 - Canada's deadliest rockslide. The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (10:00 am to 6:00 pm in the summer). Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22. The Centre will be closed on Dec. 24th, 25th, and Jan. 1st.

KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM

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



Saturday, September 28: 1950s Fling

Held at the Pincher Creek Legion, in partnership with Windy Hollow Players. Come in your favorite in period outfits and listen to Jackie Therriault and Kevin Fitzpatrick perform music. Drama is at its height when Windy Hollow Players Theatrical Group Members mix with the crowd, adding an interactive aspect to the evening. Advance tickets only \$30 per person.

Established in 1966, the Museum consists of 19 buildings housing over 18,000 artifacts from southern Alberta. The legendary George "Kootenai" Brown lived in southern Alberta and his cabin and some of his possessions form part of the Museum's exhibits.

Kootenai Brown is open to the public daily from 9 am to 4 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday through the winter season, Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free, Families \$25

FERNIE MUSEUM

491 Victoria Ave. (2nd Ave.), Fernie, BC 250-423-7016



Heritage Tea Tickets Now Selling at the Fernie Museum! Saturday September 28th

To mark the occasion of the completion of the Fernie Museum Project, the Museum is hosting Heritage Tea in the Museum Gallery. Tickets are \$15.00 each and include a museum membership, tea with scrumptious savouries and sweets, and vignettes of music and theatre for your entertainment as well as draw prizes. Hats and period fashions are encouraged to capture the spirit of the Heritage Tea theme. There will be three seatings: 10:30 am, 12:30 am and 2:30 pm.

The Fernie Museum & Visitor Information Centre is located in one of Fernie's distinctive heritage buildings at 491 2nd Ave. The building itself, an important example of Fernie's rich history, boasts a main floor exhibit hall with the visitor info centre, as well as a lovely Museum Gallery on the 2nd floor. Public washrooms are available on each floor.

HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



Buffalo Harvest Days. September 27th to 29th.

The ancient buffalo harvest is a principal story that is told at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. First Nations people demonstrate their artistic skills and display their products. Feel the beat of the drum as you watch spectacular First Nations dance demonstrations. A free children's crafting workshop and themed buffalo harvest activities are available.

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.



The Museum is open: April 16 to October 15 (every day 9 am—5 pm) October 16 to April 15 (weekends only 10 am—4 pm.)
Phone to arrange visits at other times

FORT WHOOP-UP NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Lethbridge, off Whoop-Up Drive. 403-329-0444



Fort Whoop-Up existed before there was an Alberta or Mounties; it was a notorious frontier trading post. It lies nestled in the coulees of Indian Battle Park, near the Oldman River. It all started in 1869, when American fur traders brought a wagon train of whiskey and other trade goods north. They established a stockade, later known as Fort Whoop Up, and made a ton of profit before the Mounties showed up to rein in the whiskey business. Today, the fort still trades with the aboriginal Blackfoot tribes of Southern Alberta, supplying many ceremonial goods, hides, sweetgrass, and other items.

The Fort is open June 1st - Sept. 30th, Wednesday to Monday (closed Tuesdays) from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; October, Wednesday to Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; November to March, Saturday and Sunday, 12:00 - 4:00 pm; April and May, Wednesday to Saturday, 12:00 - 4:00 pm. Adults \$7, Seniors (65+) \$6, Students \$5, Under 5 free, Families \$18.69.

GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

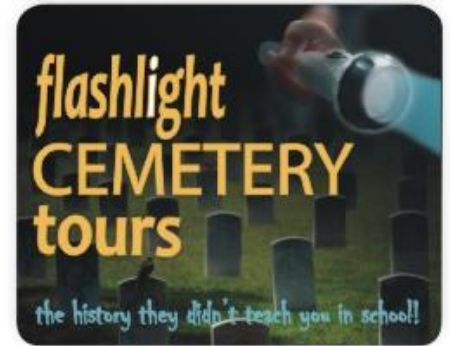
502 1st St. S., Lethbridge 1-866-320-3898



Flashlight Cemetery Tours

Fri OCT 04, 11: 8pm | 9pm
Sat OCT 05, 12: 8pm | 9pm
Fri OCT 18: 8pm | 9pm SOLD OUT | 10pm
Sat OCT 19: 8pm SOLD OUT | 9pm | 10pm

Quiet, respectable Lethbridge where everyone is polite and well behaved? Well, not always. Experience the history they didn't teach you in school at this year's Flashlight Cemetery Tours of Lethbridge's oldest burying ground, St. Patrick's Cemetery. Tickets \$5 or \$4 in person at the Museum Store. Phone 403-320-3954.



Ticket holders meet at the St. Patrick's Cemetery gates on far west end of 6 Ave N. | each tour lasts 50 minutes.

Be sure to dress warmly, wear good sturdy walking shoes, bring along a flashlight and, just maybe, somebody to hold hands with.

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.

REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

623 Main St. Cardston. 403-653-5139



A History of Motion Pictures.

Tuesday September 10th through November 12th
Start Time 7:00 p.m. in the Remington Carriage Museum Theater.

The cost is free, but participants must pre-register by the Monday before the movie showing. Participants can pre-register by calling 403-653-5139 ext 0 Please leave a message if calling after 4:00 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m.

Beginning in the late 1800s, the motion picture industry grew from novelty experiments and "peepshows" to the world-wide cultural phenomenon we know today. How did it begin, and what were some of the milestones along the way? These are the questions that will be answered in this survey of early film. Set aside one night a week to attend the Remington Carriage Museum and enjoy a film presentation in the Museum's theatre. Howard Snyder will be your guide to some of the greatest films of the first 50 years of the movies.

Sept 24th – **Silent Classics**
Chaplin "The Gold Rush" - 1925

October 29th – **Tears and Laughter – The films of Frank Capra**
Clark Gable, Claudette Colbert "It Happened One Night" - 1934

October 1st – **Silent Classics**
Keaton "The General" - 1926

November 5th – **Technicolor and the Biggest Box-Office Film in Movie History**
Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh "Gone With the Wind" - 1939

October 8th – **The Sound Era Begins**
Al Jolson "The Jazz Singer" - 1927

November 12th – **Let's Get Serious – The Modern Western**
Alan Ladd "Shane" – 1953

October 15nd – **The Sound era Begins**
John Wayne "The Big Trail" - 1930

October 22nd – **The First Great Monster Film**
Fay Wray "King Kong" - 1933

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 am—4 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



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. It will be closing for the season on September 30th.

WRITING-ON-STONE



May 17th - Oct. 13th.

Rock art tours. Writing-on-Stone / Áísinaí'pi is a sacred landscape. The spectacular Milk River valley contains the largest concentration of First Nation petroglyphs (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock paintings) on the great plains of North America.

ALBERTA CULTURE DAYS

September 27th—29th.

Venues throughout the Crowsnest Pass will be holding cultural events, displays and presentations in celebration of Alberta Culture Days. Keep these days free in order to participate.

FEATURE ARTICLE

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A lifetime of abuse ... a brush with civilization leaves more than a century of battle-scars

By
David McIntyre



A photograph (circa 1903) of the North-West Mounted Police Post in the Town of Frank (then part of the Northwest Territories) captures what appears certain to be a festive moment in time. The view looks north across the Crowsnest River (then known as the "Middle Fork" of the Old Man River) at the flanks of Bluff Mountain. Near the center of the picture is a small Douglas-fir. It appears to be the same tree that, still living, can be seen today on the north side of Highway 3 in a PARKING PROHIBITED parking lot. Crowsnest Pass Museum and Archives.

Life unfolds on the forest edge

The village of Frank, created almost overnight by the discovery of an accessible seam of coal, officially opened its doors to the public in September of 1901. The recently completed (1898) Canadian Pacific Railway brought guests from far and wide. Nearly 3,000 people jammed the streets.

A French chef served up the meal of the day, and sporting events featured lacrosse, football, foot races and more. An orchestra added music. Dances started in the afternoon and continued into the night.

The future looked bright.

The cutting of forests, the clearing of timber



The view (from the historic Bridgeland photo collection, circa 1914) looks south across the Crowsnest River valley from the southern flanks of Bluff (Goat) Mountain. A small portion of the 1903 Frank Slide is visible to the left of Turtle Mountain (the featured peak). What's missing from this century-old view? The bulk of the pre-settlement forest.

As the upper Crowsnest River valley was settled, its accessible forests all but disappeared. They were leveled, beginning in the late 1800s, to feed a ravenous demand for wood. Lumber was used for railway ties, mine timbers and building construction.

The insatiable market for timber soon stripped the land of its pre-settlement coniferous forest.

In addition to the trees felled by loggers, wildfires claimed a staggering toll. Many were started by embers from the railway's wood-burning steam engines. Wildfires raged throughout the Canadian West, and Crowsnest Pass was no exception.

A survivor emerges

One of these trees, an aging, battle-scarred veteran, is with us today. It's an easy-to-overlook *little* Douglas-fir.

The tree, on the south shore of the Crowsnest River, is located between Bluff (Goat) Mountain and Turtle Mountain. It stands near the river on the edge of a large PARKING PROHIBITED area where, typically, large trucks and other vehicles are parked.

Recently, a friend, noticing that the tree appeared to be the same tree revealed in a photograph (circa 1903) of the North-West Mounted Police barracks at Frank, brought it to my attention (see picture at end of article).

I've been vaguely aware of the little tree—it's less than 10 meters tall—for decades, have driven by it thousands of times, parked under it and stood beneath it. But it wasn't until this summer that I walked up to the tree while contemplating its potential to be more than 100 years of age, and—here's the intriguing part of the story—hold data that would link its life with the people of Crowsnest Pass.

As I looked at the unassuming Douglas-fir, I found it hard to believe it could be more than 100 years old. But a closer examination revealed the tree, older than a quick glance might suggest, had endured a litany of abuses.

Forest removal and its downstream effects

The logging, rampant wildfires and clearing of the land that began in the late 1800s removed the vast bulk of the pre-settlement forest throughout the Crowsnest River's headwaters. This wholesale denuding of the viewscape robbed the land of its ability to function as a natural buffer against rapid snowmelt and heavy rainfall.

The result: dramatic increases in runoff and erosion.

The devastating floods of 1902, 1923 and 1942, all of which, based on photographs, appear to have been *far* worse than the subsequent flooding in 1995, 2005 and 2013, were amplified and powered by a "missing" forest.

Few valley-bottom conifers approaching harvestable size were spared. The most notable exceptions: the largest Douglas-firs, formidable trees that proved too big for the equipment of the day, their bark thick enough to withstand the fires that consumed life around them.

It's remarkable that, amid this wholesale timber harvest, the clearing of the land and rampant wildfires, some relatively old trees survived on society's doorstep.



Main Street in flood, Coleman, 1923. Glenbow Museum Archives NA-2444-1.



Flood in Coleman, 1942. Glenbow Museum Archives NA-3091-17.

The tree's legacy

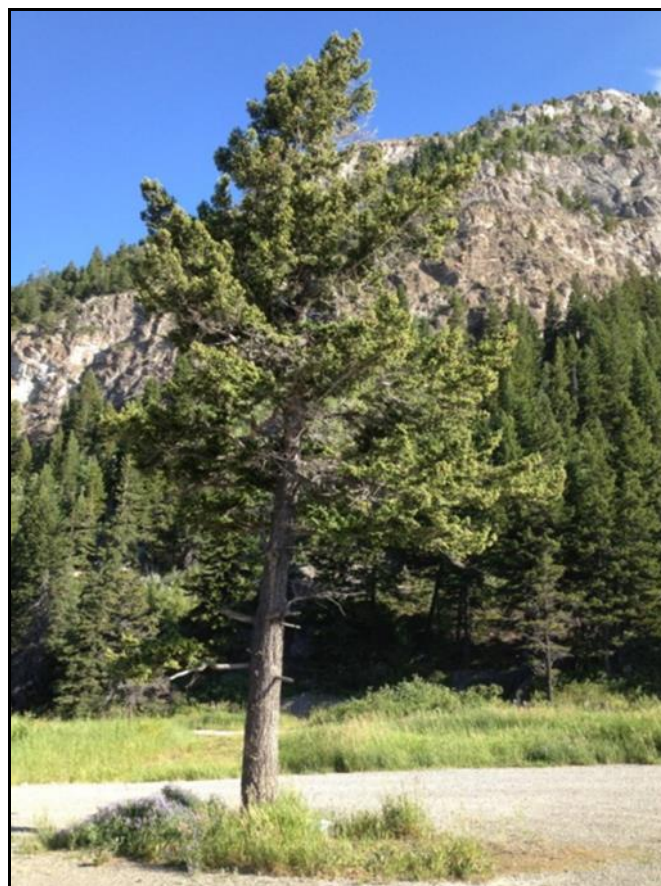
The "parking lot" Douglas-fir living in greater Frank, growing in the midst of settlement, survived outside the North-West Mounted Police Barracks (early 1900s), endured the peopled edge of the Rocky Mountain Sanatorium (also early 1900s), withstood a stampede of foot and vehicle traffic during the years of the Turtle Mountain Playgrounds (1941 - 1970) and tolerated the tenure of the Turtle Mountain Motor Inn (1958 - 1998).

More recently, the tree has withstood the abuses associated with life in a PARKING PROHIBITED parking lot, where it still clings to life on a tumultuous ride through tough times.

How old is the little tree? We'll likely never know unless further iffy coring is attempted. Informed logic suggests, however, that the tree, while not looking a day over 100 years of age, is more likely to be well in excess of 200, and perhaps even greater than 300, as the extrapolation of available core data would suggest to be possible, especially after adding the number of years—as many as 25—it took the tree to reach the height (roughly one meter) where I cored it.

Epilogue

It's more than likely that the small tree that appears in the 1903 picture is the same tree that lives today near river's edge on what, one-hundred years ago, was a bustling hub of commerce. The battle-scarred Douglas-fir has lived a hard life. Ironically, its life was spared by a populace that, as time passed, abused the tree with reckless abandon while driving, working and playing in its shade.



If we could see farther into the past, we might discover that this easy-to-overlook tree living in the narrow gap between Bluff and Turtle mountains has witnessed more than 10 generations of *K'tunaxa* (Kootenay), *Piikani* and *Kainai* (Blackfoot) as they traversed the Crowsnest River valley, ... and we might catch a glimpse of Michael Phillipps (credited with the 1873 "discovery" of Crowsnest Pass) and George Mercer Dawson (renowned geologist and mapper of Crowsnest Pass coal measures) as they stood beneath it, and perhaps reached out to touch it. This tree, which has touched our lives, has touched the lives of many who have preceded us.

Irrespective of how much longer the tree lives, it will likely die when its heart-rot-consumed inner core fails to give it sufficient strength to weather a *big-wind* event.

Most of the area's old, to *really* old, Douglas-firs—the oldest known are approximately 650 years of age—die when *big-wind* causes their trunks to fracture, thus revealing the heart-rot that set the stage for the tree's structural weakness and sudden—down-and-out—demise.

David McIntyre is a writer and environmental scientist living in the Crowsnest Pass.

HERITAGE NEWS

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Crowsnest Pass Heritage Inventory Project

Phase I (Coleman and east to the provincial border) of the Crowsnest Heritage Inventory Project has been completed. The final report was presented to the Municipality on September 3rd and to the public at an open house on September 4th. The report was compiled by Community Design Strategies Ltd. If adequate funding is obtained, Phase II (Blairmore and Frank) will begin in the spring of 2014. The project will be looking for volunteers.

The heritage inventory project will benefit Crowsnest Pass including:

- helping the Municipality identify buildings of significant heritage value within the community;
- helping building owners—wishing to protect the heritage value of their property—apply to have their property recognized as a Municipal Heritage Resource, thereby making them eligible for matching provincial funding for restoration and repair projects;
- providing the basis for the development of a Municipal Heritage Management Plan; and
- allowing the Municipality to re-join the Alberta Main Street Program and be eligible for cost-shared funding from the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, plus obtain advice on tourism, marketing and economic development to revitalize Crowsnest's historic downtown areas.

- **26 September:** Mar On to Lay Concrete Sidewalks. Mar On is one of the first to undertake the laying of concrete sidewalks, and this week let the contract for a sidewalk in front of his property occupied by the Blairmore Restaurant and the F.M. Thompson Co. We understand the new sidewalk will be twelve feet wide by fifty feet and will compare with the sidewalks already placed in front of the Alberta and Cosmopolitan hotels. *Blairmore Enterprise* Front Page.
- **3 October:** Geological Party Visits Turtle Mountain. A party of geologists, headed by Professor Brock made a journey to the top of Turtle Mountain on Saturday last, and we learn found nothing to excite further fear regarding the safety of the town of Frank. *Blairmore Enterprise* Front page.
- **3 October:** Charged with Horse-Stealing. Al. F. McRae appeared in the police docket on Saturday morning last charged with having had in his possession at Macleod a gelding belonging to T. Bardsley of Bellevue. He was remanded till tomorrow, Saturday. L.H. Putnam appears for the defendant. *Blairmore Enterprise* Front page.
- **4 October:** Freddy Wilson of Regina Roughriders kicks 10 singles in a game.
- **10 October:** Blairmore Opera House. Moving Pictures. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Adults 25c, Children 10c. *Blairmore Enterprise* Page 4
- **16 October:** The HMS *Queen Elizabeth* launched at Portsmouth Dockyard as the first oil-fired battleship.
- **31 October:** Penalties for Speeding. Edmonton, Oct. 24—A large number of statute law amendments were tabled yesterday. One of the most important provides heavier penalties for automobile speeding which has been the cause of a large number of accidents lately. The penalties for first offence are \$50 fine; for second \$100 or one week's imprisonment or both and for third offence \$100 fine as well as imprisonment for one week to one month with cancellation of licenses. *Blairmore Enterprise* Front Page.
- **31 October:** The Lincoln Highway was dedicated. It was the first paved, coast to coast automobile road across the United States.
- **7 and 8 November:** A storm on the Great Lakes historically referred to as the "Big Blow," destroyed 19 ship and grounded 19 others. Over 250 people were killed. Winds gusted over 145 km/hr, waves reached heights of 11 metres and some areas received over 60 cm of snow. The present day valuation of damage is about \$116 million.

Harvest of Memories Fall Festival

Ticket Order Form

You're invited to the annual Harvest of Memories Fall Festival on Saturday, September 28th 2013 at the Spring Break Garden Centre This event is the largest annual fundraiser for the Crowsnest Museum. Celebrate Crowsnest history and help us preserve our unique past by attending this amazing night.

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Order Form

Number of Tickets:

Single Tickets: ___ x \$40 Couple Tickets: ___ x \$75 Table (8 People): ___ x \$280

Total Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Names of Guests:

Payment Type:

Cash Cheque Credit Card (Visa or Mastercard)

Credit Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____

(Cheques should be made payable to Crowsnest Historical Society.)

Contact Information

Please complete this form and either mail it to PO Box 306, Coleman AB T0K 0M0, fax it to 403-563-5434, email the Museum at crowsnestmuseum@shaw.ca, purchase tickets online at www.crowsnestmuseum.ca/harvestofmemories/

The Spring Break Garden Centre is located at 1606 East Hillcrest Drive.

Harvest of Memories



GALA
AT THE
GREENHOUSE

CELEBRATE AND HELP PRESERVE CROWSNEST HISTORY AT THE CROWSNEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER, THE HARVEST OF MEMORIES - GALA AT THE GREENHOUSE. THIS FUNDRAISING BANQUET AND DANCE, HELD IN AN ATTRACTIVELY DECORATED GREENHOUSE, FEATURES MUSIC BY STARLITE (DJ), AN AMAZINGLY CATERED DINNER, AND LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS INCLUDING NEWLY RELEASED GUSHUL PRINTS. ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH 2013

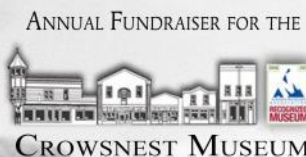
6:00 PM

**SPRING BREAK GARDEN CENTRE
1606 EAST HILLCREST DRIVE, CROWSNEST PASS**

TICKETS AVAILABLE (IN ADVANCE ONLY) AT THE
CROWSNEST MUSEUM AND COPY MAGIC.

\$40/PERSON \$75/COUPLE \$280/TABLE

CONTACT THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM AT 403-563-5434,
OR VISIT CROWSNESTMUSEUM.CA



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