



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

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Co-Editors

Isabel Russell and Ken Allred

A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project

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

Issue #38

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What's On?

Crowsnest Museum Sponsored Programs:

Connecting Communities - Programs for Seniors

All of the people who have come to the Crowsnest Pass - no matter when they arrived - brought with them the traditions, clothes and customs of home. With this program we will explore some of those customs, traditions, and stories. **Nostalgia Programs for Seniors** - Sharing Stories, Identifying Photos and Enjoying Food Together.

Topic 4 - Focus on Blairmore

March 18: 1:00-3:00 pm Blairmore Lions Clubhouse

April 8: 1:00 - 3:00 PM - York Creek Lodge

April 22: 1:00-3:00 PM - Crowsnest Hospital Continuing Care

Solve a History Mystery - History Detectives -

Saturday Afternoons at the Museum. Fun for kids and adults alike. (Drop-in between 1:00-5:00 - \$2 admission)

March: *The Case of the Missing Mountaineer* - What would you do if you were lost in the mountains? Learn about Search and Rescue's daring rescues, and make an emergency kit to keep with you as you explore outside.

April: *The Case of the Spinetling Spring Mystery* - Spring is in the air - but what makes all the plants start growing? This natural history mystery will touch on some homesteading skills.

May: *The Case of the Phantom Photograph* - Science and history combine! We'll look at how photographs work, and follow a mystery in photos taken by the Gushul studio

Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery - - Mon-Thur - 10:00-3:00, Fri - 1:00-2:00 & 2:00-4:00, Weekends and Holidays 1:00-4:00

- **Feb. 21 - March 22 - "Emergence"**
- **March 28 - April 26 - "Self Portraits: Within the Artist"** - Opening Reception - **March 28 - 1:00-3:00**
- **April 3 - Good Friday**
- **Easter Sunday**
- **May 2 - May 31 - "Transition"** - Opening Reception: **May 2, 1-3 PM** **March 17 - St. Patrick's Day**
- **June 6- July 5 - "Frank Slide Installation"** by Lethbridge artist Troy Nickel
- **July 11 - August 9 - "The Awareness of Joy"** - Annual juried summer show from local area artists
- **August 15 - Sept 13 - "In Conversation"** - a visual collaboration of painter Angelique Gillespie & potter Heather Fletcher

Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery exhibit at Stone's Throw Cafe

- **March 30 - May 25** - abstract acrylics from Jean Blackall
- **May 25 - July 20** - Photography by Kylee Forget
- **July 20 - Sept 14** - Acrylic paintings from Justina Smith

Gushul Studio To Receive Historic Designation

The Gushul Studio and accompanying cottage is destined to become a municipal historic resource, subject to official sanction by the Council of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass. The site is owned by the University of Lethbridge who have recently applied to Council for the official designation. Council in turn has passed a notification of intention to designate the property as a municipal historic resource.

Evan Gushul was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Crowsnest Historical Society at last years annual meeting. On October 7, 2014 Evan, the last of the Gushul children, passed away in Lethbridge at the age of 98.

Feature Article

The Gushuls

Barbara van Vierssen Trip

As a reader of the Heritage News and someone who has an interest in the history of the Crowsnest Pass area, there is a good chance you heard about the death of Evan Gushul in October 2014. There were approximately fifty people in attendance at his funeral; family, friends and acquaintances from across Southern Alberta came to pay their respects at the Martin Brothers Funeral Home in Lethbridge. Even if you didn't hear about Evan's passing, there is a good chance that his work and that of his family may be familiar to you.

The Gushul family story begins in what is now western Ukraine. Thomas Gushul was born in the town of Rozniw before emigrating to Canada. Prior to settling in the Crowsnest Pass, Thomas worked for the CPR laying track in BC and Lethbridge, and also as a Ukrainian teacher in Manitoba. It was while in the Crowsnest Pass area, however, that Thomas refined and practiced his skills in photography. He captured many iconic photographs of the Hillcrest Mine disaster in 1914, and by 1917 (with the help of study with a Winnipeg school) Thomas quit working in the mines to devote himself to a full time career as a professional photographer. The Gushuls originally operated a studio in Coleman. Later Thomas bought two old miner's cottages from Lille and combined them to create his 'Photo Studio' which still exists near downtown Blairmore.

According to an essay written by one of the Gushul children, Thomas heard from friends about a beautiful young Ukrainian woman from his hometown named Lena Sawiek. (They had never met in the Ukraine, although they both hailed from the same small town – it would take relocating halfway around the globe for their paths to cross.) She had been living in Edmonton, and he went there to meet her. Before too many months had passed, he convinced her to join him in Coleman, where they were married at the St. Paul's church on September 19, 1914. They soon had expanded their family to include daughters Nadia, Paraska, Polly and son Evan.



The Gushul children's childhood is well documented in photos. Their parents were attentive, often joined them in games, and encouraged both a sense of fun and a strong work ethic with discipline to strive for perfection in all things. The children helped with a large vegetable and flower garden in front of the studio, took photos of their affectionate cats, and learned both music and Ukrainian dance. They posed with animals mounted by a

taxidermist and with beautiful vegetables. Later, the children (and especially Evan) were encouraged to help with the family photography business. As a youth, Evan assisted with his father's photo engravings.

On the occasions I've had to listen to Evan speak about his family, he paints a picture of loving – but strict – parents with high standards. There was no such thing as sloppy work coming out of the Gushul Studio; Thomas and Lena strived to make their work as close to perfection as possible, and expected the same of their offspring. There were a few times when their children found this frustrating but it set the high standard that became their trademark for the rest of their lives!



Thomas and Lena Gushul

Evan spent a good deal of his youth interested in not only photography (which he learned from a young age with his family) but also welding. He apprenticed to a local craftsman as a teenager, and learned how to work with various metals. He always had an inquisitive mind, and worked at finding new solutions to any task he had at hand.

One issue he and his father worked on together was wide angle photography. While today any smartphone user can use their device to take a wide angle panoramic photo, if Thomas and Evan wanted to take a very wide angle shot they required special equipment. When they were not able to find a lens which could take an image of the whole of the Frank Slide, Thomas and Evan worked together to make a lens and camera setup which could capture the full width of the slide run out. They had to work together to calculate the distance from the spot where they wanted to take their photo, the angles they would need to fill the whole length of the slide, then what focal distance they would need to make that angle work. The pair of them managed to construct their camera and take the photo – the first where the entire magnitude of the Slide was shown in a single image. This is simply one example of countless innovations, large and small, which both Thomas and Evan applied with the technologies they had available to them in that era.

Thomas passed away in 1962, after a time of ill health. Lena Gushul lived and worked in the studio they had built together until she passed away in 1981. This was however, not the end of the Gushul photographic legacy.

Evan served in the Second World War as a soldier, after which time he came back to the Crowsnest Pass. He married Hazel Neale, a young woman widowed by the war with two sons. He raised her two boys, Wallace (Bud) and David Neale, as his sons. Hazel and Evan had six grandchildren.

Evan continued his father's work as a photographer with a studio in Coleman through the 1950s, taking pictures both professional (weddings, official events) and personal (photos of his family, friends, camping trips, parties and everyday events). He kept this role as official and unofficial photographer with his family and friends for decades.

Evan Gushul later worked for many years with the Agriculture Canada Research Centre in Lethbridge, where (as official photographer) he helped document scientific research. His photos were especially important in the documentation of insects studied at the Centre. Here, Evan's inventive streak was invaluable as he found new ways to photograph small life. He was given several awards for his innovations to the field of scientific photography.

One story told at his funeral was about a project on mosquito lifecycles, where a researcher needed to have images of immature mosquito specimens overwintering in the wild. Evan made adjustments to a camera in order to allow it to take photos in incredibly cold weather (cold often affects camera shutters, which can ruin a photo's exposure) and gamely went out to a prairie field with this scientist in -40° conditions only to have a very confused RCMP officer come out to see what was wrong, as these two men laying in a field in that weather must be in serious distress!

Evan Gushul was a photographer, an inventor, a veteran, a family man, a musician and a man of many friends to the end of his life. He seemed to always have a way of surprising or inspiring everyone he came into contact with. Although the Gushul name ended with Evan, the Gushul family's work continues to entertain and inspire locals and artists from around the world.



Evan and Family Friend Working on a Homemade Radio

Photographs from the Gushul Collection, Crowsnest Museum & Archives

Gushul Artist in Residence

Important to the preservation of the Gushul Studios is the University of Lethbridge *Artist in Residence* program. On a regular basis the U of L invites artists to bid on an opportunity for a month in residence at the Gushul Studio in Blairmore. The program is not free, successful artists pay a monthly rental for the studio and residence and must submit a formal application with examples of their work and their professional resumé as well as a detailed essay on what they want to achieve if accepted.



This month's *Artist in Residence* is actually here for two months and most interestingly this is her second visit to Gushul. Deb Nicholls hails from Brisbane, Australia and this time she brought her husband, Ian and teenage son, Mitchell to find out first hand what winter in the mountains is all about. Deb was here on her own in December, 2013 for a one month residency so she is quite familiar with the Crowsnest Pass. This time however they have 'wheels' so they are able to get around and see more of Southern Alberta.

Deb holds multiple degrees, firstly in Business Management which kept her gainfully employed in business administration until she felt it was time to do what she really enjoyed and went back to Griffiths University in Brisbane and got a degree in Fine Arts. She graduated in 2012 with a number of prestigious awards. She has her own studio back 'down under' and does three or four exhibits a year. She is an active participant in the arts community in Brisbane.

Deb's classifies her art style as a *response to environment*. She does landscapes and has an interesting work on the *Rocks of the Frank Slide* - a detailed painting of a sampling of rocks in situ, that depict the lichen that has grown on them over the past 112 years. She will having an exhibit of her work towards the end of her tenure here in Blairmore. She has a wide variety of paintings ranging from full wall size to miniatures.



Rocks of the Frank Slide

Deb is quite adventuresome, having already tried her skill on Powder Keg. She has toured many of the sights around southern Alberta, seeking out interesting subjects for her work.

Drop by Gushul Studios and give Deb and her family a warm welcome to the Pass.

Poetry Corner

The Old Pack Trail

There's an old pack trail a windin'
Out there to the hills
Through the tall and uncut timber
Past the craigs and dancin' rills
There's a campsite in the mountains
'Neath the spreading balsam trees
Where the pitch pine scent is wafted
light
Along the hurrin' breeze.

I can see the deer tracks leavin'
Where the white tail made his bed
And I hear the old owls query
In the treetops overhead
I can hear the wild goose callin'
As he flies there by the lake
And I hear the blue grouse drummin'
Where he hides there in the break.

Oh I hear the Red Gods callin'
With the call outdoorsmen know
The October woods are beckonin'
And I guess I'll have to go
For I feel my whole being yearnin'
And my heart with pleasure fills
For a sight of that old pack trail
Windin' out there to the hills.

A.M. (Marv) Harwood,

The Gushul Legacy Continues at the Crowsnest Museum

In February, the Crowsnest Museum was fortunate to receive another wonderful donation of Gushul family memorabilia to add to our collection. With the passing of Evan Gushul this past autumn the family began looking at how Evan's life's work, his family's legacy and all the wonderful history they recorded would be preserved for future generations. We are very grateful that the family believes the Crowsnest Museum & Archives as the best place for their legacy to be preserved.

In the new collection we received some photography equipment, images from Evan's time at the Lethbridge Research Centre, family mementos, and some Crowsnest Pass Gushul Studio images. We were even given a very special family heirloom. Just before we left with the artifacts we were handed a wonderful hand-crocheted piece from one of the first residents of the Gushul Studio when it became an artist's studio. The artifact was made and framed by Th rese Grenier-Papk  and sent to the Gushul family in 1989.



Crocheted Butterfly by Theresa Grenier-Papke

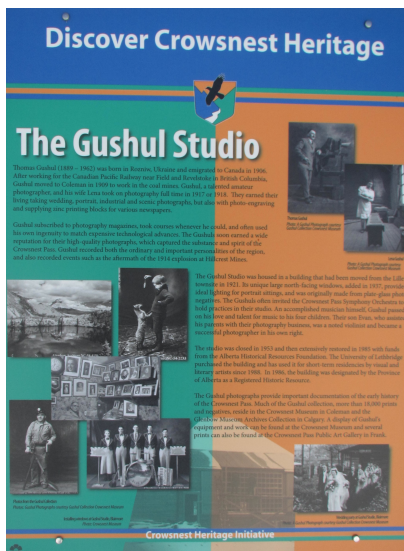
We are very happy to add these new pieces of Gushul family legacy to our Gushul Collection in the Museum. A special thanks to Bud and Darlene Neale. We are grateful to be entrusted with their family's treasures, and they have always been great supporters of the Museum.

Chris Mathews - Crowsnest Museum

SIGNS OF THE CROWSNEST PASS

The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative has installed four information kiosks, about fifty signs and over a hundred building plaques, each revealing a small piece of our diverse history. In this issue we recommend the Gushul Studio sign at 132 Street and 19 Avenue

Have you read it yet?



110 YEARS AGO 1905

- September 1, 1905- The provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta are created, Alberta was previously a region of the Northwest Territories before gaining status as a province.

100 YEARS AGO 1915

- February 6th 1915 (Blairmore Enterprise)- News reaches the Crowsnest Pass about the new "Bill to Abolish Hanging". Though the bill never proceeded further than a first reading the M.P. of St. Lawrence division in Montreal had many supporters behind him in the effort to get rid of the death penalty of hanging stating it to be a "blot upon civilization".
- March 11 1915 (Coleman Bulletin) -"Wonderful new torpedo has been invented by a Coleman business man" The man claims that his torpedo can be used to much greater advantage than any other torpedo currently invented, "he also has an invention that can be used to defend the ships of the country using it from torpedoes of any description- magnetical or any other kind."
- April 2 1915 (Bellevue Times)- Crowsnest Pass residence are told about the new use of war stamps that are going to be put into use after April 15th. "one cent war tax on letters and post cards mailed in Canada for delivery in Canada, United States or Mexico and on letters mailed in Canada for delivery in the United Kingdom and British possessions generally wherever the two cent rate applies. "
- September 23 1915- Québécois Joseph Tremblay the First Canadian soldier to die at the front in World War I. France.

50 YEARS AGO 1965

- February 15 1965- The official ceremony swearing in the new Canadian Flag was held on Parliament Hill, with Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson.

Credit - Crowsnest Museum & Archives

Historical Venues in Southern Alberta



• **CROWSNEST MUSEUM** - 7701 18th Ave. Coleman. 403-563-5434

• 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.

- Open : Monday to Sunday, 9 am - 5 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.



• **BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE** - 21814 28th Avenue Bellevue, AB T0K 0C0
(403) 564-4700

• The Bellevue Underground Mine is the only authentic historic underground coal mine tour available to western Canada. The mine is a museum based, family oriented, historic underground coal mining museum tour site that offers its visitors the opportunity to experience, first hand, what the underground miners from the first half of the 20th century would have experienced as they entered the tunnels of the Bellevue Underground Mine to go to work to each day.

- Open: Monday—Sunday 9:30 am—6:30 pm. Last tour 5:30 pm. Adults \$14, Seniors \$13, Youth \$10, Children 5 and under free, Families \$38. Discount pre-booked tours are available.



• **THE FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE** - off Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass
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 are greeted by friendly, knowledgeable staff who 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 am to 6 pm in the summer) . Adults \$11, Seniors (65+) \$9, Youth (7-17) \$5, 6 and under free, Families \$28.



• **KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM** - 1037 Bev McLachlin Dr., Pincher Creek. 403-627-3684

• This year we will be opening a special exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI and the 75th anniversary of WWII. Members of the Pincher Creek Legion, local war veterans and RCMP will participate in our plaque dedication for the exhibit and be available to give tours. There will also be a flag raising ceremony, bouncy tents, obstacle courses, face painting and balloons for kids; a concession with hotdogs, burgers, candy floss and snow cones; and historical tours.

- 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 Museum is open to the public daily from 10 am to 6 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free, Families \$25



•HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD

HERITAGE SITE) - Hwy 785 403-553-2731
the Dirve Lanes 10:30—3 pm.

Hikes to

•Experience authentic First Nations culture in the open air of our plaza. Our best native dancers perform to the beat of Blackfoot drumming and singing. Hear stories of how drumming and dancing connect us with the ancient buffalo hunting culture

- 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 am to 5 pm. Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Admission: Adults \$11, Seniors (65+) \$9, Youth (7-17) \$5, 6 and under free, Families \$28. The Centre can be booked for special events.



•GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES - 502 1st St. S., Lethbridge
1-866-320-3898

•The Museum is open all year round. Monday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 10 am to 9 pm, Sundays and Holidays 1 pm to 5 pm. Adults \$6, Seniors (60+) \$5, Post-secondary students and Youth (7-17) \$3, Under 7 free, Families \$15.



•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. 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 daily from 10 am - 5 pm; Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$7.50, Students \$6.50, Under 5 free, Families \$24.50.



•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 am - 5 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission:

Adults \$11, Seniors (65+) \$9, Youth (7-17) \$5, 6 and under free, Families \$28.



•WRITING-ON-STONE - Hwy 4 South from Lethbridge. Then Hwy 500 West. Then South on Range Road 130A

•Open year round for camping. No reservations are necessary if you wish to use a camp site at the park in the winter. Fees range from \$13 to \$19 a day. Guided rock art tours are only offered from May to October. Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai'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.

WANTED CO-EDITOR

Unfortunately, our associate Stephanie Hamilton-Lane has moved to Canmore. We thank her very much for her assistance for the last two issues. We are therefore in need of someone to fill her shoes as co-editor. The only qualification required is an interest in Crowsnest history and a willingness to help create an interesting newsletter.

ARCHIVES

Copies of this newsletter and archived issues can be viewed at

<http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/>

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**Help History stay alive!
2015 Membership Drive**

Get your Membership Today !

Help support the Crowsnest Museum by becoming a member of the Crowsnest Historical Society. Your membership helps protect the vibrant history of the Crowsnest Pass as well as the tens of thousands of artifacts and images stored within the Museum.

All memberships purchased during Membership Drive 2015 are eligible for draw.

The Prize Package includes:
Dinner for 4 by Country
Encounters in the Crowsnest Museum with private tour.

Get your membership at the
Crowsnest Museum & Archives
crowsnestmuseum@shaw.ca
403-563-5434
PO Box 306, Coleman AB T0K 0M0
www.crowsnestmuseum.ca

CROWNEST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES