



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

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A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project

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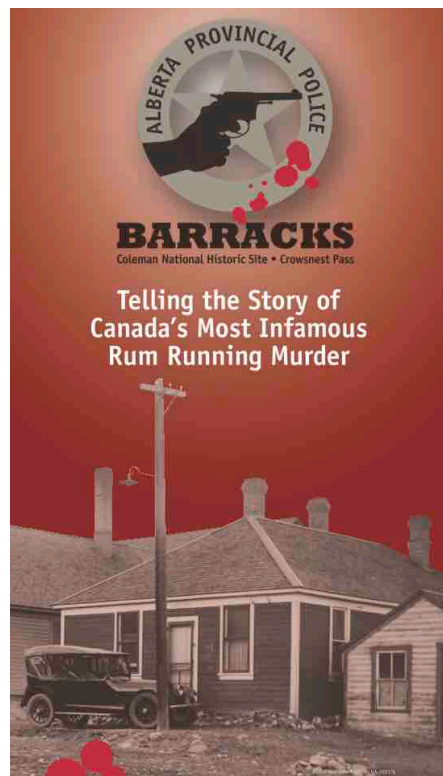
Issue #50 March 2018

This issue illustrates the musical history in the Crowsnest Pass, in particular those relating to the history of music festivals that have run for over 90 years with a ten year break between 1944 and 1955.

What's On This Spring?

Crowsnest Pass Museum - Hours 9:00-5:00, Mon - Sat

- **Ongoing - Alberta Provincial Police Barracks display** - telling the story of Canada's most infamous rum running murder.



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

- **February 24 - March 25 - “No Particular Topic”** - annual open exhibition showcasing local and area artists
 - **March 31 April 29— “Emergence”** - exhibition courtesy of our local high schools CCHS and Livingstone, curated by Sherry Chanin and Karen Tamminga-Paton
 - **May 5 - June 3 - “Journeys to Abstraction”** - solo show of acrylics from Helen Newsome
 - **June 9 - July 8 - “The Crowsnest Pass during it’s Hey Day”** - solo exhibition of large format charcoal drawings by local and area artists curated by Donna Bilyk.
 - **July 14 - August 26 - “Soundscapes”** - annual, juried exhibition of local area artists curated by Sherry Chanin
- **Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery Exhibit at Stone’s Throw Cafe**
 - **February 5 - April 9** - Shelly & Tynan Groves
 - **April 9 - May 7 - “EMERGENCE”**
 - **May 7 - July 2** - Justina Smith
 - **July 2 - August 27** - Susan Malek
 - **Frank Slide Interpretive Centre** - Hours - 10:00 - 5:00
 - **Sunday, April 29, 2018 – 115th Anniversary of the Frank Slide** - Special presentations will take place throughout the day highlighting the amazing story of the 1903 Frank Slide. While here enjoy our two award winning audio-visual presentations.
 - **Sunday, June 17, 2018 - 104th Anniversary of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster** - on June 19, 1914, 189 men were killed in what would become Canada’s Worst Underground Mine Disaster. The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre will offer special presentations highlighting this amazing and tragic story.

The Crowsnest Pass Music Festival

Ian McKenzie

In 1924 a committee composed of Mr. W. Thomas (chair), piano teacher Miss Brown, Mrs. S. Bannan, Mrs. J. A. Kerr, Miss Nichol, Miss Dicken, Mr. J. E. Upton, violin instructor Mr. W. Moser, and Rev W. T. Young were 'instrumental' in forming the Crow's Nest Pass Sunday School Musical Festival. Originally a one-day local event, it soon grew into a regional event that spanned multiple days, and is the forerunner of the music festival that still runs today.



Early Music Festival in the Blairmore Opera House – Gushul
photo

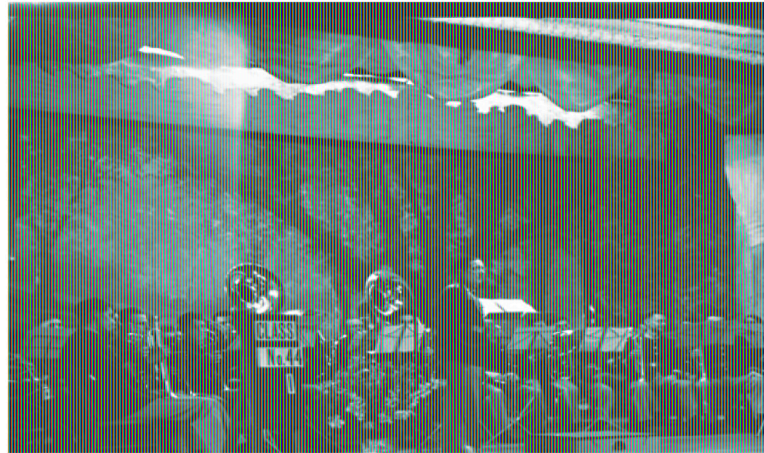
The idea for a Festival originated from Rev. Young and Blairmore's Central Union Church as a way to improve the standards of church choirs and musicians, mostly for the boys and girls of local Sunday School classes. The first festival was on Saturday, May 16 1925 and was an instant success with 105 entrants, requiring continuous performances from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and include musicians from Pincher Creek, Cowley, Lundbreck, Bellevue and Blairmore. All but two events were for Sunday School students. Events include five grades of piano plus an open competition; four grades of violin; vocals under 10, under 12, under 16, and under 18, and solo and duet open competitions; and full orchestra competitions, with five entrants. Each event was critically adjudicated by judges including Clifford

Higgin of Mount Royal College (instruments) and his son Elgin Higgin (vocals) of Calgary, with trophies issued to the winners. Entry was 25 cents for the morning and 50 cents for the evening.

The second festival was a two-day affair (Monday and Tuesday) with 300 entrants, billed as 'by far the biggest event of the year'. The committee, which met in the Greenhill Hotel, now had a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and seven executive members, with appointees from Macleod, Pincher Creek, Cowley, Bellevue, Hillcrest and Coleman. Judges included an instrumental adjudicator from Edmonton, vocal adjudicator from Calgary, and an elocution adjudicator from Coaldale. There were more events than the previous year, including duets and quartets in some events. The festival was open to Sunday School students of any denomination (except for the Open events) anywhere between Macleod and Natal.

By the fourth year of the Festival, the competition was open to everyone, not just Sunday school students. Programs were sold, and admission to the entire three-day event cost \$2. Heinzman and Co. from Lethbridge loaned a grand piano for the event, which ran from Easter Monday through Wednesday. Events not able to be held in the Blairmore Opera House were held in the Central Union Church.

By 1929, a Mr. H. Mellor-Langdale advertised being in Blairmore every Monday to give voice lessons to make “competitors prepared for the Music Festival”. By 1930, the Festival programme took up an entire page of the Blairmore Enterprise, including a list of the ten major trophies and shields. Adjudicators that year included the European-trained Holroyd Paul of Vancouver, and Rhynd Jamieson, music critic of the Vancouver Daily Province. The following year adjudicators included Grigori Garbovitzky, the Russian-born conductor of the Calgary Symphony Orchestra.



Early Music Festival in the Blairmore Opera House

Every year the event grew. By 1932, there were 200 entrants. In 1933, the event was held on Thanksgiving Day rather than Easter, with competitors from Cranbrook arriving on a special chartered train. Soon Medicine Hat joined in, and in 1934, there were 600 contestants and 3000 spectators. Many Pass musicians also competed in the Lethbridge regional competition and the provincial festival in Edmonton.

The 13th Festival was held in October 1937, but as there was no event in 1938, the 14th annual Festival was in 1939, and was moved back to April. As Canada’s involvement in the Second World War intensified, there was no Festival in 1944 – nor, in fact, right through 1955.

The event was revived in either 1956, or 1957, when the Blairmore Lions’ Club restarted the Crowsnest Pass Music Festival, based out of Isabelle Sellon School. Later the Festival used multiple venues including the Lions Pride Hall, Horace Allen School, and Crowsnest Consolidated High School, and later the Crowsnest Centre, and even Grace Anglican United Church has recently joined in. Over this period the Festival varied from three days to eight days in duration. The Crowsnest Pass Music Festival became non-competitive in 2015.

Some Founder Biographies

Methodist (later United) Church minister Rev. W. T. Young was amongst the first graduating class from St. Stephen's College, Edmonton in 1911, and soon afterwards moved to Frank and Knox Methodist Church. He married Ethel Aikens in 1912, and lived in the house which still stands at 15009 - 21 Avenue. He also had responsibility for the Methodist churches in Bellevue and Hillcrest, supervising the pastors there or preaching himself. Rev. Young was on hand during the Hillcrest Mine Disaster (June 19, 1914), and conducted the funeral services for the Protestant miners, along with other regional ministers. Around 1920, Rev. Young transferred to the church in Blairmore, living in the manse across the street which still stands at 13333 - 21 Avenue. Rev. Young moved to Trinity United Church in Calgary in 1927; the following year, and for many years afterwards, he was elected Honorary President of the Music Festival he had helped found in 1924. In 1942, he was elected President of the Alberta Conference of the United Church. He was also on the Board of St. Stephen's College in Edmonton, which conferred an honorary Doctorate of Divinity on him. Rev. Young was a hobby photographer; some of his photographs are held at the Glenbow Archives in Calgary.

Walter H. Moser was the son of a Zurich banker who came to Canada around 1910, bringing his family's century-old violin. A stab at prairie farming was followed by full-time employment as a musician in Edmonton, playing for the Symphony but also at local dances, concerts and silent movie houses. He moved to Lethbridge, and then settled in Hillcrest in 1921, where he was to spend the rest of his life. He helped found Crowsnest Pass' amateur symphony, which is still in existence today. In 1929 he married Annie Halton, a former high-school music student of his. In 1942, Walter began working in George Cruikshank's store, later purchasing the business with his brother-in-law David Halton. Walter died in 1959.

John Edwin Upton homesteaded with other members of his family near Twin Butte in 1904, but moved to Pincher Creek in 1906, where he operated a tailor shop. While in Pincher he conducted a community band (he played the cornet, and later the string bass and cello), and married Florence Murphy. He moved his family to Blairmore in 1921, opening a tailor shop across from the Greenhill Hotel. While in Blairmore he was on the Board for the United Church, and helped found both the local Symphony and the Music Festival. Upton died in a nursing home in Gleichen in 1951.

Poetry Corner

River Water Drum

Michael J. Leeb

A hollow echo
intermittent and irregular
resonant deep water's
two-toned drumming
boom boom

a deep water drum
like a heavy stone
thrown
a muted thud-splash
and quick-sink
distant **near**
the same

sounds of
deep water pools
and tawny ice

*what is that sound?
is that your drum?*

the deeply resonant sounds of
stretched rawhide
and sudden thermal changes

at early Spring break
and thaw
a brackish river's
drum song

Book Review

Hiking the Historic Crowsnest Pass

By Jane Ross and William Tracy

Many of us have a copy of this classic, wedged between the bird identification books and how-to manuals on our bookshelves.

Its layout follows the standard hiking guide's format, organized into regions of walks, trails and areas. A handy, easily understood summary of each trail described makes quick references for casual browsing.

Simple, clear maps are included for each region and for many of the mining site hikes.

At least one photo, often more, enhances each trail description by highlighting special features or structures of historical significance, as well as showcasing views.

This is a wonderful guidebook, but what makes this a historical guidebook are the anecdotes and background information that accompany each trail description.

For example, who was Tallon Peak named after? When did Leitch Collieries originally open? How much coal did the Bellevue mine extract during its history? Where can you find ancient quarries? What coal camp grew into a town of more than 400 people, only to close down 11 years later?

The authors have seamlessly included historical material with all the trail descriptions, so readers get their history lessons without realizing it! The photos are well balanced, a blend of pictures from the present day and the past.

For these reasons, Hiking the Historic Crowsnest Pass is more than just a guidebook.

Hiking books inspire us to go out and explore. This book inspires us to go out, explore and return from our walks with a deeper sense of place.

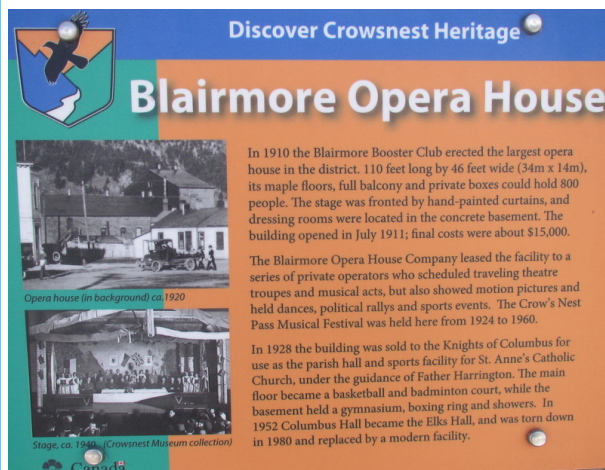
For days when the wind is howling, or the rain is coming down in sheets or the snow is blowing, it makes an enjoyable read to flip through, hoping for better weather and encouraging us to plan our next walk.

Hiking the Historic Crowsnest Pass is available to borrow through the Crowsnest Municipal Library and for purchase at Crockets Trading Company.

Barb Koch

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.



**This sign is located at the
Blairmore Elks Hall**

100 YEARS AGO 1917

Canada – 1918

The Spanish Influenza outbreak hits Canada. In Alberta, wearing face masks in public was mandatory.

On May 24, 1918 – Canada Elections Act – Women get the vote – Women now have the same voting rights as men in federal elections.

Canadians break through the German trenches in Amiens, France (Aug. 8), beginning “Canada’s Hundred Days”.

Armistice ends the First World War (November 11)

Hutterites who had been imprisoned in South Dakota during the war for their pacifism, were released and fled north into the Canadian prairie provinces.

The first official airmail delivery in Western Canada was flown from Calgary to Edmonton in a Curtiss Stinson Special biplane, piloted by Katherine Stinson on July 9. Her flying time was 2 hours, 5 minutes, elapsed time of seven hours. It was the second airmail delivery in Canada, two weeks after the first official delivery by Captain Brian Peck, flying a Curtiss JN-4 from Montreal to Toronto.

In 1918 you could buy a car in Blairmore from The Blairmore Hardware Co.

J. Handley (grocer) sold Sunkist oranges for 75 cents/dozen, apples for \$2.40/case, Heinz pickles for 35 cents/bottle and lobster for 35 cents/can.

You could watch a Variety Vaudeville Show at the Blairmore Opera House. Admission for adults was 75 cents and children’s admission price was 25 cents.

Dutil & Robbins, Dealers (of Blairmore) sold Ford trucks for \$750.00.

Historical Venues in Southern Alberta

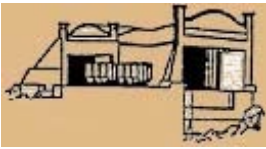


• **CROWSNEST MUSEUM** - 7701 18th Ave. Coleman. 403-563-5434

• As well as exhibits on coal mining in the Crow's Nest 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 Saturday 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 9:00-5:00, Monday to Thursday, pre-booked tours tours.



THE FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE - off Hwy 3 Crow's Nest Pass
403-562-7388

The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre highlights the rich heritage of the Crow's Nest 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 (9 am to 6 pm in the summer) . Adults \$13, Seniors (65+) \$11, Youth (7-17) \$9, 6 and under free, Families \$35.



• **KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE** - 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 Monday-Friday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Adults \$10, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free.

- **HEAD-SMASHED-IN BUFFALO JUMP (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)**- Hwy 785 403-553-2731 Hikes to the Drive Lanes 10:30—3 pm.
- 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 \$15, Seniors (65+) \$13, Youth (7-17) \$10, 6 and under free, Families \$40. 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 June - September. Monday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 10 am to 9 pm, Sundays and Holidays 1 pm to 5 pm; Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$9, Youth \$5., Under 5 free, Families \$22.



•**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. Winter hours -open daily 9 am - 4 pm. Contact:

info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$13, Seniors (65+) \$11, Youth (7-17) \$9, 6 and under free, Families \$35.



- **•WRITING-ON-STONE** - Hwy 4 South from Lethbridge. Then Hwy 500 West. Then South on Range Road 130A (403) 647-2364

- 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 \$18 to \$25 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.



- **•HERITAGE ACRES** - Located off Hwy 3 next to the Oldman River Dam.

- Alberta's largest independent Agriculture Museum, home to an extensive collection of pioneer and farm related artifacts and heritage buildings located on 180 acre site.

- Open from May long weekend until September - 9:00am - 5:00pm. Closed Sundays. Adults \$10., Youth \$5. Group tours available by appointment. (403)627-2082

ARCHIVES

Copies of this newsletter and archived issues can be viewed at

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

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