



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

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Issue #59, June 2020

The Sentinel train robbery and the Bellevue Café shootout are not well known outside of the Pass, while BC train-robber Billy Miner's exploits were the subject of a History Channel program (narrated by Patrick Watson and still available on YouTube) and the 1982 fictionalized movie *The Grey Fox*.

We don't have a movie or even a CBC Heritage Minute, and this summer's Doors Open and Heritage Festival (which was to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sentinel and Bellevue events) has been cancelled. So on August 2nd I might just grab a flask and go out to the old Sentinel Siding site and watch a train go by. Join me?

- Ian McKenzie

This photo was taken around 1920, so the train is likely similar to CPR #63 which was robbed at Sentinel on August 2, 1920. Crow's Nest was the next station past Sentinel, making it the first opportunity to report the holdup.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives (CM-CR-241-01)



Heritage News is a publication of the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative. We are a cooperative committee of local heritage organizations and interested individuals who seek to promote the understanding and appreciation of heritage within the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Alberta. For more information on who we are and what we do, click here: <http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/crowsnest-heritage-initiative/>

This issue was edited and produced by Ian McKenzie and proofread by Isabel Russell and Ken Allred. Inquiries, comments or submissions can be sent to cnnewsletter@shaw.ca. Future contributors should send in their articles in MS Word or something similar, with any photos sent as separate jpeg files. Do not embed photos into your document; we will just have to strip them out and reinsert them into our newsletter format.

Heritage Partner News

In March, the Covid-19 situation closed the doors of the **Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Leitch Collieries, Bellevue Underground Mine, Crowsnest Museum and Alberta Provincial Police Barracks**, with possible reopenings in June, or at least sometime this summer. Each facility is still at least partially staffed, so inquiries about their summer operations can be made (see our back page). **Coleman National Historic Site, Miners Path, Hillcrest Cemetery** and all **Historic Walking Tours** and **Heritage Trails** are still open, but of course are subject to Alberta Health Services social distancing guidelines.

Most summer events have been cancelled due to the uncertain Covid-19 situation. These include **Bellecrest Days, Canada Day parade, Doors Open and Heritage Festival, Coleman Country Market** and the **2020 Homecoming**. Special exhibits and events over the summer, at the Museum and elsewhere, have also been cancelled or postponed.

Any plans by local branches of the **Royal Canadian Legion** to publicly commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two in Europe this Spring, were not possible. But in the Fall, look for a collaborative event for the anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific.

During the Covid-19 shut-in, the **Crowsnest Museum** coordinated several home-grown videos on the theme *At Home in the Crowsnest Pass*. There's one promoting this newsletter, which was co-hosted by your editor's cat. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRXLOp3i6UUWBKGWn6HtgKQ>.

Have you completed the *Heritage News* **crossword puzzle**? It's on the 'Heritage Newsletter' page of our website www.crowsnestheritage.ca. The solution is now posted there too.

June 6 is **Cemetery Day** in Crowsnest Pass; visit one of our many historic cemeteries.



**CHANGE IN
Train Service**
**Effective Sunday,
October 3rd, 1920.**

Trans-Canada, Limited
Trains 7 and 8, 9 and 10, will be withdrawn, last train from Montreal, October 2nd; last train from Vancouver, October 2nd, 1920.

Soo-Pacific Express.
Trains 13 and 14 will be withdrawn, last train from St. Paul October 2nd, last train from Vancouver October 2nd.

The following New Service will be inaugurated:
Calgary to Macleod and Return, daily except Sunday,
8.50 a.m. lv. Calgary ar. 7.00 p.m.
1.00 p.m. ar. Macleod lv. 3.00 p.m.

Time for Trains at Blairmore will be

Westbound, Daily.	Daily exc. Sun.
No. 67, 8.24 a.m.	No. 62, 4.40 p.m.
Eastbound, Daily.	Daily exc. Sun.
No. 68, 10.45 p.m.	No. 64, 12.35 p.m.

For further particulars apply to any Ticket Agent.
J. E. PROCTOR,
District Passenger Agent,
Calgary, Alberta.

*Blairmore
Enterprise,
September 30,
1920*

The List

Six Canadian train robberies:

1. Port Credit, ON, 1874 (unknown persons; \$45,000)
2. Silverdale, BC, 1904 (Bill Miner and gang; \$7,000 plus \$50,00 in bonds)
3. Kamloops, BC, 1906 (Bill Miner and gang; \$15 and one bottle of kidney pills)
4. Nanton, AB, 1907 (Ira Shoop and local citizens; 86 tons of coal)
5. Sentinel, AB, 1920 (Arkoff, Auloff, Bassoff; \$400 and valuables)
6. Parry Sound, ON, 1928 (John Burowski and unknown others; \$ unknown)

Arthur J. Kelly – Crime Scene Photographer, and More by Vic Bergman

Forensic photography, otherwise known as crime scene photography, has been around since the late 1800s and has evolved into a highly technical and sophisticated science. Photographs play an integral role in the documentation of a crime. The job of the crime scene photographer is to record the scene and items such as the body of a victim, shell casings, blood spatter, and other physical evidence so they can be presented in a fair and unbiased manner during a court hearing and trial.

Today, there are strict procedures and protocols involved when photographing a crime scene. It's common practice that nothing is touched, moved, or disturbed until photographs have been taken. Before investigators or medical examiners can remove a body, the photographer must first document the scene. In order to piece together what happened, it is imperative that all elements of a crime scene are photographed as they were found.

At the time of the 1920 Bellevue Café shootout, forensic photography was in its infancy. Measures to keep a crime scene intact and secure, including steps to prevent evidence from being compromised, were not on par with today's practices. Back then, reporters and photographers in some cities would hang out at police stations, waiting for a crime to be committed. Once a call came in, they would follow the police to the scene of the crime, where they were often permitted direct access to the site. Bystanders would sometimes alter or destroy evidence simply by their movement in and around the crime scene.



Arthur Kelly, near Bellevue, date unknown.
Photo: Bill White collection, provided by Belle Kovach.

Sometime during the afternoon of August 7, 1920, Arthur Joseph Kelly, a 31-year-old Blairmore law student and amateur photographer, heard of the shooting at the Bellevue Café and hurried to the crime scene. Kelly, a native of New Brunswick, had come to Crowsnest Pass around 1911 and worked as a school teacher and principal in Bellevue. By 1919 he had left the teaching profession and was studying law under Joseph E. Gillis, of the firm Gillis & Mackenzie in Blairmore.

When Kelly arrived, he was allowed to enter the Bellevue Café, likely due to his affiliation with the Gillis & Mackenzie law office but also as he was well known from his teaching days. If Kelly had his camera with him,

it appears he did not take any photographs that day. Instead, he returned a week later, after being retained by the Alberta Provincial Police to take photographs. Kelly took pictures of the booth where Thomas Bassoff and George Akroff, two of the three men who had held up a CPR train west of Coleman five days prior, had been seated when confronted by police. He also photographed bullet holes inside the café. During the shootout, Constable Frederick Bailey of the Alberta Provincial Police, Corporal Ernest Usher of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police,

and one of the suspects, George Akroff, were fatally shot. Kelly also photographed a re-creation of the shootout, with a man posing as Bassoff standing in front of the building, and two boys portraying Constable Bailey and Corporal Usher lying dead on the boardwalk (see photo in our issue #58). These photographs were submitted as evidence at Tom Bassoff's preliminary hearing in Lethbridge, and again at his murder trial held in October in the town of Macleod.

The *Lethbridge Daily Herald* provided detailed coverage of the two-day trial. Kelly was called to testify on the first day, where he identified a number of photographs he had taken at the scene of the shooting. Bassoff's crown-appointed lawyer, Joseph Duncan Matheson, raised the possibility that the interior of the café may have changed considerably in the week between the shootout and when Kelly took the photos. Kelly, who was on the stand, "swore he saw the bullet holes within two hours after the shooting." Bassoff's trial concluded the following day and within an hour the jury rendered a "guilty of murder" verdict. Thomas Bassoff was sentenced to death by hanging and went to the gallows on December 22, 1920.

The Bellevue Café was not the only crime scene photographed that year by A. J. Kelly. The front page of the December 22, 1920 issue of the *Lethbridge Daily Herald*, carrying the headline TOM BASSOFF, BANDIT, IS HANGED, also contained a report of the preliminary hearing of James "Jimmy" Zitto, a Crowsnest Pass coal miner charged with the murder of a Blairmore woman the previous week. The article makes reference to photos taken by Arthur J. Kelly (and Thomas Gushul) which were used as exhibits in the hearing. In the Zitto trial, the accused was let off with a two-year sentence.

Another career change occurred for A. J. Kelly in August 1925, when he became secretary-treasurer for the town of Blairmore, taking over from Frank Wright who had been charged with the theft of town funds. Kelly provided evidence at the ensuing trial in Blairmore, where Wright was convicted of theft and sentenced to serve two years of hard labor in Prince Albert Penitentiary. J. D. Matheson from the town of Macleod, and Donald G. MacKenzie of Gillis & MacKenzie in Blairmore, were prosecutors for the Crown. It was at the office of Gillis & MacKenzie where Kelly had previously been studying law.

Headline, *Lethbridge Daily Herald*, June 17 1926.



FRANK WRIGHT TRIAL OPENS AT
BLAIRMORE WITH A. J. KELLY ON STAND

In addition to A. J. Kelly's secretary-treasurer position with the town, he also became a Justice of the Peace, coroner, and notary public in Blairmore. In his spare time, he enjoyed curling, playing golf, and was often called on to referee hockey games. In 1926, Arthur married and started a family.

A. J. Kelly found himself embroiled in controversy when on March 7, 1933 he was suspended as secretary-treasurer for Blairmore by Mayor Knight and the recently-elected communist town council. An audit of the town's finances, conducted by the provincial Department of Municipal Affairs, found thousands of dollars in tax inaccuracies which were traced to Kelly. When charges were officially laid, Kelly was immediately dismissed from his position with the town. Kelly's preliminary hearing was remanded four times before his case was heard in Supreme Court at Lethbridge on June 19. His appearance before Chief Justice Simmons, covered by the *Lethbridge Herald*, lasted less than 30 minutes. Kelly pleaded guilty of "fraudulently converting to his own use the sum of \$173.05, moneys belonging to the town of Blairmore, paid to him in taxes by R. Rinaldi." His lawyer, Samuel G. Bannan, asked the judge

for leniency, stating his client was not a criminal by instinct and that it was his first offense. It was also pointed out that Kelly had made restitution of the money. Even J. D. Matheson, the crown prosecutor, who had been Tom Bassoff's legal counsel some 13 years earlier and had also been involved in the Frank Wright trial, asked that Kelly be given a chance. The judge handed Arthur J. Kelly a one-year suspended sentence.



J. D. MATHESON, K.C.

Lethbridge Herald, March 31 1934

The outcome of Kelly's trial was also reported in the June 22, 1933 issue of the *Blairmore Enterprise*, relegated to the last page, under "Local and General Items." Arthur Kelly is not mentioned by name in the piece, and is referred to only as "Blairmore's former secretary-treasurer." Immediately above the details of Kelly's trial are editorial comments, saying "The ratepayers of Blairmore should demand from Town Council a statement showing exactly what it has cost them to depose the former secretary-treasurer and other officials, and reinstate the present staff of officials. This workers' council promised to save the ratepayers money." These were interesting times in Crowsnest Pass, to be sure.

A. J. Kelly, the former school teacher and principal, student of law, crime scene photographer, and town employee, left Blairmore with his wife and family and moved to Pincher Creek. Arthur Joseph Kelly died in 1961.



Three postcards of the Usher/Bailey funeral in Macleod, AB on August 11, 1920. Both were killed at the Bellevue Café shootout.

Photographer unknown. Images with permission from the McMaster University Library.

86 Tons of Coal: the “Other” Alberta Train Robbery

The winter of 1907 was one of the coldest in Alberta history, and by February the citizens and farmers around Nanton were running out of coal, due in part to a miners’ strike in Lethbridge. The CPR said that coal would be delivered soon, but for three days trains loaded with coal steamed through town without stopping.

On February 5th a train with seven cars of coal stopped, but the citizens were told that none was for them. Someone suggested that the train should not be allowed to leave until some coal was made available. The local CPR agent, J.P. Longpre, checked with his superintendent who told the agent to refuse, and to demand police protection for the train.

As Longpre and Royal North-West Mounted Police Constable Tom Currie discussed the situation, the train began to leave. Ira Shoop jumped onto the caboose and ran along the boxcars, dropping down between them and putting on the brakes. Cst. Currie threatened to shoot, but Ira continued – even after a warning shot was fired. Shoop was arrested, but was released because the jail had no heat, due to the lack of coal! The train crew again attempted to leave, but this time a crowd of citizens set the brakes on all the cars.

At noon the train crew, Longpre, and Currie went for lunch. The citizens of Nanton then held a meeting on the station platform, chaired by the Baptist minister with minutes being taken by the Presbyterian minister. A motion was passed to proceed with the robbery, and it was further agreed that each rural resident would take one ton and each town resident one-half ton. They would pay the CPR \$6 per ton, the upper end of the normal price range. With a hearty “Three cheers for Ira Shoop” the meeting was adjourned and the robbery began.

When they returned from their lunch, Constable Currie and the CPR officials calmly watched as the coal was distributed to the citizens, who politely lined up in alphabetical order to receive their share. Hugh Shaw collected the money and gave it to the CPR agent.

The RNWMP later investigated, but the Inspector’s report did not recommend that any charges be laid, noting that “all parties behaved properly and honourably.” The CPR was incensed that the hold-up was ignored and no one was held to account.

Thus the Nanton train robbers got off scot-free because of the transparent, civilized, orderly, and polite manner in which their community had robbed the train.

Rear view of
Nanton train
station, at left,
about 1910.

Photo sourced
from the
internet.



(This article was adapted from *86 Tons of Coal – Nanton’s Great Train Robbery* found on the website www.bombercommandmuseum.ca)

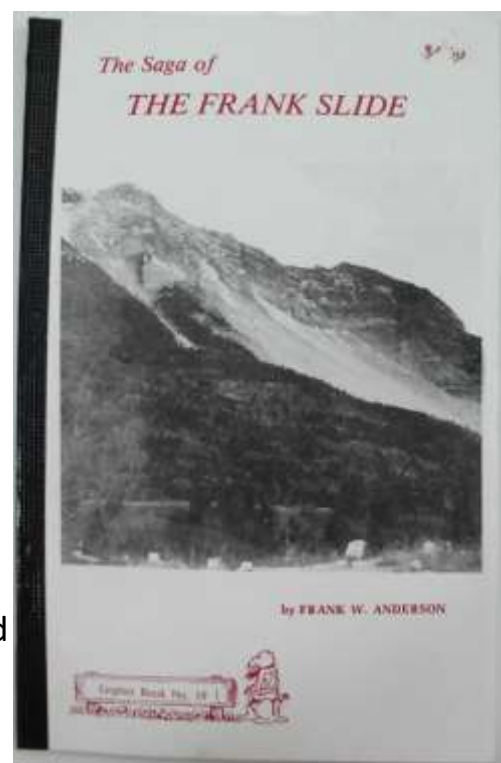
Book Review

The Saga of the Frank Slide by Frank Anderson

Review by Ian McKenzie

This modest, self-published book of 92 pages is a reworking of the author's 1968 book *The Frank Slide Story* which may have been the first ever book on this subject. That earlier book relied on invented conversations to help engage the reader, while the 1986 *Saga of The Frank Slide* achieves greater credibility by avoiding that device, yet is still amongst the most readable and enjoyable of the small handful of books on the topic. Although a factual account, Anderson's relaxed writing style and colourful phrases, supported by hand-drawn maps, will appeal to the most casual of readers interested in the Frank Slide.

The author obviously did a lot of research, including interviewing people directly involved with the slide, and his book was likely a principal reference for subsequent researchers. But there are a couple of obvious and surprising errors: he states that the CPR did not run trains across the Slide for over three years, when in fact it was only about a month; and a summit photo of the "slant of trees pulled by the force of the slide" is clearly just the effect of our winds. Happily, Anderson is not seduced by myths which are still believed today, and wisely avoids any details of the 1912 movement of part of the Frank townsite (a widely-misunderstood event; see our issue #23), although his photo captioned "Moving the Town Away" shows nothing of the sort, and the photo captioned "Frank's Final Hours" is in fact of the 1908 flood.



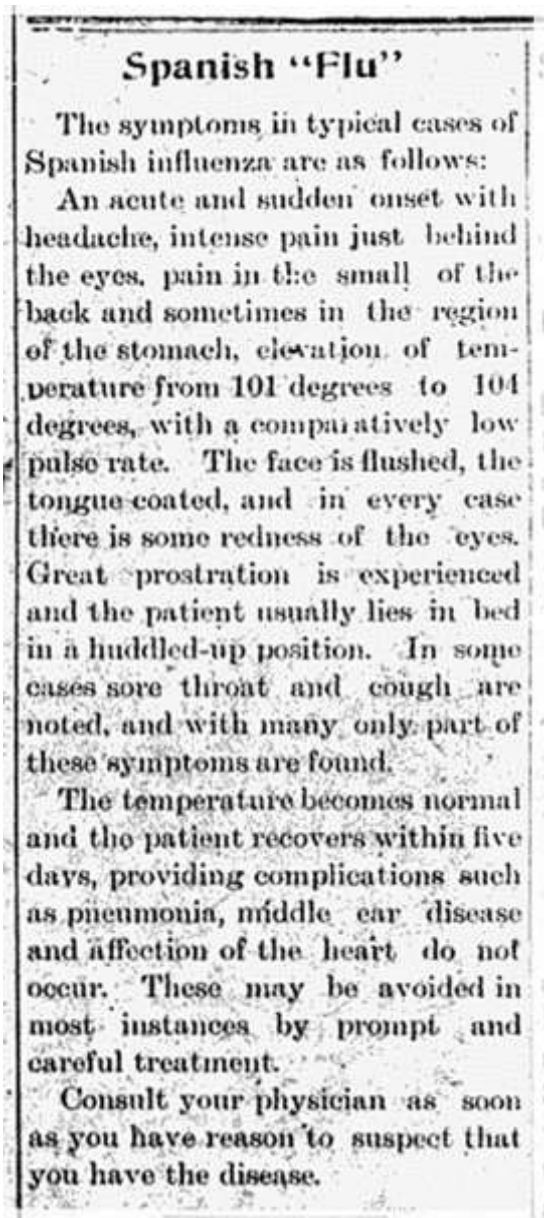
The passage of time makes it difficult to fact-check all of Anderson's work, and other errors may exist. In keeping with the down-home style of this book, there are no photo or map credits, no footnotes, and no list of research sources. Although frustrating to historians, this is likely of no consequence to most readers, and the book generally agrees with modern interpretations of this story.

Frank Anderson lived a remarkable life. Born in 1919, he was orphaned at age 18 months and lived a life of conflict and crime. At age 16 he murdered a prison guard, and his death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Anderson completed high school and became the first Canadian to complete university courses while in prison. Paroled in 1951, he completed a Masters degree in social work at the University of Toronto, joined the John Howard Society, and became a parole officer before being appointed to the National Parole Board in 1974. He began researching and writing short books on western Canadian history – over fifty titles – in the early 1960s and self-published his own and other authors' works under Frontier Books and Gopher Books. These short, homemade booklets were amongst Canada's first unpretentious history publications, and their success inspired other authors whose works populate bookstands in gift shops and gas stations today.

Though long out of print, *The Saga of the Frank Slide* can be found in our local library.

Covid's Cousin: The Spanish Flu, a Hundred Years Ago

The Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918-1920 was a worldwide phenomenon which infected 500 million people and may have resulted in 75 million deaths – about 5 percent of the world's population. There was no cure, vaccine, or treatment for this flu; patients either got better, or died. Spanish Flu caused a buildup of mucous in the lungs, which could not be expelled; some victims died within 24 hours, while others died later of pneumonia. Oddly, deaths were common amongst younger, robust victims while many elderly victims survived. Over 4300 Albertans died, about one percent of the province's population. Although dozens of deaths were recorded in Crowsnest Pass, most patients recovered.



Blairmore Enterprise, October 25 1918

The flu arrived in the Pass in the fall of 1918, and is first seriously mentioned in early October when a planned masquerade ball was cancelled until the 'scare' blew over. By the end of October Blairmore alone had 41 reported cases. The local health board banned public meetings, including Sunday church services and funerals, and in November ordered the closure of most businesses and prohibited the boarding or disembarking of passenger trains. Flu patients were subject to quarantine within their homes or hotel rooms, and some local schools were converted to isolation hospitals, so that patients in the regular hospitals would not be infected. Orders were issued that gauze masks must be worn when in public, although some doctors protested that they were unsanitary and would do more harm than good.

By the end of November 1918 it was thought that the flu had run its course here, but in the New Year it reappeared, and although churches and businesses reopened, some restrictions remained. The Spanish Flu finally disappeared from Crowsnest Pass by early Spring of 1919.

The schools which had served as isolation hospitals were sanitized and reopened for classes.

Despite its name, Spanish Influenza probably originated in Kansas.

(excerpted from the book Guide to the Heritage Cemeteries of Crowsnest Pass)

Municipal Historic Resources Board: Q&A with Don Budgen

Member, Municipal Historic Resources Board

How and when was this board formed, and what is its mandate?

The Municipal Historic Resources Board was formed November 2008. Our mandate is to provide advice and recommendations to the Municipal Planning Commission and/or Municipal Council on heritage and historic resource matters within the Municipality.

How many Board members are there, and where do they come from? How long do they serve?

We have nine board members. They are a representation of our community with a balance of business, heritage, and local government. Members include a person from the Municipal Council, Crowsnest Historical Society, Crowsnest Pass Ecomuseum Trust, Community Futures, Municipal Planning Commission, and Chamber of Commerce. We also have three people from the general community to round out perspectives. Board members serve terms of one, two, and three years. In addition, we have non-voting members: the Director of Planning Engineering and Operations, the Development Officer, and Alberta Culture & Multiculturalism - Heritage Resource Management staff in an advisory role.

What is the interface between the Board and Council/Administration?

Our recommendations are nonbinding and give Council and the Municipal Planning Commission the opportunity to balance local development with retaining the historic integrity of our community.

What types of issues does the Board consider?

The Board actively promotes heritage conservation, and receives submissions from the public and provides guidance on various historic resource issues, such as Historic Resource Designation applications. We also make recommendations for heritage conservation grants

for historic resources, and then validate that the grant money has been properly used. We provide assistance to the Municipal Administration in the development, updating, and implementation of heritage and historic resource policies, including the Heritage Building Inventory and the Heritage Management Plan. We review and make recommendations to the Municipal Planning Commission on development permits on designated historic properties and heritage zones in the community. In the past we have hosted seminars on various aspects of heritage conservation.



What is the Heritage Inventory?

The Heritage Inventory recognizes buildings and resources in the community that have historical or architectural significance, are

associated with an historic event, or are identified with a historical person. It does not give protection to these resources; only designation by either the province or the municipality provides protection for a property. Any building or resource on the Heritage Inventory could be designated by council as a Municipal Historic Resource - with the consent of the owner - and receive protection. To date, there are over 100 buildings listed on the Crowsnest Pass Heritage Inventory which can be found on the Municipal website.

What does a Commercial Historical Overlay District do?

The Overlay seeks to protect the historical integrity of a commercial district within a community. The overlays represent clusters of significant historic and cultural resources within a particular area. The viewscape of buildings shows a picture of what life was like at that time, and enhances the importance of individual heritage buildings. Our recommendations made to the Municipal Planning Commission regarding buildings within Commercial Historic Overlay Districts are nonbinding; decisions are at the discretion of MPC.

We currently have three commercial historical overlays: Coleman which is roughly the downtown core at 17th and 18th Ave; Bellevue which is roughly downtown core at 21st street between 23rd Ave and 27th Ave; and Blairmore which is the downtown business district roughly 20th Ave and 21st Ave between 123rd Street and 135th Street.

What is the Historic Resource Designation process for a heritage building?

You can pick up a pamphlet on the process at the municipal office in Coleman. In general I believe it takes 6 months to a year. The first step is to determine whether it is worthy of Municipal or Provincial designation. We look at its architectural characteristics, uniqueness, or maybe a significant event that happened there. Then the owner would apply for Historic Resource Designation. After that we would forward it to Council for their consideration on the designation merits. Then after all that, there is a 60 day waiting period before Council considers a bylaw to designate that property. Once the bylaw is passed and a caveat registered on the title, the property owner can apply to the Province for funding for repairs and maintenance to the structure.

What are the advantages of Historic Resource Designation?

Historic Resource Designations begin with the property owner; buildings are not designated without the owner's involvement and consent. Designation protects some of the unique characteristics of historic buildings within our communities. We are fortunate to have so much history, with a variety of architectural influences from immigrants that came to Crowsnest Pass. The advantages to having a building designated are primarily to do the right thing and preserve history for our residents and future generations, and once on the Alberta registry owners can apply for grants for restoration. There is also technical expertise that can be accessed. The downside is that the character-defining elements must be protected and cannot be altered or destroyed without Municipality consent. That being said, the Municipal Historic Resources Board works with owners to guide them through the process. Our goal is to meet the needs of the owner, and to secure the protection of the character-defining elements of the property. For the majority of property owners, the designation is an asset.



Another piece of Pass heritage slipped away last month, with the disappearance of the old "lollipop" gas station sign in east Bellevue / Maple Leaf. The existing text and logo were painted over an older message, which itself may have been painted over something else. (Photo obtained from Google Earth Street View.)

News, 100 Years Ago

Trains were once a big part of everyday life, as seen from this selection from 1920 editions of the *Blairmore Enterprise*.

January 3: "The train used by the Prince of Wales for his Canadian tour comprised seven saloon cars, dining cars and two baggage cars."

January 15: "Because William Potter, president of the Fernie O.B.U. [union], was ordered off the train carrying the Coal Creek miners to work on Wednesday morning for refusing to pay his fare, the men decided not to enter the mines and they are on strike."

May 27: "The Christie Bros' circus train came to grief at a bridge 34 miles north of Cardston yesterday morning, which resulted in the death of one member of the circus troupe... The cause of the wreck was the washing out of a bank at the bridge over the main irrigation ditch."

June 30: "Owing to the train wreck near Magrath last week, the Christy Bros' trained animal circus did not appear at Blairmore on Friday, as scheduled."

June 17: "Several cases are being adjudicated upon, one of the most important of which is the claim of Mr. A. May against the C.P.R. for \$700 damages, as a result of a train collision with his automobile in November last."

June 24: "The presence of a railway spike on a rail near Frank came near throwing a whole train into the ditch a few days ago. The pony truck was thrown off, but the train was brought to a standstill before any other damage resulted. Police are investigating..."

July 22: "For the benefit of out-of-town patrons, we may remind them of the conveniences afforded by train service. Coleman people could come in [to Blairmore] on the noon local for the afternoon session and return on the 4.40 local. Those from eastern points could arrive by the 4.40 and return home on the 10.40 train, or come in on the morning train and return at night."

August 19: "A. J. Kelly returned from Lethbridge Wednesday afternoon, having been a witness in the preliminary hearing of Tom Bassoff, train robber and murderer."

December 23: "At about 5:30 on Wednesday afternoon Mrs. John Watson was struck and killed by westbound no. 63 passenger train. The fatality occurred at what is known as the International crossing to Bushtown, east of Coleman."

Sign of the Times

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.

The plaque on the Bellevue Cafe was created and placed by the Alberta Main Street Program. It explains the Bellevue Café Shootout.



Have you read it?

Our Local Heritage Sites (check for Covid-19 closures)



• **CROWSNEST MUSEUM and ARCHIVES** - 7701 18th Avenue, in Coleman National Historic Site. 403-563-5434, cnpmuseum@shaw.ca, www.crowsnestmuseum.ca. Glimpse the rich social, economic and natural heritage of Crowsnest Pass from 1900 – 1950 in two floors of themed rooms. Gift shop features local and regional books, and many other items. Open every day in summer, 9 am - 5 pm; closed on weekends in winter. Adults \$10, seniors (65+) \$8, youth (6-16) \$6, under 6 free, families \$24, Crowsnest Historical Society members free. Tours and educational programs available.



• Close to the museum, the newly-restored **ALBERTA PROVINCIAL POLICE BARRACKS** includes exhibits and artifacts on prohibition, rumrunning, and the legendary shooting of Constable Lawson and the subsequent execution of 'Emperor Pic' and Florence Lossandro. Free with Crowsnest Museum admission.



• **BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE** - off Main Street in Bellevue, 403-564-4700, www.bellevuemine.com. The only authentic historic underground coal mine tour in western Canada, this family-oriented site offers the opportunity to experience what underground miners from a century ago would have seen and heard as they went to go to work each day. Open daily 10am - 6pm in summer; check website for shoulder season hours. Pre-booked tours are available through the winter; closed over Christmas.



• **FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE** - off Hwy 3. 403-562-7388, www.frankslide.ca. Friendly, knowledgeable staff 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 April 1903, Canada's deadliest rockslide. Open year round, 10am to 5pm (9am to 6pm in summer). Adults \$13, Seniors (65+) \$11, Youth (7-17) \$9, 6 and under free, Families \$35.



• **HILLCREST CEMETERY PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - Hillcrest. Visit the mass graves of the 189 victims of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster of 1914, and the many other picturesque graves in this historic cemetery. On-site interpretive signs explain it all. The **Millennium Memorial Monument** is Canada's homage to miners killed across the country. The **park** features interpretive signs about life in Hillcrest and the effect of the disaster, and picnic tables. Accessible year round. Free.



• **LEITCH COLLIERIES PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - Highway 3 just east of town, www.leitchcollieries.ca. Check out the stabilized ruins of this century-old coal processing facility explained through interpretive signs, with on-site staff during the summer. Open during snow-free months, admission by donation. And check out the nearby **Burmis Tree**, a symbol of the Pass and probably Canada's most-photographed tree.



• **COLEMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE and MINERS PATH** - downtown Coleman. Take a self-guided tour of this authentic coal-mining town with a free pamphlet and map, amongst buildings from 1903 - 1986 spanning the entire coal-mining period, many of which have interpretive building plaques. Glimpse the ruins of the mine buildings and coke ovens, walk or drive through the 'miners cottage' neighbourhood of West Coleman. Don't forget your camera. An interpretive booklet can be purchased at the museum. Later, walk the pleasant **Miners Path**, retracing the steps of miners on their way to the McGillivray Mine. All free.

Newsletter Archive

All of our past issues are archived on the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative website and can be accessed by clicking [here](#). A subscription is free; you will be notified by email whenever a new edition is available. To subscribe or unsubscribe, just send an email to cnhnewsletter@shaw.ca.