



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #1

MAY 15 2010

WELCOME

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Fire in Frank
by
Ian McKenzie
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Welcome to the first issue of Heritage News, a free monthly e-newsletter focusing on the many heritage events, projects and opportunities in Crowsnest Pass. It is a Crowsnest Heritage Initiative project. We want this newsletter to encourage you to attend heritage events and inspire you to volunteer time to a heritage project.

Please pass this e-newsletter on to any friends you think would like it. Better yet, send their email address to cnheritage@shaw.ca to subscribe them.



Alberta Provincial Police Barracks Restoration Project, Coleman. Photo: Claire Allum

WHAT'S ON

CROWSNEST MUSEUM

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



CSI MUSEUM: *Monday, June 7th*

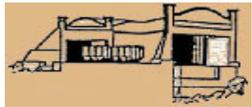
Revisit memories and visit with friends all the while helping to identify people, locations or offering any information and memories about these photographs from our Gushul Family Collection. All day event in the Museum gymnasium. Coffee and cookies served.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Doors Open, Teddy Bear's Picnic: **Saturday, July 31st.**
Harvest of Memories Fall Festival: **Saturday, September 25th.**

BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

Bellevue 403-564-4700



MINE OPENING: *Monday, May 10th*

Put on a miner's helmet and lamp and follow the corridors taken by early coal miners. Tours are offered every half an hour from 10:00 am until 5:30 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bellecrest Days: **Friday, June 18th to Saturday, June 19th.**
Doors Open, Miners' Memorial: **Sunday, August 1st.**
Antique Appraisals with Sheldon Smithens: **Sunday, August 1st.**
Halloween Howler, **Sunday, October 31st.**

FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

Frank 403-562-7388



96TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HILLCREST MINE DISASTER: *Saturday, June 19th 2010*

Join our knowledgeable interpreters on guided tours of the town of Hillcrest and the Hillcrest Cemetery. View the newly completed Hillcrest Mine Disaster Interpretive Walkway & the Hillcrest Mine Disaster Memorial Monument. Special audio-visual and interpretive presentations will take place at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre throughout the day. Tours of Hillcrest will leave from the Interpretive Centre at 1:00 & 3:00 pm and are approximately 1.5 hours in length.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Doors Open: **Friday, July 30th to Monday, August 2nd.**
Alberta Arts Days: **Friday, September 17th to Sunday, September 19th.**

BELLEVUE AND HILLCREST

BELLECREST DAYS: *Friday, June 18th and Saturday, June 19th.*

A celebration of the Bellevue and Hillcrest communities. Activities include a Friday night dance, and Saturday pancake breakfast, parade and firemen's brigade competition. The festival's date coincides with the Hillcrest Mine Disaster of June 19th, 1914.

COLEMAN LEGION

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS: *Thursday, July 1st*

Enjoy an old fashioned pancake breakfast at the Coleman Legion followed by a traditional main street parade.

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE BOARD

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE RESOURCE DESIGNATION WORKSHOP: *Wednesday, May 26th*

The MHB is hosting a workshop on Wed. May 26th at the Orpheum theatre from 1:30 – 4:30 pm on the “Process of Creating a Heritage Resources Inventory” and on “Writing Statements of Significance”. The workshop will be led by Matthew Francis, Manager of Municipal Heritage Services for Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please contact Lynne Cox at 403-562-8833. They hope to accommodate 20-30 people at the workshop.

FEATURED ARTICLE

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FIRE IN FRANK! *by Ian McKenzie*

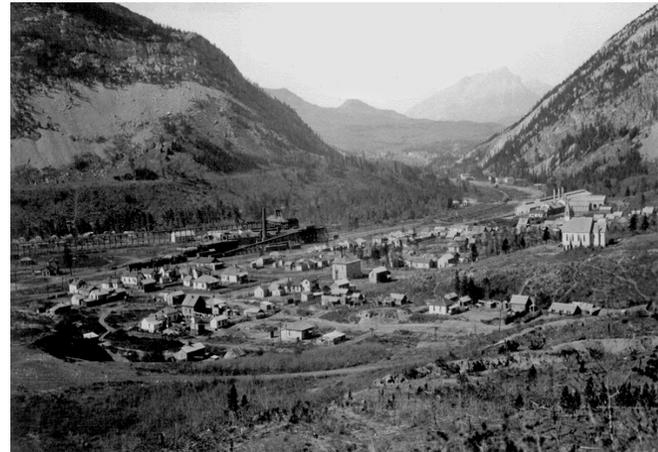
For many years the new town of Frank had no organized fire protection. The August 17, 1905 edition of *The Frank Paper* noted with satisfaction that a town lot on Fifth Street adjacent to Ashdown's livery stable (behind the Frank Hotel) had finally been purchased for a fire hall. In September the new fire hall was painted, and a room for the captain of the volunteer brigade was later added, but obtaining hoses with compatible couplings seemed to be a problem.

The real threat in Frank was, of course, a fire during strong winds. The brigade's first callout in 1907 resulted in a house being gutted by fire, but was judged a success as the fire had not spread to the rest of town. The event did inspire more thorough training, and generated discussion over the need for a fire alarm system in the expanding town. The use of the Knox Presbyterian Church bell was rejected, and an electric alarm system was thought to be too expensive, so instead a compromise of an electric alarm connected to the mine whistle was adopted. The fire hall was also enlarged in 1907 to accept a new hand-drawn hook and ladder truck, as well as two hose reels, buckets, and chemical extinguishers.

In October 1917 the fire hall's tower blew down in a storm, the same year that the Catholic Church on the north side toppled. By then the mine had permanently closed and the old Frank townsite was on its last legs, so the citizenry called for a new fire hall to be located in the north townsite. A tender was called, but it is not known if the old fire hall was relocated or a new structure was built behind the brick liquor store (present Allied Arts gallery). At any rate, the new fire hall did not have a tower, and utilized the bell in the Methodist Church (present Masonic Hall) across the street to call the volunteer fireman to action.

Arson became a problem during the Great Depression. The CPR roundhouse burned in 1934 and two locomotives were damaged, but the Frank and Blairmore fire departments saved the adjacent coal bunker. In 1936 Dypolt's vacant store was lightly damaged and the abandoned NWMP stable was completely destroyed, then on October 10 the fire hall itself was set ablaze. Responding firemen found the church ablaze as well, and the alarm bell rope had been tied up out of reach. The church was saved, but the fire hall and all of its equipment was destroyed.

After 1936 the fire brigade was housed in the basement of the church, until about 1948 when the purchase of a modern fire truck led to the construction of the cinder block garage on 21st Avenue at 149th Street. The bell was removed from the church tower and put on display behind the Dunlop Guns, but was stolen in the 1970s. Frank ceased to have its own fire department after amalgamation.



Frank 1913. Natural Resources Canada, Geological Survey of Canada.
Photo 24748 by D.B. Dowling.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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CROWSNEST MUSEUM

The Crowsnest Museum needs volunteers for a number of special events and to keep the museum open during its extended summer hours.

EVENTS: CSI Museum, Monday, June 7th.
Teddy Bears' Picnic, Saturday, July 31st
Harvest of Memories, Saturday, September 25th

Whether you can volunteer for one event or have the time to work a few hours each week, all help is gratefully received. Jobs at the museum include accessioning artifacts, scanning photographs, manning the gift shop, leading tours and working with school groups. Please contact Don Harvey (403-582-0141), Stephanie Laine-Hamilton (403-562-8435 especially if interested in working with tour groups or educational programs), Wendy Zack at the Museum (403-563-5434).

GARDENING/LANDSCAPING ENTHUSIASTS

Want to show off your gardening skills but don't have a garden? Have extra seedlings you need a home for? Like to get together with friends in the sun? The Crowsnest Museum grounds need landscaping and garden maintenance. Please contact Wendy Zack at the Museum (403-563-5434) if you and your friends are interested in working on a garden project.

RUM RUNNER DAYS

Thursday, July 15th to Sunday, July 18th. Volunteers are needed for the organizing committee. Please e-mail marion@rumrunnerdays.com if you are interested.

CROWSNEST HERITAGE INITIATIVE

The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative is an umbrella organization with many members representing other Crowsnest heritage groups such as the Crowsnest Historical Society, the Ecotrust Museum, the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, the Coleman Seniors' Association and the Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery Committee as well as members of the public. Its primary function is the initiation and coordination of heritage projects implemented by subcommittees of interested individuals and partner organizations. Here are some updates on ongoing projects:

CROWSNEST HERITAGE SIGNAGE PROJECT

More heritage signs are planned for Crowsnest Pass. The signage committee is raising money, writing texts and selecting photographs. This spring they will replace and repair damaged signs along the Crowsnest Heritage Driving Route as well as begin landscaping around historic information signage already in place. Crowsnest Heritage Driving Route maps are available at many local Crowsnest Pass businesses. Look for the Crowsnest Heritage Driving Route logo in their windows.

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL POLICE BARRACKS BUILDING RESTORATION PROJECT

The Alberta Provincial Police barracks were purchased by the Crowsnest Historical Society in 2002. In 2009 the building was moved so that a solid foundation could be built underneath it. Money is being raised for the building's restoration, the second phase of the project.

COLEMAN MINER'S UNION HOSPITAL RESTORATION PROJECT

The old hospital is now the Coleman Seniors Drop-In Centre. Last year new windows were installed that more closely resemble ones that the building had in the early 20th century.

WEB LINKS

Crowsnest Heritage Initiative: <http://crowsnestheritage.ca/CHI.html>

Crowsnest Heritage Driving Tours: http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/Driving_tours.htm

Crowsnest Museum: <http://www.crowsnestmuseum.ca>

Bellevue Underground Mine: <http://www.bellevueundergroundmine.org/aboutus.htm>

Frank Slide Interpretive Centre: <http://www.franslide.com>

Rum Runner Days: <http://rumrunnerdays.com>

Heritage Canada Foundation's Top Ten Most Endangered Places List (includes Crowsnest Pass Mining Complexes): http://www.heritagecanada.org/eng/Top_Ten_Backgrounder_2009_E.pdf

The Virtual Crowsnest Highway (great fun, some errors): <http://www.crowsnest-highway.ca/index.htm>

GIVE TO A FRIEND

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