



# Heritage News

## Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #12

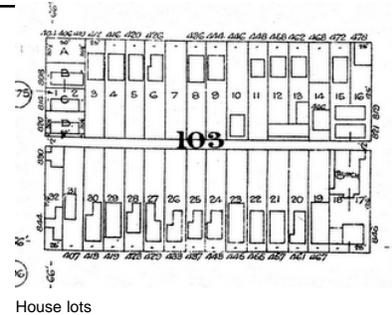
APRIL 15, 2011

### WELCOME

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**Historic Title Search**  
by  
Ian McKenzie
- Historical Designation  
100 Years Ago
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Let me start by congratulating the Board of the Eco-Museum Trust on the designation of the old West Canadian Collieries Mine—the Bellevue Mine—as a Provincial Historic Resource. It takes a lot of research, paperwork and patience to push a request like this through the right bureaucratic channels. The implications of this designation are important and you can read more about this on page 4.



House lots

Our feature article, page 3, also deals with paperwork—and something you might like to attempt yourself. If you live in an old house and are interested in knowing who the ghost is in your spare bedroom, Ian McKenzie explains the process of doing historical title searches.

### WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

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**Editor: Claire Allum**  
cnheritage@shaw.ca  
A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project.

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

#### ORPHEUM THEATRE

Main Street, Blairmore



**Premier of the Historic Coleman Parade and Rodeo.** Thursday, April 28th 1 - 3 pm. Free.

You are invited to watch the historic parade and rodeo as it was captured on film and converted to video. DVD's of the video will be on sale at the theatre and refreshments will be offered after the viewing. The event is brought to you by the Coleman Drop-In Association New Horizons Grant.

#### FORT MACLEOD



**Spring Breakout Classic Car Show.** Saturday, April 16th 1 - 3 pm. Free

It looks like the weather is going to be kind to this annual carfest. Event organizer, Ted Buzunis, says the streets in town are clear and dry. Registration is free and begins at 10:00 am on Main Street, Fort MacLeod. The weather network suggests a high of 9C for Saturday.

#### REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

Cardston, Alberta 403-653-5139



**Easter Eggstravaganza.** Saturday, April 16th 11 am.

Our annual chocolate Easter Egg Hunt begins at 11:00 am and is open to children 10 years and under. As always, the Easter Bunny will be on hand for photo opportunities.

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 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5,

#### HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



**Hike to the Drive Lanes.** Wednesday, May 4th.

Join the site archaeologist and Blackfoot guides and walk back in time to when the early plains people hunted the mighty herds of buffalo. Hike to the 5,700 year old drive lanes and other significant locations near the Buffalo Jump. Learn how the Buffalo Runners lured the buffalo towards the jump. Phone for time and weather conditions.

## BOMBER COMMAND MUSEUM OF CANADA

1729 21st Ave. (Hwy 2 S) Nanton 403-646-2270



**Victory in Europe Day.** *Sunday, May 8th. Engine run-ups at 11 am and after 2 pm.*

The special guest for the event is Honourary President of the Bomber Command Museum, Don Hudson, nephew of Roy Chadwick the engineer who played a major part in creating the Lancaster aircraft. Don will be in the cockpit of the Lancaster during its first engine run-up of the year at 11 am. There will be another engine run-up after the Commemorative Ceremony at 2 pm.

Other Lancaster Merlin run-ups scheduled for:

Planes, Trains, and Elevators, Sunday, July 10

Yellow Wings Fly-In, Monday, August 1

Nanton Parade Day, Saturday, August 20

Nanton Lancaster Society 25th Anniversary, Saturday, September 17

**Please confirm run-ups and their times by visiting the web site before the event: <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/>**

## GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

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



Heirloom lettuce

**Galt Workshop: Heirloom Vegetables and Seed-Saving.** *Wednesday, May 11th, 7 - 9 pm, Free with admission.*

Plant a container of heirloom salad greens after Community Programs Coordinator Leslie Hall demonstrates what was grown by early settlers and Horticulturalist June Flanagan explains details for growing heirloom vegetables and saving seeds. Learn what and when to plant to enjoy homegrown produce just a few steps from your own kitchen.

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.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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## CROWSNEST MUSEUM AND KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE

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



**Prairies'n Peaks Quilt Festival.** *Friday, June 10th to Sunday, June 19th.*

A juried and invitational show sponsored by the Crowsnest Museum and the Kootenai Brown Museum, including a showing of historic textiles. For more information visit : [www.prairienpeaks.com](http://www.prairienpeaks.com)

The Crowsnest Museum is open Monday to Friday, but please phone or email [cnmuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:cnmuseum@shaw.ca) to ensure the Museum is open when you wish to visit. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.

## DOORS OPEN AND CROWSNEST PASS HERITAGE FESTIVAL



**Call for Participants.** *Friday, July 29th to Monday, August 1st.*

The 6th annual Crowsnest Pass Doors Open and Heritage Festival committee is looking for interested groups or individuals who would like to participate in this weekend of activities that highlights the unique heritage of the Crowsnest Pass.

Join community groups, individuals and business as they offer free Doors Open events in the community. Guided hikes, garden tours, cemetery tours and heritage building tours will be a part of the celebrations. There will be special programs at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Bellevue Underground Mine, Crowsnest Museum, and other community venues. Highlights for 2011 include: Blairmore Centennial activities, the launch of the Crowsnest Pass Community Walking Trails, the Country Market, theatrical presentations and much more. Organizing an event for the Heritage Festival is a great way for your group to raise funds.

There are many ways to become involved in the Crowsnest Pass Doors Open and Heritage Festival. You can organize an activity with a group or club that you are associated with, give guided tours of your home or garden, or volunteer for an activity that is already scheduled. Although the committee raises funds through applying for grants to market all events taking place over the weekend, donations are appreciated, especially for the Crowsnest Pass Get-Away Packages. All donations will be acknowledged. In the past average attendance to the weekend's activities has been over 6,000 people. It is a great opportunity to highlight the Crowsnest's unique heritage and your place in it. The deadline to have your event advertised in our flyer is Monday, May 2, 2011.

If you are interested in hosting an event or learning more about Crowsnest Pass Doors Open and Heritage Festival 2011, please contact Cathy Pisony, the Program coordinator, at **403-562-7388** (Frank Slide Interpretive Centre).

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY HARVEST OF MEMORIES



**7th Annual Harvest of Memories Fall Festival.** *Saturday, September 24th.*

This gala event includes a fabulous dinner, entertainment, live and silent auctions, raffles, door prizes and dancing. Don't miss out on a great evening! Details will be announced soon.

## WRITING-ON-STONE PARK AND CAMPGROUND

32 km east and 10 km south of Milk River on Hwy 501 403-647-2364



**Art Retreat: Photographic and Video Arts.** *Friday, September 9th to Monday, September 12th.*

Watch a Parks Canada video of this annual retreat at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t96eT6cro6I> If you are interested in registering or finding our more information please phone **403-647-2364 ext. 229**. Only 20 spaces available.

With its mild winters, Writing-on-Stone is a great destination to visit year-round! Hiking trails are clear for most of the year and can be most enjoyable in cooler weather. For inquiries regarding trail conditions or tour schedules please call the information desk at the Visitor Centre **403-647-2364 ext. 0**. Rock-Art Tours: Adults (18 and over) \$8.00; Youth (7-17) \$6.00; Children (under 6) Free; Family (2 parents and their children under 17) \$25.00. Camping all year \$21 - \$27 a night.

**Guided Rock Art Tours Begin.** *Saturday, April 16th at 2:00 pm.*

Check the web sites for dates and times.

## BAR U RANCH

13 km south of Longview on Hwy 22. 1/2 km west on Hwy 540. 403-395-2212

**Site Opens.** *Sunday, May 22nd.*

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.

The Bar U Ranch was one of a small group of very large corporate ranches in western Canada, including the Cochrane, the Oxley, the Walrond and the Quorn. From 1882 to 1950, the Bar U was one of the foremost ranching operations in Canada.

The key personalities associated with the Bar U - Fred Stimson, George Lane and Patrick Burns - were each in their day, leaders in ranching. They involved the Bar U Ranch in many of the major issues which shaped the industry. At the practical level, the Bar U was one of the best managed of the large ranches and served as a training ground for many cattlemen. 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.



## REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

Cardston, Alberta 403-653-5139

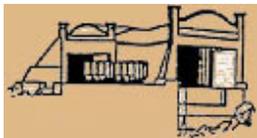


**World Miniature Horse 'Chuckwagon Championships.** *Friday, August 19th to Saturday, August 20th.*

These chuckwagons are approximately one half the size of those on the professional circuit and are pulled by a team of four miniature horses, but they pack all the punch of their regular sized counterparts? Racing is scheduled for both days.

## BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

Bellevue 403-564-4700



**Site Opens.** *May 9th.*

The Mine is open 7 days a week. The first tour begins at 10 am and the last enters the mine at 5:30 pm, and tours begin every half hour.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

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### Conducting a Historical Title Search by Ian McKenzie

If you own an old building in the Crowsnest Pass, you would probably like to know when it was built and who the early occupants were. A historical title search will not necessarily do that, but it will tell you who legally owned the property, and when.

The South Alberta Land Titles Office issues a new Certificate of Title document whenever there is a change of ownership of a property. A historical title search will get you copies of all of the Certificates of Title ever issued for a specific property, following the 'chain of title' from the present back to the very first title issued, even if that was before the Province of Alberta was created in 1905. The information on these documents will give you the names of all previous owners and the date that their ownership of the property was legally registered. On the back of older titles there is often a later cancellation notice in favor of the next owner, which allows you to double-check that you have the complete chain. You will also find (on the back) a record of registered encumbrances (leins, mortgages, etc).

You *cannot* perform a historical title search yourself through the online Spin2 system of the Alberta Land Titles Office. Historical searches are *only* conducted by a separate Historicals branch of the LTO ([Gail.Jones@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Gail.Jones@gov.ab.ca)), and can be conveniently requested by mail. You just post a letter to:

South Alberta Land Titles Office  
Attention: Historicals  
Box 7575 Calgary T2P 2R4

You can get a historical title search on your own property, or anyone else's, they don't care. You must include the following:

1. A request for a historical title search, and what year you want to go back to (or ask to go back to the earliest existing title).
2. A legal description – usually Lot, Block, and Plan Number, but sometimes Parcel and Plan Number, or if in a rural location possibly the Quarter, Section, Range, Township and Meridian. A title search will start with the current legal description and go back to include any titles on larger legal descriptions that existed before a subdivision.
3. Payment, based on \$10 per title, cheque made out to "Minister of Finance". It is very important that you provide sufficient payment (at least \$250, maybe \$500 to be safe) to cover the complete chain of title - there are often more titles than you expect. Don't worry, the Historicals branch will refund you any excess; for example if there are only 10 titles then you are refunded all but \$100. Insufficient payment might result in a historical chain that does not go back as far as you'd like, and you will have paid for the recent stuff but not the really old stuff – and then will have to pay for *another* complete search as they cannot just resume where they left off.

Historical title searches are only conducted from the current title backwards in time, so you will get much more paper than you want. An exception is rural property where the legal description is by quarter/section/township/range/meridian; for some reason you can ask that these searches be conducted from the earliest title forward in time, and you can stipulate a time frame to go up to (e.g. from first title to 1920). Be aware, though, that if a rural parcel has been subdivided into many lots, a forward search will result in LTO providing you with (and charging for) titles for ALL of the new lots – this will not happen if you search back from the present, because you are already starting your search from an individual lot.

Historic titles will not tell you when a building was built, and ironically won't even necessarily tell you when an owner first became involved. In early Frank, for example, some Certificates of Title are dated up to two years after construction and occupancy by a new owner. This is because land purchased from the mine company were by an unregistered Agreement For Sale, which only matured into a registered Transfer of Land (which triggers a new Title) when financial arrangements were complete. I have also come across a newspaper advertisement for a property for sale, even though a Certificate of Title had already been issued to a new owner a year earlier. Who knows what happened there.

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*Ian McKenzie researches and writes about local history from his home in Frank, Crowsnest Pass.*

## *HISTORICAL DESIGNATION*

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So our Bellevue Underground Mine is a Provincial Historic Resource! What does that mean?

If you go to the Alberta Culture and Community Spirit web page and look under "Alberta's Historic Places Designation Program," you will see that in Alberta a site can be a Provincial Historic Resource, a Municipal Historic Resource or a Recognized Historic Resource. To add to the confusion, there are also National Historic Sites, Canadian Recognized Historic Places and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. And a site can be more than one of these things.

### **Provincial Historic Resource**

In Alberta, as far as protecting an old building or site, the most important designation is Provincial Historic Resource. It stops any owner—private, business or government—from changing, damaging or destroying the resource without the consent of Alberta's Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. In return, the provincial government offers matching financial help to owners for necessary restoration. These sites are of "province-wide" significance and—with the addition of the Bellevue Mine—we now have ten in the Pass. The others are: the APP Barracks, Coleman; the Coleman Union Hall/Hospital; the Polish Hall, Coleman; the old Coleman High School; the Courthouse, Blairmore; the Frank Slide; Leitch Collieries; the Old Hillcrest Cemetery; and the town site of Lille. Application for this designation is made through the province.

### **Municipal Historic Resource**

Another important designation is Municipal Historic Resource; applications are made through local municipalities. Once designated, any change to the historic resource an owner wishes to make has to be approved by the local municipality. The provincial government has matching funding programs to help owners do site restoration. The Crowsnest doesn't have any municipally designated resources yet, but may in the future.

## Recognized Historic Resource

As for Recognized Historic Resources, the Crowsnest has nine: the Coleman Legion Hall; the Holy Spirit RC Church, Coleman; the International Coal and Coke Company General Office, Coleman; the Roxy Theatre, Coleman; the Greenhill Hotel, Blairmore; the Greenhill Mine Complex, Blairmore; the Gushul Studio, Blairmore; the J.E. Upton Block, Blairmore; and the Bellevue Restaurant. Originally set up as a lower level of historical priority—the sites characterized as being of “local or regional significance”—Registered resources were not given the same protections that Provincial or Municipal Historic Resources have today. Government money was spent on restoration and then the site was damaged or destroyed by owners.

As of 2005, the provincial government stopped using the category for designation and discontinued the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation grant program which offered matching government funding to the owners of these resources. Although no longer eligible for provincial funding, the owners of Registered sites can make use of the professional and technical services of the Historic Resources Management Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Community Spirit when doing restorations. Before making any changes to their buildings, including demolition, owners have to inform the office of the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit 90 days in advance. After that, they are free to proceed.

## National Historic Sites and Canadian Recognized Historic Sites

The Canadian Registry of Historic Places can be viewed at <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/pages/register-repertoire.aspx>. You'll find our nine Provincial Historic Resources listed there as Canadian Recognized Historic Places—Bellevue hasn't been added yet—plus the Coleman National Historic Site (the old town site and mine buildings). Ironically, the latter—although recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as a site of national significance—has no protection under federal law. But its national designation does make it eligible for matched federal funding of restoration projects.

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Finally, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designates sites of “outstanding universal value” as World Heritage Sites. Of 911 world sites selected, 15 are in Canada, and of these, five are in Alberta: Dinosaur Provincial Park; Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump; Wood Buffalo National Park; Canadian Rocky Mountains Parks (National Parks of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho, and Provincial Parks Mount Robson, Mount Assisiboine and Hamber); and Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The sites are eligible for International Assistance for maintenance and protection costs, but this aid goes to countries less economically fortunate than Canada. Head-Smashed-In is also a Provincial Historic Resource.

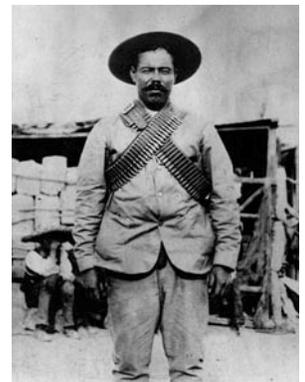
If you are interested in looking up all the designated historic places in the Crowsnest, go to the Alberta Registry of Historic Places at <https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Default.aspx>.

*Note: Information on the provincial, national and UNESCO designation program were taken from their web pages. There may be some designated sites in the Crowsnest not mentioned in this summary and government regulations and programs change faster than their web pages do. C. Allum.*

## *100 YEARS AGO: 1911*

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- **April 19th.** Ballet dancers Vaslav Nijinsky and Tamara Karsavina appeared in the first performance of *Le Spectre de la Rose*. Nijinsky stunned the audience at the Theatre de Monte Carlo by exiting the stage soaring into the air on wires and out through an open window.
- **April 27th.** Blairmore Enterprize. There is a scarlet fever epidemic in Bellevue.
- **April 29th.** The world of physics first learned of the principle of superconductivity as H. Kamerlingh Onnes presented his findings to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- **May 8th.** Mexican Revolution-Pancho Villa launched an attack against government troops in Ciudad Juarez. Government troops surrendered on May 10th.
- **May 11th.** Blairmore Enterprize. At a meeting of the rate-payers, held in Budd's hall, on Friday evening last, it was proven beyond a doubt that incorporation of Blairmore into a town was what people wanted.
- Ice cream and refreshments will be served on the veranda or the inside of teh Rocky Mountain Sanatorium every Wednesday and Sunday all day.



Pancho Villa. Photo Credit: [www.emersonkent.com](http://www.emersonkent.com)

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