



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #21

January 20th, 2012

[Click to go to page](#)

WELCOME

- [Welcome](#)
- [What's On](#)
- [What's Open](#)
- [Mark Your Calendars](#)

Louis Dutil
Compilation by
Ian McKenzie

- [Feature Article](#)
- [100 Years Ago](#)
- [Blairmore Seniors' Centre](#)
- [Bunny Bonsie!](#)
- [Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#)
- [Form: Application for Crowsnest Historical Society Board](#)

If you're interested in Crowsnest Pass Heritage—and since you subscribe to this e-newsletter you probably are—please consider running for the Crowsnest Historical Society Board. It is a volunteer position that can be challenging but also a great source of satisfaction. The Crowsnest Pass Museum and Archives, run by the Society, has one of the richest archives of documents and photographs in southern Alberta as well as a family friendly museum. The Board needs all sorts of skillsets.

From personal experience, I can state that applicants should be willing to put several hours a week into doing Board work, but the range of what needs to be done stretches from volunteering for events and keeping the Museum open to grant writing and working on a business plan (strategic plan) to ensure continued future funding for the Museum and Society.

The Crowsnest Pass's rich cultural heritage was a result of decades of a slowly declining local economy. Ironically, this saved the heritage buildings and streetscapes, as there was no money for development. Now that the Crowsnest Pass is facing rebirth as a mountain recreation community, the Society in partnership with the Municipality can incorporate its rich southern Alberta heritage—something few other Alberta communities have—in its future economic development.

The Crowsnest Historical Society's Board would like applications for the Board by February 18th, so that names can be included in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) announcement letter and short résumés of the applicants be printed and handed out at the AGM on Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 pm in the Polish Hall, Coleman (1406 82nd St.). This will encourage applicants to consider what they can bring to the Board and their commitment to spending time on behalf of the society. The application form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

WHAT'S ON

[BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

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.

THE FRANK SLIDE CENTRE

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388



FREE ADMISSION

Family Day: Monday, February 20th.

In celebration of Family Day the Centre is offering free admission. Staff from the Bellevue Underground Mine and the Crowsnest Pass Museum will be on site with artifacts and displays highlighting the unique history of the Crowsnest Pass. Two award-winning audio visuals will play throughout the day.

The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10:00 am to 5:00 pm . Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

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



FREE ADMISSION (with membership): Sunday, March 11th, 2:00 pm.

The Annual General Meeting of the Crowsnest Historical Society will be held on Sunday, March 11th, at the Polish Hall, Coleman (1406 82nd St.) at 2:00 pm. There will be refreshments and a guest speaker. It is a great time to **renew your membership** or join for the first time. Elections for the Crowsnest Historical Society Board will take place during the

business meeting. The deadline for applications to the Board is **February 18th**. An application form is at the end of this newsletter.

Crowsnest Pass Historic 2012 Calendars: \$10. There are a few calendars left for sale at the Museum. This calendar features unique photographs of the Crowsnest Pass taken during its historic development and housed in the Museum Archives. If you wanted to buy a copy of one of these images separately from the Museum, it would cost you \$15.

The Museum is open year round. Along with its displays and archives, it hosts a Gift Shop and runs tours and educational programs. Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca. Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.



Interpreting the Past Using Photographs: Thursday, February 9th, 7 pm.

Historians use photographs as primary sources, but how do professional historians actually "interpret" these photographs? This workshop with Carol Williams explores historical methods on the use and interpretation of photographs, and a discussion on the ethics of visual representation. We will use photographs from the Archives, and participants are invited to bring their own collection.

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,

KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM

1037 Bev McLachlin Dr., Pincher Creek. 403-627-3684



Prairie Grass to Mountain Pass.

The Kootenai Brown Museum is re-issuing the local history book for the Pincher Creek area, "Prairie Grass To Mountain Pass." It will hit the streets in mid July 2012. This volume is divided into close to forty chapters representing the communities of Pincher Creek, Cowley, Lundbreck, Twin Butte and the rural localities now encompassed by the Municipal District of Pincher Creek.

Prairie Grass to Mountain Pass was originally published in 1974, but has long been out of print. This new limited edition will likely be the final printing of this important historical work.

Featured in this close to 600 page, two-column, publication will be 100 community histories and 700 genealogies, many not included in previous efforts, from the early days of the Pincher Creek district. Businesses, community groups, and families who had a pioneer connection with this area between its establishment in 1878 and 1910 are chronicled in this volume. A second volume, still forthcoming, will highlight those agencies and people who arrived here between 1911 and the end of the Second World War in 1945.

You can order your copies directly through the Kootenai Brown Pioneer village by dropping by our offices at 1037 Bev McLachlin Drive, via Canada Post at PO Box 1226, Pincher Creek, Alberta. T0K 1W0, or by email to fswuth.kbpv@gmail.com. If you pay for yours before February 1st, we can offer it at \$90.00 per copy, packaging it with two other book discounts: "Pincher Creek's Ill-Fated Railway Industry" at \$11.00 and "Where The Rivers Meet" at \$10. Postage and handling are extra.

The Museum is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free.

WHAT'S OPEN

[BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO World Heritage Site) 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 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

FORT WHOOP-UP NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Lethbridge, off Whoop-Up Drive. 403-329-0444



The Fort is open weekends from 12—4 pm. Admission: Adults \$7, Seniors (65+) \$6, Students \$5, Under 5 Free. The Fort has a great gift whop filled with cowboy hats, jewelry, Blackfoot crafts and books. They will ship.

REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

Cardston, Alberta 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 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

[BACK TO CONTENTS](#)

BOMBER COMMAND OF CANADA

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



- Sunday, May 6th Salute to the Air Cadets
- Saturday, June 2nd Planes, Trains and Elevators
- Saturday, July 28th Joe English Memorial Fly-by
- Saturday, August 18th, The Calgary Mosquito

Lancaster Merlin Engine Run-ups.

May 6th, June 7th, July 7th, August 6th, August 18th and September 22nd.

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

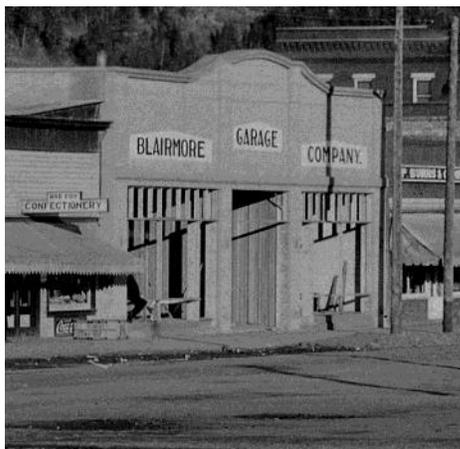
Louis Dutil

Information compiled from *The Blairmore Enterprise* newspaper by **Ian McKenzie**.

Louis Dutil was born in Quebec on September 8, 1878. By 1900 he was the CPR station agent at Michel, BC, and then the agent at Blairmore between 1902 and 1909. He was married to Alma Montreuil with whom he had three daughters and one son.

Dutil was best known for his hardware stores, although he did branch out into other ventures. He began by operating the hardware section of Mar On's general store before opening his own Blairmore Hardware in 1911, renting space in the Frayer and Sinclair building (recently vacated by the Crow's Nest Pass Hardware Company which was consolidating its operations in Frank). In 1914 he installed a gas pump in front of his store, and in April 1917 took over the Ford and Overland automobile agency with partner and garage-owner Alfred W. Robbins. In March 1919 Dutil moved the Blairmore Hardware into the Peuchen Block, and also opened hardware stores in Coleman (in 1918?), Three Hills (until 1924), and had plans for one in Kimberley BC in 1926. Dutil also briefly owned an auto repair garage, moving his Blairmore Garage Company in 1923 from Dearborn Street into a new building on Victoria Street (later to become the home of Red Trail Motors).

Louis Dutil was a continuous member of the Blairmore town council from before incorporation in 1911 until 1920, excepting when he ran for mayor. In 1912 he lost to Henry Lyon by a count of 59 to 56, and in 1920 to Archie McLeod 110 to 106. After 1920 Louis did not return to municipal politics, instead continuing to serve on the Board of Trade and on the Blairmore School Board as trustee, secretary-treasurer or chairman.

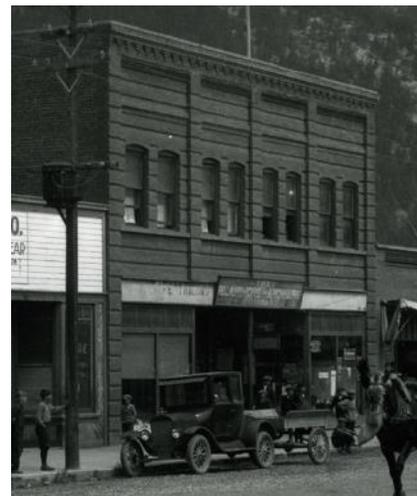


Blairmore Garage Building under Construction 1923.

His tenure in small-town politics was not uneventful. As town councillor, he stood with the majority of councillors in opposition to the heavy-handed tactics of mayor Lyon, who sometimes operated without the consent of, or in opposition to, the majority vote of Council. Disputes included the purchase of property for a firehall and the hiring and firing of the police chief, both of which resulted in lawsuits against the Town of Blairmore. As chairman of the School Board, Dutil was involved in controversial salary reductions for teachers in 1925. This included Board resistance to their union representation; teachers attempting to bargain collectively were simply let go and others hired in their place. In 1926 a meeting of school board ratepayers noted that, under Dutil's chairmanship, the school board had improperly made \$800 in purchases from his Blairmore Hardware.

After being in a "nervous state of health for several days", Louis Dutil committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver in the Blairmore Hardware store in the early morning of March 8, 1926, age 47. He is buried in the old Blairmore Catholic

Cemetery.



Blairmore Hardware, Peuchen Block, July 1926.

Ian McKenzie is a writer and historian who lives in Frank, The Crowsnest Pass.

100 YEARS AGO

- January 17th. Robert Falcon Scott realizes that Roald Amundsen and his party has reached the South Pole before him.
- January 25th. Pelletiers' Saw Mill Reduced to Ashes. The mill was insured. Estimated damage of \$10,000. Blairmore Enterprise.
- January 28th. Jackson Pollock, American artist and pioneer in the abstract expressionism movement in painting, is born in Cody, Wyoming.
- February 1st. Furnished Rooms to Let: Two well furnished Rooms, with bath, use of telephone, with or without board. Price single \$8 to double \$10 per month. Apply to Mrs. A. Bryden, State Street E. Blairmore. Blairmore Enterprise.
- February 2nd. The British submarine A-3, with 14 men aboard, sank off the Isle of Wright after being rammed by the depot ship *Hazard*.
- February 9th. In the first of its kind, he ladies of Coleman defeated the ladies of Blairmore in an interesting and highly amusing hockey game. Monday evening last. The final score was 6 to 0 and the game watched by almost 200. Bellevue Times.

BLAIRMORE SENIORS' CLUB BUILDING

The Crowsnest Pass Heritage Board is trying to determine the origin of the **Blairmore Seniors' Club** Building that is at 13122 19th Ave.

WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW

In the early 1940s The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks purchased the building for the **Blairmore Library** and moved it across the CPR railroad tracks to South Blairmore. An extension was added in 1961. It became the Blairmore Seniors' Club after the Blairmore Library moved into the basement of the Municipal Offices Building.

WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

Is the above correct?

What was the building before it became the library? Before the Elks moved it?

If you have information on this building—memories, stories, or know of people who may know more about its history, please contact the editor of this newsletter (Claire Allum) at 403-562-2450 or email at cnheritage@shaw.ca.

BUNNY BONSPIEL MEMORABILIA

MEMORABILIA NEEDED

The Crowsnest museum is asking for the loan of Bunny Bonspiel Memorabilia for a Museum exhibition celebrating the 65th anniversary of the historic curling event. If you have photographs, programs, crests, trophies or anything else from early Bunny Bonspiels that you would be willing to loan to the Museum, please contact the Museum at 403-563-5434 or by email at cnmuseum@shaw.ca.

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE



CROWNSNEST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

"Take a walk through the past and connect with the future"

P.O. Box 306, 7701 18 Ave. Coleman, Alberta T0K 0M0
PHONE/FAX: (403) 563-5434 EMAIL: cmuseum@shaw.ca



Crownsnest Historical Society Application to serve on the 2012 Board of Directors

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

In addition to the above contact information, applicants are required to submit a one-paragraph summary of their career, volunteer, or board experience, as well as any other information that they believe is relevant in support of their application. This information will be distributed along with the ballots, at the Annual General Meeting on March 11, 2012. Applicants will also be given an opportunity to briefly address the membership, prior to the vote.

Applications can be mailed to the Crownsnest Historical Society, PO Box 306, Coleman, AB, T0K 0M0, or dropped off at the Crownsnest Museum & Archives at 7701 - 18 Ave., Coleman, AB. All applications must be received by February 18, 2012.

Other information for applicants:

1. Nominations for Board membership will not be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.
2. Terms for Board members vary from one to three years, and will be decided at the first Board meeting, based on the number of votes received. Executive positions will be decided at the same meeting.
3. Board meetings are held once a month, and average 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Special meetings are called as necessary.
4. Agreeing to serve on the Board of Directors is a serious commitment. Board membership involves significantly more than just attending meetings. The successful operation of the Crownsnest Museum and Archives depends critically on there being a well-functioning Board of Directors, with members who are willing to make a significant contribution of their time, energy, and skills. In addition to governing the financial and other affairs of the Society, the Board is responsible for the human resources, physical and archival assets of the Museum.
5. Successful applicants will be subject to a criminal record check.
6. Potential applicants who have further questions or who would like to learn more about Board responsibilities, should contact John Salus (403 563 4181), President, Crownsnest Historical Society.