



# Heritage News

## Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #34

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**John C. Clark  
1882–1914**

By  
**Belle Kovach**

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### The Cultural Access Pass for new Canadians

(valid for one year after nationalization)

Did you know that the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) offers a Cultural Access Pass (CAP) to all newly minted Canadian citizens? The Pass allows free entry into Canada's national and provincial parks and hundreds of cultural and heritage venues.

The idea was the brainstorm of Mary Cone Barrie, former director of the University of Toronto's School of continuing Education. Although there are many government programs focused on helping newcomers to Canada, there are very few for newly minted Canadians.

She approached Susan Block-Nevitte, then executive Director of Public Affairs for the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), and in 2007 the AGO became the first institution to offer complimentary entrance to new Canadians. In 2008 the ICC launched the CAP program with six institutions.

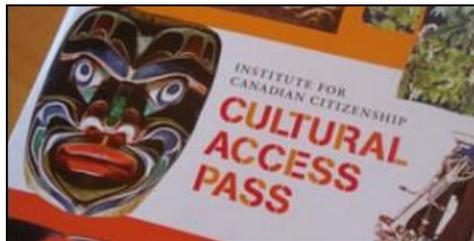
The program has been a huge success with over 50,000 new Canadian participating. Alberta has dozens of participating venues including our own Frank Slide Centre. Offerings are increasing and diversifying. Via Rail is offering a 50% discount on all travel in Canada to CAP holders so they can visit their new country. Even some local organizations are getting involved. With a CAP you can attend free drop-in classes at Kelowna's Center for the Arts including HeART Fit Tuesdays; Basement Musicians (every 2nd Tue); Bellydance Wednesdays; Feel The Rhythm Drum Circle (every 2nd Wed); and Salsa Thursdays. Now that's multicultural and truly Canadian!



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A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project.

If interested in submitting an article, news piece, or update, please send it to [cnheritage@shaw.ca](mailto:cnheritage@shaw.ca).



## WHAT'S ON

### THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM

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

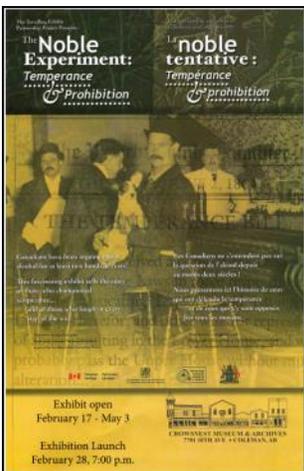
Open : Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

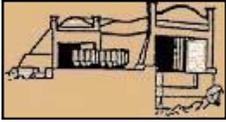


A new temporary exhibit will be on display at the museum starting February 17th titled "Noble Experiment: Temperance and Prohibition."

As well as exhibits on coal mining in the Crowsnest 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](mailto:cnmuseum@shaw.ca).

Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.





**Music for the Mine** Saturday, 29 March 2014

This fundraising gala will feature "Game Show Mania" before a feast catered by Country Encounters. There will be an auction and prizes. Entertainment by Metrobeat will round out the evening.

**Come and see the New Mine Gazebo**

Nippon Institute of Technology students built a beautiful gazebo for the mine which was finished and installed on the grounds in September 2013.

The Bellevue Underground Mine is open year round. December 2013 to April 2014 Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Last tour is at 4:30 pm. Tours run every half hour. Closed on Saturday and Sunday to the public but will remain open for pre-booked tours on the weekends. The mine averages about 1° C inside, so please dress appropriately. Contact: 403-564-4700 and [bellevuemine@telus.net](mailto:bellevuemine@telus.net). Admission adults \$14, Seniors \$13, Youth \$10, children under 5 free with an adult.

**THE FRANK SLIDE CENTRE**

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388



**Frank Slide Family Day** Monday, 18 February.

Admission is free to everyone at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre on Family Day. Two award-winning audio visual presentations, "In the Mountain's Shadow" and "On the Edge of Destruction" will play throughout the day. There will also be special family presentations.

The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre highlights the rich heritage of the Crowsnest Pass amid the breathtaking beauty of the Canadian Rockies. The Centre is open all year and visitors will be greeted by friendly, knowledgeable staff who will 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 (10:00 am to 6:00 pm in the summer) . Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

**KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM**

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



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 is open to the public daily from 9 am to 4 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday through the winter season, Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free, Families \$25

**FERNIE MUSEUM**

491 Victoria Ave. (2nd Ave.), Fernie, BC 250-423-7016



The Fernie Museum & Visitor Information Centre is located in one of Fernie's distinctive heritage buildings at 491 2nd Ave. The building itself, an important example of Fernie's rich history, boasts a main floor exhibit hall with the visitor info centre, as well as a lovely Museum Gallery on the 2nd floor. Public washrooms are available on each floor.

**HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)**

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



**Open year round and particularly beautiful in the winter.**

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](mailto:info@head-smashed-in.com). Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22. The Centre can be booked for special events.

**BOMBER COMMAND OF CANADA**

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



The Museum is open: April 16 to October 15 (every day 9 am to 5 pm) October 16 to April 15 (weekends only 10 am to 4 pm.) Phone to arrange visits at other times. Admission is by donation.

There are already tentative dates for Lancaster engine run-ups. Go to <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/index.html>

## 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. It all started in 1869, when American fur traders brought a wagon train of whiskey and other trade goods north. They established a stockade, later known as Fort Whoop Up, and made a ton of profit before the Mounties showed up to rein in the whiskey business. 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 1st - Sept. 30th, Wednesday to Monday (closed Tuesdays) from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; October, Wednesday to Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; November to March, Saturday and Sunday, 12:00 - 4:00 pm; April and May, Wednesday to Saturday, 12:00 - 4:00 pm. Adults \$7, Seniors (65+) \$6, Students \$5, Under 5 free, Families \$18.69.

## GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

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



**Arts of China.** 31 January – 19 May.

showcases artifacts from the Royal Ontario Museum's world-renowned Far Eastern collections dating from the *Shang Dynasty* (ca. 1300-1050 BCE) to the *Qing Dynasty* (1644-1911 CE), and examines Chinese history, culture and classic traditions by exploring aspects of three materials closely associated with China: jade, bronze and ceramics.

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.



## REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

623 Main St. Cardston. 403-653-5139



**Family Day Kid's Carnival.** Sunday, 17 February.

Old fashioned themed kid's games, crafts, activities, food, and fun! Win prizes! Admission to the Museum is FREE

Activity tickets can be purchased at the ticket booth. 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 9 am—4 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

## BAR-U RANCH

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



**Will be re-opening in late May 2014.**

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.

Admission: Adults (17 and over) \$7.80; Youth (6-16) \$3.90; Seniors (65+) \$6.55; Children (under 6) Free; Family (2 parents

## WRITING-ON-STONE

Hwy 4 South from Lethbridge. Then Hwy 500 West. Then South on Range Road 130A



**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 \$13 to \$19 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.

The Visitor Centre is closed in the winter. To contact a conservation officer, phone 403-647-7448 or 403-647-7706 (local call from the park)

## John, C Clark 1882 – 1914

By  
Belle Kovach

John C Clark was born to Charles and Elizabeth Clark (nee Elizabeth John) of Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, Wales, in 1882, and named after his father's brother, John, who in the meantime had immigrated to the United States of America. A second son was born to Charles and Elizabeth two years later.

In 1885, Charles and Elizabeth and their two sons left Wales and immigrated to the United States, likely joining Charles' brother John Clark Sr., who was mining in Lafayette, Colorado. In 1890, after the birth of two daughters, Charles and Elizabeth left the United States and returned to Wales where three more children were born.

In 1897 Charles, who was then 38 years of age, again left his home and family and immigrated to Canada, to Fernie, British Columbia. This was the same year that construction began on a railroad that would run from Medicine Hat, in the District of Alberta, Northwest Territories, through the Crowsnest Pass to the Kootenay Lakes in British Columbia, and there were no towns or mines anywhere between Lethbridge and Fernie. Charles found employment at the Coal Creek Mine, located on the outskirts of Fernie, which was the first coal mine of its kind in the Crowsnest Pass.



Canadian Pacific Rail Construction Through the Crowsnest Pass c1898. Glenbow Museum Archives. NA-3903-82



Miners off to Coal Creek from Fernie 1898. Fernie and District Historical Society. Image FFP(07)-0385

The following year, Charles left Fernie and moved to Alberta where he became employed as a miner in Lethbridge, a small city where coal had been mined commercially since 1874.

In 1898, Elizabeth and the rest of the family joined Charles in Lethbridge and it was there that their eldest son, John Jr., secured his first mining job at the age of 18 years.

In 1900, John Sr., from Colorado, brought his wife and family to Canada, to join Charles and his family on a homestead located on the Oldman River (now Crowsnest River) at Fort Macleod.

All went well for the brothers and their families until the spring of 1903, when following an unusually harsh winter, the brothers were forced to go back to mining in order to pay for seed and other necessities.

Conveniently for the Clark brothers, the first coal mine and small mining camp of "Frank," had been developed on the Alberta side of the Crowsnest Pass and was a short distance from Fort Macleod by rail.

The two veteran miners, Charles and John Sr., and Charles' eldest son John Jr., took employment with the Canadian American Coal and Coke Company mining at Frank where they also shared accommodations in a small cottage on the outskirts of town. When the men weren't working and were on days off, they travelled home by rail to operate and maintain their homestead in Fort Macleod.

On April 28th, 1903, Charles had finished his work week and left Frank by train for Fort Macleod. His brother John Sr., however, remained in Frank where he was scheduled to work the night shift, and fell victim to the avalanche that buried part of the town, the entire valley east of the town, and, unfortunately, the mine entrance where John Sr. was working at the time of the slide. The avalanche of rocks and boulders that came from the face of Turtle Mountain that night was given the name 'Frank Slide.'

Whether young John Jr., was mining at Frank with his father and uncle in the spring of 1903 is unknown, but highly probable.

In August of 1905, at the age of 23 years, John Jr. married Katherine "Kate" Herrington in Blairmore. In 1907, he achieved his third class mining certificate while working in Frank, where their first son Charles was born. A second son, John, was born in 1908, a daughter, Rosaline, in 1910, and a daughter, Violet in 1912.



Lethbridge Drift Mine #1. Univeristy of Lethbridge. [http://www.uleth.ca/vft/Oldman\\_River/CoalHistory.html](http://www.uleth.ca/vft/Oldman_River/CoalHistory.html)



View of Hillcrest Mine June 19th, 1914, one day after the explosion. <http://www.lessignets.com/signetsdiane/calendrier/>

In 1910, while still mining and living in Frank, young John Jr. was initiated into the first order of the Masons at Sentinel Lodge #26, then located in Frank.

Census data of 1911 indicates that he and Kate had moved to Bellevue where he was employed by the West Canadian Collieries.

Sometime afterwards, John Jr. became employed by the Hillcrest Collieries, an easy walk from Bellevue, where Kate and the family continued to reside. By January of 1913, however, the family was all living together in Hillcrest and Kate was pregnant with her fifth child.

On June 19th, 1914, John Jr., who was working the day shift, was among the 189 men killed in the mine as a result of a horrific explosion. He is buried in the Masonic Plot in the Hillcrest Cemetery.

Shortly following John Jr.'s death, his daughter, Elizabeth, was born.

It was reported in the local newspaper sometime after the 1914 explosion that John Jr., as recently as May 1st, prior to the disaster, had taken out a substantial life insurance policy in the amount of \$1000.

Another newspaper account, published just after the event, stated that Mary Ann Chestnut, the sister of the deceased John Sr., had come from Pochontas (now Jasper) to Hillcrest to attend his funeral.

Charlie Chestnut of Crowsnest mining fame had sometime earlier married the younger sister of John Jr. in Fort Macleod. We first learn of Charlie and his brother Robert, when the two of them escape being killed in the Frank Slide of 1903, because the house they were intending on renting was not yet vacated and they were forced to stay another night in a hotel on Frank's busy main street. Their intended place of residence was buried by the slide and all the occupants killed.

Charlie went on to have a colorful mining career in the Pass where he was engaged to initiate the mining operations at Frank, Maple Leaf; Hillcrest; and again in Blairmore when the West Canadian Collieries formed the Blairmore South Mine.

A number of years after being in the Jasper area, Charlie and his family returned to Blairmore where he became the superintendent of the Mutz Mine that briefly operated southwest of Blairmore in 1918.

By 1916, Kate Clark was living with her five children in River Bottom, an area on the Oldman River, half way between Bellevue and Hillcrest.

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*Belle Kovach researches and writes on the history of the Crowsnest Pass and is an active member of many of its historical societies.*

## 100 YEARS AGO 1914

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- **5 January:** The Ford Motor Company announced an eight-hour workday and a wage of \$5 for a day's labour.
- **9 January:** A class in English for foreigners was organized by Mr. Irwin on Wednesday night. The class will meet in the church twice a week. *Bellevue Times*.
- **January:** Benito Mussolini (future Fascist leader of Italy) is working as an idealistic socialist journalist.
- **16 January:** Masonic Lodge is Instituted. Last night the "Rocky Mountain" Lodge of A.F. and A.M. was regularly instituted at Blairmore by District Deputy Grand Master H.A. Gunn of Cowley. The ceremony took place in the Oddfellows' Hall. *Bellevue Times*.
- **7 February:** Charlie Chaplin debuts "The Tramp" in "Kid Auto Races at Venice."
- **20 February:** Is the Mayor Still on the Job? He Stated at Ratepayers Meeting Last November That "So Long As He Was Mayor James R. Irwin Would be Chief of Police. Council Holds Special Meeting To Convince Mayor That The Town Does Not Need a Police Officer. *Blairmore Enterprise*.
- **10 March:** Suffragette Mary Richardson damages Velázquez' painting Rokeby Venus in London's National Gallery with a meat chopper.
- **March:** The Blairmore Train Schedule (CPR). *Bellevue Times*.

No. 515 Regular West Bound Passenger	08:35
No 514 Regular East Bound Passenger	21:03
No 63 Calgary-Spokane Express	22:30
No 64 Spokane-Alberta Express	08:35

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