



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION: A GRIDIRON COMMUNITY OR HOW THE WEST WAS WAFFLED

by Marilyn Williams

The Calgary and District Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

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[www.albertahistory.org/
hsa/chapters/chinook](http://www.albertahistory.org/hsa/chapters/chinook)

The Vision of the Society:
"to promote a greater
understanding of Canadian and
Alberta history in Chinook
Country for people of all ages."

Chinook boundaries
are from Olds to Nanton,
from the B.C. to the
Saskatchewan borders.

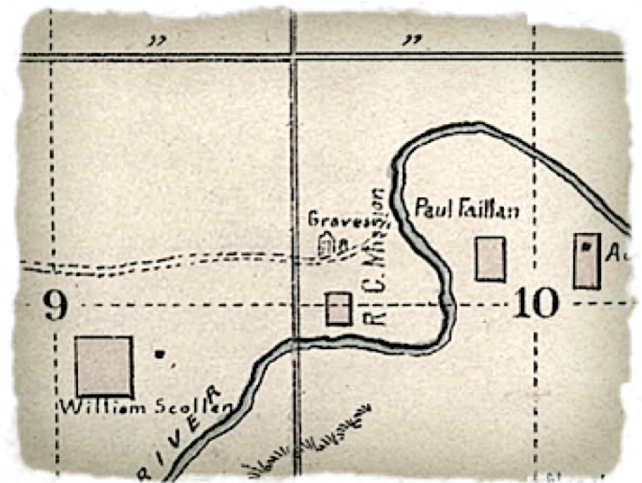


Like most of Western Canada, Calgary was settled using the Dominion Land Survey under the Dominion Lands Act, instituted by the federal government in 1872. Canada had acquired the Northwest Territories and Manitoba with the purchase of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company just a few years before.

The land policy is based on a system of townships. Every township is divided into 36 sections, each about one-mile square, and every section is divided into four square parcels called quarter sections roughly 1/2 mile per side. Quarter sections were suitable for agriculture, transportation and resource development. They also could be subdivided into urban lots. A simple nickname for this system is gridiron, a variation of the word griddle dating back to the 14th century, and later used to describe anything with a grid pattern.

Even-numbered sections were available for homesteaders for a \$10 fee, provided that within three years 30 acres were cultivated and a permanent dwelling—even a sod hut—was constructed. In 1884 the Oblate fathers successfully petitioned for land in Section 10 (Township 24, Range 1, West of the 5th Meridian), and had their land surveyed into urban lots later that same year. In 1899 their land was incorporated as the Village of Rouleauville, and was annexed by The City in 1907 to become today's community of Mission.

Odd-numbered sections were normally used for railway land-grants, except 11 and 29 which were reserved for school boards to use, trade for more suitable land, or sell to fund initial school construction. Railways were considered critical to settling the Prairies and the government granted them large tracts of land



EARLY SETTLEMENT IN CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION. LINE BETWEEN SECTIONS 9 AND 10 BECAME BROADWAY (NOW 4TH STREET).
(Taken from Jason Ness, *A Heritage Conservation Strategy for Cliff Bungalow-Mission*. Credits: Plan of Township No. 24, Range 1, West of Fifth Meridian, by the Dominion Lands Office, Ottawa, 1883, Glenbow Archives.

as an incentive. All railways were eligible, although after the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was granted 25 million acres for its first Ontario-Pacific line, odd sections were often referred to as "CPR sections." Between 1880 and 1930, the CPR was the biggest town planner in Canada. Cliff Bungalow is part of section 9, which was granted to the CPR in 1883. Separate areas of the community were developed by the CPR in 1905 and 1910 and by Western Canada College (now Western Canada High School) in 1912.

The population of the Prairies grew slowly at first, reaching 150,000 when the CPR was completed in 1885. Land policy finally became effective after 1896, when Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, streamlined bureaucracy. He targeted and actively recruited hardy settlers from Europe and North America—a population increase of two million people by 1914.

(Continued on Page 3)

CCHS Calendar of Events

All events are free programs starting at 7:30 p.m. at Fort Calgary Historic Park (750-9 Avenue SE) unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, February 22

Larger Than Life: Alberta Volunteers in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902

• Sheila Bannerman

Tuesday, March 22, 5:30 p.m.

CCHS Annual General Meeting

• See Page 3 for details.

Tuesday, April 26

History Lessons in Alberta Schools

• Amy von Heyking

Tuesday, May 24

Being Good Sports: Fish and Game Conservation in Alberta, 1907-1930

• George Colpitts

At the Central Library

Family History Coaching

Drop-in for help with genealogy research. Presented by the Alberta Family Histories Society.

Saturdays, Jan. 29, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 30: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

4th Floor genealogy area. No registration required.

Genealogy Meet Up

Join our group of genealogists to meet, chat, learn, and share.

Saturdays, Jan. 29, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 30: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

4th Floor Meeting Room. No registration required.

Black History Month: Panel Discussion

Join a panel discussion that explores the question: what is Black History?

Friday, Feb. 11: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

2nd Floor, John Dutton Theatre. No registration required.

Heritage Roundtable

Heritage Trades is the next topic in the popular heritage Roundtable series. Join us at the historic Loughheed House, 707-13th Avenue SW, on January 27 at 7:00 p.m.. Please register online at <http://www.calgarycommunities.com/events.php>.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Shona Gourlay

We finished the year with our annual Christmas lunch event at Fort Calgary. Thank you to all who braved the cold to attend! There was a bit of excitement a week before the event, when the scheduled speaker cancelled due to illness. Luckily, with the help of our treasurer, Sarah Harvey, a replacement was found. We were treated to music from the 1920s to the 1950s by a husband and wife duo.

Our first program for 2011 was on the Nez Perce in Canada, presented by George Kush. February's program will be on Alberta

volunteers in the Anglo-Boer War, presented by Sheila Bannerman. The CCHS AGM is on March 22, and all members are welcome to attend. Tickets are required for the presentation and dinner that follow the AGM.

We are also sad to report the passing of Jack Leslie, and Fred Holberton, in December of 2010. Dr. Holberton was HSA treasurer for fourteen years, and received an honorary lifetime membership in 1995. Jack Leslie was the first native Calgarian to be elected mayor of the City.

Best wishes for 2011 from the CCHS. CCHS

WORKING OUT WITH HERITAGE

by Bill Longstaff

In addition to hosting dozens of community organizations and agencies, the old YWCA building at 221-12 Avenue SW is home to the Beltline Aquatic & Fitness Centre. The Centre offers public swimming and a variety of drop-in aquatic and fitness classes for singles and families. Rates are reasonable, as low as \$2.50 per drop-in to \$190 for an annual pass for seniors. A heritage building like the Old Y being put to good use warms the heart of history-lovers.

The three-story, red-brick and sandstone building, an excellent example of the Georgian Revival style, was constructed between 1910 and 1911 and was the first YWCA built in Alberta. Initially a hostel, it eventually introduced the variety of educational, cultural and physical programs associated with the YWCA. During WWII, it provided the first billet for the newly-formed Canadian Women's Army Corps.

The building became the "Old Y" in 1971 when it was sold to The City of Calgary, and the new YWCA was built on 5th Avenue. The Old Y was declared a Provincial Historic Resource on May 27, 1982, and will celebrate its 100th birthday this year.

So happy birthday to this heritage treasure, and for those of you who want to splash in the pool in the middle of a cold winter, why not do it surrounded by history? CCHS



OLD YWCA (ca. 1911)
Courtesy Glenbow Archives NC-24-13

Why is a Raven like a Writing Desk?

Do you have a shelf full of Canadian or local history books that you always mean to get around to reading? Here is some motivation. Join other history buffs in a different historical place in Calgary on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month to share an historical book that you have read. Each person will be asked to give a synopsis or review of their book. Afterward, we will try and find a connection between the books. Will we succeed? Come and find out! No registration or fees. Why IS a raven like a writing desk?

Phone or email Kate at (403) 809-7341 to find the time and place of the February 9th meeting.

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD (Crossword on page 4)

Across

1. Chautauqua, 6. CFAC, 9. Bytown, 10. E.P., 11. Munro, 13. Tutor, 14. Foran, 15. IOU, 16. Recover, 18. Sking, 19. Lowery, 21. Pig lady, 24. Yodlers, 25. Cappy, 27. Ari, 28. Leavitt, 31. Keg, 32. York Hotel

Down

1. Cabot, 2. Astatic, 3. Tower, 4. UK, 5. Umpires, 7. Fanning, 8. Crocus, 11. Manning, 12. Afar, 16. Riley Park, 17. Variety, 20. Wedding, 21. Plaza, 22. ATP, 23. Ashley, 26. Yak, 29. Ich, 30. Tot



Andrew Mosker brings degrees in history and musicology, skills as a collector, conservator, programmer and leader, and a passion for music to his position as President & CEO of the National Music Centre. Andrew's commitment to creating environments where sustainable public programs for music can thrive is a lifelong pursuit. He has served as a volunteer with the Calgary Professional Arts Alliance, the Calgary 2008 Juno Awards, Music Calgary and the Electronic Music-Juno Awards.

Chinook Country Historical Society AGM & Dinner

Tuesday, March 22
Ranchmen's Club,
710, 13 Avenue SW

AGM: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Speaker: 7:00 p.m.
Cash bar

Guest Speaker

Andrew Mosker, President and CEO,
Cantos Music Foundation-
National Music Centre at the King Eddy

Tickets

\$45 per person
Deadline March 15 (no
refunds after this date)

Reservations

Shona Gourlay
(403) 243-3516
Sarah Harvey
(403) 946-4650

Tickets will not be available at the door. Phone Shona or Sarah to reserve your ticket and arrange payment.

Voices from the Past

Every spring, just as sure as you'd see the first crow or hear the first meadow-lark—"Yes, I am a pretty little bird"—you know how their song went, up and down. Well, just about that time it was time for spring tonic. I don't know why Mother felt we needed a spring tonic, why every kid in the country needed a spring tonic, but we all got it. She'd mix up some sulfur and molasses, a batch of it, and I still don't know how it was done because I vowed I'd never give my children such a horrible mess. But for three or four mornings, we'd line up before going to school and have to swallow this big spoonful of sulfur and molasses. Ugh. I can still taste it. The molasses, I suppose, was to kill the taste of the sulfur, and what the sulfur did for us I'm afraid I'll never know.

• Interview subject in *The Pioneer Years, 1895-1914: Memories of Settlers Who Opened the West* by Barry Broadfoot (1976)

— Submitted by
Laurel Halladay

CLIFF BUNGALOW-MISSION: A GRIDIRON COMMUNITY OR HOW THE WEST WAS WAFFLED (continued from Page 1)

Gridiron communities can appear monotonous when developing large tracts of flat terrain. But the older neighbourhoods in Calgary, where the grid system is superimposed on a topology of deep escarpments and meandering river valleys, are lovely and varied. Mission and Cliff Bungalow have been enhanced by adopting influences of other town planning movements (such as the City Beautiful movement) using city tree plantings and larger front gardens along residential streets. An important advantage of gridiron communities is that there are many choices of routes and views for pedestrians.

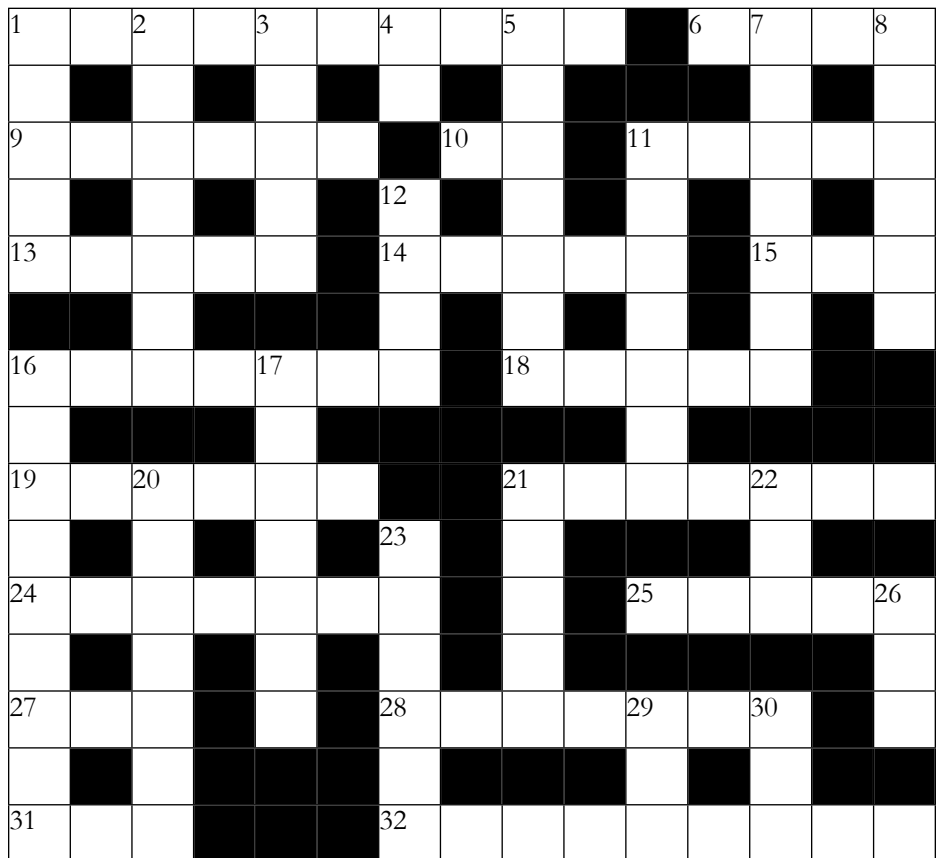
The next time you walk through Cliff Bungalow-Mission, remember to notice how walkable the streets are, and let them remind you of the efficient survey system that developed the Canadian West. CCHS

LOCAL HISTORY CROSSWORD

(Solution on page 2)

ACROSS

1. A community entertainment and educational event popular in the 1929's and 30's
6. One of Calgary's first radio stations, launched in 1922 (initials)
9. Ottawa's original name
10. Formerly owned by the Duke of Windsor, the _____ Ranch
11. Alexander _____, Superintendent of City Parks, 1949-60
13. Teacher; instructor
14. Local historian, Max _____
15. A debtor's note
16. To get better; recuperate
18. A popular winter pastime
19. Close to Edworthy Park, _____ Gardens
21. One of Calgary's more colourful characters, Mother Fulham, known as the " _____ " (2 wds.)
24. The makers of music in the alps?
25. Early fire chief, James " _____ " Smart
27. Jackie Kennedy's second husband, for short
28. Hamlet 80 km southwest of Lethbridge
31. A popular steak house, "The _____"
32. A one-time downtown drinking hole, destroyed to make way for The Bow



DOWN

1. Early explorer and captain of the "Matthew", John _____
2. Unstable; lacking polarity
3. Calgary landmark downtown, the Calgary _____
4. Great Britain (initials)
5. Baseball officials
7. Dr. Vernon _____ Centre in North East Calgary
8. A floral harbinger of spring
11. One of our speakers and supporters during Historic Calgary Week, Ruth _____
12. Off in the distance
16. Where cricket has been played for almost 100 years in Calgary (2 wds.)
17. A 1930's movie theatre
20. Nuptials; marriage
21. A movie theatre still operating in Kensington
22. One of our most successful theatre companies (initials)
23. Scarlett O'Hara's unrequited love, _____ Wilkes
26. A Mongolian steer?
29. The Prince of Wales' motto, _____ Dien
30. A small child

— Jennifer Prest

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: The deadline for the Summer issue is **May 18, 2011.**

Please send your article and/or photos to Bill Longstaff at ballot@shaw.ca.

HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

If you have forgotten when your membership needs to be renewed, check the envelope your newsletter arrived in. The expiry date is printed on the address label. We don't want to lose any of our members, so to renew, call **Sarah Harvey** at (403) 946-4650.

Associate membership	\$15.00	Family membership	\$25.00	Affiliate membership	\$55.00
Annual Subscription	\$25.00	Annual Subscription	\$25.00	(school, museum, library,	
Total	\$40.00	Total	\$50.00	historical society)	
Purchased together	\$35.00	Purchased together	\$45.00	Associate membership	\$120.00

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