



# Central Alberta Historical Society Newsletter

Central Alberta  
Historical Society  
Newsletter

Winter 2010

Layout &  
Edited by  
Shirley Dye

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## Central Alberta Historical Society Christmas Party

Party organizer, Sheila Bannerman planned a fun evening with good food, good friends and interesting conversations going on at every table. Sheila had asked us to bring historical memorabilia or costumes.

Sheila told us that she wore a Forbes tartan shirt, as Bannerman is a sept of the Forbes clan. I also wore my grandmother's silver and amethyst thistle earrings, which had been an engagement gift from my grandfather to her, in 1910. I brought with me a Christmas card from the Jaffray Sawmill, which my grandfather managed from at least 1909 to around 1916. The card is dated 1910. The family name, the dates and the Christmas card are pieces in a puzzle I am trying to put together, and which may give me a solid footing in Central Alberta history.

Fred Schutz told about a day when he was a teenager in 1938, he got a ride to Red Deer with a neighbour. To show appreciation he offered to buy them lunch. First to the Club Café but the meal was 35¢. So they left and went down the street where he bought them lunch for 25¢ — meat, potatoes, vegetables, a bun, pie and coffee.

Shirley Dye wore a lacy woolen shawl hand knit in Iceland that her mother brought from Iceland in 1957. She remembers her grandmothers and their friends all wore similar shawls, usually made of heavier wool, better suited to keep their shoulders warm.

Ernie Walter recalled his high school days at the Red Deer Composite High School from 1947 to 1951. The school site was still covered with the A 20 Army Training Camp huts converted to serve school rooms and offered them barrack type accommodations. Living in a city, in dormitories with scores of others was a new experience for the farm youth who came for a high school education. Life long friendships began there. Classmate and table mate, Eugene Watson remembered getting a one dollar a week allowance. Shows and cigarettes cost 35 cents and dimes bought pop, chocolate bars and ice cream.

While wearing his heavy parka, Don Hepburn spoke of flying to Edmonton to buy Christmas gifts in the summer and having them sent by rail to Fort McMurray then down the Mackenzie River by barge to their home in Inuvik, then having to hide the gifts until the big day arrived

In the picture Marnie Marshall wears a dress she made herself to wear to Historical events in her home town, while Ernie McEchern wears a period tuxedo. They won first prize.



## President's Note

Dear Members,

This past calendar year has been a year of change and some uncertainty as long-time members adjusted to new meeting places and times, and the Board adjusted to being “homeless” while the Museum underwent renovations. The Museum has re-opened in a vastly changed and adaptable new space for collections, teaching purposes, programs, and travelling exhibits, but maximizing space for these purposes means the Historical Society has had to look elsewhere for public meeting space. This has required shaking off a natural aversion to change, and admitting that change can be energizing and can open up new avenues for growth and expression. We are very excited, therefore, to announce our new permanent home for our public evenings, in the Snell Gallery at the Red Deer Public Library, Downtown branch. Please note that our speaker series will continue on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, and will always be the third Wednesday of the month (Sept – Nov. and Jan - May). Evening parking by the library is plentiful and free. We feel that a partnership with the library will increase our contact with the general public of Red Deer, perhaps giving rise to some new directions for topics and future programming and opportunities for new members. Thank you to Dean Frey, Director of the Library, for offering us this opportunity for collaboration.

In January of this year, the Board held a visioning session, at which we revisited committee work, did some brainstorming and evaluated our speaker series. Fundraising for the Arches project continues, although slowly, and the work of the Arches Plaques committee was discussed in detail (see article in Newsletter). We believe that the work of the Society is valuable and that the speaker series is successful and should continue in its current form. We are always open to suggestions from members or the general public for topics and speakers of interest. A full list of Board members is included in this newsletter, and members should feel free to contact the Board with concerns or ideas.

Program planning for next year is well underway, thanks to the template for planning set by Shirley Dye. Shirley is retiring as Program Co-ordinator, and the Society extends its heartfelt thanks for her dedication to our speaker series. The new Program Co-ordinator will be Iris Loewen, with committee members Don Hepburn and Maxine O’Riordan. Thanks to new committee members for stepping up to ensure the continued success of CAHS programming.

Our January topic, the Michener Administration Building was a glimpse into the future of the CAHS as we try to present history in a format that has relevance, not just to the history of the area, but the preservation of our heritage. Michael Dawe presented an intriguing combination of history combined with architect drawings and photographs of the restoration, interspersed with anecdotes that gave our audience an expanded understanding of the difficulties and triumphs of preserving our rich heritage. Thanks very much to Michael for an inspired presentation. I will look forward to welcoming you all to the Snell Gallery on March 17, for our first meeting in our new venue.

--Sheila Bannerman, President

## CAHS Board 2009—2010

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Membership: 403-343-1881

### Visit our website

[www.albertahistory.org](http://www.albertahistory.org)    Link CAHS

## Coming Events

**March 17** - Sheila Bannerman Alberta Volunteers in the Anglo-Boer war. At the Library

**April 21** - Central Alberta Catalogue Houses At the Library

**May 18**— Homemade Fun In The Early Days with Faye Reineberg Holt

May 7, 8 Central Alberta Heritage School Fairs

**June 10, 11, 12, 13.** Growing Influences Tour to Edmonton

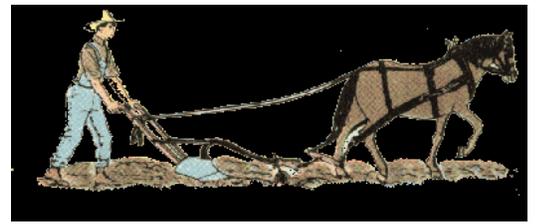


Central Alberta Historical Society's

## ***Growing Influences Tour:***

*Edmonton and the Edmonton Area after the Fur Trade*

**June 10, 11, 12 and 13, 2010**



Edmonton's roots in the fur trade are well known. Started as an inland outpost of the Hudson's Bay Company, it became the hub of the fur trade in the Saskatchewan watershed and beyond into the Athabasca and Mackenzie districts. Fort Edmonton Park and other historic sites in and around Edmonton tell that story, but that's not what our tour is about.

Our 2010 *Growing Influences Tour* starts *after that*, in the Twentieth Century, when Edmonton and the Edmonton region underwent phenomenal growth. Our *Growing Influences Tour* will explore some of the major factors that led to that growth:

- ?? Transportation (railways and aircraft)
- ?? Energy (coal, oil and gas, electricity)
- ?? Education (from the old 1881 schoolhouse to the University of Alberta)
- ?? Ethnic diversity in the waves of immigration
- ?? Governance (from the first legislative chambers in the historic MacKay Avenue School to the Legislature Building)

We'll be staying in a comfortable, modern hotel in old Strathcona and making trips out from there each day, travelling by comfortable motor coach. Our plans include a visit to a museum of Black settlement, a streetcar museum and a streetcar ride across the High Level Bridge, afternoon tea at Rutherford House (home of the province's first premier), a tour of the Legislature, and the Canadian Petroleum Discovery Museum, a guided bus tour of the historic Highlands district with its stately homes, a visit to several Ukrainian churches in Lamont County with their unique architecture and interior decoration, and much more. And all of this in the good company of congenial people who share your enthusiasm for history. The cost for the tour (Approximately \$550 per person based on double occupancy) includes travel costs, all admissions, hotel and most meals.

Deadline for registration is May 1, 2010. Guarantee your place on the bus by completing the attached registration form and submitting it with your fifty dollar deposit to

**CAHS Tours, 4525 – 47A Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4N 6Z6.**

## ARCHES PLAQUES COMMITTEE

The Arches committee has made some good progress. Last fall was devoted to analyzing the earlier template of eras and events, with the goal of adding a focus on social history. The committee spent considerable time discussing the types of historical records that could be used, and options for representing the material to maximize impact and flexibility.

Each plaque will have several images, the complexity depending on the medium used. It has been suggested that the plaques are designed to fit in with current City of Red Deer walking tour signs, for consistency, but also to maximize what can be represented/reproduced. The first of the new City plaques has been installed on the east side of the Children's Library. It is important to remember that these plaques can incorporate colour, and any combination of archival or personal photos, drawings, maps, and text can be used in the design of each plaque. There is considerable leeway for creativity in this model.

The following examples are from the *Red Deer Advocate*, and are examples of some of the ideas the plaques committee is exploring. The articles/advertisements included are a tiny sample of all those considered, to illustrate what the committee is thinking to date. Each news item would be put into context through a combination of other media on each plaque, or an introductory plaque to the era represented.

**August 11, 1904**

*The Arlington Hotel*

**Sets a table Unexcelled in Alberta**

- AT THE BAR -

You will find the best brands of Liquors and  
Cigars Obtainable  
SPECIALITIES, Scotch Whisky, Lager Beer,  
Draft and Bunn's Ale

*Commodius Sample Rooms*

Rates: \$1 and \$2 per day-----Bath Room  
T.F. Ellis, Prop

**RED DEER ADVOCATE November 3 1904**

**"New Industries and Improvements Begun this week."**

Epoch making events in Red Deer tread upon each other's heels so fast they follow. Saturday evening Electric lights flashed forth the message that henceforth Red Deer would be among the number of up-to-date towns adopting that method of lighting. Scarcely had our wonder and appreciation ceased when the laying of the first pipe of the water works took place, and next, the conference of the Town officials and members of the Board of Trade with the C.P.R. officials regarding this town as a divisional point of the C&E."

**Red Deer Advocate July 4 1913**

**"C&E Railway Lands For Sale**

Red Deer Townsite Lots For Sale

Osler, Hammond and Nanton,  
Winnipeg, Man.

C.S. Lott, Calgary Alta.

For plans and process of  
Red Deer Townsite apply to  
H.H. Gaetz, Red Deer Alta"

**Red Deer Advocate July 23 1915**

**"ALBERTA GOES 'DRY'  
By a Sweeping Majority---Red Deer City Gives an  
80 per cent Vote.**

"The Liquor Act Vote in Alberta on Wednesday resulted in an overwhelming victory for Provincial prohibition of the liquor traffic.

...the Government can rest assured that in the endorsement of the Act they have a weight of public sentiment behind it which augurs well for its successful operation...Red Deer City has reason to be proud of the fact that over 80 per cent of the vote polled went for prohibition, perhaps the highest urban group in the province..."

### **CLOSING EXERCISES**

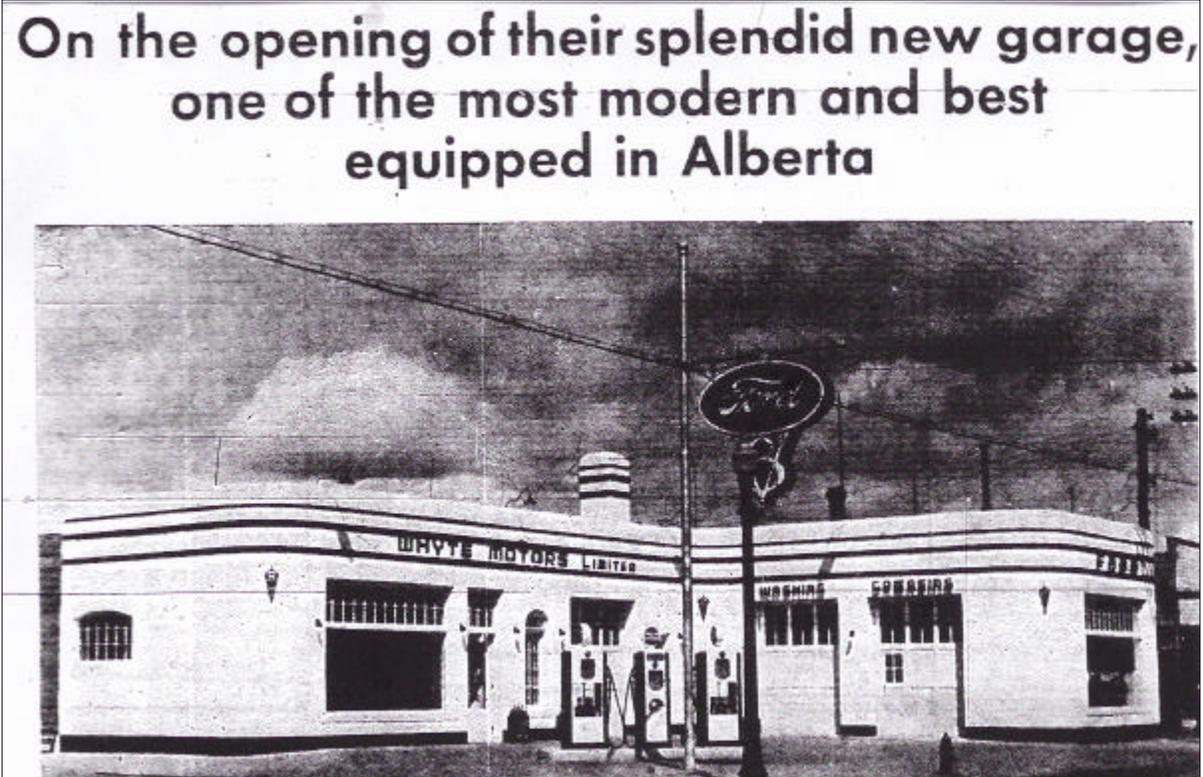
#### **At Alberta Ladies College on Friday Evening Last**

The spring term of the Ladies' College was closed on Friday last with an exhibition of art work and a musicale in the afternoon and a prize-giving and entertainment by the students in the evening, the Rev. W.G. Brown presiding in the absence of President Keith.

The reception room was devoted to an exhibition of the very high-class work of which the College may justly be proud. In the centre of the room were examples of the most exquisite painting on china, comprising four collections, the work of Misses Bowker, Tanner, Millar, and Lane. Around the room were some fine paintings, in oils and water-colors, and on one side of the room an exhibit of fine needlework quite remarkable considering that it was done by girls from ten to thirteen years old.

Descending to the kitchen in the basement, one's mouth was made to water by an appetizing exhibit of cookery, consisting of cakes, loaves, salads, aspic jellies and plates of candy, which looked good enough to set before a king.

[After the musicale] The Rev. W.G. Brown then said a few words on education in general and on the work of the College. He thought the supreme test of any institution was its fruits. The ideal place for a woman was the home and the ideal education for a girl was the one which, physically, mentally, socially, and morally, prepared her to be a good home-maker. A girl should be taught to think rather than crammed with knowledge. In true education, the principal object was the formation of character, and everything else was secondary..."



Please note that articles have been either transcribed for this newsletter, or scanned in very rough form. Any material being used on plaques will be properly scanned, formatted and integrated into plaque design. Anyway, I hope this gives you all an idea of why we are excited with the direction the project is taking.

--Sheila Bannerman, President

## 2010 Central Alberta Heritage Schools Fair

For the 15<sup>th</sup> year, Parkland Mall will serve as the host venue and major local corporate sponsor for the 2010 Central Alberta Heritage Schools Fair, May 7 and 8. The Central Alberta Historical Society has been a major financial contributor for the past seven years and has served as enthusiastic supporters and a source of volunteer energy from the inception – in partnership with the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery which has provided chunks of in-kind support – my time, administrative and coordination support.

Other partners are the Social Studies Council of the Alberta Teachers Association ..

Unfortunately, the Historica Foundation is no longer involved at the local level. Historica has joined with the Dominion Institute to form a new partnership – Historica Dominion Foundation [www.historicadominion.ca](http://www.historicadominion.ca) and the heritage fairs will not be one of their programs. There is a group looking at how the national fair could be resurrected. Provincially, the Historical Society of Alberta is looking at the future of the fairs and how they can help keep the project going.

For further info, call Rod 403.309.8445 or [rod.trentham@reddeer.ca](mailto:rod.trentham@reddeer.ca) .



River Glen Grade 7 project on D-Day Landing



Detail of D-Day project



Rya having her project "Holy Trinity Church" judged at the Delburne Heritage Fair.



Cathee Armstrong of Drumocracy leads a Drumming Circle at the Central Alberta Heritage Fair in Parkland Mall

## January Planning Meeting Synopsis

In early January the CAHS Board met for an in depth look at all aspects of the organization and to plan for the upcoming year. As only one Board member was missing, we were able to thoroughly discuss aspects of programming and Board activities, and ended the meeting with a strong sense of direction for the upcoming year. Our Board has grown over the past year, and we welcome newer members Iris Loewen, Darlo Albrecht and Gorm Hansen. Each has experience and strengths that will add to our abilities to be relevant in the community and to operate smoothly.

We covered several broad areas during the meeting: Financial, Programming and Operations, and Future Directions. It is agreed that we need to have a more visible place in the community, and that efforts should be increased to involve general members in activities and planning. This is, after all, your organization too.

**Financial:** The focus of Financial Planning remains fundraising for the Arches project. Paying down our debt, and raising money for the installation of plaques is a priority. Members of the Society should be asked to pay attention to this, and to use personal connections where appropriate to help in this matter. An intensive fundraising strategy under the direction of Dr. Bob Lampard, will be launched shortly.

**Program and Operations:** This section included revisiting the responsibilities of Board members and a re-assertion of ways we support one another in our various commitments to the CAHS. We discussed a most exciting development in event planning: our recent collaborative agreement with the Red Deer Public Library. We will move our public meetings to the Snell Gallery, beginning in March, on the same third Wednesday of each month. This will be a beneficial arrangement for both the library and the CAHS, increasing our public profile at the same time as increasing the public presence in the library. There will be opportunities of collaborative programming and display that will also benefit both organizations. We are happy with the Program schedule, and brainstorming for future evening information topics included the current Centennial of Guides in Canada, and Scouts in Alberta, as well as the upcoming Centennial of North Red Deer. It was agreed that we should look to National and Provincial historic recognition days for discussion topics, as well as accelerating our collaborative intentions by tying in topics with MAG programming. Again, in our desire to be responsive to the membership, suggestions are always welcome, especially in areas covering more recent history. The Board believes that member input is critical to continuing with relevant program planning, and members will be asked to consider the questions: ***What are you interested in learning more about? What do you think is particularly significant in understanding our community and our place in the world?***

Other programming of significance includes our annual bus tour, which will take place as usual, in June of this year. The committee has an intriguing plan to visit Edmonton and area, travelling on Highways 22 and 21. The committee will update members both through the newsletter and at public meetings as plans are finalized.

We have decided not to hold the Central Alberta Historical Festival this year, as we evaluate the possibility of making this a Bi-annual event, but this does not preclude having a few individual tours, including possibly a fall one day tour. We may revisit popular tours of the past, or initiate something new. *It would be good to have input and volunteer time from outside the Board to facilitate further discussion.*

**Continued on page 7 ... See Planning meeting**

## **Planning meeting**

In our drive to become more visible in the community, we have decided to have a presence at the Red Deer Farmer's Market twice this summer – once before the spring tour, and one before fall programming gets in full gear. We talked about the success of last year's table to publicize the Historic Festival, agreeing that it was both a lot of fun, and engendered a lot of interest. This year, the CAHS itself will be the focus, and we'll talk with the public about our events and publications, and sell books and memberships.

Our membership remains stable, but has, over the 15 year history of the CAHS, largely represented the same portion of the community. The Board feels that it would be advantageous to all members if there were greater diversity. Membership issues may be partially addressed by our presence at the library, including ways to interest students and others who have not typically attended our meetings. Besides a library presence, suggestions included a place at RDC student orientation in the fall, and liaison with existing student clubs and organizations. The Board feels that there must be organizations that we could work with to expand the scope of our topics and meet needs in other areas of the community. These directions will be revisited at future Board meetings, and it is universally agreed that general member support would really help as Board resources are stretched.

The City of Red Deer has asked the CAHS to consider being the umbrella organization for Red Deer's 2013 Centennial. A representative of the City addressed this issue with the Board, and discussion revealed considerable interest. Exploration of the potential will continue, with a decision being delivered to the City in March.

### **Actions resulting from Planning Meeting:**

Action: To forward a cheque to Eagle Construction to continue with debt repayment

Action: To actively explore options for program ties with RDPL and MAG where relevant and feasible.

Action: Programs for 2010/2011 and the Newsletter will be the focus of our March Board meeting, with what we hope will be significant general member input. This will be addressed at the next two public meetings.

Action: A brief discussion of Publications Committee activities resulted in the resolution to begin staffing a publications table at evening meetings to provide member information, solicit input, and sell books.

Action: To meet with our Festival coordinator to explore feasibility of taking on 2013 Centennial celebrations.

Action: To have a public presence at the Farmers' Market twice this season.

## **REMEMBERING DR. JOHN L.TOBIAS: 1942-2009**

As many of you know, CAHS Board member John Tobias passed away on December 23, 2009. A memorial was held on January 6, 2009 at which friends and family remembered John as a man of depth, compassion, and humour; as a scholar who demanded of himself academic rigour and a sometimes idealistic expectation of purity and lack of bias; as a college instructor with a passionate attachment to teaching and mentoring students and colleagues; and as a complicated personality with an often gruff exterior that masked a deep concern for others, and an impish sense of humour that could catch anyone off guard.

**Continued on page 8 ..... See John Tobias**

## John Tobias

I knew John first as a colleague of my husband's, next as an instructor who challenged me by accepting nothing but my best efforts, and later as a mentor and supporter as I pursued an M.A. in History. John remained a friend, and in 2008, we attended a history conference together in Edmonton. Neither of us knew many others at the conference and I cherish the conversations we had over lunches during those three days. At the conference banquet, while waiting for John, I was chatting with a young PhD student I had met at an earlier conference. She was flabbergasted – “you mean **THE** Dr. Tobias? Dr. John **L.** Tobias?” She joined us, and of course John was happy to talk about his research and academic inquiry. The student settled in, as hundreds of others have done in the classroom and elsewhere, happily to listen to John talk about his research with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, work that had earned John a highly respected place in the historical canon. I will miss John, as will the scholarly and historical community.

Bill Baergen, Board member, long time publications committee member and current president of the Historical Society of Alberta, remembers John being a driving force in the fledgling CAHS Publications Committee, in these words: “In 1995, I was invited by Morris Flewwelling to speak at the charter night of the CAHS in Red Deer on June 22. The topic was my manuscript (ms) on the Ku Klux Klan in Central Alberta. After I spoke, the president of the day, Allan Armstrong, told me that if I couldn't get a publisher for the ms to contact the CAHS and they would look into it. The publishers I contacted found various reasons to turn down the ms (an Oxford PhD student who asked for a copy of the book later described it as "suppressed history") so I contacted CAHS who agreed to look at the venture. They appointed John Tobias (History instructor at Red Deer College) and Paul Boulton (librarian at RDC at the time) to work with me to prepare the ms for publication. I met several times with John and Paul at the College until we felt the ms was ready for publication. It went to Dennis Johnson (Red Deer College Press) who decided to design and format it through his own private firm (full COURT press). Then it was printed by the Parkland Color Press in time for the HSA AGM in Red Deer, June 2000.

John was the chief advisor in the preparation of the ms and I am indebted to him for his broad historical knowledge and his skilful, economic use of words to make sure that the message sent by the words was the intended one in all cases. In short, be clear in what you say.

As you know, the book is still called for on occasion and is capable of causing controversy wherever it appears. It has become an important part of Alberta's recorded history. The KKK book was the first book published by the newly chartered CAHS as a project of the CAHS alone. But it was with John's expert guidance that we gained the confidence to set out on the publishing path which is so central to our mission as a historical society.”

John was a long-time CAHS member, active on both the Board and Publications Committee. As Lu Piening, Board member and Secretary to the CAHS succinctly put it: “John's input and excellent judgments to the activities of the CAHS will be much missed.”

We will all miss him.

--Sheila Bannerman, President.

# OUR PRECIOUS HERITAGE



PIONEER KITCHEN

THOSE WERE THE DAYS The pioneer kitchen was no doubt a center of great activity. Women prepared meals, canned fruit, watched their children and managed a household with only a few conveniences. With the temperature almost as cold inside as outside you made a beeline for the heater as you struggled to dress near the stove. You could hear the fire in the kitchen stove begin to crackle. You splashed your face with cold water from an enamel wash-basin in the kitchen. Now you were awake! There was no fighting with brother or sister over time in the bathroom. There was no bathroom - in most cases just a cool jaunt to the outdoor privy with the Eaton's Catalogue. Then chores, breakfast and off to school. But what memories!

Submitted by Pat McDonald

email—it's a good thing



If you are on high speed email let me know so I can email your newsletter to you.

email saves printing costs, labels, envelopes and stamp - about a dollar an issue. email saves volunteer time now used to lick all those envelopes and stamps.

email your email address to me at [sadd@shaw.ca](mailto:sadd@shaw.ca)

## Membership Form

Name .....

Address .....

Postal Code ..... Fax.....

Phone: res..... Bus.....

Email .....

This membership is \_\_\_ new \_\_\_Renewal

Alberta History Subscription \$25 \$\_\_\_

Individual membership \$15 \$\_\_\_

Individual membership *and*  
Alberta History subscription \$35 \$\_\_\_

Family membership \$25 \$\_\_\_

Family membership *and*  
Alberta History subscription \$45 \$\_\_\_

Affiliate membership *and*  
Subscription \$55 \$\_\_\_  
(schools, museums, historical societies)

Affiliate membership *and*  
Subscription \$120 \$\_\_\_  
(corporations, foundations)

I wish to donate to:

HAS Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CAHS projects \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Education projects \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge credit card: Visa \_ MasterCard \_\_\_

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