

Galt

MUSEUM
& ARCHIVES

stories unfolding...



HOW THE TOWN TICKS



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TEACHER'S MANUAL



HOW THE TOWN TICKS

Teacher's Guide

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This teacher's guide offers background information and ideas for classroom activities designed to complement a visit to the Galt. It contains information to assist you in planning your visit, information and activities for both before and after your visit, and outlines what you can expect from your education program.

The Galt's Mission

The Galt Museum & Archives engages and educates our communities in the human history of Southwestern Alberta by preserving and sharing collections, stories and memories that define our identity and guide our future.

Program Overview

How The Town Ticks re-enacts a debate from the 1909 Lethbridge City Council (By-law 49 on whether or not to ring the curfew bell) to assist students in understanding how a municipal government works. For the program, the role of mayor is held by the teacher and all other positions (City Council, media, persons for and against the by-law) are held by students. The class may hold elections prior to visit (to determine who the six aldermen are), teacher may assign roles to students or students may randomly be assigned to each area.

Program Length

How The Town Ticks runs throughout the school year and is designed to be 90 minutes in length. Groups wishing to remain for a longer time, should make arrangements with the Museum Educator.

Curriculum Connections

Written to complement the Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum, *How The Town Ticks* explores how the Lethbridge municipal government works (both in 1909 and at the present). The program addresses the following curriculum objectives:

6.1 Citizens Participating in Decision Making, General Outcome

Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the dynamic relationship between governments and citizens as they engage in the democratic process.

Students will:

6.1.1 recognize how individuals and governments interact and bring about change within their local and national communities:

- recognize and respect the democratic rights of all citizens in Canada (C, I)
- value the role of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in protecting individual and collective rights and freedoms (I, PADM)
- recognize the influence of historical events and legislation on democratic decision making in Canada (TCC, PADM)
- value citizens' participation in a democratic society (C)
- value the contributions of elected representatives in the democratic process (PADM)

6.1.4 analyze the structure and functions of local governments in Alberta by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions and issues:

- How are representatives chosen to form a local government (i.e., electoral process)? (PADM)
- What are the responsibilities of local governments (i.e., bylaws, taxes, services)? (PADM)
- How are local governments structured differently in rural and urban settings? (PADM)

6.1.6 analyze how individuals, groups and associations within a community impact decision making of local and provincial governments by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions and issues:

- How can individuals, groups and associations within a community participate in the decision-making process regarding current events or issues (i.e., lobbying, petitioning, organizing and attending local meetings and rallies, contacting elected representatives)? (C, PADM)

- In what ways do elected officials demonstrate their accountability to the electorate (e.g., respond to constituents, participate in local events, represent and express in government meetings the concerns of constituents)? (C, PADM)

Confirmation, Cancellations, and Contact Information

Your program has been scheduled as per the information on your confirmation sheet. If you have any questions about your booking or the program, please contact the Museum Educator at tours@galtmuseum.com or (403) 320-4248. If you must cancel or reschedule a program, please let us know as soon as possible. We will try to fit your class in at another time as time permits.

Payment

Payments can be made in advance of the program, on the day of the program or your school can be invoiced at the end of the month. The Galt accepts VISA, MasterCard, debit, cash, and cheques. Cheques should be made out to the Galt Museum & Archives or City of Lethbridge. If payment is made in advance, receipts will be mailed out or available on the day of the program. Otherwise, receipts will be mailed out to the school. The payment amount is \$45 per class per program. For groups aged 13 and younger, GST is NOT added to the \$45 cost. For groups aged 14 and older, GST is added to the \$45 cost.

Expectations for Visitors

- There should be one or two adult supervisors per class (this may include yourself). More adults are always welcome and there is no cost for adult supervisors. Younger siblings accompanying the class with their parents are also most welcome to attend the program.
- Running is not permitted in the Galt. There is green space to the south of the Galt if the class requires a space to stretch their legs.
- In order to protect and preserve the artifacts, drinks, food, and chewing gum are not permitted in the galleries or Archives. Drinking and eating are permitted in the Viewing Gallery and Lethbridge Ironworks Classroom.
- Because they are fragile and irreplaceable, artifacts on display should not be touched or handled.
- It is requested that there be no flash photography in the galleries. Light can, over time, damage the artifacts. Flash photography can be taken in the viewing gallery and programming areas (i.e. classroom).
- Visitors are not required to whisper in the Galt. Indoor voices are preferred.
- Washrooms are located on the main floor in the old portion of the building.

The Role of Adult Supervisors

Adult supervisors are an integral part of the Galt's programs. These suggestions will help make their role clearer and easier to manage. You may find it useful to photocopy these suggestions for their adult supervisors.

- ✓ Float around and assist during the activities.
- ✓ Maintain the focus of the activities as you assist students through the activities. Remind students what they are trying to discover and help them troubleshoot problems they encounter.
- ✓ Depending on the activity, supply the students with answers to questions and additional information. Your Museum Education Volunteer (Docent) or Museum Educator will answer any questions you may have. If a question cannot be answered during the program, it will be recorded and more information will be forwarded to the school.
- ✓ Assist in keeping students together.
- ✓ Ensure that students do not: run in the galleries, touch the artifacts on display, or drink or chew gum in the exhibits.
- ✓ Ask any available staff for assistance if there is an emergency.
- ✓ Encourage the students to ask questions and get involved.
- ✓ Enjoy your visit.

Your Arrival at the Galt

- The Galt has a bus and vehicle parking lot north of the building.
- Buses and vehicles may drop off and pick up students at the east side of the building (using the east entrance). This is a fire access road so please do not leave vehicles here once they are emptied.
- Please enter through the east entrance. There is a coat room down the hallway to your left as you enter. Please leave all coats and backpacks here. Students do not need to remove boots. This coat room is solely for the use of programs and is not for general visitors.
- Galt staff will meet you at the east entrance.



Background Information for How the Town Ticks

HISTORY OF LETHBRIDGE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Lethbridge formed as a community in the 1880s but wasn't incorporated as a town until 1890 (December 3). On 9 February 1891 the first Town Council met. Charles Magrath, first mayor, was joined by six councillors. At the time, elections were held yearly. On 9 May 1906 the Province granted Lethbridge city status. The first Lethbridge City Council (under Mayor Rogers) met on 21 May 1906.

In 1913 a new charter was requested and approved by the province. Effective 1 January 1914 Lethbridge was the first community in Canada to operate under the commission form of municipal government. Under the commission form of government, each commissioner (one being the mayor) was elected for three year terms (with a different commissioner position elected each year). The commission form of government lasted until 1928 when the form of municipal government was changed to the council-manager form (which is still in use in Lethbridge today).

The council was composed of seven aldermen (one of whom was elected internally to be the mayor). A city manager was appointed by City Council to administer its policies. The city manager was responsible for all other city staff (only the city manager was hired by City Council).

In 1961, the people of Lethbridge decided they wished to elect the mayor directly. Also in the late 1960s the number of aldermen was increased from six to eight (which is also in place today).

In 2012, Lethbridge City Council passed a motion that until the next election (2013) members of City Council could call themselves Councillor or Alderman (their choice) but as of the 2013 election all members of City Council would be known as councillors.

TITLES OF MEMBERS OF LETHBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Councillor	Beginning–1906
Alderman	May, 1906– 1913
Commissioner	1914–June 30, 1928
Councillor	July 1, 1928–1951
Alderman	1952–October 2013
Councillor	2013–Present



Pre- and Post-Activities

These activities can be done prior to your visit to the Galt or after you have returned to your classroom.

Election

For the program, students will be broken into several groups: City Council (made up of six aldermen or councillors), a group arguing for the by-law, a group arguing against the by-law and the media. Some teachers may choose to assign students to these groups. Others may wish to let students randomly choose these groups (by where they sit at the Galt). Or the teacher may choose to have an election prior to coming to the Galt where six councillors are elected from amongst the class. Note that in 1909, seven councillors were elected and then the councillors amongst themselves picked which one would serve as the mayor. However, for the purposes of our program, the teacher will serve as the mayor so six councillors will be required.

ACTIVITY 1 : WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Students will be welcomed to the museum and will review what a museum is and the expectations of visitors to the museum. The group will also review the activities that will be covered throughout the rest of the program.

Rules related to the conduct required at a City Council meeting will be reviewed. Students will be organized into respective groups (council, persons for the by-law; persons against the by-law; media).

ACTIVITY 2: BACKGROUND

A discussion will be held to review the make-up of elected officials in Lethbridge in 1909. Students will be asked to think about and discuss: What qualifications did someone need to have in 1909 to vote? To be an alderman or mayor? Students will review the purpose and importance of bylaws and other related information to provide the background they need for the upcoming council meeting and debate.

ACTIVITY 3: CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Using the script provided, students will be guided through a 1909 mock Lethbridge City Council meeting and debate. [Following Part 4 of the debate, the class will go off script to allow a discussion from all members of the class, both to assist the groups arguing for and against the by-law to develop their arguments but to also answer any questions students may have to this point related to how the political system in 1909 differs from the present system.]

ACTIVITY 4: CONCLUSION

The day's activities will be reviewed and a discussion will be held related to Lethbridge's modern bylaws and system.

Evaluation

An evaluation form was sent out with your confirmation. Evaluation results allow us to offer the most effective and highest standard program that we can. Your feedback and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Please fax the form back to us at (403) 329-4958 or mail to Museum Educator at 910 4 Ave S, Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P6.



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