

1966 - present [Sir Alexander] Galt Museum & Archives

Exhibits in what is now the Bowman Arts Centre,
1964. Galt Museum Archives, 199710805108

In the 1960s, Lucille Dalke, Chris Gibson, Alex Johnson, George McKillop, Fraser Perry, George Watson and many others from the Lethbridge Historical Society (LHS) established a Civic Museum City Council provided them with three rooms in the Bowman Arts Centre to exhibit the collection. Quickly, the number of artifacts, documents and photographs outgrew the space in the Bowman.



In 1967 the LHS moved the collections and exhibits into the historic Galt building. The volunteer-run museum utilized the second floor of the 1910 and 1930s wings for exhibits and the archives. The basement of the 1910 building was used for exhibit development and storage. The Society continued to run the museum until the early 1970s when City Council hired a Museum Supervisor to manage the operation with the help of volunteers.

The poor condition of the 1930s structure, the increasing collection, and the need to expand the hours of operation and programming brought about several changes. The 1930s wing was demolished and a new museum quality addition was added to the 1910 building providing more appropriate place to store and exhibit artifacts. The 1985 expansion also featured a glassed-in gallery that provided views of the High Level Bridge and the river valley and was ideal for programming.

Through the diligence of hired museum staff, dedicated volunteers and the continued support of the City of Lethbridge, the Sir Alexander Galt Museum thrived. Another expansion, which opened in 2006, increased the artifact and archival collections storage and the exhibit space. New exhibits telling the story of Southwestern Alberta, special short term exhibits, an enlarged Viewing Gallery and other rental spaces, new Museum Store, school and community programs and more staff positions placed the Galt Museum in the forefront of Alberta Museums.

Did you know?

By March 1966, the museum was referred to as the Sir Alexander Galt Museum. By 2005, the name had been shortened to The Galt but the following year the name was changed again, to Galt Museum & Archives.