

EXHIBIT BACKGOUNDER

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Aitkens, Curator
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Galt Hospital - 100 Years

Sat SEP 11 - Sun DEC 05, 2010

Lethbridge, Alberta - An historic anniversary is a fitting time to highlight the 100-year history of the 1910 Galt Hospital building - located on the edge of the coulees at the west end of 5 Avenue South - in a new exhibit showing at the Galt Museum & Archives until December 5, 2010.

The red brick structure has been an integral part of Lethbridge and southwestern Alberta over the past 100 years, as the home of six organizations which have provided valuable community resources. *Galt Hospital - 100 Years* describes the various uses of the building from September 1, 1910, when Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier attended the grand opening of expanded Galt Hospital, through today when it has become known as a cultural and heritage icon in its role as a museum and archives.

Large-scale photographs, artifacts ranging from an operating table to a nurse's pin, a seating area and a series of short video presentations paint the picture of the **Galt Hospital** and **Galt School of Nursing**, the **Galt Rehabilitation Centre**, the **Lethbridge Health Unit**, the **Galt Museum**, and the **Archives**. The oral histories captured on video are particularly revealing.

"Many of the rich stories involved with the building's various uses can be found in documents, plans, maps and photographs housed with the City Clerk and in the Galt Archives," says Wendy Aitkens, Curator of the exhibit, "but many people who worked in this building still reside in the Lethbridge area. This presented us with a rare opportunity to capture personal and professional stories now, an opportunity that is quickly disappearing, particularly with the eldest of these people."

Students and professors from the University of Lethbridge Applied Studies program and volunteers from the local Story Catchers organization partnered with the Galt on the oral history project. Interviews were gathered over the past several months and will continue to be gathered in the months to come. The information from these interviews will be preserved in the Galt Archives.

DID YOU KNOW?

The historic Galt building was a hospital and School of Nursing for 45 years.

The Museum and Archives have been in this building for 44 years.

In 1978, the structure was designated an Alberta Provincial Historic Resource.

1910 - 1955

Galt Hospital



19081004002

Galt School of Nursing



19732911817

1956 - 1965

Galt Rehabilitation Centre



19732114800

1966 - 1979

Lethbridge Health Unit



19732911817

Sir Alexander Galt Museum



199410012196

1979 - present

Galt Museum & Archives



then

now

In 1910, the now historic red brick building was added to the existing 1891 Galt Hospital in response to a growing need for more hospital beds. From the time of its opening in September 1910 until June 1955, it served the community as a hospital: with wards, operating rooms, a morgue and administrative offices. 1910 also marked the opening of the Galt School of Nursing - a teaching institute within the walls of the hospital, where young women worked long hours for three years to become nurses.

In 1955, the Municipal Hospital opened and both the Galt Hospital operation and the Nursing School moved to the new location. The Galt building and a 1930s addition that initially connected it to the 1891 hospital were turned over to a new use: patients who required long-term care, but who no longer needed to be hospitalized, were admitted to the Galt Rehabilitation Centre which served the people of Lethbridge, the Municipal District of Lethbridge, and nearby towns of Coaldale, Barons, Nobleford and Stirling until 1965.

Once the building was no longer required for long-term care, it was turned over to the Lethbridge Health Unit. The Health Unit used the main floor of the 1910 building and the 1930 addition. On the second floor and in the basement was another new tenant, the Sir Alexander Galt Museum, which included in its management the development and operation of the Archives.

Details of this timeline are included at the end of this media kit.

RELATED EXHIBIT

OCT 02 - JAN 30.11

Nursing Life

LOWER LEVEL GALLERY

Nurses from Florence Nightingale to those who work in the profession today provide a special level of personal care to sick and injured patients. Their dedication is celebrated in this exhibit of Archival photos and documents.

EXHIBIT RELATED SPECIAL EVENT

MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Harasem,
Special Events/Volunteer Coordinator
tel 403.320-4219 | lori.harasem@galtmuseum.com

GALT HOSPITAL AND EXHIBIT GRAND OPENING

Sun SEP 26 | 11:00 am

held as part of Museum Community Day | 11:00 am to 4:00pm

PARKING

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Park downtown and catch the Streetcar Shuttle to the Galt! *sponsored by Exhibition Park*

Parking on site for those with mobility concerns.

Galt Museum overflow parking at The Bay.

FREE ADMISSION ALL DAY! *sponsored by the Friends of the Galt Museum*

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

11:00 - 4:00 pm

Lethbridge & District Horticultural Society tours

Teepee storytelling *if cold outside moves indoors to the Kainai Dance Arbour*

Family activities and games: birthday and children's games from the past 100 years

bring a kite for kite flying on the coulee edge

Sign the Happy 100th banner

11:00 am

Galt Hospital Grand Opening reenactment with winner of "Find the Key"

12:00 - 12:30 pm

Blackfoot Hoop Dancer

1:00 - 1:45 pm | 2:00 - 2:45 pm

Nature Walk with Helen Schuler Nature Centre

COSTUMED CHARACTERS

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

11:00 - 4:00 pm

Galt Babies Registry

Gift Bags to first 400 Galt Babies

Displays Lethbridge & District Horticultural Society, Lethbridge Historical Society, Galt School of Nursing Alumnae Association, Helen Schuler Nature Centre

Exhibits

Handicraft demonstrations

Teddy Bear Hospital bring your teddy bear!

Birthday Cake for the first 1000 people *sponsored by Galt School of Nursing Alumnae Association*

Coffee/juice

Archives open

1:15, 2:15, 3:15 pm

Collections tours

12:45, 1:45, 2:45 pm

Archives tours

12:00 - 3:45

Hospital tours: Hospital Building open for exploration; Galt Nurses available to answer questions in each area *sponsored by Galt School of Nursing Alumnae Association*

STAGE SHOW:

12:00 - 12:30 Rocky Mountain Cloggers
12:45 - 1:15 Alyssa McQuaid (musician)
1:30 - 1:45 Bill Michie, Cowboy Poet
2:45 - 3:15 Southern Accord Chorus
3:15 - 3:45 Yutukandanz

25 YEAR TIME CAPSULE EXHIBIT



EXHIBIT RELATED PROGRAMS

MEDIA CONTACT: Leslie Hall,
Community Programs Coordinator
tel 403.320-4700 | leslie.hall@galtmuseum.com

Wed OCT 13

Café Galt

evening program | Exhibit opens for viewing at 6:00 pm; program at 7:00 pm | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | includes exhibit access & refreshments

Galt Nurses Reminisce

A panel of Galt Nurses share their memories of the Galt School of Nursing. Join us and share your own stories too!

Wed NOV 10

The Curator Presents... The Galt's Many Faces

6:00 pm exhibit tour; 7:00 pm presentation | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | includes exhibit access and refreshments

The provincially designated historic Galt building has many stories to tell through the people who have been associated with it over the last 100 years. The impressive brick building served as a Hospital and School of Nursing, Rehabilitation Centre and Health Unit, and now the Museum and Archives. Join Curator **Wendy Aitkens** for a tour of the *Galt Hospital: 100 Years* exhibit followed by a presentation where she will share stories gathered from written and oral sources: personal interviews and document research have uncovered a rich heritage!

SEP 29 - DEC 15

Wednesdays at the Galt

2:00 - 3:00 pm | free with admission and for annual pass holders | seniors annual pass \$15, or \$25 for family annual pass | registration not required | refreshments

An interactive program designed to bring our exhibits and collections to life for adults of all ages! Topics range from hands-on learning to lectures by special guests, behind-the-scenes tours and Archives tutorials, historical anecdotes to contemporary conundrums.

SEP 29 **Cowboy Cooking by David Poulsen** Enjoy stories from cowboy culture with David Poulsen, author of *The Cowboy Country Cookbook*.

OCT 06 **Thoughts from the Grasshopper** Joseph L. Lothian shares some tales and thoughts from his recent historical fiction book, *The Grasshopper* in which an immigrant boy follows his father's steps into the dark world of the mines in the 1930s.

- 13 **Medalta in Song** Ron Mason performs from his CD "Move the Earth" inspired by the people and history of the Historic Clay District, a national historic site highlighting early 20th Century industrial pottery in Medicine Hat.
- 20 **Learn to use the Archives** Explore the basics of archival research and see behind the scenes in our archives
- 27 **Passing on the Quilting Tradition** Elissa and Heather Willms, the mother daughter/team from Hopscotch Quilt Shop in Coaldale, share their quilting journeys and the fresh new look that young quilters are bringing to traditional quilting.
- NOV 03 **Garry Allison's Prairie Boys** Garry Alison shares stories and photos from his book: *Prairie Boys* about local experiences in WWI, WWII and Korea.
- 10 **Korea the Forgotten War** Join speakers from the Royal Canadian Legion General Stewart Branch No. 4 as they reminisce about the Korean war during this 60th anniversary year.
- 17 **Hospital Building and Exhibit Tour** Explore the Galt Hospital Building Centennial exhibit, and go behind the scenes in the old Galt Hospital Building.
- 24 **Hospital Artifact Bingo** Photos of artifacts from hospital history are featured in this bingo game.
- DEC 01 **Behind the Scenes in the Collections** Explore our artifact collections and learn about how we collect and care for more than 15,000 objects from southern Alberta history!
- 08 **A Tour of the Mind Through Early Lethbridge** Lethbridge today is very different than how it was envisioned by the first permanent residents in October 1882. Archivist Greg Ellis takes us on a virtual exploration of life in a small settlement on the southwestern prairies, showing us how people saw themselves and the world around them.
- 15 **Women's History in the American West** Historian Sheila McManus will tell some of her favourite stories from her new book *Choices and Chances: A History of Women in the United States West*.

OCT 02 - DEC 11

Saturdays at 1:00

1:00 - 2:00 pm | *weekly family program [adults required to attend with children] | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | includes exhibit access | registration not required*

This interactive program animates our exhibits and collections for families with children of all ages!

- OCT 02 **Old Time First Aid with a Modern Twist** Surgery on a pool table? Mustard plasters for a common cold? Come learn about what medicine was like in early Lethbridge and some modern first aid techniques with First Aid Instructor Pauline Johnston.
- 09 **Paper Plane Races** Explore local aviation history with our special treasure hunt and learn to fold paper airplanes built for speed, distance, and fancy tricks! Compete to win a prize!
- 16 **History Detectives** Become a history detective and search for clues in the Galt Hospital building and exhibit. Win a prize!
- 23 **Photo paper X-rays** X-ray common objects using light-sensitive photo paper and make a piece of x-ray art.
- 30 **Strange & Funny Alberta Ghost Stories** True and not so true stories with puppets, costumes and lots of audience participation!
- NOV 06 **Plaster Casts of Kid's Hands** Learn how to make a mould of your hand and then a plaster cast to preserve a piece of your own history.
- 13 **Sight Insight** Try your hand at different games and other activities from CNIB as you experience simulated vision impairment such as blindness, cataracts, and tunnel vision.
- 20 **Photo Bingo** Make your own bingo card using photos from Galt Hospital History, play the game, and win a prize.

- 27 **Create your own superhero** Try your hand at storytelling through cartooning as you learn how to create your own cartoon or comic book!
- DEC 04 **Holiday Pop-Up Cards** Use archival photos and scrapbooking techniques to make a greeting card.
- 11 **Multi-Cultural Holiday Ornaments** Learn about how different cultures celebrate their winter holidays while making traditional ornaments from around the world. Also make potato stamped wrapping paper to wrap your gifts this winter!

Guided Tours of *Galt Hospital – 100 Years* or of the permanent exhibit are available for groups and classes: call Belinda Crowson, Museum Educator to book. 403.320-4248 | belinda.crowson@galtmuseum.com.

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For additional information and high resolution images please contact:
Anine Vonkeman, Marketing/Communications Officer
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www.galtmuseum.com

1910-1955

Galt Hospital



Hospital complex, 1925. Galt Museum Archives, 19754391000

The population in Lethbridge steadily increased as more people moved into the area after the turn of the 20th century. More hospital beds were required so an addition was constructed to increase the capacity of the 1891 hospital to 65.

Arnold W. Brunner, an American Architect, was hired to design the new wing. Patients moved into the new structure in the spring of 1910 but the grand opening waited until Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, could attend on September 1st.

Coal miners, Blackfoot people, farmers and ranchers, German Prisoners of War, men, women, and children were cared for in the Galt Hospital by respected doctors like Mewburn, Galbraith, Bigelow, Campbell, Haig and Fowler. Southern Albertans experienced many epidemics in the first half of the 20th Century. Typhoid occurred regularly during the spring runoff. The Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918 and 1919 saw 2578 cases with 129 deaths in this area. Polio affected many people until the Salk vaccine was introduced in the mid 1950s.

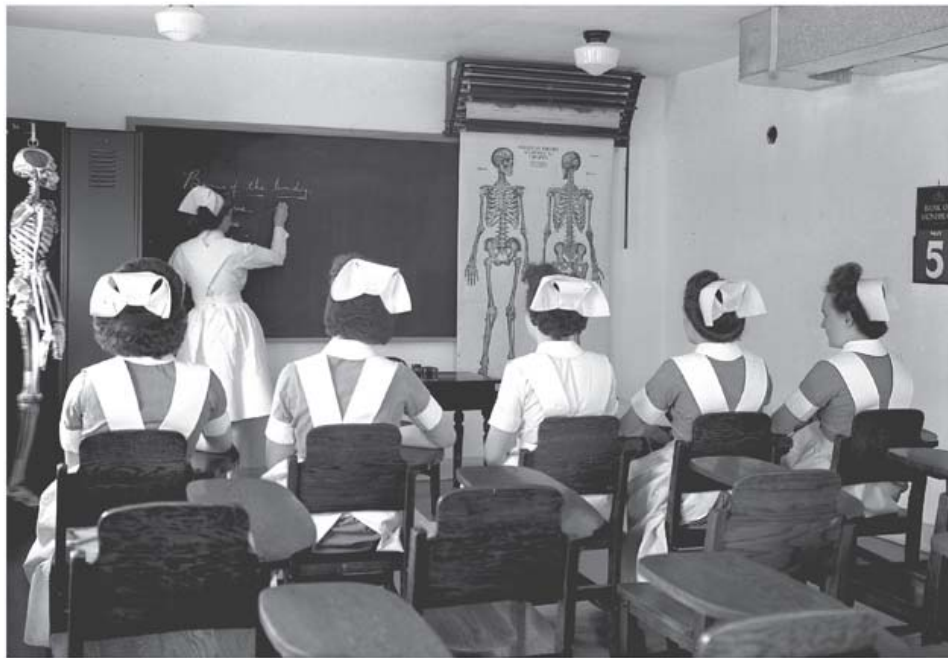
By the mid 1940s, the community again needed a larger hospital, and again, plans were made to enlarge the Galt. Studies showed that coal shafts undermined the land where the new hospital was to be built. The substructure would not support the weight of a multi-story building so a site was located for an all new Municipal Hospital on 10 Avenue South between 17 and 19 Streets.

Did you know?

Sunbeam Ward Prior to the early 1920s, children were cared for in adult wards. It wasn't until June 8, 1922 that the Sunbeam Ward was opened for the exclusive use of hospitalized children. Bright sunlight and children's furnishings created a ward where "one feels sure that the sick children must soon regain [their] health." *Lethbridge Herald*, June 8, 1922

1910-1955

Galt School of Nursing



Anatomy class in the Galt School of Nursing, 1945. A. E. Cross Studio Fonds: Miscellaneous Series: Galt Hospital Class, 20001094027

Many young women in southern Alberta dreamed of the day they would wear all white and tend the sick and injured. The Galt School of Nursing (GSN), which started in 1910, provided the necessary education and experience to achieve that dream. Olive (nee Cardwell) Faulds cooked for a threshing crew while Akiko (née Fujimagari) Kamitakahara worked in the Taber Cannery so they could afford to attend.

In the early years of the GSN, students like Margaret Hamilton trained as they worked with doctors and qualified nurses in the wards, operating rooms and laboratories. Eventually, classrooms were set up and students learned theory and practical skills (called Nursing Arts) under the guidance of Nursing Instructors like Miss Anne Fallis and Mrs. Evelyn Michael who taught in the 1950s.

The women spent three years, wearing the student uniform of blue dresses under white aprons with black shoes and stockings. They lived together in a residence under the strict supervision of a matron who enforced specific regulations that included evening curfews, instructions on how to make their beds and sort their laundry, and rules preventing them from visiting the Mounted Police Barracks. Time away from duties was rare and put to good use in trips to the mountains, corn roasts in the river valley and taking in the first part of a movie (then rushing back to residence before curfew).

At the end of training, those who passed the exams proudly traded the hated black shoes for white ones and added a black band to their caps. During the ceremony, held at Southminster Church, they received red roses from the doctors and recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge. The new nurses moved on to careers that took many of them to distant places.

1956-1965

Galt Rehabilitation Centre

Long-term patient in Galt Hospital, Gramps Griffiths, blowing out the candles on his birthday cake, 1952. Galt Museum Archives, 19752910382

Patients who were aging or infirm and were no longer able to care for themselves increased in number following the Second World War. Many spent years in active treatment hospitals such as the Galt until Rehabilitation Centres or Auxiliary Hospitals were developed to assume their care. Dr. Hugh A. Arnold introduced the idea of 'rehabilitation' to local doctors and politicians, like Mayor A. W. Shackelford and County of Lethbridge Reeve H. G. Houlton, in the early 1950s.



An organization comprised of the City of Lethbridge, the Municipal District of Lethbridge, and the communities of Coaldale, Barons, Nobleford and Stirling purchased the Galt Hospital building and \$22,000 of its furnishings and ran the Centre for the benefit of people from all the communities.

On July 6, 1956, the Galt Rehabilitation Centre opened in the recently vacated Galt Hospital building. As well as providing a place to recuperate, the Galt Rehabilitation Centre offered physical and occupational therapy to restore patient mobility and capabilities.

The older generation benefited from better health care and therefore lived longer. This increased the need for housing and assistance for them to live comfortably at a reasonable cost. Senior Citizens' Homes were developed in Lethbridge in the early 1950s, some utilizing the former Galt Hospital Nurses' and Maids' residences. Towards the end of its time in the Galt building, the Galt Rehabilitation Centre also became a Senior Citizens' Home.

Did you know?

The Galt Rehabilitation Centre required financial assistance so a **Women's Auxiliary** was created to help raise the necessary funds. "The greatest volunteer help is given to the rehabilitation centre by its women's auxiliary organization. They have donated a deepfreeze, electric clocks and radios to the hospital, and each year sponsor a tea and sale of handicrafts from the occupational therapy department. Mrs. M. M. Lehodey is president of the organization." *Lethbridge Herald*, September 26, 1959

1966-1979

Lethbridge Health Unit



Portrait of the City of Lethbridge Health Unit staff in front of the Galt Building, March 1979. FRONT ROW, L-R: Constance Cook, Wendy Bradley, Marion Pashkovich, Grace Hodgins, Cheryl Wolcott, Jo-Anne Kirby, Dr. Barbara Lacey, Agnes Short, Yosh Chaki, Louise Laqua, June Crighton, Cheryl King-Hunter, Linda Flatla, Maria Kuthner. SECOND ROW, L-R: Idwal Potter, Wendy Timmermans, Helen Malinsky, Joan Schow, Karen Alston, Norma Sees. BACK ROW, L-R: Sharon Herman, Katherina Mayba, Karen Burdzy, Penny Kohoutek, Marjory Sutherland, Wendy Hartley, Cheryl Rath, Carolyn Leishman, Darlene Bevilacqua, Carl Lemke. Galt Museum Archives, 19800156000.

As early as 1894, Lethbridge hired a Medical Officer of Health (MOH) to help protect the population from unsanitary conditions in businesses and homes and the spread of contagious diseases.

The city provided many services on its own initiative until 1958 when a provincial government Health Unit was established to provide preventative health care in Lethbridge and later to surrounding communities.

The Health Unit operated out of the City Hall Annex until it required new space in which to expand its services. An agreement was signed with the City of Lethbridge to use the ground floor of both the 1910 and 1930 Galt Hospital buildings in 1967 and that use continued until 1979. A wide variety of services were offered through in-house clinics, school and home visits, and industrial inspections.

Inspector Idwal Potter checked businesses handling food for cleanliness, and proper food storage and waste disposal. Nurses, under the supervision of Agnes Short, visited schools to monitor the health and well being of the children. They addressed issues of malnutrition, lice and unwashed bodies. Doctors like Edmund Cairns inoculated children with the new Salk or Sabin vaccines to protect them from polio in the 1950s.

Dental care was offered by a licensed dentist and dental hygienist by the late 1960s. A portable dental chair was purchased as dental employees were required to travel to schools in the area. People came to the Galt Building for x-rays to test for tuberculosis until the clinic closed in 1977. Mothers brought children to the Health Unit to monitor the health and growth of their babies. Speech therapy was provided for children who required assistance. The Health Unit was even responsible for mosquito control much to the satisfaction of the Henderson Lake Golf Club who sent a note "congratulating the Board on its mosquito control program."

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.

1979 - present [Sir Alexander] Galt Museum & Archives

Archivist Greg Ellis, *Lethbridge Herald*, August 12, 1985

When members of the Lethbridge Historical Society started collecting for the new Civic Museum in the 1960s, they acquired documents, photographs, private papers, books, maps, non-profit organization records and like archival materials as well as 3 dimensional artifacts. No distinction was made between the two until Jean Johnstone (née Potts) advocated for the development of an Archives.



In 1980-1981 the City of Lethbridge, with Jean Potts as the first Archivist/Records Manager, hired staff with funds from an Alberta 75th Anniversary grant to develop a records management program for the City and Archives in the Sir Alexander Galt Museum. Greg Ellis was one of the new hires and he has served as Archivist with the Museum for almost 30 years. The City's records were moved to space in the Purchasing and Stores Department warehouse in north Lethbridge while the Archives remained in several rooms in the southwest corner of the 1930 addition.

In 1982 the Archives started to use computers for its record keeping. Today, the entire Archives' catalogue is accessible by computer via the internet. Volunteers are critical to the operation of the Museum, including the Archives where they scan photographs into the database, assist with arranging and describing fonds and in researching customer requests.

Approximately 1000 people contact the Archives directly each year with research questions. In 2009, over 5000 more used the Archives' on-line collections database to do their research. Two computers supplied through a partnership with the Lethbridge Community Network are available for researchers' use in the Archives Reading Room. Teachers, students, genealogists, engineers, architects, business owners, ghost hunters and many others find the Archives a valuable source of information for whatever questions they are investigating.

Did you know?

Many grade 5 and 6 students from Coalhurst Elementary developed local history projects for the 2009 Southern Alberta Regional Heritage Fair. The class had a tour of the museum then did research on their projects in the Archives.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

OCT 02 - JAN 30.11

The Fabric of British Home Children

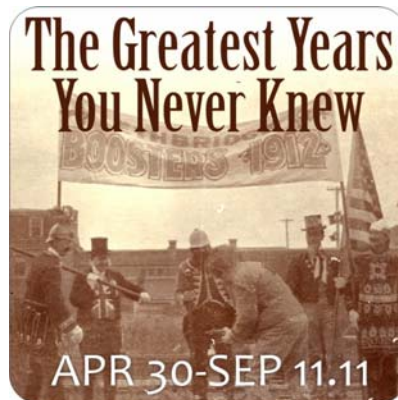
MAIN LEVEL HALLWAY

Two quilts by Claresholm's Hazel Perrier honouring British Home Children will be shown at the Galt during Canada's 2010 Year of the Home Child. One of the quilts includes squares sent to Perrier by ancestors of British Home Children; the other is a personal reflection of her own family connections.

Archives Exposed... Towns Around

MAIN LEVEL MEETING ROOMS

A selection of photos of street scenes with false front buildings, people in horse drawn wagons, men and women working in business and industry, and event celebrations.



DEC 18-APR 10.11

Fakes and Forgeries

Organized and circulated by the Royal Ontario Museum

Museum Community Day: Sat DEC 18 | 10:00 - 2:00

APR 30-SEP 11.11

The Greatest Years You Never Knew

Guest Curator: Belinda Crowson

Museum Community Day: Sat APR 30 | 10:00 - 4:30

OCT 01-JAN 08.12

Toys & Games

Museum Community Day: Sat OCT 01 | 10:00 - 4:30

HOURS OF OPERATION

SEP 01 to MAY 14 / 10:00 - 4:30 *mon-sat* / 1:00 - 4:30 *sun + hol*
MAY 15 to AUG 31 / 10:00 - 5:00 *mon-sat* / 1:00 - 5:00 *sun + hol*
CLOSED Christmas & Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Easter Sunday