



# The Jasper Signal

Jasper-Yellowhead  
Museum and Archives

FALL 2005

## “REMEMBERING LUCERNE”



JYMA 001.67.33

Canadian Northern Railway Station at Lucerne—ca 1922

Jasper Yellowhead Historical Society Outing

Sunday – October 2, 2005  
1:30 to 4:00 pm

**Everyone welcome**

Do you remember the town of Lucerne? Join us as we visit the site where a community once thrived. We have many photos and stories to share. Those who are more adventurous may want to join us on a scramble through the woods to locate pieces of the past.

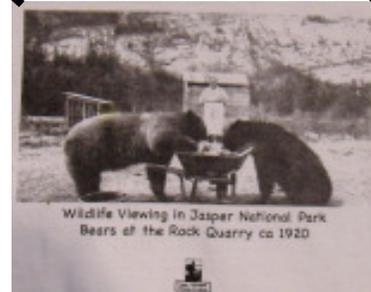
*Please bring some muffins and memories to share,  
a lawn chair and a mug for yourself.  
We will supply the drinks.*

Directions: Take Highway 16 west from Jasper and turn right onto Lucerne Station Road (approx. 40km). Park on the right hand side of the road. From here follow the signs to our meeting place. For those arriving from the west Lucerne Station Road is the next left after Lucerne Campground.

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### Archive Photo T-shirts



4 photos to choose from  
sizes Med - XLg

**Just \$15**



## The Jasper Signal

is a publication of the Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society that tells the story of Jasper's regional heritage both natural and cultural while presenting the activities and priorities of the Society. The Jasper Signal is named after Signal Mountain.

Submissions may be sent to:

Jasper-Yellowhead  
Museum & Archives  
PO Box 42, Jasper, AB T0E 1E0  
Phone (780) 852-3013  
Email [jymachin@telus.net](mailto:jymachin@telus.net)

**Next Issue deadline**  
**November 20, 2005**

## Mission Statement

"The Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society will promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of our regional heritage, both natural and cultural, to the residents and visitors of our community."

## JYHS Directors 2005

Cynthia Ball  
Mike Cameron  
Mike Day  
Laureen DiStefano  
Fred Kofin  
Roben Nurgitz  
John Ogilvy  
Herb Robinson  
Ken Walker  
Mike Wasuita  
Warren Waxer

## President's Message

Warren is on holidays. We'll make

sure we catch him for the next issue due out in December.

## Museum's Canada Day Float takes First Prize Ribbon as the Best Engineering Float...



Thanks to the design by President, Warren Waxer and his helpers, Herb Robinson, Mike Cameron, Robin Nurgitz, and special thanks to Christopher Read. We would also like to thank the participants who rode the float, Erika Magnuson-Ford, Dane Olinkin, Jesse McGugan and Clara Waxer.

## Treasurer's Report

By Fred Kofin

Proceeds from books sold,  
including long weekend  
sales up to August 21st  
**\$4310.00**  
August 20th Bake Sale  
**\$1454.00** plus  
**\$290.00** in donations  
Our best Bake Sale Yet!

**A Big Thank You** to all  
who participated donating  
baking and those who  
helped organize this event.

### 2005 Patron Members

Olga & Bob Dowling	James Pasko
Jasper House Bungalows	Edith Gourley
Laureen Di Stefano	John McLay
Sunwapta Falls Resort	Annaliese Waeser
Herb & Anita Robinson	Wm Ruddy Family
Houston Insurance Brokers	Bear Hill Lodge
Mildred Flanagan	Couture Family
Kofin Financial Group	Pine Bungalows
Ian & Anne Coates	Astoria Hotel
Jasper Adventure Centre	McComas Family



## Manager's Report

In spite of the rainy weather (or maybe because of it), it's been a good summer with the museum. Our museum ambassador, Erika Magnuson-Ford, combined with our redesigned brochure have increased our off the street traffic. Thanks to Keith Haevens and Val Delill for their hard work! We have been very lucky with our staff this summer and hope both Erika and Jenn Mercer will return after their schooling is finished. We look forward to having Liam Harrap and Hilary Arsenaault fill in as gallery attendants this fall.

The museum has been working closely with the Jasper Photo Club this summer and the Jasper Photo Project opened in the Showcase Gallery on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

This exhibit's success is due to Ross Pugh and the Jasper Photo Club's tireless efforts. They did a fabulous job re-creating our archive photos as a celebration of the Alberta Centennial.

Peter Lynch deserves special recognition for his work hanging the show just hours before it opened! Our membership came through with a wonderful selection of Enticing baking for the opening.

This fall we will have some exciting Showcase exhibits by Allison Argy-Burgess and Sally Tatlow, followed by our own Festival of Trees in December and another stimulating series by JAG in the new year.

We are working on several speakers for the fall and hope to offer two historical evenings to our membership. Our meeting room now has a series of Bridgland photos hanging on the walls and we hope to install some new lighting this winter.

## At the Museum...

### The Historical Gallery

Our exhibits trace the history of the people in the Athabasca Valley, from early aboriginals to the modern era.

### The Museum Gift Shop

Check out our new selection, were always finding new items.

Browse for books, cards, jewelry and more.

**We are tax free,**

**and members receive a 10% discount on all purchases.**

### Fred's Book Nook

Used books and magazines at the right price—By donation.

We are always accepting books for Fred's Book sales

### Showcase Gallery

**Town Photo Project ~ In Celebration of Alberta's Centennial**  
August 5<sup>th</sup>-September 30<sup>th</sup>

A photo retrospective of Fitzhugh/Jasper, remember the old days and compare the look of today's town site.

**Watercolours From the Valley ~ Allison Argy-Burgess**

October 7<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

This exhibit depicts passionate, dreamlike images that explore intrinsic vision of myth and metaphor.

**Predators and Prey ~ Sally Tatlow**

November 4<sup>th</sup> - November 30<sup>th</sup>

"Predators and Prey" is Sally Tatlow's second exhibition and showcases her latest work. A series of pencil drawings depict close-ups of Jasper's predators such as cougars and eagles. Watercolour paintings show birds in their brightest colours or camouflage.

**Festival of the Trees**

December 1<sup>st</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

Visit our Old Time Christmas display and bid on a tree or wreath decorated by Jasper's groups and businesses.



## Better Access to Our Collection is on it's Way!

Have you ever wished you could rummage around in the basement of the museum? What sorts of interesting artifacts are in storage?

Coming this winter, as a result of a recently completed grant project a computer terminal will be set up in the gallery area. It will give the public access to our artifact database. Soon you will be able to scroll through and see what's hiding in our basement.



Thanks to a grant from Museums Alberta we have recently completed a "Collections Records Update Project". Our data base has been expanded to include more information as well as photos of the artifacts. The work was done by DeeDee Bartlett (on contract) with the volunteer help of Erika Magnuson-Ford and Scott Ward, both Katimavik participants.

We wish to thank Museums Alberta for their continued support in our efforts to grow and develop.



Jasper-Yellowhead  
Historical Society

The Historical Society  
is holding a

## RETIREMENT TEA honouring GLENDA CORNFORTH'S 16 years of service as Archives Manager.

Join us at the museum  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER  
11TH**  
from **2PM TO 4PM**



### You will be Missed Glenda

I guess it's true that all good things must come to an end but we can't quite believe that Glenda is really leaving us this September. Glenda has been at the helm of our archives for over 16 years. She has been responsible for raising the profile of our museum, taking advantage of every opportunity to promote the archives, collection and gallery

wherever her travels took her. From her trips all over the world to her treks into the backcountry, Glenda has been the JYMA's roving ambassador! Glenda's love and knowledge of Jasper has enabled us to gain the respect and trust of the community and given us the opportunity to safeguard Jasper's rich



## Have you seen our new Ambassador around town?

Erika Magnuson-Ford has been costuming up and walking the streets this summer to try and raise awareness for the Museum. This has been a successful venture that we hope to continue next summer.

## Special Thanks

To Volunteer **Mike Wasuita** for stripping and re-staining the old Post Office Doors for our Showcase Gallery.

**Now we need a volunteer to install them.** If you are interested in taking this on please call Karen **852-3013**

## History in the Making - 100 Years of Jasper National Park

Did you know that Jasper National Park is going to be 98 years young on Sept 14, 2005? That means we're getting pretty darn close to celebrating the **BIG 100!!** Well we all know that any good party takes plenty of planning so we're gearing up - **NOW!!** This is where you come in:

Question:: **How many Jasper citizens does it take to plan a birthday bash?!!**

Answer: **All of YOU!!**

Yep, that's the **REAL** answer! Why? Because you 're part of the history of this fine park **AND...** you've all got your own ideas of how you'd like to see us celebrate the last 100 years.

**So bring it on - I want to hear from ALL of you!!**

If you'd like more info call me  
Sherrill Meropoulos - JNP Centennial Coordinator  
at 852-6154 or drop me an email at  
sherrill.meropoulos@pc.gc.ca - **SOON!**



## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Canada Day concession and float and the Folk Festival Castor Tails concession. Both were good money makers for the museum and we are now the proud owner of a deep fryer we can use for other events.



## Another Jasper Mystery has been Solved...

by the super sleuths at the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives. Last year the archives received an email from a couple in Saskatoon who had acquired some hand carved



wooden panels that were designed to frame a fireplace. They had been told that the panels had originated in Jasper and had been carved by the mayor of Jasper, over 75 years ago. The story they had been given also said that the mayor had died before the panels could be completed. The owners wanted to fill some of the gaps in the historical context of their acquisition, so they contacted us. We knew that the mayor of Jasper had not carved the panels because Jasper has only had a mayor for the last five years, but we knew that somebody who was fairly important or well known, in the area, must have carved the panels. For the last six months the archives and museum staff have dug into dark corners, looking for clues to this mystery.

Enter Ralph James: Ralph James lived in the Pochontas area for 31 years. He was the Justice of the Peace and a guide. Ralph lived in a log cabin and his hobbies included:

writing poetry, wood carving, and constructing ornate bridges, benches, and cabin trimmings from burly poles. Some of Ralph James work was used to decorate early cabins and

footbridges at Jasper Park Lodge and many of his bridges were found around the Pochontas area. The carved panels feature punchbowl falls, which happened to be close to

Ralph's house and a couple of the panels depicts an 'Indian Princess,' which is most likely a reference to the area's namesake.

Then, while working on another unrelated project DeeDee Bartlett and Val Delill, who work on the collections side of the museum, found some small wooden carvings that had been purchased from Ralph James' estate sale, after his death. Ralph James suffered from a stroke before he died, which helps explain the deterioration in quality of the fireplace carvings and one panel, which only has an outline of what was to be carved probably was left incomplete due to his death. The last piece of the puzzle fell in to place when an envelope was found in the archives making a specific reference to the wooden fireplace panels carved by Ralph James.

You can find out more about

Ralph James and town of Pochontas by visiting the Alberta Society of Archives website, [www.archivesalberta.org](http://www.archivesalberta.org) or come by the Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives and make a research request.

**Also, the archives needs your help, we would like to collect stories of romance in the Rockies for a display project. So, if you have a romantic story that takes place in the Rockies and you do not mind sharing it with the public, please email it to [jyma\\_arc@telus.net](mailto:jyma_arc@telus.net) subject: Romance in the Rockies project.**





## Following in the footsteps of David Thompson

In 1807 David Thompson, North America's greatest land surveyor, crossed the Rocky Mountains via Howse Pass and made contact with the Kootenai Indians, thereby pushing the continent's search for furs to its final frontier.

Four years later, his passage across the Rockies by the more northerly Athabasca Pass initiated a trade route that was to last for 50 years and which led step-by-step to the coming of the railroad and the establishment of Jasper National Park.

David Thompson's exploits mark him as one of North America's most amazing explorers and yet the extent of his travels and work are little known. All that is about to change. Plans are already underway across western Canada and the U.S. to commemorate the bicentennial of Thompson's mountain adventures and thereby highlight the impact the fur trade had on the Aboriginal people, the environment and the development of Canada itself.

If you are interested in knowing more about David Thompson, his Métis wife Charlotte Small or about how you can get involved, call Ken Walker, JNP David Thompson Bicentennial Coordinator at 852-6190.

## Raising Museum Awareness

Have you had visitors asking if there is a museum in town? Even with increased promotion we continue to be one of Jasper's best kept secrets, hidden away on the back street of town. Since large signs aren't an option in a national park, we have opted for some creative promotional ideas. In the past we have set up a satellite gallery in the old Fire Hall hoping that tourists in town would be encouraged to visit the museum. This had some success but not as much as we had hoped. This year we have tried a fresh approach to the problem. We hired Erika Magnuson-Ford as our ambassador. Dressed in turn of the century costume with an "Ask Me About the Museum" sash, she has been roaming the downtown area to direct visitors to our door. This has been a success and we hope to continue the program next

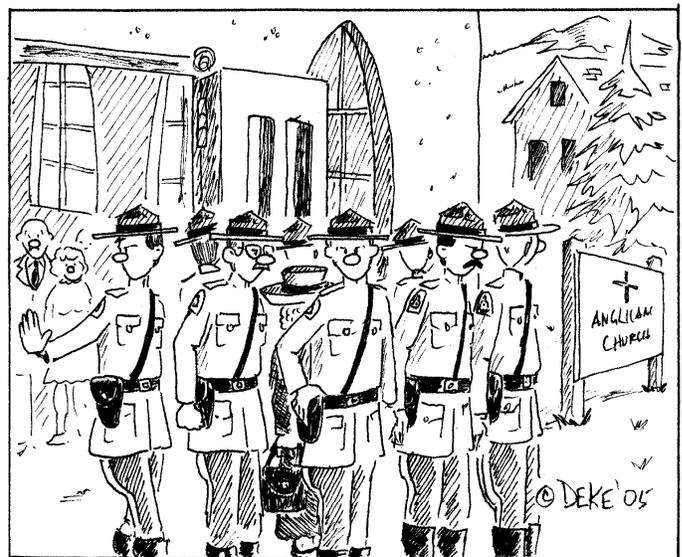
summer. As well, the museum now has some smaller exhibits in several locations around Jasper. Thanks to several supportive groups in Jasper, we are able to have display cases at the old Fire Hall, the Provincial Building, the Activity Centre and a new History Mystery at the JNP Information Centre. These displays raise the awareness of the museum and give visitors a little taste of what we have to offer.

### Can you help?

If you have an idea for another display or place to distribute our brochures to help promote the museum please let us know.

Members are reminded articles of historical interest are always welcome.

### Deke's View



FOR MANY OUTSIDE THE CHURCH THAT DAY IT WAS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE QUEEN'S HAT.

We welcome our new contributor Deke Hammell

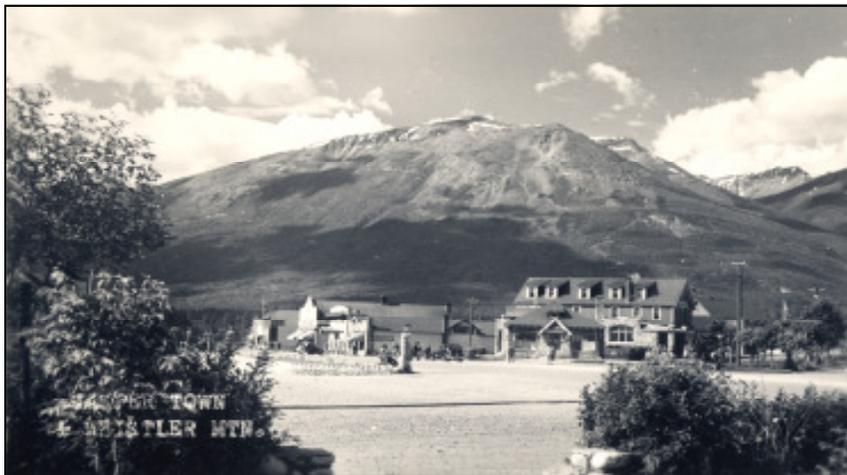


## Have you checked out the Town Photo Project?

This exhibit is a celebration of the town of Jasper from its earliest beginnings to the vibrant community it is today. The Jasper-Yellowhead Museum & Archives and the Jasper Photo Club worked together to create this unique "snapshot". During the winter of 2004 staff and volunteers at the museum sorted through hundreds of archive photos to give to the Jasper Photo Club. After making their selections, the

Photo Club spread out into the town looking for the exact location from which to re create their assigned images. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Perhaps it is best to let these wonderful photographs speak for themselves.

The show closes on  
September 30, 2005.



Don't recognize this corner? Come in and check out what it looks like today!

### Get your Centennial Commemorative

You can purchase a set of town photos or a set of 1960's/2005 photos of your home.

A set of 5"x7" photos  
\$20.00

Or

A set of 13"x19" photos  
Mounted on foam core  
\$40.00

Come in and see the project today!

### Museum and Archives Fall Hours Labour Day to Thanksgiving

#### Museum

10am-5pm Daily

#### Archives

Monday-Wednesday

9 am - noon & 1-4 pm

### Winter Hours From Thanksgiving to May

#### Museum

Thursday-Sunday

10am-5pm

#### Archives

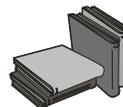
Monday-Wednesday

9 am - noon & 1-4 pm



### Need a meeting room?

\$30 PER EVENING OR  
\$60 FOR A FULL DAY  
WE NOW HAVE AN LCD



### Museum Library

Interested in borrowing  
a book?

We have an ever expanding  
selection of books for loan.

Call Karen at 852-3013  
for more details  
or drop by  
and pick up a list.