



# The Jasper Signal

Jasper-Yellowhead  
Museum and Archives

SUMMER 2005

## Members Only Historical Outing The Meeting Place

June 26, 2005

When I first came to Jasper, I was told that the table and willow benches in the little copse of trees, on the east side of highway 16, opposite the turn off to the Snaring/Palisades Rd, were Otto's teahouse. I imagined women from town being invited out for tea for special occasions. I haven't

had any luck substantiating that story. What stories do you have to explain that area?

Come and share them with us on June 26, 2005 at 1:30 pm. Bring a dozen or so cookies to share and a mug for a beverage (museum will supply). We will have our own tea party on the bank of the Athabasca River.

Phone the Museum 852-3013 by Friday June 24 for transportation, departing from the Museum at 1 pm. If

you are driving out in your own vehicle, please park on the road into the old dump/Jack Ladder (10.7 km from the underpass on right side of the highway), just past the Snaring Rd turn off. Walk back from there to the highway sign showing a merge back to a single lane. Someone will be there to direct you to The Meeting Place. Hope to see you there.



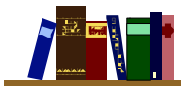
Root cellar located at The Meeting Place

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*don't forget*

**Fred's  
Used Book Sale**  
 In support of the museum



**Friday** **Sunday** **to**

Every long weekend of the summer  
**Largest Selection in Town**

## Notice of Special Meeting

*June 16<sup>th</sup>  
At 7:00 pm  
to vote on  
a special resolution  
to accept the  
revisions to the  
Society's bylaws.  
For more information see  
the President's Message*

## Volunteer Opportunity

We have recently acquired the old post office doors to use in the museum and we would like to install them as the entry doors to the Showcase Gallery. The doors need to be stripped and the entry enlarged so that we don't have to cut down the doors.

If you would like to take on this project, please call Karen at 852-3013.



## 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**  
**August 25, 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

With this issue of the Signal we begin 2005. This issue was actually meant to close 2004 but... things got busy. As mentioned in the 2004 Annual report, the Board of Directors updated our three-year business plan this fall. It is a time consuming, necessary and very worthwhile task. It is an important stocktaking, and by looking at our strengths weaknesses and future possibilities we gain some sense of security and know the areas that need to be worked on. In spite of on-going financial constraints the society is healthy with good opportunities for the future. For those interested, copies of the Business Plan and the Annual Report for 2004 are available at the Museum. Just give Karen a call.

For those who were unable to attend our AGM in February the presentation was a talk on Athabasca Pass and David Thompson. Tom Peterson and Peter Murphy gave the talk which was originally prepared for a David Thompson Bicentennial meeting at Kenora, Ontario. The talk was detailed, entertaining and well supported with power point slides and panels surrounding the room. We thank Tom and Peter for such a professional job done.

The current project being worked on by the board of directors is a revision of the Society's bylaws. This update will bring them in line with current

practices and procedures. Amongst the proposed changes will be the inclusion of ex-officio board members who represent affiliated organizations. At present that would include the Municipality of Jasper and Parks Canada. This change will recognize the existing situation as well as encourage closer association with the Society's partners. A Special meeting has been planned for June 16<sup>th</sup> to vote on a Special resolution to accept the changes. All members are encouraged to attend as the evening will also include a showing of seldom seen artefacts from the Archives.

Finally, the Board has seen a few changes this fall. Municipality representative Joe Couture's term has ended and Rod Wallace has relocated to Edmonton on special assignment with Parks and has had to resign. Both Joe and Rod have had long and productive stints on the Board and will be missed. We don't know if they are just stringing us along but both indicated they maybe interested in a Board position sometime in the future. We will hold them to it.

The Society would like to welcome three new Board members. Mike Day will represent the Municipality of Jasper and Laureen DiStefano and Roben Nurgitz have been elected to the Board. It is always good to have new people with an interest in the Society join the Board and we look forward to an interesting and productive year.

Warren



## Manager's Report

This winter we really enjoyed having JAG take over the Showcase Gallery for four months. The series was very successful and Greg Deagle hosted many gala events during the winter months. It was especially rewarding to see so many young people visiting the exhibits. We hope to continue this partnership in the coming year.

We are looking forward to another busy summer at the museum. Keith Haevens and Val Delill will be manning the gallery with some help from returning our Katimavik volunteer, Erika Magnusen-Ford. The archive staff, Glenda Cornforth, Sue Arends, Meghan Power and Dee Dee Bartlett, are always working behind the scenes and there are several grants keeping them busy in the months to come. Keith is busy ordering new books and other items for the gift shop and we now have our own JYMA cards, prints, mugs, key chains, etc. for sale. We hope to carry some more historic books from Aquila Press this summer.

This summer's exhibits will include photos and artefacts from our own collection as we try to showcase more of our own holdings.

### Museum and Archives Summer Hours

#### Museum

10am-9pm Daily

#### Archives

Monday-Wednesday  
9 am - noon & 1-4 pm

## At the Museum...

### The Historical Gallery

Our exhibits trace the history of the people in the Athabasca Valley.

### The Museum Gift Shop

Check out our new selection.

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

#### Lex Hedley "One Artist's Journey"

May 1-June 4th

How one artist's encounters with birds and the natural world allows the creation of personal narratives.

#### Jasper Photo Club

June 6- July 3rd

Enjoy an exhibit from Jasper's own photography buffs.

#### Out of the Archives

July 8 - July 31

Some the museum's best photos and artefacts on display for the first time.

#### Town Photo Project

August 5-September 30

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



## It's a mystery, can you help?

The archives needs your help in solving a research request mystery. Last year, the archives received an email from a couple in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, who had purchased some wooden panels and were eager to know their history. Here is the information that we received: *The panels were, supposedly, carved by the Mayor of Jasper approximately 75 years ago. They were also told that the panels took five years to carve and remained incomplete as the mayor died before finishing them. It is said that pink stone was placed around the panels, (however it is has also been noted that pink stone was not used for fireplaces in Jasper until early to mid 1950s). The panels were bought from a handicapped person who was given the panels by his father. According to this story, the father bought the house belonging to Jasper's mayor. The family was eventually forced to leave Jasper, possibly due to the condition of their handicapped son. Before selling the house, they removed the panels so they could take them with them.*

*The name of the family who purchased the house with the panels was Marushak. The Marushaks lived in Jasper for only a short period of time and had a handicapped son. We know that Jasper did not have a mayor until recently, so we are pretty*

sure that the panels did not come from the Information Centre or the Superintendent's residence. We may be looking for someone who may have been honoured with the title of 'mayor.' Another suggestion has been that they may have been known as 'Major'. Either way the house, from which the panels came, had to have been one that could have been bought and sold by anyone (not government owned).

The panels are a dark wood and have various nature scenes carved in them. The panels were originally around a fireplace. The scenes are fairly simple, one has an Indian Princess in a canyon by a waterfall.

This panel has prompted us to wonder if there is any connection to Pocahontas, Maligne Canyon, or Punchbowl falls. Another panel depicts a hunter in a canoe on a lake aiming his gun at some geese. Some have seen similarities between Lac Beauvert and this panel. Another depicts mountain



goats and what could possibly be Pyramid Mountain.

If you have any information on wooden panels that would have been custom made for a fireplace or of someone who did wooden carvings, we would be very interested in hearing from you. Remember the panels may not have originated in Jasper. There is a possibility that they came from

Pocahontas or another close-by town. You can see these pictures of the panels by talking to Glenda or Meghan in the Archives (Mon-Wed 9am-noon or 1 pm-4pm). Help us solve this mystery and recover another lost story from Jasper's history.





## Fred Kofin Turns 90

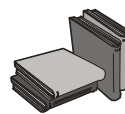


Our oldest board member, Fred Kofin, may be 90 years old but many of us have a hard time keeping up. He is usually at the museum before 8 am pouring over the books, updating memberships and organizing his book nook. During the day Fred makes sure Jasper's businesses are well supplied with chocolates that he sells for museum fundraising. Fred organizes the huge long weekend book sales, distributing and often hefting boxes of books along with Don Fowlie and other volunteers. He also puts together a successful bake sale each summer. In addition to attending the regular JYHS board meetings, Fred makes a point of attending the museum's openings and special events and even advertises for the museum with his choice of hat!

Fred has been treasurer of the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum & Archives since 1978. In October of that year, he made a motion that a Museum construction fund be established. Rory Flanagan seeded the fund with the first dollar and the fundraising started. Over the years Fred has organized and been involved in every kind of sale imaginable from Oktoberfest to flea markets. He is responsible for raising tens of thousands of dollars.

Fred has helped many other organizations in the community over the years and has acted as treasurer for Arts Jasper and the Jasper Seniors Society. Many will remember hauling their recycled paper to the trailer behind the museum where Fred started Jasper's first recycling centre. Fred has given new meaning to "retirement"!

So if Fred stops you on the street to remind you to renew your membership (and he will), please wish him happy birthday.



### 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.



### Need a meeting room?

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



Save Fred the hassle of tracking you down, Bring in or Mail in Your Renewal TODAY!



## Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society Membership

Box 42  
Jasper, Alberta  
T0E 1E0  
Phone: (780) 852-3013  
E-mail: [jymachin@telus.net](mailto:jymachin@telus.net)

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like updates by e-mail? \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels:

- Individual: \$15 per year
- Family: \$25 per year
- Patron: \$100 per year

Membership entitles you to free unlimited admission, 10% off all purchases in the museum gift shop, the seasonal newsletter, use of the member's library and invitations to special events.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_