



# The Jasper Signal

Jasper-Yellowhead  
Historical Society

WINTER 2006

## Taste of the Town

This year's theme  
**THE JASPER STORY**



A fundraiser for the Jasper Yellowhead Museum & Archives  
**At the Jasper Activity Centre**  
**January 25, 2007 from 4-9 pm**  
**Family Hour 4-6 pm**

**Admission:**  
**\$ 4 per person or \$10 Family**  
**Food & Wine Tickets are \$1 each**  
**Beer Tickets are \$3 each**

JYHS members get in free by showing their membership cards  
so renew your annual membership now!

We are already working on planning the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of the Town which will take place on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-9 pm at the Jasper Activity Centre. This year we are encouraging participants to decorate their booths in the spirit of Jasper National Park's Centennial 1907-2007. Some of the pioneers of the early years of the park were people like Curly Phillips, Colonel Rodgers, Mona & Agnes Harragin, Fred Brewster and Suzette and Lewis Swift. We hope to use materials from "The Jasper Story" as part of the theme. We always need lots of volunteers for this event for set up, security, selling tickets, etc. If you would like to volunteer please contact Karen (852-3013) or Meghan (852-3240).

Once again we will encourage JYHS members to renew their memberships by offering **FREE ADMISSION** to the Taste of the Town.

### Inside this issue:

Manager's Report.....	2
Slow Down and Smell the Coffee..	2
New Books in the Gift Shop.....	3
Archive T-shirts.....	3
Gallery Schedule.....	3
Hours and Fees.....	3
2006 Historical Society Patrons....	4
It's a Mystery.....	4
Lending Library.....	4
Fitz History.....	4
Historical Trade Beads.....	5
Curly Phillips Canoe.....	6
JYMA Website.....	6
Meeting Room Rentals.....	7
Family Histories Brought to Life...7	
Henry House.....	8

## The Festival of Trees

For the past three years the museum has created a Christmas display in our Showcase Gallery and we have asked businesses and community groups and individuals to decorate a tree or wreath to auction off. The Festival of Trees is a fundraiser for the museum with 10% of the proceeds donated to the Jasper Community Dinner Program. We also accept donations for the Food Bank.

This year the event will run from December 7-17<sup>th</sup> and the museum is offering free admission for the Festival of Trees Thursday-Sunday from 10-5 pm. Please join us for hot chocolate and cookies on

Sunday, December 17, we will also feature the JES Choir.

The bids close at 4pm.





## 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 [manager@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:manager@jaspermuseum.org)

## 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 2006

President  
**Mike Cameron**

Board Members  
**Cynthia Ball**  
**Mike Day**  
**Fred Kofin**  
**Dick Ireland**  
**Shelley MacQueen**  
**Herb Robinson**  
**Ken Walker**  
**Mike Wasuita**  
**Warren Waxer**

## And now a word from our Manager ...

It has been a busy six months for the museum. Our in house exhibit, Outfitters and Guides in the Glittering Mountains of Jasper, was a terrific success. We got great feedback from visitors and locals alike. Now we know we have to do more exhibits featuring our collection. We are hard at work planning one for the 2007 Parks Centennial.

We were lucky to once again have the team of Karen and Evan Reed working their magic during the summer months. Karen worked many hours in the gallery while Keith put together a new telegraph display and Evan took on several projects including working on Val's Reflections digitization project. In addition to donating their time they also left the museum a scanner and laptop computer. We hope to see them back at the museum in two years time.

There have been a few staff changes this fall. After three years, Keith & Liz Haevens are leaving us to make their home in Chilliwack. From keeping us wired together, to creating new displays Keith has been an amazing resource for the museum. We are going to miss them both.

Lucie Doucet started in October and she is already finding her niche in our museum family. Just ask her about projectile points!

Dee Dee and Val have been hard at work organizing our collection using funding obtained through the Museums Assistance Program. Meghan has been tackling BACKLOG with the help of Pat Bell. They have made amazing progress in the dungeon of the museum.

Thanks to hours of hard work by the JYHS Presentation Committee, we were able to make a presentation before the Jasper Municipal Council on November 7<sup>th</sup>. We did a powerpoint presentation of the JYHS and JYMA accomplishments over the past few years and thanked the Municipality for their continued support. Their yearly grant is the largest and most stable funding we receive. We also asked for help with museum maintenance. Within a week Neil Wilson, Ken Quackenbush and Don Pickle were over at the museum to do a walkabout. John Ogilvy had done an excellent museum maintenance report this spring and we used as a starting point. The long and the short of it is that we can count on the municipality for help with museum maintenance and we really appreciate the support.

*Karen Byers*

## Slow down and Smell the Coffee!

If you are interested in history and have an hour to spare, join the museum staff for coffee and conversation on Tuesday morning at 11 am. We look at old pictures and artefacts and usually learn something new about Jasper's history from one of our guests. So, please join us at the museum.





## New Books in the Gift Shop

If you are looking for Christmas gift, look no further than our museum gift shop where members get 10% off the regular price and no one pays GST.

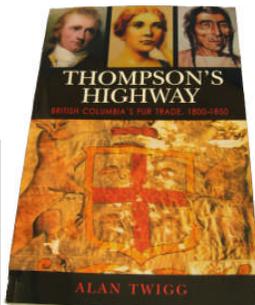
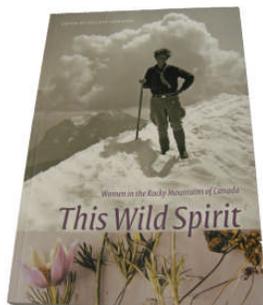
Two new books that we recently received both have Jasper connection. *This Wild Spirit* by Colleen Skidmore is a collection of writing by women in the Rockies. Included in the collection are stories about Suzette Chalifoux Swift and Elsie Park Gowan, who wrote the *Jasper Story*. Both stories feature our archive pictures.

Also new to our shelves is *Thompson's Highway* by Alan Twigg. This book is about the fur trade in B.C. and includes writing about David Thompson, Paul Kane and George Simpson.

Our collection of David Thompson books is growing steadily as the David Thompson Bicentennial 2007 nears. Some of the titles we carry are: *Epic Wanderer*, *Mapmakers Eye*, *Columbia Journals* and *The Canadians-David Thompson*.

In addition to our books, we have a wonderful selection of historical bead

jewellery, t-shirts, hats and rustic metal sculpture animals.



## Gallery Schedule

### The Alcove Gallery

September-December  
**Outfitters and Guides in the Glittering Mountains of Jasper**

January-June  
**Communications: How far we've come!**  
A hands on exhibit of communications equipment pre-internet days.

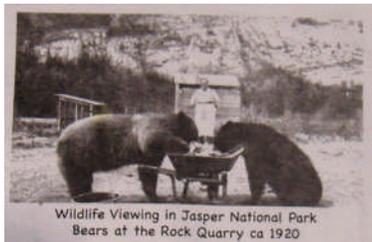
### Showcase Gallery

December 7-17 viewing thru Christmas  
**Festival of the Trees**

### JAG Series

January 5-21  
**María Pollock and Melissa Woodcock**  
January 26-February 11  
**Dennis Darragh**  
February 16-March 4  
**Erik Visser**  
March 9-25  
**Gerry Ralph**  
March 30-April 15  
**Monika Dery**  
April 20-29 (two weekends only)  
**Denise Parent**

## Archive Photo T-shirts



Wildlife Viewing in Jasper National Park  
Bears at the Rock Quarry ca 1920

4 photos to choose from  
sizes Med - XLg

**Just \$15**

## Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives

### Winter Hours

#### Museum

Thursday to Sunday  
10am to 5 pm

#### Archives

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

### Admission & Membership

#### Admission

Adults \$4

Students & Seniors \$3

Members & Children 5 and under Free

#### Yearly Membership Fees

Individual \$15

Family \$25

Patron \$100



## 2006 Patrons of The Historical Society

Astoria Hotel  
 Bear Hill Lodge  
 Pat Bell  
 Ian Coates Family  
 Couture Family  
 Gwen Craig  
 Lauren Distefano  
 Bob & Olga Dowling  
 Mildred Flanagan  
 Edith Gourley  
 J. Hampton Family  
 Houston Insurance Brokers  
 Jasper House Bungalows  
 Journault Family  
 Kofin Financial Group  
 Gwen & Frank McComas  
 John McLay Family  
 James Pasko  
 Peak Automotive  
 Pine Bungalows  
 Herb Robinson Family  
 Bill Ruddy Family  
 Adrian Smith Family  
 Sunwapta Falls Resort  
 Don & Edna Weekes

## It's a Mystery

Do you know what this tool is?

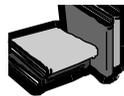
This item in our collection we suspect is a railway tool, but so far no one has been able to confirm this. Please let us know what you think it is!

[collections@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:collections@jaspermuseum.org)



## Fitz History!

The Fitzhugh has taken an interest in local history and features two monthly columns devoted to history: Fonds Memories Column features unique and interesting archival documents, photographs, and personal stories that have been donated by local residences over the years. The other column, yet to be named is written by Meghan Power and focuses on areas of historic interest. Currently the column is featuring stories that are geared towards next year's Parks centennial and touches on the establishment of Jasper National Park, the evolution of the Park Warden, Jasper National Parks' first Superintendent (Col Rogers), just to



**Museum Library**  
 Interested in borrowing a book?

We have an ever expanding selection of books for loan.

This is a free service to our members

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

Thank You  
 for your  
 Generous Support





## Historical Trade Beads

Written by Lucie Doucet

Trade Beads made from bone, stone, shell and later glass have been found at various historical locations all over the world. They show up in burial tombs, adorn ceremonial clothing and litter abandoned forts and villages from the Arctic regions of Canada to isolated mountain tops in Chile in South America. Centuries later these discarded and forgotten pieces of history would be recycled, reused and remade into unique and truly amazing wearable works of art. The craftsmanship and painstaking effort that went into creating these “gems” is once again appreciated for their historic and ornamental value.

Christopher Columbus traded glass beads with indigenous peoples in exchange for provisions and precious metals and stones. The use of the beads in this manner was done quite by accident at first, but would ultimately become the primary method in which to do business. These prized materials forever influenced the contact between Europeans and Native Peoples in North America. Alexander Mackenzie, Father DeSmet, David Thompson, and Lewis and Clark were all said to have utilized trade beads either in exchange for animal pelts or given as gifts to Native Americans.

In the beginning, most of the glass beads being used for trade were manufactured in Venice and Murano Italy. As the brisk business of the fur trade and trade in general developed,

so did productivity. China also became a major producer of their own special variety of beads. Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, played a distinguished part in the production of glass beads, as the Venetians needed skilled labor to keep up with the demand.

The word bead originates from the old English word “bedu” meaning prayer. The variety of Trade Beads is quite impressive. Some of the



various types are: Chevron, Padre, Cave Agate and much later the Russian Blue, the most prized and elaborate of these being the Chevron bead. This particular bead, also called Rosetta, Rosary or Star bead, could have as many as seven layers of colored glass. The most common Chevron beads are blue, red and white in any combination, and were not used extensively in the fur trade industry. They were principally traded for other commodities. The most widely used beads in the fur

trade industry were the Padre beads, mostly blue and white ones. Certain Indian tribes only traded in this variety of beads, making it a bit of a challenge for traders traveling a wide territory to always have some of these on hand.

During the Fur Trade Era, the most widely used bead is the Hudson's Bay bead. Produced during the mid 1800's this popular bead consists mainly of two distinct overlapping layers of color. The outer layer is red and the inner layer is a translucent green, the most recent version being a yellow-white center and a translucent or opaque red on the outside. The Hudson's Bay Company used a standard value based on a made beaver pelt, one that was ready to be shipped with no further treatment required. One made beaver was worth six Hudson's Bay beads, three light blue Padre beads, two larger transparent beads.

These vestiges of a prosperous trade industry can now be purchased as Historical Bead Jewelry. In our Museum gift shop we just happen to have a small selection of Historical Bead necklaces, bracelets and earrings created by Edmonton based Marcia Fossey. Her creative energy, inspired by closely cultivated relationships with First Nations Peoples, is easily felt through her jewelry. She has received “the symbol of quality” from the Alberta Craft Council and her work is sold in museum shops and galleries across Canada.



## Curly Phillips Canoe Arrives



Yes, that is a boat on the lot beside the museum! Thanks to Mike Cameron and Stewart Carson, the Curly Phillips boat from R. Coste's acreage near Hinton is now resting beside the museum. It's in pretty rough shape but at least it is safe from hungry horses. The first thing that hits you when you look at the boat is that there are only one set of oar locks! We have looked through many of our archive pictures but haven't yet found the picture that matches this boat.



If you have any information about its history please contact Dee Dee Bartlett at 852-3013 or [collections@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:collections@jaspermuseum.org)

Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

### Check us out on-line JYMA'S new Website

[www.jaspermuseum.org](http://www.jaspermuseum.org)

Thanks to the expertise of Erik Visser we now have a museum website. You can now check out our Showcase line up, get a taste of our collection and archives, read one of the past articles written for the Booster or the Fitzhugh or even renew your membership. Because we have a new website we now have new e-mails:

[manager@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:manager@jaspermuseum.org)

[archives@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:archives@jaspermuseum.org)

[collections@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:collections@jaspermuseum.org)

[exhibits@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:exhibits@jaspermuseum.org)

[giftshop@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:giftshop@jaspermuseum.org)

### Need a meeting room?



\$30 per evening or

\$60 for a full day

We now have an LCD and Overhead projector available

**Call 852-3013 to book**



## Family Histories Brought to Life at the Jasper Museum

This spring the Alberta Museums Association awarded the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives a grant to digitalize and set up a database of our community's history book "Jasper Reflections". The publication was originally put together by the Jasper Community History Book Association, which has since dissolved and turned their files over to the Archives. Just over 1000 copies were published in 1996 and the hardcover volume contained 477 pages with 431 stories from 382 families. The history commences with the first inhabitants of the valley and concludes at around the time the book went to publication, many residents and former residents compiled stories and sent photographs describing Jasper and the time they spent here.

The book has been out of print for a number of years and we have had many requests for copies, which we were unable to fulfill. This project was the first step towards our goal of updating and making our community's stories available to the public. A database of the publication is now available to the public in our main gallery, so come check out your family history!

We are still in the planning phase of what's next with this book, but would like you the community to start thinking about writing again for the Jasper Reflections project. We want updates on families in the book, we want families who did not submit for the first publication and we want more of your stories and memories that will help future generations find out what it was like living in Jasper's past.

Here's an excerpt from "Jasper Reflections" written by Shirley (Anderson) Wheeler

*My fondest memories of growing up in Jasper start with the years we spent in that house and in that neighbourhood. Is it any wonder with neighbours like the Donnellys, Nicholls, Reids, Lewises, O'Briens, Watts, Campbells, Laverys, and a host of others in the surrounding blocks? To this day that back alley still rings with the sounds of our fun and laughter as we played Run Sheep Run, Prisoner's Base, Anti Anti / Over, and of course Kick the Can. When boredom set in, away we would go to "Bear Hill" and "Crocus Hill" and fight the most recent battles that were taking place in WW.II. A Mr. Moore would make rifles for those who didn't have a store bought one. No one thought of the adverse effects this might have on us kids! Fortunately it didn't seem to. Everyone I knew grew up to be good citizens. These summer pastimes were replaced by the first frosts and anticipation of the ice becoming thick enough for us to skate on the "Pond." After school and a bite to eat, away the neighbourhood went down main street, across the tracks, through the stockyards, carrying on down a footpath to our outdoor arena. The bigger boys would light a big bonfire to warm hands and feet. Sometimes there was cocoa to be shared if you were lucky enough to have a thermos. On with the skates and the Shinny games began and fancy figures were attempted by every aspiring "Sonja Henie." When everyone tired of that it was time for "Crack the Whip" and that could be pretty exciting if you were on the whip end with many rocks and branches to dodge around. I am sure many a romance began there or on the way home in the dark! When the snow came and spoiled the Pond for skating everyone transferred to the outdoor arena. The rink was my second home, I spent all my free time there as did most others, skating to the strains of the Strauss Waltzes, or being a spectator at hockey games. We had an annual Winter Carnival complete with a contest for best costume.*

Dennis Seeley, John Reid, Ray Matthews, skating at the pond (1957)



JYMA 997.07.219.11



## PLANS, LISTS AND THE EVER ELUSIVE HENRY HOUSE?

Recently, Jasper National Park, along with the other mountain national parks, submitted for approval draft management plans for the national historic sites within their borders (and one just outside). For those of you interested in lists, they are:

### Jasper National Park

- Jasper House
- Jasper Park Information Centre
- Athabasca Pass
- Yellowhead Pass

### Banff National Park

- Cave and Basin
- Banff Park Museum
- Sulphur Mountain Cosmic Ray Station
- Abbot Pass Refuge Hut
- Howse Pass
- Skoki Ski Lodge

### Yoho National Park

- Twin Falls Tea House
- Kicking Horse Pass

### Kootenay National Park

- Kootenae House

### Waterton Lakes National Park

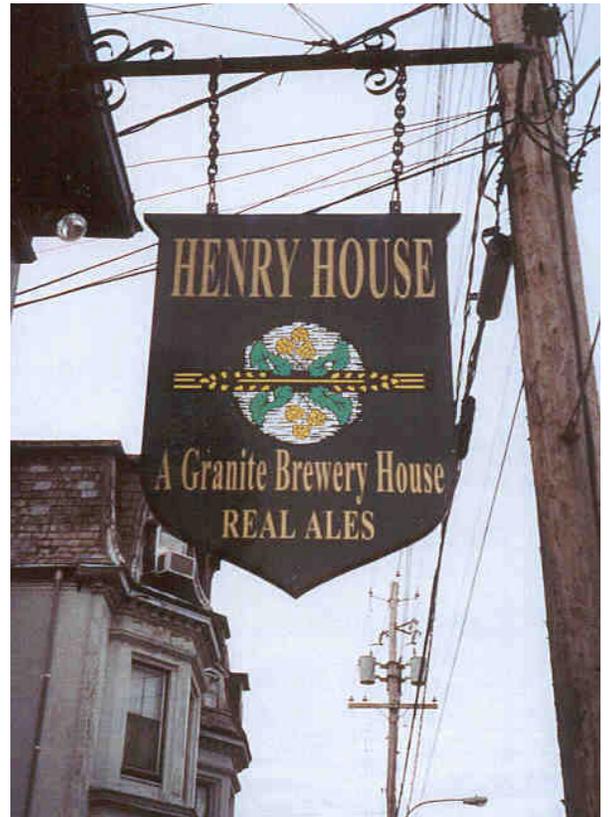
- First Oil Well in Western Canada

And for those of you interested in the fine details, a management plan was not done for Henry House, simply because we're not sure where it is. At least we're not sure where the *Jasper* Henry House is.

Interestingly enough, there is **another** Henry House National Site – a pub in Halifax that was originally the home of William Alexander Henry, one of the Fathers of Confederation.

If you are interested in learning more about the history of the fur trade and the small role that our Henry House played in it, call me for a copy of the paper *The Fur Trade in the Upper Athabasca Valley 1810-1910*, by Michael Payne. I can also supply you with copies of the draft management plans.

Ken Walker  
Cultural Resources Interpretation  
Specialist  
852-6190





Renewal form

# The Jasper Signal



## Jasper-Yellowhead Historical Society

### Membership

Box 42

Jasper, Alberta

T0E 1E0

Phone: (780) 852-3013

e-mail: [manager@jaspermuseum.org](mailto:manager@jaspermuseum.org)

Membership gets you **FREE ADMISSION** to **TASTE OF THE TOWN**

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 museum admission, 10% off all purchases in the museum gift shop, the semi-annual newsletter, use of the member's library and invitations to special events.

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