In April of 2009 the venerable Raven Totem, that stood guard over downtown Jasper 94 years ago, finally succumbed to age and was taken down due to safety concerns. Reaction was slow at first but soon it was clear that something was missing - our beloved Raven Totem and something should replace it. In June of 2010 the Raven continued to its final resting spot when it was repatriated to Haida Gwaii, followed by the commissioning of a new Totem for Jasper, thanks to Parks Canada. This totem was to be carved by the Haida and would tell the story of two brothers who ventured away from home and would tell a story about their indigenous connections with other nations.

In July the new Totem arrived and was immediately set upon by carvers engaged in the final carving work prior to the official Totem Pole raising ceremony on July 16, 2011. The Totem Pole raising ceremony was to be done in the traditional way - by hand with some 200 volunteers pulling the totem into position under the direction of the Haida carvers. The day was filled with celebrations, first nations dancing and ceremonial regalia highlighting the different indigenous groups and their connection to the totem. This gathering brought a variety of groups and early residents of Jasper and our local area together, some for the first time and was a great lesson in our more recent history. Knowing full well that this is an event that will not be repeated anytime soon I was thrilled to be a selected participant in this event - one that will in all likelihood not be repeated anytime soon!

Once again, Parks Canada pulled out all the stops to make this historic day a most enjoyable and memorable experience for all who attended, furthering their commitment to ensure preservation of our local history for future generations. If you haven’t followed up on the story of Two Brothers drop by the museum and get the story!

Story & photo by Bob Bell
A most fitting wind up to a year of celebrating David Thompson, was the Voyageur Canoe Brigade that paddled the Athabasca River - Jasper, north to Emery Creek - August 18, 2011. Word of the proposed trip came to us at the JYHS board through our Vice President Herb Robinson a full year before the proposed date. Interest was there - a few of us were a bit cool to the idea at first but as the date approached rumours abounded - this was going to be a big deal! Was it ever! Do I really want to go? Should I or shouldn't I? Getting a seat in the boat was easy at first, then as we got close, seats became valuable - almost a form of currency and they began to trade and shuffle - ending up with enough interest that I’m sure could have made up at least a couple more crews, had boats been available. As the big day approached things got exciting - the trip was on, so we better get a move on. Practice in the boats, gather gear, practice in the boats, flip the boat, dry off and promise not to do that again!, more practice, pack the gear - finalize details and off we went!

First day activities found everyone at the Jasper Airport - starting off with the first leg of the canoe trip - Maligne River to Airport. Voyageur Canoes - crews in period costume, some not - all in all a group of 15 voyageur canoes. Guess what else?! This was the biggest brigade to travel this part of the river since David Thompson himself some 200 years ago. This trip is taking on a serious historical aspect!

The first full day of paddling took the Brigade thru Jasper Lake, Jasper House and thru to the top of Brule Lake. This camp was in the same location where David Thompson had camped for some 27 days while he restocked and prepared for his assault on the Rocky Mountains. Two of the brigade were direct relations (7th and 8th generation) of the navigator himself and the significance of the event was not lost on the Brigade or local resident descendants of the early travellers. Presentations were done and the Thompson descendants were officially recognized. The camp at the east end of Brule Lake was made even better through their local community who went all out with their camp amenities and entertainment - how could you not enjoy an evening listening to Laura Vinson with her band and family entertaining everyone.

Next morning saw the Brigade paddle down thru the old Entrance and through to Hinton where we pulled in for the night at the local community campground - and headed into town to participate in the towns celebrations.

Last day on the river took the crews north thru Hinton, Obed and finally to the last take out, Emery Creek - where David Thompson had followed out of the Saskatchewan Watershed into the Athabasca - a new river and a new route West!

Throughout the trip - all the crew changes and the logistics involved never ceased to amaze us all. The “roadies” and ground crews at all the stops and camps were fantastic. Organizers are justly proud of what was accomplished and have done nothing other than raise the bar for the next trip!! Well done everyone. Weather through the weekend was absolutely spectacular, especially welcome given the horrid weather mother nature had doled out thus far this year! Happily the tarps we brought helped shield bodies from the effects of sunshine that no one had seen for weeks! How it worked out for the weather to cooperate like it did was one thing but I couldn’t help but notice that almost the exact moment that the last Voyageur Canoe was pulled out at our final stop the skies darkened and a light rain began to settle the dust once again. Its almost like David T himself was keeping his eye on us all!

Continued on page 3
Continued from page 2.

THANKYOU Athabasca River
Voyageur Canoe Brigade for a once in a
lifetime opportunity.
Thank you to all the volunteers and behind
the scenes helpers, drivers, cooks, and
organizers who definitely made the weekend
a time to remember for us all.
JYHS crew and backup - congrats and
thanks to you all for your support and
efforts through out all of the years
activities and especially the Brigade trip.
Fielding a boat crew and organizing beer
gardens, morning breakfasts and equipment moves was a lot for our small group and it all worked out just fine!
Living and reliving history is both enjoyable and eye opening, especially when its done in the company of good
friends! Leaving Emery Creek and heading out to Hwy 16 and home offers a couple of views of the road west and
the entry into the mountains - a 90 minute drive in a vehicle and we just spent 3 days paddling to do the same
difference. During those days I realized a renewed appreciation for our rivers, their importance then and into the
future!

Special mention and big thanks to Rick Zroback from the ARVCB- the real glue in the whole equation who
worked tirelessly with his Brigade for 2 full years to make this dream of his come true and whose efforts were
recently rewarded by the Town of Hinton who have awarded him the official "Ambassador of the Year"!
Congratulations Rick - you rock!! If you see Rick in your travels don't forget to congratulate him on this most
deserving award.

Story & photo by Bob Bell
Some of the JYHS Jasper Arena 50th Anniversary projects were completed this fall. The WHL game between the Prince George Cougars and the Edmonton Oil Kings and the Dinner with Dan Craig, took place in September. Other projects like the Activity Centre display, Everything but Hockey and the museum exhibit, Small Town, Big Dreams will be up until the end of the year. Bob Covey’s wonderful book, Frozen Moments, is now available in the museum gift shop. Plaques for the commemorative wall are going fast and will only be available until December. Many of the names that have signed up are hockey players but there are also figure skaters, parents, coaches, ice makers and many others. For $100 you can put the name of a loved one on this commemorative wall. Forms are available at the museum.

Makes a great gift!

Buy a commemorative plaque as a Christmas gift and we will give you a card saying: Congratulations!

Your name will be placed on the Jasper Arena Commemorative Wall to be built in early 2012.

Book Sales
Our book sales have generated over $4000 this year and we hope to continue this fundraising in the future. Thousands of books are stored in “Fred’s Trailer” behind the museum. This trailer has been around for a long time and there are many gaps in the sides, the doors won’t close and the roof has started to leak. If you know of suitable replacement, please contact Karen at 780-852-3013.

This summer our exhibits coordinator, Val Delill asked her favourite volunteer, Arvon Hilworth to make a “hands on sextant” to use in her David Thompson exhibit. Arvon did make her a great sextant out of wood but he also purchased a beautiful brass sextant for the museum to use in future exhibits and demonstrations. Now we just have to learn how to use it!
Solstice Walk

This is the fourth year of our solstice walk. The venue for our candle light walk is Centennial Park across from Alpine Summit Lodge. On Wednesday, December 21, we will line the path with ice candles flickering in the darkness from dusk until about 9 pm. If you would like to purchase a candle for a friend, a loved one or just in support of the museum please fill in the form below and return it to the museum before December 16th. Each ice candle is $20.

Solstice Walk Ice Candle

Name: ____________________________
Phone Number: _______________________
Tag to say: ____________________________

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

Add your creative energy to the Festival of Trees.
If you or your group would like to decorate a table sized tree, please contact the museum at 852-3013 or e-mail exhibits@jaspermuseum.org
Disaster Plan

Our JYMA disaster committee has been working on creating a disaster plan for the museum over the past two years. We now have a disaster response binder, which has been put into action for minor disasters (like our front door vandalism last summer) and are starting to accumulate materials for a disaster kit. Almost all of the key positions on our team are filled but we are looking for a Building Supplies Coordinator.

The job description is: Assembles supplies needed by salvage coordinator

Acquires and organizes food for emergency team

To volunteer for or learn more about this position please call Karen at 780-852-3013.

Christmas Display

The museum is looking to borrow nativity scenes from different countries to help celebrate the festival of trees this year. The nativity scenes will be on display, in locked cases, from Nov 25 to Dec 17, 2011.

Please contact Val Delill at 780-852-3013
Or email exhibits@jaspermuseum.org

New in the Gift Shop

For the hockey buff on your list pick up a copy of Frozen Moments by Bob Covey.

We now have a selection of coffee mugs including pottery mugs made by Julie McMath and a pewter version of our buffalo plaque is on order and should arrive before Christmas.

New JYHS Membership

This year the JYHS is introducing a new level of membership. The corporate membership offers businesses the opportunity to support the JYHS while encouraging their staff to learn more about Jasper’s history. There are three levels available to fit the needs of every business. All levels receive:

- Unlimited museum admission for staff
- 10% off all purchases in the museum gift shop
- Semi-annual newsletter The Jasper Signal
- Invitations to special events
- Voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting

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Our Volunteers

We have many volunteers working behind the scenes for the JYHS and at the museum and we couldn’t function without them. This summer Evan and Karen Reed were back to help us out with several projects including creating a research document on the railroad artefacts in our Fred Kofin Gallery. Another volunteer we’d like to mention is Christopher Joly. Once a week he arrives with his aide, Brenda Hill, and takes on a task that makes our lives a little easier. Thank You!

Do You Recognize this Bridge?

This clipping is from the November 23, 1961 Jasper Totem. It’s hard to believe that 40 years ago there was no bridge across the Athabasca River south of town until you reached Athabasca Falls travelling on 93A.

The museum has incredible film footage, donated by Tom Peterson, of Crawley Mohr building this bridge and as well as several Jasper houses.
Winter Hours:
Museum
October-May
10am to 5pm
Thursday-Sunday
780-852-3013
Archives
Monday-Wednesday
9am - noon & 1-4pm
Please phone for appointment
780-852-3240

Karen Byers
manager@jaspermuseum.org
Meghan Power
archives@jaspermuseum.org
Dee Dee Bartlett
collections@jaspermuseum.org
Val Delill
exhibits@jaspermuseum.org
Lucie Doucet
giftshop@jaspermuseum.org

Showcase Gallery
In Remembrance
October 6 – November 20
Festival of Trees
November 25-December 17
June (Burstrom) Haring Art Show
January 2011
Science Alberta Foundation Science in a Crate
Leonardo’s Engineering Academy of Light and Shadows
February 16-29th
Jason Bartzokas Art Show
March 2011
Anna Carnell and Friends Art Show
April 2011
Lake Edith Artists Group
May 6-25

The Alcove Gallery
Small Town, Big Dreams
a Half-Century of Indoor Hockey in Jasper
September 15 – January 1st
Talking in Color - Tyson Sales Art Show
January 5-29th
The Rainbow Mountains
Byron Harmon’s 1911 Yellowhead Expedition
February 9th - May 13th
Trail Guides of the Canadian Rockies
May 18-September 5

Reel to Reel
The museum has several audio reel to reel tapes which are not labelled and will not play on our current equipment. We would like to preview the content of these reels. They are various sizes and have been recorded at different speeds some with more than one track. Does anyone have any equipment or expertise to lend to this project?