

SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



Southern Alberta Pioneers' Memorial Building • 3625 4th Street SW Calgary Alberta T2S 1Y3 • Phone 403-243-3580

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[Foundation's Website](#)

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January 2025

President's Message

Some building and grounds history for your information.

The City of Calgary dedicated the Memorial building on June 8, 1955, unveiling a field stone cairn with affixed brass plaque which reads, "Presented to Southern Alberta's Old Timers by the City of Calgary in the Province's 'Golden Anniversary Year' 1955."

Another brass plaque was added to the stone cairn to recognise the significant gift required to replace the street entrance gate. The plaque reads, "The gate is dedicated to the memory of Edward and Ellen Burke Family and Descendants." The donation was made by their Great-Grandson Bob Rintoul, now deceased. I am also a descendant of Edward and Ellen Burke, their Great-Great-Grandson.

Bob Rintoul went on to finance another significant project, the paving of the parking lot. On a second plaque affixed to the stone cairn he made the dedication to his mother, Evelyn Vera (Burke) Rintoul.

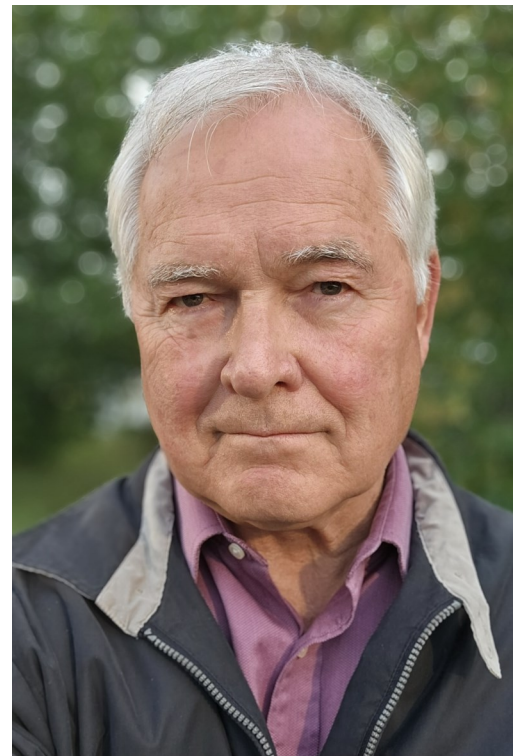
On June 22, 2009, the Memorial Building was designated as a City of Calgary Municipal Historic Resource.

In June we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Southern Alberta Pioneer Memorial Building.

The Memorial Building is open to the public on Monday mornings from 10:00 am to noon, which helps to fulfill our mandate of having the building available to the public.

I wish you a healthy, prosperous new year... and happy trails!

Finally, the Memorial Building and grounds are in good shape, thanks to the **Building Committee** and **Gabrielle Leah**.



Russell Moore

President 2025
Southern Alberta Pioneers
Foundation

THIS NEWSLETTER CAN BE READ AT and PRINTED FROM <http://pioneerbuilding.ca/newsletter.html>

Memorial Building Committee Report

by John Hutchings, Building Committee Chair

The members of the Building Committee for 2023/2024 are:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--|
| John Hutchings (Chair) | 403-613-9798 | sap.office@pioneersalberta.org |
| Dan Shaw | 403-861-3000 | danshaw1959@gmail.com |
| Jeff Hill | 403-225-2397 | jeff.hill@shaw.ca |
| Dylan Viste | 403-854-8978 | DCViste2202@gmail.com |

The Committee hopes you had a great Christmas and are embarking on a happy New Year!

Building Rentals

So far, this fiscal year (June 2024 – May 2025) we have 78 rental days in the books striving to get more than 100 by the end of May 2025. We had a very busy Christmas party season with 12 rental days in December.

We have already booked 45 rental days for the 2025-26 fiscal year including 20 in August of 2025.

Not only are rentals vital in keeping the building financially afloat, they also satisfy the lease requirement that state that our facility must be accessible to the public at least 50% of the time.

We would like to have more rentals during our slower winter months such as corporate conferences, retreats, etc. If your company is looking for such a venue, the Memorial Building is an excellent and unique location.

Members, you receive a 20% discount on the rental rate. Please call Gabrielle Leah at 403-807-0550 for any rental enquiries. Also, if you are going to visit the building other than Historic Mondays, please contact Gabrielle to be sure that the building is not occupied with renters that day.

Utilities

We have taken advantage of the lower electricity and natural gas rates and entered a new three-year term with ATCO.

⇒ New Electrical rate: \$.0888/kWhr,

Prior rate: \$.1239/kWhr

⇒ New Gas rate: \$3.88/GJ, Prior rate: \$4.99/GJ

Front Gate

After the last service call by our front gate contractor, Gateworks, they found the V-belts needed to be replaced along with the home targets for both operators as they are missing the sensor that connects to the chain. This work was completed in September 2024.

Johnson Controls

During the annual inspections last fall, the following deficiencies were identified:

- Missing signage on three control valves and one test and drain valve
- Five-year Internal Obstruction Investigation
- Three check valves
- Internal condition of the sprinkler system piping
- Installation of a 2" block valve in order to isolate the firewater fluids
- Fire Department Connection (FDC) Hydrostatic Testing

This work was completed in October 2024.

Barbeque

Our Barbeque requires upgrades; of obvious note is the bottom plate where it is corroding. Two steel plates, 21.5" wide X 46.75" long X 1/4" or 5/16" thick is required. Also, the grill grating should be replaced, but this is not urgent.

Handicap Lift

We are fortunate that a mechanical lift was generously donated to the Foundation by Evelyn Calow some 20 years ago to allow people with limited mobility to access the Memorial Building.

The lift has served us well enough as outdoor equipment; however, because it was designed for indoor use, it requires inspection and servicing twice a year, resulting in a significant amount of money being spent on breakdowns. Misassignment in an alien environment of wind, rain, snow and blazing heat often renders the poor lift to be unreliable.



The latest breakdown occurred on December 13 during a rental event; the culprit was ice buildup under the platform bowl plate.

During the December Board Meeting, a discussion was brought forward on overall improvements to indoor and outdoor building accessibility for people with disabilities. When the building was built in 1955, accessibility was not a high priority. Nevertheless, access has been improved over the years by installing ramps for both upstairs and downstairs. The upstairs ramp was removed when the mechanical lift was installed.

We are now at a stage where we need to look to improve overall building access. We are planning to form a sub-committee to tackle this issue. Sarah Papineau, our City Liaison, has provided us several sources for possible government grants on all three levels that could help fund this initiative. It will not be an easy solution and will, therefore, take some time and resources for this to come to fruition. Stay tuned for further developments.

Building Structural Integrity Study

An engineering study is currently being conducted on the structural integrity of the Memorial Building; the following is a brief outline of this work.

- In May 2022, Chalmers Heritage Conservation Ltd. (**CHC**) noted that the centre portion of the building roof is sagging, and it proposed that an engineering study should be completed to determine the integrity of the roof.
- The City of Calgary's Engineering Consulting Program (**ECP**) agreed to conduct this study at no cost to SAPF upon application.
- An approval letter dated May 2, 2023, was received from the City. The City, through the Capital Conservation Grant (**CCG**) will pay 100% of the Engineering costs. The City has engaged the firm Morrison Hershfield (**MH**) to undertake the study.
- May 24, 2023 – Initial site visit by MH.
- June 1, 2023 – Received a “comfort letter” from MH indicating that the building is not in imminent danger of collapse and is safe.
- July 11, 2023 – Morrison Hershfield conducted initial 3D scan of the building trusses.
- November 7, 2023 – There was a second 3D scan of the building trusses.
- March 4, 2024 – There was a third 3D scan of the building trusses. This was done when a snow load was on the roof.
- A report was prepared by MH, which recommended the tightening of the truss bolts in a prescribed manner. MH solicited a quote from CHC for the bolt tightening.
- During this time, MH was taken over by Stantec. It was recommended that SAPF hire CHC directly to do the work,
- On December 9, 2024, SAPF executed a time and material contract with CHC up to a maximum cost of \$5,000. the costs will be 100% reimbursed by the City.
- A kick-off meeting with the City, CHC, and MH was held on January 7, 2024. Work is expected to be completed in January 2025; hopefully all goes well.

Christmas Decorating

by John Hutchings

On November 17, volunteers came down to the building to participate in the annual Christmas Decorating Day. Special thanks to:

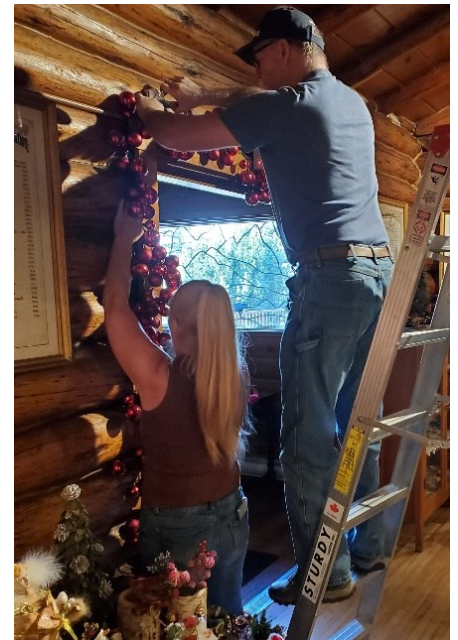
- Dan Shaw
- Gord McQueen
- Karen McQueen
- Marianne Santopinto
- Dave and Betty Wake
- Carla Begalke
- Lana Jones
- Marcel Hebert
- John Hutchings
- and special thanks to Gabrielle Leah who put in many more hours in subsequent days to finish the decorating.

The building never looked more festive!

Lana Jones and Dan Shaw making sure the string of lights are well spaced



Betty Wake ensuring daughter Carla Begalke places the tree ornaments properly



Gabrielle Leah and Dan Shaw placing the window decorations.

After New Years, Gabrielle removed all the decorations and systematically placed them in tote boxes. These boxes were hauled out to the storage sheds by Calvin Robb and John Hutchings. Everything is now ready for next year.



Dave Wake and Marcel Hebert strategizing



Gord McQueen supervising Marianne Santopinto and Karen McQueen