

Southern Alberta Pioneers Foundation



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

Vol. 5 No. 3

[Foundation's Website](#)

Email: sap.office@pioneersalberta.org

May 2026

President's Message

Despite our very “un-spring like” weather earlier this month, I remain an optimist and extend spring greetings to all. One of the victims of the April snowfalls was the annual Spring Cleanup that was scheduled for April 25th. It was rescheduled to Wednesday, May 6th and, despite the change to a weekday, the camaraderie and the BBQ was as enjoyable as ever and I hope many of you were able to attend.

The rescheduling of the Spring Cleanup to a weekday date was precipitated by the building having rentals every weekend in May. While getting the annual spring cleanup done was a bit of a headache for John Hutchings and the Building Committee, it was actually a very good problem to have because it is indicative of the strong rental year the SAPF has had.



At this point, it looks like we will reach our goal of \$120,000 in rentals for the fiscal year for the first time in many years. This is an important milestone and accomplishment and much of the credit and thanks must go to our rental manager, Gabrielle. Not only does she work hard to attract, communicate with and support renters, she goes far beyond expectations in making sure the building and gardens always look beautiful.

Secondly, John Hutchings and the Building Committee make sure the building, and grounds are in good operating order, which is no small task! A lot of volunteer hours go into caring for our property, and I truly appreciate their time.

Lastly, thanks as well should go to our members who choose to rent the building for their personal events and who also encourage friends and colleagues to rent the building. It has all added up to steady and important growth in our rental revenues.



Nancy Thompson
President 2026

John Hutchings undertook researching and making a recommendation for a new snow removal and lawn care provider. With several other clients in our area, we have high hopes that Castle Oak will deliver improved and timelier service.

Wishing all our Foundation workers and volunteers a warm and full summer that, hopefully, will include a trip to the building just to enjoy our spectacular location!

Memorial Building Committee Report

by John Hutchings, Building Committee Chair

The members of the Building Committee 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

Building Rentals

We are going to have a very busy summer this year with 64 rental days booked from May to September; many of them are weddings, also birthday's, family reunions and musical recitals.

We also have booked 18 rental days for 2027.

Not only are rentals vital in keeping the building financially afloat, they also satisfy the lease requirement that states 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 months (e.g., winter) such as corporate conferences, retreats, etc. (Find a list at www.pioneerbuilding.ca)

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.

Google Reviews

The following is a sample of some of the reviews from renters on [Google Reviews](#):



- We had the best experience working with Gabrielle and the SAP for our wedding. We had both our ceremony and reception at the venue. Gabrielle was incredibly helpful, responsive to our questions, and very pleasant to work with. We highly recommend this venue!

- We had our wedding here and it turned out perfectly. The views are stunning and the ceremony was so beautiful under the trees. The outdoor space was big enough to have the separate areas for the ceremony, a large area for cocktail hour on the lawn, and a 40x40 tent set up. The inside of the building was perfect for our dance party but would be a perfect place for dinner as well. The landscaping is beautiful as well, which made the whole space look incredible. This place had everything we needed, and Gabrielle was so easy to work with.
- We had our wedding at the Pioneers building! It was incredibly magical. Gabrielle is amazing and helped make our day so special. What a hidden gem of a venue.
- We had our son's wedding at the Alberta Pioneer Lodge late in August 2023. To say that the facility and the team met our expectations is not fair. Expectations were well exceeded. Gabrielle and her team were fantastic. Not just ensuring that we understood their agreement, and how the facility was to be used, Gabrielle was a wealth of information on staging and helping us organize. We can't thank her enough for the help that she provided and the professionalism she brought to her work. Would I recommend this facility for an event, you bet, 5+ stars. ★★★★★
- We had my dad's celebration of life at the Southern Alberta Pioneers Building. It was a perfect space. We wanted a rustic, historic feel with beautiful outdoor and indoor space and this venue ticked all the boxes. The autumn

Continued on page 3

weather was perfect. We even had a couple of ospreys circling around during the ceremony. Gabrielle was very accommodating and answered all of our questions leading up to the event. I'm so grateful that such a lovely venue exists in the heart of Calgary.

- This venue is a hidden gem in the heart of Calgary, overlooking the Elbow River. My husband and I got married here in Aug. 2021. The grounds are spacious and the building is full of rustic charm. We really enjoyed working with Gabrielle, the venue coordinator; she was very hardworking, organized, funny and kind. Would recommend!
- Amazing venue, Gabrielle was so easy to communicate with and so accommodating of any requests we had. All our guests kept commenting on how great the space was and how unique of a location this was
- This is a great venue! It's a hidden gem in the middle of the city. We had our wedding here and were very happy with how it turned out. Our friends and family loved the cozy log cabin and the beautiful views from the property. We appreciated the ease of communication and planning with Gabrielle. Would definitely recommend this place for any special event!

I would like to thank Gabrielle Priel and her son Jordon for all the work they do in and around the building to keep it in pristine shape. Gabrielle is dedicated to preparing the flower beds and gardens at the Memorial Building.

Lawn Care and Snow Clearing

We have engaged in a three-year contract Castle Oak Landscaping Inc. for our lawn maintenance and snow clearing. Our two-year contract with Affordable Landscaping expired at the end of March and we received four competitive proposals from which Castle Oak was chosen. Due to a snowy April, Castle Oak could not complete their spring cleanup until May 4th. Their workers spent all day raking, aerating and cleaning up the yard to be ready for the summer season.

Watering By-Law

The City has implemented a new lawn watering bylaw where properties with an odd numbered address (which the Memorial Building has) can only water on Wednesday's, Friday's and Sunday's between 12:00 AM (midnight) to 10:00AM and 7:00PM to 11:59PM. For those of you who live at even numbered addresses, the schedule is Tuesday's, Thursday's and Saturdays between 12:00 AM (midnight) to 10:00AM and 7:00PM to 11:59PM.

Our irrigation system is programmed to be in accordance with this new bylaw.

Annual Spring Cleanup Day

Our annual volunteer spring cleanup day was originally scheduled for April 25th, however this had to be postponed due to snow.



Unfortunately, we had to reschedule on a weekday as all the weekends in May are booked for rentals. We ended up having it on Wednesday, May 6th, which turned out to be a beautiful day.

With a limited crew, we could not get everything done but we completed most of the priority tasks. There was not a lot of work required indoors as we hired cleaners to polish the logs, and to clean the

Continued on page 4

pictures and animal heads. Our rental agent, Gabrielle, had already cleaned the kitchen and her son Jordon had previously cleaned the windows.

I would like to thank the following people who came out:

- Dan Shaw painted the garbage bin enclosure, which was badly needed



- John van der Poel cleaned all the outdoor benches, historic plaques, family tree plaques and the Little Library



- Kathleen Rogers cleaned the upstairs portable chairs (60) and tables (10)
- Boris Wiggers Helped Kathleen with the chairs and tables
- Lana Jones cleaned the blinds, the storage room under stairs, and helped throughout
- Martin Jones raked debris from under the trees and helped throughout



- Calvin Robb swept and removed gravel from the parking lot
- Richard Ellis also swept and removed gravel from the parking lot

Heating & AC

Our Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems were serviced on May 1st. A pipe connection on one of the three air units in the furnace room was found to be leaking fluid, so the balance of work was carried out on May 8th.

Refrigerator

The morning of the spring cleanup (May 6th) the refrigerator stopped working. We called Suntech Refrigeration who found the cause was a faulty controller that had to be replaced. Luckily, they had the part in inventory, so it was fixed that day.

Meters

The City is in the process of updating water meters throughout the city. On April 13th, they replaced our outdoor water meter and replaced the transmitter on the indoor meter. These new meters enable the city to read the meters at a remote location. Also, ATCO Gas replaced our gas meter on May 5th.

Little Free Library

Please donate any extra books you may have that focus on Southern Alberta to our little library. You might also find some treasures already in the library.