

SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS FOUNDATION MEMORIAL BUILDING NEWS

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Nancy Thompson, President 2026 • John Hutchings, Building Committee Chair

President's Message

As a very busy summer draws to a close, I have been thinking about SAPD's abundant history, and on how we have been evolving and changing. For example, we have continued to increase our use of technology by adding modules to our Membership Portal and by purchasing an External Storage and Remote File Access system. The Membership Portal has had a few hiccups that we continue to work on to improve (it is "evolving").

The recommendation (and subsequent approval for purchase) of an external storage system is the very important culmination of an idea that was first brought forward in 2012 to protect SAPD's objects (i.e., records and archives), as well as to increase public access to the objects stored at the Memorial Building. Many thanks to the ad hoc committee of Marcel Hebert, Angie Boyes, Sharon Hoiland, and Steph West for getting this across the finish line this past February. Now, the hard work of organizing, sorting, and uploading our records and history is underway.

Building Rentals

Rental Agent: Gabrielle Leah—403-807-0550

We had a very busy summer this year with 70 rental days booked from May to September. The Memorial Building was used for eight weddings, birthday's, family reunions, musical recitals, and even the Jehovah's Witnesses' global convention. We have already booked 32 rental days for 2027.

Not only are rentals vital in keeping the building financially afloat, they also satisfy the lease

requirements 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 months in the winter such as corporate conferences, retreats, etc. If your company is looking for such a venue, the Memorial Building is an excellent and unique location. SAPD Members receive a 20% discount on the rental rate.

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.

Little Free Library

When you are clearing out your bookshelves at home, consider giving SAPD any books you have about Southern Alberta. We can add them to our Little Free Library. Please make sure the books have their original covers, and are in good shape with no stains on the pages and no pages torn or missing. While here, feel free to look for some treasures in the Little Library that you can take home to complement your own reading time.



Photo by
Russell Moore

Landscaping and Gardens

Gabrielle has been very busy this year tending to the flower beds and gardens around the Memorial Building; the gardens have never looked so good. We were spared this summer of devastating hailstorms, which is unusual.

The front yard entrance needs to be upgraded as it is getting eroded and during rainy days can get very muddy. This is a heavily travelled area during the summer.

As previously reported, on April 1, 2026, we signed a three-year contract with Castle Oak Landscaping Inc. for our lawn maintenance and snow clearing. Since last April's weather was unfavourable, they could not do any billable work until May 4th following the spring cleanup. The lawn had been fertilized and regularly mowed and has been looking great

in spite of a dry July at which time there was heavy traffic in the yard along with a tent being onsite for almost two weeks during Stampede week. Castle Oak has taken on the irrigation servicing and programming.



Photos by John Hutchings



Building Committee Members 2026

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