



the Arch



March 5th, 2013
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THE OLD MACLEOD TRAIL

Bill Dunn

The old wagon trail between Fort Benton, Montana and Fort Macleod, NWT and through to Fort Calgary is a rich part of Alberta history. It came about due to the proximity of the Missouri River, the longest river in the United States (flowing 2,540 miles) which was the major waterway and transportation route of the central United States. The Missouri rises in the Rocky Mountains of western Montana and as a result, Fort Benton became the nearest location through which to reach the rather sparsely populated and remote site of Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary.



In the late 1800's, society's demand for buffalo hides meant that there had to be a way to tap the western NWT's abundant supply of buffalo. The trail from Fort Benton to Fort Macleod became a popular route with hides flowing south, and whiskey and food flowing northward. In 1875 Fort Macleod was the centre of this trade with 30,000 to 40,000 hides moving overland to Fort Benton.

Fort Macleod was founded in 1874 with the arrival of the North West Mounted Police, led by Colonel James F. Macleod. With all the north-south trade going on in the western NWT, the Canadian Government was concerned about the sovereignty of this part of Canada and decided to have the NWMP stop the illegal whiskey trade and establish Canada's presence in this remote land.

With the settlements beginning to grow and the detachments of police to provide for, more and more food and supplies were necessary, and they were shipped mostly over the established trail from Fort Benton. The freight wagons (usually 3 to a

group) were pulled by 4 teams (8 yokes) of oxen and included drivers, a cook, a wagon master and a smaller supply wagon. These units usually travelled 8 - 10 miles per day. While these teams were commonly referred to as "Bull Trains", actual bulls were not used as oxen were cheaper to acquire and feed as well as to control. Horses were not used as speed was not considered critical, and the



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Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook

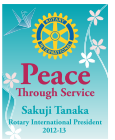
Chartered March 14th, 1977

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Meeting Minutes



February 26th, 2013

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

President Elect Terry started our meeting at 12:15. He welcomed everyone to Rotary and introduced "Oh Canada" and "Rotary Grace" with Lou Pomerance leading from the front. Lou was in fine form.



At 12:35, Terry called on Don McKenzie to introduce our visitors and guests, which comprised of four guests and no visiting Rotarians this week. We had a total of 58 folks at our meeting.

Harry's Sunshine Report revealed no news to report.

Jeff Evans gave Peter a break this week and took over as our Rotary Foundation representative. He presented

Ron May with a Paul Harris pin (plus 3). Thanks to Ron for his continuing support.

Minutemen:

- George Kimura reported that the Rotary Curling Bonspiel held this year in Stettler was a great success, with four teams from our Club in attendance and two of them (George's and Bruce Bohnet's) reaching the division finals. The A event final came down to two rinks from Stettler (actually a mother's rink playing her son's rink with mom being the winner) so curling is in good hands in central Alberta.
- Bruce told us the story of the Rotary Curling 'door' which is actually the size of a small window. Any Club wishing to host the annual bonspiel must have their team squeeze through this opening, providing quite a spectacle at the event banquet each year.
- Norm Moro announced that our regular Thursday night cribbage was being held this week at the Horton Road Legion at 5:30 for dinner and cards beginning at 6:30pm. Love to see more of our members at this fellowship evening.
- Paul Gaudet thanked Ted Wada for arranging our bowling



evening at Toppler Bowl. We had a good turnout (30) and lots of fun. Dinner at Cravings after the exercise was also excellent.

- Paul also highlighted our upcoming Pot Luck Dinner which is scheduled for the Red Deer Lake United Church basement on Saturday, March 16th. This is a pure fellowship event (no fundraising, no theme) so we hope all our members will consider attending. This will be a great opportunity to get to know each other a little better.

Terry announced that Tammy Truman had received the Co-operators' "Community Achievement Award" in recognition of her extensive involvement in the Calgary community, including (but not limited to) the Calgary Flames Foundation, the Stampeders Alumni Association, Chinook Rotary (of course), Kids Cancer Care Foundation and the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter. Congratulations Tammy!

Our 50-50 winner this week was Al Holt who made \$25.

Peter Bickham took the podium as our Sgt at Arms (for the last time this year) and warned one and all that he was going out with a bang (from a fining point of view). Neil Beatty and Joe Hooper were fined \$1 for forgetting Peter at the main gate when they were distributing coffee at Spruce Meadows on Saturday (we parked for a "celebration of life" at Congress Hall). Norm was fined \$2 for his controlling nature when asking Peter to take care of his crib board, pins and cards. John Beatty was fined for leading Janos astray by arriving late. Everyone in attendance who did not participate in the bowling fellowship event was fined a dollar. Both George and Bruce were fined for forgetting names of members while conducting their "minutemen" remarks. Dave Wylie was fined for working on his computer during our meeting.

Good News/ Bad News:

- David Wartman donated 5 good news bucks while announcing that he was running for the Board of the Mountain Equipment Co-op.
- Hank Popoff had 5 happy bucks for getting over the flu and also for the great success of Rotary's "Pennies for Polio" Campaign which has raised \$1.6 million, thereby turning it into \$4.8 million through the magic of matching by the Gates Foundation and the Canadian Government.
- Heidi Kramer also donated Happy Bucks in honour of her son who recently completed his training and has become a journeyman mechanic with a score of 94%!

Bart Dailley introduced our speaker, Bill Dunn, who, while being originally from Manitoba, moved to the Nanton Area in 1987. Bill raised Texas Longhorns for 17 years but let his love of history lead him into volunteering at the Bar U Ranch and becoming a member of the Museum of the Highwood. His pet project, and the subject of his talk today, is the preservation of the Old Macleod Trail.

Our speaker was thanked today by Terry, who wrapped up our meeting early at 1:35 by advising that next week's speaker would be Ed Lukowich, former Brier and World Curling Champion.

Greeters

March 5th Al Holt and JackLeuw

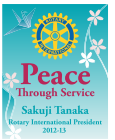
March 12th TBA

If you are unable to GREET on your assigned day, please contact Barry Korpatnisky so he can get a replacement ... 403-278-8982

Photos courtesy of John Beatty



Upcoming Events



Literacy Month

March 5th
March 12th
March 16th
March 19th
March 26th

Ed Lukowich, former Brier and World Curling Champ
Jocelyn Davis, 17 year old Philanthropist
Fellowship Event: Potluck Dinner at Red Deer Lake Church
Fairview School Lunch
Shibanee Verma, Strategist in Health Care Space

Magazine Month

April 2nd
April 9th
April 13th - 14th
April 16th
April 27th
April 29th - 30th

Kim McConnell, CEO, AdFarm Canada
Harry Sanders, Calgary Historian Laureate
Parking for the Horticultural Show at Spruce Meadows
Robert Palmer, Manager Public Relations, WestJet
Fellowship Event: Rosebud Theatre – lunch and play
Casino @ 'Calgary Casino' — contact Joe Hooper for info



Promote RI Convention Month

May 3rd to 5th
May 7th

District 5360 Conference 2013 "Peace, Passion & Partnerships" in Lethbridge
John Hufnagel, Head Coach and GM, Calgary Stampede

Rotary Fellowship Month

June 5th - 9th
June 23rd - 26th

Parking @ Spruce Meadows for "The National"
Rotary International Convention in Lisbon, Portugal



THE OLD MACLEOD TRAIL

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oxen were stronger and required less attention. The wagon drivers were known to be a heavy drinking group and many whiskey bottles (with the tops broken off) littered the route.

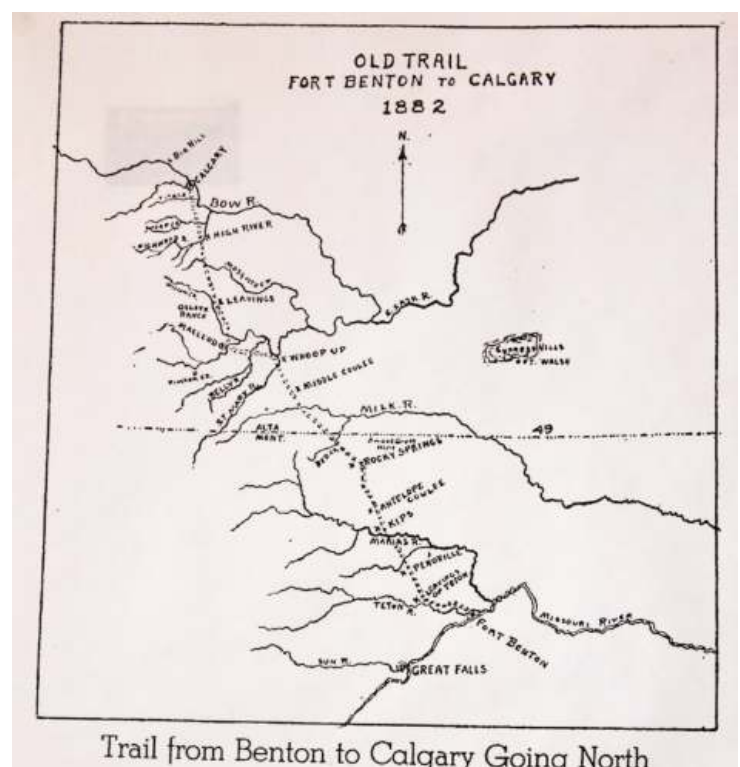
Stage coaches however did require speed and horses were used for moving people and lighter goods (such as mail) from place to place. Around this period, it was a two day coach ride (115 miles) to Fort Macleod (a two week oxen trip), and the cost would have been \$15 one way with an extra \$5 if you were carrying a trunk. One traveller noted at the time that they passed only 5 residences during the trip. While there were rough ferries for the High and the Oldman Rivers, the rest had to be forded.

The golden years for this freight industry using the trail to Fort Benton were from 1875 to 1885. The freight "bull trains" could only travel during the summer months as plentiful grass was needed as feed for the stock, so the amount of freight moving in this rather brief window was substantial. The docks around Fort Benton became an outdoor warehouse where piles of hides awaited the arrival of steam boats to move it south. As the buffalo herds diminished, the wagons switched to coal, picked up in Lethbridge, to deliver to Fort Benton.

In 1883 the CPR finally arrived from the east. This arrival was the beginning of the end for the old trail to Fort Benton. Now both people and goods could travel much easier and quicker by rail.

At this time the population of Fort Calgary was 1,000 and by 1912 it grew to 44,000. In 1912 when Guy Weadick was assembling the first Calgary Stampede parade, he wanted to include a freight team of oxen representing the history of the area. He located an experienced driver in High River and the 8 yolk of oxen actually took part.

While it has been close to 130 years since bull trains of about 130 oxen loaded with tons of goods lumbered on the old trails, a group of dedicated volunteers (of which Bill Dunn is one) is making sure that the trail is not lost to time. They are restoring the 15 old "wheel markers" which were established in the 1980's to commemorate the route, and adding new ones. Wheel number 1 is in Fort Macleod, and the latest ones added in Okotoks and Dewinton, makes 17 in total to date.





THIS AND THAT

Fish Creek Nature Park News



The new Kiosk has been installed in our park. It is located on the east side of the Park opposite the mid pond bridge. A 3rd Kiosk is being considered for the south end and of course we will be doing some new planting, benches at the assembly Gazebo etc.

We're always interested in corporate sponsors with cash contributions, suitable recognition is applied in the Park.

Photos by Rob Hummel of Fish Creek Park



Distinguished Rotarian of the Year

NOMINATIONS FOR DISTINGUISHED ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR

This award is presented annually to a current or honorary member in good standing with ten or more years of service who personifies "Service Above Self" both in Rotary and otherwise.

Submit your nomination in writing to Hank Popoff, Chair of the Awards Committee, **no later than March 29, 2013**. Please handle your nomination in a confidential manner to avoid embarrassment to all nominees. Selection criteria is available from Hank if you need it.

Cribbage Club



Thursday March 28th ... last game of the regular season. Play will be for the Lew Reid Memorial trophy won last year by Hank Popoff. Extra incentive this game ... last game there were 6 hands of 16 which were the highest. Since the playoff for the money was too complicated, it was decided to leave this money (\$7.50) as seed money for the last game. For those of you who don't know - every time a player gets a '19' hand, they throw 25 cents in the pot and at the end, the player with the highest hand takes it all.

Arrive anytime after 5:30 to enjoy food, drink(s) and most of all, fellowship. Tables of four to be ready to start play at 6:30 sharp.

Cash Tournament - Saturday April 6th ... gather at 9:00am for coffee etc. Play to start at 10:00am. We would like 20 players (5 tables of 4), otherwise tables have to be split and it makes it too complicated. Entry fee \$20.00 payable when you sign up.

Horton Road Legion
See Norm Moro to sign up. 9202 Horton Road SW (close to the bar)

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