

**THE DONALDA
& DISTRICT
MUSEUM
SOCIETY**



Donalda Free Lance

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2014

We're back! The Newsletter that is!

This is the second issue of the **Donalda Free Lance**, the Donalda & District Museum newsletter, after a long hiatus, since November 2012.

We plan to publish this newsletter on a biannual basis to all members of The Donalda & District Museum Society. The museum needs to communicate its activities and plans to its membership and the community at large on a regular basis. The newsletter will help all our members, local and distant, keep informed of the museum and its activities.

Where did the name of our newsletter come from? There was a newspaper published in Donalda around the time of World War I. It connected the local and the global. Our printed paper, distributed locally by Canada Post will also be posted on our website to be seen globally.

If you have any suggestions for our newsletter please contact the museum.

Board of Directors, The Donalda & District Museum Society

How the Museum got started

Don and Beth Lawson donated 500 oil lamps to the Village of Donalda in 1979, which prompted the Village to build the present museum building to display their collection. The museum society was formed in 1980 to look after this collection and the other artifacts that have been donated by the community.

Since 1980, the museum's assets have grown and become diversified to include:

- Over 900 oil lamps, dating from the 1700s to the 1900s.
- 4,000 historical and cultural items from Donalda and district
- The Whitford Collection - Métis artifacts from Donald Whitford and family
- Imperial Bank of Canada building
- Donalda Co-operative Creamery building and artifacts
- Canadian Northern Rail Station

The Donalda & District Museum is dedicated to preservation of the history of the community for posterity.



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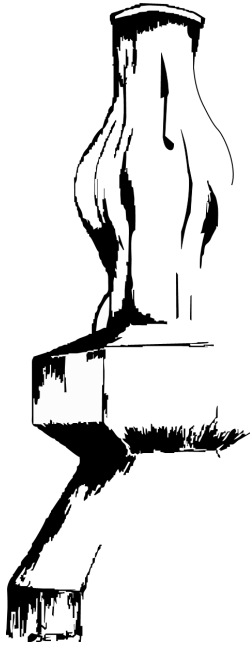
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What is The Donalda & District Museum Endowment Fund?

In 2010, The Donalda & District Museum Society registered the “**The Donalda & District Museum Endowment Fund**” with the **Battle River Community Foundation**.



Our new logo of the lamp was drawn by Linda Orestsky and will be used wherever the museum is promoted. We even have a new sandwich board in front of the Museum that you may have seen.

The purpose of this endowment fund was to provide perpetual funding for the museum and its operations. The fund is managed by the Battle River Community Foundation, which is governed by the Trust Laws of Alberta. The foundation invests its pooled funds and the profits are dispersed to the individual organizations minus an administration fee. The principal or donations to the endowment fund cannot be removed from the individual fund. Donations provide funding to the Donalda & District Museum for decades to come.

All donations to the endowment fund are tax deductible and are a great method of reducing your income tax or forming a part of your estate planning. Please contact the Donalda Museum or the Battle River Community Foundation at 780-679-0449 for more information.

Family History Files

The Donalda Museum is beginning to collect information on the original homesteaders and other individuals who have lived in Donalda and district over the years. Many people visiting the museum ask if there is any information available on their families. Due to these requests, the museum is maintaining files with information that is collected for each family. Types of information in the files include newspaper and magazine articles, obituaries, letters and reminiscences.

The museum would greatly appreciate help with the creation of these family history files through donations or allowing us to copy any information that may be appropriate. We are also looking for stories about the homesteads themselves, including photographs. Please help us preserve this history before it disappears. You can drop off any material at the museum or phone 403-883-2100 for more information.

Membership to The Donalda & District Museum Society

It is soon time to renew your membership or join the The Donalda & District Museum Society. The museum is a great organization that strives to preserve our history for the future and to educate the community about the past history of Donalda and district.

Membership to the museum society provides individuals with the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting and to possibly become members of the Board of Directors. One may also volunteer. There are several committees one can help with.

Membership includes receiving the **Donalda Free Lance** on a biannual basis. The newsletter will be available in either paper form or as a electronic document that can be e-mailed to the member.

The cost of individual membership for one year is \$5.00. A Membership form is on the back page.



Curator's Corner

As well as being the Manager, Ken Favrholt is curator of the museum too. This means he is in charge of ensuring that the museum's collections are properly catalogued and cared for. The most recent **acquisitions** are mentioned below.

This summer we have had some significant donations of artifacts including a collection of lamps (seen in the photo to the right) from Mr. Gordon Elgin of Fort Macleod. Other donations include individual lamps, a Danish lace-making device; a beaded leather glove; a Buena Vista School reunion table cloth; a butter mold, and some test tubes from the Creamery.

We have also newly acquired some archival materials: a document describing the Jerstad family history north of Donalda; a 1934-35 Donalda High School Year Book and 1946 school Christmas program; a couple of photographs of the old grain elevators that stood along the tracks in Donalda; and a 1912 "Book of Knowledge" encyclopedia. That is the year Donalda was incorporated!

Also, we would like to acknowledge the generous donation of Gerald and Ruth Heisz who gave the museum a very complete set of over 70 Aladdin lamps in 2013.



Check out "Peel's Prairie Provinces" (<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca>) — a resource dedicated to assisting scholars, students, and researchers of all types in their exploration of western Canadian history and the culture of the Canadian prairies.

Upcoming Events

"Tales of the Past," Saturday, October 18th Dinner Theatre Fundraiser — with Bob Willis portraying Gabriel Dumont and Nora Smith portraying Alice Rogers, a show we call "Tales of the Past," suggestive of the unique stories of the area. Dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Call the museum for more information.

The Donalda Museum **Annual General Meeting** is February 24th, 2015. More Board members are needed. Perhaps you are interested in coming on board!

Donalda & District Museum Goals

As part of its Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors sets short-term and long-term goals for the coming year. Some of the goals for 2014-2015 are:

- ◆ Improve the exhibits in the Museum — new lighting is needed and moveable display cases to permit changing exhibits
- ◆ Develop a Strategic Plan for the museum — where do we want to go in the next 5 years?
- ◆ Review and revise Museum Polices and Bylaws
- ◆ Retain an architect to develop a plan for the repair and restoration work on the Donalda Cooperative Creamery and Imperial Bank of Canada buildings
- ◆ Finalize agreements with the Village about the shared facility and other buildings



**THE DONALDA &
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SOCIETY**

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info@donaldamuseum.com

**We're on the Web
Donaldamuseum.com**

Board of Directors

- Darlene Tantrum — Chairperson
- Lorraine Blouin — Vice-Chairperson
- Marlene Conibear — Treasurer
- Bev Getzlaf — Secretary
- Donna Dahl—Director
- Ken Walker — Director
- Carman Baker — Director
- Shane Fox — Village Rep.



Staff

Ken Favrholt — Museum Manager

Our summer student was Sharmaine Andres.

Hours of Operation:

The Museum is open 7 days a week during the summer months — June through August. From Labour Day in September until Victoria Day in May the museum is open five days a week, or by appointment. Phone the Museum at 403-883-2100,

Membership Form for The Donalda & District Museum Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

Community: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail address: _____

Prefer newsletter be delivered by (please circle) E-mail Regular Mail

Annual individual membership dues : \$5.00

Donation amount (circle): \$5.00 \$10.00 \$20.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other

Please mail this form and payment to:

The Donalda & District Museum Society

P.O. Box 179

Donalda, Alberta, T0B 1H0

Membership to the The Donalda & District Museum Society is open to any individual who has an interest in the society or the history of Donalda and district.

