

The Donalda and District Museum Society

Roots and Branches

Looking for a Copy of the *Donald's Roots & Branches* history book? The Donalda Museum is hoping to do a reprint of the book next summer following the approval of a possible grant. Until we receive confirmation, we are still looking for anyone willing to sell the Museum their copy.

For more information, or to be put on the list for a copy of the *Donalda Roots & Branches*, please contact the Museum.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Museum Dinners

~Keep an eye out around the Village and on our Facebook page to stay up-to-date on our next community dinner!

(Proceeds go toward the Creamery Restoration)

Donalda Freelance



2021

Welcome to the annual edition of the Donalda Freelance, a newsletter that was published in Donalda around the time of First World War. Now it is used as a means for the Museum to communicate its activities and plans to the community members and visitors as well.



New Exterior of the Donalda Museum and Village (Completed 2021)



Imperial Bank of Canada Building



CN Railway Station

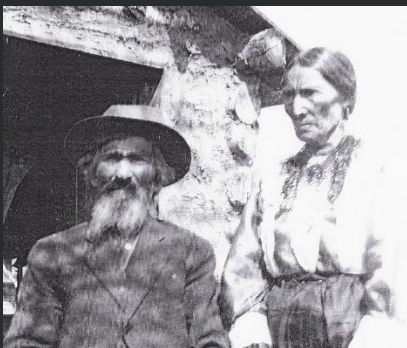
“The Donalda and District Museum is dedicated to the purpose of preservation, conservation, interpretation, and exhibition of object of educational and cultural value. “

Family Archives

The Donalda Museum is more than an outstanding collection of antique lamps. We are dedicated to the preservation of a number of various cultural artifacts, including family histories! If your family has ever lived in Donalda, or surrounding district, we want to hear from you!

We accept stories, photos and records (original or copies) from any family that used to call Donalda home and wishes to preserve their history for generations to come.

Help us preserve your history!



Donald Whitford and his wife Peggy

Year at a Glance

With the effects of the Covid-19 virus we were closed for the beginning of 2021, but were fortunate to be able to open in June for the summer season! We were also approved for three summer students, Taylor, Grace and Brittany through Canada Summer Jobs and were able to catch up on many projects, including adding mulch to the Lamp Park!

We have also recently received a huge collection of lamps donated by Mr. Ettinger from Montreal which will add around 1000 lamps to our collection! We are excited to debut these new additions in the coming months!

Grants & Acknowledgements

We are grateful to have received assistance from the Minister of Canadian Heritage through the Museum Assistant Program's Emergency Support Fund to assist us in our daily operations. We have also been approved for a \$30,000 grant through the Community Facility Enhancement Program towards the Creamery Restoration which will help us reach our 2022 goals for the project.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Superfluity in Stettler for contributing \$1000 dollars to the transportation of the Montreal Collection. As well as Mr. and Mrs. Ettinger for their contribution towards shipping costs.

Currently we are working on a number of other grants and funding opportunities to help cover the cost of various projects including a possible reprint of the *Donalda's Roots and Branches* History Book.

Revamp the Lamp

If you have ever been inside the Big Lamp, you will find the walls lined with plaques dedicated to the many amazing people who have supported the Lamp Project over the years. We continue to encourage community support through plaque sales so people may have the opportunity to leave their lasting mark on the Village and help maintain this massive landmark.

The minimum donation for a beautifully engraved and mounted plaque is \$500 and it would remain in the Lamp for future generations to enjoy and acknowledge for years to come. This year, the proceeds will go towards refurbishing the fiberglass chimney and repainting the lamp's steel base.

Donalda Creamery Through the Years



1987



2000



2009



2021

The Creamery Conservation Project

It all started back in 1924 when the Creamery was opened in Donalda by Woodland Dairy. From its humble beginnings, the Creamery served the people of the surrounding area and in 1937, with the input of local farmers, the Donalda Creamery became the Donalda Co-operative Creamery.

To this day residents still remember the Creamery fondly, often telling stories of when the farmers were hard at work in the fields and they would leave a grocery list with their cream that would be fulfilled when the empty cream cans were brought back, inside the cans would be the groceries. Others have admitted that if it had not been for the Creamery they would have faced some devastating setbacks during times of drought and flooding.

The Creamery was famous for its prize winning “Donalda Maid Butter”, which won many awards, but the Creamery was also instrumental in starting the Donalda 4-H Dairy Club.

Unfortunately, the Creamery was closed in 1987, after going from 339 shippers in 1958, to only 24 in the final week of operation.

The Creamery is now one of only two remaining in Alberta, and the Donalda and District Museum Society is working on a conservation project to return it to its original glory. We have broken up the conservation plan into four phases and are currently fundraising for Phase One which consists of removing the old asbestos insulation that was used to keep the building cool so the cream would not spoil. We have been able to complete the abatement on the back wall and hope to finish the back siding and remaining exterior walls during the 2022 season. We continue to apply for grants and welcome donations for the community project.

Follow us on Facebook to get the latest exciting updates!

Contact Us

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Phone
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Email
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Website
Donaldamuseum.com
Social Media
Facebook/donaldamuseum

Admission & Hours

\$5.00/person
Children 6 and under are free *Children must be accompanied by an adult*

The Museum is open 7 days a week during the summer season – June to September.

Contact us for winter hours.

Board of Directors

Chairperson: Jerry Lee
Vice Chairperson: Lorne Todd
Treasurer: Marlene Conibear
Secretary: Lane Damberger
Director: Ken Walker
Director: Gerald Heisz
Director: Ruth Heisz
Director: Gary Rider
Director: Sharon Rider
Director: Barb Todd
Director: Judy Dinsmorre
Director: Sheila Sutton
Director: Dan Knudtson
Village representative: Bruce Gartside
Museum Manager: Zoe DeCnodder

The Donalda Museum Annual General Meeting will be held in June, 2022

The Museum meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month new members are always welcome

Membership form

Name _____
Address _____ Postal code _____
Email address _____
Phone number _____

Annual individual Membership: \$5.00
Donation amount: (please circle)
\$5.00 \$10.00 \$20.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other: _____

Please mail to:

The Donalda and District Museum Society
Donalda Alberta
Po Box 179
T0B 1H0

Membership to the Donalda and District Museum Society is open to any individual who has an interest in the history of Donalda and area.