

**The Donalda and  
District Museum  
Society**

**Roots and Branches**

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In 1980, the Donalda U-Go Weavers gathered family histories and stories from around the District and compiled them into *Donalda's Roots and Branches*, a local-based history book that remains an important reminder of our history and community spirit.

***Wish to own a little piece  
of community history?  
Reach out to us!***

**Upcoming Events**

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***Canada Day (July 1st) &  
Museum Day (August  
10th)***

\$2 Admission  
BBQ concession

***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*



**2023-2024**

**Welcome to the annual edition of the Donalda Freelance, a newsletter that was published in Donalda around the time of World War 1. Now it is used as a means for the museum to communicate its activities and plans to the community members and visitors as well.**



***The World's Largest Lamp at Dusk***



***Donalda Gallery for the Arts & re-applying fiberglass on the Lamp Globe***

***"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

If you or your family have ever lived in Donalda- for a week or a century- we want to hear your story! The Donalda Museum supports the preservation of local history by collecting stories, photos and other records (original or copies) from any family that used to call Donalda home.

Trying to learn more about your roots in Donalda? Contact us to discover your own family history!

***Help us preserve your history!***



Hazel Anderson and Violet Blomgren playing house at the old Grandpa Blomgren place. Taken 1930 at the ages of 15 and 10 years.

## A Special Thank You

The Museum would like to extend a huge thank you to our volunteers Darlene, Marlene, Sally and Rob for helping us throughout the summer after we were unable to take on summer students for a second year in a row. Thanks to their dedication the museum was able to open on weekends and the lawn was kept in tip-top shape! Thank you!

## Grants & Acknowledgements

***Superfluity (Stettler)***- Extended a gratuitous contribution of \$2000 towards the *Donalda's Roots and Branches* Reprint!

***Village of Donalda***- The Museum was granted funding through a community food initiative provided by the Village in 2023 & 2024. This grant contributed to our fundraising efforts though out the summer by assisting with the cost of food supplies for our Museum Fundraising Dinners as well as the concessions for our event days (Canada Day and Museum Day).

***CFEP***- Our final report was submitted for the small stream CFEP grant supported by the Government of Alberta. The \$30,000 grant helped to fund the residing and painting of the historic Creamery.

## Revamp the Lamp

The inner walls of the World's Largest Lamp are lined with plaques dedicated to the incredible people who have supported the Lamp Project since its debut July 1st, 2000. Today, the museum continues to encourage community support through plaque sales so donors have the opportunity to leave their lasting mark on the Village, while helping to maintain this massive landmark!

**In 2023, we raised enough funds to refinish the Lamp's fiberglass globe! The revamp will be completed in 2024 after the red steel base is repainted!**

**Don't forget to tag us in your photos with #World'sLargestLamp on Facebook!**

**Support the Lamp!**

***Name Plates***

**3" x 4" ~ \$250**

***Engraved Plaques***

**5" x 7" ~ \$500**

## Donalda Creamery Through the Years



1987



2000



2021



2024

## The Creamery Conservation Project

*Woodland Dairy opened in 1924*, successfully serving the community for nearly two decades until 1937, when the local farmers came together to rebrand the business as the ***Donalda Co-operative Creamery***.

The business officially closed in 1987 and was one of the last remaining independent Creameries in the province following the formation of the Alberta Dairy Pool. It is now only one of two remaining creamery buildings of its kind in Alberta. (The other being the Markerville Creamery).

The Creamery was an important economic force in Donalda's history, keeping locals afloat during times of drought and flooding. The business was very community oriented; farmers would often leave a grocery list with their cream during the busy harvesting season and Creamery employees would ensure the cans were returned with the groceries inside.

The Creamery became famous for its prize winning "Donalda Maid Butter", and was also instrumental in organizing and sponsoring the Donalda 4-H Dairy Club.

*The building was acknowledged as a Provincial Heritage Site in 2010. Today, the Museum is working to conserve the Creamery and has been vigorously raising funds to restore it to its original glory.*

**To date, we have successfully completed the hazardous abatement process and have made necessary repairs to the original siding. Our next step will be to replace the cedar-shingle roof and repair the windows and doors to complete the outer restoration in order to begin on restoring the interior!**

**To learn more about the Donalda Creamery or to contribute to the project, please contact us at the Museum.**

***Follow us on social media to get the latest exciting updates!***

Join us for the  
2024 season to  
celebrate  
**100 years**  
of the Creamery  
in Donalda!

# Contact Us

Mailing Address

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Donalda AB T0B1H0

Phone

403.883.2100

Email

Info@donaldamuseum.com

Website

Donaldamuseum.com

Social Media

Facebook/donaldamuseum

Instagram @

Donaldalampmuseum

# Admission & Hours

**\$5.00/person**

**Children 6 and under are free**

**\*Children must be accompanied by an adult\***

**The Museum is open**

**Monday, Thursday, Friday,**

**Saturday, Sunday**

**10am-5pm. Please contact us**

**for weekend viewings.**

**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:** Barb Todd

**Director:** Judy Dinsmore

**Director:** Sheila Sutton

**Director:** Dan Knudtson

**Director:** Sharron Scott

**Director:** Darlene Tantrum

**Director:** Byron Norman

**Museum Manager:** Zoe DeCnodder

The next  
Donalda Museum  
Annual General  
Meeting will be  
held March 2025

The Museum meets on the 4th Tuesday of most 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.