

# Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants



Pioneers' Memorial Building • 3625 4th Street SW Calgary Alberta T2S 1Y3 • Phone 403-243-3580

Vol. 58 No. 3 Website: [www.pioneersalberta.org](http://www.pioneersalberta.org) Email: [sap.office@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:sap.office@pioneersalberta.org) May 2026

## President's Message

As we travel through May, I thought we would already be well into some lovely spring weather and enjoying the many activities that come with it, including our annual Spring Cleanup. As I write this, however, I am just hoping there will have been some signs of spring by the time you are reading the Newsletter! Spring greetings to all, nonetheless.

The Spring Cleanup did have to be rescheduled from April 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> due to snow. The change to a weekday date was precipitated by the building having rentals every weekend in May, which, according to our Treasurer, is a good problem to have. Despite the day of the week, the camaraderie and the BBQ will be as enjoyable as ever and I hope many of you will have been able to attend.

Despite being early still, 2026 has already been remarkably eventful.

The inaugural **Whiskey Tasting/Robbie Burns Night** in January was well attended. Thank you to Patrick Taylor, Kyle Graham and Steph West for convening a highly successful and fun occasion that we hope to see on the calendar again next year.

The **International Wine Night** was another success and many thanks to the Board and the many volunteers who hosted, poured, and exercised their culinary talents in providing excellent food.

Our **Casino** was held on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations and thank you to Angie Boyes for coordinating this with the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC) and wrangling the necessary volunteers. A big thank you to those



**Nancy Thompson**  
President 2026

volunteers who took on very long and late shifts to make sure this important source of funding continues to be successful.

The annual **Gold Card Tea** took place on May 3 under the excellent guidance of Karen Clark along with Steph West. They had a full compliment of volunteers signed up to make this another fun gathering for our Gold Card members.

The **Historical Committee** continues to enrich our historical knowledge as they hosted four well-attended Speaker Series events from January to April. Russell Moore hosted a Jane's Walk tour of the Memorial Building grounds, Lindsay's Folly, and the former site of CFAC Calgary.

*Continued on page 2*

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The Committee has been working on and preparing the annual Stampede display which, this year, will include a video/slide presentation of historic Calgary photos. This was previewed at the Gold Card Tea and, while it is still a work in progress, it promises to be a great addition to the Stampede display.

**Stampede** is fast approaching and, with it, the annual **Stampede BBQ** on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and **Stampede Breakfast** on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Both are great events at what I would argue is the best outdoor setting in Calgary for Stampede. I am looking forward to seeing you and your many guests at both events to celebrate the Stampede! Please head over to the Membership Portal at <https://sapd.getcommunal.com/member/memberships> to purchase tickets and/or volunteer.

Lastly, I want to give a “heads up” to our members about the **2026 Round Up**. Due to another company’s long-standing booking at the Palliser Hotel for November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (the first Saturday in November), the date for the Round Up has been changed to Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Saturday prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> is October 31<sup>st</sup> and, while it may provide interesting theme possibilities, it is probably best that we avoid Halloween. Please make a note of this change and I do hope you will still be able to attend.

The Palliser has heard the concerns about the quality of the meal the past couple of years and appear keen and motivated to work with us to deliver a better experience for diners this year. Thank you for your continued interest and support and wishing all a summer filled with good weather, activity, family and friends!

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# Hilda Onions Biography

Submitted by Dr. Jean Stewart

## RETRACTION NOTICE

SAPD has learned that the information we published about **Hilda Onions** had not received her approval and includes errors. We are working to provide a correction to this story as quickly as possible.



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In the meantime, the Newsletter editor has chosen to remove this version of the biography.

On behalf of the interviewer and myself, I wish to convey our apologies to Hilda Onions for causing her disappointment and alarm.

# Membership Report

by Sharon Hoiland  
Membership Secretary

Membership updates since the last newsletter. We are glad to welcome and/or give an acknowledgement to ...

## New Descendant Members

- Greg McPherson - Descendant of Joseph & Jane (McIntosh) McPherson, Calgary, 1883
- Patty Fraser - Descendant of Jim & Annie (Onespot) Starlight, born on Sarcee Reserve, 1879

## New Friend Members

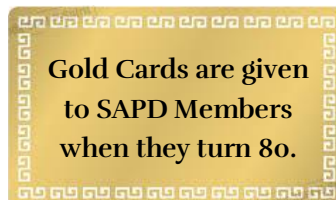
- Mona Bartsoff
- Sylvie Charette
- Bailey Neame

## Returning Descendant Members

- Robert Gillespie - Descendant of Robert & Anna Marie (Running) Gillespie, Calgary, 1886
- Linda Chudey - John "Jack" & Hester Eliza (Tyler) Godlonton, Calgary, 1886

## 2026 Gold Card Members

- Jo-Ann Collins
- Robin Arthurs
- Janet Hamilton
- Myrna Martisko
- Allan Tosh
- Cheryl-Lyn Hendry
- Maureen Hill
- Margaret Glasford



## Our Condolences to the Families of



- James Archibald McPherson
- Judith Rennie
- John "Bud" McBride
- Audrey Petrie
- Hugh McQueen
- Beverley Snell

## Notifying SAPD of Changes

Please notify any member of the Membership Committee (names on next page) of member deaths, changes to mailing or email addresses,

or to phone numbers. We can be reached at [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org).

## Membership Numbers at April 30, 2026

- Descendant – 207 members with 62 in arrears
- Descendant Gold Card – 108 members
- Associate – 23 with 6 in arrears
- Associate Gold Card – 30 members
- Friend – 41 members with 13 in arrears
- Honorary – 5 members

Total: 414

## Is My Membership Up-to-date?

There are 2 ways to find out:

1. Look up your membership by logging into the Membership Portal at [sapd.getcommunal.com](http://sapd.getcommunal.com) using the email address that this newsletter was sent to.
  - a. On the *My Memberships* page, you have **NOT** paid your 2026 dues
    - i. if your membership says "Grace Period - Southern Alberta Pioneers"
    - ii. or if it says "No active memberships found"
  - b. If it says anything else, then either your 2026 dues are paid or you are a Gold Card or Honorary member
2. Email [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org), Attention: Membership Secretary, to ask.

Our appreciation to everyone who keeps up with their annual Membership Fees.

<b>Glen Godlonton</b> 403.829.9500	
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## 2026 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE ONLY \$40 PER ANNUM

*Thank-you to all of our members who have already paid the 2026 Membership Dues. We appeal to the other quarter of our members who are past due to take care of this detail.*

Three methods of payment are available for everyone who wants to be a member:

- Via Credit Card: Login to the Membership Portal at [sapd.getcommunal.com](http://sapd.getcommunal.com)
  - Only use this method if you are paying for just your own membership.
- Send a cheque to SAPD 3625 - 4 St. SW, Calgary, Alberta T2S 1Y3, Attn: Membership.
- Send an auto deposit e-transfer to [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org).

For cheque or e-transfer payments, please write the names of the people for whom the fees are being paid in the message space.

# Membership Management

by Sharon Hoiland, Membership Secretary

## New!

You can now submit New Membership Applications through the Membership Portal! If any one in your family or a friend wants to join SAPD, application forms can be filled out online by going to [sapd.getcommunal.com](http://sapd.getcommunal.com) and clicking on the "Select membership" button and following the instructions there. If you need help navigating the Membership Portal, please email [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org). If you need help finding information on your ancestor, please email [historian@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:historian@pioneersalberta.org).

## To Join the Committee or Volunteer ...

If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, or have ideas or time to volunteer, please contact Sharon at [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org).

The current Membership Committee is made up of Sharon Hoiland (Chair and Membership Secretary), Joan Christianson (Telephone Tree), Lynne Marquess (Cards and Remembering), Megan Ballard (Administration), and Maureen Peckham (Guidance and Wisdom).

# SAPD Casino

The April 19-20, 2026 Casino was a wonderful success!

A huge thank you for all the volunteers who gave of their time. And a special thank you to our Southern Alberta Pioneers Board members who contributed to this important event—many of you volunteered for two shifts!



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# STAMPEDE WEEK

## SAPD 2026 STAMPEDE BBQ

Memorial Building ♦ Saturday, July 4, 2026 ♦ Cocktails at 5 PM ♦ BBQ at 6:30 PM  
Traditional Hip of Beef with all the Fixings ♦ For members and invited guests only

### TICKETS

Adults: \$50 | Children 6-12: \$20 | Under 6: Free

Purchase Deadline: Thursday, July 2, 2026

E-transfer to [membership@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:membership@pioneersalberta.org)

or send a cheque to the

**Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants**

Tickets must be bought in advance  
and picked up at the barbeque

### MORE HIGHLIGHTS AND FEATURES

Cash Bar ♦ Live Music ♦ Rodeo Royalty  
Stampede Entertainers ♦ Festival Tents ♦ Family Fun



### PRIZES

Make sure we have your and your guests' names to win DOOR PRIZES!

We also have prizes for the Best Dressed Lady, Gentleman and Couple!!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP AS A VOLUNTEER!

- Volunteers needed from 9 AM—9:30 PM
- Morning & afternoon set-up crews (min. 6-8)
- Beverage ticket sellers (4 total on 2 shifts)
- Bartenders (4 total on 2 shifts)
- Water & pop (4 total on 2 shifts)
- Meal ticket collectors (2)
- Bar runners (1-2)
- Tear-down and cleanup at conclusion of BBQ

Guests and Volunteers can register/sign up at <https://sapd.getcommunal.com/>

Questions? Contact Dylan Viste at [DCViste2202@gmail.com](mailto:DCViste2202@gmail.com), or text or call and leave a voice mail at 403-854-8978

## PRE-PARADE BREAKFAST

- Friday, July 3 for SAPD Parade Volunteers only
- Contact Sandy Pedlar at 403-278-1338

## STAMPEDE BREAKFAST

- Saturday, July 11 at the Memorial Building
- 9 am to Noon
- Contact:
  - Jeff Hill at 403-225-2397 or [jeff.hill@shaw.ca](mailto:jeff.hill@shaw.ca)
  - Kyle Graham, leave message at 403-589-5164 or email [kyle.david.graham@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.david.graham@gmail.com)

## STAMPEDE PHOTO DISPLAY

- July 3-12 at the Stampede Park BMO Centre
- Date and Times: July 2-12, 2026
  - Day shift: Noon - 4 pm
  - Evening shift: 4:30 - 9 pm
- Log into [SAPD.getcommunal.com](https://sapd.getcommunal.com) to sign up
- Contact Angela Boyes at [a\\_boyes@telus.net](mailto:a_boyes@telus.net) or text 403-700-4416

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# Gold Card Tea

Submitted by Steph West

On a lovely Sunday afternoon, May 3, 2026, twenty-three Gold Card members and their guests gathered for the annual Gold Card Tea. Held each year on the first Sunday of May, the occasion offers a welcome opportunity to celebrate our Gold Card members—those aged eighty and above.

The event was graciously hosted by President Nancy Thompson and the Board of Directors.

By all accounts, it was a most lively and enjoyable afternoon, with our octogenarian and nonagenarian members delighting in the company of friends and family over tea, coffee, and an array of delicious sandwiches and desserts.

Such an occasion would not be possible without the many members who so generously contributed their time, effort, and culinary talents.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to:

- everyone who prepared sandwiches, cookies, and squares;
- the talented crew who so beautifully arranged the fare;
- our gracious Pioneer Lady, Lynne Marquess, and Pioneer Gent, Alan Lynas, for welcoming members and their guests;
- Leanne Bateman and Irene Kerr for tending the welcome table;
- Sandy Pedlar for ensuring that each Gold Card member was



*Karen Clark posing with SAPD's most senior gentleman and lady, John Laurence and Gwen Hanna, respectively. They were especially pleased to join us this year.*

properly adorned with corsage or boutonniere;

- the attentive servers who offered tea, coffee, and refreshments;
- Marcel Hebert, Megan Ballard, and John Hutchings for keeping the teapots filled throughout the afternoon; and
- all others who assisted with the setting up, tidying away, and smooth running of the day.

Once again, the event was ably convened by the indomitable Karen Clark, assisted by her apprentice, Steph West, both of whom are most grateful for the many volunteers whose time and talents ensured such a successful and memorable gathering.



*L-R: Marcus Legg, Maureen and Jeff Hill, Drewe Nelson, David Ballard*



© Magnific

L-R: Heather Chong, Diane Devasahayam, Iona Shaw, Lynne Marquess, Joan Christianson



L-R: Edith Edge (with family members), Roy Clark, Verna Mae Gannon, Frazer Hawkins



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L-R: John van der Poel, Herm Thielen, Sharon Thielen, Elizabeth Rodier



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