

Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants



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

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President's Message

As a very busy summer draws to a close and I look ahead to our Annual General Meeting and The Round Up, I have found myself reflecting, increasingly, on our organization's productive and important history, but also on how we have been evolving and changing.

SAPD's longstanding and historical connection and relationship with The Calgary Stampede have been changing as the Stampede changes and has presented challenges to our volunteers tasked with organizing the SAPD display booth and the Stampede Parade entry for the past few years. Susan Turner, utilizing her connections with Stampede Board members, organized meetings to help smooth the interface for the display booth and parade entry, but also to explore our ongoing and future relationship with the Stampede.

There were two meetings with members of the SAM Centre¹ team and a tour of the SAM Centre for interested members of the Historical Committee and Board. The work of maintaining this rich and historical

relationship will be ongoing as the Calgary Stampede continues to evolve, and I extend my appreciation to the Historical Committee and Susan Turner for this work.

It turns out that Stampede is a pretty busy time for the SAP President, but I also discovered it is a lot of fun. Having never been in a parade, I'll admit that I wasn't very keen about being in this one but, boy, was I wrong! Thank you to Sandy Pedlar and her team for making the day a great experience (and so much fun) and making sure we continue to have an entry in the parade. The history of our families in Southern Alberta is rich, important, and worth celebrating. Next were the annual Stampede BBQ and the Stampede Breakfast. (These I've attended many times and would highly recommend!) Both events were great successes (yet again) and thank you to our conveners, Dylan Viste (BBQ) and Kyle Graham (Breakfast), co-conveners Jeff Hill, and the army of volunteers who helped with these events.

As President, I also received invitations to two other Stampede



Nancy Thompson
SAPD President, 2026

events, which presented me with the different opportunity to represent the SAPD externally.

Many conversations involved explaining who we are but one encounter remained with me and caused me to think about our history and evolution. Chatting with an individual whose mother was an SAPD member and had recently

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1) Named after Robert Samuel Taylor, father of Don Taylor, Calgary entrepreneur, philanthropist, and generous donor to the Calgary Stampede Foundation.

passed away, I reminded him that membership does not end with her and that he (and siblings and children) are also eligible to be descendant members. He admitted that was true and committed to looking into membership.

Afterwards, I thought a lot about my own family and realized we are somewhat guilty of the same thing. I have children, siblings, nieces, nephews, and cousins who are all descendants but do not have memberships. I am sure ours is not the only family like this. I will endeavor to bring my family members into the SAPD membership fold and I hope that many of you will do the same. Reminding our younger family members of their history and encouraging them to become members, is going to be very important to the future of the Southern Alberta Pioneers.

While change and evolution is usually a good thing, sometimes it is not wanted and is forced upon us. Our annual Round Up is a prime example of that. While I, the Board, and many members did not want to leave the Palliser Hotel for a different venue, we eventually came to the difficult conclusion that we had no choice.

Our longstanding date of the first Saturday in November (i.e., Nov. 7th) was not available to us, and costs had increased close to 50% from last year. We would have had to raise ticket prices to \$150 just to cover the meal. The SAPD's history with the Palliser Hotel extends over 100 years and I, also, have a deep family connection to the Palliser, so this decision was not made lightly.

So, this year, our November 7th 104th Annual Round Up will be held at the Wainright Hotel in Heritage Park.

The big disadvantage, of course, is that guests cannot stay on site. The cost is such, however, that we have been able to lower the ticket price to \$100 (flashback to 2023.) I sincerely hope that this is a change you can embrace and will join us for the 2026 Round Up. Inviting family members would be an enjoyable way to remind them of the history and the future of our organization.

Lastly, I want to end with a very important thank you to our longstanding Newsletter Editor, Valerie McKinney. This will be her last newsletter after many years of producing three newsletters each year

for both SAPD and SAPF. Again, this is evolution we didn't really want, but cannot begrudge Valerie a very well deserved "retirement." Her skill and talent have ensured the newsletters have excellent content, are well written, look great, and get delivered per each member's preferred method.

We will dearly miss you, Valerie, and cannot adequately express our appreciation for the contribution you have made to our organization.

As I sign off my last President's message, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who keep this organization running and vibrant. From our Board and Executive members, Committee Chairs and members, event convenors, and event volunteers, you all are vitally important and working with you has been a pleasure.

Check out my report on our increased use of technology in the redesigned and tentatively named *Southern Alberta Pioneers Foundation Memorial Building News*, which is replacing the SAPF Newsletter.



Donations and Bequests: All donations and bequests should be made to The [Southern Alberta Pioneers' Foundation](#), a registered charity that is able to issue charitable tax receipts for approved donations, artifacts and bequests.

Volunteer: One of the best ways you can help the SAPD/SAPF is to volunteer your time. E.g., helping maintain the Memorial Building and the grounds, acting as a convenor for one of our events, or assisting our historical group in researching and preserving pioneer memories.

Membership Report

by Sharon Hoiland, Membership Secretary

Note: We give Gold Cards SAPD Members when they turn 80.

Membership update since the last newsletter.

Welcome to

New Descendant Members

- ♦ Mike McGuire - Descendant of John & Julia (Keilly) McKevitt, Midnapore, 1883
- ♦ Suzanne Bernard - Descendant of Arthur & Mary (Willock) Cox, Medicine Hat, 1883
- ♦ Jordyn Semeniuk - Descendant of David Sr & Mary (McKeage) Sutor, Gladys, 1888
- ♦ Joe Foose - Descendant of David Sr & Mary (McKeage) Sutor, Gladys, 1888
- ♦ Elizabeth MacKenzie - Descendant of Alfred Harwick & Sarah Mary (Blake) Lynch-Staunton, Pincher Creek, 1877
- ♦ Charlene Lyndon - Descendant of Charles & Margaret (Hallock) Lyndon, Lyndon, 1881

New Friend Members

- ♦ John Stenicka
- ♦ Rebecca Ferguson
- ♦ Marg Haynes
- ♦ Gita Oorthuis
- ♦ Boris Wiggers
- ♦ Brenda Lucy

Returning Descendant Members

- ♦ Joanne Paterson - Descendant of Richard & Sofia (Wills) Copithorne, Jumping Pound, 1887
- ♦ Greg White - Joshua & Mary (Metzler) McConnell, Shepard, 1889

Returning Associate Member

- ♦ Del Huber

In Memorial

- ♦ Iona Shaw
- ♦ Glenn Davis



Please notify any member of the Membership Committee of member deaths, changes to mailing or email addresses or to phone numbers. We can be reached at membership@pioneersalberta.org.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AS AT AUG. 31, 2026

- ♦ Descendant members – 222 with 50 in arrears
- ♦ Descendant Gold Card – 107
- ♦ Associate members – 24 with 6 in arrears
- ♦ Associate Gold Card – 30
- ♦ Friend members – 47 with 12 in arrears
- ♦ Honorary members – 5

Total: 435

The current membership committee includes:

- ♦ Sharon Hoiland (Chair and Membership Secretary)
- ♦ Joan Christianson (Telephone Tree)
- ♦ Lynne Marquess (Cards and Remembering)
- ♦ Megan Ballard (Administration) and
- ♦ Maureen Peckham (Guidance and Wisdom)

If you are interested in joining the committee, have ideas or have time to volunteer, please contact Sharon at membership@pioneersalberta.org

Membership Dues: \$40 annually

Thank you to everyone who have paid their 2026 Membership Dues!!

You can find out if you have paid your dues by logging into the Membership portal at sapd.getcommunal.com and looking up your name. If your membership type says “Grace Period” or “Inactive,” your 2026 dues haven’t been paid yet. We have a solution for that. There are 3 methods for paying your past dues.

- ♦ Credit Card - Login to the Membership Portal at sapd.getcommunal.com
 - ♦ Use this method only if you are paying for just your own membership.
- ♦ Cheque - Send to: SAPD 3625 - 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2S 1Y3, Attn: Membership.
- ♦ E-transfer - Send e-transfers to membership@pioneersalberta.org.

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

SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS' and THEIR DESCENDANTS Annual General Meeting



Saturday, October 17, 2026 at the Memorial Building
Lunch commencing at 12:00 PM. Meeting follows at 1:00 PM
Presiding: Nancy Thompson, President 2026

AGENDA

1. Pot luck lunch coordinated by Karen Clark
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held October 18, 2025
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. President's Report — Nancy Thompson
5. Treasurer's Report — Brian Rogers
6. Membership Report — Sharon Hoiland
7. Committee Reports
8. Election of the SAPD Board of Directors for 2027
9. Introduction of the Incoming President
10. Incoming President's Remarks
11. Motion to Adjourn

The Southern Alberta Pioneers' Foundation meeting will follow the SAPD's AGM to appoint Directors to the Foundation Board.

All attending members need to be in **good standing and up to date with their fees.**

To renew an inactive membership before the AGM, go to our webpage at <http://pioneersalberta.org/dues.html> or be sure to stop at a table set up at the AGM.

Problems? Contact Sharon Hoiland, Membership Secretary, at membership@pioneersalberta.org.

Members who wish to Nominate another Member for a Board Position can contact Russell Moore at 403-618-6277 or russellmooreimages@gmail.com



Food Bank Donations

In support of the Calgary Food Bank, please bring a donation of non-perishable food items to the AGM, or consider making a cash donation.



104rd Annual Round Up Dinner and Dance

Saturday, November 7, 2026
Wainwright Hotel at Heritage Park

Please join us as we "evolve" to a new (but historic) venue at Heritage Park. While the Wainwright Hotel will seem very different, you still have the chance to sport your best "finery", enjoy delicious food, and dance to great music. Note: parking at the Wainwright Hotel is FREE.

- ◆ Tickets are \$100 per person
 - ◇ The non-refundable tickets must be purchased by **Tuesday, October 20** in one of three ways:
 - Drop a cheque off at the Memorial Building *OR*
 - Mail it to: SAPD Memorial Building
3625—4 St. SW, Calgary, AB T2S 1Y3 Attention: Nancy Thompson
 - E-transfer to membership@pioneersalberta.org. E-transfers are set to auto-deposit
 - ◇ When you purchase tickets, tell us the names of who the tickets are for in an email or enclosed note, and state your seating and/or meal preferences (beef or chicken), dietary restrictions, or allergies
 - ◇ Tickets will be picked up at the Round-Up
- ◆ The Evening's Program
 - ◇ 5:30 pm Cocktails
 - ◇ 6:30 pm Dinner
 - ◇ Post-dinner: Introductions and Speeches
 - ◇ 8:30 pm: Dancing



Former SAPD member Pat Chudey and husband Ray at the 2004 Round Up.

Special Notes from President Nancy Thompson:

- ◆ We are always looking for extra volunteers to help run this event. Email me at president@pioneersalberta.org to say we can count on your help.
- ◆ We encourage members and Corporate Sponsors to make a donation to the Southern Alberta Pioneers FOUNDATION to support this event. Donations to the FOUNDATION are eligible for an Income Tax Receipt.

Short history of the Wainwright Hotel

Photo by Russell Moore



Built in 1907, the tastefully decorated, 30 room Wainwright Hotel was advertised as a "Home for Everybody" and served settlers, travelling salesmen, land speculators, and tourists. In 1909, owner Martin Forster, a leading citizen and former mayor, expanded the hotel to 55 rooms and added grand balconies. Telephones were installed in every room in 1910. Drastically, an August 1929 fire destroyed the hotel along with most of downtown Wainwright. Heritage Park built this mirror-image replica in 1967-68, based on archival material and personal recollections of the Forster family.

Social Events and Celebrations

NOTE: *The following SAPD Social Events are for SAPD Members and Invited Guests only*

Pioneers Memorial Building Christmas Decorating

Please join us on Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 10:00 am to get an early start at embracing the Christmas Spirit, meeting up with friends and showing off your aesthetic flair by decorating the Memorial Building! Extra hands always make this a fun and festive time. We'd also love your help to take down the decorations in January.

Questions: Contact John Hutchings, 403-613-9798



Christmas Luncheon

Join us for a buffet style traditional Christmas meal with all the fixings, and a cash bar, at the Memorial Building on Saturday, December 5. All members and their friends and relatives are welcome, and we encourage families with younger children to bring them along. Holiday music and carolling will follow lunch. Ticket information will be available closer to the date at the SAPD Membership Portal under Programs & Events (https://sapd.getcommunal.com/parent_programs?sort=recommended). Your tickets will be given to you at the event.



Second Annual Robbie Burns Night

by Patrick Taylor

Auld Lang Syne started as an old favourite poem written by Robert Burns, Scottish poet and lyricist, in 1788. The melody was added in 1799. To remember and celebrate his birthday, we're planning the second annual Robbie Burns Birthday Celebration in January 2027 at the Memorial Building. The event will be a chance to sample everything Scottish.

Dates, times and ticket information will be available closer to the date at the SAPD Membership Portal under Programs & Events (https://sapd.getcommunal.com/parent_programs?sort=recommended).

Glen Godlonton 403.829.9500	
For a list of - Recent sale prices - Low down payment properties - All in your neighbourhood, <i>Please call me</i>	Proud member of the Southern Alberta Pioneers - Native Calgarian - Free in-home appraisal - No pressure assistance, whether you are buying or selling a home 
	www.Godlonton.com Glen@Godlonton.com
Experience Makes the Difference. CIR REALTY	

Other Dates for your calendar

Remembrance Day, November 11, 2026 - For us, this is a statutory holiday to acknowledge the many Southern Alberta veterans who served and sacrificed during World War I (1914-1918).

Thanksgiving, October 12, 2026 - For us, this is a national holiday to remind us to be thankful for our SAPD families who reap the autumn harvest.



A Photographer and SAPD Honorary Member

HILDA ONIONS was born on November 11th, 1936 in the house that her Grandfather built on the Homestead in Saskatchewan. Hilda says her first memory is from when she was three and the family moved to a shack on the farm where she was raised.

This story follows Hilda as she became an accomplished photographer and a recognized associate/supporter of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants.

In her late teens, Hilda obtained a position in a photography studio in Yorkton. Knowing nothing about photography, she became fascinated with her job at Browns. Moving to Regina she worked for Excello Photo, as a front counter girl. This a small subsidiary of a very large establishment in Moose Jaw. Through a set of circumstances, Hilda met and then married the young photographer, Bill Onions, from Excello in Moose Jaw, in 1957.

After Hilda and Bill moved to Calgary in 1961, Hilda worked for Lanes Studio. In 1970 Bill and Hilda opened their first Studio in the basement of 620 - 8 Ave. SW. Following Mr. Lane's passing, his wife, Mary, told Hilda that her husband would say of her: *"She was the best salesgirl that I ever had; she could sell ice to the Eskimos"*.

In 1968, Hilda began a lifelong friendship with an important collaborator, Margaret Buckley. When Bill and Hilda built their Home Studio on the Bow Trail, Margaret worked part time. The city decided to change the Bow Trail and went straight through that Home Studio. Bill and Hilda then built a large home in Strathcona, to give Hilda a workshop.



In the mid 1980s, Margaret told Hilda that the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants (SAPD) wanted to have their photographs professionally restored. They hired Hilda who, by then, had years of experience doing artwork and restoration. She and Margaret spent hours doing this invaluable work for SAPD. Because of the size of the frames, Hilda's Station wagon was needed for transport.

To do the restoration, Hilda ordered new mat board, stripped the photographs, remounted them and did the Artwork.

Margaret did all the printing of names. After Hilda had laminated the photos in her hard bed press, she had Margaret help her to reframe them with glass for protection.



When the Pioneers ran out of money, Hilda kept going because "you never leave a job half done." It was for her work and unwavering dedication that the Pioneers gave Hilda Onions an Honorary Membership.

A summary of Hilda's other activities:

- Had a successful working partnership with her husband, Bill, at their Bow Trail Studio
- Was involved with the Professional Photographers of Alberta
- Was involved with the Professional Photographers of Canada
- Earned a Craftsman of Photographic Arts in 1980
- Earned a Master of Photographic Arts in 1982
- Earned her first Bar in 1984 and a second one in 1992
- Has been interviewed by "two big wheels" from Kodak, Toronto
- Was on the cover of *New Calgary Homes* and *Professional Photographers of Canada*
- Volunteered in the SAPD booth at the Stampede grounds
- Thrice, rode in the SAPD wagon in the Stampede Parade
- Baked cookies for the SAPD teas
- Made a generous donation to support the work on the Memorial Building

SAPD 2026 Stampede Barbecue

by Dylan Viste, 2026 Stampede Barbecue Convener; BBQ photos by Russell Moore

The Southern Alberta Pioneers' and Their Descendants hosted their annual Stampede Barbecue on Saturday, July 4, 2026. This year, we had exactly 150 attendees, which was the same as in 2025. Once again, the weather was lovely and our decorators did an excellent job creating a festive mood. The roast beef dinner provided by Alpine Catering was delicious. Alcohol sales were about the same as last year but we had fewer door prizes than last year.

We had invited a variety of special guests and entertainers this year, including a visit from Harry the Horse, who had just turned 40 this year!



Guests were given an enthusiastic Stampede welcome from our fiddler and the Stampede welcome committee.

Stampede Princess, Sarah O'Brien, graced us with her fashionable presence and a short speech.



The crowd cheered when First Nation's Princess, Raegan First Rider, told us about learning the Nations' ancestral Jingle Dress Dance, which mythical healing abilities were attributed to her grandmother recovering from an illness.

Like last year, Dylan Viste, our barbecue convenor, performed some acoustic country music accompanied by the lovely Cate Clynch (a pioneer descendant and granddaughter of Maureen and Jeff Hill) who sang and played guitar. Cate's family came out to support her and made up the largest group—15 tickets!



Every year, many volunteers get involved to make this big day successful and I would like to thank all the people listed here for supporting this wonderful tradition that brings us all together.

- Russell Moore
- Lana and Martin Jones
- John & Rhonda Hutchings
- Nancy & Geoff Thompson
- Brian & Kathleen Rogers
- Dan Shaw
- David and Sandy Mackie
- Angie Boyd
- Janice Wilson
- Andrea Yearwood
- Mariane Santopinto
- Cindy N
- Carol Duborg
- Cate Clynych

July 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Our next Stampede Barbecue will be on Saturday, July 10th 2027, so please mark your calendars so we can enjoy a great BBQ and one another's company again next summer.

As an nod to my favourite SAPD photographer, **Russell Moore**, I'm going to wind up my final newsletter with a few photos he took at last summer's Stampede BBQ. Thank you Dylan Viste for sending me the link to where these were stored. And I apologize if I offend anyone for not finding out/including names with or adding captions to most of the photos.



SAPD past Presidents posing with 2026 President, Nancy Thompson (2nd row, 2nd from right)





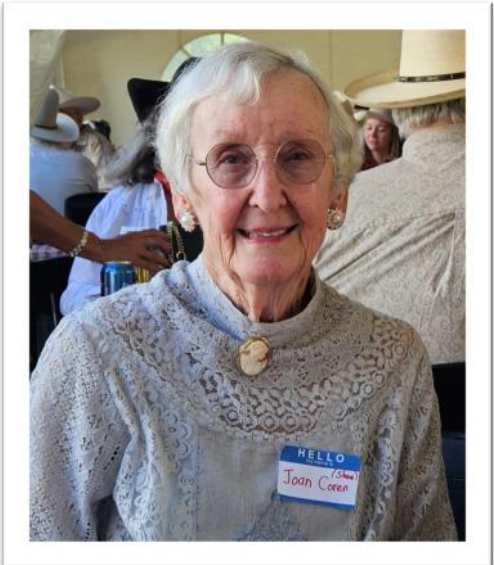
2026 Pioneer Lady
Lynne Marquess



The Best Dressed Lady and Best Dressed Gentleman with convenor
Dylan Viste, and 2026 President Nancy Thompson







Goodbye Newsletters - This is my final editorial



Valerie McKinney

How appropriate that we are close to Canada's Thanksgiving Day because I am so thankful for the members of SAPD for all the years you have supported my editorial work for the group's newsletters. But now - for reasons beyond my control - it's time for me to pass this gratifying position on to other capable and creative members.

I especially want to note the following people who have been very important to me and to the work I've done for SAPD

- All the people who served as Presidents since 2019, and notably our 2026 President, Nancy Thompson, for making a point of encouraging me and for submitting President's reports thrice yearly for both newsletters
- Steph West for acting as liaison when the President is off line and for providing details for SAPD events
- Brian Rogers for reimbursing postage expenses promptly and for submitting event items that he hears about first
- Kathleen Rogers who, with Maureen Hill, have been invaluable resources because they seem to know everything about and everybody who is involved with SAPD
- Sharon Hoiland for submitting personal-sounding and informative Membership reports and for teaching me how to use the Membership Portal
- Megan Ballard for, in the early years, advising me on membership lists and sending out newsletters to online members
- John Hutchings for acting as my courier in the early days, and for preparing detailed reports for the SAPF news (and for listening to me gripe once in a while)
- Maureen Hill for being a cherished proofreader of the newsletters when I first began editing them and needed the help
- Russell Moore for sending me high-res photos and for advising me on cropping images and improving page layouts that weren't quite perfect yet
- Patrick Taylor for representing the communication team at board meetings and for keeping the Robbie Burns ads in the news
- Dylan Viste for keeping events like the Stampede BBQs in the news and for submitting post BBQ write ups with photos
- Jean Stewart for sending me notes on interviews she conducted with members
- John Rauchert (IT John, Webmaster) for uploading the newsletters to the SAPD and SAPF websites



And now, the last of the BBQ Photos ... and continued on next page





Rideau Pharmacy

CAROLYN HEATON
B.Sc. Pharm.

TIM HEATON
B.Sc. Pharm. M.Sc.



1711 - 4th STREET S.W.
CALGARY, ALBERTA
T2S 1V8

PHONE: (403) 228-5067
OR: (403) 228-7065
FAX: (403) 228-5068

**SEE YOU at the
BBQ NEXT YEAR!!**