

# Southern Alberta Pioneers Foundation



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

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[Foundation's Website](#)

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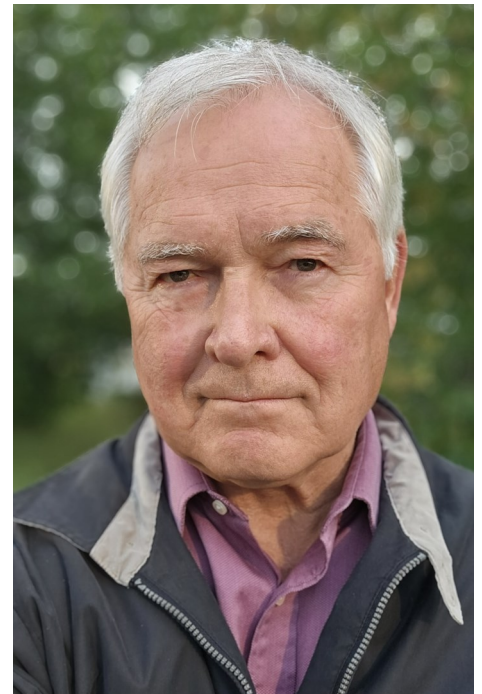
## President's Message

**T**he Southern Alberta Pioneers And Their Descendants traces its roots back to the founding of *The Calgary Old Timers' Association*. In 1923, the Old Timer's built an authentic Pioneer Shack on the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede grounds. However, as needs dictated and as part of Alberta's Golden Jubilee, the Pioneers hired Hobart A. Dowler, a leading master craftsman and builder of log structures in Alberta, to construct The Southern Alberta Memorial Building.

As with Dowler's other log buildings, ours was first built on his Pigeon Lake property and then was dismantled and re-assembled in its permanent site in the Rideau Park area of Calgary.

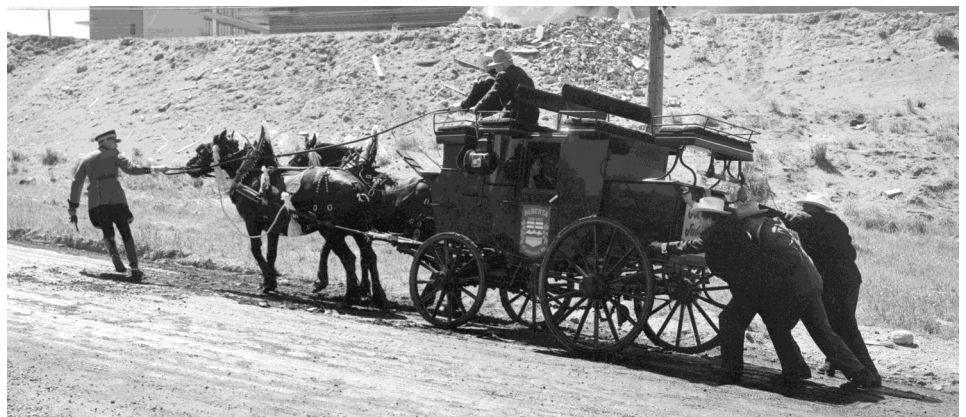
The Southern Alberta Pioneers Memorial Building was dedicated on June 8th, 1955. To be at that dedication, ceremony speakers rode from the Palliser Hotel to the new building in a stagecoach owned by George Church. However, the ceremony was delayed due to difficulty in the stagecoach manoeuvring up the "oiled" 4<sup>th</sup> Street hill.

For the dedication, the City of Calgary erected a field stone cairn with an attached flag pole in front of the building. A brass plaque was attached that said, "Presented to the Southern Alberta's Old Timers by the City of Calgary in the Province's Golden Anniversary Year 1955." Today, Canadian and Albertan flags fly above the cairn.



*Russell Moore*

**President 2025**  
Southern Alberta Pioneers Foundation



Calgary Mayor Don Mackay and others helping to push the coach up the hill.

THIS NEWSLETTER CAN BE READ AT and PRINTED FROM <http://pioneerbuilding.ca/newsletter.html>

# Memorial Building Committee Report

by John Hutchings, Building Committee Chair

## The members of the Building Committee are:

John Hutchings (Chair)	403-613-9798	<a href="mailto:sap.office@pioneersalberta.org">sap.office@pioneersalberta.org</a>
Dan Shaw	403-861-3000	<a href="mailto:danshaw1959@gmail.com">danshaw1959@gmail.com</a>
Jeff Hill	403-225-2397	<a href="mailto:jeff.hill@shaw.ca">jeff.hill@shaw.ca</a>
Dylan Viste	403-854-8978	<a href="mailto:DCViste2202@gmail.com">DCViste2202@gmail.com</a>

## Building Rentals:

So far this fiscal year (June 2024 – May 2025), we have 88 rental days in the books. We had a very busy Christmas party season with 12 rental days in December but a low first quarter of 2025. However, we have already booked 58 rental days for the 2025-26 fiscal year including 17 in August of 2025.

Not only are rentals vital in keeping the building financially afloat, they also satisfy the lease requirement that states that our facility must be accessible to the public at least 50% of the time.

We would like to have more rentals during our slower winter months, such as corporate conferences, retreats, etc. If your company is looking for such a venue the Memorial Building is an excellent and unique location.

## Superb Deal!

**Members receive a 20% discount on the rental rate. Please call Gabrielle Leah at 403-807-0550 for any rental enquiries.**

Also, if you are going to visit the building other than on Historic Mondays, please contact Gabrielle to be sure that the building is not occupied with renters that day.

## Handicap Lift:

We are fortunate to have a mechanical lift to help people with limited mobility access the building. During the Memorial building's construction in 1955, accessibility was not a high priority. But, over the years, we improved this oversight by installing ramps for both upstairs and downstairs.



The upstairs ramp was removed some twenty years ago when Evelyn Calow generously donated a mechanical lift. The lift has served us well enough even though it was designed to be an

indoor lift that got installed outdoors instead.

The lift gets serviced and inspected twice a year; nevertheless, a significant amount of money is spent on breakdowns, rendering the lift unreliable.

During the December 2024 Board Meeting, a discussion was brought forward on how we can improve overall building access for people with disabilities both inside and outside the building.

To find funding for a new handicap lift, on March 27, 2025, we applied for a grant to the RBC Foundation Community Infrastructure Fund, which provides grants for Environmental Sustainability and/or Improving Accessibility initiatives ranging in costs from \$25,000 to \$2,500,000.

RBC indicated that it needs 90 days to make a decision, which would be around the end of August of this year.

Thank-you to Patrick Taylor for spearheading this initiative.

We are also contemplating applying for a grant for solar panels sometime in the future.



# Get comfortable during your visit ...



Inga Pollhaus, a friend of former SAPF Director, Lana Jones, donated to SAPD five pieces of fine antique parlor furniture consisting of a couch, love seat, rocking chair and two chairs. They are a welcome addition to the Memorial Building, so a big thanks to Inga for her generous donation.

## Building Structural Integrity Study:

The Building Structural Integrity Study entailed an inspection of the building's roof log trusses and a recommendation to rectify any problems that the study revealed.

The study was initiated from Dave Chalmers of Chalmers Heritage Conservation Ltd (CHC) who observed some slight sagging of the trusses.

The City of Calgary (our Lease holder) hired the engineering company Morrison Herschfield (MH) to conduct several laser scans of the trusses over two years to detect any movement.

The results showed no significant movement, and the building was deemed safe, although they did recommend that the truss bolts be tightened. CHC completed this task successfully without incident.

The costs were all covered by the City, special

thanks to Sarah Papineau, our City Liaison who coordinated all parties involved.

## Annual Spring Cleaning:

The Annual Spring Cleanup took place, as scheduled, on April 26<sup>th</sup>, the weather was perfect. Twenty-two industrious workers showed up to help spruce things inside and outside of the building including window cleaning, painting the BBQ and many other items. The volunteers showed up around 10:00 AM and finished around 1:00PM when we all gathered on the deck for a well-earned beer, chips, and hot dogs, expertly grilled by Jeff Hill. A big thank you to the following volunteers (hopefully nobody is missing):

- Jeff Hill
- Dan Shaw
- Kyle Graham and Sonia Aquiar

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- Heather Van Hereweghe
- Dylan Viste
- Dave Wake
- Colin Wake
- Carla Begalke
- Lane Begalke

- Alan Lynas
- Calvin Robb
- Elaine McDonald
- Lana & Martin Jones
- Wayne Hohner

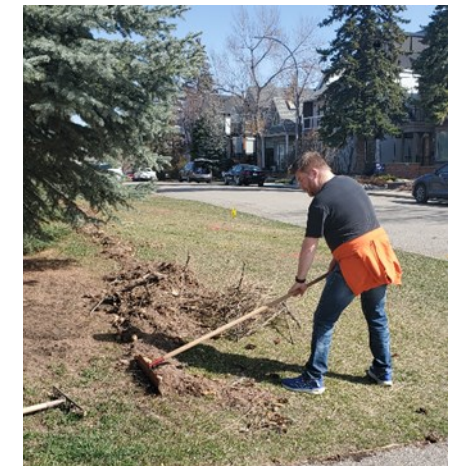
- Sheldon Smithens
- James Hindle and friend Brady (10-year-olds)
- Kathleen & Brian Rogers
- Rhonda & John Hutchings



Calvin Robb with helpers Jame Hindle & friend Brady cleaning the parking lot



BBQ before and after Dylan Viste painted it



Kyle Graham cleaning under the Memorial Trees



Heather Van Hereweghe cleaning the blinds



Jeff Hill M.G. (Master Griller) making sure the volunteers enjoy a well-earned beer and a hot dog.

