

SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS FOUNDATION



Southern Alberta 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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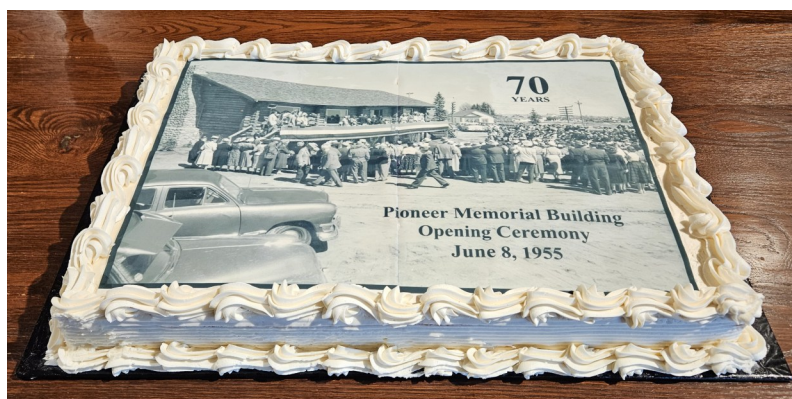
Memorial Building 70th Anniversary

Since our last newsletter, the Southern Alberta Pioneers has celebrated the 70th anniversary of its Memorial Building.



In 1955, the Memorial Building was constructed in the Rideau Park area of Calgary by Hobart A. Dowler, a leading master craftsman and builder of log structures in Alberta.

Being situated on a high promontory overlooking the Elbow River, visitors get a general view of the city and a splendid view of the Rocky Mountains to the west.



The image on the our 70th Anniversary cake is of the Memorial Building opening on June 8, 1955

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



The Memorial Building was dedicated on June 8, 1955, with His Honour J. J. Bowlen, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta at the official opening.

The City of Calgary acknowledged the opening by affixing a brass plaque to the field stone cairn in front of the building.



Norman MacLeod, son of Colonel MacLeod, hoisted the flag on the pole above the cairn while the band played God Save The Queen.

Today, SAPD is proud to fly the Albertan and Southern Alberta Pioneers' flags on our flag pole.

Photos by Russell Moore

Memorial Building Committee Report

by John Hutchings, Building Committee Chair

Building Committee Members 2024

John Hutchings (Chair)	403-613-9798	sap.office@pioneersalberta.org
Dan Shaw	403-861-3000	danshaw1959@gmail.com
Jeff Hill	403-225-2397	jeff.hill@shaw.ca
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Building Rentals

So far this fiscal year (June 2024 – May 2025), we have 73 rental days in the books. We had a very busy Summer season with 39 rental days in June, July and August.

We have already booked 17 rental days for the 2026-27 fiscal year including 9 days in July 2026.

Not only are rentals vital in keeping the building financially afloat, but 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 months during the winter such as corporate conferences, retreats, etc.

If your company is looking for such a venue, the Memorial Building is an excellent and unique location. 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 Historic Mondays, please contact Gabrielle to be sure that the building is not occupied with renters that day.



Rental Agent: Gabrielle Leah—403-807-0550

Building Condition Assessment (BCA)

Every five years, the City conducts an inspection on their community facilities including ours. From the BCA, the inspector prepares a “Life Cycle

Report” that is a comprehensive list of items to be addressed and that indicates the years remaining before it needs to be replaced or refurbished, along with an estimated cost. The report is useful in prioritizing building upgrades.

The BCA was completed on May 28th at 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM by a Stantec Consultant. The report will hopefully be issued this fall. There is no cost to SAPF for this report.

Electrical

The three power receptacles on the kitchen counter have been giving us problems by blowing breakers when more than one plug is used per double receptacle. To rectify the problem, without doing a total rewire, we can only use one plug-in per double outlet. Plastic caps were inserted on the top plug-in to deter using these plugs. Thank-you Rob Pedlar for inspecting the wiring and offering a simple solution.

Johnson Controls

All the mandatory annual inspections have been completed by Johnson Controls; these inspections include:

- Backflow Valves
- Fire Extinguishers
- Fire Alarm System
 - Deficiency found in the backup power battery in the fire panel
 - Battery was replaced on July 10th
 - These batteries must be replaced a minimum of every four years
- Wet Sprinkler and Antifreeze System
- The Fire Department: On July 15th, a mandatory five-year pressure test was performed on the connection piping plus a five-year inspection was done on the antifreeze and backflow preventer.

Front Doors

Top 3 photos on this page by Russell Moore



About 10 years ago, Fran Copithorne, then Chair of the Building Committee, procured the great wood doors that grace the entrance of the Memorial Building. But after seven years of exposure to the sun and weather, the doors needed to be refinished in 2021. At that time, the contractor (Blandford Decorating) used a polyurethane coating.

Although the doors are in better shape now than they were in 2021, they need to be refinished again due to the same weathering. This time, we are using a marine spar varnish that is recommended by our new contractor, Chalmers Heritage Restoration (CHC). CHC offered three options: light, partial and full restoration. Due to fiscal constraints, we are going with the light restoration and see how it holds up. The work is scheduled for the week of September 22nd. It would be best to have this area covered to provide shelter from the elements, but that would be a major project.

Gardens

Gabrielle has worked very hard in preparing and maintaining the gardens at the Memorial Building. This year, she planted more perennials and less annuals. She also has done a lot of work on the front yard entrance to make it more appealing.



The heavy rains we had this summer made the entrance almost impassible due to large puddles accumulating in that area. But with the help of Dan Shaw, the stonework at the entrance was fortified and raised. And the dry spell that's followed has made the entrance safe for visitors again.

Editor Val McKinney's pics of her favourite flowers in the gardens

