

2024 ALBERTA HERITAGE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HERITAGE AWARENESS

[Sharing Heritage Through Storytelling: Beaver Hills Biosphere Video Project](#)
Beaver Hills Biosphere Region Association, Edmonton

This is a video project of 11 vignettes on the history and nature of the Beaver Hills area, a region designated as a biosphere by UNESCO in 2016. The videos provide an overview of the geographical characteristics of the Beaver Hills landscape, as well as the history of Indigenous and non-Indigenous uses of the area. The Beaver Hills Biosphere Region Association partnered with Dylan Reade, a local filmmaker and dedicated historian. Dylan engaged with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners/communities to research and develop the vignettes. With an extensive experience in making digital products, Dylan produced videos that effectively engaged the public on a fascinating part of Alberta's history.

[Nordegg Discovery Centre Renewal Project](#)
Clearwater County

Clearwater County revitalized the Nordegg Discovery Centre into a dynamic community and visitor hub. This was achieved through building repairs and installation of new exhibits reimagined through archival research, oral history and broad-based dialogue with residents, local historians, artists and the Stoney Nakoda Nations. The project organizers did an excellent job of integrating Indigenous language and cultural elements into the final product. The facility renewal stands out for its vision, innovative engagement process and contribution to a regional community and tourism development initiative around the historic townsite, coal mine and hamlet of Nordegg.

[The Rogues' Gallery](#)
YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre, Calgary

The Rogues' Gallery is a permanent exhibit that opened in April 2024 at the YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre. The focal point of the exhibit is the Calgary 01 Mugshot Book from 1913-1920 that was meticulously restored by a professional paper conservator. The materials relating to the mugshot book are presented in an engaging way, employing traditional displays, digital imagery and period music. The exhibit explores themes related to justice in the early days of Calgary. It provides an excellent opportunity to examine how society, policing, crime and punishment have changed over the past 100 years.

[North Saskatchewan River \(kisiskâciwani-sîpiy\) Canadian Heritage River Designation Document](#)
Kyle Schole, Edmonton

This document is the culmination of a nearly 20-year journey of the North Saskatchewan River towards designation. The river was designated as a Canadian Heritage River on February 2, 2024. Kyle Schole was the project lead of a consultant team headed by O2 Planning + Design Inc. with key proponents including the Smoky Lake County and the North Saskatchewan

Watershed Alliance. The resulting document detailed the rich, varied significance of the river. It engaged Indigenous communities, tourism stakeholders and the general public and reviewed voluminous amounts of historical and environmental information. It is a great example of broad engagement and research that fully understood the natural and cultural importance of one of Alberta's major rivers.

[Oti Nekan-Treaty 8 125th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Chief Sydney Lee Halcrow, Kapaweno First Nation and Chief Roderick Willier, Sucker Creek First Nation

The 125th anniversary of the 1899 signing of Treaty No. 8. was celebrated on June 17-21 2024 at Willow Creek, Sucker Creek First Nation. The gathering marked a significant milestone, commemorating the signing of a document that set the foundation of the relationship between the Crown and the First Nations. Various sessions on the spirit and intent of the treaty and its modern implications, took place during the week and was attended by representatives from across Treaty 8 territory. The two lead organizers Chief Roderick Willier and Chief Sydney Lee Halcrow are being recognized for their strong leadership and mentorship during the planning and hosting of this successful and significant event.

[Alberta's Cornerstone: Archaeological Adventures in Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park](#)

Shari Peyerl, Sundre

Shari Peyerl shares her adventures and involvement with the Glenbow Ranch through her book *Alberta's Cornerstone: Archaeological Adventures in Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park*. Published in 2022, the book details the history of the area, with a particular focus on sandstone quarrying and ranching. It is an interesting, informative book that combines archaeology and documentary history with genealogy, oral history and a collection of historic photographs. It represents a compelling, accessible way to interpret this intriguing place.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

[Buttermaker's House, Markerville](#)

Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society, Markerville

The Buttermaker's House on Markerville was built in 1913 and designated as a Provincial Historic Resource in 2019. The Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society completed its five-year restoration and celebrated its grand opening as an Artist Residence in September 2023. Restoration work included foundation repairs, interior and exterior repainting, removal of asbestos, re-insulation and staging of the space with period furniture and furnishings. This project is an excellent example of a dedicated non-profit society that led the restoration of a historic building into a community gathering place.

[Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator, Sexsmith](#)

Sexsmith & District Museum Society

The 1961 Alberta Wheat Pool Grain Elevator was designated as a Municipal Historic Resource in 2014. Conservation of the elevator was a comprehensive undertaking that was made possible through extensive local fundraising and the dedicated efforts of the Sexsmith & District Museum Society. Restoration work included the cedar shingles roofs, window rehabilitation and exterior repainting. Many visitors from Canada and abroad visited the site since the project's completion

in 2022. This project uniquely conserved a large northern Alberta grain elevator as an icon of the province's agricultural heritage.

[Lacombe Heritage Survey and Designation Program](#)

Lacombe Heritage Resources Committee

Lacombe's heritage survey and designation initiatives, led by the Lacombe Heritage Resources Committee, are a continuation of a long, sustained effort to document and protect the built heritage of the City. The most recent milestones include an update to the 2010 Municipal Heritage Survey and Inventory completed in 2023 and the designation of three buildings in the past year. The Committee also assists owners through modest grants and a Maintenance Plan project that will provide tools to owners on how to properly care for their heritage properties. The committee is an excellent example of the way in which a municipality leads the conservation of its historic resources.

[Digitally Preserving Alberta's Diverse Cultural Heritage](#)

Dr. Peter Dawson

The Digital Archive at the University of Calgary, led by Dr. Peter Dawson, explores how digital technology can be used to preserve, protect and mobilize knowledge about Alberta's diverse heritage sites. The site contains over 30 sets of 3D heritage data representing museum displays, archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures across Alberta. The archive employs techniques such as 3D laser scanning, photogrammetry and virtual reality to create accurate digital replicas of heritage sites. Sites such as the Raymond Stampede Ground, Okotoks Erratic and Perrenoud Ranch are in the Archives. Dr. Dawson created a dynamic, accessible and innovative means of preserving and sharing Alberta's heritage sites.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

[Crowsnest Historical Society, Coleman](#)

Founded in 1973, the Crowsnest Historical Society are stewards of two Provincial Historic Resources: the Old Coleman High School and the Alberta Provincial Police Barracks building. They have advocated for the protection of several historic resources in Crowsnest Pass, for the establishment of the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre and for the development of mine tours at the Bellevue Underground Mine. The society was also active in collecting family histories, and cares for thousands of artifacts and documents. Through its enthusiasm and its competent management of a broad, diverse portfolio of heritage interests, the society has established itself as an exceptional example of a community-based organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

[Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Red Deer](#)

The Alberta Amateur Sports Hall of Fame and Museum was formally established in 1957, with a focus on the recognition of outstanding amateur athletes in Alberta. Over the years, the institution has steadily built a collection of over 17,000 artifacts; established a permanent home in Red Deer that welcomes about 20,000 visitors per year; initiated a program of travelling exhibitions; and continued to recognize outstanding Alberta athletes, sport builders, media personnel, teams and pioneers. The museum has expanded its goals and activities to preserving and interpreting Alberta's sports history while providing an excellent venue to experience and learn about a wide variety of sporting activities.

[Dr. France Levasseur-Ouimet, Edmonton](#)

Born and raised in Alberta, Dr. France Levasseur-Ouimet holds a Master's degree in French-Canadian Literature, a PhD in Education and an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Alberta. Her long academic career in research, publication and pedagogy at Campus Saint-Jean from 1976-2004 parallels decades of activity in the Franco-Albertan community beyond her academic role. Dr. Levasseur-Ouimet's contributions as historian, playwright, author, composer and musician range from books, historical brochures to tours, presentations, workshops, radio programs and film. Her work to promote and preserve Alberta's francophone heritage has significantly shaped Alberta's cultural and educational landscapes, and has achieved provincial and national recognition beyond her academic role.

[Karen Copley, Airdrie](#)

Karen Copley is a long-time dedicated volunteer at the Nose Creek Valley Museum since it opened its doors in 1988. In addition to her work as the museum's Assistant Curator, the most noteworthy among her long list of volunteer work is her leadership in developing and delivering the museum's school tours, education and outreach programs. She is an excellent example of a heritage enthusiast dedicated to creating meaningful personal connections between the public and local history. Karen is constantly looking for ways to innovate and make the presentation of heritage more compelling. She has been an exemplary, long-standing ambassador for heritage in her community.

[Donna Nelson, Innisfail](#)

For over more than four decades, Donna Nelson has served as president, vice-president and director on organizations like Vonin, the Stephan G. Stephansson Society and the Icelandic National League of North America. She is behind a range of projects in the Markerville area including developing the heritage signs and the provincial sign along the river near Markerville, restoring the Markerville Lutheran Church, documenting the graves at the Tindastoll Cemetery and organizing the Islendingamot Icelandic Day celebrations. Donna remains to be a strong and passionate driving force in the preservation and interpretation of the history of Markerville.