



## ALBERTA'S CENTENNIAL 2005

### Family History

#### Home and Family

- Newcomers to Alberta in the 1900s often lived in tents. In June 1907, about 2,000 people were temporarily camped along Edmonton's riverbank.
- In 1905 a Calgary Herald advertisement included a dozen eggs or a pound of butter for a quarter.
- Cooperatives of farmers, called "beef rings," were used until the 1950s to distribute fresh meat in areas without power or freezers.
- Men's pants from Calgary's Quality Clothing Company cost less than \$10 in 1905. Prices ranged from \$2 to \$7.50.
- Alberta Government Telephones was established in 1906. Alberta was the first province to convert party lines to individual service, starting in 1986.
- In the 1920s, only three per cent of married women worked outside the home in professions such as teaching, nursing and as domestics.
- Many clergymen and residents in the 1920s and 1930s condemned dancing. In Edmonton, city council was petitioned to close dancehalls.

#### Legislation

- The *Lord's Day Act* of 1907 prohibited "trade" or working on Sunday. The act was repealed in 1982, making Sunday shopping legal.
- Alberta's Prohibition lasted from 1916 to 1924. Many Albertans felt abstinence from alcohol would save their homes and families from moral decay.

#### Transportation

- Railway companies located many Alberta towns 13-16 km apart so that grain elevators were approximately a day's journey by horse.
- Public transportation in Calgary in 1907 included buses with solid rubber tires that could transport 20 passengers at 18 miles per hour.
- The 1920s marked the beginning of the end of the pioneering era as cars, roads and telephones moved into many rural communities.
- By 1971 there were over 550,000 cars in Alberta, five times more than in 1946.

### Signposts of Alberta History

- 1901: Alberta's population (as a district of the Northwest Territories) is approximately 75,000, 1.4 per cent of Canada's total. The women's suffrage movement starts.
- 1911: The Calgary Tigers beat the Winnipeg Rowing Club to win the Western Canadian championship in what was called Canadian-style football.
- 1912: 2,000 Aboriginal people lead the inaugural parade at Calgary's first Stampede. In Edmonton, 1,500 people line up for 36 hours for the Hudson's Bay Company land sale.
- 1915: 61 per cent of Alberta's male electorate vote in favour of Prohibition. Women do not get the vote until 1916.
- 1918: The Spanish Influenza kills one in ten people it infects. Albertans wear surgical facemasks in public to protect themselves.
- 1919: First royal visit to Alberta, by Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII).
- 1927: Chautauquas, tent shows featuring entertainment and educational lectures, visit 58 towns such as Vulcan and Kirriemuir.
- 1930: The wild rose is chosen as the floral emblem of Alberta.
- 1938: North America's first mosque, the Al Rashid, is built in Edmonton.
- 1940: Over 50 per cent of Alberta's population is Alberta-born; the *Cancer Treatment and Protection Act* ensures free care for Alberta cancer patients.
- 1949: Alberta Liquor Control Board prohibits men and women from drinking together in taverns in Edmonton and Calgary.
- 1955: School children are immunized against polio with Dr. Salk's new vaccine.
- 1956: Canada's first open heart surgery at the University of Alberta Hospital is performed by 32 year old Dr. John Callaghan.
- 1968: Alberta's flag is adopted, the coat-of-arms shield on a royal ultramarine blue background.
- 1981: Three per cent of Alberta's population is Aboriginal; 40 per cent of Alberta's 72,000 Aboriginal people live in urban centres.
- 1985: 60 per cent of Alberta women work outside the home, the highest percentage in Canada.
- 1989: The *Family Day Act* is initiated by Premier Don Getty to recognize and preserve the values of home and family on which pioneers built the province.