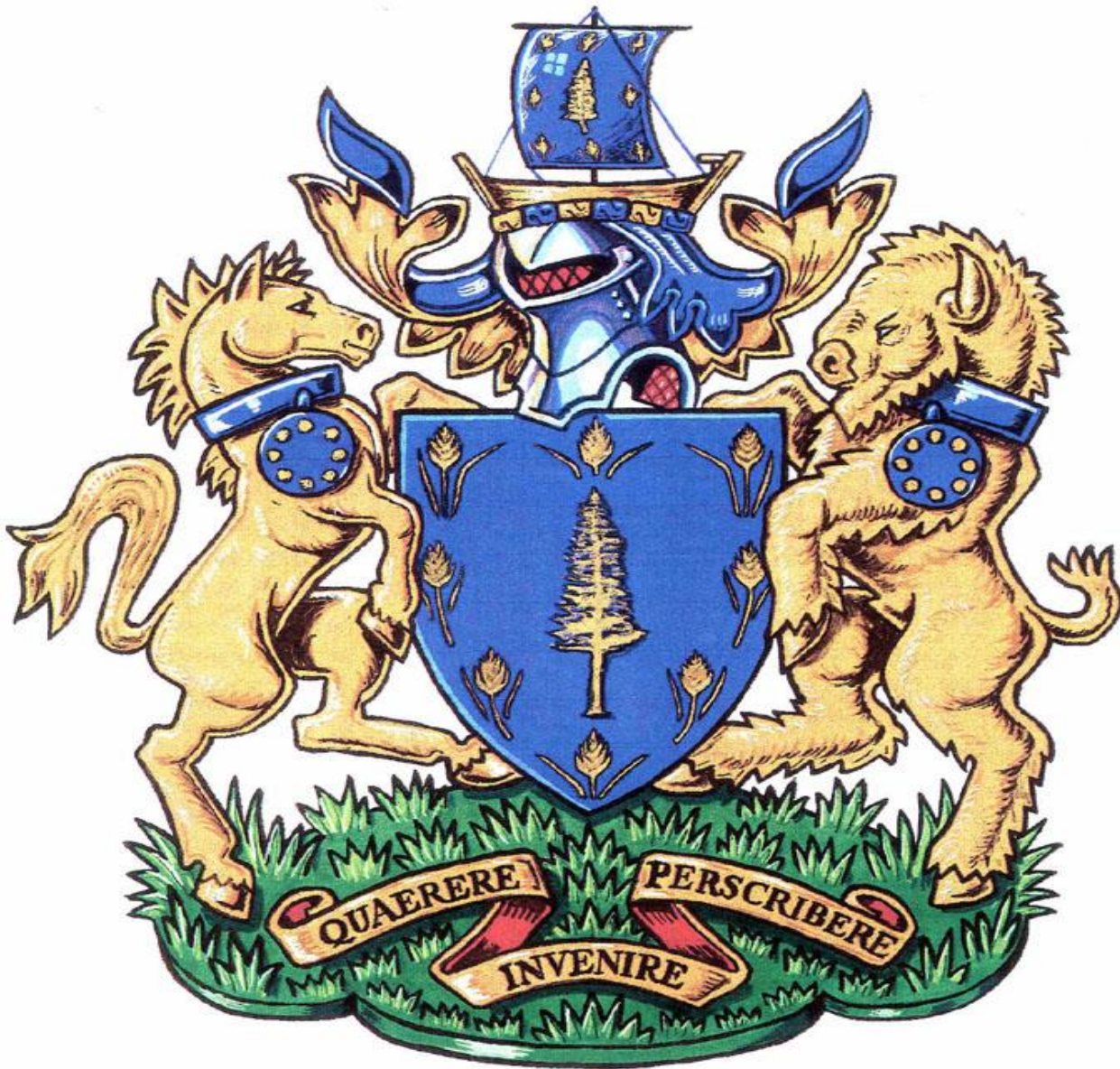


# Alberta Genealogical Society



## 2024 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

26 April 2025

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** as of Dec. 31, 2024

### **Officers**

President	Lianne Kruger
Past President	Al Bromling
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Craig Newman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Diane Wozniak
Treasurer	Carolynne Ross
Secretary of the Society	Ruth McConnell

### **Directors / Trustee**

Brooks	David Clarke
Calgary	Susan Haga
Camrose	Deb Trout
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Kurt Peterson
Grande Prairie	Maxine Maxwell
Lethbridge	Barry Simmonds
Medicine Hat	Deb Wickham
Red Deer	Jessie Dial
Wetaskiwin	Alice Hoyle

### **Standing Committees**

Finance (Chair)	Carolynne Ross
Nominations (Chair)	Al Bromling
Policies & Procedures/ Bylaws (Co-Chairs)	Craig Newman & Diane Wozniak

### **Other Committees and Appointments**

Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI)	Norma Wolowyk
Archivist & Historian	Norma Wolowyk
Electronic Services	Al Brettneil
EPL Cemetery Digitalization Project	Kurt Paterson
Facilities	Bruce Boelstler
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
Genealogy4Youth	Marion Rex
GenFair 2024	Red Deer
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Legal Advisor	Randy Simpson
Library & Resource Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Janine Carroll
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking	Diane Wozniak
Relatively Speaking Mailing	Terry Terlesky
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Retreat	Susan Haga
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Webmaster	Deb Boelstler

### **AGS Office**

Office Coordinator	Shannon Cherkowski
Bookkeeper	Shirley Keller

## **OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY**

The objects of the Society are:

- ✓ To promote the study of genealogy and genealogical research within the Province of Alberta.
- ✓ To encourage adherence to accuracy and thoroughness in research.
- ✓ To encourage and instruct members in ethical principles, scientific methods and effective techniques of genealogical research and defend the standards of genealogy from incompetent and disreputable persons.
- ✓ To assemble a library of genealogical guides, handbooks, reference sources, family and local histories, and other books and materials which may assist the members, all of which will be available to members.
- ✓ To publish such bulletins, booklets, pamphlets, or other documents as may be found desirable and expedient by the Board of the Society and to make the same available to the members and others on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board.
- ✓ To establish friendly relations with other genealogical societies for exchange of ideas and information and the promotion of common interests.
- ✓ To enter into arrangements with other genealogical societies for the publication of bulletins, booklets, books, pamphlets, or other documents on such terms and conditions as may be found desirable and expedient by the Board.
- ✓ To promote seminars and workshops on genealogical research and methodology and such other studies as may seem helpful to the members.
- ✓ To provide a centre and suitable meeting place for various activities of the Society and its members by rent or purchase or otherwise.
- ✓ To encourage the establishment of Branches of the Society under such terms and conditions as the Bylaws of the Society may from time to time provide.
- ✓ To achieve the foregoing objects, funds may be raised and donations, gifts, legacies, and bequests accepted.

Registered as a Society 4 April 1973

## Table of Contents

Thanks to our Benefactors .....	2
Sincere Thanks for Donations.....	3
Donations in Memoriam .....	4
Volunteer Hours for 2024 .....	4
Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society .....	5
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting.....	6
Executive Reports .....	12
President.....	12
Past President .....	13
First Vice President.....	13
Second Vice President .....	14
Treasurer .....	14
Secretary.....	16
Branch Annual Reports.....	17
Brooks & District.....	17
Camrose .....	18
Drayton Valley .....	19
Edmonton .....	20
Grande Prairie & District .....	22
Lethbridge & District .....	24
Medicine Hat & District.....	26
Red Deer & District .....	28
Wetaskiwin.....	29
Special Committees Google Workspace.....	31
Committee Reports .....	32
Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI) .....	32
Archivist.....	32
Gaming.....	33
Genealogy4Youth .....	33
Genealogy Faire 2024 .....	34
Grants & Other Funding .....	35
Library and Resource Centre.....	36
Membership .....	36
Relatively Speaking .....	37
Research Services .....	37
Webmaster(s) .....	38
2023-2025 Strategic Plan .....	39
Appendix A: Membership Statistics .....	40
2024 Branch Contact Information.....	41
Audited Financial Statements.....	Insert
Budget 2025-2026.....	Insert
Highlights .....	Back Cover

**Heartfelt  
Thanks**

**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
gratefully acknowledges the support of the  
**Historic Resources Management Branch**  
**for \$29,000 in funding**

**received through the Government of Alberta**

The sponsorship received from the Historic Resources Management Branch is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs and general administration

*Alberta* 

**Our  
Sincere  
Gratitude**

**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
gratefully acknowledges the support of the  
**Edmonton Heritage Council**  
**for \$ 24,867 in funding**

**Received through the City of Edmonton**

The sponsorship received from Edmonton Heritage Council helps to provide operational support



## WITH SINCERE THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Alberta Genealogical Society gratefully acknowledges those who donated \$10.00 or more to AGS and/or its branches in 2024 and agreed to have their donation acknowledged. Your donation helps AGS to fulfill its missions: to promote genealogy and the study of genealogical research in the Province of Alberta.

### **\$501 - \$1,000**

Canadian Online Giving Foundation  
Edmonton Community Foundation

### **\$251 - \$500**

Helen Brown  
Estate of Pamela Farmer  
JellyFish Design  
KPMG  
Christine Prokop

### **\$101 - \$250**

Mel Bender  
F. Janet Gosior  
Shannon Kuntz  
John Maher  
Marion Rex Howard  
Carolynne Ross  
David & Ingrid Scott

### **\$76 - \$100**

Sandy Buchko  
Lynn Fogwill  
Louis & Helen Galick  
Larry Javorsky  
Margaret Nex  
Anne Phipps

### **\$51 - \$75**

Robert Ascah  
Myrna McNiven

### **\$26 - \$50**

Judy Bradley  
Gail Cockwill  
Margaret Dyck  
Eleanor Gardner  
Jeffery Kearney  
Lorraine MacLean  
Noma Morrissey  
Robert Rogers  
Dale Schutz  
Audrey Shillabeer  
Ivy Trumpour  
Norma Wolowyk

### **\$11 - \$25**

Mary Milligan deZwart  
Susan Edwards  
Ken, Lorraine & V. MacLean  
Brendan McLoughlin  
Marcia Redford  
Bernadette Stolte  
Woody Welwood  
Douglas & Shirley Youngman

### **\$10**

Donald Bowling  
Douglas Faulder  
Linda Johnson  
Cindy Mailer

*We also give our sincere thanks to 41 donors who wished to remain anonymous.*

*In memory of  
Fran Losie*

Norma Wolowyk

*In memory of  
Warren Peters*

Marion Rex Howard



### **VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2024**

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors,  
Committee members and  
Volunteers in all ten branches of the AGS realized a total  
of  
**29,579**  
volunteer hours  
that were reported in 2024.

Sincere appreciation to all who serve the Society  
so willingly and selflessly with their gifts of time,  
energy, enthusiasm, and expertise.

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
**52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting Saturday April 26, 2025**  
**3-4:00 pm. In person and Via Zoom**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** and **WELCOME**: Lianne Kruger

**Welcome, Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

“The Alberta Genealogical Society respectfully acknowledges Alberta’s Indigenous People, on whose traditional territory we gather.”

2. **AGENDA**: Amend/Approve/Additions
3. **MINUTES**: Approval of April 27, 2024 meeting minutes
4. Introduction of 2024 Executive Committee and Directors of the Board
5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee 2024 Annual Reports
6. Financial Report. Treasurer Carolynne Ross
7. Election and ByLaw Results by Al Bromling
  - President (2024-2026)
  - First Vice President (2024-2026)
  - Second Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Returning members
  - Past President: (2024-2026) Al Bromling
  - Treasurer: (2024-2026) Carolynne Ross
8. Introduction of 2025 Executive: Al Bromling
9. Resolution of Respect
10. Courtesy Motions
11. Presentation of Awards
12. Adjournment

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
**51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting – 27th April 2024**  
**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
**Red Deer / Virtual via Zoom**

Attendance AGS Annual General Meeting: 48 Attendees in person, 14 on Zoom. Total of 62 participants.

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The AGS Annual General Meeting was called to order at 3:13pm by Al Bromling, President. Al welcomed members to the AGM and read our land acknowledgement.

*“The Alberta Genealogical Society respectfully acknowledges  
Alberta’s Indigenous People, on whose traditional territory we gather”.*

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED** by Alice Hoyle that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the 2023 Annual Report.

**SECONDED** by Denise Daubert

**CARRIED**

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**MOVED** by Alice Hoyle that the minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented in the 2023 Annual Report.

**SECONDED** by Doug McLeod

**CARRIED**

**4. Introduction of 2023 Executive Committee and Directors of the Board by Al Bromling**

- a) President – Al Bromling
- b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Craig Newman
- c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Diane Wozniak
- d) Treasurer – Carolynne Ross
- e) Secretary – Ruth McConnell
- f) Immediate Past President – Lynne Duigou
- g) Directors – Branch Presidents
  - Brooks & District – David Clarke
  - Calgary – Larry Eldreth
  - Camrose – Deb Trout
  - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
  - Edmonton – Kurt Paterson
  - Grande Prairie & District – Maxine Maxwell
  - Lethbridge & District – Barry Simmonds
  - Medicine Hat & District – Deb Wickham
  - Red Deer & District – Jessie Dial
  - Wetaskiwin – Alice Hoyle
- h) Committee Chairs – as listed on inside cover of the 2023 Annual Report

Al Bromling thanked everyone for their contributions and leadership in 2023.

**5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee 2023 Annual Reports**

**MOVED** by Craig Newman that the Executive, Branch and Committee reports be accepted as presented in the 2023 Annual Report.

**SECONDED** by Marion Rex Howard

**CARRIED**



## **6. Financial Reports – Treasurer – Carolynne Ross**

Following the presentation and discussion by Carolynne Ross of the 2023 audited statements and the 2024 budget, the following motions were made:

**MOVED** by Carolynne Ross that the Audited AGS Consolidated Financial Statements 2023 showing an income showing an income of \$246,265 and expenses of \$264,550, with a deficiency of expenses over revenues of \$17,285 be adopted as presented.

**SECONDED** by Connie Stuhl

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Carolynne Ross that the Compilation Engagement Report for AGS Provincial Office 2023 showing an income of \$171,179 and expenses of \$156,886 and an excess of revenue over expenses of \$14,292. be adopted as presented.

**SECONDED** by Marion Rex Howard

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Carolynne Ross that the Compilation Engagement Report for the Alberta Genealogical Society Edmonton Branch Financial Statements 2023 showing an income of \$19,826 and expenses of \$20,686 with a deficiency of expenses over revenues of \$860. be adopted as presented.

**SECONDED** by Denise Daubert

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Carolynne Ross that the AGS Provincial Office 2024/25 budget be adopted as presented.

**SECONDED** by Craig Newman

**CARRIED**

Discussion: Lynne cannot support the budget as presented because of the increase in support to the branches. Connie Stuhl talked about the situation of the Branches – they need money or perhaps more will fold. Carolynne talked about the process that the change in getting money to the Branches. Al says we use can take the shortfall in this budget from Retained Earnings which is over \$188,000. Jock says Retained Earnings are not shown in the budget, but should be so everyone can see the full picture.

Amendment to above motion

**MOVED** by Lynne Duigou that the AGS 2024/25 budget be sent back to the AGS Board to ask that they reconsider the Branch support of over 75% and construct a balanced budget that is sustainable.

**SECONDED** by Jock Howard

**DEFEATED**

**MOVED** by Carolynne Ross that KBH (Kouri, Berezan & Heinrichs) Chartered Accountants be retained for 2024.

**SECONDED** by Maxine Maxwell

**CARRIED**

## **7. Election and Bylaw Results – Lynne Duigou**

### **Election**

- President 2024-2026 – Marion Rex Howard – name withdrawn due to the budget
- First Vice President 2024-2025 - Marilyn Astle – name withdrawn

### **Elected by Acclamation:**

- Treasurer 2024-2026 – Carolynne Ross – standing

### **Returning members**

- Second Vice President 2023-2025 – Diane Wozniak
- Secretary 2023-2025 – Ruth McConnell
- Immediate Past President – Al Bromling

Lynne Duigou will send out nomination forms to all members to try to fill the two now vacant positions by 1 June Board meeting. Current Board to stay in place until new Board chosen.

Bylaw changes – 7 bylaws to be changed.

Ballots printed	640	
Ballots mailed	637	
Ballots hand-delivered	3	
<b>Ballots Returned</b>	269 (42%)	
Votes YES	261	
Votes NO	2	
Spoiled Ballots	2	
Ballots returned in mail	4	
<b>TOTAL</b>	269	<b>all Votes CARRIED</b>

### **Article 2 – Definitions**

2.1.1.21 – Inserted definition Branch Executive at minimum of Branch Director, Treasurer and Secretary. 217/220 Yes **PASSED**

### **Article 6 – The Governance of the Society**

6.5.3 - Finance Committee consists of: “the Treasurer and representatives of the Society as nominated by the Treasurer and approved by the Board.” 206/220 Yes **PASSED**

### **Article 7 – Branches**

7.1.2 A Branch may enact such bylaws as may be required for its own good governance. Such bylaws shall be complementary to the Society bylaws in that they do not unnecessarily repeat phrases, clauses, or sentences already therein. The branch bylaws should provide information pertinent to that branch but cannot contradict the Society bylaws. As they abide by AGS bylaws, a Branch may not enact its own bylaws.” 208/220 Yes **PASSED**

### **Article 7.2 – Dormancy**

If a Branch fails to elect an Executive Committee at an Annual General Meeting, the remaining members of the Branch Executive Committee will nominate a temporary Trustee until such time as a Branch Executive Committee is elected. The AGS Executive/Board will review and may accept the choice of nominee. Any member of the Society may be selected as the Trustee. The Trustee will be provided with Terms of Reference including a specific timeline, which may be renewed at the discretion of the AGS Board. The Trustee shall report the progress of the Branch installing a Branch Executive Committee at regular AGS Board meetings. 212/220 Yes **PASSED**

During dormancy, the Trustee or an officer of the Branch shall pay all its legal debts and maintain the operations of the Branch. 211/220 Yes **PASSED**

### 7.3 Dissolution

7.3.1 Failing any timely election of a Branch Executive, the members of the Branch along with the AGS Board may move to dissolve the Branch at a meeting of the AGS Board.

Assets, other than monetary assets, will be redistributed at the discretion of the Board to other Branch libraries or community libraries, museums or archives prior to the property being vacated.

212/220 Yes

**PASSED**

7.3.4 Assets, other than monetary assets, will be redistributed at the discretion of the Board to other Branch libraries or community libraries, museums or archives prior to the property being vacated. 212/220 Yes

**PASSED**

**MOVED** by Norma Wolowyk that the ballots be destroyed.

**SECONDED** by Denise Daubert

**CARRIED**

### 8. Introduction of Executive – Lynne Duigou

- President – Al Bromling
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Craig Newman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Diane Wozniak
- Treasurer – Carolynne Ross
- Secretary – Ruth McConnell
- Immediate Past President – Lynne Duigou

### 9. Resolution of Respect

#### **WHEREAS:**

The success of our Society has been, is, and will be, dependent upon many factors, including dedicated membership, professionalism in our research; the volunteer efforts of individuals who have provided dedicated service on Committees, Boards of Directors, members of Executives, library volunteers, lecturers at educational courses and volunteer efforts in community leadership as well as the support of spouses, and/or partners, therefore:

#### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

That members of the **ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** go on record as expressing their deepest sorrow in the passing of the following AGS supporters:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>MEMBER #</b>	<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Jean Schattle	#2375	Medicine Hat	March 28, 2021
Donald Adams	#4833	Edmonton	August 29, 2022
Margaret "Marnie" Marshall	#5132	Red Deer	January 8, 2023
Igor Lozynsky	#2985	Red Deer	February 10, 2023
Anne Luciuk	#2317	Edmonton	February 24, 2023
John "Stuart" Hosler	#405	Edmonton	March 21, 2023
Douglas Jober	#3401	Edmonton	May 4, 2023
Peter Arabchuk	#4678	Edmonton	May 29, 2023
Donna Ritter	#3786	Edmonton	May 30, 2023
Art Avery	#2300	Fort McMurray	July 6, 2023
Nick Stefaniuk	#6062	Edmonton	July 14, 2023
William "Alan" Bell	#4050	Edmonton	July 30, 2023
Dave Nixon	#2141	Fort McMurray	August 20, 2023

Frances Losie	#2796	Edmonton	September 5, 2023
Sharon Livingstone	#5090	Edmonton	September 7, 2023
Beverley Trace	#1663	Edmonton	October 1, 2023
Sheila Majeau	#4485	Edmonton	October 22, 2023
Frank Easton	#103	Edmonton	November 9, 2023
Edna McKelvie	#1797	Medicine Hat	December 4, 2023
Rose Goutbeck	#1006	Edmonton	December 7, 2023
Norma Jean Stewart	#2841	Brooks	December 17, 2023
Joan P. Wegert	#4558	Edmonton	December 18, 2023
Jim Tennant	#6624	Medicine Hat	December 22, 2023
George Alfred McKay	#3504	Wetaskiwin	December 28, 2023

And that a copy of this Resolution be made part of the Minutes of this meeting. Please pause for a moment of silent tribute to their memory

**MOVED** by Laura Turnbull **SECONDED** by Doug McLeod

**CARRIED**

## 10. Courtesy Motions

**MOVED** by Connie Stuhl that to all who serve the Society so willingly and selflessly with their gifts of time, talent, energy, and enthusiasm, we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and numerous volunteers in all ten branches of the AGS for contributing 25,733 volunteer hours in 2023.

**SECONDED** by Lynne Duigou

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Kurt Patterson that we express our sincere appreciation for the incredible support provided by the dedicated, hard-working, knowledgeable and experienced AGS support staff: Shannon Cherkowski and Shirley Keller.

**SECONDED** by Doug McLeod

**CARRIED**

## 11. Presentation of Awards – Lynne Duigou

### Long-Term Membership Certificates – Twenty-five Years

Reginald & Helen Patrie, #3208	Edmonton Branch (1994-2024 lapsed 2015-2018)
Gordon Carson, #3236	Edmonton Branch (1995-2024 lapsed 2015-2018)
Neal Finn, #3974	Edmonton Branch (1999-2024)
Eleanor & Jim McMurchy, #4007	Lethbridge & District Branch (1999-2024)
Beverly Tufts, #4008	Lethbridge & District Branch (1999-2024)
Nestor Martinez, #4013	Edmonton/Brooks Branch (1999-2024)
Carol Martyniuk, #4102	Edmonton Branch (1999-2024)
Marilyn Spilchen, #4126	Edmonton Branch (1999-2024)
Alice Hoyle, #4137	Wetaskiwin Branch (1999-2024)
Jackie & Rudy de Bruin, #4142	Edmonton Branch (1999-2024)
Sharon & Russell Aney, #4148	Wetaskiwin Branch (1999-2024)
Wayne Harker, #4184	Edmonton Branch (1999-2024)
Lynda Shopka #4191	Grande Prairie & District Branch (1999-2024)

### Long-Term Membership Certificates – Forty Years

Janet Gosior, #1531	Edmonton Branch (1984-2024)
Elizabeth (Betty) Padfield, #1542	Medicine Hat Branch (1984-2024)

### Long-Term Membership Certificates – Fifty Years

Louise Croft, #152	Edmonton Branch (1974-2024)
Marika Alexandra Brenneis, #206	Edmonton Branch (1974-2024)

### **Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards – Excellence in Branch Newsletters**

- **Certificate for Best Original Article** – “*My Sámi Heritage*” by Cindy Lindstrand Mailer, #6289, Camrose Branch, *Roots and Shoots*, Late Winter 2023, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 2-3.
- **Certificate for Best Local Content** – “*Volunteer Research: Luther B. McShane Report*” by Leroy Koop #2031, Wetaskiwin Branch, *Roots & Branches*, April 2023, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 12-18.
- **Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter & Certificate for the editor to keep** Brooks & District Branch, *B&D Heir Lines*, Fall 2023, Vol. 37, No. 2, Editor: Glenn P. Michell, #6037

*Thanks to the Judging Committee: Marilyn Astle, Connie Stuhl, and Wendy Warren*

### **Peter Staveley Memorial Award – *Relatively Speaking* Article (Name on Peter Staveley plaque & Certificate for best article)**

- “*With This Ring, I Thee Wed...*” by Denise Daubert, #4976, Edmonton Branch, November 2023, Vol. 51 No. 4, pp. 154-159.
- **Honorable Mention – Jeanne Palmer** – “*Tracing the Steps of a Fille de Roi*”, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. May 2023, Vol. 51, No. 2, pp. 64-67.

*Thanks to the Judging Committee: Brenda Nugent, Lucille Walter and Donna Way*

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

- **Certificate with heartfelt thanks to Edmonton Heritage Council** – for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for Operational Funding for Genealogical Resources and Programming 2023 (\$23,537.10)
- **Certificate with heartfelt thanks to Historic Resources Management Heritage Division** – for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for funding of Genealogical Resources and Programming 2023 (\$29,000)
- **Certificate in appreciation of the dedication of the AGS Research Services Team** who earned \$4,480.73 for AGS through their efforts in assisting family history researchers

### **Special Mention Awards**

- **Norma Wolowyk, #243, Edmonton Branch** – Upon your resignation and in recognition of 11 years of dedicated service and expertise on the AGS Finance Committee 2013-2024
- **Claudine Nelson, #2592, Edmonton Branch** – Upon your resignation and in recognition of 7 years of dedicated service and expertise on the AGS Finance Committee 2017-2024
- **Gregory Bounds, #6088, Edmonton Branch** – Upon your resignation and in recognition of 2 years of dedicated service and expertise on the AGS Finance Committee 2022-2024

### **President’s Award – Kurt Paterson, #5962** – For outstanding contribution to the Society and to Edmonton Branch

Kurt Paterson has an admirable record of service to our Society and to the Edmonton Branch. In early 2022, Kurt accepted the role of Trustee for the Edmonton Branch to bring it out of dormancy. His leadership was critical in the growth of a strong and healthy Branch and the emergence of a viable Branch Executive Team in 2023. As a Director on the AGS Board, Kurt is a visionary and effectively challenges us to become more strategic in our thinking on a range of issues. He has been a leader and innovator in digital initiatives such as Google Workspace, TechSoup and the partnership with Edmonton Public Library to digitize AGS Cemetery Records for the Internet Archives, displaying a collaborative leadership style in pursuit of various Branch and Society projects.

## Retiring Members of the Executive

- **Lynne Duigou**, #5510, Membership Chair 2017-2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President 2019-2020, President 2020-2022, Past President 2022-2024
- **Craig Newman**, #5560, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2023-2024

**Total Volunteer hours** – 25,733 reported in 2023

## 12. Adjournment

Al Bromling declared the 51<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectively Submitted,

---

Ruth McConnell, Secretary

---

Al Bromling, AGS President

# EXECUTIVE REPORTS



## President

### Lianne Kruger

Volunteer Hours: 35

After voting, by the board for a new President, in September I agreed to be President of AGS.

I attended the September retreat in person in Edmonton and the November board meeting via Zoom. I have been catching up on the changes that have occurred in the last couple years.

The Finance Committee has been working on consolidated budget for the next fiscal year. This will provide increased stability and support continued resource sharing with the Branches. It provides better transparency internally and with our external stakeholders. This is following the advice given by the auditors.

## AGM and April 2025

I asked if any branch would like to host the AGM in April 2025. I had talked to the Red Deer branch before the meeting. The branch had agreed they would do the AGM and GenFair again this year if no one else wanted to. I began the planning of the AGM and GenFair with Diane Lehr and other

members of the branch. I prepared the website and registration form for the Faire.

## DNA Kits

I volunteered to get a DNA kit from FTDNA to be used as a prize for a branch for those registered to help entice memberships.

## National Genealogical Society

NGS has videos on YouTube called SLAM! I watched their videos on how other genealogical societies have been trying to increase memberships. Because spending money on advertising does not work and many do not have money to spend, they provide other ideas on how to make money. I have not presented these to the board, at this time.

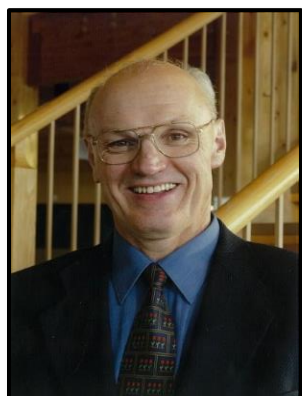
## Discord

I created a Discord server for AGS board and executive. I taught the board the basics at the retreat. When I was interviewed, in September, one of the questions I was asked was: how the board communicate to each other between board meetings. This was my solution. This is on hold until boards feel comfortable using Google Workspace.

## February Reports

At the November board meeting, it was requested that board members not have to submit a report for February board meeting. The reason is there

are no meetings in December therefore very little happens between the November and February meetings. The Board already have to write the Year End report at this time. This will decrease the amount of work at this point of the year.



## Past President

### Al Bromling

Volunteer Hours: 390

During 2024, the main elements of the Past President portfolio were:

#### **Support for Executive transition:**

The spring and summer period was a challenging time, and the Society leadership worked hard to regain stability following unexpected leadership transitions. I was involved in recruiting candidates for the Board to interview and assess while filling vacant positions following the Annual General Meeting. For family medical reasons, the successful candidate resigned, and the recruitment process was repeated. At an Extraordinary Board meeting of August, the Board chose Lianne Kruger to be our new President after a thorough recruitment and interview process.

**Nominations Chair Activity:** I have worked with the AGS Coordinator to prepare the Nomination Forms and Awards package for our elections and awards process toward the next Annual General Meeting. Succession planning for Society leadership roles is very challenging as volunteer fatigue is a factor at all levels of the organization.

**Liaison with Google Workspace project:** This project was initiated in 2022 to acquire cost effective digital tools for collaboration and communication within our Society. As liaison executive for the Google Workspace Steering Committee, I am pleased that the membership of

this initiative continues to grow. Thanks to Kurt Paterson and Maxine Maxwell for leadership for moving this initiative forward. And, thanks to the Board for moving to endorse continuation of this initiative at the September meeting. Please see the Google Workspace Pilot report for details.

**Finance and Endowment Management practices:** It is an interesting time to be involved in the work of the Finance Committee. Preparing the next two-year operating budget plan is always demanding of volunteer time and creativity. The AGS Board has committed to full consolidation of Branch and AGS central budgets which is moving forward effectively. The Finance Committee and the Board also have the challenge of integrating the Nash Endowment investment earnings into our operations.

**Board Workshop 2024:** I assisted Susan Haga with the preparations for the 2024 Fall Workshop at the Providence Centre. Thanks, Susan, for your efforts. Also, thanks to Connie Stuhl, Maxine Maxwell and Kurt Paterson for serving as co-leads for the self-directed sessions on the theme of Strong and Healthy organization. Evaluations indicate the event was valuable for participants. See Susan's report for details.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

### Craig Newman

Volunteer Hours: 285

In 2024, I chaired several Executive Committee meetings, both the ones before the Annual Meeting and after I was confirmed by the Board in June to continue in that capacity after the



resignation of the candidate for election to fill the position.

After the June Board meeting and the resignation of the President, I was pressed into the position of acting President. With the help of Al Bromling, our Past President, and the support of the Executive Committee, the Past Presidents, and members of the Board we were able to secure candidates for the position, interview them at an Extraordinary Board Meeting and elect a new President for the Society.

I attended the Annual General Meeting in Red Deer and the Board Workshop in Edmonton, both of which were extremely well done, and I look forward to attending the Annual General Meeting at Red Deer this year.

As the Chair of the Policy and Procedures Committee and with the help of Al Bromling, Diane Wozniak and David Clarke, the Privacy Policy was rewritten and was sent our lawyer for his comments and guidance. The policy has been sent to the Board for their comments and feedback.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

### **Diane Wozniak**

Volunteer Hours: 60

In 2024, I continued in the role of Executive Lead of the EPL Cemetery Digitization Project committee,

comprising Kurt Paterson, Edmonton Branch President, Susan Waters, AGS Branch library volunteer and Deb Boelstler, Edmonton Branch Library Chair. Several presentations about the cemetery books on Internet Archive were made by Kurt Paterson in Edmonton and at the Computer in Genealogy SIG. In October, I made a presentation at GenFair 2024 on accessing the books. At the

November Board meeting, I suggested that as this committee's work was basically done, we should wind down the committee. There are some issues that need to be addressed still, but the committee's work is complete on this project.

Unfortunately, I was unable to continue as co-chair on the Policy and Procedures Committee, and, at the November Board meeting, I resigned as co-chair, although I continued as a member of the committee, along with Craig Newman, 1VP. The Committee also consisted of Al Bromling, Immediate Past President; David Clarke, President Brooks & District Branch; and Shannon Cherkowski, AGS Office Administrator. This committee began work updating VII-200 Privacy Policy, to ensure that it maintains current standards for protecting our members' personal information. In addition, work began on updating Section 3, #6, 3A.6 Society Code of Conduct.

During 2024, I continued my leave from the Executive for several months and I want to express my appreciation to members of both committees, the Board and the Executive for their continued support during this time.



## **Treasurer**

### **Carolynne Ross**

Volunteer Hours: 505

#### **Audit 2024**

The audit was completed for the year 2024 by Louise Chauvet, CPA, CA and her team at KBH Chartered Professional Accountants. KBH prepared Consolidated Financial Statements for the Society, which includes the income and expenses for the ten (10) branches and the Provincial Office. The AGS Branches that received a more in-depth review were Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, as both had casinos in 2024, as well as the AGS Edmonton and the AGS Provincial Office. Compilation Engagements



Reports for the AGS Edmonton Branch and AGS Provincial Office were also prepared. The Consolidated Statement of Operations for the AGS Society showed an excess of revenue over expenses of \$27,549, with revenue of \$230,142 and expenses of \$202,593.

These are some of the major variances (rounded):

<b>Income 2024</b>	<b>\$230,142</b>
Increase in interest & investments	20,000
Increase donations	3,700
Decrease in casino funds	11,000
No conference in 2024	21,000

<b>Expenses 2024</b>	<b>202,593</b>
Lower cost with lack of Conference	23,800
Lower cost of utilities	950
Increase in costs of professional fees	6,300
Increase in advertising & promotion	1,700
Increase in salaries/contracts	5,800
Increase in library acquisitions	1,900
Increase in office supplies	4,500
Increase in website maintenance	2,200

The GST and the T3010 Registered Charity Information Returns were filed with the Canada Revenue Agency on a timely basis.

The contracts with the Relatively Speaking Editor and the AGS Bookkeeper were renewed.

#### **Guaranteed Income Certificates (GIC)**

The AGS Society continues to have Guaranteed Investment Certificates (both redeemable and non-redeemable) which provide a three-month safety net should the operating budget become compromised.

#### **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**

A total of \$30,000 of the \$40,000 of the Canada Emergency Business Account grant was paid back to the Government of Canada in January 2024. As per the terms of the grant, the Society kept \$10,000 plus any interest earned.

#### **Casino/Gaming**

The AGS Casino/Gaming Chair has submitted this report.

#### **Grants & Other Funding**

The Grants & Other Funding Chair has submitted this report.

#### **Richard “Dick” Nash Endowment Fund**

AGS received \$413,000 as one of the benefactors of the Richard Nash Estate in 2022. This amount was placed in a redeemable GIC and was renewed at higher interest rates throughout 2023. Members of the AGS Board met in a virtual meeting with the Scotiabank Global Wealth Advisor in January 2024. This was followed by a recommendation by the AGS Finance Committee to the February 2024 AGS Board meeting proposing that the principal of \$413,000, and \$27,000 of the interest earned through the investment of Guaranteed Investment Certificates, be invested in Scotiabank Global Wealth Mutual Funds. The AGS Board accepted this proposal and invested the said amount in 70% low risk and 30% medium risk mutual funds. As of 31 December 2024, the account value was \$470,171.99.

AGS received further monies from the final distribution of the estate which will be added to the principal as shown in Note 10 of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### **Research**

The AGS Research Chair has submitted this report.

#### **Relatively Speaking Sustainability Fund**

The Relatively Speaking Editor continues to be funded from the Relatively Speaking Sustainability Fund.

#### **Membership Revitalization Reserve Fund**

No withdrawals were made from this Fund in 2024.

#### **Facility Manager**

The position of Facility Manager reports to the AGS Treasurer. Bruce Boelstler has performed minor maintenance repairs to the AGS Office and

the AGS Edmonton Branch equipment, has completed and maintained the inventories of all holdings for the AGS Office and AGS Edmonton Branch, has updated and maintained the site security codes, and disposed of non-repairable furniture and equipment. Thank you for willingness to keep “watch” over Unit #162.

### **Bookkeeping**

Shirley Keeler, the AGS Bookkeeper, continues to provide excellent and efficient service to our Society. Not only does she do the bookkeeping for the Society, but she also consolidates all the financial information for the requirements of Revenue Canada; applies for the GST refunds for a number of the Branches and the Society; provides information and advice for the Branch Treasurers; maintains an excellent working relationship with our Office Coordinator, Shannon Cherkowski; provides assistance to the Grants & Other Funding Coordinator, Marion Rex Howard; prepares all financial material for the quarterly committee meetings and for the yearly audit, and assists in liaising with the auditors. She is a valued member of the financial aspect of the Society.

### **Finance Committee**

The members of the AGS Finance Committee are: Lianne Kruger, AGS President (Ex Officio); Al Bromling, Grande Prairie Branch; Laura Turnbull, Casino/Gaming Chair; Marion Rex Howard, Grants and Other Funding Chair; Connie Stuhl, AGS Drayton Valley Branch and AGS Finance Committee Secretary; Janine Carroll, AGS Camrose Branch Representative and AGS Membership Chair; Kurt Paterson, Advisor (non-voting) and Carolynne Ross, AGS Treasurer and AGS Finance Committee Chair. They have contributed much knowledge, many hours and lots of patience to meet the challenges of the growing financial management of the Society. My thanks to each one of you for your support and dedication to maintaining the well-being of the Alberta Genealogical Society.



## **Secretary**

### **Ruth McConnell**

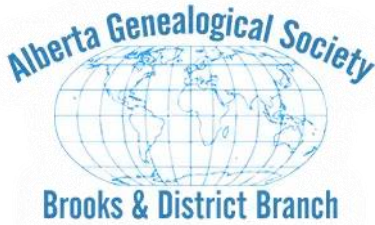
Volunteer Hours: 109

All Executive and Board meetings for 2024 have been recorded, approved and sent to the Office Coordinator and the AGS Webmaster to

upload to the website. Hard copies were made by the Office Coordinator and filed at the AGS Office.

As Secretary, I attended six Executive meetings, five Board of Director meetings and one Annual General Meeting. (minutes of the June 1, 2024 Board meeting were taken by Norma Wolowyk). For all meetings (in person or on Zoom), I prepared a minute's template, took notes into the template (and taped the minutes,). After the meetings, I compiled them, sent out drafts to appropriate members and made changes as requested. Altered drafts were sent to the Office Coordinator and the Webmaster for uploading to the AGS Website for Board approval. When approved at the next meeting, the final versions were again sent for uploading to the AGS website. I organized lunch and snacks for one in-person Board meeting. The sequence of events was altered somewhat by a motion that allowed draft minutes of Executive meetings be sent to the larger Board ahead of the Board meetings.

# BRANCH REPORTS



## Brooks & District Branch

### David Clarke

Volunteer Hours: 623

Volunteers: 12

Membership: 21  
members, with 4 Life  
members

**Volunteer Hours:** 623 involving 12 active members.

#### Internet

Facebook 9,902 visits, reach 1,659, 142 followers.  
B & D Website – 616 sessions

**2023-25 Executive** retained in their 2-year terms, the only change being the introduction of Lee Hunter as Casino Chairman.

**Meetings & Presentations:** Hybrid/Executive meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm, excluding June which has an extended Field trip. There is a summer hiatus for July and August. Public and guests are always welcomed. Presentations offered monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month except December which has a Christmas dinner and social.

**January 20: “Blue Blood to New Blood”** – power

point on the Duke of Sutherland’s bungalow a local historic landmark now for sale. Good attendance of 20 with 5 members and 15 guests

**February 17: “Reclaiming John Ware”** – Screening of NFB film by Calgarian Cheryl Foggo on local legend, freed slave and range titan John Ware. Great attendance of 30 with 6 members and 24 guests. Also in February, Patricia Hutton was recognized for studies completed aided by Mary Kay Bursary courtesy of Grande Prairie Branch.

**March 23: Family Search & Billion Graves** site introduction and refresher updates by LDS facilitators Alan and April Robertson

**April 26:** Cohost weekend **Casino** in Medicine Hat. Brooks manning the decks Friday, Medicine Hat members took on Saturday, revenue again divided evenly.

**May 25: Name Game** – Sharing novelty names and naming patterns session for members with a shaky Zoom link for a shut-in.

**June 05:** Field trip to Bassano Dam and internal tour of the massive facility followed by a lunch in Bassano.

**July & August:** No meeting

**September 28: Brooks & District Museum – Fall Fair** we staffed the historic Kitchener one room school with displays as a meet and greet and intro for AGS to the general public. Also, a Library work Bee Sep 18 as we continue clipping all the local obituaries and putting in slip case binders and eventually load to our Website. Nestor Martinez, President Emeritus, kindly stepped up to represent us at AGS Retreat and Board meeting in Edmonton.

**October 21-26: Family History Week.** Mayors’ proclamation with photo ops published in the Brooks Bulletin. Artifact display with submissions from members and public, mounted 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of

Brooks Library adjacent to our Meeting/Library room. An open house was held Wednesday and several people dropped in. Also, Rob Kindred donated his mother's superlative 3 volume Genealogical scrapbooks chronicling the PFRA settlement of Rolling Hills, AB and inter-related families.

**November 7:** Screening film **Battle of Beaumont Hamel** and the slaughter of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at the Somme, July 01, 1916.

**December 11:** Christmas get-together for a gala roast beef buffet and a night of games and camaraderie.

**Research:** Unusually sparse enquiries this year but we remain fortunate to have designated Charter member Clara Iwaasa, a master at local resources.

**B & D Heirlines:** Biannual newsletter upgraded with addition of modern graphics and colour printing courtesy Branch Historian Lorraine Spence issued #38–Fall, 2024. Nominated for various Kenneth Young Awards editor Glenn Michell. We look to upload on Website.

**Library:** Processed 2 boxes of donated books as well as materials gained from Camrose Branch library dispersal.



## Camrose Branch

### Deb Trout

Volunteer Hours: 594  
Volunteers: 14  
Membership: 19

President: Deb Trout

Vice President: Janine Carroll

Secretary: Lilyon Lundy

Treasurer: Alora Nelson

Membership: Wendy Roth

Newsletter: Maureen Scrutton

Events: Cindy Mailer

Social Media/Website: Deb Trout & Maureen Scrutton

Director-at-Large: Bev Webster

**January and February** we did not hold monthly meetings although our SIGs did meet.

March was our AGM with all existing officers returning by acclamation.

### Meeting topics for 2024:

**March:** Artificial Intelligence webinar. 13 attendees

**April:** Researching in Sweden. 15 attendees

**May:** Researching in Norway. 7 attendees

**June:** Which Ancestor Would You Like to Interview and Why? 9 attendees

**July:** A visit to the Sodbuster Museum in Strome, Alberta. 15 attendees

**August:** Our summer social at the Ferry Point Cemetery. 8 attendees

**September:** Using Social History in Your Research. 12 attendees

**October:** Using Newspapers in Your Research. 10 attendees

**November:** Show and Tell: Pick a military ancestor and tell their story. 10 attendees

**December:** Christmas Social with Show and Tell of Christmas Traditions/Stories. 17 attendees

#### Events:

**September:** We hosted a table at the Camrose Registration Night. Although we spoke with many people, unfortunately, we did not gain any new members.

**Library disbursement:** As we have no permanent premises and the difficulty of accessing our library, the decision was made to disburse our books. Most have gone to group members and AGS branches. A few remain which we plan to find homes for this year.

**Google Workspace:** Camrose is one of the branches selected to move forward with this project. Members have attended the presentations offered by the Grande Prairie branch, and we are slated to go 'live' in February.

#### SIGS:

**Writing Your Family History:** The group continues to meet every Monday morning. There is a core group of six members. The group attended a two-day writing retreat at Fawn Meadows Golf Course in Delburne, AB.

**Military Research:** We have covered the conflicts in which Canadians participated twice, and are looking to expand our horizons. Currently, attendees are working on researching a military ancestor with guidance from our gurus. We are also exploring an opportunity to collaborate with the local Royal Canadian Legion and the Camrose & District Centennial Museum.

**Organizing SIG:** The group meets on the first Monday of each month. We organize our files and do research. We are refocusing this group with a new name of Members Helping Members. Everyone is invited to continue to use this time for organizing, researching and sharing, but we are also including a "ask for help" or "lend a hand" aspect. All members have their unique area of

interest and knowledge. We hope to tap into our collective expertise to help others.



## Drayton Valley Branch

### Connie Stuhl

Volunteer                      Hours:  
276.25  
Volunteers: 5  
Membership: 9

The weather was very cold in January and prevented some from attending our meeting. The 4 people who attended watching via Zoom, a presentation by Tricia Hutton from Grande Prairie Branch on Seek and You May Find – Census Research Strategies and Analysis and found it very informative.

In February, we held our Annual General Meeting with 4 in attendance, which resulted in no changes to the Executive. After the Annual General Meeting, we held our Branch meeting with the same 4 in attendance. We watched a webinar on AI and Genealogy, Trouble Ahead? which resulted in some discussion.

For March, we had 7 in attendance, two of these were guests, who were researching in the Drayton Valley area. We held a round table and reviewed some of the local resources for our guests. I reviewed submitted Branch newsletters for consideration of the Kenneth Young award along with Marilyn Astle and Wendy Warren.

April brought 2 more guests to our meeting, with a total of 5 in attendance. We shared what we used



as Family Tree Programs and what we liked about them. There was also discussion about DNA and sharing where we were in our family tree research. I also attended an excellent GenFair hosted by Red Deer Branch and the AGS Annual General Meeting.

In May, we discussed methods of increasing the visibility of our Branch to try to increase membership with 4 in attendance. We also discussed visiting a local cemetery to update the listing.

For June, the Drayton Valley Library presented a few books that they had weeded off the shelf from their collection. None of the 4 members in attendance wanted the books, so they were offered to other Branches for their libraries. We also watched a webinar on A Fresh Light on Old Newspapers by Dave Obee.

We do not hold meetings in July and August. In August, 3 people (2 from our Branch plus a guest) reviewed the Central Cemetery (also known as the Anglican Cemetery) to update our records. We are hoping to submit the additions to AGS to include in the ARNI database in the near future. One of our members was contacted by a great granddaughter of the man who was Drayton Valley's first murder victim. The two of us met with her, her mom and husband. She was surprised but also found it very emotional, especially when reading about the case and then visiting his grave site. One of the artifacts that she had in her possession was a WW1 Brass Princess Mary cigarette/chocolate gift tin presented to the armed forces of the British Empire at Christmas, 1914. On the back of the tin, he had scratched in his name and full address in Wales. What a treasure! The tour ended with a visit with some family members who still live around Drayton Valley.

In September, we explored ideas for our 30<sup>th</sup> celebration. We did not have time to host it in 2024 so are planning for October 18, 2025. With

4 in attendance, we watched the webinar Don't Believe Everything You Read. I also attended the AGS retreat in Edmonton.

For October, we had 5 in attendance, and continued planning our 30<sup>th</sup> celebration. The Family History Centre at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is excited to partner with us. We also received a \$100 donation for our research in Drayton Valley's 1<sup>st</sup> murder and the presentation of a binder of the information to the nephew of the man that had been murdered.

In November, we had 4 in attendance. We discussed Google Workspace and on the 16<sup>th</sup>, the President and Secretary/Treasurer attended the introductory session presented from Grande Prairie. We did not feel we were ready for this round, but would be open using it in the future.

We do not meet in December.



## **Edmonton Branch**

### **Kurt Paterson**

Volunteer Hours: 13,209

Volunteers: 55

Membership: 391

### **Volunteer Contributions**

Collectively, our volunteers contribute thousands of hours to supporting our society. We want to thank all of the over 50 AGS Edmonton volunteers for your generosity, time, talent and effort. Your contributions help ensure we are working towards one of our goals of being healthy and strong. Our network of dedicated members is our Branch's lifeline. We saw a 48% increase in volunteer hours

this year, moving from 8,901 last year to just over 13,000 in 2024. Thank you to each and every one of you!

### **Membership Growth**

Our community continues to grow. We welcomed more members this year, with a 2% increase bringing us to 391 members in 2024, up from 382 in 2023. Welcome to all our new members!

### **A Year of Activity and Engagement**

2024 has been a busy year with a lot of positive developments. We have focused on growing our membership, increasing engagement, and recruiting volunteers. The co-hosted AGS/LDS Family History Fair was a success, drawing nearly 300 participants. We're already planning another event for October 2025. Check out our events page (<https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events>) for details later this year.

### **Strategic Planning Helped Shape Our Path**

We held productive town hall meetings to gather feedback on our 2024-2026 strategic and branch operational plans. Your input is valuable as we shape the future of AGS Edmonton.

### **Engaging Special Interest Groups**

Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to be a major benefit for our members. Belonging to a SIG can help you tap into the experience of others and collaborate on research, forging friendships and new connections in the process. We hosted 38 sessions this year, up from 35 in 2023; a significant increase from 17 in 2022. With an average of 16 participants per session, engagement and member value were strong. A special thank you to our SIG leaders and speakers. We're looking forward to two new SIGs in 2025; a Canada USA SIG and a Mac Genealogy User Group.

### **Branding: A Consistent Professional Look**

The implementation of our branch brand visual identity, approved by members at the 2024 AGM, is on track. The updated resources, include Brand Guidelines, logo files, and a Canva "brand kit".

### **Education Committee is "under development"**

A new initiative in 2024, our Education Committee is focused on providing educational opportunities to enhance family history research skills and develop resources. We're still building the team, refining roles, and much more. More information will be available soon.

### **Google Workspace: Increasing Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Enhanced Collaboration**

Since June 2023, we have made progress on the implementation of various aspects of Google Workspace. The next step is migrating to Google Workspace Gmail early in 2025. We are pleased that other AGS branches are joining us on this journey. Welcome Grande Prairie, Camrose, Red Deer, Lethbridge and AGS Provincial.

### **Website: Connecting and Informing**

Our website is constantly changing and evolving. This year, we launched new volunteer pages, created marketing giveaways, and further enhanced our popular event pages. We also created a Family History Fair website page to help us promote this very successful event. A very special thank you to our webmasters!

### **MacEwan University Partnership: Research and Exploration**

Since our partnership with MacEwan University began in 2023, it has produced some very interesting results. This year, two students are working on their capstone research projects that will help us understand perceptions of genealogy, by making it more accessible and exciting for a younger audience, as well as improve communication within our AGS library.

### **The Future of Genealogy – Looking Ahead**

Going forward, we are exploring ways to increase member services and deliver value. We are seeking new partnerships with like-minded organizations as well as planning the 2025 Family History Fair. We will continue to build our skills, capabilities, and

competencies so that we can promote the study of genealogy and genealogical research.

### **Our AGS Support Team**

Thank you to Shannon Cherkowski, our AGS Office Coordinator, and Shirley Keller, our AGS Bookkeeper, for all their support.

In closing, I would like to, once again, recognize and thank our wonderful, dedicated volunteers. Your time and dedication are essential to ensuring AGS remains strong and healthy.

[president@edmontongenealogy.ca](mailto:president@edmontongenealogy.ca)

PS: Microsoft (Gemini), January 2025, AI (2025), [Gemini](#)

PPS: Check out our website for upcoming events - <https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events>



## **Grande Prairie & District Branch**

### **Maxine Maxwell**

Volunteer Hours: 1327.5

Volunteers: 8

Membership: 44

### **2024-25 Executive & Committees**

**President:** Maxine Maxwell

**Vice-President:** Gail Schau

**Acting Secretary/contracted Assistant:** Juanita Jordan

**Treasurer:** Gail Schau

**Director at Large/Genie:** Jay Sydoruk

**Past President/Genie:** Al Bromling

**In Addition:**

**Bookkeeper:** Shirley Keller (contracted)

**Membership:** Brenda Henning

**Researcher:** Joan Bowman

After one year working with our contracted

Assistant, we overwhelmingly made the decision to renew her Contract with a slight increase in her rate of pay for another year. It has been amazing how her assistance has lightened the administrative load within the Executive. Similarly, our contracting of the AGS Bookkeeper has also been extremely successful in fulfilling some of our financial obligations. These two decisions have proven better than we ever imagined. Consequently, we no longer feel that dissolution of our Branch is as imminent.

We are still waiting for word on our next casino in 2026.

### **Meetings:**

2024 Executive Meetings were rescheduled to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of each month except July, August, December, with the expanded Executive Committee of eight members, all of the meetings were in-person in the Isabel Campbell Room of the GP Public Library.

Due to poor in-person turnouts, we did not sponsor any membership meetings, but chose instead to organize member/public workshops, co-sponsored with our like-minded Community partners like, the South Peace Regional Archives, South Peace Historical Society, Museum and LDS FHC.

Our biggest challenge still remains recruiting volunteers, as half of our members live outside of Grande Prairie. This has had a huge impact on our volunteer base in helping with outreach, events and activities.

Our hybrid **AGM** on March 20, attracted 12 in-person members and guests. Following the business section, Drs. Meaghan Peuramaki-Brown and Shawn Morton spoke and showed artifacts from their recent “Bezanson Townsite Archaeology Project”, for the Program. The Executive and Committee Chairs rosters remained unchanged for 2024-25.



### **Programs and Community Collaboration:**

Our ongoing programs that are quite popular and occasionally increase our memberships are:

**Genies in the Library** where our 2 faithful volunteers receive clients on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays (except the summer months), for drop-in or by appointment one-on-one research assistance,

**Genies on the Road** – where a few of us travel and offer assistance to small groups for our Regional Libraries' patrons, whenever they request our services.

**Research Queries** – our long-term Researcher fills requests for obituaries look-ups and other local information by request. The charge is \$20/hour and clients can conveniently pay by e-transfer or PayPal through our Bookkeeper to obtain immediate results.

**Branch Library** – our Branch Librarian monitors our large Genealogical Library, (Reference and Circulating) and is always on the lookout for additional materials.

**Margaret Kay Memorial Bursary:** The 2024 Margaret Kay Bursary, in the amount of \$1500, was awarded to Bradley Pierson (2<sup>nd</sup> time), in support his latest project, Forensic Genealogy. Per his commitment as recipient of the Bursary, Bradley agreed to offer a presentation on May 10, 2025.

**Branch Databases:** Information continues to be updated as indexing of obituaries from local and regional newspapers are submitted to the Website's 'Obituary Index'. The online Funeral Home Obituaries are collected, printed and added to indexed binders in the Isabel Campbell Room.

**Facebook Account:** Our Assistant maintains a current, attractive and active page, recently announcing 87 followers.

**Website:** This was added to our Assistant's job description and we now boast a current and informative Website that has seen much more traffic as well.

**Google Workspace (GW):** As part of our commitment to AGS, of being the 2nd branch to pilot GW, GP & District Branch contracted both Jeannine Younger as Trainer, and Doug Christian

as Administrator, to help get more of AGS on board in 2024-25. We are pleased to offer this incentive and service with our Casino Proceeds.

### **Membership Programs:**

**Jan. 17** -- Tricia Hutton, "Census Research Strategies and Analysis" (virtual, 10 attended)

**Jan. 22** – Census branch-sponsored Workshop/follow-up to Tricia's presentation (7 attended/public event)

**Feb. 20** – Connie Davis, "Wiki tree", virtual presentation (7 attended/public event)

**March 20** – AGM (12 attended)

**March 25** – Familysearch Workshop, in-person event (8 attended/public event)

**April 7** – Finding Home in the Peace Country/Paths of our Ancestors, a joint seminar with the South Peace Historical Society with 4 featured presenters (16 attended/public event, supported by GP & District Branch)

**May 11** – Google Workspace Training Session for GP Branch/AGS (13 attended/hybrid event, supported by GP Branch).

**June 9** – Francophone Church Architecture & Museums Bus Tour – co-sponsored with the Peace country Historical Society (26 attended/members from both groups & the public, supported by GP Branch).

**Oct. 12** – Google Workspace Training for GP Branch/AGS invited (10 attended)

**Nov. 6** – Remembrance Program co-sponsored with GP Museum & Peace Country Historical Society (15 attended/public event, supported by GP Branch)

**Every last Tues. of the month**, in collaboration with the newly reopened LDS FHC in GP, we have an arrangement where they offer a mini workshop and research opportunity for our members, free of charge.

### **Other Outreach in 2024:**

**Jan. 8** – We were interviewed by an Eastlink Recreational Centre publicity person and were included in a promotional video loop to play continuously in that facility.

**May 4** – GP Branch assisted the South Peace

Historical Society at their Heritage Fair in the GP Public Library (Genealogy for Youth activity for about 45 Grade 5's)

**June 4** – Genies on the Road to the Elmworth Library (4 clients).

We manned several **display tables** at Community Events:

**March 7 & 8** at the South Peace Teachers' Convention, showcasing the AGS Genealogy for Youth Program.

**June 5** as part of the City of Grande Prairie sponsored Seniors' Week.

**Aug. 4** a City of Grande Prairie sponsored Heritage Day, outdoors in Muskoseepi Park.

We donated **DNA kits**, along with one-year AGS complimentary memberships as door prizes for some of these events, plus the Retired Teachers St. Nicholas Christmas Dinner, which netted 2 new members in 2024.

**Volunteer of the Week/Month** – In collaboration with the Grande Prairie Regional Association of Volunteer Organizations' promotional program, all of the GP Branch Executive were recognized publicly, were awarded certificates, Tim Hortons' mugs and gift cards. The certificates and supporting descriptions were displayed in the Isabel Campbell Room of the GP Library, which is always open to the public.

**Branch Presidents' Meetings** – GP Branch helped coordinate and promote the virtual Meetings with other Branch Presidents from across the province. Agendas and minutes from the 2024 Meetings were consistently shared with the AGS provincial President and are currently in a file awaiting uploading to AGS Google Workspace. The AGS President was always invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Discussions ranged from orientation questions of newly recruited presidents', strategies that attracted new members and speakers' lists, to publicity and programming ideas, and much more.

An ongoing concern from the beginning, was the lack of provincial funding to offer meaningful

programming in order to attract new members and the necessary visibility in the community. This resulted in some increased provincial support in 2024. As a united group, we felt we have influence in suggesting relevant input to the AGS Board Meeting Agendas.

In addition, we strove to help resolve some of the communication/transparency issues AGS is experiencing, by appointing one President from the group to report to each Board Meeting. The 10 branches involved have all expressed gratitude for the opportunity to brainstorm and share ideas in an informal setting. They all see great value in continuing these discussions into the future.

Overall, Grande Prairie and District Branch had an intensive, but a healthier 2024 as we finally got to experience some of the positive results of the survival initiatives we had worked hard to implement. A few of us were even able to find time for a little family research, a huge reward! We are especially gratified to have had the ability to promote the expansion of the Google Workspace Initiative throughout AGS in 2024-25.



## **Lethbridge & District Branch**

**Barry Simmonds**

Volunteer Hours: 3,173

Volunteers: 22

Membership: 51

### **Meetings**

We had hybrid meetings in January. The March meeting was cancelled due to technical difficulties. We had hybrid meetings in April, May, September and November. In June, we had our annual BBQ picnic. We had an average of 5 members present, and 10 present by Zoom.

### **Annual General Meeting**

In February, we held our annual general meeting. This was an off year to have an election of new officers.

### **Presentations**

**January:** Tom Johnson gave a presentation on *“How the Dominion Lands Act was part of settling our Prairies.”* 18 attendees.

**February:** Melissa Barker did a presentation on *“Ten Things that a genealogist should do before leaving a Library or an Archive”*. 17 attendees.

**March:** The presentation was cancelled due to technical difficulties with Zoom.

**April:** Elaine Toth presented the *“Nikkei Memory Capture Project- Japanese Culture & Internment”*. 21 attendees.

**May:** Holly Bandelow from the West Lethbridge Lions Club talked to us about the International Lions Project *“Soles for Souls”* and the recycle project for good used shoes. 18 attendees.

**September:** David Tyler was our guest speaker and talked about *“Why history is such a vital tool for Genealogy Research”*. 17 attendees.

**October:** At our International Potluck Dinner our member Velda Sjovold talked about the *“How the Story got Started-The makings of a Family Story.”* We had 32 members turn out for this event. 19 attendees.

**November:** Andrew Chernevych put on a presentation about *“WWI Ukrainian Internment Camps in Alberta”*. 21 attendees.

### **Other Gatherings**

In June, we had a BBQ potluck meal at a member's home. We had 29 members at this event.

### **Donation of Books**

In August, the branch received a donation of 100+ history books from the Camrose branch. The

branch did not have a place to store the history books.

We are busy reorganizing our library and updating our database of Alberta History books. Special thanks to Wendy, Julie and Roger for their dedication to this reorganization.

### **Speaker List Project**

The speaker list project that our branch had proposed did not proceed due to the lack of participation of the other branches and no training on Google Workspace. We look forward to implementing this in the new year.

### **Other Projects & Activities**

In September, we were invited to have a display table at the Family History center in Lethbridge at their new location.

### **Fund Raising**

We put on a very successful casino in the beginning of September. A special thank to Doug McLeod and the volunteers who worked this casino.

### **Branch News**

Our Resource Centre was open to the public three afternoons a week. We are now open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

The Branch newsletter *Yesterday's Footprints* was published three times as usual and is publicly available on our website.

Our *Facebook* group *Lethbridge Genealogy* reached over 432 members by the end of 2024 as compared to 365 members by the end of 2023.

Our project of collecting and digitizing obituaries and funeral cards continued. Our current dedicated volunteer team includes Alma and Charlie Berridge, Louella Cronkhite, Eleanor McMurchy and Bev Tufts.

Our branch started to bring in Google Workspace. 5 members have attended 2 training sessions held

in November and December, with further training in January. Along with the training, new position email addresses will be put in place next year. As our little society grows, our record retention is not very good. The Workspace will ease the burden of finding records for our business.

The Branch is grateful for volunteers that have made 2024 a successful year.

### **AGM in Red Deer**

Four of our members attended the “Family History Fair” and our AGM put on by the Red Deer branch and the Family History center. A new distribution of funds was implemented to help the branches.

### **AGS Retreat**

Our branch president attended the retreat and BOD meeting, in Edmonton, in September.

### **Google Workspace**

Our branch joined the training needed for Google workspace. The executive is looking forward to the implementation next year.

### **Conclusion**

As 2024 ends, our major concerns are to maintain the facility, make some minor improvements, to meetings and our library, increase our membership numbers, and find volunteers willing to take on various responsibilities. My appreciation and thanks to all who continue to support the branch. A special thank-you to the other members of the current executive team: Julie Miller, Wendy Warren and Kieran Biggins.



## **Medicine Hat & District Branch**

### **Deb Wickham**

Volunteer Hours:  
2,970.75  
Volunteers: 28  
Membership: 60

2,970.75 total volunteer hours contributed by 28 active members

Deceased Members: Gordon Newman and Edna McKelvie (December 2023) Our Branch acknowledges the tremendous support both of these past members contributed to our society.

### **2024 Branch Executive**

**President:** Debra Wickham  
**Vice President:** Dwight Brown  
**Secretary:** Jocelyn Macaulay  
**Treasurer:** Elaine Zimmer  
**Past President:** Donald Zimmer

The Treasurer and Secretary positions are newly appointed due to one member moving away and another resigning.

### **Meetings**

Hybrid meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday evening of each month, excluding July and August. All meetings are open to the public. Attendance was as follows:

**January:** Annual General Meeting, 17 members and 2 guests

**February:** No meeting held due to the late January meeting

**March:** 16 members and 4 guests

**April:** 9 members, no quorum

**May:** 19 members and 1 guest

**June:** 13 members

**July:** No meeting

**August:** No meeting  
**September:** 10 members  
**October:** 14 members  
**November:** 7 members, no quorum  
**December:** 16 members

There were two months without a quorum; therefore, no business was conducted. This is reflected in our minutes. Only three programs were presented in 2024 due to the absence of a Program Chairperson. Executive meetings were called on an as-needed basis, with three meetings held in 2024.

### **Certificates Received**

**10 Years:** Dwight Brown, Jennifer Daffy, Judy Todd  
**15 Years:** Faye Knoblick  
**20 Years:** Tony Giesenger  
**25 Years:** Melvin Bender, Uwe Krickhahn  
**30 Years:** Eileen Stahl  
**35 Years:** Kathy Gleisner

### **Duties, Rules, and Procedures**

The committee continues to meet and revise processes as required.

### **Library**

Under the guidance of Sandra Buchko, significant progress was made in culling and cataloging our library resources into ResourceMate®. New acquisitions were made under updated guidelines for books. Special thanks to Doreen Schank, who spent many hours selling books removed from the library. She did an amazing job and raised a significant amount for our branch.

In-library resources available to members include Newspaper.com, NewspaperArchive.com, and AmericanAncestors.org. The library committee consistently updates members on available resources and takes requests for additional materials.

### **Projects**

The Medicine Hat Branch is promoting a research trip to Salt Lake City. As of year-end, this

initiative remains uncertain due to high US exchange rates.

The next project involves amalgamating all obituary resources. In November, as President, I put a halt on the Google Workspace Initiative until someone steps forward to lead and guide our members.

We also have plans to hold a Beginner's Genealogy Course in 2025 if enough volunteers can commit the time.

### **Research**

The committee handled 10 research requests in 2024, with a great response time.

### **Sammis Seeker**

The position of editor remains vacant, and no new issues have been published.

### **Social Media**

At present, we have 252 followers on Facebook, our only social media platform. This account is used to inform members about upcoming events, genealogical resources, stories, and current news.

### **Special Interest Groups**

Our "*Germans from Russia*" SIG, under the guidance of Melvin Bender, continues to provide valuable information, tips, and assistance for researching ancestors.

### **Special Presentations**

In August, we participated in the Medicine Hat Heritage Event at Towne Square to promote new membership and involvement in our branch. Displays included historic photos, genealogy documents, vital statistics certificates, and assorted books from our library. A laptop was set up to showcase our new website and highlight our offerings. A DNA kit was given away, and we offered 30-minute private sessions for free genealogical assistance, which resulted in four sign-ups. Overall, the event was a big success.

## Website

Our new website launched in July 2024 to great reviews. Some minor updates and fixes, particularly within the telephone book section, are still in progress. The site recorded 13,441 users and 16,862 hits in 2024, with visitors from Canada, the USA, Great Britain, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Mexico, and many other countries.



## Red Deer & District Branch

### Jessie Dial

Volunteer Hours: 1,922  
Volunteers: 26  
Membership: 52

Last year, our branch thrived thanks to volunteers who dedicated their time to ensure smooth operations. This commitment is evident in the increase of volunteer hours, variety of projects we managed, successful social events we hosted, and the collaborative efforts undertaken over the past year. Each month, we work hard to bring in speakers covering a wide range of topics. In the last year, these topics included organizing research, DNA analysis, online resources, and more. We continue to offer hybrid meetings, both in person and online, which has positively impacted member attendance, particularly during the winter months when travel conditions are challenging.

In April, we partnered with the local LDS Church for our Family History Fair, featuring great speakers and positive feedback. Hosting the AGS AGM boosted our attendance significantly. It was great to see members from other branches and share the event with AGS. We are delighted that other branches are also collaborating with their local LDS churches to host similar fairs.

In June, our Family History Writer's SIG concluded their activities for the season with a delightful 'proper' English tea, graciously hosted by one of our dedicated members. This group meets monthly and often enjoys coffee together after the scheduled meeting.

During the Christmas season, they attended a Christmas dinner organized by the local seniors' center and presented a small gift to our local Archives in appreciation of their support with our library, hosting our SIG meetings, and contributing as guest speakers.

We have made significant progress on our Find A Grave project and anticipate nearing completion by the end of next year. This initiative, which began in 2023, aims to photograph and upload all of the memorials at Alto Reste Cemetery. Since its inception, we have added more than a thousand memorials.

In the fall, we offered a Beginner's Genealogy course in collaboration with the Red Deer Public Library. The free eight-week class, held every Saturday, covered a comprehensive range of topics from interviewing family members to DNA analysis. The course quickly reached full capacity, leading to a waiting list and inquiries as to when we would host another class. No dates have been decided at this time. We also welcomed a few new members and received substantial positive feedback.

Our branch was lucky to be able to join the Google Workspace pilot project at Christmas time. While there will be an adjustment period and a few growing pains, we are very excited to see what this will do for our branch. Already we are having members try out the new features and we are getting a lot of positive feedback.

Our branch had a busy 2024 and looks forward to 2025. We are working on a collaboration with the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery, hosting the 2025 Family History Fair as well as the AGS AGM, and a few other initiatives.





## Wetaskiwin Branch

### Alice Hoyle

Volunteer Hours: 2,315

Volunteers: 17

Membership: 29

2024 Executive:

President – Alice Hoyle

Vice-President – Nelda Layton

Secretary – Pam Cooke

Treasurer – Leroy Koop

### PROJECTS:

**Archives** – Wetaskiwin branch members continue to actively support the City of Wetaskiwin Archives. Some of our members are volunteering by entering data onto the spreadsheets created by City of Wetaskiwin staff. Branch members have been able to refer researchers to the Archives and this is a step forward.

**Collectibles Market** – Prior to the Collectibles Market, Carole Koop, one of our branch members, organized and looked after a display table at the Senior Citizens' Centre Strawberry Tea fundraiser to promote our upcoming project. On April 19, 2024, branch members held a Collectibles Market fund-raising project with proceeds going to the Heritage Museum. The Collectibles Market was held at the Heritage Museum, to support them with the database expenses relating to the Archives collection. Branch members donated items from their personal collection. The net proceeds of \$908.00 was donated to the Heritage Museum.

**Branch Resource Centre** – Our resources are now housed in a separate room at the Archives. The resources we have in our collection are available to those researching at the Archives.

**Community Outreach:** Branch Vice-President Nelda Layton is the Director of the Family Search Center in Wetaskiwin. She and her team provide training sessions and one-on-one assistance for those interested in researching their ancestors.

Wetaskiwin Branch member Bob Maynard received a Lifetime Community Achievement Award from the Town of Millet in October. This award recognizes his various volunteer contributions to organizations in and around Millet. Bob is currently meeting with school officials in Millet, with the goal of introducing family research to the curriculum of some of the elementary schools.

### Education and Training

Our Program Coordinator, Claudia Malloch, includes an educational and training portion to each of our monthly meetings. Some of the sessions are webinars while others are member-led discussions on various topics.

### AGS GENFAIR AND AGM, RED DEER, APRIL 27, 2024:

Several of our branch members travelled to Red Deer to attend the above event, while others joined the AGM via Zoom. We found the topics very informative. Our branch member, Leroy Koop, received the Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for the Best Local Content. Branch members Sharon and Russ Aney, as well as Alice Hoyle, received 25-year Long-Term Membership Awards. Congratulations to all the branch award recipients.

### EDMONTON BRANCH/RIVERBEND FSC GENEALOGY EVENT, OCTOBER 19:

Five Wetaskiwin branch members attended this event and thoroughly enjoyed all the presentations.

### **Monthly Meeting Presentations:**

January 16, 2024 – Attendance: 13. January's presentation was "*Okay, I Got the Neighbours, Now what do I do with Them?*" After the presentation, discussion revolved around land records, homestead records, local history books and other sources of information.

February 20, 2024 – Attendance: 11. This was our branch AGM. Following the AGM, we held our regular monthly meeting. Presentation: "*AI and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?*" Three popular AI platforms were demonstrated and discussed: Gemini, ChatGPT, and Perplexity.

March 19, 2024 – Attendance: 10. Presentation: "*Genealogy Smart Start. Things I Wish I'd Known*". The presenter included tips for organizing your research, labelling digital files, citing sources, etc. She reminded us to keep writing our family stories.

April 16, 2024 – Attendance: 12. Presentation: "*7 Tips for Using AI as Your Genealogy Assistant*". Claudia, our Program Coordinator, tested AI prior to our meeting. She asked for an introduction for a genealogy event and was impressed with the result she got from AI.

May 21, 2024 – Attendance: 12. Presentation: "*Sharing Special Goals or Sharing Findings you have in your Family History*". This was an in-person meeting with branch members sharing some of the new information they have found about their ancestors. Some branch members also shared their goals for the rest of the year.

June 18, 2024 – Attendance: 8. This was an in-person meeting. The program was "*Share about someone you have been working on, or someone you have found interesting*". A variety of information was shared: successful research in England dating back to the late 1500's; newspaper articles from the early 1900's regarding an extended family member in her mid-teens who ran away from home and stole a buggy and horse to

aid her in catching a train. Also, Claudia, our Program Coordinator, had asked one of the branch members to test the site transkribus.ai. Alice had a document hand-written in 'high German': transkribus.ai did a fairly accurate job of transcribing the document and within 15 seconds of the document being scanned.

No meetings were held in July or August of 2024.  
September 17, 2024 – Attendance: 10. Presentation was "*How I Spent my Summer Vacation*" – branch members shared what they had done in the summer to increase their knowledge of their ancestors. Travel seemed to be popular, with branch members visiting Scandinavia, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, various states in the USA and attending family reunions.

October 15, 2024 – Attendance: 10. 3 branch members gave presentations: Sharon Aney spoke about writing our family stories. As someone who has always prompted branch members to create stories, she was able to give several tips about getting started. Claudia Malloch talked to us about compiling family stories and publishing a book. She and her siblings each answered a multitude of family-related questions from their own viewpoint. These were compiled into a book. Alice Hoyle talked about researching in Ontario and provided a two-page handout.

November 19, 2024 – Attendance: 13. The presentation was "*In a Rut? 7 Ways to Jumpstart your Research*". As always, Elizabeth Shown Mills provides her viewers with a wealth of information that can be used to help us with our research.

No meeting in December.

All our meetings are open to members and guests.

### **VOLUNTEERISM**

Some of our branch members continue to volunteer at the Family Search Center in Wetaskiwin. As well, there are members of our branch who volunteer to assist members of the



public with their research. Our research is done on a volunteer basis: we do not charge a fee.

### **Branch Members' Contribution to our Branch Newsletter and to RS:**

In 2024, our branch members contributed several articles to our branch newsletter as well as to the AGS publication "*Relatively Speaking*".

### **Branch Member, Leroy Koop – Obituary Initiative**

In 2024, Leroy Koop decided to (personally) collect and catalogue obituaries from local sources. Lee is one of the volunteer researchers for our branch, and he knew how much information there was in obituaries. He focused on Wetaskiwin County; created a system that worked for him and began to enter the data in a spreadsheet and created obituary information in pdf format. A large percentage of the volunteer hours recorded for our branch have been the hours that Lee spends on this massive project. The work he is doing will be of great benefit to people researching in this area of Alberta.

### **Looking toward 2025:**

In 2025, Wetaskiwin branch will be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> year of existence as a branch of AGS. Plans are underway to mark this occasion, with a guest speaker booked and a date of May 31, 2025, confirmed. Full details will be provided in the first quarter of 2025.

Thank you to the Wetaskiwin branch members who volunteered to be on the Executive, the Committee Chairs, those who contributed articles to our newsletter, and all our members who continue to share their wisdom and knowledge with the branch members. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

### ***Bringing the Past to the Present for the Future©***

***Tagline created by Wetaskiwin branch member, Sharon Aney.***

# **Special Committee Reports**

## **Google Workspace Steering Committee**

Prepared and submitted by,

Al Bromling, Kurt Paterson & Maxine Maxwell

### **Background:**

The AGS Board initiated Google Workspace pilot projects with AGS Edmonton and AGS Grande Prairie during 2023. In 2024, the Board invited four more Branches (AGS Camrose, AGS Lethbridge, AGS Medicine Hat, AGS Red Deer) and the Executive/AGS office to join the initiative. This phase began in September 2024. The initiative is intended to enable AGS and Branch operations to adopt Google Workspace features that contribute to the Strategic goal: Strong and Healthy Organization.

### **Next steps:**

The GW Steering Committee initiated the following:

- AGS contracted professional expertise to maintain a sustained level of computer administration support, consultation, and mentoring service necessary to support Branches in entering and implementing the selected Google Workspace functions at these locations.
- AGS contracted a trainer to provide system-wide virtual training in the use of Workspace features and technical advice for users during the initiation phase.
- Grande Prairie & District Branch provided financial support for the above contracts until future arrangements with AGS are in place.
- The AGS Finance Committee agreed to recommend funding (for Phase Three) in the 2025 operating budget.
- Each pilot group will designate a volunteer to serve as local admin for the project.

- Each pilot has identified the initial Workspace features to be implemented in their project.
- In addition to more Branches, functional areas such as the Membership Committee and the Finance Committee will be invited to initiate pilots in the next phase.

## Committee Reports

### Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI)



**Norma  
Wolowyk**

Volunteer Hours: 75

AGS members began recording information from grave markers and cemetery written

records soon after the formation of the Alberta Genealogical Society in 1973.

The Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI) was launched on the AGS website in September of 2022. Note that ARNI has 1,039,779 searchable records. The data originates from cemetery written records, grave markers, local history books, newspapers and life events records (births, marriages and deaths).

AGS members must create a password to access ARNI. This password requirement is different than the login to the members only part of the AGS website. Once AGS members create a password they are given access to the complete record information while non-members can only access limited details. Appreciation is expressed to Shannon Cherkowski (AGS Office Coordinator) who is very familiar with ARNI and is able to help people access the data and understand the process of retrieving information from the database.

Files were donated to AGS in 2024 by Debbie

LaPlante on behalf of the Drumheller Genealogy Club. The data is information collected by the Club from Drumheller cemeteries and also notices of births, marriages and deaths as reported in the *Drumheller Mail* newspaper. Data files were also received from Clark Lang for cemeteries in the Medicine Hat area and Eleanor Kreiser donated data files of births, marriages and deaths relating to the Youngstown area. AGS expresses its gratitude for these donations from people interested in preserving Alberta's people history.

Under the leadership of Sheila Genaille, AGS Edmonton Branch offered *Tracing Your Family Tree* courses in 2024. I participated in the beginner's session held 11<sup>th</sup> May and demonstrated searching the AGS Homestead Index and ARNI.

We thank Dwayne and Lara at *OtherMachines* for continued support of ARNI and their patience in responding to our questions and requests.



### Archivist

**Norma  
Wolowyk**

Volunteer Hours: 150 hours

During 2024, the collection of copies of *Relatively Speaking*, annual reports,

financial documents, events information, Branch newsletters, board minutes, etc. for eventual deposit at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) continued.

The goal of having a deposit ready for the PAA during 2024 was not met. Hopefully 2025 will be the year! In assisting Thea Hawryluk, Edmonton Branch Archivist, in depositing Branch collections to the PAA, I became informed on how the deposit process works. The most exciting news is that a spreadsheet can now be created and the inputting of information on the archival materials can begin!



## Gaming

### Laura Turnbull

Volunteer Hours: 205

#### AGS Casino event:

AGS members worked a casino event on February 6 & 7, 2024 at Century Casino in

Edmonton. In total, 49 volunteers (including 3 alternates) helped to fill the 50 positions needed over the two days. A **Very Special Thank You** to all who gave one or two days to help the Society in this way.

- Volunteers Hours for all workers on Feb 6/7, 2024: 390 hours

The proceeds from this event were received May 31, 2024 for a total of \$77,875.48. This was down \$1,412.04 from our last casino in 2022.

We received notification on February 6, 2025 that our next casino event is scheduled for September 28 & 29, 2025, so we are now looking for volunteers to fill the positions needed for this next AGS fundraising event. Please contact me (see my email / phone below) if you are interested in helping. The 2025 casino will be the 20<sup>th</sup> casino for AGS since inception in 1990.

Our casino events are a major fundraiser for the Society and help with major operating costs including rent for our library/office facility in Edmonton and insurance costs for all branches.

#### Branch casino events:

- Grande Prairie Branch held a successful casino on January 23 & 24, 2023 and received the proceeds of \$36,858.22 on May 25, 2023. They did not have a casino in 2024.
- Medicine Hat Branch and Brooks Branch held a joint casino on April 26 & 27, 2024 and

received the proceeds of ~ \$7,500.00 each in August 2024.

- Medicine Hat Branch and Brooks Branch are scheduled to have their next casino in the 3rd Quarter (July, August, September) of 2025.
- I also assisted the two branches in drafting an updated joint venture agreement requested by Alberta Gaming.
- Lethbridge Branch had a casino on September 3 & 4, 2024 in 2024 and received the proceeds in November 2024.



## Genealogy4 Youth

### Marion Rex Howard

Volunteer Hours: 159

#### 2024 Metrics Membership

- 3 Young Adult (\$25.00) Membership – AGS Provincial, Calgary and Edmonton

#### Youth Project Certificates

- 150 Certificates for completion of youth genealogy project

#### Relatively Speaking Articles

- “*Youth Write On: The Przekop’s Journey to Canada*” by Ryder Przekop, February 2024, Volume 52, No. 1, pp. 36-39.
- “*Youth Write On: My Family’s Journey from Italy*” by Sofia De Paola, May 2024, Volume 52, No. 2, pp.83-84.
- “*Genealogy4Youth: Our Family Roots*” by Lynne Duigou, May 2024, Volume 52, No. 1, p.85.

- “*Youth Write On: My Journey to Canada – Europe and the Caribbean*” by Jordan Regier, August 2024, Volume 52, No. 3, pp.125-127.
- “*Youth Write On: Early Life of Alexander and Jesse Hawirko*” by Danica Bartlett, No. 3, pp.128-130.

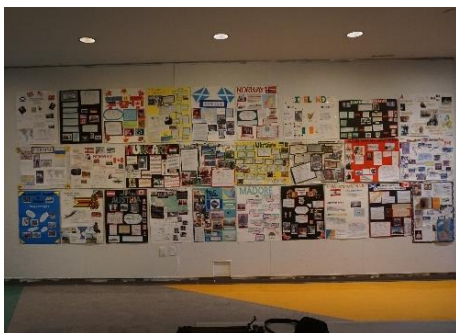
### **“Our Family Roots” at the Art Gallery of Alberta**

The collaboration between AGS and the Art Gallery of Alberta continued for a third year. Student work in the “*Our Family Roots*” exhibition was on display for about three weeks in the TD Learning Gallery in April 2024. On April 7, 2024, a gala was held at the Art Gallery of Alberta for 48 students who had their work on display.



*Above L to R: Lynne Duigou (Judge & Past President AGS), Njau Macharia (Zimbabwe)*

*Below: Part of the Family Poster Display at the TD Learning Gallery, Art Gallery of Alberta*



Posters depicted family from the following: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Canada (including Plains Cree, Denesuline, Nunatukavit, and Métis), Croatia, England, Germany, Hungary, Iceland,

Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Ukraine, USA and Zimbabwe. Special guest presenters included Mayor Jeff Acker, Principal Lynnette Tarr, Asst. Principal Keri Cyr, and Marion Rex Howard, coordinator of the project. Mayor Acker presented each student with a city of Spruce Grove pin. The families received free admission to the Art Gallery of Alberta for the day. Approximately 210 students, parents and family members gathered for the presentation of certificates, viewing in the gallery and the juice and cookies reception sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. An account of the event was published in the Spruce Grove Examiner, April 12, 2024.

### **Grande Prairie & District Branch**

The GP & District Branch assisted the South Peace Historical Society at their Heritage Fair in the GP Public Library (Genealogy for Youth activity for about 45 Grade 5s).

## **Genealogy Faire 2024**



### **Lianne Kruger GenFair Chair**

Ye Olde Genealogy Faire was held on April 27, 2024 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church at 3002 47 Avenue in Red Deer, Alberta. Participants could choose from 3 sessions in each of 4 time slots. Some of the topics included DNA, the Provincial Archives, Germans in Alberta, Canadian Census, Find-A-Grave, Scotland's People, Creating Order out of Chaos and Beyond the Big 4. The day ended with a hybrid AGM allowing members to participate from across Alberta.

Attendees brought their own lunch and participated in Speed dating Genealogy Style allowing



participants to ask specific questions to one of the 5 genealogists.

It was a successful event with 145 participants.



## Grants & Other Funding Committee

**Marion Rex Howard**

Volunteer Hours: 248

### Sponsorship

The Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) is forever grateful for the funding received through sponsorship from the Government of Alberta and the Edmonton Heritage Council. AGS also relies on casino funding, general donations, and research income to help fund their activities.

### Meetings Held

I attended the February, May, September, and November AGS board meetings, as well as the AGM in order to be current with AGS board business. I also met regularly with the bookkeeper and office coordinator, as well as virtual meetings held by the Finance Committee.

### Grants

The Alberta Genealogical Society is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Historic Resources Management Heritage Division and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

- **Historic Resources Management Heritage Division Sponsorship**—The Provincial Heritage Organizations are under the umbrella of the Historic Resources Management Heritage Division, funded by the Department of Arts, Culture, and Status of Women, Government of Alberta. In 2024, AGS received **\$29,000** (\$29,000 in 2023) which was gratefully applied to expenses incurred for our

publications, training programs, professional consultations, and general administration.

- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2024, AGS received **\$24,867** in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton (\$23,537.10 in 2023). We are so grateful for this funding which helps provide both staffing and operational support.

### General Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses, and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$9,562.61 in donations, as noted below:

• Provincial Office	\$1,592.50
• Brooks & District	0.00
• Calgary	110.00
• Camrose	50.00
• Drayton Valley	20.00
• Edmonton	6,031.40
• Grande Prairie & District	20.00
• Lethbridge & District	199.19
• Medicine Hat & District	1,124.52
• Red Deer & District	255.00
• Wetaskiwin	160.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$9,562.61</u></b>

Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2025 by the Treasurer. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors and donations made in memorium published in this annual report.



## Library & Resource Centre

### Claudine Nelson

Volunteer Hours – 250 hours

In the summer a book seller from Ontario purchased \$750.00 Local Histories. These books had been offered previously without takers.

A new list of donated Books and Microfilm was sent to every Branch in early September. I took the requested 23 books to the AGS meeting held at the Edmonton Providence Centre on September 28 for them to be picked up by 5 Branches.

On the Sunday following the meeting of September 28<sup>th</sup>, I opened the library for several out-of-town members to access genealogy information. One out-of-town member did borrow books and mailed them back within the 4 weeks.

No one wanted the microfilm at that time, but a late request came from an individual who personally paid shipping for those he wanted. The remainder of the duplicate microfilms had the microfilm removed by Bruce Boelstler. I took the empty reels to the Provincial Archives of Alberta for *Audio Visual* where they appreciated the donation as they always need backups. We continue to have a great working relationship with the Archives.

The Library is kept open by dedicated Edmonton Library Volunteers who help patrons with a diversity of genealogical questions; names and/or places.



## Membership

### Janine Carroll

Volunteer Hours: 25  
Committee:  
Brooks – Henry Najda  
Calgary – Susan Haga  
Camrose – Wendy Roth,  
Deb Trout

Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl  
Edmonton – Kurt Paterson  
Grand Prairie – Brenda Henning  
Lethbridge – Barry Simmonds  
Medicine Hat – Teresa Parasynchuk  
Red Deer – Jean Boxer  
Wetaskiwin – Lee Koop

Executive & advisory: Lianne Kruger (ex officio, AGS President), Diane Wozniak (AGS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Ruth McConnell (AGS Secretary), Shannon Cherkowski, (AGS Office Coordinator), Janine Carroll (AGS Membership Committee Chair)

Since I assumed the role of Chair in mid-2024, the committee has met twice. These meetings focus on discussing AGS membership, sharing resources and initiatives developed within the branches, exploring ways to enhance promotion, increase our membership numbers, and better serve those members. AGS offers numerous valuable benefits, which are clearly outlined on our webpage. One of our committee discussion points will be how to improve the promotion of these benefits to raise awareness and encourage their usage among members.

The total number of paid memberships in 2024 was 622, up from 620 at the end of 2023. Each branch received a financial boost of \$750 plus \$22.50 for each primary member, paid in January 2025, based on the 2024 numbers. While no restrictions were placed on this funding, it is hoped that it will help support membership growth.

AGS has conducted two successful early bird renewal contests, offering a complimentary membership as the prize. However, the Canada Post strike affected the renewal process timeline.



## Relatively Speaking

### Kate Wilson

Paid Hours for 2024 = 137.25

Volunteer Hours at no charge 15 (estimated)

### Themes

The themes for 2024 were:

**February** – Immigration and Languages

**May** – Cemeteries, death rites and remembrances

**August** – Politics

**November** – RCAF Centennial & Where were they when?

During my first year, Lynne Duigou helped me learn the responsibilities of editor and introduced me to the team, for which I was most grateful. In 2024, my second year, I fully assumed editorial roles, including requesting articles, accepting submissions, working with authors on occasional clarifications, and staying on top of communications with the copy-editing team.

I also continued to build strong communications with layout and various AGS board members, and with Shannon Cherkowski at the AGS office. I've worked with more of the AGS branch personnel and have had some excellent communications with them on things like re-publishing articles and requesting submissions. Engaging with authors continues to be a rewarding experience.

In 2024, 35 authors contributed to RS, 9 of these were new to RS. There were also 5 youth submissions. Denise Daubert launched a new

column – ABCs of Genealogy, and Marie Vieira brought in a small number of formatting enhancements, including photo presentation and special heading styles.

The *Relatively Speaking* team consisted of

- Copy Editing – Marilyn Astle, Wendy Warren
- Indexing, Spinning Webs, final proofing – Denise Daubert
- Layout – Marie Vieira
- Mailing Team AGS/Library Volunteers who stuff the envelopes
- Terry Terlesky who delivers envelopes to the Post Office

As it has for many years, the Edmonton Public Schools Printing Department continued to print *RS* for us. There were two issues in which they did not publish, as they had maintenance issues for the November 2024 issue and the EPSB support-staff strike for the February 2025 issue. Lynne Duigou was able to find alternate printing service with Edmonton Catholic Schools. Mailing of the November issue was delayed, due to the Postal workers' strike.



## Research Services

### Norma Wolowyk

Volunteer Hours: 350 hours

The **Research Services Committee** for both AGS and AGS Edmonton

Branch began meeting each Friday at the AGS Library in 1999 and has continued to do so since that year.

142 requests for copies of homestead files (150 in 2023) were completed in 2024 with the majority of clients ordering copies of more than one file.

Researchers interested in homestead records mainly request copies through completing a request form

on the AGS website, 128 of the 142 requests used the form in 2024.

In 2024, there were requests from 408 researchers wanting copies of homestead records with many ordering multiple files. A response is sent back noting the process of ordering copies of the homestead files from AGS and advising that the early homestead files (1870 to 1930) are on Ancestry and can be accessed through that subscription website. Clients often expressed their thanks for this information as they were not aware that Alberta homestead records could be searched on Ancestry. Thus, the majority of files copied for the 142 researchers who carried through with their initial request were from the post 1930 land file collections held on microfilm at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. It is obvious that these files have not been culled as there can be many pages of copy. The longest file copied in 2024 was 157 pages. During the 1930's and 1940's, there tended to be much correspondence between homesteaders and the government, times were hard and it often took ten years to prove up and obtain title. Pages in the post 1930 collections are often misfiled so the whole file has to be read to find all pages that pertain to a homesteader. Tedious to say the least but very necessary.

Supplying copies of homestead records to family history researchers continues to raise funds for the Society and also brings in expressions of appreciation for the availability of this service. Cost for copies is \$10 per file and 50 cents per page of copy, plus postage if applicable. AGS pays the PAA 35 cents per page of copy. Often files can be scanned and sent as PDFs.

Thank you to Shannon Cherkowski, AGS Office Coordinator, for handling the mail, emails, phone calls and query payments for the AGS Research Committee. Her prompt and efficient attention to these matters was very much appreciated.

## Webmaster – Deb Boelstler

Volunteer Hours: 312

MyHeritage Library Edition is still of great value to AGS Members. The AGS MyHeritage user id and password is changed on the AGS website every year, so that only current members of the AGS have access to this wonderful resource.

The AGS website Team consists of the following members: Lianne Kruger (Social Media), Deb Boelstler (AGS website), Shannon Cherkowski (AGS Office), Deb Trout (Zoom Meetings) and Laura Turnbull (Facebook). Shannon Cherkowski of the AGS Office and I also maintain the AGS main website. She is the only who deals with the memberships online with AGS and she is the one who contacts Other Machines to request new members to gain access (for example ARNI). Deb Boelstler and Shannon Cherkowski Shannon and Deb met with Media Shaker to help deal with some changes on the AGS website. Meetings were held by Zoom with Raymond from Media Shaker, Shannon and myself early in 2024. Shannon and Deb update if there are any changes on the AGS website for example, News and Events updates for AGS, Relatively Speaking etc.

It is always good to look at the other AGS Branches' websites to see if they have any Zoom Training Sessions as this is strongly encouraged.

Shannon Cherkowski and Deb Boelstler still post reports to the members-only section of the AGS website. This makes the reports available for the Board Meetings every quarter. Deb Trout, Zoom coordinator receives requests for Zoom meetings via email. Thank you Deb Trout for all your work in getting the Zoom Meetings going. Continually Lianne Kruger and Laura Turnbull do our Social Media Updates, again Thank you for all that you do.

On January 2, 2024, Lynne Duigou, our previous AGS webteam lead, had an AGS Website Meeting. This was a discussion and AGS website redesign. Also in attendance were Marion Rex Howard, Shannon Cherkowski and myself. There were many of website changes done in the months that followed by Shannon and myself.





# 2023-2025 AGS STRATEGIC PLAN

*Bringing the past, to the present, for the future*

**VISION:** AGS supports and encourages people to engage in accurate diverse genealogical research that enhances family connections and records family stories.

**MISSION:** AGS strives to be the trusted source of diverse genealogical resources and to provide proven genealogical methods through education, assistance, promotion, resource development, and collaboration.

**VALUES:**

**Initiative:** We celebrate and support people who are curious and take the initiative to research and record family history.

**Research:** We recognize and value proven methods and processes in effective genealogical research.

**Community:** We support one another in the pursuit of genealogical research and family history.

**Respect:** We welcome diversity and seek to find ways to support family history from all cultures.

**STRATEGIC GOALS 2023-2025:**

**1. STRONG AND HEALTHY ORGANIZATION**

- a. Enhance the organizational system of AGS to maintain a strong and healthy provincial organization
- b. Support and effectively engage current membership
- c. Attract and welcome new members to the Alberta Genealogical Society

**2. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** – Provide educational opportunities that encourage and support diverse genealogical research

**3. RESEARCH** – Develop, maintain, and provide access to trusted sources for diverse genealogical research

**4. COLLABORATION** – Establish local, provincial, and national collaborative efforts to achieve our common goals





# Alberta Genealogical Society

Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6

Phone: (780) 423-8902 Email: [agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca)

Website: <http://abgenealogy.ca/>

## 2025 Branch Contact Information

<p><b>Brooks &amp; District Branch</b>  President: David Clarke  Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4  Email: <a href="mailto:brooksags@gmail.com">brooksags@gmail.com</a>  Website: <a href="https://agsbrooks.ca">https://agsbrooks.ca</a>  Meets 1st Wed monthly, 1:30 PM  Public programs selected Saturdays*  Brooks Public Library  323 1st St. East, Brooks, AB  *Email for more information</p>	<p><b>Edmonton Branch</b>  President: Jock Howard  Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue  Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6  Phone: (780) 424-4429  Email: <a href="mailto:president@edmontongenealogy.ca">president@edmontongenealogy.ca</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.edmontongenealogy.ca">www.edmontongenealogy.ca</a>  <a href="https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events">https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events</a></p>	<p><b>Medicine Hat &amp; District Branch</b>  President: Deb Wickham  Box 971 Stn Main, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8  Email: <a href="mailto:mhgs@shaw.ca">mhgs@shaw.ca</a>  Website: <a href="http://mhdgs.ca">mhdgs.ca</a>  Meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Medicine Hat Monumental Co. Ltd., 974 – 13<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Medicine Hat</p>
<p><b>Calgary Branch</b>  Email: <a href="mailto:agscalgarybranch@gmail.com">agscalgarybranch@gmail.com</a>  Website: <a href="https://www.abgenealogy.ca/calgary">https://www.abgenealogy.ca/calgary</a>  Meetings –4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Grande Prairie &amp; District Branch</b>  President: Maxine Maxwell  P.O. Box 1257  Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1  Phone: (780) 512-6427  Email: <a href="mailto:president@grpr-abgenealogy.ca">president@grpr-abgenealogy.ca</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch">www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch</a></p>	<p><b>Red Deer &amp; District Branch</b>  President: Jessie Dial  c/o 26 Piper Drive  Red Deer, AB T4P 1H6  Email: <a href="mailto:president@redd-abgenealogy.ca">president@redd-abgenealogy.ca</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch">www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch</a>  Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. LDS Church 3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer</p>
<p><b>Camrose Branch</b>  c/o 6130 – 39 Avenue  Camrose, AB T4V 3B1  Phone: (780) 781-5100  <a href="mailto:camrosegeneo@gmail.com">camrosegeneo@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com">www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com</a>  Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Camrose County Agricultural Services Building</p>	<p>Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in Jan, Mar, May &amp; Oct, 6:00 p.m. Grande Prairie Public Library 101, 9839 – 103 Ave, Grande Prairie</p>	<p><b>Wetaskiwin Branch</b>  President: Alice Hoyle  c/o 409, 1 Charis Village Drive  Lacombe, Alberta T4L 0K5  Phone: (780) 312-0366  Email: <a href="mailto:wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca">wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch">www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch</a>  Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (except July, August and December) 7:00 p.m. LDS Church, Wetaskiwin (Use NE Door)</p>
<p><b>Drayton Valley Branch</b>  President: Connie Stuhl  P.O. Box 115  Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0  Phone: (780) 542-2787  Email: <a href="mailto:ags.dvbranch@gmail.com">ags.dvbranch@gmail.com</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch">www.abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch</a>  Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m. Drayton Valley Library, 5120 - 52 Street, Drayton Valley</p>	<p><b>Lethbridge &amp; District Branch</b>  President: Barry Simmonds  Rm. 128, 909 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5  Phone: (403) 328-9564  Email: <a href="mailto:lethagsoffice@gmail.com">lethagsoffice@gmail.com</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.lethbridgeags.theboss.net">www.lethbridgeags.theboss.net</a>  Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m. Provincial Admin. Building 909-3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, Lethbridge</p>	

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

Alberta Genealogical Society – *Bringing the past to the present for the future!*

- Active since 1973, 2024 was our 52<sup>nd</sup> year of providing genealogical services to the community.
- Membership for 2024 totalled 656 compared to 650 in 2023, and 626 in 2022.
- Members reported 29,579 volunteer hours. An increase over the last three years.
- AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, casino funding, research queries and grants from both the Historic Resources Management Heritage Division and the Edmonton Heritage Council.
- AGS hosted a Casino on February 6 & 7, 2024 with the help of 49 volunteers working 390 hours. Brooks & Medicine Hat co-hosted a Casino in April 2024.
- We published four issues of *Relatively Speaking* including 9 first-time authors and 4 youth authors. Themes for the issues were: February—Immigration and Languages, May—Cemeteries, death rites and remembrances, August—Politics, and November—RCAF Centennial & Where were they when?
- AGS continued to offer online access to MyHeritage Library and the ARNI (Alberta Records Name Index) database through the AGS website. The main office is also recognized as a Library Search Affiliate Library.
- Google Workspace Project is progressing with trainings scheduled for board members as the project moves forward.
- The Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI) now has 1,039,779 searchable records including cemetery records, grave markers, local history books, newspapers, and life events records (births, marriages and deaths).
- AGS held four Board of Directors' meetings, and a hybrid AGM April 27, 2024
- AGS held their annual conference April 27, 2024 as a Family History Fair in Red Deer, Alberta with a choice of 24 sessions in four time slots throughout the day. Participants could also sign up to meet with seven subject matter experts to discuss their research. 145 participants were in attendance.
- AGS held their 2024 Fall Board Workshop at the Providence Centre with sessions on putting our plans forward from the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan for being a Strong and Healthy organization.
- The Policies and Procedures/Bylaws Committee continued to update policies, particularly the Privacy Policy, to ensure that it maintains current standards for protecting personal information.
- The Research Committee responded to 142 homestead records requests from 408 researchers.
- 27 Outstanding AGS Volunteers were honored with certificates. This included long-term membership certificates for two members for 50-year years of membership, two members for 40 years of membership and 13 members for 25 years of membership.
- 150 students were presented certificates for completion of Genealogy4Youth projects.
- 46 students had their genealogy posters on display at the Art Gallery of Alberta and received certificates for their work. Celebrating diversity, students reported on family from the following: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Canada (including Plains Cree, Denesuline, Nunatukavut, and Métis), Croatia, England, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Ukraine, USA and Zimbabwe.
- The Society continued to employ one part-time office coordinator and one part-time bookkeeper.

*Proud beneficiary of the Historic Resources Management Heritage Division through the Government of Alberta, and the Edmonton Heritage Council through the City of Edmonton.*

